LA PROGRAM GROUP FACE BOOK POSTINGS
Each of you are required to post 2 times on your assigned day. Please think carefully about what you post. Preferably a group activity, a cultural event, unique experience or scenery—let’s see pictures of ourselves having a great time!

Saturday March 12       David
Sunday March 13          Emily
Monday March 14          Daniel
Tuesday March 15         Ben
Wednesday March 16      Ryan and Cody
Thursday March 17       Sam
Friday March 18          Suzanna

MARCH 12 Saturday--TRAVEL DAY
Group dinner included in Trip Fee

HYMANS SEAFOOD A Charleston Landmark
The HYMAN family have been at this location for over 118 years. The owners, Eli and Aaron’s great-grandfathers was a Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe who started a wholesale dry goods store this location in 1890.

In 1987 they changed to HYMANS SEAFOOD.

The floors are heart pine and the bricks are Old English, with original Oyster mortar. The wrought iron stair case was built in Kenton, Ohio in 1887 and shipped to Charleston when the building was constructed.

WATERFRONT PARK- If it's not too late and we are not too tired

The fountains in Waterfront Park are lit at night and you will get a great view along the harbor's waterfront and views of the Charleston harbor.

Waterfront Park is one of the peninsula's most visited parks. Finished in 1990, It is a favorite of visitors and locals alike. The park covers more than 1,000 feet along the coasts You can watch boats cruising the waters and large ships heading in and out of the harbor.

MARCH 13 Sunday—Charleston
CHARLESTON VISITOR CENTER
375 Meeting Street - Open seven days a week 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m
We will stop by and get walking maps and general info.

They have a 36 minute show, Forever Charleston that will orient you by presenting an overview of the history and culture of the Charleston low country,

The first movie begins at 9 a.m. and we will watch it.

The Charleston Visitor Center (also Transportation Center) is located in the old Deans Warehouse. Constructed in stages from 1840 to 1856, it is one of five railroad buildings known collectively as the William Aiken House and Associated Railroad Structures and is listed as a National Historic Landmark District. After an extensive renovation which utilized much of the original materials of the building, the Visitor Center opened to the public in May of 1991.

WE WILL DRIVE TO THE BATTERY, PARK, AND WALK, WALK, WALK

SOUTH OF BROAD NEIGHBORHOODS - BATTERY TOUR

• The Battery
Begin on Charleston's southeastern tip, at the confluence of East Battery Street and Murray Boulevard, where an old local saying claims that the Ashley and Cooper Rivers meet to form the Atlantic Ocean. From this panoramic vantage point you overlook historic Charleston Harbor on one side, and beautiful gardens and rows of antebellum mansions on the other. It was from this spot that a cannon roared with the opening of the Civil War, and where great fleets of war ships and merchant vessels have passed for centuries. Originally a shell bank covered with oysters bleached white by the sun, the area was called White Point by early settlers, who set up lookouts and fortified defenses in the late 1600's. Today, the oyster shells are covered by filled land and the tree-lined park area known as White Point Gardens. Where gun batteries faced the sea is a waterfront bulwark commonly called The Battery. This elevated waterfront walk is still Charleston's favorite observation point. The wide granite and cement walkway is often sprayed with drops of saltwater that lap against its facing, and from this perch you can see the barrier islands that ring the city, as well as historic fortifications at Fort Sumter and Castle Pinckney that rise from sandbars and islets in the harbor. Most days bring flotillas of sailing and power boats, as well as massive freight ships and their tug boats moving up and down the harbor channel. In the distance you can see historic lighthouses, classic shrimp boats on their way to sea, the famed World War II carrier U.S.S. Yorktown across the Cooper River at the Patriot's Point Maritime Museum, and the towering cable-stay Ravenel Bridge that links Charleston and Mount Pleasant.

• White Point Gardens
In White Point Gardens, genuine Civil War cannon and other monuments still stand. Families gather for picnics and pedestrians feed squirrels and sea gulls. Once rifled guns, howitzers and seacoast mortars flashed during some of the most memorable conflicts in American history.

• Battery Row
Head north along East Battery Street and famed "Battery Row". These two blocks of magnificent houses date to Charleston's glory days as one of America's wealthiest ports in the early 1800's, featuring
architectural details that represent the best in Greek Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, and Regency styles. Most enjoy walking along the Battery promenade on the East side of the street to get a wider perspective, but also walk along the front of the houses to see their scale and intricate detail.

Moving past the 1828 Roper House at 9 East Battery, consider that parts of a Confederate cannon are still lodged in its rafters. In 1865, the huge gun was mounted where the Keokuk gun is today, but was purposely blown up when the city was evacuated to avoid falling into enemy hands. Instead, it flew over two houses and is a permanent fixture at the Roper House today.

Next, notice the seemingly jutting lower porch of the 1845 William Ravenel House at 13 East Battery. This was originally the base of a two-story portico crowned with Corinthian columns, but an earthquake that hit the city in 1886 literally shook them to the ground. Notice the distinctive "earthquake plates" on many of the houses in the city. After the 1886 earthquake struck, many buildings were reinforced with metal bolts that stretched through joists from wall to wall and were anchored by the exterior plates. The addition became so fashionable that walkers will notice a variety of plate shapes, ranging from stars to crosses.

The Emondston-Alston House at 21 East Battery is a house museum. Built between 1817 and 1828, the house combines Regency and Greek Revival styles and features lavish interior woodwork and furnishings.

