

JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

May 14-19, 2017

The first Jews were already arriving in the American South as early as the 1600s. Please join us for this five day tour of Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah Georgia as we learn about history and culture of these cities as well as of the lives of the Jews who have been living in the region for over three hundred years. A daily 45 minute study session of texts will be included in the tour.

Sunday May 14

- Plan to arrive at Charleston South Carolina by 4:40 PM
- Travel to Charleston on your own; if there are enough people arriving at the same time, we can arrange for a van. Check into Charleston Doubletree.
- Dinner and Introduction to Charleston. Dinner not included in cost.

Monday May 15

- Rhetta Mendelsohn, our tour guide will meet the group at the hotel to begin a comprehensive tour of the City. We will begin at the historic synagogue, KK Beth Elohim. There Rhetta will introduce the group to Charleston and the Jewish community as well as the 1840 Greek Revival style building.
- From the Temple, we will continue by motorcoach into the oldest parts of the City. We will see houses and gardens, public buildings and churches, parks and monuments, waterways and alleyways, shoppes and galleries, and more. We will discuss history, architecture, art, war, flowers, religion, politics and more. We will get out in several strategic locations – the Battery to discuss Charleston's role in war and at the Four Corners of Law to view numerous sites of Jewish interest as well as important government buildings.
- Lunch on your own
- Our tour would resume with a visit to the oldest and largest Jewish cemetery in the South, the resting place of the largest wealthiest Jewish community in colonial America. Here Rhetta would discuss the important grave markers and some of the most interesting people who are buried here.
- Our tour would resume with a visit to the Citadel, the Military College of SC, followed by the tour of the Coming Street Cemetery.
- Al Miller would join the group at the hotel for a happy hour discussion of the Gullah culture (local African American culture) and some gospel/spiritual music.
- Dinner on your own.
- Overnight at the Doubletree

Tuesday May 16

- We would travel up coastal highway 17 past Georgetown, SC, to visit Bernard Baruch's plantation retreat – Hobcaw Barony.
- Enjoy a curatorial tour of the plantation house and surrounding grounds, owned by the Belle Baruch Foundation and used for ecological conservation, research, and education.

- We would leave Hobcaw to travel back over the scenic Waccamaw River to Georgetown, a quaint riverfront town. There we will enjoy lunch and a bit of shopping.
- We would gather at the Kaminisky house for a tour of this 18th century home, built by Paul Trapier and passed to his descendents until 1931, when it was purchased by Harold Kaminsky, mayor of Georgetown.
- Return to the hotel. Overnight at Doubletree

Wednesday May 17

- Leave Charleston after breakfast.
- Bus tour of Beaufort Mississippi, its Jewish heritage and synagogue.
Situated midway between Charleston and Savanna, its large deep harbor drew 16th and 17th century European settlers. By the 1600s, British explorers had discovered the appeal of area referred to as Port Royal. Their successful settlement attempts laid the groundwork for the founding of Beaufort. Peter Lavien, a half brother to Alexander Hamilton and son of a Jewish merchant became a successful merchant in Beaufort as early as 1768
- **Arrival in Savannah. Greetings and Orientation with Tour Guide, Harriet Meyerhoff.**
- **Dinner and Guest Speaker**
- **Overnight at Hampton Inn-Historic District**

Thursday May 18

- Trolley City Tour with private guide, getting overview of historic Savannah and Jewish heritage sites including the Historic District and suburb.
- Kosher Lunch Included in Cost
- Tour of America's 3rd oldest synagogue, Mickve Israel and its museum
- Free Time
- Dinner on your own.

Friday May 19

- Guided leisurely walking stroll, appreciating beautiful homes of the 1800's, with elaborate iron gates and gardens. A visit into one of the private homes is possible.
- Tour Ends at Noon

Total Price: \$1400 based on double occupancy

Included

- All transportation costs except for to and from the airport.
- All tours, guides and admission fees
- Hotel Rooms double occupancy
- All breakfasts
- Lunch on Wednesday and Thursday

Not Included

- **Airfare**
- **Gratuities**

