



Tour: Lowcountry Science Safari
MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION

Destination: Savannah, Georgia + Beaufort & Charleston, South Carolina

Itinerary: 5-days / 4-nights

Specialization: Coastal Science, Geography, History & Culture

Dates: Year-round

LOWCOUNTRY SAFARI - MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION

Savannah, Georgia + Beaufort & Charleston, South Carolina

Day	Morning		Afternoon		Evening
1	Travel to Savannah, Georgia		Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Savannah City Tour	Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise
2	Tybee Island Marine Science - Guided Beach Walk, Sift & Seine Master Class & Turtle Talk		Tybee Museum & Lighthouse	Captain Mike's Dolphin Cruise	Local Dinner & Free Time
3	Travel to Beaufort, South Carolina	Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center & Naturalist Program	Saint Helena Island's Coastal Expeditions Program		Gullah Culture & Dinner at the Penn Center
4	Travel to Charleston, South Carolina	Fort Sumter National Monument	Avian Conservation Center - Birds of Prey		Farewell Dinner & Reflections
5	Depart Charleston for Home				



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.

A Message From Our Team

At STEM Study Tours, we believe students learn best when they're immersed, engaged, and inspired. Every program is built with intention - blending hands-on discovery, academic depth, and meaningful experiences that help students see the world (and themselves) in new ways. Our goal is for each itinerary to spark curiosity, build confidence, and create moments students carry long after the trip ends. We're honored to partner with schools who share that vision and to help bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

— Michele & The Hammock Expeditions Team

Why Travel With Hammock Expeditions & STEM Study Tours

Schools choose us because we design programs that are organized, intentional, and built around real learning. Our itineraries combine strong academics with smooth logistics, giving teachers confidence and giving students opportunities to explore, ask questions, and grow. We partner with trusted local experts, communicate clearly, and support groups every step of the way so educators can focus on their students - not the logistics.

What Sets Us Apart

- **Purpose-Driven Itineraries** - Students actively participate in meaningful, real-world learning.
- **Safety, Structure & Professionalism** - From 24-hour support to vetted partners and clear communication, we ensure teachers can focus on their students while we handle the logistics.
- **Hands-On, High-Impact Learning** - Our programs emphasize field science, conservation, and experiential learning - the kind that sticks with students long after the trip ends.
- **Student-Centered Design** - We balance learning with fun, reflection with adventure, and structure with flexibility. Every day is crafted to keep students engaged, energized, and supported.
- **A Team That Travels With Purpose** - We're educators, planners, naturalists, and travel professionals who care deeply about student growth. Your goals become our goals.

Our Commitment to You

When you travel with us, you gain a partner who understands your vision, anticipates your needs, and delivers an experience your students will remember for years to come. We're here to support your school, empower your students, and make every moment meaningful.

We want to be your educational partner. Let us know how we may serve you.

Michele, Christina, Izzy, Dana, Taylor, and the Team



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Day 1

Dinner included

Savannah... Savannah is where history, science, and Southern charm meet. Founded in 1733, it's one of America's most beautifully preserved cities - known for its cobblestone streets, shaded squares, and centuries-old live oaks draped in Spanish moss. For students, Savannah offers a living classroom: from its coastal ecosystems and marine life at nearby Tybee Island to its architectural innovations and cultural heritage shaped by trade, art, and resilience. Exploring Savannah means walking through history while discovering how geography and environment shaped the region's growth. Whether cruising the riverfront, touring its storied districts, or engaging in hands-on marine science, students experience the perfect blend of learning and adventure in one of the South's most captivating coastal cities.



Savannah Walking Tour - A walking tour of Savannah turns the city into an open-air classroom where every square, street, and story reveals something new. Students will wander beneath centuries-old live oaks draped in Spanish moss, explore the city's famous grid of historic squares, and learn how Savannah's unique design shaped its growth from the 1700s to today. Along the way, guides bring the past to life with tales of early settlers, architectural innovation, the Gullah-Geechee community, and the city's role in American history. From riverfront views to hidden alleyways, this immersive walk helps students connect geography, culture, and history in one of the South's most captivating cities.



Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise - As the sun sets over the Savannah River, students step aboard an authentic riverboat for an evening that blends history, scenery, and Southern hospitality. While enjoying a buffet dinner, they'll cruise past the city's iconic waterfront, watching the lights of River Street reflect across the water and hearing stories of Savannah's role as one of America's most important port cities. From the open-air decks, students can see massive cargo ships glide by, spot dolphins near the shoreline, and take in panoramic views of the historic district. With music, narration, and the gentle rhythm of the river, this cruise offers a memorable, relaxing way to experience Savannah from a completely new perspective.

Day 2

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Tybee Island... Just a short drive from Savannah, Tybee Island is where classroom learning meets the ocean. Students will step onto the beach as marine scientists - sifting through sand for tiny creatures,



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studying tidal patterns, and learning how barrier islands protect the mainland. Guided by local experts, they'll explore the Tybee Island Marine Science Center, visit the historic lighthouse, and take part in a hands-on *Seine Net & Turtle Talk* master class. From stingrays and dolphins to nesting sea turtles, Tybee offers an unforgettable look at the delicate balance between coastal ecology and human impact. It's the perfect setting for discovery, teamwork, and real-world environmental science.

