

Where to Stay in Savannah

The undisputed stars of Savannah lodging are the small inns in the Historic District, most in restored homes that have been renovated with modern conveniences while retaining their original charm.

A note on rates: Because many of Savannah's historic inns are in converted former residences, price ranges can vary greatly. Keep in mind that a very expensive hotel might also have some smaller, more moderately priced units. So it pays to ask. Advance reservations are necessary in most cases, since many of the best properties are small.

MAKING RESERVATIONS

You may make your reservations by telephone, mail, fax, and, in many cases, the Internet. If you're booking into a chain hotel, such as a Hilton, you can easily make your reservations by calling their toll-free phone numbers.

You can usually cancel a room reservation 1 week ahead of time and get a full refund. A few places will return your money up to 3 days before the reservation date; others won't return any of your deposit, even if you can cancel far in advance. It's best to clarify this issue when you make your reservation. If you are booking by mail, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your payment so that the hotel can easily send you a receipt and confirmation.

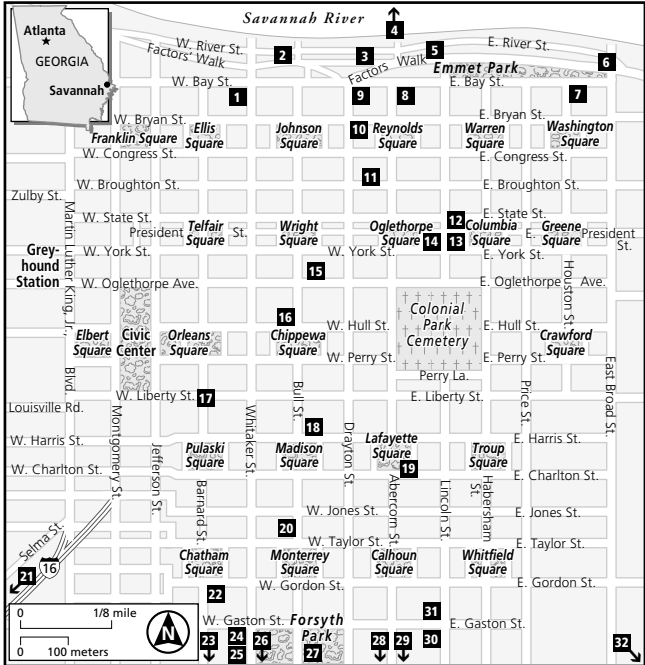
If you arrive without a reservation, begin your search for a room as early in the day as possible. If you arrive late at night and without a reservation, you may have to take what you can get, often in a price range much higher than you'd like to pay.

1 Along the Riverfront

EXPENSIVE

Hyatt Regency Savannah ★ There was an outcry from Savannah's historic preservation movement when this place went up in 1981. Boxy and massively bulky, it stands in unpleasant contrast to the restored warehouses flanking it along the banks of the Savannah River. Today it is grudgingly accepted as the biggest and flashiest

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Tips Savannah's Fluctuating Room Rates

Savannah's hotel and B&B rates are like the weather—subject to change. Most establishments rate their room prices based on high and low seasons. **High season** is from April to October. In addition, the rates may vary if you stay during a weekday or if you stay over a weekend. You will find that the cheapest rates will usually be on weekdays during **low season**, which is January, February, and sometimes late August.

hotel in town. It has a soaring atrium as well as glass-sided elevators. The comfortable rooms, often with paper-thin walls, are international and modern in their feel, all with good-size bathrooms with tub/shower combinations and some with balconies overlooking the atrium. Room prices vary according to their views—units without a view are quite a bargain. Chances are you'll find better food by dining outside the hotel at one of the independent restaurants recommended in this guide.

2 W. Bay St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ **800/223-1234** or 912/238-1234. Fax 912/944-3678. www.hyatt.com. 347 units. \$175–\$265 double; \$315–\$665 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$15. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; indoor pool; fitness center; limited room service; laundry service/dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, safe.

Marriott Riverfront Hotel ⚡ At least the massive modern bulk of this place is far away enough from the 19th-century restored warehouses of River Street not to clash with them aesthetically. Towering eight stories, with an angular facade sheathed in orange and yellow brick, it doesn't quite succeed at being a top-rated luxury palace but nonetheless attracts lots of corporate business and conventions. Its comfortable, modern guest rooms aren't style-setters but are generous in space, with bathrooms containing tub/shower combinations, a generous supply of towels, and enough space to store your stuff.