As East Battery continues North, it becomes East Bay Street, which historically faced Charleston Harbor and rows of great shipping wharves. Passing intersecting pedestrian lanes of Stoll's Alley and Longitude Lane, you will notice sidewalk markers with names such as South Adgers Wharf, now a cobblestone street built atop the historic slips where sailing vessels were tied. At the foot of South Adgers Wharf, harbor waves lap along the promenade of Waterfront Park, an area featuring two large fountains - one in the shape of a pineapple, the traditional symbol of welcome.

- **Rainbow Row.**

Walking west along North Adgers Wharf takes you back to East Bay Street, facing what is perhaps Charleston’s most famous location, Rainbow Row. This full block of thirteen Georgian-style row houses dates to the mid 1700's, when they were operated as counting offices downstairs and residences upstairs. With their fortunes and stucco facades faded by the early 1900's, restoration efforts by owners included painting exteriors in a spectrum of pastel, colors now preserved by city ordinance and extensively painted and photographed.

- **The Old Exchange**

Just a few steps north, at the intersection of East Bay Street and Broad Street, the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon stands prominently. Built in 1767 as a customs and storage facility for the burgeoning sea trade, this stunning Georgian-Palladian building features Portland marble trim and a distinctive cupola. It was at the building’s basement level that pirates and Revolutionary War patriots were held prisoner, and in its great ballrooms that George Washington was feted on his presidential visit in 1791, and today both are open to public tour.

Heading west, Broad Street extends to the banks of the Ashley River, offering an incredible variety of historic sights along the way. As Charleston's original business and legal district, Broad Street features an array of centuries-old courthouses, banks and commercial offices, as well as an eclectic assortment of memorable building styles representing different historical periods. Elaborate facades of Connecticut brownstone, Quincy granite, and Italian marble grace what are still used as courts, banks and business offices along blocks lined with palmetto trees and slate sidewalks.
1 Broad Street
At 1 Broad Street, lions head keystones gaze down from the 1853 Italian Renaissance bank whose early
owner, George Trenholm, was a duelist and blockade runner from whom Rhett Butler was modeled in
_Gone With the Wind._

16 Broad Street
The Classic Revival building at 16 Broad has served as a bank since 1817, and since that date has been
distinguished by a remarkable bald eagle of gilded oak set in its pediment. At 18 Broad is Charleston's
lone "skyscraper", a 1910 construction of Winnsboro granite and terra cotta facing where the first level
today features one of Broad Street's many fine art galleries.

17 Broad Street
At 17 Broad, the 1848 Italianate bank building is today home to one of Charleston’s most acclaimed
restaurants, The Oak Steak House.

47 Broad Street
Turning South at the corner of Church Street, notice the unusual painting in the stucco side wall of 47
Broad. The artwork depicts a man whose body parts are made up of a variety of hats, and dates to the
late 1800’s when the building sold hats and other dry goods.

89-91 Church Street
A few steps away at 89-91 Church Street is a stucco tenement with a central arch that was once known
as "Cabbage Row". In the early 1900’s, black tenants sold cabbages from the windowsills to passersby,
which inspired Dubose Heyward's "Catfish Row" of his famed novel _Porgy._

Next door, the 1770 Heyward-Washington House bears the distinctive diamond plaque designating
historic significance as a site where George Washington stayed. Built by Thomas Heyward, a signer of
the Declaration of Independence, the historic residence is operated as a house museum, featuring such
notable interior work as the extravagant mantel carved by famed Charleston craftsman Thomas Elfe.

71 Church Street
Church Street wends its way south along rows of stately houses renowned for their flourishing gardens
and wrought ironwork. The Robert Brewton House at 71 Church dates to 1720, and was the first in
North America to be adorned with stucco quoins, presumably added to create a look of greater expense
by having the home’s corners resemble marble blocks.

61 Church Street
The Greek Revival First Baptist Church at 61 Church Street was built in 1822 by famed designer Robert
Mills, and is considered the mother church of Southern Baptists, while the Georgian house next door at
59 Church dates to 1733, and is reputed to be haunted by the ghost of Dr. Joseph Ladd, who was killed
in a 1786 duel.

50 Church Street
Across the street at 50 Church Street was the site of the 18th century Mariner's Church, which was
demolished in 1752 after a ship crashed through it during a hurricane. This odd occurrence was made
possible by the fact that intersecting Water Street lies atop the bed of an ancient creekbed, and was
once crossed by a bridge where Church Street meets it today. Continuing South, Church Street turns to
brick pavement and narrows noticeably in its path along statuesque houses that date as early as the
1730's. The recommended pace on lower Church Street during the Spring, Summer and Fall blooming
seasons is slow, as many homes feature gardens that can be enjoyed with views through gates or down driveways that might be completely missed in a passing car.

Church Street ends at the intersection of South Battery Street, where turning West affords a grand view of elegant mansions facing White Point Gardens to the South. At the corner of South Battery and Meeting Street is the enticing Two Meeting Street Inn. This adorable Queen Anne style construction was built in 1892 and financed, according to legend by a $75,000 wedding gift left on the bride's pillow.

Meeting Street
A stroll North along Meeting Street is like walking back through history, as this oak-lined avenue of historic homes and churches epitomizes the timeless charm and enthralling atmosphere of the enchanting city. The Josiah Smith house at 7 Meeting was built in the 1780's and although seemingly made of wood, has walls of brick insulation within the framing timbers.

16 Meeting Street
The Calhoun Mansion at 16 Meeting is considered one of America's best examples of Victorian architecture. With 24,000 square feet of living space, this 1876 gem features 14-foot ceilings, carved plaster and woodwork, and impeccable furnishings. Operated as a house museum, tours are give daily.

