

## **BALLASTONE INN PRESENTS SAVANNAH BY LAND OR BY SEA**

Savannah, Ga. --- This spring and summer, The Ballastone Inn accommodates travelers in style no matter what their preferred method of exploration. The luxurious Inn is offering special tour packages for guests who want to immerse themselves in the beauty, history and nature of Savannah with the finest guides available by foot, automobile and boat. Three distinct tours are added to the 2007 offerings: History Tour, Waterways Tour and Wildlife Tour.

The Ballastone Inn is known for pampering its guests, and this grand hideaway is the perfect luxurious lair from which to explore Savannah's rich and colorful history, distinct architecture, and lavish gardens with their own personal guide. Packages range from \$235 to \$395 per night and include accommodations, a sumptuous Southern breakfast, formal afternoon tea, and light hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour. The Ballastone concierge will happily make all individual tour arrangements, which are priced separately between \$50 and \$95 per person.

The History Tours are led by expert guide and author Robert Edgerly, arguably the best and most engaging historian in Savannah. Guests are met at the Inn for a personal and intimate tour of their choosing. Tours include The Low Country Tour featuring trips to Bonaventure Cemetery, the Isle of Hope, and Wormsloe Plantation; the Civil War Tour which visits sites that became important before, during, and after the war; a downtown Savannah history tour, and the Wildlife Tour which includes a visit to Savannah River Wildlife Refuge, rice plantations and salt marshes, and the banks of freshwater ponds teeming with plants and animals. Guests may also customize a tour to take in the surrounding resort towns of Tybee Island, Beaufort, South Carolina, or even Charleston. History tours are \$50 per person.

Captain Glen Gartner of Coastal Journeys offers guests a glimpse into the vast and pristine barrier islands, marshlands and waterways that surround Savannah with two-, three-, or four-hour cruises to uninhabited barrier islands such as Wassaw Island, Little Tybee, Ossabaw and the newly formed Williamson Island for shelling, wildlife observation and beachcombing. Or, journey to Daufuskie Island, Tybee Island or Hilton Head where more civilized pleasures abound.

During a Savannah summer, there's no better place to be than on the water, where Captain Gartner assures that it is "five degrees cooler." Tours are all customized, and favorite requests include sunset cruises and various day trips to spot graceful wading birds, such as herons and egrets, and explore the beaches. There are even places to search for fossils and sharks teeth. All are delightful ways to see a different side of Savannah and take in the sights and sounds of one of the country's most undisturbed sections of coastline. All that is needed is an adventurous spirit, says Captain Gartner. ([www.CoastalJourney.com](http://www.CoastalJourney.com))

The Ballastone Inn adds a touch of wildlife to its civilized nature with Wilderness Southeast, a non-profit organization that specializes in creating exciting opportunities to learn about nature. Their "Alligator & Anhinga" driving and walking excursions up the Savannah River to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge offer an amazing look at local flora and fauna. The "Salt Marsh by Land & Sea," at Ft. McAllister State Park, adds a short canoe paddle, wind permitting, to explore the lower marsh and tidal flats. For birdwatchers, outings to Forsyth Park are very productive. Wilderness Southeast regularly offers these and many other exciting adventures. For more information and a current schedule of events, please visit their website at [www.wilderness-southeast.org](http://www.wilderness-southeast.org).

A stay at The Ballastone Inn, combined with one of the special tours, gives visitors the ultimate sense of Savannah and its fascinating history. The 16-room Ballastone Inn is a small, luxurious property located in the heart of Savannah's renowned Historic District. On the National Register as a city historic site and a member of the prestigious Select Registry, The Ballastone is a 2005 Andrew Harper's Hideaway Grand Award Winner, is recommended by Condé Nast Johansens, Fodor's, Frommer's and is a AAA Four-Diamond rated property. Built in 1837, this sumptuous, historically significant inn occupies a four-story Italianate mansion on a shady, tree-lined avenue. Rates include a full homemade breakfast with The Ballastone's "Table for Two" <sup>(SM)</sup> private dining experience; formal afternoon tea; hors d'oeuvres during the evening cocktail hour; turndown service; and 24/7 concierge assistance. For additional information or reservations, please contact The Ballastone Inn toll-free at (800) 822-4553 or visit the property's website at [www.ballastone.com](http://www.ballastone.com).

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