100 General McIntosh Blvd., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ **800/228-9290** or 912/233-7722. Fax 912/233-3765. www.marriott.com. 379 units. \$160–\$200 double; from \$250 suite. Children 12 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$10. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; lounge; 2 pools (1 indoor); fitness center; Jacuzzi; limited room service; laundry service/dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa ⚡ Savannah's largest hotel was opened in 1999 in a 16-story blockbuster format

that dwarfs the city's existing B&Bs. It rises somewhat jarringly from what were, until the late 1990s, sandy, scrub-covered flatlands on the swampy, far side of the river from Savannah's historic core. Conceived as part of a massive resort development project, it includes a Greenbrier Spa and a golf course that is home to the PGA TOUR's Champions Tour Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf 2003–2006. The Westin derives the bulk of its business from corporate groups who arrive for conventions throughout the year. It's the newest and largest of the four large-scale hotels that dominate the city's convention business, yet despite a worthy collection (more than 250 pieces) of contemporary art that accents the labyrinth of high-ceilinged public rooms here, there's something a bit sterile, even lifeless, about this relatively anonymous blockbuster. Compounding the problem is its isolated position, both geographically and emotionally, from the bustle, grace, and charm of central Savannah—this in spite of cross-river shuttle ferries that deposit clients into the center of the River Street bar and restaurant frenzy. The most elaborate guest rooms are on the two top floors, and contain extras and comforts designated as Club Level. Otherwise, rooms are comfortable but bland, outfitted with pale colors and conservative furnishings. All units contain well-kept bathrooms with tub/shower combinations.

One Resort Dr., P.O. Box 427, Savannah, GA 31421. ☎ 800/WESTIN-1 or 912/201-2000. Fax 912/201-2001. www.westinsavannah.com. 403 units. \$239–\$299 double; \$325–\$800 suite. Water taxis, free for hotel guests, \$1 round-trip for everyone else, shuttle across the river to Rousakis Plaza, on River St., at 15-min. intervals. From I-95 and Savannah International Airport take exit 17A to I-16 toward Savannah. Follow sign for Rte. 17(Talmadge Bridge). Take Hutchinson Island exit onto Resort Dr. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; bar; 2 outdoor pools; 18-hole golf course; 4 tennis courts; fitness center; Jacuzzi; sauna; beauty treatments; 24-hr. room service; babysitting; laundry service/dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer, safe, iron/ironing board.

MODERATE

Olde Harbour Inn ★ The neighborhood has been gentrified and the interior of this place is well furnished, but you still get a whiff of riverfront seediness as you approach from Factors Walk. It was built in 1892 as a warehouse for oil, and its masonry bulk is camouflaged with shutters, awnings, and touches of wrought iron. Inside, a labyrinth of passages leads to small but comfortable suites, many of which reveal the building's massive timbers and structural iron brackets and offer views of the river. Some decors feature the

original brick, painted white. Each unit contains a well-maintained bathroom with a tub/shower combination along with its own kitchen—useful for an extended stay. Despite the overlay of chintz, you'll have a constant sense of the building's thick-walled bulk. Breakfast is the only meal served.

508 E. Factors Walk, Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/553-6533 or 912/234-4100. Fax 912/233-5979. www.oldeharbourinn.com. 24 units. \$169–\$279 suite. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, kitchenette (in some), coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, safe.

River Street Inn ★★ *Kids* When Liverpool-based ships were moored on the nearby river, this building stored massive amounts of cotton produced by upriver plantations. After the boll weevil decimated the cotton industry, it functioned as an icehouse, a storage area for fresh vegetables, and (at its lowest point) the headquarters of an insurance company. Its two lowest floors, built in 1817, were made of ballast stones carried in the holds of ships from faraway England.

In 1986, a group of investors poured millions into the building's development as one of the linchpins of Savannah's River District, adding a well-upholstered colonial pizzazz to the public areas and converting the building's warren of brick-lined storerooms into some of the most comfortable and well-managed rooms in town. All units have neatly kept bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. Breakfast is served in **Huey's** (see chapter 6, "Where to Dine in Savannah"). A wine-and-cheese reception is held Monday through Saturday, and turndown service is offered each evening.

124 E. Bay St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/253-4229 or 912/234-6400. Fax 912/234-1478. www.riverstreetinn.com. 86 units. \$159–\$229 double; \$275 suite. Children 13 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking \$6. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; Jacuzzi; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer.

IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

VERY EXPENSIVE

Ballastone Inn ★★ This glamorous, inner-city B&B occupies a dignified 1838 building separated from the Juliette Gordon Low House (home of the founder of the Girl Scouts of America) by a formal garden; it's richly decorated with all the hardwoods, elaborate draperies, and antique furniture you'd expect. For a brief period (only long enough to add a hint of spiciness), the place functioned as a bordello *and* a branch office for the Girl Scouts (now next door).

Family-Friendly Hotels

The Mulberry Inn (p. 51) In the heart of the Historic District is a family hotel that lets kids under 18 stay free if they share a room with their parents. Children enjoy the pool, and cribs are provided free.

Hampton Inn Historic District (p. 53) One of the most appealing of the city's middle-bracket hotels, this family favorite rises on historic Bay Street. Rooms are spacious, and there's a pool and sun deck on the roof.

River Street Inn (p. 44) The best bet along the riverfront for families with children is a converted cotton warehouse from 1817. Large rooms make family life easier, and children under 13 stay free. The inn also has a game room, and there are many fast-food joints just outside the front door.

There's an elevator, unusual for Savannah B&Bs, but no closets (they were taxed as extra rooms in the old days and so were never added); there are many unusual furnishings—cachepots filled with scented potpourri, and art objects—that would thrill the heart of any decorator. A full-service bar area is tucked into a corner of what was originally a double parlor. The four suites are in a clapboard town house a 5-minute walk away and staffed with live-in receptionists. Every unit has a well-maintained bathroom with a tub/shower combination. A yearlong refurbishment project in 1997 resulted in AAA four-diamond distinction.

