

## Savannah's "Historical Church" Hike

Savannah, Georgia, was settled by General Oglethorpe in 1733. He came up the Savannah River looking for a good place for a new settlement. He discovered a high bluff on the Savannah River, went back to Charleston, and brought about 100 settlers to present day Savannah. His planned city was established with "squares" that provided several advantages to the survival of Savannah. First, each square was used as an interior fort if Savannah was attacked by an enemy. Secondly, each square had a major government building or Church building designed into its development. This would guarantee that a major government facility would survive any major attack by an enemy force. Thus, Savannah's unique planning created "north – south – east – west" roads and grids resulting in its present-day squares.

The Colonies were settled along the Atlantic Ocean by immigrants from Europe who brought with them a yearning for religious freedom. Quakers, Catholics, Episcopal, Moravians, Jewish immigrants, all these religions found their way to America's shore.

In 1733 forty-two Jewish emigrants landed at Savannah. These were the original founders of the first synagogue in the United States, Mickve Israel. They brought with them all the trappings and necessary items to begin a synagogue in the new world, thus bringing to the shores of America the earliest roots of Judaism.

The first "Colored" Church founded in America was in 1777 by George Leile. In 1855, black slaves raised money to buy the property and build the First African Baptist Church in Franklin Square. This was unusual because slaves were not allowed to own property in the 1850's and the money raised was put towards a Church instead of buying freedom from their masters.

From these humble beginnings sprang forth some of the most Holy and God inspired Churches in the south. This hike is dedicated to those early believers that formed and built some of the finest Churches and Synagogues in America.

The Coastal Empire Council reminds all visiting Boy Scout Troops that Scouts are Trustworthy, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, and Reverent. Please pay the highest respect to all property, fences, and gardens you pass as you hike. Remember your manners, and hike in a single file when necessary. Do not disturb animal or plant life and be advised that many door entrances to people's homes are at "street" level. Savannah is unique; it still has building styles and homes that were designed in the 1700's and 1800's. Their front doors open directly onto sidewalks, so you are passing by many private residences in close proximity to their living space. Keep this in mind as you hike.

Respect all Church property; treat every Church and Synagogue with reverence. Most of all, take a lot of pictures! You will not find any city in the United States with a more picturesque presentation than Savannah Georgia.

Have fun hiking and send your answers to the address listed at the end of the hike. For more information on bolos (patches are unavailable right now) for the "Savannah Historical Church Hike" contact the Coastal Georgia Council (formerly the Coastal Empire Council), Boy Scouts of America 912-927-7272.

**Before the Hike make sure you have good walking shoes, water (canteen or camelback pack), first aid kit, snacks, a map of historical Savannah, and money for lunch! Boy Scout Troop 665, of Rincon Georgia, established this hike on 8 December 2007 in honor of the United States' dynamic Judeo-Christian Heritage.**

***In God We Trust – A Scout is Reverent***

## Where the Hike Begins!

Your hike will begin at the Savannah Visitors Center. You may park at the Robinson City Parking Garage on Saturdays for free, proceed to the Savannah Visitors Welcome Center. and pick up additional brochures, maps, and other information at the Visitors Center.

Proceed from the parking lot to the Savannah Visitors Welcome Center. The Center is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition, there are bathrooms located in the Welcome Center. The Welcome Center faces Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The building is known as the old ‘Central of Georgia Railroad Station.’ It was built just prior to the Civil War in 1860 and is now an historical landmark. Here your hike of “Savannah Historical Church Hike” will begin.

1. Walk down to the southeast corner of the building and cross Martin Luther King Blvd. onto West Liberty Street. Go east on West Liberty Street to Barnard Street.
2. Turn north on Barnard Street and proceed to Orleans Square. Continue north on Barnard Street to Telfair Square. On the southwest corner of Telfair Square, you will find Trinity Methodist Church. Trinity Methodist Church is the oldest Methodist Church in Savannah. John Wesley began the Methodist Church here in Savannah Georgia. This Church’s cornerstone was laid February 14, 1848!

