To register for this tour, call (800) 692-1828 or visit hsmichigan.org/programs

Magnolias & Mint Juleps
Savannah and the South Tour

October 30 to November 7, 2020
9-day, 8-night tour
$1,995*

* Price is per person based on double occupancy. Includes motor coach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; some lunches; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. HSM membership required.

Join us to visit the Mercer-Williams House Museum, Savannah History Museum, Tybee Island Light Station and Museum, and much more. We will also have free time in the Savannah Market and take a trolley tour of Historic Savannah.
Savannah ranks among America’s premier tourist destinations, and for good reason: it’s a beautiful city steeped in history—with parks, trees dripping with Spanish moss, and a unique culture. You’ll experience all that Savannah has to offer on our Magnolias & Mint Juleps: Savannah and the South Tour.

Bob Myers, the Historical Society of Michigan’s director of education, plans and leads all of our Michiganders on the Road™ tours. The custom-designed tours include transportation, lodging, admission fees, all dinners and breakfasts, taxes, and gratuities. We even include the bus driver’s tip! Dinners are always at locally owned restaurants, so you’ll experience the local dining scene. We learn a lot, eat more than we should, and return with great memories.

Day 1

We leave Michigan on Monday morning and board in four locations: Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Dundee. The Lansing location is at our office building on the city’s west edge; the other three locations are Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Park and Ride lots. You can leave your car all week. As we motor through Ohio, you can snooze, watch a movie on the coach’s DVD system, or play one of Bob’s Useless Trivia Games.

Dinner on this night is at the Tidewater Grill in Charleston, West Virginia. Our Michiganders on the Road tours partake in local fare, meaning that all of our dinners are at locally owned restaurants. No chain restaurants for us!

After dinner, we’ll repair to the nearby Hampton Inn Charleston—Downtown. All of the hotels offer a complimentary breakfast, so we can be ready to hit the road in the morning. We’ll stay at name hotels—after all, our constitutions can only stand a finite amount of adventure.

Remember The Andy Griffith Show from the 1960s? Mount Airy, North Carolina, was Andy Griffith’s hometown, so on our way to Savannah, we’ll have some fun and drop in on the Andy Griffith Museum. We’ll have lunch at Aunt Bea’s Barbeque and then tour the museum—home to artifacts and memorabilia from Andy, Don Knotts, and other members of the show’s cast and crew. If you watched the show, you’ll recall that it was set in Mayberry, North Carolina, but the characters often visited the town of “Mount Pilot.” Pilot Mountain is a few miles southeast of Mount Airy.

From Mount Airy, we drive to Rock Hill, South Carolina. Dinner will be at The Pump House restaurant, with lodging at the nearby Hampton Inn.
We arrive in Savannah in time for lunch. To get oriented to the city, we'll take a one-hour narrated tour with Old Town Trolley. Savannah's recorded history began in 1733, when General James Oglethorpe and 120 passengers arrived aboard the ship Anne and landed on the Savannah River. Oglethorpe laid out America's first planned city in a series of grids. The grids allowed public squares and parks to serve as town meeting places and centers of business. Of the 24 original squares, 22 still exist.

Public parks and historic architecture lend a quiet beauty to Savannah. It's a popular setting for motion pictures, including Glory, Forrest Gump, and Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. Remember Forrest Gump sitting on a bench and telling his life story to strangers? That took place in Chippewa Square, and the bench is housed in the Savannah History Museum.

We'll tour another movie setting too: the Mercer-Williams House. General Hugh Mercer began building the house in 1860, on the eve of the Civil War. The war intervened, but the house was completed in 1868. Preservationist Jim Williams bought and restored it in 1969. Williams later shot and killed Danny Hansford in the house, an event that formed the basis for the book Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil and the movie that starred Kevin Spacey and John Cusack.

After dinner at the River House Seafood, we check into the Comfort Inn & Suites Savannah Airport. We'll stay there for four nights. No more packing up your luggage while in Savannah!

We begin our first full day in Savannah with a visit to the Savannah History Museum. The museum explores the city's past: Native-American cultures, colonial and Revolutionary War events, the Civil War, and the twentieth century. Among the collection's gems are songwriter Johnny Mercer's Oscar and Grammy awards.

After lunch, we'll walk across the street to tour the Georgia State Railroad Museum. The museum is located in the shops and terminal facilities of the old Central of Georgia Railway. It features a roundhouse, an operational turntable, historic locomotives and railcars, and other railroad memorabilia.

Our last tour for the day is the home of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts. Juliette was born there in 1860, and she lived in and visited the house throughout her life. In 1912, inspired by the Boy Scouts, she telephoned a cousin and declared, “I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we're going to start tonight!” Her determination created one of America's greatest youth programs—and it all started in her Savannah home.

Dinner tonight will be downtown at The Lady & Sons, the restaurant founded and run by famous cooking show host Paula Deen.
Day 5
November 3, Tuesday

We begin the day at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. Savannah was home to one of World War II’s greatest military organizations—the Eighth Air Force. The Eighth was activated in the city in January 1942 and carried out the strategic bombing campaign in Europe from bases in England. Some 350,000 men and women would serve in the Eighth, and more than 54,000 of them were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. We’ll take a guided tour of the museum and have a buffet lunch, which is included, in the museum’s English pub.