30 Meeting Street
Another pre-Revolutionary structure that has an interesting story. Hessian mercenaries fighting for England were headquartered here during the British occupation of Charleston in 1780, but when the British evacuated two years later, the Hessians his inside the house chimneys to avoid having to return to Europe. The stucco mansion at 37 Meeting dates to the 1770's and was briefly the Civil War headquarters of Charleston's Confederate commander, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, who legend claims still haunts the house.

34 Meeting Street
The 1768 Daniel Huger house at 34 Meeting is a classic example of a Charleston "double" house, featuring entrance into a central hallway that separates drawing rooms on either side. Once home to the last of England's Royal Governors, the house was bombarded and looted by Federal troops during the Civil War.

51 Meeting Street
Don't miss the Nathaniel Russell House at 51 Meeting, built in 1808 and considered one of the finest examples of Adamesque architecture in America. Featuring a dazzling garden filled with blooms and centuries-old Magnolia trees, the stunning interior and exterior details of the house are highlighted by a magnificent free-flying staircase that rises three floors without any visible support.

57 Meeting Street
At 57 Meeting, the First Scots Presbyterian Church dates to 1814, and features distinctive twin towers rising above a columned portico and the seal of Scotland over the main entrance. Like many churches throughout the city, First Scots is blessed with marvelous acoustics and hosts chamber concerts during the Spring Spoleto Festival.
59 Meeting Street
Feel free to relax under the piazza of the 1760's Branford-Horry house at 59 Meeting, which is built over the sidewalk and was for many years the city's most historic bus stop. South Carolina Society Hall at 72 Meeting was built in 1804 by a city organization of French Huguenots devoted to the relief of the poor, which was called the "Two Bit Club" during the 1700's, referring to the standard donation. Considered one of the city's most important Adamesque buildings, the hall features a grand double portico with Doric and Ionic columns.

69 Meeting Street
The stucco house at 69 Meeting dates to the 1790's and features one of Charleston's most enticing gardens, which like so many in the downtown area is easily enjoyed from the sidewalk.

Approaching the intersection of Meeting and Broad, notice a number of basket weavers making and displaying their wares along the sidewalk. These intricately-woven designs are made from bulrush, palmetto fronds, long leaf pine and sweetgrass, the latter plant giving the baskets their distinctive name and aroma. It's worth a stop just to watch the weavers at work, a skill handed down through many generations of descendants of African slaves. Using only a single weaving tool, typically a broken spoon handle called a "nail bone", the weavers work for hours to create beautiful designs and shapes that historically functioned as storage and for carrying, but today are purely ornamental.

Four Corners of Law
The Broad Street intersection with Meeting Street is known as the "four corners of law", featuring, from Southwest moving clockwise, the 1892 U.S. Courthouse (federal law), the 1787 County Courthouse (county law), the 1800 City Hall (city law), and the 1762 St. Michael's Episcopal Church (God's law).

St. Michael's is Charleston's oldest church building, and served the city as an observation post during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and as a fire tower until the 1880's. The church bells in the 186-foot tower are original, and are still pealed gloriously by hand-ringers. Every foot of the interior has a remarkable story - from the original pulpit that still bears the scars of Union Civil War shells; to the 1803 brass chandelier that was painted black in 1865 to prevent looters from stealing it; to pew number 43, in which both George Washington and Robert E. Lee attended services.

The church graveyard is a memorable visit a well, with beautiful wrought iron gates dating to the 1770's, and historic grave markers that reveal a number of eminent Charlestonians, including two signers of the Constitution, John Rutledge and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

THE HISTORIC FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR

Begin in front of Charleston City Hall at 80 Broad Street. This historic 1800 building is Charleston's first example of Adamesque construction, designed by famed local architect Gabriel Manigault to display elaborate detail and symmetry. The white stucco exterior is trimmed in Italian marble over a inner layer of red brick, and is highlighted by a grand entrance staircase and pediment featuring the city seal and motto - "Aedes Mores Juraque Curat" (She guards her buildings, customs and laws).

Erected as the Charleston branch of the Bank of the United States, the building was conveyed to the city in 1811 and converted to City Hall in 1818. The public can view the grand two-story council chamber, which
was remodeled during the Victorian period with a ceiling of polychrome paneling. Featuring a fascinating collection of historic paintings and busts that include John Trumbull's 1791 portrait of George Washington, Samuel Morse's painting of James Monroe, and Vanderlyn's portrait of Andrew Jackson.

Adjacent to City Hall is Washington Square, also known as City Hall Park. This oak-shaded green space ringed on three sides by intricate wrought iron gates is a favorite for artists and anyone seeking a quiet refuge in the heart of the city. It was here that a famous "tent city" was set up in the aftermath of the earthquake of 1886, and looming in the park's northwest corner is a reminder of Charleston's vulnerable past - the 1827 Fireproof Building. This National Historic Landmark was designed by another heralded Charleston architect, Robert Mills. The Greek Doric design is constructed entirely of nonflammable materials - iron, glass and stone - and formerly a repository for city records, today serves as headquarters for the S.C. Historical Society.

The raised entrance portico of the Fireproof Building faces Chalmers Street, longest and most famous of Charleston's remaining cobblestone streets. This bumpy surface was an idea that dates to the mid 1700's, when sailing ships loading in Charleston would dump cobble stone ballast on docks to fill their hulls with rich cargoes of rice and indigo. These piles of stones were put to use in stabilizing the sandy, rutted streets facing Charleston harbor, and only six such thoroughfares remain in the city today.

