

savannah walking tours self guided

Savannah walking tours self guided offer an immersive way to explore one of America's most charming and historic cities. With its cobblestone streets, lush parks, and antebellum architecture, Savannah is a feast for the senses and a paradise for those who enjoy history, nature, and culture. Whether you're a local looking to rediscover your city or a visitor eager to uncover hidden gems, a self-guided walking tour allows you to set your own pace and delve into the stories that make Savannah unique.

Why Choose a Self-Guided Walking Tour in Savannah?

Self-guided walking tours provide several advantages over traditional guided tours. Here are some reasons why you might opt for a self-guided experience in Savannah:

- **Flexibility:** You can choose your own schedule and spend as much time as you like at each stop.
- **Personalized Experience:** Tailor your tour to include sites that interest you the most, whether it's historical landmarks, parks, or local shops.
- **Cost-Effective:** Self-guided tours are often free or low-cost, saving you money compared to guided options.
- **Intimacy with the City:** Walking allows you to fully immerse yourself in the atmosphere of Savannah, discovering nooks and crannies that you might miss while driving or on a bus tour.

Planning Your Self-Guided Walking Tour in Savannah

To make the most of your experience, consider the following steps when planning your self-guided walking tour:

1. Choose Your Route

Savannah is rich in history and beauty, and there are numerous routes you can take. Popular areas to explore include:

- **Historic District:** Home to stunning architecture and historic homes, including the Mercer-Williams House and the Owens-Thomas House.
- **River Street:** A bustling waterfront area filled with shops, restaurants, and beautiful views of

the Savannah River.

- **Forsyth Park:** A large urban park with walking paths, a fountain, and plenty of green space to relax.
- **Bonaventure Cemetery:** Famous for its haunting beauty, this cemetery is a must-visit for history lovers and photographers.

2. Research Historical Sites

Savannah is a city steeped in history, so it's essential to research the sites you want to visit. Some significant historical landmarks include:

- The Savannah Historic District, a National Historic Landmark District.
- The Colonial Park Cemetery, where many of Savannah's early settlers are buried.
- The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, the founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

3. Use a Map or App

Utilize a map or a walking tour app to guide you through your chosen route. Many apps offer audio guides, historical context, and interesting anecdotes about the places you visit.

4. Wear Comfortable Shoes

Savannah's charm lies in its walkability, but you'll want to ensure you have comfortable footwear. The cobblestone streets and sidewalks can be uneven, so proper shoes are essential for an enjoyable experience.

Must-See Stops on Your Savannah Walking Tour

While your self-guided tour can be personalized, here are some must-see stops that should be included in your itinerary:

1. Forsyth Park

This sprawling park is the heart of Savannah. With its iconic fountain, walking paths, and green spaces, it's a perfect starting point for any walking tour. Take the time to relax on a bench and enjoy the atmosphere.

2. The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

One of the most beautiful churches in the country, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist features stunning stained glass windows and intricate architecture. Make sure to step inside to appreciate its

beauty.

3. The Olde Pink House

Located in a historic mansion, this restaurant is known for its Southern cuisine. Even if you don't dine here, the building itself is worth a visit for its beautiful architecture and history.

4. River Street

Stroll along River Street to enjoy the shops, galleries, and waterfront views. This area is perfect for grabbing a bite to eat or a sweet treat, such as pralines from the famous River Street Sweets.

5. The Pirates' House

This historic tavern has been serving patrons since the 1700s and is rumored to be a haunt for pirates. Enjoy a meal or simply explore the unique interior.

6. Bonaventure Cemetery

For a touch of the macabre, visit Bonaventure Cemetery. Known for its hauntingly beautiful sculptures and historic graves, it offers a peaceful atmosphere for reflection.

Tips for Enhancing Your Self-Guided Tour

To get the most out of your self-guided walking tour, consider these additional tips:

- **Stay Hydrated:** Bring a water bottle, especially during warmer months.
- **Capture the Moments:** Take plenty of photos, but also take the time to enjoy the sights without a lens.
- **Engage with Locals:** Don't hesitate to ask locals for recommendations or stories about the area.
- **Time Your Visit:** Early mornings or late afternoons are ideal for avoiding crowds and enjoying the city at a leisurely pace.

Conclusion

Savannah walking tours self guided provide a fantastic opportunity to explore this enchanting city at

your own pace. With its rich history, stunning architecture, and vibrant culture, Savannah invites you to discover its charm on foot. By following the tips and suggestions outlined in this article, you can create a memorable experience that will leave you with lasting memories of this beautiful Southern gem. So lace up your walking shoes, grab a map, and get ready to uncover the secrets of Savannah!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of taking a self-guided walking tour in Savannah?

Self-guided walking tours in Savannah allow for flexibility in your schedule, the ability to explore at your own pace, and the opportunity to focus on the sights that interest you most without being tied to a group.

What resources are available for planning a self-guided walking tour in Savannah?

There are various resources available, including mobile apps, downloadable maps, and websites that offer suggested routes and detailed information about historical sites, parks, and attractions.

How long does a typical self-guided walking tour in Savannah take?

The duration of a self-guided walking tour can vary greatly depending on the route chosen, but typically it can take anywhere from 1 to 4 hours to complete, allowing time for stops and exploration.

Are there any specific neighborhoods in Savannah that are recommended for walking tours?

Historic Downtown Savannah, the River Street area, and the Victorian District are highly recommended for walking tours, as they feature beautiful architecture, rich history, and vibrant local culture.

What should I bring on a self-guided walking tour in Savannah?

It's advisable to bring comfortable walking shoes, a water bottle, a camera, sunscreen, and a fully charged smartphone or portable charger for maps and information.

Can I find themed self-guided walking tours in Savannah?

Yes, there are themed self-guided walking tours available, such as ghost tours, architecture tours, and culinary tours, which provide a unique perspective on Savannah's rich history and culture.

Is it safe to walk around Savannah on a self-guided tour?

Yes, Savannah is generally safe for walking tours, especially in the popular tourist areas, but it's always wise to stay aware of your surroundings and follow standard safety precautions.

Are self-guided walking tours in Savannah suitable for families with children?

Absolutely! Many self-guided walking tours in Savannah are family-friendly, offering engaging stories and interesting landmarks that can captivate both children and adults.

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