



# STEM STUDY TOURS

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

**Tour:** Southern STEM & History  
**Destination:** Savannah, Georgia & Charleston, South Carolina  
**Itinerary:** 5-days / 4-nights  
**Specialization:** Biology, Ecology, Geography, History & Culture  
**Dates:** Year-round

Southern STEM: Savannah & Charleston					
Day	Morning		Afternoon		Evening
1	Travel to Savannah, Georgia		Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Savannah City Tour	Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise
2	Tybee Island Marine Science - Guided Beach Walk, Sift & Seine Master Class & Turtle Talk		Tybee Museum & Lighthouse	Captain Mike's Dolphin Cruise	Travel back to Savannah Dinner
3	Savannah History Museum & Battlefield Tour	Travel to Charleston, SC	Fort Sumter National Monument	Avian Conservation Center - Birds of Prey	Dinner Ghost Tour
4	Capers Island - Barrier Island Biology & Ecology Master Class Series			Charleston Waterkeeper Master Class	Farewell Dinner
5	Depart Charleston for Home				



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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## Day 1

Dinner included

Travel to Savannah, Georgia arriving in the afternoon. After check-in, we'll have our **Welcome, Safety & Orientation meeting** and get settled in.

*Savannah...* Savannah, Georgia is a charming Southern escape where art, period architecture, trendy boutiques and ghost stories are all set under a veil of Spanish moss. Savannah is a place where cuisine comes straight from the coast and fancy drinks are served at every meal. With its elegant Historic District, and festive delights like River Street and City Market all wrapped in a unique coastal charm, it's no wonder that Savannah is one of the top leisure destinations in the U.S. Consistently named one of the "world's friendliest cities", this coastal town has a world-class reputation for hospitality and grace. It is a true pedestrian city with hundreds of years of history within footsteps of fabulous locales. Restaurants in the city are as diverse and unique as its population with culinary surprises awaiting around every corner. Exploring this historic, coastal southern city will leave you with a fond and lasting memory.



**Sample Hotel: Springhill Suites Savannah** - Located in one of the South's most charming cities, SpringHill Suites offers spacious suites with many amenities including free local high-speed wireless Internet access, indoor swimming pool, an exercise center and more. Room amenities include mini-fridges, microwaves, coffee makers, hair dryers and luxury bedding. Breakfasts are taken at the hotel. Students generally sleep 4 to a room sharing 2 queen beds; staff sleep 2 to a room.



After getting settled, we will enjoy a walking tour of Savannah followed by a true southern riverboat dinner cruise!

**Savannah Walking Tour** - Each square with its overgrown oaks and Spanish moss, is rich with history, culture, and a story waiting to be told that can't just be found on a monument or historic marker. This tour invites you



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to partake in the history of "the Hostess City of the South". Savannah's story deserves to be explored up close and personal and as a member of the Georgia Historical Society and lover of all things Savannahian, our city partner will introduce you to much more than a memorized script. You get a tour designed around your interests. We can visit the Forest Gump sites, discuss *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, chat about the impact of the Civil War on Savannah, or explore and enjoy the variety of architecture that varies from square to square that show the styles of the time and the growth of the city. Get ready to experience Savannah!



***Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise*** – Welcome to Savannah! Sit back and relax in one of the beautifully appointed ballrooms while your Riverboat slowly glides down the Savannah River in this 2-hour cruise. Enjoy a specially prepared buffet-style dinner made with the freshest, local ingredients. After dinner, snap your fingers and tap your feet or get up and dance to tunes performed by riverboat entertainers. Venture up to the top deck and enjoy the calm Savannah evenings and the amazing sights and sounds of the historic city of Savannah.

## **Day 2**

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Savannah! Today we will be visiting the magical Tybee Island!

***Tybee Island Marine Science Center*** - Tybee's ecosystem is vibrant and right at your students' fingertips, offering programs and activities with Tybee marine and wildlife interactions, plus Eco-walks with Marine Biologist Dr. Joe Richardson. Get ready for a great day! Your visit will consist of three activities:



- ✚ ***Beach Walk*** - Join a marine science educator on a guided walk on Tybee's south or north beach. Learn about the dynamics of the barrier islands of Georgia, the importance of the intertidal zone, the forces behind tides and waves, and sand dune formation. Groups will learn to identify the wildlife that live in and around the ocean and discuss the impact of marine debris and shoreline development.

✚ **Sift & Seine** - Discover the marine life of the intertidal zone through seining. Pull a ten-foot seine net through the waist-deep water to catch, examine, and release marine life. Commonly caught organisms include pompano, silverside, mullet, sea jellies, and crabs. After seining, we'll explore the marine life of the sandy bottom by sifting various organisms from the wet sand on the beach.