Walking East along Chalmers, notice a variety of gates that feature iron-spiked "Cheveaux- de-Fries" and masonry pineapples. The spikes were set to discourage intruders after a failed slave uprising in 1822, while conversely, the pineapple was a traditional symbol of welcome. Above the roof line on the north side of Chalmers Street, stands one of the city's historic bell towers that rang out fire warnings during the 1800's.

**The Pink House**
Farther down Chalmers Street on the South side is The Pink House, built as a tavern in 1712. Constructed of Bermuda stone and featuring an unusual gambrel roof, the bright pastel structure is now home to an art gallery.

Across the street are two of Charleston's most notable buildings, the German Fire Company Engine House and Ryan's Slave Mart. The 1851 fire house was built in Roman Revival style with a grand archway to house engines and horses,

**The Old Slave Mart**
In the seven decades between the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and the Civil War, more than one million American-born slaves were sold away from plantations in the upper South to work the rapidly expanding cotton and sugar plantations in the lower South. In Charleston, enslaved African Americans were customarily sold on the north side of the Old Exchange Building.

The 1808 ban on the United States' participation in the international slave trade led to a renewed demand for slave labor, which was satisfied, in part, by the creation of a domestic slave-trading system in which Charleston functioned as a major slave collecting and reselling center. An 1856 city ordinance prohibited this practice of selling of slaves along city streets, moving such auctions inside to "marts" or "yards" resulting in the opening of the Old Slave Mart and a number of other sales rooms, yards, or marts along Chalmers, State and Queen Streets.
Slave auctions at the Old Slave Mart ended in November 1863. The property changed hands many times after the Civil War, and between 1878 and 1937 the building was used as a Negro tenement and as an auto repair shop.

In 1938 Miriam B. Wilson purchased the building, which by then, had come to be known locally as the Old Slave Mart, and established a museum featuring African and African-American arts and crafts. Judith Wragg Chase and Louise Wragg Graves took over the Old Slave Mart in 1964, placed it on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and operated it until its closure in 1987.

Recognizing the significant importance the institution of slavery has had in Charleston's history, the City of Charleston acquired the property in 1988. In 2007, the building was renovated and reopened as the Old Slave Mart Museum, with displays of slave artifacts.

27 State Street
Now turn North on State Street, which historically housed several of Charleston's early fire companies in antebellum structures that have been remodeled as homes. At 27 State, the 1813-era stuccoed residence features an inner courtyard and buildings reminiscent of old Europe, and this part of the city was heavily-influenced by French and German immigrants during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Turn eastward at Queen Street, pass the Footlight Players Workshop Theater, an 1850-era cotton warehouse that has for many years served the city's oldest stage company. Next to the theater is Philadelphia Alley, legendary for the stories of duels that were fought there, and a favorite storytelling spot for the city's numerous ghost walks.

Looming majestically over Church Street northward is one of Charleston's most memorable sights, St. Philip's Episcopal Church. The towering church was built in 1835, but its Tuscan columns and English Renaissance steeple were not completed until the 1850's, a reconfiguration that protruded into Church Street, creating the distinctive bend in the thoroughfare today.

Although not Charleston's oldest church building, St. Philip's is Charleston's oldest congregation, dating to 1680, when the church was located where St. Michael's stands today. The Church Act of 1706 split the congregation into two parishes, and a new St. Philip's was built on the site in 1710. This church caught fire in 1796, but was saved by a slave named Boney who climbed the steeple to pull away burning embers – thus winning his freedom. Ironically, the church did succumb to fire in the 1830's.

The St. Philip's graveyard is famous for the historic figures buried there, as well as its unusual arrangement of gravesites. Traditionally, the burial grounds flanking the structure on the eastern side of Church Street were known as the “Friendly” graveyard, reserved for church members born in Charleston. The cemetery across the street was called the “Strangers” graveyard, holding those parishioners born outside of Charleston.

Even the heralded John C. Calhoun, twice Vice-President of the United States, but a church member born in Abbeville, lies in the “Stranger’s” side, although he briefly made a foray across the street. In 1865, Charlestonians feared that Union troops descending on the city might defile the grave of the staunch secessionist, so Calhoun was exhumed and placed in an unmarked grave on the “Friendly” side. After the war and the threat to his grave had passed, church members insisted that Calhoun be returned to his original resting place, and he was moved again, creating the legendary saying that Calhoun may have crossed Church Street more in death than in life.
Turn westward at Cumberland Street, pass Charleston’s oldest municipal building, the 1713 Powder Magazine. This durable, thickly-walled structure held the city’s supply of gunpowder until the Revolution, when a British shell fired from the harbor burst so close that the powder was moved. For a number of years during the 1800’s the cool inner sanctum was used as a wine cellar by residents in the house next door, and today, the old building is officially a museum.

**City Market**  
**188 Meeting Street**

Proceed through the front churchyard gate, and turn northward along Meeting Street. Ahead is Charleston’s legendary City Market a 1841 Romanesque Revival structure – Market Hall.

Designed by Edward Brickell White, this classic construction bears all the architectural hallmarks of the idyllic Roman temple, including figures of bull and ram heads set in the frieze below the roof line, an ancient symbol of sacrifice to the gods. One of the oldest handcrafts of African origin in the United States is the hand-woven winnowing sieve, a shallow basket that was used during the Colonia Era to separate the rice seed from its chaff. Made in Charleston from indigenous bulrush, a strong yet supple grass that thrives in the sandy soil of the coastal region, sweetgrass baskets are now among the nation’s most prized cultural souvenirs.

