

Savannah, As Told By Michael

(Born & raised in Savannah, now my roommate)

THE BIG THINGS

- **The Cathedral** — Big pretty church. I've lost count of all the weddings and graduations i've been to here. It's really pretty and definitely worth a visit. Fun fact, everything else on this little block that isn't the church itself is the all girls school where my sisters and most of my female friends went. It's the oldest continually run all girls school in the county. Opened in the 1840's, I believe.
- **Haunted Pub Crawl** — I would say do a haunted pub crawl, but they may not be as "scary" as you want -- for the most part they're a little more subdued. But they're definitely worth looking into if you like alcohol and ghost stories.
- **DRINKING** — Savannah is open container -- so as long as you have your alcohol in a plastic cup, no one cares. You only get in trouble if you walk around with a can or bottle. So you could technically just make yourself a drink at your Airbnb and then take it to go and walk around. Grab some red solo cups before you leave if this sounds appealing. And at bars, they'll have stacks of solo cups behind the bar and right by the door before you leave so you can pour your beer into a cup and go. It's very common to ask the bartenders for your drink "to go". This rule is what makes the haunted pub crawl more fun. Because they'll make sure everyone has a drink, you walk around listening to a ghost story (with cup in hand) and then they'll stop at bars, tell you the specials and give you 10 min to go get a drink.
- **Bonaventure Cemetery** — It's the cemetery Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil is based on. It's in an area of town called thunderbolt. It's so pretty here. In an ideal world I would love to get buried here but it filled up a long time ago.
- **Forsyth Park** — Nothing too crazy. It's just a big park with the fountain. It's pretty close to y'all's Airbnb. It's pretty relaxed.
- **River Street** — It's worth a stroll down at least once, but it's pretty touristy and locals generally avoid it if we can. Just shops and restaurants, but just make sure you're not down here after sunset -- it gets weird.
- **Wormsloe** — 20 min south of downtown on Isle of Hope. Right around the corner from my parents house. Honestly, the drive down to the actual site is the best part of it. Huge oak trees. The site itself is in ruins -- so it looks like tabby piles of rubble. It's still pretty, but they try to make you pay right when you enter. It's like 10 bucks a person. No one is there to check if you paid when you get down to the site, so you can easily just forgo paying. So what you do is pull in, park, get out and take pictures (everyone does) and if the good Samaritan in you wants to pay, you can go inside this little house and pay. If you wanna be a rebel, hop back in the car and just drive down to the site and then just turn around and drive back -- again the site is piles of rubble. Not exactly worth the money, but it's also not really that expensive. You do you.
- **The Wyld** — Hit this up after Wormsloe if the weather is nice. It's an outside dock bar/restaurant. It's a good place for like sunset drinks. But if you hit this up after, take a

scenic route down Bluff drive -- probably my favorite street in Savannah and in an ideal world I'd live on it. Huge homes on one side of the street, the river and marina on the other. Just google pictures of "the bluff isle of hope georgia." It's really pretty, and you might as well just drive along it if you are going to head to the Wyld because it adds on like three minutes. Take a right outside of Wormsloe onto Skidaway, and keep straight (the road curves by the school, but keep straight into the Wymberly neighborhood). Keep straight on this road (Richmond Dr.) for like half a mile and it'll do a sharp turn and the road name turns into Avenue of Pines. Take the next right (Noble Glen) and you're there. Noble Glen dead ends into the bluff and you have to take a left. Again, I think it's worth driving through if you're on Isle of Hope, but just look at pictures or do a street view and decide for yourself. If you want to take pictures, I'd pull off to the side on Noble Glen where it meets the bluff -- a lot of people do. Or there are a few little side streets along the bluff you could park at. It's a short little drag, and if you take it to the end, you'll have to take a left onto LaRoche Ave and the Wyld is like 2 miles down this road. Also, fun fact, I grew up and my parents still live on LaRoche Ave on Isle of Hope. If you want you could probably stop in and go swimming off the dock.