✚ **Turtle Talk** - An introduction to the amazing lives of sea turtles. Learn about anatomy and natural adaptations, then stroll on the beach to review nesting habitat, excavate a mock nest, and discuss Tybee's conservation efforts. Then it's feeding time for Ike, the center's loggerhead sea turtle, hatched August 2013 on Tybee and is the marine debris ambassador for coastal Georgia.



After lunch, we will take in a bit of history and visit the Tybee Museum and Lighthouse.

**The Tybee Museum & Lighthouse** – Established in 1961 by The Tybee Island Museum Association, the museum's mission is to interpret the rich history of Tybee Island. Dating back to 1736, Tybee's historic lighthouse is one of only seven Colonial-era light stations remaining in America. After touring the complex, students can climb the 178 steps to reach the top of the lighthouse for panoramic views of the island and surrounding areas. Following the lighthouse tour, groups will cross the street to the Tybee Museum to explore more than 400 years of Tybee Island history.

Finally, to wrap up the day, we'll get our sea legs steady and go in search of dolphins!

**Captain Mike's Dolphin Tour on Tybee Island** - Come aboard Capt. Mike's Dolphin Tours and watch the bottle-nosed dolphin playing in their natural habitat. These fun loving, aquatic mammals are the most intelligent of creatures next to man and are unusually friendly, frequently coming right up to the boat. The tour departs daily from Lazaretto Creek Marina, heading toward the Atlantic Ocean, passing by shrimp boats and boat docks that portray the charm of an old fishing village. The boat passes by the Cockspur lighthouse (built in 1856), offering a view of historic Fort Pulaski. Behold an abundance of nature as you are traveling - hammocks, beaches and marshes; wildlife from sea turtles to birds; the friendly bottle-nosed dolphin - a definite high point on your trip to the low country.



Later, we will have a local dinner and get ready for tomorrow's trip to Charleston.

### **Day 3**

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Georgia! We'll spend a bit of time on American history today, both in Georgia and in South Carolina. After our first stop at the Savannah History Museum, we will relocate to Charleston, South Carolina for 2-nights; approximately a 2-hour drive.

***Savannah History Museum & Battlefield Tour*** – The Museum is located in the former historic Central of Georgia Railway's passenger station. The museum walks guests through the city's history from 1733, spanning the American Revolution and Civil War, all the way to modern day Savannah. Many exhibits highlight Savannah's musical, cultural and artistic contributions including the famous bench from Forrest Gump.



***Battlefield Memorial Park*** - On October 9, 1779, more than 8,000 troops of three armies fought during the American Revolution Battle of Savannah. Battlefield Memorial Park, located just across the street from Savannah History Museum, presents visitors with a memorial to those who fought in the second bloodiest battle of the American Revolution and marks where approximately 800 troops died or were wounded.

***The 1779 Battle of Savannah (Siege of Savannah) Master Class*** - During this one-hour program, students will learn about the 1779 Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah, where soldiers from what are now eight modern counties on two sides of the conflict vied for control of the city. Students will learn about the battle's place within the larger context of the American Revolution and its impact on Great Britain's Southern Strategy. Through hands-on interactive experiences, students will learn about:

- ✓ The first involvement of French army troops on American soil during the American Revolution
- ✓ The largest involvement of black soldiers (the Chasseurs Volontaires de Saint Domingue, now Haiti) to fight in the American Revolution
- ✓ The role of patriots and loyalists in Savannah during the Revolutionary Era
- ✓ The impact of the battle on Great Britain's Southern Strategy that ultimately led to the Battle of Yorktown
- ✓ Weapons and military tactics used in the battle
- ✓ Musket Firing Demonstration
- ✓ Battlefield March

After our morning of history, we'll set off for Charleston and Fort Sumter National Monument.

***Charleston...*** Centuries-old mansions, Spanish moss-draped trees, spooky cemeteries, cobblestone walks: in a word, Charleston. As you walk the gas lamp-lit streets at night, past horse-drawn carriages and the antebellum architecture, you just might think you've traveled back in time. But just because



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this South Carolina city is proud to celebrate its heritage doesn't mean it's stuck in the past. Charleston boasts innovative restaurants, interesting shops, contemporary art galleries and the world-class Spoleto Festival USA. This is the place to experience the genteel South – after all, it was the home of suave "Gone with the Wind" character, Rhett Butler. – U.S. News

History pervades almost every aspect of this Holy City, from the majestic homes-turned-museums to the landmarks that promote the city's role in United States history. Civil War buffs should head to Fort Sumter, where the first shot of the War between the States was fired. Founded in 1670, Charleston is cited for its beauty, history, restaurants, livability, shopping, and more. Its accolades are seemingly endless.