With more than 50 resident artists, the Charleston City Market is the epicenter of sweetgrass basketry. Every hand crafted basked begins with a knot around which coils of bundled grass are woven. While the materials are always the same, the design of modern baskets varies from artist to artist. Discover this centuries-old tradition at the Charleston City Market.

**THE GATEWAY WALKING TOUR** Through the heart of the Charleston Historic District. The Gateway Walk is one of Charleston’s hidden gems downtown, it is a walking path that connect serval historic downtown church yards, the Gibbs Museum garden and other landmarks. It’s tucked away from most tourist’s crowds on the sidewalks.

Start at St. Philip's Church on Church Street or at the churches on Archdale Street. My preference is starting at Archdale, if you want to take a break midway in the Market Street area for an ice cream or a little shopping.

-- If the gate of St. John's Lutheran Church is locked, enter through the Unitarian Church. Check to see if the back gate between the Unitarian and Lutheran cemeteries is open. The Lutheran cemetery is definitely worth exploring.

-- The Gibbes Museum of Art on Meeting Street makes for a fun stop for those who have time. It's open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

-- If the gate between Circular Congregational Church and the west cemetery of St. Philip's Church is locked, exit onto Cumberland Street and continue to St. Philip's Church, where you'll have access to the two cemeteries from Church Street.

You can see the burial grounds at:

- **St. Philip's Episcopal Church**
- **Circular Congregational Church**
- **St. John's Lutheran**
- **Unitarian Church**
In 1930 Mrs. Clelia Peronneau McGowan, President of the Garden Club of Charleston, approached her fellow members with an idea for a walkway to connect areas between Archdale Street and Philadelphia Alley. She had been inspired by a visit to Paris, where in the midst of a busy city she found respite in meandering through pleasant gardens. The Gateway Walk opened April 10, 1930 to help celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Charleston on its peninsular site.

At the start of the three-block walk Gateway Walk on Archdale Street where the two steeples of St. John’s Lutheran and the Unitarian Church strike an elegant pose.

St. John’s Lutheran Church is the first of six stops on this tour of gardens and historic grounds an ornate iron gate that is the start of the Gateway Walk. A sign beside the gate features a quote from Mary Oliver: "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

The churchyard is maintained by volunteers who take a light hand with pruning. Crepe myrtles, magnolias, wildflowers, and vines grow unchecked around the plots. The Unitarian philosophy is that neither life nor death are to be feared, and they robustly embrace the celebration of both.

Some of Charleston's most interesting churchyards are within a three block walk of each other. Tombstone iconography is packed with meaning and even secret messages, and Gateway Walk a quiet stroll through cemeteries, green spaces

The walk is a mix of greenery, graves, gates and ghosts. Various plaques line the walk, most inset into the ground so walkers can find their way.

Pause on Meeting Street before crossing to enjoy the view of the Circular Congregational Church with its intriguing Romanesque style. The church combines two powerful forms: the circle, reminiscent of the former church that stood at this site and symbolic of eternity and wholeness, and the Greek cross, seen best in the interior plan, and symbolic of death and resurrection.

Crossing Meeting Street, enter the graveyard. It’s one of Charleston's most famous and oldest burying grounds and a hot spot for funerary art. Here, there are eerie slate markers from the 1600s bearing the stark skull-and-crossbones design, the ancient symbol of death. These are intermixed with later styles, including the "death's head," where angel wings appear instead of crossbones, reflecting changing fads and society's perceptions of the afterlife.

The bells peal at neighboring St. Philip's Church. I glance up to see the cross at the steeple's top glinting in the sun. Sandwished between the graveyards of two famous churches, amidst epitaphs and skulls and
crosses, I feel watched. I turn to see four cats lounging like satiated lions, perfect guardians of this place. They make it clear that I'm the visitor here.

If the gate to the west cemetery of St. Philip's is locked go to Cumberland Street and along the sidewalk. You will see one of the loveliest streetscapes in Charleston since St. Philip's, in true English style, juts out into the middle of the street. At another set of beautiful gates, the church's sign says "The only ghost at St. Philip's is the Holy Ghost. Join us for worship."

Another notable graveyard, this one houses Charles Pinckney, signer of the U.S. Constitution and governor of South Carolina, and Edward Rutledge, signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor of South Carolina. It's not the famous tombs that draw my eye, today, though. It's the grave of Elizabeth D. Prevost, who died at 19 years, nine months and 11 days.

The Gateway Walk is a walk of contemplation, of exploration and, ironically, of joy. This walk is a gateway from the hustling city streets, where you can faintly hear the noises of traffic, to the inner courtyards where solace comes in bird songs mixed with church bells.

Scavenger hunt
There's history, architecture, funerary art and horticultural delights.
Be aware that no tombstone rubbings are allowed. See if you can spot, photo, or sketch:
- A sundial
- Gilman monument: A large tower monument
- An urn draped in a pall with ivy leaves, symbolic of life everlasting
- A finely carved lamb, a typical Victorian symbol for a child's innocence
- Rooster weather vane
- Concrete tree trunk with ivy: marker for Oskar Aichel
- Horse-hitching posts
- Axes on gates
- Obelisk
- Skull and crossbones
- Confederate gravesite
- Sculpture of Persephone
- At least three different gate designs
- John C. Calhoun monument
- Floral wreath.
- Crowns.
- Angel wings.

