

The City of Savannah

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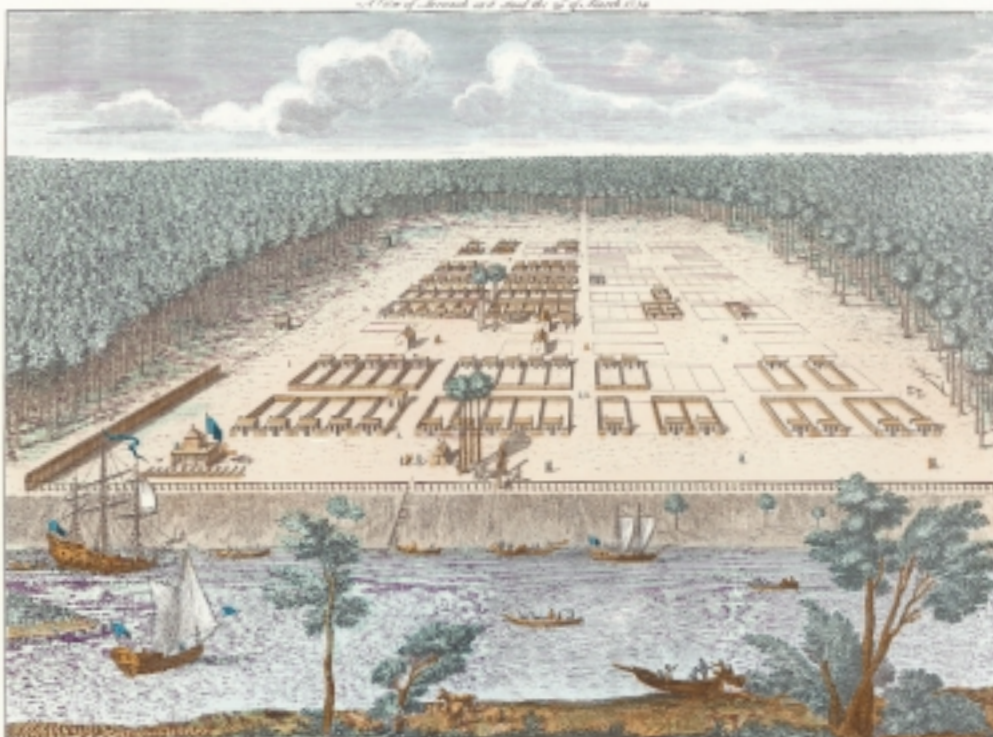
From the 23-karat gold dome that crowns City Hall to the impressive cable-span bridge that links Savannah to South Carolina's shores, signs of thoughtful planning are evident throughout this picturesque city. Savannah's past has been delicately preserved and, along with careful planning, this city has become one of the country's most popular places to visit and live. Indeed, Savannah's leaders have fine-tuned the art of balancing the city's delicate historical fabric with the needs of the future. But long before her popularity began making national headlines, a lush shoreline with its steep bluff overlooking the river caught the eye of a curious explorer and visionary. Seeking a place as an asylum for debtors, in 1733, British General James Oglethorpe staked his claim on a high bluff, naming it Savannah, and chartered Georgia, the 13th colony in the name of King George II. With sights set on functionality, Oglethorpe unveiled a plan for an orderly town that would consist of 24 squares placed at regular intervals. Today, his plan is still heralded as a mark of outstanding engineering by students and city planners all over the world and Savannah claims the title of being "America's first planned city."

Through the years, the city has maintained Oglethorpe's plan, preserving it through meticulous and constant care and judicious planning. Today, Savannah's 22 remaining squares, and dozens of parks and public spaces throughout the City, provide lush settings for the numerous festivals, concerts, and cultural events which are held year-round, and provided by the City to residents and guests, free of charge. Those same parks and squares offer residents the perfect settings for nice, afternoon strolls.

