

## PEDDLING THROUGH

# Historic Savannah

**WE CAME FROM THE NORTH** across the big bridge that looked a lot like the Sunshine Skyway that connects St. Petersburg to Bradenton. But in this case, it connects Hutchinson Island to our destination.

Our mission was to explore this charming little city in one afternoon. Our first stop was Savannah Bike Tours where we joined a tour of the historic district. (\$25) Dee Hope is the very southern gentleman who owns the shop and led the tour. (Never ceases to amuse me—we live nearly six hours farther south, but Savannah is much more “southern” than Sarasota.)

Dee chose a route that brought us by all the landmarks in the historic district. There are about 24 “squares” that are beautiful traffic rotaries with statues or fountains or grass—or all three. One of the squares is where Tom Hanks recorded a scene for the smash movie “Forest Gump.” Dee also showed us the infamous mansion that served as a backdrop for the Kevin Spacey thriller “Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil.”

Riding a bike is the perfect way to see a historic district. A walk takes too long, and a car-ride is too detached. Trolley tours are good



too, but if you can't sit still long like me, a bike is the way to go.

Savannah is such a historic city, a major part of the civil war, and the city's forefathers did an amazing job laying out the downtown area for the rest of us to enjoy decades later.

Savannah is the oldest city in Georgia and is the county seat of Chatham County. Established in 1733, the city of Savannah became the British colonial capital of the Province of Georgia and later the first state capital of Georgia.

After we peddled through history, we walked a few blocks to River Street—a striking collection of brownstones that houses shops and restaurants. We chose a perfect spot overlooking the Savannah River called “Vic's on the River.” From our table overlooking the river, we could see the big Talmadge Bridge, the riverboats, the water tours and the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center.

Savannah is a perfect size city and a great place to spend a day or longer. Not too big and not too small. It's right on the water and there's a good energy in the air.

Glad we saw it. — Ray Collins