



Kerry Nenn

The write scribe for you

kerrynenn@nennpen.com • <http://nennpen.com>

Strolling Savannah: Don't Forget Your Pineapple



In my extensive U.S. travels, few cities have charmed me instantly. Savannah is an exception. What is the city's enchanting secret? The Squares. Over twenty in number, these gorgeous oases are found every few blocks throughout Historic Savannah. Spanish moss drips from gnarly live oaks, giving each Square an inviting yet mysterious aura. Various fountains, statues, and meticulous landscaping create unique experiences at each.

These are quite the contrast to the "oases" of the Northwest Suburbs I encounter daily, featuring tube slides, splash pads, and five-foot trees planted five years ago. There's simply no comparison. Surrounded by fascinating homes and buildings, Savannah's nature-filled blocks situated amidst historic structures create a city worthy of exploration. If I lived there, daily strolls would be a must.

A second essential as you explore this charming belle of the South is to meander through one of the historic homes that overlook the Squares. Guided tours abound for houses of all shapes and sizes. Not a history buff? It won't matter. History lovers and haters alike find facts and figurines to tease their minds and interests, like this tidbit:

It was during one of these tours, of the Sorrel-Weed House to be precise, that I learned why the pineapple is prominent in antebellum abodes.

It was custom for visitors to stay not simply for dinner, but for days at a time. Pineapples, costly and therefore a treat, became the traditional food reserved for visitors. When guests arrived, hosts displayed a pineapple on the mantel as a sign of welcome. It was understood that guests would be served the pineapple during the final meal of their stay. If the pineapple was taken down, this was the host's subtle way of telling the guest it was time to leave. The guest would then come up with an excuse to go, the pineapple would be served for their send-off, and any awkward

confrontation was avoided. Of course, the goal was to leave before your pineapple was removed from display, meaning you had not worn out your welcome.

Rumor has it General Lee brought his own pineapples when he travelled, to put up if the host took his down. As Lee never tweeted about this, I have no proof. The tradition itself I'm confident is true, and this symbol of hospitality can be found throughout the construction and décor of older homes.

After taking in these sights, you will probably want a bite, pineapple or otherwise. Explore the City Market area for some peach ice cream, or, for heavier appetites, head over to Lady & Sons. Paula Dean's signature restaurant offers plenty for your palate. I do mean plenty. If you weren't raised on good ole southern food, this buffet might take you out. Pack your Pepcid and pace yourself. Delicious, but probably not nutritious. That's down-home cooking for you.

To burn off the three sticks of butter you just consumed, take in Factor's Walk along the river. Cobblestone streets, brick walls, multi-leveled shops and walkways create an enticing riverfront to explore.

From here, ride the ferry across the Savannah River to Hutchinson Island. As your day of tourism comes to a close, sit outside the Westin Hotel and take in the sunset view as the city lights up the night.

You'll be charmed, I'm sure.