Today's activities include:

Tybee Island Marine Science Center - At Tybee Island, students dive straight into coastal ecology with hands-on marine science led by local experts. They'll step into the surf to conduct a seine-net study, working together to collect and identify fish, crabs, and other organisms that live in the shallow waters. Inside the Tybee Island Marine Science Center, students explore barrier-island habitats, learn how tides and currents shape the coastline, and discover the challenges facing sea turtles, dolphins, and shorebirds. Through interactive labs, touch-tank encounters, and a behind-the-scenes look at animal care and conservation, students see how science, stewardship, and the ocean are deeply connected. Possible activities include a guided beach walk, sift and seine activity, and a turtle talk.



The Tybee Museum & Lighthouse – Standing tall since 1736, the Tybee Island Lighthouse is one of America's oldest and best-preserved light stations - and climbing it is a highlight for students. As they ascend the 178 steps, they'll learn how lighthouse keepers once protected ships navigating the Georgia coast and why this beacon was essential for maritime trade, military operations, and coastal safety. From the top, sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean and the mouth of the Savannah River reveal how geography shaped the region's history. At the adjacent museum, students explore restored keeper's cottages, examine artifacts from shipwrecks and wartime defenses, and discover how coastal communities adapted to storms, shifting sands, and changing technology. It's a perfect blend of history, engineering, and breathtaking scenery.

Captain Mike's Dolphin Tour on Tybee Island - Students set sail on an unforgettable adventure with Captain Mike's Dolphin Tour, cruising the waterways around Tybee Island in search of the Atlantic bottlenose dolphins that call this coast home. As the boat glides past salt marshes, shrimp boats, and the historic Cockspur Lighthouse, naturalists share insights into dolphin behavior, coastal ecosystems, and the importance of protecting marine habitats. The dolphins often swim right alongside the boat, leaping, playing, and giving students an up-close look at these incredible animals in the wild. With ocean breezes, wildlife sightings, and plenty of excitement, this tour is a perfect blend of science, exploration, and pure Lowcountry fun.



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Day 3

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Beaufort: Heart of the Lowcountry... Beaufort is a coastal gem where history, culture, and natural beauty come together in a way students immediately feel. Founded in 1711, it's the second-oldest city in South Carolina, known for its oak-lined streets, breezy waterfront, and beautifully preserved antebellum architecture. But Beaufort is more than a postcard - it's a living story of the Lowcountry. Students explore a community shaped by the tides, the Sea Islands, and the deep roots of Gullah-Geechee culture. From its historic district overlooking the Beaufort River to the surrounding marshlands teeming with wildlife, the city offers a powerful blend of science, geography, and cultural heritage. Whether walking the waterfront, learning about the Sea Islands' unique history, or heading out on nearby coastal expeditions, Beaufort gives students a rich, immersive look at what makes the Lowcountry unlike anywhere else.

Today's activities include:

Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center - At the Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center, students explore one of the most biologically rich estuaries on the East Coast through hands-on science and guided discovery. Inside the center, they'll examine live animal exhibits, interactive displays, and real research tools that reveal how oysters, sharks, dolphins, and countless invertebrates depend on the sound's unique mix of fresh and saltwater. Out in the field, naturalists lead students through marsh boardwalks and shoreline investigations, teaching them how tides, salinity, and human impact shape this fragile ecosystem. From studying plankton under microscopes to identifying species caught in research nets, students gain a deeper understanding of marine biology, conservation, and why the Port Royal Sound is considered a global ecological treasure. It's an immersive, science-rich experience that brings the Lowcountry's coastal environment to life.

Saint Helena Island's Coastal Expeditions Program - Saint Helena Island offers students a rare chance to explore one of the most culturally rich and ecologically diverse regions of the Lowcountry. During the Coastal Expeditions Program, naturalists lead students through pristine marshlands, tidal creeks, and maritime forests to study how these interconnected habitats support everything from oysters and blue crabs to dolphins and migratory birds. Students learn to read the landscape—tracking tides, identifying native species, and understanding how barrier islands protect the coastline. Along the way, they'll discover the island's deep Gullah-Geechee heritage and how traditional knowledge has shaped sustainable living in this environment for generations. Blending science, culture, and hands-on exploration, this program gives students a powerful sense of place and a deeper appreciation for the Lowcountry's natural rhythms.



Gullah Culture & Dinner at the Penn Center - Located on Saint Helena Island, Penn Center is one of the most important African American heritage sites in the United States and a cornerstone of Gullah-Geechee culture. Founded in 1862 as one of the first schools in the South for formerly enslaved people, the campus now preserves more than a century and a half of history, resilience, and cultural identity. Students explore historic classrooms, exhibits, and artifacts that reveal how education, community, and self-determination shaped life during and after the Civil War. Walking the grounds where civil rights leaders once gathered, they gain a deeper understanding of the island's role in shaping American history.



