

THINGS AND PLACES TO PHOTOGRAPH IN SAVANNAH

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Where can you go nearby where you can photograph it all: nature, architecture, people, sports and exciting events. Where can you go where you can photograph smoke from firing cannon, the steam from a Civil War locomotive, one of the largest container ships in the world, a Scottish wedding with a tartan dressed bride, Johnny Mercer's grave, a performing circus tightrope walker, a cat named "Dog" and maybe even a muppet named "Grover"? Let's take a trip to Savannah to see what's there for us to photograph!

Nature Photography (Flowers and Animals)

Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, 2 Canebrake Road - Formerly a USDA Plant Introduction Station it now houses a series of gardens including a regionally renowned camellia garden, cottage garden, xeriscape garden, water garden, rose garden, Mediterranean garden and shade garden by the lakes. There is also a greenhouse filled with orchids. Test gardens of daylilies and irises in bloom are spectacular.

Savannah Botanical Gardens, 1388 Eisenhower Drive. Owned and operated by the Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs, it includes formal and natural plantings with a two acre pond, nature trails and historic house. There is a cottage garden, rose garden, childrens garden and herb garden.

Oatland Island Wildlife Center, 711 Sandtown Road. Oatland is an animal refuge with over 150 animals representing 50 different species with a nature trail that winds through forest and marshlands of Oatland Island. Two mountain lion cubs were recently acquired. The annual angora goats shearing along with demonstrations of spinning and weaving is March 12.

Armstrong Campus Arboretum, Georgia Southern University, 11935 Abercorn Street. The campus itself is a 90 acre arboretum. The grounds are covered with identified unusual plants and beautiful flowers. In October there is a wonderful plant sale where shrubs and perennials can be purchased by the public for very reasonable prices.

Ships of the Sea, 41 Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard. Models of 18th and 19th century ships including the Titanic are displayed in the Maritime Museum and there is also a formal garden next to the museum. The popular Grey restaurant is nearby at 109 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

Street Photography

Forsyth Park, 2 W Gaston Street. The 30 acre park in the middle of Savannah's historic neighborhood always has interest for photographers from local artisans, music performances, dogs, sports, a farmer's

market on Saturdays, basketball and tennis courts, playground, and a fragrant garden for the blind. On the southern end across the street is a popular coffee and vegetarian restaurant. A fairly new upscale restaurant in the middle of the park is located near the playground. Public bathrooms with an attendant are located near the park restaurant. A takeout for snacks and Leopold's ice cream is a part of the restaurant. Good parking is available in neighborhoods around the park. There are several DOT stops on the streets bordering the park. A charming bakery is located about four blocks east of the park on Hall Street where you can get specialty coffees and delicious baked goods with outside dining. The SCAD Sidewalk chalk art event is April 23, 2022.

Savannah Waterfront and Factors Walk. Easy parking is available at the Savannah Convention Center and a free ferry to River Street takes you to River Street where you will find boutiques, galleries, restaurants, frequent festivals, statues, fountains and visitors. The Visitor Center located near the Hyatt Regency has bathrooms, and the elevator to Bay Street is located outside next to the hotel. Parking is also available on River Street and Bay Street. Check out the recently remodeled North end of River Street (toward the bridge). Factors Walk and Row include a collection of five to six story buildings that have their first floors on River Street.

City Market located at 219 West Bryan Street next to Ellis Square has galleries, restaurants, special events, music and shops.

History and Architecture

Bonaventure Cemetery, 330 Bonaventure Road, Thunderbolt. 100 acre peaceful setting on scenic bluff of Wilmington River has tree-lined roads and many azaleas as well as unique cemetery sculptures and architecture. Spring is the ideal time to visit!

The Squares of Savannah. There are 22 historic squares and they all have their charm and history with restaurants nearby. The free DOT bus runs near many of them so they are easily accessed. Many of them are within walking distance. The squares are excellent for street photography. Our favorite historic district restaurant is The Gryphon Tea Room - 337 Bull St. Owned and run by SCAD it is quiet and a little fancy but has good food and great atmosphere for lunch or afternoon tea. The SCAD store featuring art works by SCAD students is located across the street.

John the Baptist Basilica, 222 E Harris Street, is a beautiful French gothic church with soaring twin spires and is open to the public.

Jones Street is considered to be the prettiest street in Savannah with arching live oaks and remarkable 19th century architecture; it is a perfect place to stroll and enjoy old Savannah.

Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum, 175 Bourne Avenue, Pooler tells the stories of the men and women of the eighth Air Force from World War 11 until the present and is home to five static aircrafts. Miss Sophie's restaurant is located inside the museum and open during the week for lunch.

Georgia State Railroad Museum, 655 Louisville Road in Tricentennial Park, US National St Historic Landmark, is the most complete pre-Civil War railroad complex in the US.

Wormsloe Historic Site, 7601 Skidaway Road. At the end of a beautiful avenue of live oaks and Spanish moss is a tabby ruin, the oldest standing structure in Savannah. Wormsloe hosts several events including the Colonial Faire and Muster in February highlighting aspects of 18th century life. An event called "Tools and Skills that Built a Colony" is held Labor Day weekend. The nearby Driftaway Restaurant is a favorite for lunch and next door is a very nice plant nursery.

Historical fortifications -

Fort Pulaski, Highway 80 East from Savannah to Tybee Island.

Fort McAllister State Park, 3894 Ft McAllister Road, Richmond Hill, GA.

Old Fort Jackson - 1 Ft Jackson Road, Savannah GA. (about 1 mile from downtown)

2022 Upcoming Events in Savannah

March 12, Angora sheep shearing, spinning and weaving at Oatland Wildlife Center

March 17, Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, 10:15 a.m.

April 2, SCAD Equestrian all day competition, Equestrian Center, 3650 Speedway Blvd on Hwy 17. The SCAD team has recently won the 11th straight Overall Regional Championship. Great action shots await you at this event.

April 23, SCAD Sidewalk Arts Festival with spectacular chalk-art displays at Forsyth Park.

May 1, Doggie Carnival and Derby, Forsyth Park

So, if you want to go someplace for potentially wonderful photographs, take a trip to beautiful Savannah. We have a frequent saying about outings to our favorite place:

"Savannah: it never disappoints!"