14 E. Oglethorpe Ave., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/822-4553 or 912/236-1484. Fax 912/236-4626. www.ballastone.com. 16 units. \$215–\$375 double; \$395 suite. Rates include full breakfast, afternoon tea, and evening hors d'oeuvres. AE, MC, V. Free parking. No children. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; spa treatments; all nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, fireplace (in some).

The Gastonian ★★ One of the two or three posh B&Bs in Savannah, the Gastonian incorporates a pair of Italianate Regency buildings constructed in 1868 by the same unknown architect. Hard times began with the 1929 stock market crash—the buildings were divided into apartments for the payment of back taxes. In 1984, the Lineberger family, who were visiting from California, saw the place and fell in love with it. They poured \$2 million into restoring it. Today everything is a testimonial to Victorian charm, except

for a skillfully crafted serpentine bridge connecting the two buildings curving above a semitropical garden. The guest rooms are appropriately plush, comfortable, cozy, and beautifully furnished. Each unit comes with a well-kept bathroom with a tub/shower combination. The Gastonian has received the AAA's Four Diamond Award for excellence.

220 E. Gaston St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/322-6603 or 912/232-2869. Fax 912/232-0710. www.gastonian.com. 17 units. \$195–\$415 double; \$395 suite. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. No children under 12. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer.

Hamilton-Turner Inn ★★ In its way, this is one of the most noteworthy B&Bs in Savannah, boasting a unique (and sometimes bizarre) pedigree that's unlike any other in town. It was built for the then-astronomical price of \$100,000 by a local power broker, Samuel Hamilton, in 1873. Mayor of Savannah, president of the Shriners, and owner of the local electrical company, the waterworks, the icehouse, and the town's biggest "fancy goods store," with a reputation as a blockade-runner during the Civil War, he was one of the inspirations for Margaret Mitchell's character of Rhett Butler in *Gone With the Wind*. His four-story French Empire house was almost obscenely ostentatious at the time, and today, with more than 10,000 square feet, it's the largest upscale B&B (in terms of square footage) in Savannah.

Most of the modern-day notoriety associated with this place came from its portrayal, in John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, as the party house of Savannah's favorite rakish twosome, Joe and Mandy Odom. Long after all that died down, in 1997, the building was acquired by native Savannahians Charles and Sue Strickland, who poured money and a strong dose of respectability back into the place, restoring it to a grandiose testimonial to a robber-baron's Gilded Age fortune in the Deep South. Guest rooms—most of them with 14-foot ceilings, fireplaces, and tub/shower combinations—are outfitted with Empire, Eastlake, and/or Renaissance Revival antiques and a kind of dignified, slightly chilly-looking grandeur. The staff, some remaining from the Joe and Mandy era, maintain a healthy perspective on the building's infamy and larger-than-life past. Breakfasts are full and prolonged Southern rituals, including everything from grits to quiche. An English-inspired high tea, served every afternoon from 4 to 5pm, is included in the price. In a radically different context from the much-battered and much-abused venue of yesteryear,

this is now one of the few AAA Four Diamond Award B&Bs in Savannah.

330 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31401-4636. ☎ 888/448-8849 or 912/233-1833. www.hamilton-turnerinn.com. 17 units. \$169–\$358 double. Rates include full breakfast. Free parking. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; all non-smoking rooms; 1 room for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Kehoe House ★★☆☆ The Kehoe was built in 1892. In the 1950s, after the place had been converted into a funeral parlor, its owners tried to tear down the nearby Davenport House to build a parking lot. The resulting outrage led to the founding of the Historic Savannah Foundation and the salvation of most of the neighborhood's remaining historic buildings.

Today, the place functions as a spectacularly opulent B&B, with a collection of fabrics and furniture that's almost forbiddingly valuable. However, it lacks the warmth and welcome of the Ballastone. This isn't a place for children—the ideal guest will tread softly on floors that are considered models of historic authenticity and flawless taste. Breakfast and afternoon tea are part of the ritual that has seduced such clients as Tom Hanks, who stayed in room 301 during the filming of *Forrest Gump*. Guest rooms are spacious, with the typical 12-foot ceilings. Each is tastefully furnished in English period antiques and equipped with a well-kept bathroom containing a tub/shower combination. Owners Rob and Jane Sales and Kathy Medlock acquired the Kehoe in 1997 and immediately renovated the back garden and expanded the guest parking area. Amenities include a concierge and twice-daily maid service with turndown.

123 Habersham St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/820-1020 or 912/232-1020. Fax 912/231-0208. www.kehoehouse.com. 13 units. \$179–\$295 double; \$275–\$325 suite. Rates include full breakfast, evening tea, and hors d'oeuvres. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; all nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer.

Magnolia Place Inn ★ This building was begun in 1878 on a desirable plot overlooking Forsyth Square and completed 4 years later by a family who'd been forced off their upriver plantation after the Civil War for nonpayment of taxes. A forebear had represented South Carolina at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and so the Second Empire ("steamboat Gothic") house was designed to be as grand as funds would allow. The result includes the most endearing front steps in town (Neiman Marcus once asked to display them as a backdrop for one of its catalogs), verandas worthy of a Mississippi steamer, and an oval skylight (an "oculus") that

illuminates a graceful staircase ascending to the dignified guest rooms. Each contains a beautifully maintained bathroom with tub/shower combination.