- **City Market/Broughton Street** — Lots of little shops and restaurants. Most of the time there's a band playing by Wild Wings in City Market and it's just nice to grab a beer and sit at a table in the middle of it all. Really popular area to just hang out in.
- **Savannah Candy Kitchen** — Fun fact: River Street Sweets and the Candy Kitchen are owned by a couple that went through a bitter divorce back in the early 90's. For a while there was a huge rivalry between the two, but I hear they recently patched things up and re-merged. I only say this cause people were very loyal to one or the other and I never knew the "right" one to tell people to go to. Think of it as a Britney vs Christina situation. Also, Savannah Bee Co. on Broughton is really popular.
- **Collins Quarter** — This is a popular brunch spot downtown in the historic district. They also have a walk up window where you can just order a beer and go (but i heard they might have closed it) -- super convenient.
- **Zunzi's** — This is a hole in the wall, and kinda soup nazi-ish so know what you want. The conquistador was ranked the second best sandwich in the country by Man vs Food a few years back.
- **Vinny Van Go Gos** — Fun place to grab pizza in City Market
- **Six Pence** — A British pub off Chippewa with a long beer list and a nice happy hour. Easy to find cause it has a bright red phone booth outside.
- **Leopolds** — For ice cream. Ranked some of the best ice cream, but the line can be devastatingly long.

SOUTHERN FOOD

- **Mrs. Wilkes'** — So this is a boarding house on Jones Street (which is always ranked one of the most beautiful streets in the country). It's a boarding house and is family style -- so you go in and sit around a big community table and they place the food on the table and you pass it around family style. Don't be intimidated if there's a big line outside -- it moves pretty fast.

- **Sweet Potato's** — So this one is off the beaten path, but it's great and my family goes here fairly often. It's on the south side in a not so picturesque area but the banana pudding is bomb.

NEW-ISH, HIP PLACES:

- **Artillery** — A pretty cool little speak easy-ish type of place. There's a dress code that's enforced (no shorts, flip flops, or t-shirts for guys); my cousin has been asked to leave. Sucker.
- **Treylor Park** — Bar/restaurant with a small cool little back patio/bar that's off an alley. They also have a second location called Hitch that's closer to the Cathedral.
- **The Peregrin** — Rooftop Bar at the Perry Lane Hotel. Love this place.
- **Emporium** — It's on the bottom of the same hotel.
- **Rocks on the Roof** — On top of the Bohemian Hotel that straddles River Street and Bay. There's also another hotel rooftop bar like, two down from this called Top Deck but I like Rocks better.
- **The Gray** — It's a restaurant but there's also a cool little Dinner Bar up front. Not quite as walkable of an area though.
- **Public** — Right next door to Artillery. It's more of a restaurant, and from what I hear the same owners opened Artillery next door because the bar here kept getting too busy.
- **AlleyCat Lounge** — Cool Vibe, but you're in a basement.

DIVE BARS

Cause this is what life is really like

- **Pinkies** — Cash only. Amazing. Supposedly Jimmy Carter announced his bid for presidency here back in the day. So there's one wall with a lot of pictures of him on it....as well as old advertisements from the 70s and 80s that would never fly in today's political climate. Really cool place and is also right around the corner from the Cathedral. Cash only.
- **McDonoughs** — Love with a fiery passion. Great for karaoke, but it's also one of those places no one goes until like midnight at the earliest. Also, it's one of the few bars that's open on a Sunday.
- **Abes on Linclon** — Cause I love a good pun
- **The Rail Pub** — Kinda trashy, has an outdoor patio, you randomly have to go outside and go up some back staircases to get to certain parts. Was recently called the best Dive Bar in the Country by some Bar/Media Association.
- **Jen and Friends** — So, this is a great cocktail bar. Very small inside and very popular so people usually end up spilling out into the sidewalk/street. Right off Bull Street (between Broughton and Congress) by Johnson Square.

TYBEE ISLAND

So I really only go to Tybee sparingly, and when I do it's usually when we're drinking at someone's beach house. If we were going to a beach growing up, we'd hop in the boat and go

out to one of the barrier islands. So unless you're going to go sit on the beach, it's not worth driving out there. It's getting nicer with the film industry, but it's still not exactly a sparkling gem. Honestly I don't know what to do on tybee besides drink, eat, and sit on the beach. Here are some food places:

- **AJ's Dockside** — Fun outdoor atmosphere. I'd probably just drive the golf cart over. Solid food.
- **Tybee Island Social Club** — It has a cool vibe. The food is good but the portions are small/overpriced -- Whichever way you wanna look at it.
- **Huc-a-poos** — So this is a pizza place (I honestly have no idea if its good. It probably is) but also where the Tybee locals go get hammered. I've had some great New Years here.
- Then there's the main drag on Tybee by the pier where you will see some shit. Just please avoid Rock House. Only went there once years ago, but it gave off the vibe that you'd get roofied there. Maybe it was an off night. We all drank one beer and then left as quick as we could.

And honestly Savannah has changed a lot, so there's probably a lot of stuff that opened that I don't know about, and I'm sure there's a lot of stuff that I'm forgetting.