**Sample Hotel: Springhill Suites Charleston** - This fabulous student-friendly hotel overlooks beautiful Charleston and the Ashley River Marina. Just moments from downtown, attractions, the Citadel, and more. The spacious all-suite hotel's amenities are designed to fit your lifestyle and include free WI-FI, 24/7 state of the art fitness center, convenience store and an outdoor saltwater pool/whirlpool. Room amenities include mini-fridges, microwaves, coffee makers and hair dryers. Breakfasts are taken at the hotel. Students generally sleep 4 to a room sharing 2 queen beds; staff sleep 2 to a room.



After arriving, our first stop is the Fort Sumter National Park.

**Fort Sumter National Monument Tour** – Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park incorporate several sites around Charleston Harbor which tell the unique stories of the people and places that shaped the United States of America. Confederate forces fired the first shots of the Civil War upon Federal troops at Fort Sumter at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861. The roots of that conflict are buried deep within the stories of the development of the United States. Fort Sumter would continue to serve as the focal point in Charleston throughout the Civil War.

Sullivan's Island has long served as Charleston Harbor's first line of defense against disease or foreign invasion. Quarantine stations checked every person that came into the harbor, including enslaved Africans. Later a palmetto log fort was built by Colonel Moultrie and the Second South Carolina Infantry. This fort came to be known as Fort Moultrie and was replaced and modified as technology and warfare changed through the mid-twentieth century.



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Your specialized tour will include:

- ✦ **Explore the grounds of Fort Sumter** - Stand on the grounds where America's deadliest war began at Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park. The first shots were fired here, igniting a conflict that saw more than 700,000 casualties. Experience the opening battle of the American Civil War and explore its origins with a National Park Ranger. Fort Sumter surrendered 34-hours later, and Union forces tried for nearly four years to take it back. Your approximate 1-hour visit to Fort Sumter allows ample time for exploration of the well-preserved fort ruins.
- ✦ **A Trip Around the Harbor** – The National Park sits prominently at the mouth of the Charleston Harbor, a strategic location that was crucial to its defense. The Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge provides the backdrop for all Fort Sumter cruises, with Charleston's stately Rainbow Row and Battery homes clearly seen from onboard. Those departing from Mt. Pleasant will enjoy views of the USS Yorktown Aircraft Carrier from up-close, while tours embarking from downtown will see Aquarium Wharf as they depart and return. Approaching Fort Sumter, graceful sailboats and playful dolphins add to the photogenic scene.

After, we're off to learn about some amazing birds!

**Avian Conservation Center & Birds of Prey Master Class**

The Center for Birds of Prey offers students a unique insight into the lives and impressive adaptations of birds of prey from around the world including eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, kites, and vultures. With nearly 50 species represented, the Center's collection is one of the largest and most diverse in the United States. The power and beauty of birds of prey cast them as unparalleled ambassadors in public education – exemplifying both the intellectual and ethical aspects of conservation management. From natural history and identification in flight, to conservation status and human interaction, the flight demonstration and guided tour will take a “deep dive” into specific groups of birds like owls, falcons, and vultures.



Have you ever wondered how falcons can withstand over 10 G's of force during a stoop? Or how vultures are able to digest bacteria-laden meat without succumbing to infection? How many owl species are there in the world and how many can you hear in your yard? How do bird moms (and dads) manage the needs of their developing young? Get ready to learn! Your group will participate in a private **Guided Tour** as well as a **Flying Demonstration**.



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- ✚ **Flying Demonstration** - One of the most unique and exciting aspects of the visitor experience at the Center for Birds of Prey is the free-flight demonstration. See a falcon dive at speeds over 100 MPH. Listen closely as an owl coasts past your head without making a sound. Watch as trained hawks and vultures soar with wild raptors above the center’s flying fields. Each flying demonstration includes a period for questions and an up-close visit with the flying team birds.

After dinner locally, we’ll have one more activity before we wrap up the day... learning about the “haunted south!”



**Charleston Ghost Tour** - The Charleston Ghost and Graveyard Tour gives you an exclusive opportunity to walk inside the gates of one of Charleston’s oldest graveyards after dark. Learn about the history of Charleston’s graveyards, and hear the stories of the famous individuals who found their final resting place in the Holy City. You may have heard about the spooky Charleston ghost stories, but now you can experience them on this up-close-and-personal tour. Graveyards are endearing pockets of Charleston — so much so that they are often referred to here as simply “gardens.” We love them — they’re full of history, intrigue, and tales of love and loss.

#### **Day 4**

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Hello Charleston! Today is going to be an amazing experience as we head to Capers Island for Ecology & Biology review.