503 Whitaker St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/238-7674 outside Georgia, or 912/236-7674. Fax 912/236-1145. www.magnoliaplaceinn.com. 13 units. \$185–\$295 double. Rates include full breakfast, afternoon tea, and evening hors d'oeuvres. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. No children under 12. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; Jacuzzi; breakfast-only room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer.

EXPENSIVE

Azalea Inn ★ The furnishings of this B&B are a bit richer, its colors a bit more evocative, and its decor more appealingly cluttered than those of many of its nearby competitors. The setting is a circa 1889 Italianate house less than 2 blocks east of Forsyth Park, within a garden that has a swimming pool. It was originally built for Capt. Walter Coney, an army officer whose fortune derived from a then-flourishing maritime supply company. Guest rooms are furnished with period antiques, and each comes with a different Victorian-era decor. Especially appealing is the Gentleman's Parlor, a ground-floor guest room once dominated by men discussing manly things, which still carries a hint of the bourbon and cigars consumed liberally within its confines. More frilly and feminine is the Magnolia Room, where white walls offset a four-poster bed with upholsteries depicting—you guessed it—magnolia blossoms. Newest of all is the Captain's Room, with a massive four-poster and a newly built deck overlooking the swimming pool. Some of the guest rooms have fireplaces, and all have bathrooms, most of them with showers. A hand-painted mural on the wall of the dining room—site of morning breakfasts—depicts the history of Savannah. There's usually someone on hand to deliver a cold or warm (nonalcoholic) drink, depending on the season, to guests whenever one is needed.

217 E. Huntingdon St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/582-3823 or 912/236-2707. www.azaleainn.com. 9 units. \$160–\$260 double. Rates include full breakfast. MC, V. No children under 12. **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

Catherine Ward House Inn ★ *Finds* The restoration of this house has won several civic awards, and it's so evocative of Savannah's "carpenter Gothic" Victorian revival that Clint Eastwood inserted a long, graceful shot of its exterior in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Built by a sea captain for his wife (Catherine Ward) in 1886, a short walk from Forsyth Park, it offers one of the most lavishly decorated interiors of any B&B in Savannah, but at prices significantly lower than those offered at better-known B&Bs

a few blocks away. Alan Williams, the owner and innkeeper, maintains a policy that discourages children under 16 and that stresses a gay-friendly but even-handed approach to a diverse clientele. Breakfast is relatively elaborate, served on fine porcelain in a grandly outfitted dining room. A garden in back encourages languid, sun-dappled conversation. Each midsize guest room is richly decorated and equipped with a well-kept bathroom with a tub/shower combination.

118 E. Waldburg St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 912/234-8564. Fax 912/231-8007. www.catherinewardhouseinn.com. 10 units. \$149–\$335 double. Rates include full breakfast. DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; tennis courts (nearby); laundry service/dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer.

East Bay Inn ★ Though the views from its windows might be uninspired, the East Bay is conveniently located near the bars and attractions of the riverfront. It was built in 1853 as a cotton warehouse; green awnings and potted geraniums disguise the building's once-utilitarian design. A cozy lobby contains Chippendale furnishings and elaborate moldings. The guest rooms have queen-size four-poster beds, reproductions of antiques, and neatly kept bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. The hotel frequently houses tour groups from Europe and South America. In the cellar is **Skylar's** (☎ 912/232-3955), an independently managed restaurant specializing in European and Asian cuisine.

225 E. Bay St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/500-1225 or 912/238-1225. Fax 912/232-2709. www.eastbayinn.com. 28 units. \$149–\$210 double. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, safe, bathrobes.

Eliza Thompson House ★★ Many newer and less well-funded B&Bs attempt to re-create this inn's patina of historicity (around 1847), often with less success. It's set on a distinguished tree-lined street whose weather-beaten cobblestones demonstrate their long-ago craftsmanship. The wrought-iron accents and meticulously maintained details of its shutter-accented façade imply enormous care on the part of its owners. And inside, high ceilings, elaborate cove moldings, and well-chosen antiques imply a mixture of genteel propriety and discreetly romantic potential. Historical references abound within rich but understated interiors, and decorator wannabes often salivate at the ideas they garner for historic projects of their own. About half the rooms in the stately-looking inn are within the main house; the remainder lie within a much-restored

and very tasteful building in back that was originally conceived as a stable and carriage house. Linking the two buildings is one of the largest and most lavishly landscaped courtyards in the city's historic core. In the words of a writer from *Georgia Magazine*, "Like its namesake, the Eliza Thompson House is a hospitable hostess."

5 W. Jones St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 912/236-3620. Fax 912/238-1920. www.elizathompsonhouse.com. 25 units. \$149–\$269 double. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, bathrobes.

Foley House Inn ★ Decorated with all the care of a private home, this small B&B occupies a brick-sided house built in 1896. Its owners doubled its size by acquiring the simpler white-fronted house next door, whose pedigree predates its neighbors by half a century. Guest rooms are neatly furnished and contain well-kept bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. The staff will regale you with tales of the original residents of both houses—one was a notorious turn-of-the-century suicide. Breakfast and afternoon hors d'oeuvres, tea, and cordials are served in a large, verdant space formed by the two houses' connected gardens.