The Village of Harleston
Originally developed in 1770, Harleston village is in peninsular Charleston. This mix of antebellum houses and modern townhouses is situated on the site of the first golf club in America. Surrounding the shady blocks of Harleston Village are the College of Charleston, South Carolina’s Medical University complex, and historic Cannon park and Colonial Lake.

Many of the old homes were built from the wealth of early 19th century rice mills that lined nearby Ashley River, and some of Charleston’s finest Italianate, Regency and Georgian architecture.
Only a few blocks from the King Street retail district, restaurants of the City market, and the yachts and sailboats of the Charleston Marina, Harleston Village offers easy access to all the pleasures and necessities of the good life.

The Village of Harleston, also frequently called Harleston’s Green, more rarely Harlestonborough, and more recently Harleston Village, was originally part of a grant made to John Coming and Henry Hughes in 1671-1672. After the death of Coming and his wife Affra Coming, it was inherited by Ms. Coming’s nephew, John Harleston, and his descendants. The section bore the Harleston name when it was developed and streets were opened in 1770. The Harlestons, during the Colonial period, were active in the government of the Province and also accomplished breeders of racehorses.

Despite its early creation, Harleston was but slowly covered with houses, and in 1819, a contemporary described it as indented with marsh and creeks.

A large part of Harleston was acquired by Thomas Bennett, Sr., who with Daniel Cannon, used the ebb and flow of the tides to power large lumber mills. Thus, the part of Harleston near the Ashley River was covered by huge mill ponds. The ponds persisted after the development of steam power, and were not filled until the 1880’s.

Meet up for Lunch via Group Me
King Street Runs Parallel to Meeting Street and known for its shopping—or window shopping.

Meet up for Dinner via Group Me

After dinner we will drive to see a Low country sunset

Other stuff

BOOKSTORE—I always go to the oldest local bookstore in any town and its always a unique adventure.

Charleston is the well-preserved history of this turbulent city. For centuries historians have been recording stories. The result is a literary gumbo of books on local history, most of them only available at the Preservation Society of Charleston. Books are stacked and shelved on a variety of primitive cabinets and tables, carefully organized by topic. Gullah history, Charleston recipes, Low country architecture, haunted confederate cemeteries, and choose-your-own-adventure walking tours.

A self-published booklet titled Touring the Tombstones: A Guide to Charleston’s Historic Churchyard. Is a little handbook features photos, a map and short histories of some of the most unusual and important tombstones in the legendary Unitarian Church burial ground, just up the block.
MARCH 14 MONDAY-PLANTATION DAY

Probably 2-3 hours at each. Be prepared to sketch, relax, and take it slow.

Magnolia Plantations and Gardens entrance included in Course Fee
Opens 8:30

Founded in 1676 by the Drayton family, Magnolia Plantation has survived the centuries and witnessed the history of our nation unfold before it from the American Revolution through the Civil War and beyond. It is the oldest public tourist site in the Low country, and the oldest public gardens in America, opening its doors to visitors in 1870 to view the thousands of beautiful flowers and plants in its famous gardens. Unlike most of America’s gardens, which are formal and seek to control nature, Magnolia cooperates with nature to create a tranquil landscape like Eden where humanity and nature are in harmony. "Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher." - William Wordsworth

The gardens at Magnolia Plantation are America’s Last Large-scale Romantic-style Garden and of such beauty and variety that they have brought tourists from around the world to view them since they were open to the public in the early 1870s. However, many parts of the gardens are much older, some sections more than 325 years old, making them the oldest unrestored gardens in America. As the plantation has stayed within the ownership of the same family for more than three centuries, each generation has added their own personal touch to the gardens, expanding and adding to their variety. Today there are various varieties of flowers from camellias, daffodils, to azaleas and countless other species in bloom year round

Lunch

Middleton Place- entrance included in Course Fee, closes at 5:30

Built in several phases during the 18th and 19th centuries, the plantation was the primary residence of several generations of the Middleton family, many of whom played prominent roles in the colonial and antebellum history of South Carolina. The plantation, now a National Historic Landmark District, is used as a museum, and is home to the oldest landscaped gardens in the United States.
MARCH 15 TUESDAY  SAVANNA

Leave hotel at 6:00 am,  2hr drive to Savanna
Savannah Visitor Center  301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Open daily

The visitor center is located in the old red-brick passenger terminal of the Central of Georgia Railroad complex. Built in the 1850s and 1860s, the railway used the building with high ceilings and sweeping archways until 1972. Audiovisual overview of Savannah, and self-guided walking tour information, free maps and brochures on local attractions. We can park here while exploring the historic district a National Historic Landmark.

HISTORIC SQUARE WALK
During most of the development of the city, the squares were used for communal activities, such as gathering water, baking bread, celebrating holidays and victories and many more activities. They were also used as stock yards and gathering places for those from outside the city for protection in time of attack.

As originally laid out, each of the Savannah squares was at the center of a basic organizational unit called a ward. Each ward contained a square. All communal activities of a ward took place in the square which was at its center.

As the wards and squares were planned, the east and west sides of each square contained two large lots, known as “trust lots”. These lots were reserved for public buildings, such as churches, schools and institutions. On the north and south sides of the squares, the land was divided into 20 “tithing lots”, with a lane down the middle for passage. These lanes form the streets of Savannah’s historic district today.

Each tithing lot was not simply a building site unto itself. It was part of a 50 acre grant made to the original settler. The 50 acres consisted of the tithing lot, a 5 acre garden lot nearby and approximately 45 acre farm outside the city limits.