**How many pillars are on the front portico of this building? \_\_\_\_\_.**

3. Continue north on Barnard Street to Broughton Street. Turn west on Broughton Street and hike down to Broughton and Montgomery Street. Turn north on Montgomery Street and follow Montgomery Street north to Franklin Square. On the northwest corner of Franklin Square, you will see the 1<sup>st</sup> African Baptist Church. This is the oldest Black Congregation in North America! The Church began in 1773. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1775, Reverend George Leile became the Church’s first pastor.

**Look at the front of this Church, when was this Church building erected? \_\_\_\_\_.**

4. Leave Wright Square and go south on Bull Street. When you reach Oglethorpe Avenue, cross over to the center of Oglethorpe (between the east and west bound lanes.) Between the two lanes on Oglethorpe and Bull Street, you will see a tombstone erected to the Jewish Community. James Oglethorpe allotted this land to the Jewish Community after Savannah was founded. You will notice rocks on top of this memorial; this is the Jewish way of remembering those that have passed away. Jewish families do not normally leave flowers at a grave but place a small stone on top of the tombstone. It is a Jewish custom that is related to the ancient times when the Jewish religion placed stones on a grave site.

**How many persons are buried at this site? \_\_\_\_\_.**

5. Now, turn east and go thorough Franklin Square to the “City Market.” Pick up St. Julian Street that travels through the center of City Market. Go east on St. Julian Street, through City Market, to Jefferson Street. NOTE: **Public Restrooms** are found upstairs in Franklin Ward mall in the middle of City Market. Restrooms are open at 9:00 a.m.
6. At Jefferson and St. Julian Streets, turn north and go north on Jefferson Street, cross Bay Street, and continue north on Jefferson Street towards River Street. At the end of Jefferson Street take the steps down to River Street. River Street runs east and west along the Savannah River. NOTE: Be careful of the steps leading down to River Street, they are old and very steep! Be careful going down these steps!
7. When you reach River Street, turn east and follow River Street eastwardly to the Lincoln Street Ramp. NOTE: Located along River Street is the Savannah Visitors Center. At this small Visitors

Center you will find **public bathrooms**. It opens at 10 a.m. Follow River Street and visit any of the stores along River Street to Lincoln Street Ramp. Turn south on Lincoln Street and go up steps to Bay Street. When you come up the steps you will arrive on Bay Street and Lincoln Street.

8. Stay on the north side of Bay Street and go west along Bay Street to Bull Street. Along Bay Street you will see a rock monument on the north side of the sidewalk. The rock monument is dedicated to the Salzburger who came to America to escape religious persecution. The Salzburger's were Lutherans who were expelled from Austria for practicing their Lutheran worship. The first 37 Salzburger who came to America landed at this spot, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1734. They were welcomed by James Oglethorpe, founder of Savannah. The Salzburger eventually settled at Ebenezer in Effingham County. Ebenezer is located along the Savannah River and many of their descendants still live in Effingham County today.

**When was the Salzburger rock monument dedicated to the City of Savannah? Hint; look at the historical marker or the back of the monument. \_\_\_\_\_.**

9. Continue west on Bay Street to Bull Street. Turn south onto Bull Street and follow Bull Street to Johnson Square. On the east side of Johnson Square you will find Christ Church, Savannah. John Wesley and George Whitefield were pastors of this Church! When Georgia was founded as a colony this was the first Church to establish worship in 1736 – 1737. The bells of this Church, located on the northeast corner bell tower, were built by Paul Revere and his son!