The inn is the recipient of the AAA's Four Diamonds Award and has been featured on HGTV's "Great Homes Across America." Enjoy home-baked sweets every afternoon in the lounge; wine and homemade appetizers are served from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

14 W. Hull St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/647-3708 or 912/232-6622. Fax 912/231-1218. www.foleyinn.com. 18 units. \$200–\$345 double. Rates include full breakfast, afternoon hors d'oeuvres, tea, and cordials. AE, MC, V. No children under 12. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; laundry service; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer, safe, Jacuzzi (in some).

Hilton Savannah DeSoto ★ The name still evokes a bit of glamour—built in 1890, this hotel was for generations the city's grandest. In 1967, thousands of wedding receptions, Kiwanis meetings, and debutante parties later, the building was demolished and rebuilt in a bland modern format. It's a well-managed commercial hotel, renovated by new owners in 1995. The guest rooms are conservatively modern and reached after registering in a stone-sheathed lobby whose decor was partly inspired by an 18th-century Colonial drawing room. All units contain well-maintained bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. Despite the absence of antique charm, many guests like this place for its polite efficiency and modernism.

15 E. Liberty St. (P.O. Box 8207), Savannah, GA 31412. ☎ 800/426-8483 or 912/232-9000. Fax 912/232-6018. www.hilton.com. 246 units. \$99–\$279 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; bar; pool; fitness center; limited room service;

massage; babysitting; laundry service/dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

The Mulberry Inn ★ *(Kids)* Locals point with pride to the Mulberry as a sophisticated adaptation of what might've been a derelict building into a surprisingly elegant hotel. Built in 1868 as a stable and cotton warehouse, it was converted in 1982 into a simple hotel, and in the 1990s it received a radical upgrade and a dash of decorator-inspired Chippendale glamour. Today, its lobby looks like that of a grand hotel in London, and the guest rooms, though small, have a formal decor (think English country house with a Southern accent). Each unit includes a well-kept bathroom with a tub/shower combination. The hotel's brick-covered patio, with fountains, trailing ivy, and wrought-iron furniture, evokes the best aspects of New Orleans.

601 E. Bay St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 877/468-1200 or 912/238-1200. Fax 912/236-2184. www.savannahhotel.com. 145 units. \$179–\$269 double; \$229–\$269 suite. Children under 18 stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$8. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; outdoor pool; fitness center; Jacuzzi; children's activities; limited room service; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, safe.

Olde Georgian Inn ★ *(Finds)* Small-scale, with a vivid sense that you're a paying guest in the carefully furnished home of a family devoted to Old South nostalgia, this B&B occupies a clapboard-sided Victorian house built in 1890. Set within 2 blocks of the western flank of Forsyth Park, behind a bow-fronted facade adorned with intricate decorative detailing, it's loaded with a sense of Victorian propriety, graced with an occasional tribute to works by African-American artists, and flooded with sunlight from big windows. Guest rooms have heart pine floors and a mixture of 19th- or early-20th-century antiques and latter-day reproductions. Each guest room has a fireplace, all have showers, and about half have tub/shower combinations. If you have pets, children under 12, or the propensity to carouse late into the night, consider a stay in the carriage house, since none of those things are tolerated within the main house. The carriage house contains a loft bedroom with a queen-size four-poster bed and access to a private rooftop deck. It also offers its own washer and dryer, a kitchen, and a living area downstairs with a queen-size pullout sofa bed along with a half-bathroom.

212 W. Hall St., Savannah, GA 31401-5521. ☎ 800/835-6831 or 912/236-2911. www.oldegeorgianinn.com. 4 units, 1 carriage house. \$145–\$195 double; \$175–\$225 carriage house. Rates include full breakfast. AE, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; all nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, fireplace.

Whitaker-Huntington Inn ✨ Dignified and permeated with a sense of decency and Southern honor, this house was built in 1883 for a member of the eight-member Confederate delegation that had surrendered the city of Savannah to General Sherman in December 1864. Later, a local cotton merchant who served a 4-year term as the city's mayor owned it. In 1923, the doctor who was using the house as the base for his medical practice added an all-brick addition onto the house's backside. Today, the much-restored interior boasts 12-foot ceilings, period antiques, Oriental carpets, and pine floors—all of it gracefully arranged for a look that's faithful to the original decorative theme but a lot more comfortable than it was in the building's original days. Each of the three units is a two-bedroom suite, each with at least one bathroom (one unit has two), and two of them with kitchenettes. All units are equipped with tub/shower combinations. There's also a resident ghost.

601 Whitaker St., Savannah, GA 31401-5543. ☎ **877/232-8911** or 912/232-8911. Fax 912/234-1540. www.whinn.com. 4 units. \$125–\$275 double. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; laundry service; all nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* TV, dataport, kitchenette, coffeemaker, iron/ironing board.

