



art & amble

Presents

S a v a n n a h R e t r e a t

February 27th - March 1st, 2020



THE HIGHLIGHTS

It's difficult not to fall in love with Savannah. It's sultry, authentic, and utterly beautiful, constantly blooming with one fragrant blossom after another. It has the most extraordinary light that filters through the heavy Spanish moss lounging on the thick oak trees. Unlike most southern cities that were heavily destroyed during the Civil War, Savannah has retained its original 1733 layout with dozens of green squares, making the urban grid more of a verdant landscape, with gorgeous antebellum buildings, than a modern concrete jungle. And yet there is so much, both old and new, to discover. The city has been booming with creativity the past few years since the founding of the Savannah College of Art and Design or SCAD (now one of the world's largest art colleges) and it doesn't seem to be slowing down anytime soon. This itinerary is designed to introduce a sophisticated and intellectually curious group of aesthetically-minded women to a balance of old world elegance and contemporary southern artistry and hospitality. Over a full three-day weekend, we'll enjoy private visits to historic homes, gardens, antique shops, and artist studios, along with workshops and insider access to Savannah's leading designers, creatives, and historians.

DANIELLE KELLING

Danielle is the founder of *The Passenger* and the interior designer for the firm *Edrington Kelling Atelier* (EKA). Travelling the world for new resources and inspirations for her design practice has always been an important part of her life. After spending a month in India, with an accidental all female tour group, she realized that women were the future of group travel and that she may have an important voice in this industry. She knew first hand how special the great friendships developed during group trips and how they could last a lifetime. Today she hosts trips to Morocco, Turkey, and soon Spain and is eager to expand to India and around the Middle East. She also is excited to develop female empowerment and creativity retreats like this one highlighting successful female entrepreneurs and creatives. The idea is to open the door to women to have out-of-the-box adventures from a female positive and empowering perspective.



NICOLE BLACKWOOD

Nicole Blackwood is the founder of *Disegno*, an art advising and appraisal firm based in Savannah. She is a curator, scholar, designer, and museum professional with more than fifteen years experience in the international art world. She has spent many hours looking closely at art of all sorts in some of the most important collections and galleries across the globe – intimately working with conservators, curators, collectors, and artists. She has taught the history of art for over a decade and currently a professor of Art History. Having lived or worked in over twelve countries, she continues to love travelling, but especially loves sharing why she chose to make Savannah home.

Her company *Art and Amble* specializes in bespoke cultural tours and events in the Low Country.





THE HISTORY

When Savannah was founded in 1733 by James Oglethorpe, it was intended as a place for the English poor and unfortunate to start anew. Oglethorpe's vision was to build a utopian society based on equality, faith and charity - an edenic garden, as it were, for those most in need and where the abhorrent institution of slavery was forbidden. The colony was built around the equal distribution of land, which resulted in Savannah's unique layout of multiple squares, and an industry of silk in which the labor of women was deemed as important as that of men. However, little remains of these humble eighteenth-century beginnings. Instead, it was the wealth from nineteenth-century cotton that accounts for the elaborate mansions still visible today.

With the invention of the cotton gin in 1794 on the outskirts of the city, cotton, rather than silk, reigned supreme as Savannah became the largest export port in America for the raw material. Eli Whitney's gin also fuelled the demand for slavery in the South with thousands of enslaved Africans brought through Savannah's port transforming both the city and its culture. When Sherman started his March to the Sea during the Civil War, his main goal was to burn all Confederate strongholds, crippling access to goods and destabilizing the economy. Upon his arrival in Savannah, however, he spared the city from destruction and decided to gift it to Lincoln, and thus preserving its iconic antebellum mansions. Today Savannah straddles the complex history of its past with the growth of its future; it's a city devoted to historic preservation, but also a place eager to embrace innovation and change. Home to a large art college, Savannah has a burgeoning creative scene making it an exciting and exceedingly beautiful American city to visit.



WOMEN'S VOICES

One of the major threads that connected *Art & Amble* and *The Passenger* was the passion for learning about and sharing women's stories and experiences, along with exploring and celebrating women's creative success across the world through craft and design.

Savannah has a history of strong women and is today brimming with female talent. Local expert, Nicole Blackwood, will weave these narratives together as she opens the door for an insider's peak at this iconic hostess city. This includes private dinners hosted by stylish antiques dealer Mimi Cay, as well as sampling the creations chef Mashama Bailey at the acclaimed restaurant The Grey. Guests will participate in learning about the history of indigo and have a textile dying workshop, along with visits to several female-owned ateliers. You will also be transported in time by master storytellers and local Gullah women, Patt Gunn and Roz Rouse, who will share the stories of the underground railroad through narrative and song.

Not to mention, there will be fifteen other women on your trip! We hope this will be an opportunity to build friendships and connections that will last far beyond this adventure.



THE FOOD

The South as a whole takes food seriously. So needless to say, Savannah is a foodie heaven. You will sample award-winning biscuits and baked goods from Back in the Day Bakery; dine in historic mansions offering authentic low country cuisine; and enjoy a private cocktail party by acclaimed food writer and hostess extraordinaire Libbie Summers.

Besides its great restaurants, you will also be guests at some of the most fabulous residences in the city. There will be fêtes and intimate dinner parties thrown in honor of your visit with stunning tables set with silver finery. Savannah is known as the "Hostess City of the South" and it will be on full display during your visit.



THE DESIGN

Being one of the best preserved Antebellum cities, Savannah is brimming with beautiful architecture and historic interiors. You will gain exclusive access to historic properties like the Davenport House, the Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters, and the Green-Meldrim House, along with other stunning private residences known for their interiors. You will also have private shopping experiences with some of the best antique purveyors in the area.

Besides the historic, there is also the new. Thanks in large part to SCAD, the city has a strong arts and design presence. We will visit the ateliers of fabric designers Tulicarpa, rocaille sculptress Cathy Jarman, muralist Bob Christian, and textile artists Trish Andersen and Pamela Wiley, as well as stop into the flagship of Circa Lighting.

The Finer Details

Total number of guests: 14

This all-inclusive weekend is priced at \$2900 per person, with three shared rooms available. A deposit of \$1740 is needed to reserve your spot with the balance due 30 days before departure.

Itinerary at a Glance:

Day 1: Private evening cocktail reception hosted by Libbie Summers.

Day 2: Private tours of historic nineteenth-century homes, with an emphasis on women's history. Luncheon reception, followed by visits to acclaimed antiques dealers, fashion boutiques, and the shops and galleries of SCAD. Private dinner to follow.

Day 3: Morning tour learning about Gullah Geechee culture and the life of enslaved Africans by two talented female story tellers. Private luncheon at The Grey, prepared by James Beard Award-winning chef Mashama Bailey. Visits to meet two acclaimed textile artists Trish Andersen and Pamela Wiley. Coquillage lessons with Cathy Jarman. Learn about Eliza Pickney and the art of indigo dying from artisan Madame Magar. Private dinner party hosted by collector and antiques dealer Mimi Cay with lush table settings.

Day 4: Say our farewells and head home feeling inspired and empowered!

This Includes:

- Three nights accommodation at the Drayton Hotel.
- All meals and most beverages.
- Private luxury transfers when needed.
- Admissions to all historic sites.
- Private access to some of the most stylish Savannah residences.
- All tours and classes.

This Doesn't Include:

- Flights to and from Savannah.
- Airport transfers (Uber is around \$20).
- Beverages not otherwise included.
- Tips for local guides.

