

APRIL 26-MAY 3, 2019
8 DAYS • 14 MEALS

Book by Dec 26, 2018
and enjoy a \$100.00
per person discount!

BRENNER TOURS

Hosted by Pam Brenner & Bob VanDenBrink



Matt Stone

Discover the Gullah tradition of Sweetgrass Basket weaving

Coastal Carolina & Georgia Shores

Rediscover High and Low Country Traditions among the South's Most Beautiful Beachfronts

Experience the best of coastal South Carolina and Georgia as you step back in time to enjoy the rich history and culture of the Colonial, Antebellum and Turn-of-the-Century South. Visit Charleston's stately plantations and magnificent formal gardens, and relish the scents and flavors of small island farms including Charleston Tea Plantation. Discover Savannah, one of

America's oldest cities, whose gorgeous squares, fountains and architecture make it also one of "America's most beautiful places to visit". Over two relaxing nights at a beachfront resort on Jekyll Island, see historic lighthouses, dine at the exclusive Jekyll Island Club and learn about giant sea turtles. You'll remember this soul-stirring mixture of high and low country living for years to come!

DAY 1—WELCOME TO SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Bob and Pam will pick up travelers by motor coach in Grand Rapids, MI, Martin, MI, Kalamazoo, MI and Middlebury, IN. From there, we travel to Chicago O'Hare where Bob and Pam will assist with group check-in and flights. We then fly to Charleston, and later enjoy a welcome reception at our hotel.

DAY 2—CHARLESTON CITY TOUR

Today we board our deluxe motor coach to begin our tour. Bob and Pam will also serve as Tour Directors throughout this trip. Known as the city "where history lives," you'll get a taste of Charleston's beauty and charm on a city tour featuring carefully preserved historic homes and public landmarks. This afternoon, choose between one of our options or explore the City Market on your own. *B, L*

+ **Option—USS Yorktown** At Patriot's Point, board the WWII aircraft carrier affectionately known as "The Fighting Lady" and get firsthand account of a seaman's life. *Price: \$22 per person.*

Option—Carriage Tour On a one-hour, fully narrated tour through the streets of Charleston, you'll see gardens, mansions, churches and parks, and learn about the people that make Charleston what it is. *Price: \$30 per person.*

DAY 3—MAGNOLIA PLANTATION & GARDENS/ CHARLESTON TEA PLANTATION

Go back in time to the Antebellum South at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. According to legend, founder John Drayton created its lush English gardens, which included the first



Charleston Area CVB

azaleas in America, to lure his bride to the South. Enjoy a tram tour of the plantation's diverse gardens, islands and ponds, plus see turtles, egrets and great blue herons.

+ **Option—House Tour** Add the Plantation House tour to your visit and see family heirlooms and more. *Price: \$10 per person.*

Next, on Wadmalaw Island, enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the Charleston Tea Plantation, where more than 320 varieties are grown. Arrive at Savannah, and unpack for the next two nights. **B, L**

DAY 4—SAVANNAH, “HOSTESS CITY OF THE SOUTH”

One of America's oldest cities, Savannah's gorgeous squares, gardens, fountains and architecture also make it one of “America's most beautiful places to visit” and one of AARP's 10 Top U.S.

Places to Visit. Board an Old Savannah Trolley for a guided tour of the National Historic Landmark District. After, we'll discover what Southern hospitality is all about during our luncheon cruise. Come ready to relax and feast on a delicious southern-style buffet all while cruising along the Savannah River listening to the Captain's intriguing tales and historic facts. Then enjoy free time browsing the many area stores and galleries, or stop into the Savannah Candy Kitchen for a tasty Georgia praline. **B, L**