MODERATE

Days Inn & Suites Historic District (Value) One of the best and most affordable deals for those seeking a central location in the historic core is this seven-story modern chain-run hotel; it is much better than your typical Days Inn, which can be quite dreary. The hotel lies in an attractive area of live Georgia oaks between River Street and the Old City Market, convenient to many attractions. Many of Savannah's best-known restaurants, such as The Olde Pink House, lie within a short walk. Guest rooms are midsize and attractively and comfortably furnished, each with a first-rate bathroom with tub/shower combination. Guests from all over the world meet each other at the cafe/coffee shop on-site or else around the pool. For those willing to spend extra money, several spacious apartment suites are available.

201 W. Bay St., Savannah, GA 31491. ☎ **912/236-4400**. Fax 912/232-2725. www.daysinn.com. 314 units. \$62–\$90 double; \$102–\$150 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. **Amenities:** Cafe/coffee shop; outdoor pool; health club privileges; room service (7am–noon). *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchenettes in some.

The Forsyth Park Inn ✨ One of the grandest houses on the western flank of Forsyth Park is this yellow frame place built in the 1890s by a sea captain (Aaron Flynt, aka Rudder Churchill). A

richly detailed staircase winds upstairs from a paneled vestibule, and the Queen Anne decor of the formal robin's-egg-blue salon extends through the rest of the house. Guest rooms have oak paneling and oversize doors that are testimonials to turn-of-the-century craftsmanship. The more expensive rooms, including one in what used to be the dining room, are among the largest in town. All units contain well-kept bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. Home-baked breads and pastries are breakfast staples. Don't expect frivolity: The inn is just a bit staid.

102 W. Hall St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 912/233-6800. Fax 912/233-6804. www.forsythparkinn.com. 11 units, 1 cottage with kitchenette. \$130–\$225 double; \$185 cottage. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, bathrobes.

Gaston Gallery Bed & Breakfast This major investment in period restoration was built as two separate houses united by a shared Italianate facade. In 1997, a lavish reunification of the two houses was undertaken. Today, the unified building bears the distinction of having the city's longest and most stately front porch (called a gallery in Savannah) and inner ceilings that are almost dizzyingly high. Each unit is beautifully furnished and is equipped with a well-maintained bathroom containing a tub/shower combination. The breakfasts are social events, each featuring a different dish each day, like curried eggs or Southern grits casserole. Wine and cheese are served every day at 5pm or upon your arrival, according to your wishes.

211 E. Gaston St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/671-0716 or 912/238-3294. Fax 912/238-4064. www.gastongallery.com. 15 units. \$90–\$175 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; nonsmoking rooms; 1 room for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* TV, fireplace (in some), ceiling fans.

Hampton Inn Historic District ★ *Kids* This is the most appealing of the city's middle-bracket large-scale hotels. Opened in 1997, it rises seven redbrick stories above the busy traffic of historic Bay Street, across from Savannah's Riverwalk and some of the city's most animated nightclubs. Its big-windowed lobby was designed to mimic an 18th-century Savannah salon, thanks to the recycling of heart pine flooring from an old sawmill in central Georgia and the use of antique Savannah bricks. Comfortably formal seating arrangements, a blazing fireplace, and an antique bar add cozy touches. The guest rooms are simple and comfortable, with flowered upholstery, wall-to-wall carpeting, and medium-size tiled bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. On the roof are a small pool

and sun deck supplemented by an exercise room on the seventh floor. There's no restaurant, but many eateries are a short walk away.

201 E. Bay St., Savannah, GA. ☎ 800/426-7866 or 912/232-9700. Fax 912/231-0440. www.hampton-inn.com. 144 units. \$140–\$210 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$8. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; rooftop pool; laundry service/dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

The Marshall House Some aspects of this hotel—especially the second-story cast-iron veranda that juts above the sidewalk—might remind you of a 19th-century hotel in the French Quarter of New Orleans. It originally opened in 1851 as the then-finest hotel in Savannah. In 1864–65, it functioned as a Union Army hospital, before housing such luminaries as Conrad Aiken and Joel Chandler Harris, author of *Stories of Uncle Remus*. After a ratty-looking decline, it closed—some people thought permanently—in 1957. In 1999, it reopened as a “boutique-style” inn. Despite the fact that this place has some of the trappings of an upscale B&B, don't think that it will provide the intimacy or exclusivity of, say, the Foley House. There's something a bit superficial about the glamour here, and some aspects evoke a busy motel, albeit with Colonial-era reproductions in the public areas that are more elegant than usual. Guest rooms succeed at being mass-production-style cozy without being particularly opulent. Each is sheathed in one of three standardized possibilities: yellow with pinewood furniture, green with wrought-iron furniture, and blue with white-painted furniture. Seven of the largest and most historically evocative rooms in the hotel are on the second floor, overlooking noisy Broughton Street, and are prefaced with wrought-iron verandas with wrought-iron furniture. All rooms contain neatly kept bathrooms with shower units. The bar contains exposed brick, green leather upholstery, and a very Southern clientele. The 45 Bistro, set beneath the glassed-in roof of what used to be the hotel's rear stable yard, is a restaurant serving Southern and international cuisine.

123 E. Broughton St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/589-6304 or 912/644-7896. Fax 912/234-3334. www.marshallhouse.com. 68 units. \$169–\$189 double; \$199–\$219 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Rates include continental breakfast at 45 Bistro. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer.