The original plan of the city included 24 squares, of which only six were built originally by James Oglethorpe. Four in 1733 and two in 1736. They were, in chronological order, Johnson Square, Wright Square, Ellis Square, Telfair Square, Oglethorpe Square and Reynolds Square. The remaining 18 squares developed through the late 18th century and 19th century, spreading south from the original squares and eventually included Franklin Square, Warren Square, Washington Square, Liberty Square, Columbia Square, Greene Square, Elbert Square, Orleans Square, Chippewa Square, Crawford Square, Pulaski Square, Madison Square, Lafayette Square, Troup Square, Chatham Square, Monterey Square, Calhoun Square and Whitefield Square. Two of the squares, Elbert and Liberty Squares, were lost to “progress” – Elbert to a freeway exchange and Liberty Square to a courthouse.

SEE SQUARES OF SAVANNA DOCUMENT

Savannah’s Historic Neighborhoods

Victorian District

The 50-block Victorian District is situated just south of the Historic District, and bounded by Martin Luther King Boulevard and East Broad Street, Gwinnett and Anderson Streets.
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, this area represented the first suburb of Savannah as the city spread out in the late 1800s. Largely residential, the neighborhood features examples of many architectural styles, and features some of the finest examples of post-Civil War architecture in the Deep South. The predominant style is Victorian, and many of the two-story homes are wood frame with whimsical gingerbread trim, stained-glass windows, and unique architectural details.

City Market
Two blocks from River Street, Savannah's historic City Market dates back to 1755. A center of commerce and public market, it was here that fisherman and farmers brought their goods to sell. The first two markets were destroyed by fire in 1788 and 1820. A third was torn down shortly after the Civil War. The fourth market built in 1872, was an ornate brick structure with Romanesque arches and large circular windows. Like River Street, the market and surrounding warehouses in this small area languished in disrepair after the death of “King Cotton,” and plans were made to tear down the market and replace it with a new parking garage. After years of heated debate, the old market was lost in 1954. In true Savannah fashion, the building was honored with an elaborate party on October 31, 1953. Citizens said their goodbyes during the grand Market Ball.
Today, City Market is thriving. Former decaying warehouses are filled with art studios and galleries, casual and upscale restaurants and specialty shops offering everything from antiques to collectibles, including many Savannah-made products.

LUNCH AT Mrs. WILKES
Lunch Included in Trip Fee
107 West Jones Street
Open Monday through Friday, from 11am–2pm

Historically, most Southern towns boasted a boardinghouse where you could find a simple, quiet room, and a communal dining room that offered at least two hearty meals a day. Boardinghouse food was daily fare for locals, among them young, working class laborers, schoolteachers, bankers, washerwomen and middle-class merchants alike.

In 1943, a young Sema Wilkes took over a boardinghouse in historic downtown Savannah. Her goal was modest: to make a living by offering comfortable lodging and home-style Southern cooking served family style in the downstairs dining room. Mrs. Wilkes picked up where the previous proprietor left off, cultivating relationships with nearby farmers who dug sweet potatoes for her in the fall and shelled peas in the summer.

Mrs. Wilkes’ Dining Room is located on one of the most elegant streets in Savannah. Jones Street runs through the center of the Historic District lined with moss laden trees and paved with cobblestone and near the trendy shops of the Design District. It wasn’t until 1987 that Mrs. Wilkes consented to a sign out front. She made this place somewhat of a legend, and her family is keeping it a family affair, continuing the tradition of fine Southern food.

A line gathers each morning at 11 o’clock, The lunch crowd finds seats at one of the large tables-for-ten shared by strangers. Tabletops are crowded Fried Chicken, Sausage, Beef Stew, Meat Loaf, Cabbage, Cornbread dressing, Snap Peas, Macaroni & Cheese, Butter Beans, Black-eyed Peas, Rutabaga, Squash, Rice & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Candied Yams, Pickled Beets, Red Rice, Collard Greens, Okra & Tomatoes, Brown Rice, Potato Salad, Apple Salad,
Macaroni Salad, English Peas & Noodles, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, sweet potato soufflé, Biscuits. The menu changes daily so regulars can have something different every day.

**Historic Bonaventure Cemetery—if we have time**
Open from dusk to dawn
330 Bonaventure Road

Bonaventure Cemetery lies along the Wilmington River, a short distance from Savannah's "historic district," but no less historically significant. Settled by Colonel Mylryne about 1760, he built a red brick plantation house on the land and named the place Bonaventure, which means "good fortune" in French. The plantation was the site of Mulryne's daughter Mary's wedding to Josiah Tattnall in 1761. The property was seized during the Revolutionary War after Mulryne and Tattnell declared themselves Loyalists and left for England. Tattnall's son returned after the war and purchased the home from James Habersham. The property remained in the hands of the family until 1840 when it was sold to Captain Peter Wilberger, owner of the Pulaski house for use as a cemetery. The city of Savannah purchased the cemetery in 1907.

Many of Savannah's statesmen, citizens and soldiers are buried in Bonaventure Cemetery in the shade of 250-year-old moss-laden oak trees. Savannah founders Noble Wimberly Jones and Edward Telfair are buried here along with Civil War Generals; Robert J. Anderson, Henry R. Jackson, Alexander R. Lawton, Hugh W. Mercer, Claudius C. Wilson and Commodore Josiah Tattnall. In more recent years, famous Savannah celebrities laid to rest in Bonaventure include singer and lyricist Johnny Mercer and poet Conrad Aiken. In a cemetery of many unusual tombstones, perhaps one of the most unique is one in the shape of a piano. The interesting tombstones and vaults, the colorful camellias and azaleas, and the wonderful old live oak, dogwood and magnolia trees have made the cemetery one of the most photographed in the country.