**a. Plaque in Johnson Square what famous Adult Scout Leader attended this Church? \_\_\_\_\_**

**b. How many pillars are found on this Church? \_\_\_\_\_.**

10. Pick up Bull Street and go south from Johnson Square to Wright Square. On the east side of Wright Square you will find Evangelical Lutheran Church. This Church was founded by the Salzburger who landed in Georgia. The lot this Church sits on was purchased in 1756. Because most squares in Savannah had a Church and a Government building in each square, a Government building was purchased in 1772 and moved to this spot, becoming the first Lutheran Church in Savannah. The current building was erected in 1843.

**From the plaque in Wright Square, when was this Church formally founded by Reverend John Martin Bolzius? \_\_\_\_\_.**

11. Pick up State Street on the north side of the Lutheran Church. Follow State Street east to Green Square. You will pass Oglethorpe Square and Colombia Square. Look for the Second African Baptist Church on the northwest corner of Green Square. On the steps of this famous Church, General William T. Sherman read President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation to Savannah residents. The Church was founded by Reverend Henry Cunningham and 25 other Baptists.

**Look for the plaque about the Second Baptist Church in Green Square. In what year was this Church founded? \_\_\_\_\_.**

12. From this Church go south on Houston Street to York Street. At York Street turn west and follow York Street to Habersham Street. At Habersham Street, turn south to Oglethorpe Avenue. Cross over this Avenue to the south side of the Avenue. Follow Oglethorpe Avenue to Colonial Park Cemetery. At the "Lincoln Street" gate, turn south into the Cemetery. Look for a plaque near the gate.

**Read the plaque. How many people in Savannah died of yellow fever in 1820? \_\_\_\_\_.**

13. Return to Oglethorpe Avenue at the Lincoln gate. Cross Oglethorpe Avenue to the north side and go to Oglethorpe and Lincoln streets. Look for a historical sign about Wesley Chapel. It was at this site that Savannah's first Methodist Church was built. Bishop Francis Asbury preached twice in Wesley Chapel on November 21, 1813.

**What year was Wesley Chapel erected? \_\_\_\_\_.**

14. Follow Oglethorpe Avenue westward to Abercorn Street. Turn north on Abercorn Street to Oglethorpe Square and pick up State Street. Turn west on State Street and backtrack to Wright Square. NOTE: You are now ready to eat!! At Wright Square you will find a sub shop and a pizza shop nearby. It's time to eat **LUNCH**.

15. Go to Wright Square. On the southeast corner of Wright Square you will see a large granite rock. This rock came from Stone Mountain, Georgia! Under this rock is the burial place of the great Indian Chief "Tomo Chi Chi." Tomo Chi Chi is the Order of the Arrow Lodge #119, or Tomo Chi Chi Lodge. Tomo Chi Chi was the Chief of the Yamacraw Indians. He died in 1739 and was buried at this spot with full military honors!

**In what year did Tomo Chi Chi visit the English Court and meet with the Archbishop of Canterbury? \_\_\_\_\_.**

16. Leave Wright Square and go south on Bull Street. When you reach Oglethorpe Avenue, cross over to the center of Oglethorpe (between the east and west bound lanes.) Between the two lanes on Oglethorpe and Bull Street, you will see a tombstone erected to the Jewish Community. James Oglethorpe allotted this land to the Jewish Community after Savannah was founded. You will notice rocks on top of this memorial; this is the Jewish way of remembering those that have passed away. Jewish families do not normally leave flowers at a grave but place a small stone on top of the tombstone. It is a Jewish custom that is related to the ancient times when the Jewish religion placed stones on a grave site.

**How many persons are buried at this site? \_\_\_\_\_.**

17. Continue south on Bull Street to Independent Presbyterian Church. It is located on the corner of Bull and Oglethorpe. The Church was organized in 1755 and the first building was near Market Square. The famous composer 'Lowell Mason' was the organist and Sunday school superintendent at this Church. President James Monroe dedicated the original building in 1819. In 1885 President Woodrow Wilson married Ellen Louise Axson in the original Church that was located on this site. In April of 1899 a catastrophic fire occurred. The fire started in Hogan's Store at Broughton and Barnard Streets and burned more than fifty buildings to the ground before it was extinguished.