Park Avenue Manor Historic and cozy, this is Savannah's premier gay-friendly guesthouse. An 1897 Victorian B&B, it has an old-fashioned charm with antiques, double staircases, two formal parlors, and angel ceiling borders. Many accommodations have four-poster

beds with antiques, silk carpets, porcelains, working fireplaces, and period prints. All units contain neatly kept bathrooms with shower units. The small-scale inn has a well-rehearsed management style and an emphasis on irreverently offbeat Savannah. Many straight clients also book here, as the place is noted not only for its comfort but for its warm welcome and one of the best Southern breakfasts served in town. The guesthouse was created in 1997, when a pair of Victorian houses were “sewn” together into a tasteful whole. A favorite is the Robert E. Lee Room with a large bay window.

107–109 W. Park Ave., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 912/233-0352. 4 units. \$99–\$125 double; \$170 suite. MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; tennis courts (nearby); nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, no phone.

Planters Inn This small European-style inn is more businesslike than the average Savannah B&B. Built adjacent to Reynolds Square in 1912 as a seven-story brown brick tower, it boasts a lobby with elaborate millwork, a scattering of Chippendale reproductions, and an honor bar (sign for whatever drink you consume). The guest rooms are comfortably outfitted with four-poster beds and flowery fabrics; they’re rather dignified and formal. Each unit contains a neatly kept bathroom with a tub/shower combination. The Planters Inn is not associated with the well-recommended Planters Tavern (which stands next door and is separate).

29 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/554-1187 or 912/232-5678. Fax 912/232-8893. www.plantersinnsavannah.com. 59 units. \$115–\$195 double. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking \$6.95. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer.

The President’s Quarters Inn ★★ This inn has many appealing aspects. The guest rooms and bathrooms (each with a tub/shower combination) are among the largest and most comfortable of any inn in Savannah. The inn manages to combine the charm of a B&B with the efficiency of a much larger place. It has appealed to guests as diverse as the former president of Ireland and numbers of Hollywood actors. Each unit is named after a U.S. president who visited Savannah during his term in office.

225 E. President St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 888/592-1812 or 912/233-1600. Fax 912/238-0849. www.presidentsquarters.com. 19 units. \$137–\$167 double; \$187–\$235 suite. Rates include breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. Free parking on premises. **Amenities:** Lounge; limited room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer, fridge, bathrobes, fireplace.

17 Hundred 90 ★ The oldest inn in Savannah is located within a small but dignified clapboard-sided house built in the year that

gave the establishment its name. Reminiscent of the kind of clapboard-sided sea captain's house you might have expected in New England, this is a cozy, personalized, and charming inn decorated to emulate a well-appointed private home. There's a fireplace in 11 of the 13 smallish but charming guest rooms. The sounds of conversation and laughter emanate from a basement-level restaurant with a beamed ceiling and the exposed original brickwork, giving you the vivid sense that the inn is also a hardworking, sometimes hard-drinking bar and restaurant frequented by locals as well as visitors. The staff isn't shy about referring to a resident ghost, the unhappy victim of an early 19th-century love affair that ended in suicide. Rich in associations of both requited and unrequited love, it's the kind of place that encourages romantic fancies and attachments, hopefully to the person you brought with you. The inn is run by The Presidents Quarters, to which all calls are directed.

307 E. President St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 877/468-1200 or 912/238-1200. Fax 912/236-2184. www.17hundred90.com. 14 units. \$129–\$169 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; limited room service; non-smoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer.

INEXPENSIVE

Bed & Breakfast Inn ★ *Value* Adjacent to Chatham Square, in the oldest part of historic Savannah, this is a dignified stone-fronted town house built in 1853. You climb a gracefully curved front stoop to reach the cool, high-ceilinged interior, outfitted with a combination of antique and reproduction furniture. All of the good-size comfortable and tastefully furnished units contain well-kept bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. There's no smoking.

117 W. Gordon St. (at Chatham Sq.), Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 888/238-0518 or 912/238-0518. Fax 912/233-2537. www.savannahbnb.com. 18 units. \$89–\$169 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, fireplaces (in some).

Courtyard Savannah Historic District ★ *Value* One of the newest places at which to stay in the Historic District, this well-run chain hotel stands across from the visitor center and enjoys one of the town's best locations. Its spacious guest rooms are spread across five floors and are comfortably furnished and well-equipped, though with the aura of a first-class motel. Bathrooms are tiled and midsize, each with a tub/shower combination. The desk staff is helpful in directing you to the best sports nearby, including golf courses and even horseback riding and jet-skiing. They will also advise you on the best restaurants in Savannah, many of which lie within walking

distance of the front door. On-site is The Courtyard Café, serving American-style cuisine at breakfast and again at dinnertime.

415 W. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401. ☎ 800/321-2211 or 912/790-8287. Fax 912/790-8288. 158 units. \$139–\$169 double; \$169 suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking \$10. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; outdoor pool; whirlpool; fitness center; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott Not quite as good as Marriott's other recommended motel (above), this reliable budget hotel offers standard but comfortably appointed guest rooms, with large, well-lit desks and well-kept bathrooms containing tub/shower combinations. Health-club privileges are available nearby, as are several good moderately priced restaurants.