Meet a Working Shrimp and Fishing Boat Crew as you cruise aboard the *Lady Jane*

DAY 5—GEORGIA'S GOLDEN ISLES

Travel along the Georgia coast, a Lonely Planet Top 10 Region, to Jekyll Island. One of 12 barrier islands, Jekyll Island was once the winter retreat of America's prominent families of the early 1920s, including the Rockefellers and Macys. See the gracious historic district, stopping to explore huge “summer cottages” of America's “Gilded Era.” Afterward, sit down to a luscious lunch at the picturesque Jekyll Island Club. The Island is also home to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, a hospital and rehabilitation center for the island's many species of turtles. Enjoy the center's interactive exhibits and venture into the hospital to chat with experts and visit its “patients.” **B, L**

DAY 6—ST. SIMONS ISLAND/HISTORIC BRUNSWICK

The largest of The Golden Isles, St. Simons Island continues to reveal the remarkable beauty and fascinating history of what 16th-century Spanish explorers called San Simeon. See St. Simons Lighthouse & Museum; Fort Frederica National Monument, preserving remnants of the British defense against Spain; and Christ Church, in continuous use since 1736. Enjoy lunch in Brunswick, home of Brunswick stew. Our host today is Jay Anderson, owner of Brunswick Manor, whose grand atmosphere recalls a bygone era of distinguished charm. The afternoon is yours to relax at our beachfront hotel, take a stroll along the boardwalk or tickle your toes in the sand. Whatever you choose, enjoy! **B, L**

DAY 7—SHRIMP BOAT/RICE COAST PLANTATION/BLUFFTON

After breakfast, learn all about shrimpin' on our sightseeing cruise aboard the *Lady Jane*. After a tasty lunch overlooking the marsh, step back in time at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation. This former rice plantation, then dairy farm, is now a scenic state park recalling 18th and 19th century life, as well as an excellent birding area for spotting herons, egrets, ibis and painted buntings. Later, enjoy a delicious farewell dinner. **B, L, D**

DAY 8—GULLAH CULTURE/FOND FAREWELL

Gullah is a colorful mix of West African, Creole, Brazilian and Jamaican languages, traditions and foods. Today on St. Helena Island, hear about the culture's fascinating traditions and stories of survival. Return to Charleston and home feeling re-energized from salt-sea air and one-of-a-kind island experiences along the Southern coast. On our way back, we will travel to the Charleston airport as a group. Bob and Pam will again assist with check-in at the airport. When we arrive in Chicago, our motor coach will pick us up and then make dropoffs in Middlebury, IN, Kalamazoo, MI, Martin, MI and Grand Rapids, MI. **B** 

Discoveries Experience

8 Days • 14 Meals

Apr 26-May 3, 2019

Price Per Person:

Double: \$2,497; Single: \$3,055

Depart/Return: Chicago, IL (O'Hare)

Highlights & Inclusions

- 2 nights each in the antebellum cities of Charleston & Savannah
- Round trip Deluxe Motor coach Transportation from local pickup points to Departure Airport
- Round-trip Air to Charleston, SC (Fly Nonstop from Chicago O'Hare)
- 2 nights oceanfront on Jekyll Island
- Guided tram tour of Magnolia Plantation & Gardens
- Visit the only tea farm in the U.S.
- Savor lunch at the Jekyll Island Club and with owners of Brunswick Manor
- See giant sea turtles receiving care at Georgia Sea Turtle Center
- Tour St. Simons Island Lighthouse and Brunswick Manor
- Join a shrimpboat crew for a scenic and educational marsh cruise
- Meet Seretha & Kitty Green as they teach the history of the Gullah people
- Bag handling (1 per person) at hotels
- Fees/tips for included attractions/meals
- Welcome reception, 24-hour emergency call service, free bottled water on coach

Quality Accommodations

Nights 1-2: Doubletree Charleston Airport

Nights 3-4: Fairfield Inn & Suites Savannah Historic District

Nights 5-6: Holiday Inn Resort at Jekyll Island

Night 7: Hampton Inn, Bluffton

CountryTravelDiscoveries.com/Brenner