

TRAVEL INTEL

A CINEMATIC ROAD TRIP
ACROSS THE
AMERICAN SOUTH

PART ONE

Syllogi[®]

WHERE TRAVEL EXPERTISE LIVES.

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THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Like the US itself, the American South is a kaleidoscope of different cultures, landscapes, and cuisines, and a road trip is the ideal way to experience all of it. From the rolling wine and horse country of Central Virginia, along the breathtaking spine of the Blue Ridge Mountains, to the low country areas of South Carolina and Georgia, the civil rights trail of the Deep South, and finally to French-accented New Orleans, this route cuts through some of the most impressive sights in North America. Follow it from start to finish across seven states -- or take just a section of it -- to be inspired by the real flavors of the United States.



Part One:

In this initial feature, we showcase the drive from New Orleans across Mississippi and Alabama to Savannah and finally Charleston, highlighting the most famous culinary meccas of the South.

Part Two:

In an upcoming feature, we'll then take this road trip northward, to the Blue Ridge Parkway from North Carolina and Virginia - truly one of the most beautiful parts of the world.

THE AMERICAN SOUTH

ITINERARY - PART ONE

- Day 1 **New Orleans, Louisiana**
- Day 2 **New Orleans, Louisiana**
- Day 3 **to Laurel, Mississippi & Montgomery, Alabama**
Drive 350 Miles
- Day 4 **to Savannah, Georgia**
Drive 335 Miles
- Day 5 **Savannah, Georgia**
- Day 6 **to Beaufort & Charleston, South Carolina**
Drive 120 Miles
- Day 7 **Charleston, South Carolina**
- Day 8 **Charleston, South Carolina**

Total Drive 805 Miles

Follow the entire route, or choose a section of it, and decide how long you'd like to stay in each destination. Each spot could potentially warrant several days. -- In this version, we're sharing a fairly quick-moving adventure, with still enough days to get a sense of place.

For this trip, it is best to use a one-way rental car, and fly into / from the starting and ending points of the drive.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

New Orleans

There's a entire treatise to be written on this storied French-American city. From life after Katrina, to the cajun swamplands, the city is all about food and music - you can expect to see a bevy of performers and 'second line' bands strolling the streets. [Download the city's parade tracker](#) before you visit, because nearly every day, there's a parade celebrating something. (We personally loved the 'dog parade.')

Don't miss the [beignets](#) or the tableside banana's foster at [Brennan's](#) either. Eat a [po-boy](#) sandwich. Visit the [Garden District](#) and view the mansions on St. Charles Ave. along with its famous streetcar. Or head a bit out of downtown to see the [Longue Vue House & Gardens](#).

EAT:

Jamila's

One of the only Tunisian restaurants we know of in the US, a quaint dining room with uber-friendly hosts.

Dakar

Speaking of African food, this new Senegalese joint is getting rave reviews.

N7

French fare and cocktails in a casual garden.

SIP:

Elysian Bar

STAY:

Hotel Peter & Paul

A beautifully-converted church rectory into one of the city's finest boutiques. The best part: it's in a neighborhood, away from the obnoxiously noisy French Quarter, but close enough to walk to it.

The Chloe

Well-appointed, 14 room boutique with a classic front porch of your Southern dreams.

MISSISSIPPI

Laurel, Mississippi

For fans of HGTV's "Home Town" television show, stop for lunch in the lovely place that calls it home.

EAT:

Pearl's Diner



Hotel Peter & Paul

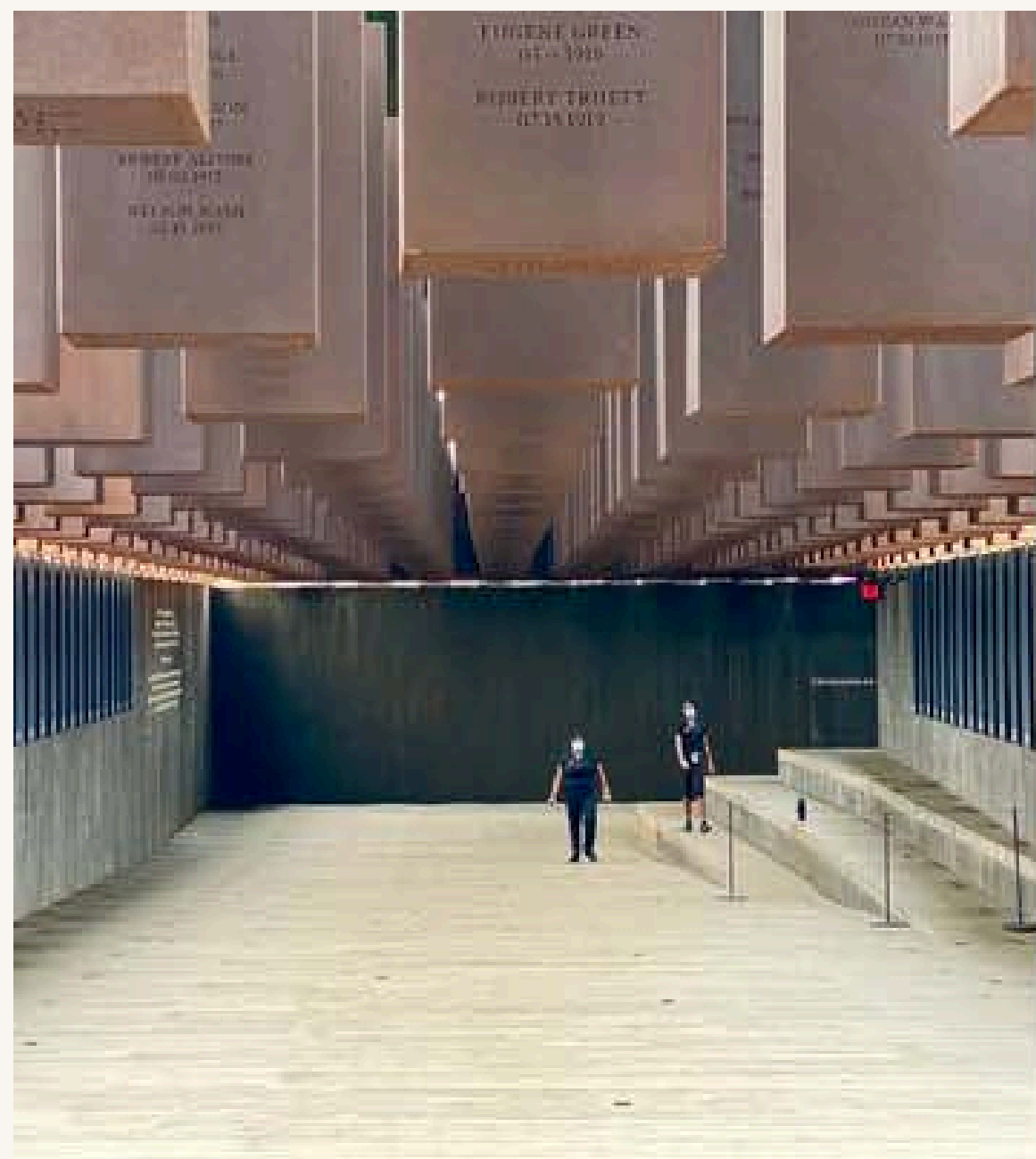


A Dog Parade in New Orleans



Neighborhood color

ALABAMA TO SAVANNAH, GEORGIA



Memorial for Peace and Justice



Perry Lane Rooftop



Savannah cemetery



Hotel Bardo

Montgomery, Alabama

You've got a long drive across the Deep South to Savannah, and a great mid-way point is to see the center of the American civil rights movement in Alabama's capital. The Memorial for Peace and Justice is heartbreaking, but the finest of its kind. Stop by the church where MLK Jr. preached outside of a monument to the Confederacy. Drive along the Selma to Montgomery trail and pay homage at the bridge made infamous in the movement. Auburn University is nearby, and makes for a good overnight given its culinary variety.

EAT:

Acre

STAY:

Hotel at Auburn University**Savannah, Georgia**

Set along the Savannah River, its namesake city is not quite as developed as Charleston -- and that's a good thing. Sit at one of the many squares (including Chippewa Square where Forrest Gump sat with chocolates), wander a famous cemetery, or take a guided stroll. Or for inspiration, SCAD happens to be one of the pre-eminent art institutions in the country, their Museum of Art is worth seeing.

Take a tour of the First African Baptist Church, the oldest black church in North America. Built by slaves and once part of the underground railroad, this church houses elements that personify the history of the American South. And honestly, skip the riverfront - head South towards Forsyth Park and Starland District for a more local experience.

EAT:

Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room

For classic Southern dishes in this 80-year-old institution

The Grey

In a former Greyhound Bus Depot, and of 'Chef's Table' fame

The Public

For the best shrimp and grits

Collins Quarter

Either of their two locations make for an excellent brunch

STAY:

Perry Lane

Which also has a fabulous rooftop for watching the sunset

Hotel Bardo

The latest hot spot on Forsyth Park, with a retro-deco vibe

SOUTH CAROLINA LOW COUNTRY



Charleston residence



Cypress Gardens - filming location of "The Notebook"



Zero George

Beaufort, SC

En route to Charleston, consider a stop in the quaint waterside town of Beaufort, and see a glimpse of small town low country life, unlike what you will see in the more touristed cities between. You'll likely be fantasizing about buying a house before you depart. Bonus: Stop by the driveway where Forrest Gump was filmed.

Charleston

Perhaps Charleston is the most popular small city in the US these days, easily one of the 'prettiest belles of the ball', as locals would say. Indeed, this beautiful waterfront town is ripe with history and celebrates a deep relationship and reckoning with its past. The new African American Museum is a hit, and consider a visit to lush monastery. Sail a canoe in the cypress swamp where they filmed 'The Notebook.' The city is also a culinary star, with a plethora of exceptional restaurants. With some of the Atlantic's best beaches, known for the sprawling stretches of sand, head out to Sullivan's Island.

EAT:

The Wreck of the Richard & Charlene

Across the Cooper River is this seafood shack on the water. Think paper plates and a screened porch alongside the freshest catch from the boats out front.

The Royal Tern

On John's Island, just west of town, is this gorgeous dining room serving upscale seafood.

Sorghum & Salt

Rustic spot downtown with a hyper-local menu of provisions.

SIP:

The Dewberry

Live out your Mad Men fantasy at this beautifully-restored midcentury modern hotel with a gorgeous lobby and rooftop bar. Stay here if Zero George is occupied.

STAY + EAT:

Zero George

Situated amongst several historical homes, this elegant hotel and its even more formal restaurant is a place for celebrations.