2 Lee Blvd. (at Abercorn Rd.), Savannah, GA 31405. ☎ 800/228-2800 or 912/353-7100. www.marriott.com. 135 units. \$59–\$109 double. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. From I-16, take exit 34A to I-516 East, then turn right on Abercorn St. and go right again on Lee Blvd. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; lounge; outdoor pool; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

2 Nearby Hotels & Inns

MODERATE

Baymont Inn & Suites This motor lodge, one of the best in the Savannah area, appeals to motorists drawn to its location 6 miles from historic Bay Street in the Southside district. The location is also convenient for day trips to Hilton Head, lying only 18 miles to the north. A modern three-story structure, the inn offers attractively furnished and good-sized guest rooms, with bathrooms containing tub/shower combinations. Each room features such extras as ergonomic chairs, free bottled water, and free cable TV, with pay-for-view movies and Nintendo. Many families visiting relatives at the adjacent Hunter Army Airfield lodge here. Several affordable restaurants are nearby, but the hotel staff fills you up with complimentary morning treats such as waffles and French toast before you head out for the day. The hotel has such features as a senior discount program, interior-corridor room entrances, free local calls, and 24-hour staffed front desk and switchboard personnel.

8484 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31406. ☎ 912/927-7600. Fax 912/927-6392. www.baymontinn.com. 103 units. \$55 double. Rates include continental breakfast. Children under 18 stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

Clubhouse Inn & Suites ★ *Value* One of the better deals in Savannah, this newly renovated property, with its upgraded decor and furnishings, offers first-class comfort but charges moderate prices. Guest rooms are large and well-furnished. The suites don't cost a lot more, so these upgraded and oversized units may be the way to go. To make the suites even more attractive, a small kitchenette is included in each, with such extras as a microwave, dishware, and utensils for cooking light meals. Each unit comes with a tiled bathroom with tub/shower combination.

Many of the guest rooms open onto balconies. A generous buffet breakfast, complete with such Southern favorites as biscuits and gravy, along with plenty of pancakes, bacon, and sausage, greets guests every morning. A Club Lounge overlooks an outdoor courtyard and pool area.

6800 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31405. ☎ 800/258-2466 or 912/356-1234. www.clubhouseinn.com. 138 units. \$74–\$84 double; \$89–\$99 suite. Rates include buffet breakfast. Children under 18 stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; health club privileges; business services; 24-hr. free coffee and tea; coin laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, kitchenette in suite, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

Homewood Suites by Hilton Built in 1990 about a 6-mile drive south of Savannah's historic core, this is a blandly modern member of a nationwide chain, wherein each unit is a suite with either one or two bedrooms. Favored by business travelers who sometimes opt to stay in larger-than-usual quarters on extended business trips, it occupies a commercial neighborhood with suburban-style traffic and plenty of nearby restaurants and shopping malls. An evening cocktail party, hosted by the manager, takes the edge off the sense of anonymity that sometimes prevails here, but if you're looking for space to move around within a modern, uncontroversial setting, this place might be fine for you. Each unit, regardless of its size, has a fully equipped kitchen with a microwave, full-size refrigerator, and cooking utensils. Bathrooms are tiled, each with a tub/shower combination.

5820 White Bluff Rd., Savannah, GA 31405-5523. ☎ 912/353-8500. Fax 912/354-3821. www.homewood-suites.com. 106 units. \$109–\$169 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; pool; gym; Jacuzzi; all nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchen, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

Master's Inn Suites, Savannah Midtown If it's raining hard, and if every inn in the city's historic core is fully booked, and if you have no other option, you might stay in this modern hotel, built in

1983, where you can sustain life in between the visits you'll make, 7 miles north, to Historic Savannah. Each unit is divided by a lattice into a sleeping area and, on its other side, a sitting area where there's a small refrigerator, a coffeemaker, and a microwave—a somewhat uninspired setup which isn't by anyone's evaluation a genuine "suite," despite the large signs on the building's exterior advertising accommodations as such. Guest rooms have either two double beds or a king-size bed. Bathrooms are modern, tiled, and motel-style in their design, each with a tub/shower combination. At the center of the hotel is a glass-roofed atrium with a scattering of plants, and outside in the garden is a swimming pool.

7110 Hodgson Memorial Dr. Savannah, GA 31406. ☎ 912/354-8560. Fax 912/356-1438. www.mastersinn.com. 51 units. \$90–\$225 double. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Pool; gym; Jacuzzi; sauna; 24-hr. room service; laundry/dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility;. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board.

Wingate Inn This is one of the newer and more comfortable hotels in the shopping-mall zone south of Savannah. Although the distance to the city's historic core is about 8 miles, part of the transit is via interstate highways, sometimes (if traffic is light) only about 18 minutes away. Built in a four-story brick-and-stucco format in 1999, with a bit of architectural flair, the inn offers comfortable, family-friendly rooms outfitted with modern furniture that carries no pretensions of Southern Colonial plantation life. (This might be a relief after too heavy a dose of that style in other modern hotels nearby.) Each unit has a modern-looking bathroom with a tub/shower combination, in some cases with whirlpool jets.

11 Gateway Blvd. E., Savannah, GA 31419. ☎ 912/925-2525. Fax 912/925-7904. 101 units. \$69–\$129 double. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Pool; gym; spa; Jacuzzi; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport; kitchenette, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.