

self guided driving tour of savannah

Self-Guided Driving Tour of Savannah: Explore the Hostess City at Your Own Pace

Introduction:

Ready to explore Savannah, Georgia, at your own speed and without the constraints of a guided tour? Then buckle up! This comprehensive guide provides everything you need for an unforgettable self-guided driving tour of Savannah. We'll uncover hidden gems, iconic landmarks, and charming squares, all while offering tips and tricks to make your journey smooth and enjoyable. Forget rigid itineraries; this is your customizable adventure through the historic streets and vibrant culture of the Hostess City. Let's hit the road!

1. Planning Your Self-Guided Savannah Driving Tour:

Before you even start your engine, a little planning goes a long way. Consider these factors:

Time of Year: Savannah's weather varies significantly. Summers are hot and humid, while winters are mild and pleasant. Spring and fall offer the most comfortable temperatures for exploring. Factor this into your itinerary and plan for potential rain delays.

Length of Stay: A self-guided tour allows for flexibility, but knowing how much time you have helps you prioritize locations. A long weekend allows for a focused exploration of specific areas, while a longer trip opens up more possibilities.

Interests: Are you a history buff? A foodie? An architecture enthusiast? Tailoring your route to your passions will make the experience more rewarding. For example, if you're a history buff, you'll want to spend more time at the historic sites and museums, while a foodie might want to plan for more time visiting restaurants and farmers' markets.

Parking: Parking in Savannah's historic district can be challenging and expensive. Plan your stops strategically, considering parking availability near each location. Consider using a parking app to locate available spaces in advance.

1. Must-See Spots on Your Savannah Driving Tour:

This curated list combines iconic landmarks with lesser-known gems, ensuring a well-rounded Savannah experience:

Forsyth Park: Start your journey at this sprawling green space, perfect for a leisurely stroll or a picnic. Its iconic fountain is a must-see photo opportunity.

Historic Squares: Savannah is renowned for its picturesque squares, each with its unique charm. Drive through Chippewa Square (made famous by "Forrest Gump"), Wright Square, and Madison Square, taking time to explore on foot.

River Street: This revitalized waterfront area boasts cobblestone streets, unique shops, and restaurants. Park and wander along the river, enjoying the sights and sounds.

Bonaventure Cemetery: For a more somber but equally captivating experience, visit Bonaventure Cemetery. Its stunning architecture and evocative atmosphere provide a fascinating glimpse into Savannah's history. (Note: Allow ample time for exploration here.)

City Market: This vibrant marketplace offers a diverse range of shops, restaurants, and art galleries. It's a great place to soak up the atmosphere and grab a souvenir.

Wormsloe Historic Site: Just a short drive outside of Savannah, Wormsloe is a breathtaking historical site with its iconic avenue of live oak trees. This is a worthy detour if you have the time.

1. Navigating Your Self-Guided Tour:

GPS Navigation: Using a GPS app is recommended, especially for navigating the sometimes confusing streets of Savannah's historic district. Download offline maps in case of spotty cell service.

Paper Map: While GPS is invaluable, having a paper map as a backup is always a smart idea. It can also help you visualize your route and identify alternative paths.

Traffic: Savannah's traffic can get congested, especially during peak tourist season. Be mindful of traffic patterns and plan your route accordingly.

1. Enhance Your Savannah Experience:

Local Food: No trip to Savannah is complete without indulging in the local culinary scene. From Southern comfort food to fresh seafood, there's something for everyone. Research restaurants in advance and make reservations if necessary.

Historical Walking Tours: While this is a driving tour, consider combining it with a short walking tour in one of Savannah's historic squares. Many self-guided walking tours are available online.

Photography: Savannah is incredibly photogenic. Take your time to capture the beauty of the city's architecture, squares, and natural surroundings.

Souvenirs: Don't forget to pick up a few souvenirs to remember your trip. The City Market and River Street offer a variety of options.

1. Safety Tips for Your Self-Guided Tour:

Lock your car: Always lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.

Be aware of your surroundings: Pay attention to your surroundings and be aware of your belongings.

Drive carefully: Savannah's streets can be narrow and crowded. Drive cautiously and be mindful of pedestrians.

Stay hydrated: Especially during warmer months, stay hydrated by carrying water with you.

Conclusion:

A self-guided driving tour of Savannah offers unparalleled flexibility and the chance to explore this beautiful city at your own pace. By planning your route, prioritizing your interests, and following the tips provided, you can create a truly memorable and personalized experience. So grab your keys, download your maps, and get ready to fall in love with the charm and history of Savannah!

FAQs:

1. How long does it take to complete a self-guided driving tour of Savannah? This depends entirely on your itinerary and how much time you spend at each location. A long weekend allows for a good overview, while a week or more will enable a more thorough exploration.
1. Is it easy to find parking in Savannah? Parking in the historic district can be challenging and expensive. Plan your stops strategically and consider using a parking app to locate available spaces.
1. What are the best times of year to visit Savannah? Spring and fall offer the most comfortable temperatures, while summers are hot and humid, and winters are mild.
1. Are there any hidden gems in Savannah that aren't widely known? Explore the smaller, less-visited squares and explore the residential streets off the main tourist routes for hidden architectural gems and quiet escapes.
1. Can I bring my pet on my Savannah driving tour? Many locations are pet-friendly, but always check individual location policies before bringing your furry friend. Keep in mind the heat and plan for shade and water breaks.

Additional Resources

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