**What were two hymns that were composed by Lowell Mason? Hint: Look for the historic marker on Lowell Mason near this Church.**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

18. Continue south on Bull Street to Chippewa Square. On the northwest side of Chippewa Square, you will find the First Baptist Church. The Church was chartered in 1800 and the present Church you are visiting was erected in 1833. It is the oldest standing Church in Savannah! This Church has a unique history and very unique story. It was one of the few southern coastal Churches that did not close its doors during the Civil War. In December of 1864, the pastor preached one Sunday to a congregation made up of Confederate supporters and soldiers and the next Sunday preached to a congregation made up of Union Soldiers!

**The front of this Church was extended in 1922. How many pillars are located on the front portico of this building? \_\_\_\_\_.**

19. Continue south on Bull Street to West Liberty Street. Turn east on West Liberty Street and follow it to Abercorn Street. Turn south on Abercorn Street and follow it to Lafayette Square. Here, on the east side of Lafayette Square, you will find the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Catholic Cathedral. French Catholic emigrants established Savannah's first parish. Many of these French emigrants fled the French Revolution of 1789! This building was erected in 1876. Fires seem to be a destructive agent in Savannah. A fire nearly destroyed this building in 1898, but it was quickly rebuilt.

**Read the historical plaque outside of the Church. In what year did the Church of St. John the Baptist become a cathedral? \_\_\_\_\_.**

20. Continue south on Abercorn Street to Calhoun Square. On the West side of Calhoun Square, you will find Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church. In the center of Calhoun Square you will find a monument to John Wesley that was erected in 1969. John Wesley founded Methodism! He came to Savannah in 1736 as an Anglican clergyman and returned to England in 1738. He was inspired by his association with the Moravians in Georgia and he formed the United Societies which became the Methodist Church. The Moravians originated in ancient Bohemia and Moravia in what is present-day the Czech Republic.

21. Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church was founded after the Civil War, in 1868. It was originally called Wesley Church and later renamed Wesley Monumental Church in 1875.

**When was the corner stone for the current Church, Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church laid? Hint: Look for a plaque located near the Church. \_\_\_\_\_.**

22. Go south on Abercorn and continue south until you cross Duffy Street. Between Duffy and Henry Streets, facing Abercorn Street is Asbury Methodist Church. The history of this Church comes from the beginnings of the Methodist Church in Savannah. In 1870 a Black Methodist group purchased "Andrew Chapel" on Gwinnett Street near West Broad. They named the Church after Francis Asbury. The current Church is located on Abercorn and is the home of a Boy Scout Troop organized by S. L. White in the basement of the Church.

**On a plaque located near the Church, when was this congregation officially founded? \_\_\_\_\_.**

23. Continue your journey south on Abercorn to Anderson Street. At Anderson Street turn west on Anderson Street and go two blocks to the location of three Churches!

a. St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church: St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church was constructed in 1897 – 98. The building is dedicated to General Alexander R. Lawton (1818 to 1896). General Lawton was a Brigadier General and Quartermaster General in the Confederate Army. The Church was chartered in 1907 and still meets at this location.

**Read the Historical Plaque: When did St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church acquire the current building as its sanctuary? \_\_\_\_\_.**

b. St. Paul Lutheran Church: Located just south of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church. The Church entrance faces Bull Street has a unique adornment above the door.