**Capers Island Biology & Ecology Barrier Island Master Class Series** – Travel to Capers Island Preserve, one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier islands. We will cruise through winding tidal creeks to find diverse wildlife living in this salt marsh environment. Common sightings include bottlenose dolphin, loggerhead sea turtles, osprey, pelicans, herons, egrets, bald eagles, and more. Along the way, we employ various nets and traps for an up-close look at some of the creatures that thrive below the surface. As we arrive on the island, you are free to explore its pristine “bone-yard beach” and interior nature trails and freshwater ponds. Scientific process and inquiry skills are promoted and reinforced as students learn about organisms, habitats, communities, and ecosystems, as well as the environmental and geological factors that influence them.

- ✚ The first part of our field trip is spent on the boat exploring the tidal creeks of the salt marsh. Topics include spartina grass and its role, plant/animal species identification, adaptations, oyster bed communities, species diversity, marsh hammock ecology, geology of the salt marsh, and the importance of the salt marsh to humans and the Atlantic Ocean. The students are able to experience and learn about marine life as their knowledgeable and well-versed naturalist pulls crab and habitat traps. The specimens caught are put into an aquarium and discussed by your naturalist.
- ✚ The second part of the trip is spent on the beach at Capers Island State Heritage Preserve. With over 2,000 acres, Capers Island is a pristine barrier island bought by South Carolina in 1975 for the purpose of preserving it in its natural state. On Capers Island, there is a diversity of shells, and your guide has fascinating facts about the lives of the animals which made them. Other topics such as sediments, barrier island formation, sand dune function, loggerhead sea turtles, erosion and deposition, beach ecology, and the maritime forest can be discussed. Capers Island is an excellent example of erosion and



deposition. Most of the island has been eroding for many years, and the presence of dead trees along the tide line provides a stark visual image of the erosion process. Another illustration the island offers is that of deposition, as evidenced by the significant formation of sand dunes over the salt marsh at the southern end.

- ✚ Groups will also be able to hike a mile-long trail that winds its way through the island before opening onto “bone-yard beach.” Along the trail, you pass through different habitats including salt marsh, a fresh water pond, a large brackish water impoundment, the maritime forest, and an extensive dune field. These interior ponds allow for plant and animal diversity along the trail and are a home to several shy alligators. Along this path, our staff discuss topics including alligators, bird life/identification, uses of the maritime forest by humans, plant identification, and adaptations.

In the late afternoon, we will have one final activity to wrap up our time in Charleston.

**Charleston Waterkeeper Master Class** - Founded in 2008, the Charleston Waterkeeper’s mission is to protect, promote, and restore the quality of Charleston’s waterways while providing education about our collective right to clean water. What is clean water? Clean water is swimmable, drinkable, fishable, surfable, SUPable and playable. Focusing 100% on water quality issues in the Charleston Harbor Watershed, Charleston Waterkeeper operates on the front lines, working with the community to patrol and monitor Charleston’s waterways. As a data-driven organization, they rely on strict empirical evidence to identify water quality issues and reach pragmatic solutions. “Our community is surrounded by water and it’s our job to take care of it.” This 1-hour master class will focus on topics such as:

- ✚ What is a Waterkeeper
- ✚ A Waterkeeper’s role in the community
- ✚ Charleston Waterkeeper’s current work and advocacy campaign
- ✚ Plastic pollution
- ✚ Tidal creek and salt marsh health and scientific research
- ✚ The Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program
- ✚ The Creek Watchers Program
- ✚ Local waterway stewardship



After learning about how our communities tackle these amazing objectives, we will have our farewell dinner out on the town.

## **Day 5**

Breakfast (dependent upon departure times)

Rise and shine South Carolina! After breakfast, it's off to the airport or coach-ride home. We're hoping that you are inspired and taking home wonderful memories that will last a lifetime! If you would like to add in any last-minute stops, simply enquire with your Ambassador who will make sure you are set up for success.



Want to stay longer? How about adding a beach day for sun and fun?  
Let us know how we may best serve you!



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# Southern STEM: Savannah & Charleston

**Minimum Booking Numbers:** 20 students

**What's Included:** Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers  
4-nights' accommodation: 2-nights Savannah, 2-nights Charleston  
Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon departure time)  
Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers  
Savannah City Tour  
Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise  
Tybee Island Marine Science Center - Guided Beach Walk, Sift & Seine Master Class and Turtle Talk  
Tybee Island Museum & Lighthouse excursion  
Dolphin Watch Cruise  
Savannah History Museum & Battlefield Tour  
Fort Sumter National Monument  
Avian Conservation & Birds of Prey Master Class  
Charleston Ghost Tour  
Capers Island - Barrier Island Biology & Ecology Master Class series  
Charleston Waterkeeper – Master Class  
Personal Tour Ambassador  
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest  
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest  
24-hour emergency cover

**What's Not Included:** Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)  
Transfers to/from home airport  
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary  
Lunches and other meals/snacks not shown in itinerary  
Cost of visas, full or collective passports  
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel  
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary  
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.  
Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, dive instructors, boat captain and hand tips, ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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