In recent years, Bonaventure Cemetery has become one of Savannah's most popular tourist attractions, primarily due to its role in Berenst's best-selling book, "In The Midnight of Good and Evil." The cover of the book features the "Bird Girl" which used to reside in the cemetery. The sculpture has since been moved to the [Telfair Museum of Art](http://www.telfair.org).
MARCH 16 WEDNESDAY

Angel Oak Tree
Angel Oak Park 3688 Angel Oak Rd. Johns Island
Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. No admission charge.

On Johns Island stands the majestic Angel Oak. Estimated to be between 300-400 years old, the tree towers 65 feet high and has a circumference of 25.5 feet. Its area of shade is 17,000 square feet and its largest limb has a circumference of 11.5 feet, and a length of 89 feet.

Live oaks are not particularly tall trees, but have wide-spreading canopies. Only in the very old specimens do you find massive limbs resting on the ground, as you do the limbs of the Angel Oak. The City of Charleston acquired the Angel Oak Park in 1991.

Port Royal Cypress Wetland and Historic Walking Trail

Beaufort, SC
Beaufort is located on Port Royal Island, one of the largest Sea Islands along the southeast Atlantic coast.

It is one of only a handful of U.S. towns that has had its entire downtown designated an historic district by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Filled with mansions built by the wealthy plantation owners before the Civil War, Beaufort was one of the only Southern towns chosen to be occupied by Union troops, rather than destroyed. More than 50 historic structures have been identified in Beaufort, including many lovely private homes that have been beautifully restored and are now available to view via professionally-guided walking, bus, or horse-drawn carriage tours. Special spring and fall events offer locals and visitors the opportunity to tour several private homes and gardens.

Art galleries, antique shops, and modern boutiques dot the entire downtown and uptown walking districts, along with lots of places to eat.

Beaufort has served as the backdrop for films such as Forrest Gump, The Great Santini, The Big Chill, GI Jane, Platoon and Forces of Nature – to name just a few! You could spend an entire day touring where movies were shot, and dining at places like the Steamer on Lady’s Island, where the stars “hung out” while they were here on location.

Habersham COMMUNITY

Awarded the “Best Neighborhood Design in America” by the National Association of Home Builders, Habersham is ideally located on the water just minutes from historic Beaufort, South Carolina and within an hour’s drive of Hilton Head Island and Charleston, South Carolina as well as Savannah, Georgia.

Habersham has been recently selected as South Carolina’s premiere Southern Living Inspired Community by the editors of Southern Living Magazine. Southern Living Inspired Communities are neighborhoods marked by charm, taste, and Southern spirit. These hand-picked neighborhoods embrace a pride of place and encourage new traditions of living in the South.
An original town plan by Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, Habersham continues the tradition of beautiful coastal towns with all of its charm and friendliness, elegant architecture, incredible natural beauty, main street marketplace, woodland and waterfront parks, nature trails, boating, fishing, swimming, nearby golf and the relaxing pace of life in the Lowcountry.

The Habersham Town Plan was based on the planning principles inherent to small southern towns throughout the region. Prior to the first conceptual design, we toured many historic villages, neighborhoods and civic squares and studied the details that make up the aesthetic and functional character of these great places.

The town plan is intricately laid amidst the delicate natural landscape with particular attention given to the outdoor public realm of parks and greenways for residents to inhabit and enjoy surrounding the homes. By creating streetscapes that are safe and pleasant, one is naturally drawn out of the home to spend more time walking and getting to know neighbors throughout the town. As a direct result of neighbors knowing and caring for one another, there evolves an inherent sense of security.
MARCH 17 THURSDAY
Hilton Head Island

Hilton Head Island is only 12 miles by 5 miles wide, but very much an Island retreat and resort area with some of the best beaches in the country. HH features your choice of 24 world-class golf courses and 350 tennis courts, and over 250 restaurants, or simply walk your way to a new outdoor adventure.

Incorporated as a town in 1983, Hilton Head Island is home to more than 30,000 residents who live year-round in our renowned environmentally planned resort and residential communities. Much of the Island however does remain as it was when sighted from William Hilton’s ship more than 300 years ago.

Some of the most important historical sites in South Carolina are part of Hilton Head Island history. In 1663, English sea captain William Hilton sighted Hilton Head Island and, as a result, the seeds of the first successful plantations were sown. Commissioned by a group of Barbados planters to find new land on which to grow food crops, Hilton wrote about his voyage in his journal.

Hilton, however, was not the first European to visit the Island. In 1521, the Spanish were the first confirmed Island visitors. Fleeing persecution in their Catholic homeland, French colonists sought refuge on Hilton Head Island as early as the 1560s.

Coligny Beach Park am

If you are here for a week you can bike, hike, fish, kayak, shop, visit historical and cultural sites. For us it will be a day at the beach!

Harbor Town Lunch and after lunch

After our beach walk we will head to Harbor Town the heart of Hilton Head Island and a place to people watch and window shop and sketch. Harbor Town features apparel and home decor boutiques, custom gift and crafts shops, signature jewelry stores and native art galleries. Gourmet and casual dining are available at a variety of restaurants which offer menu items including fresh seafood and steak, grilled sandwiches and salads.

The_Skull_Creek_Boathouse
379 Squire Pope Road

The views are fabulous at sunset and there just isn't a better place for outdoor happy hour. Obviously, many other people feel the same. This place is always busy! The food is also great with lots of choices on the vast menu.

MARCH 18 FRIDAY-Travel day