**How many figures adorn the doorway facing Bull Street? \_\_\_\_\_.**

c. Bull Street Baptist Church:

**How many columns adorn the front of this building? \_\_\_\_\_.**

24. *St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church* continue north on Bull Street to Forsyth Park. Walk through the center of Forsyth Park, past the magnificent fountain and pick up Bull Street at the north end of the park. Continue north on Bull Street to Monterey Square. On the east side of Monterey Square, you will discover "The Hope of Israel" synagogue. The *Mickve Israel Temple* looks like a Church! It is a gothic building with pointed windows and stained-glass windows! The congregation was founded in 1733.
25. A letter was sent to the Jewish Deity in 1789, it stated: "may the same wonder-working Deity who long since delivering the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors, painted them in the promised land – whose providential agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent nation – still continue to water them with the dews from Heaven and to make the inhabitants of every denomination participate in the temporal and spiritual blessings of that people whose God is Jehovah."  
**Who wrote that letter?** \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Continue north on Bull Street to Madison Square. Here you will find *St. John's Episcopal Church*. The congregation formed in 1840. The current Church located at Madison Square was consecrated in May of 1853.  
**How many gargoyles are located on the bell tower?** \_\_\_\_\_.
27. At Madison Square pick up Harris and Bull Streets. Follow Harris Street west to Pulaski Square. At Pulaski Square turn north on Barnard Street. Take Barnard north to West Liberty Street. Turn west on West Liberty Street and follow it back to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Cross MLK Blvd. to the Visitors Center and the parking lot.
28. You completed one of the most picturesque and unique historical trail hikes. Take a few minutes to conduct a reflection of your hike, and then fill out the attached forms for your patches and bolos. Thank you for hiking our trail and the Coastal Empire Council Boy Scouts of America wishes you a safe journey home.

The hike is roughly 6 miles long. You will visit the following Churches and religious locations.

1. Trinity Methodist Church (Telfair Square)
2. 1<sup>st</sup> African Baptist Church (Franklin Square)
3. Christ Episcopal Church (Johnson Square)
4. Evangelical Lutheran Church (Wright Square)
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> African Baptist Church (Green Square)
6. Colonial Cemetery
7. Wesley Chapel (Plaque only)
8. Tomo Chi Chi's grave in Wright Square
9. Tomb Stone in middle of Oglethorpe and Bull Streets to mark Jewish mass grave
10. Independent Presbyterian Church (Oglethorpe and Bull)
11. First Baptist Church (Chippewa Square)
12. Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (Lafayette Square)
13. Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church (Reynolds Square)
14. Asbury Methodist Church on Abercorn Street
15. St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church (Anderson Street and Bull Street)
16. Bull Street Baptist Church (located on west side of Anderson and Bull Streets)
17. St. Paul's Lutheran Church (just south of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, door facing Bull Street)
18. Mickve Israel Synagogue (Monterey Square)
19. St. John's Episcopal Church (Madison Square)

I certify that our Individual/Troop/Pack/Civilian Group \_\_\_\_\_ hiked the Savannah Historical Church Hike and have faithfully and honestly answered all the questions concerning the hike.

Individual/Scoutmaster or Troop/Pack Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bolos \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Bolos have the "Coastal Empire Council" name on it.)

Shipping & Handling: 1-5 Bolos add \$2.00; 6-10 add \$3.00; 11-15 add \$4.00.

For more than 15 Bolos, call the Council Service Center at (912) 927-7272 for rates.

Enclosed is a Check/Money Order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please ship bolos to the address listed below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form and your money for the bolos to:**

**Coastal Georgia Council, BSA  
11900 Abercorn Ext.  
Savannah, GA 31419**

SAVANNAH'S "HISTORICAL CHURCH" HIKE

ANSWER SHEET

- |     |                        |     |                                |
|-----|------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 2.  | 2                      | 16. | a. "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" |
| 3.  | 1859                   |     | b. "Nearer My God To Thee"     |
| 7.  | 1994                   | 17. | 6                              |
| 8.  | a. Juliette Gordon Low | 18. | 1850                           |
|     | b. 6                   | 20. | 1875                           |
| 9.  | April 14, 1741         | 21. | 1871                           |
| 10. | December 26, 1802      | 22. | a. 1941                        |
| 11. | 700                    |     | b. 12                          |
| 12. | 1812                   |     | c. 8                           |
| 14. | 1734                   | 24. | George Washington              |
| 15. | 16                     | 25. | 4                              |

