

To: BlackTravels@yahoogroups.com

Subject: Thanks Kalin for your cool tips for Gateway Spring Break!!! We all Gullah People.

Hey Everyone,

Thanks to Kalin Thomas' helpful hints, my trip to Charleston from Spring Break, sarcastically renamed "The Bittersweet", was excellent!

Cultural, real, surreal and full of Gullah Geechee foundation. Visits to Sullivan Island to tour Fort Moultrie with Park Ranger Micheal Allen, to the Penn Center on St. Helena Island for books, tours w/ Alfonzo Brown Gullah Tours for Gullah Charleston and Al Miller Sites and Insights for further detail and visits to James & John Island were all worth every minute and dollar. All of the sea food was fresh flavorful and tasty every where that we ate. We met a Sisterfriend Anice Carr, Charleston Arts and Destinations -meeting and event planning, great contact for local promotion.

When we first planned this journey it was just me & my mother, 2 old ladies taking a Spring Break, me from school and my mother from retirement. However as the day approached I decided to bring my cutie pie rambunctious preK son. We no doubt we all had a blast. He was great & really enjoyed seeing so many new things. With daily stops to a playground or the \$5pp Children's Museum- (yep you know what that is about) Ade gained a lot of exposure and learned so many things outside of a prescribed classroom setting. Both Mommy & I were glad that he joined us.

The best part for me as a Hotlanta Lady (viaNY) was that this visit really quenched my thirst for the ocean and it was really a manageable drive away. Definitely do-able for a long weekend.

Especially if a group of friends or a family plan to stay at Fraser's Homestead at Noisette Farm, very cool Afrocentric Gullah Geechee Jazz homestead located in Charleston. Available as a guest house offering a luxury homestead in town experience. My mother a closet interior decorator loved that house.

We did visit Savannah briefly, my 1x and I found my 24 hour visit very welcoming and familiar. Plenty of cobblestone very similar to The Village or along the boundary of Central Park in NY. Tybee Island was so worth the drive. This was what our trip was all about...the ocean was flat out nothing in front of it. I was totally rejuvenated and renewed. Yes Atlanta folk could use a little more 'big

water' in their lives. It would probably cut down on the accident problems that we have on our highways and byways. God only hopes.

It was only 3 hours from ATL staying in the speed limit w/ 1.5 stop. Of course you can fly as cheap as \$49 on special & then rent a car. I thought that Charleston & Savannah were close enough and to comfortably travel between the two cities and explore all things Gullah in between. Next time in Savannah I'll explore all the African Diaspora sights, take John Brown's tour and visit Mai Evan's Olde Georgian Inn B&B. Any excuse to visit Tybee Island again.

The only really distasteful thing on the journey beyond the over priced Eurocentric Bittersweet Children's Museum was I did have to make a stand in a Starbucks on 'Kil Hoon' St one afternoon.

The Childrens museum was only expensive but unfortunately a coffee run became political. That afternoon I was not about to surrender my \$\$ to the surely young Gal trying to talk trash to me, when I asked her to tell me the coffee of the day. Albeit I had not found any coffee until 4:30 that day in addition to the political stance I had too also realize that passing on coffee so late in the day, was not a bad idea. While at the playground later that day I met a fellow Sisterfriend who suggested a more "user friendly" Starbucks location that she patronizes as a resident and professional living and working in Charleston.

But keeping it real... for cultural enrichment I am already planning when I can return again to The Bittersweet...to visit all of the place that I didn't get a chance to see...Georgetown, Edisto Island, Cau Cau Center, Avery Center, Mr. Simmons the Iron Forger, Mother Emanuel Church, the Charleston Gullah Geechee House and a new Gullah owned bed & breakfast to open later in this Spring & to save my dollars for a sea grass basket, etc. etc. There are many cultural links between, Charleston, the Caribbean and of course Africa that have been preserved and available to explore.

Although I am not a travel agent I do enjoy hosting destination based tours that celebrate the African Diaspora influence. Cinnamon Traveler offers destination based guide services. <http://www.cinnamotraveler.com>

Now that my home base has been transplanted to Atlanta, the Low Country looks like a fine place to share travel adventures with fellow African Diaspora travelers living and visiting Atlanta. Black folk have maintained plenty of cultural resources and hospitality that is only a hope skip and a jump away. Same distance as NY to the Vineyard. Websites updates will have to be done on my site but am very attracted to putting something together.

Here are also a few links for a few fellow folkfriends doing their thing w/ Heritage Travel Tourism and Oral Interpretation that I hope y'all will look them up when you are planning to visit their neck of the woods, this coming travel season.

Peace & Adventurous Journeys
Grace Lynis

<http://www.cinnamontraveler.com>

<http://www.seetheworldproductions.com>

<http://www.soulofamerica.com>

<http://www.earthwiseproductionsinc.com>

<http://members.tripod.com/~Amasewa/Junkanoo-Soulsite-index.html>

<http://www.africanburialground.com/>

<http://thedrinkinggourd.net>

<http://www.africanamericaninns.com>