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As part of the visit, students meet with a Gullah-Geechee community member who shares personal stories, traditions, and the living heritage of the Sea Islands. Through language, music, foodways, and oral history, students learn how the Gullah-Geechee people preserved their African roots and cultural practices despite centuries of hardship. This conversation offers a rare, authentic connection—helping students understand not just the history of the Lowcountry, but the vibrant culture that continues to thrive there today. It's one of the most meaningful and memorable experiences of the entire program.

Day 4

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Charleston... Charleston is a city that feels like stepping into a storybook - cobblestone streets, pastel-painted homes, and sweeping harbor views that instantly capture students' imaginations. Founded in 1670, it's one of the oldest cities in the United States, shaped by centuries of maritime trade, cultural exchange, and coastal resilience. For students, Charleston becomes a living classroom: they'll explore the historic peninsula, learn how geography and the harbor shaped the city's growth, and see firsthand how architecture, ecology, and culture intersect in the Lowcountry. From its vibrant waterfront and bustling markets to its barrier islands and salt marshes teeming with wildlife, Charleston offers a dynamic blend of science, history, and hands-on discovery. It's a place where every street has a story and every shoreline reveals something new.



Today's activities include:



Fort Sumter National Monument Tour – A visit to Fort Sumter brings students face-to-face with the opening chapter of the Civil War. The experience begins with a scenic ferry ride across Charleston Harbor, where guides point out historic landmarks and explain why this strategic waterway was so fiercely contested. Once at the fort, students step onto the very ground where the first shots of the war were fired in April 1861. They'll explore original brick walls, artillery positions, and museum exhibits that reveal how the fort was built, defended, and ultimately transformed by the conflict. Rangers share powerful stories of soldiers on both sides, the tension that led to the bombardment, and how the events at Fort Sumter shaped the nation's path. With sweeping harbor views and a dramatic historical setting, this tour offers students an unforgettable, immersive look at one of America's most pivotal moments.



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Avian Conservation Center & Birds of Prey Master Class - At the Avian Conservation Center, students step into the world of raptors and wildlife rehabilitation, gaining an up-close look at some of the Southeast's most powerful and fascinating birds. During the Birds of Prey Master Class, expert falconers introduce students to hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles while explaining how each species is adapted for survival—from razor-sharp talons to silent flight. Students learn how injuries, habitat loss, and environmental change impact these birds, and they'll see firsthand how the center's medical and conservation teams work to rescue, treat, and release them back into the wild. Through flight demonstrations, interactive lessons, and behind-the-scenes insight into avian science, students gain a deeper understanding of ecology, wildlife protection, and the critical role raptors play in healthy ecosystems. It's an unforgettable blend of biology, conservation, and awe-inspiring encounters.



Reflection Circle - Before heading to the airport, students gather for a final reflection on their week - a chance to celebrate everything they've learned, experienced, and accomplished together. From hands-on STEM labs to behind-the-scenes discoveries, they look back on the moments that challenged them, inspired them, and brought the group closer. It's a warm, meaningful pause in the day where students share highlights, thank their leaders, and recognize how much they've grown. With new confidence, new friendships, and a deeper understanding of the world around them, the group begins their journey home - carrying memories that will stay with them long after the trip ends.

Day 5

Breakfast (dependent upon departure times)

Rise and shine South Carolina! After breakfast, it's off to the airport or coach-ride home. We're hoping that you are inspired and taking home wonderful memories that will last a lifetime!

Goodbye Lowcountry!



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Middle School Edition

Savannah, Georgia + Beaufort & Charleston, South Carolina

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What's Included:

- ✓ Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers
- ✓ 4-nights' accommodation: 2-nights Savannah, 1-night Beaufort, 1-night Charleston
- ✓ Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon flight times)
- ✓ Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers
- ✓ Savannah City Tour
- ✓ Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise
- ✓ Tybee Island Marine Science Center - Guided Beach Walk, Sift & Seine Master Class and Turtle Talk
- ✓ Tybee Island Museum & Lighthouse excursion
- ✓ Captain Mike's Dolphin Cruise
- ✓ Port Royal Sound Foundation's Maritime Center & Naturalist Program
- ✓ Saint Helena Island's Coastal Expeditions Program
- ✓ Gullah Culture Evening at the Penn Center
- ✓ Fort Sumter National Monument
- ✓ Avian Conservation & Birds of Prey Master Class
- ✓ Personal Tour Director
- ✓ 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- ⊗ Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
- ⊗ Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required
- ⊗ Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- ⊗ Transfers to/from home airport
- ⊗ Lunches, snacks or beverages other than at designated mealtimes
- ⊗ Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions, vegetarians, halal and in some cases vegan)
- ⊗ Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- ⊗ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ⊗ Sightseeing / Entertainment / Transport not shown in Itinerary
- ⊗ Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.
- ⊗ Gratuities – drivers, hotel services, local guides, tour director
- ⊗ Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH
- ⊗ Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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