After lunch, we’ll have a free afternoon to explore the Savannah City Market. Historically, Savannah residents bought food, goods, and services at the old City Market. Today, shops offer fine art, locally made souvenirs, handcrafted jewelry, Savannah candy, and other Georgia goodies. When you’ve shopped ’til you’ve dropped, you can stop for drinks or sweets at any number of restaurants and bakeries.

Dinner tonight is aboard the stern-wheel riverboat Savannah River Queen. We’ll enjoy a buffet and two-hour cruise on the Savannah River, with music provided by the riverboat’s band. It’s a delightful way to experience Savannah’s charm. If you’d like, you can take in the view of the city’s evening skyline on the top deck as we coast along the river.

Day 6
November 4, Wednesday

We’ll start today with a visit to historic Fort Pulaski. Construction of the massive brick fort began in 1829 and was completed in 1847. During the Civil War, Confederate forces occupied the fort. The Union captured Fort Pulaski in 1862 and effectively denied the Confederacy use of the port of Savannah for the rest of the war. Now a National Park Service site, Fort Pulaski offers tours and exhibits about its history.

After a guided tour of Fort Pulaski, we’ll have lunch at the North Beach Bar and Grill and then visit the nearby Tybee Island Light Station and Museum. The lighthouse was built in 1867 atop the lower portion of an earlier tower constructed in 1773. Today, the five-acre site retains its original support buildings, including the keeper’s house, summer kitchen, and fuel storage building. You can climb 178 steps (phew!) to the top of the tower for a fantastic view of the ocean and Tybee Island.

We’ll also tour the Tybee Island Marine Science Center to discover the area’s ecology. We’ll join a naturalist for a guided beach walk to learn about coastal Georgia’s tides, dunes, and wildlife. Not up for a walk? Don’t worry—you’re welcome to stay behind and relax in the interpretive center.

Dinner this night is at The Original Crab Shack on Tybee Island, a fun place with great seafood. As the owners put it, “it’s where the elite eat in their bare feet.”
Savannah is famous for its beautiful houses of worship, and among the best-known is the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Construction of the Roman Catholic cathedral began in 1873. The French, Gothic-style cathedral was dedicated in 1876. In 1896, spires were added and the cathedral was stuccoed and whitewashed.

A disastrous fire in 1898 left only the outside walls and the two spires standing. Even as the embers smoldered, Savannah’s bishop declared that the cathedral had to be rebuilt. Work began immediately, and the resurrected cathedral was dedicated two years later. Its gorgeous murals and stained-glass windows make St. John the Baptist a must-see on any tour of the city.

Another iconic site is Bonaventure Cemetery, regarded as one of the world’s most beautiful burial grounds. We’ll have a guided tour of the cemetery, famous for its sculpture of a young girl—the Bird Girl—photographed for the cover of the book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. The photograph made the sculpture so famous that, for its own protection, it was moved to the Jepson Center in Savannah.

After lunch, we’ll head back to Tybee Island for an ecotour with Captain Derek’s Dolphin Adventure. We’ll see bottlenose dolphins and learn more about the area’s flora and fauna during a two-hour pontoon ride along the coast.

It’s a long way home, so we’ll drive a couple of hours north before we stop for the night in Santee, South Carolina, for dinner at Clark’s Inn & Restaurant and lodging at the Fairfield Inn & Suites.

These are driving days back to Michigan. We’ll watch movies, play a couple more of Bob’s Useless Trivia Games, and reflect on all we’ve seen, all we’ve learned, and all we’ve eaten.

We hope you can join us for our Magnolias & Mint Juleps: Savannah and the South Tour!

Give us a call at (800) 692-1828 or e-mail us at hsm@hsmichigan.org if you have any questions.
Yes! I (we) want to join Michiganders on the Road for the Magnolias & Mint Juleps: Savannah and the South Tour for $1,995* per person.

*Includes motor coach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; some lunches; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. Historical Society of Michigan $39.95 membership required. Price is per person based on double occupancy. We encourage the purchase of travel insurance in case unforeseen events force you to cancel at the last minute. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline of September 25, 2020, cannot be refunded.

October 30 to November 7, 2020

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☐ I would like to pay the full tour price of $1,995 per person. Price is based on double occupancy.

☐ I would like to pay the $250 per person deposit for the tour. The balance of $1,745 per person will be due on or before the reservation deadline of September 25, 2020. Deposits are fully refundable on or before September 25, 2020. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline cannot be refunded.

Are you a member of the Historical Society of Michigan? (Membership is required to participate in this tour.)

☐ Yes, I am already a member.

☐ I want to become a member for $39.95 so I can go on this tour. This membership includes Michigan History magazine.

☐ I am a single person and would like single-room accommodations. I understand there will be a $525 surcharge for this service.

☐ I am a single person and would like to be paired with another single of the same gender so that my reservation can be based on double occupancy.

☐ I am a single person, and I am traveling with ___________________________ so that my reservation can be based on double occupancy.

☐ I would like to have vegetarian meals.

☐ A check for $________________________ is enclosed, payable to Historical Society of Michigan.

☐ Please charge $________________________ to my credit card listed below.

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