

Trip 2 – Episode #56: Tybee Island & Savannah

Jim and I had both been to Savannah before, and loved it. So when we discovered we had an extra couple of days on our way up the coast, we thought we'd try to get in a another visit. There were no campgrounds in the Savannah area, however, there was one on Tybee Island, one of the several islands between Savannah and the ocean.

So we crossed several bridges and drove through lots of lowlands.





We looked but didn't see any turtles.



And finally we got to Tybee Island, a fun spot with a unique island charm.



From the moment we arrived, we could see it was ... different.





We settled into a nice, well-treed spot.



But we were surprised to see that right across the road there were elegant southern homes. Not something you usually see right beside a campground.



And a short walk away, was this beach, which looks like the ocean but is actually on the mouth of the Savannah River.



The whole town had a definite island feel to it.







And on the other side of the island was another long beach, facing the Atlantic.



We had to stop at The Crab Shack, and it was a real trip.





We should've paid attention to the sign that said "Sand Gnat Bar". If we had, we would've asked not to sit there!



The patio was lovely and the food was tasty.

But we think the gnats were the ones who got the real feast!



But on the way out, there was a bonus. We got to the intersection just in time to see a group of waterfowl doing their Abbey Road routine.



We got back to the campground in time for an incredible sunset on the beach.







Tybee Island and the River's End Campground were definite keepers.

After two nights, we ventured into Savannah, and parked in the visitor center lot (as Jim helpfully points out).



We strolled from one end of this gorgeous town to the other, and were reminded why we both love it so much. First of all, you have to love a town that has a street named after Johnny Mercer, one of its most famous residents.



But then there's the downtown core which is unlike any I'm aware of. One park connects to the next, through the heart of the city, each one elegant and green, with giant, graceful trees, historic monuments and cool, peaceful gardens.

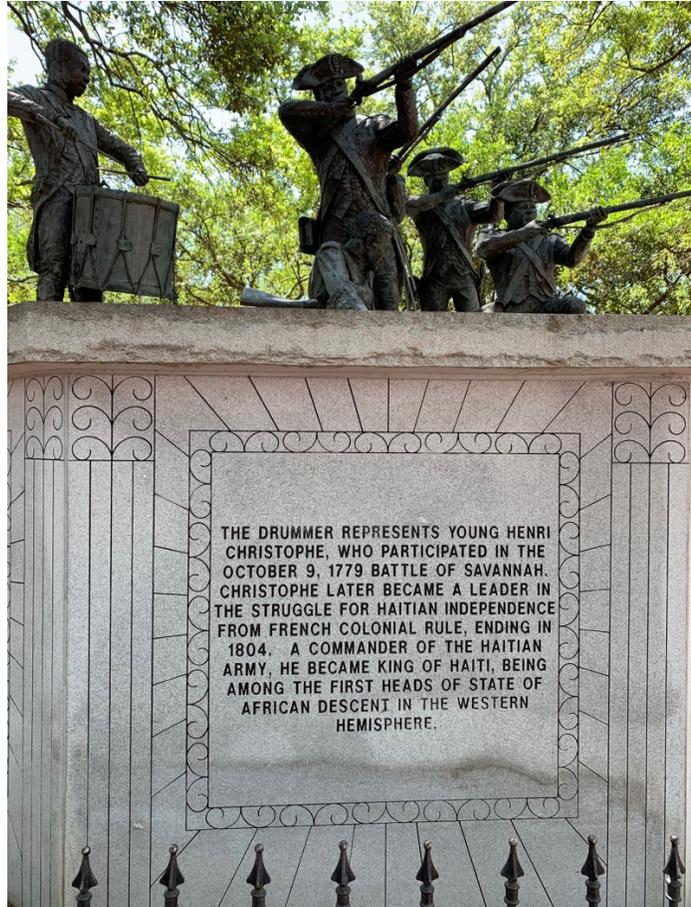








Some interesting history along the way.



THE DRUMMER REPRESENTS YOUNG HENRI CHRISTOPHE, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE OCTOBER 9, 1779 BATTLE OF SAVANNAH. CHRISTOPHE LATER BECAME A LEADER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE FROM FRENCH COLONIAL RULE, ENDING IN 1804. A COMMANDER OF THE HAITIAN ARMY, HE BECAME KING OF HAITI, BEING AMONG THE FIRST HEADS OF STATE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.



TOMO-CHI-CHI'S GRAVE

Tomo-Chi-Chi, Mico of the Yamacraws, a tribe of the Creek Indian Nation, is buried in this Square. He has been called a co-founder, with Oglethorpe, of Georgia. He was a good friend to the English, a friendship indispensable to the establishment of the Colony as a military outpost against Spanish invasion. He negotiated with Oglethorpe the treaty, formally ratified on May 21, 1733, pursuant to which Georgia was settled. Mary Musgrove, half-breed niece of Emperor Brim of the Creek Indians, acted as interpreter between Oglethorpe and Tomo-Chi-Chi and lent her great influence to the signing of that treaty and to the treaties negotiated by Oglethorpe with other tribes of the Creek nation.

In 1734, at the age of 84, with his wife Senauki, Tomo-Chi-Chi visited the English Court and was received by the King and by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was a man of fine physique, tall and of great dignity.

He died October 5, 1739 at Yamacraw Indian Village, and at his request was brought to Savannah to rest among his English friends. He was buried here with military honors.

0224

GEORGIA

HISTORICAL

COMMISSION

1952

And everywhere,
unique and elegant
architecture.



Everything is historic. Even the steps.



We saw Johnny Mercer's house, and Jim got to "meet" Johnny Mercer on the street!



There are wonderful sights everywhere.



It was Easter weekend, so the coach drivers – and the horses – were wearing bunny ears!



Before hitting the road, we stopped at a restaurant patio and had a delicious lunch.



Once again Savannah did not disappoint.

Would we go back again?

Yes please!