Not only known as "America's first planned city," Savannah is also referred to as "The Hostess City of the South," a nickname well deserved due to the City's hospitable reputation. The live oaks draped in Spanish Moss, the vast fields of azaleas, the fountains and monuments, and other public art... none are accidents, but

the result of careful planning and daily, year-round maintenance by City workers who care, and who are guided by a City Council with vision and foresight. Savannah encompasses a 2.5 mile Historic District—the largest urban historic district in the country, and, serves as one of the country's most popular vacation spots. But unlike other communities, Savannah's Historic District is not a museum piece...it's a living, breathing neighborhood, where residents live, shop, and dine along with the millions of guests who visit each year.

Savannah's Historic District makes up just one part of a very progressive and diverse community. Growth in industry and an expanding job market have made Savannah one of the fastest growing cities in the state. The City has many programs aimed at fostering economic development and growth, including small and minority-owned



*To the Hon.^{ble} Trustees for establishing the Colony of Georgia in America
This View of the Town of Savannah is humbly dedicated by their Honors
Obedient and Obedient Servant
John Gordon
1734 the Savannah done by Gordon.*

- 1. Oglethorpe's house
- 2. Oglethorpe's church
- 3. Oglethorpe's office
- 4. Oglethorpe's garden
- 5. Oglethorpe's stable
- 6. Oglethorpe's kitchen
- 7. Oglethorpe's workshop
- 8. Oglethorpe's store
- 9. Oglethorpe's warehouse
- 10. Oglethorpe's dock
- 11. Oglethorpe's wharf
- 12. Oglethorpe's pier
- 13. Oglethorpe's quay
- 14. Oglethorpe's jetty
- 15. Oglethorpe's breakwater
- 16. Oglethorpe's harbor
- 17. Oglethorpe's anchorage
- 18. Oglethorpe's mooring
- 19. Oglethorpe's berth
- 20. Oglethorpe's slipway
- 21. Oglethorpe's yard
- 22. Oglethorpe's mill
- 23. Oglethorpe's windmill
- 24. Oglethorpe's windmill

- 25. Oglethorpe's windmill
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- 39. Oglethorpe's windmill
- 40. Oglethorpe's windmill

business assistance, low interest loans, job training assistance, etc. In addition, the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) is one organization partly responsible for bringing new jobs to the city and it has earned one of the most prestigious reputations in the country for doing just that. With the islands and beaches to the east, growth to the west and south has been phenomenal, and, as a result, there is no lack of shopping, dining, or recreational opportunities.

New facilities combine with the old to create a market for tourists that runs year-round as opposed to seasonal, bringing about an abundance of economic prosperity. An \$83 million Savannah International Maritime Trade and Convention Center, replete with highly advanced multi-media technology, is just one sign that history and tourism can grow a city without posing a threat. A three-minute ride across the Savannah River by water ferry provides an impressive link to a \$98 million hotel that boasts nearly 400-rooms and a Greenbrier spa. And on Savannah's own shores lie more than 9,000 hotel and motel rooms.

The City's Film Commission Office has helped facilitate Savannah's rise in popularity. Dozens of full-length movies have been made here, including "Forrest Gump," "The Garden of Good and Evil," "The Legend of Bagger Vance," and many, many more. These and other productions filmed in the city have had the effect of showcasing Savannah's assets to literally millions of film fans. The film industry alone has graced the economy with a whopping \$20 million in a single year!

Today, Oglethorpe's bluff is filled with colorful pubs, shops, and restaurants. Across the waterfront, an enormous trade center casts an impressive reflection in the busy Savannah River, reminding Savannahians of all cultures that careful planning, combined with progressive leadership, lead to a city filled with prosperity. 🌿



■ THE VIEW OF SAVANNAH'S RIVERFRONT HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY SINCE OGLETHORPE LANDED, BUT THE EMPHASIS ON HISTORICAL PRESERVATION IS APPARENT. CITY HALL CAN BE SEEN FROM THE TRADE CENTER AND RESORT, JUST THREE MINUTES BY FERRY ACROSS THE SAVANNAH RIVER.



■ AS TOURISTS LOOK ON, MILLIONS OF TONS OF CARGO PASS RIGHT THROUGH SAVANNAH'S HISTORIC DISTRICT, ON THE WAY TO THE SAVANNAH PORT, ONE OF THE BUSIEST AND MOST MODERN PORTS IN THE SOUTHEAST.