

## **Tour One-Monday 15 May-Fort Pulaski and the Tybee Island Light Station and Museum**

### **Fort Pulaski National Monument**

Located just off U.S. Highway 80, two miles before reaching Tybee Island and named for Casimir Pulaski, recognized as the father of America's cavalry, who died in the Siege of Savannah in 1779. This fort, designed for 140 cannons, was built between 1829 and 1844 on Cockspur Island to guard the sea approach to Savannah. Scenic marshlands and uplands, towering walls, artillery tunnels, two moats and a wide drawbridge are special features. One of the engineers for the fort's construction was a young West Point graduate named Robert E. Lee.

The defining events of Fort Pulaski occurred during the American Civil War. In April of 1862, Union troops on Tybee Island directed rifled cannon fire at the fort breaching the southeast angle. The quick success of this experimental cannon surprised military strategists. The accuracy and range of the rifled cannon rendered brick fortifications obsolete.

The park includes scenic marsh and uplands that support a variety of animal life characteristic of southern barrier islands. White-tailed deer, alligators, and raccoons as well as resident and migratory birds grace the landscape. Spanish moss drapes from yaupon holly bushes and vegetation includes cabbage palms, various wetland grasses, and a variety of temperate hardwood and pine trees.

The visit to the fort will include a 17-minute video and a self-guided tour through the fort. The bridge across the moat to the fort is a little over 100 yards from the visitors' center and gift shop. It is another 50 yards or so between the earthen mounds covering the four powder magazines to get to the drawbridge into the fort. All of this is on level ground. If you want to get to the terreplein (upper level) of the fort, you go up steep steps. There are benches, rest rooms, and water fountains inside the fort.

<http://www.nps.gov/fopu/>

### **Tybee Island Light Station**

Located off U.S. Highway 80 at Fort Screven, the Tybee Island Light Station consists of the lighthouse, the headkeeper's house, two assistant keepers' houses, the original summer kitchen, and other support buildings. All have been recently restored. Tybee's light is one of the eight original colonial lights. It is thought to be America's third oldest and is Georgia's oldest lighthouse that is still working today.

Ordered by General James Oglethorpe, founder of the 13th colony, the first Tybee Island Lighthouse, ninety feet tall, was completed in 1736. The current Tybee Island Light Station is one of America's most intact having all of its historic support buildings on its five-acre site. Rebuilt several times, the current lighthouse, 158 feet high with 178 steps, displays its 1916 day mark and a First Order Fresnel lens (nine feet tall) lighted for the first time on October 1, 1867.

<http://www.tybeelighthouse.org/>

### **Tybee Museum**

Located off U.S. Highway 80 in an 1898 coastal artillery battery at Fort Screven circa 1875, the Tybee Museum has historical exhibits showing island life from colonial days through World War II.

### **Fort Screven**

The Legislature of Georgia in 1786 passed a law providing for a fort on Cockspur or Tybee Island to be named in honor of General James Screven, Revolutionary War hero. It was never built by the state. In 1808 the Federal government obtained jurisdiction over the property on Tybee Island now known as Fort Screven Reservation. Actual title was acquired in 1875 and the post, established in 1898, was in continuous use from the Spanish-American War through both World Wars. Primarily a Coast Artillery fort, it became an Infantry post and finally a school for deep-sea diving. Many distinguished officers saw duty here, including General George C. Marshall as colonel in command. George Sibert's grandfather, MG Franklin C. Sibert, class of 1912, also served at Fort Screven. In 1945 Fort Screven was declared surplus by the War Department and acquired by the town of Savannah Beach.

• <http://www.cviog.uga.edu/Projects/gainfo/gahistmarkers/fortscrevenhistmarker.htm>

## **Tours Two and Three-Monday 15 May-Savannah Historic District Overview**

It is possible to experience over 250 years of history in ninety minutes! Take a comprehensive look at Savannah's fascinating past. This is a fully narrated overview tour. Relax as an experienced professional tour guide paints a fascinating picture of our charming city. This comprehensive tour covers much of Savannah's beautiful historic district, including our lovely historic squares, River Street and City Market. This tour is given on an **open-air trolley**. Take this tour and discover fascinating highlights and facts about Georgia's "First City!" See [www.savannahvisit.com](http://www.savannahvisit.com)

**Tour Two-Monday Morning** -This will be the On & Off Tour which includes all the above and provides boarding privileges at 14 trolley stops conveniently located near points of interest. Also visit one house or other museum. You may choose from among: Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace (Founder of the Girl Scouts and granddaughter of WW Gordon, Georgia's first USMA graduate), The Savannah History Museum, Isaiah Davenport House (the first house saved by the Historic Savannah Foundation's preservation movement in 1955), or Roundhouse Railroad Museum (Central of Georgia Railroad's first president was WW Gordon, USMA 1915).

**Tour Three-Monday Afternoon**- This will be the basic ninety-minute tour described above.

## **Tour Four-Tuesday 16 May-Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum**

On January 28, 1942, fifty-three days after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, the 8th Air Force was officially activated in the National Guard Armory on Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia.

In 1983, Major General Lewis E. Lyle, USAF Retired, a B-17 veteran of 70 combat missions during World War II, began planning a museum along with other veterans. The Museum would honor the men and women who helped defeat Nazi aggression by serving in or supporting the greatest air armada the world had ever seen--the 8th Air Force. These individuals pledged themselves to honor the courage and commitment of more than 350,000 members of the 8th Air Force. Of this number, 26,000 were killed in action and 28,000 became prisoners of war during World War II.

On May 14, 1996, to the applause of 5,000 8th Air Force veterans, their families, dignitaries, and supporters, the vision became a reality with the dedication of Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, Georgia, just west of Savannah. Exhibits cover periods from the formation of the Eighth Air Force to the present time, including the rise and fall of the Third Reich, the Battle of Britain, and a POW gallery. There are displays that include combat art and actual hardware. The newest exhibit features "Fly Girls of World War II", the WASPs.

You can fly on a simulated bombing mission with a B-17 crew, stroll through the Memorial Garden, and visit the Chapel of the Fallen Eagles, built in the style of an English Chapel. Actual aircraft displays include a PT-17, Me-163 Komet, B-47, F-4C, and a MiG 17A.

[www.mightyeighth.org](http://www.mightyeighth.org)

## **Early Bird or Hangers-On Special**

**Sunday 14 May at 3:00 pm or Wednesday 17 May at 8:00 pm**

### **Jukebox Journey-**

"Jukebox Journey" is the #1 downtown entertainment extravaganza that enlivens the city's nightlife in the refurbished c. 1818 Savannah Theatre **one block from our hotel**. Popular music and professional choreography from the 1940's to the present are presented in a bright, colorful, and fast-moving production filled with lavish costumes and comedic skits.

A journey to Savannah cannot be complete without attending this great performance. "Jukebox Journey" is a **must see** while visiting Savannah!

<http://www.savannahtheatre.com/>