



Rotary trip to Georgia

WHAT FASCINATED ME IN GEORGIA

1. An incredible number of trees in all the cities we visited, rows of trees along the roads, neighborhoods with trees over a hundred years old. The oldest tree in Savannah is over 250 years old!







2. Water all around: the ocean, rivers and hundreds of small lakes that allow 100% irrigation of nearby land/farms.





3. Areas covered with grass along the roads and next to every house, a large number of golf courses.





4. An excellent network of freeway and regional roads, which, with good cars, allows you to quickly reach other places.



5. Relatively small cities (except Savannah) with the population of 10-15,000 inhabitants have huge companies: Brunswick- the largest import car lot in the U.S. with over 7,000,000 cars per year, Perry - the largest company in the USA for the repair and servicing of aircraft with over 22,000 employees (more than the population), the largest production of peacocks, peaches and blueberries, Hazlehurst - Beasley Group - the largest wood processor in the U.S. and second in the world, Cotton Partners LLC - the largest cotton mill in the U.S., Savannah - 16 million tourists per year and the second largest port in the USA. The largest social event is the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, when up to 500,000 people gather in Savannah.







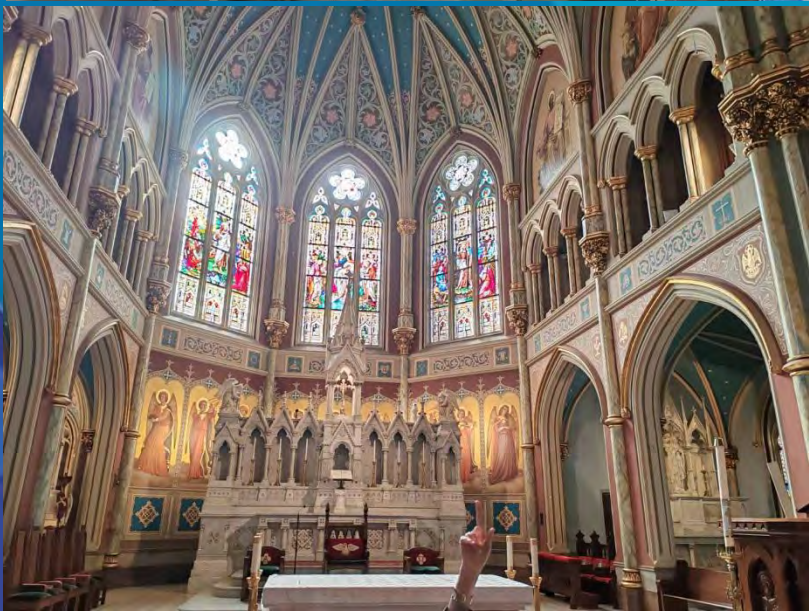


6. In all cities except Savannah, we saw mostly single-storey or one-storey houses, spacious (600 to even 1,500 square meters) and very expensive to buy, (especially in Savannah, St.Simons Island, Jekyll Island, where the prices go over 1 million dollars)! The lawns are landscaped and many houses have swimming pools. It is interesting that there are not many typical houses, each one has its own special architecture. Most houses don't have a fence!

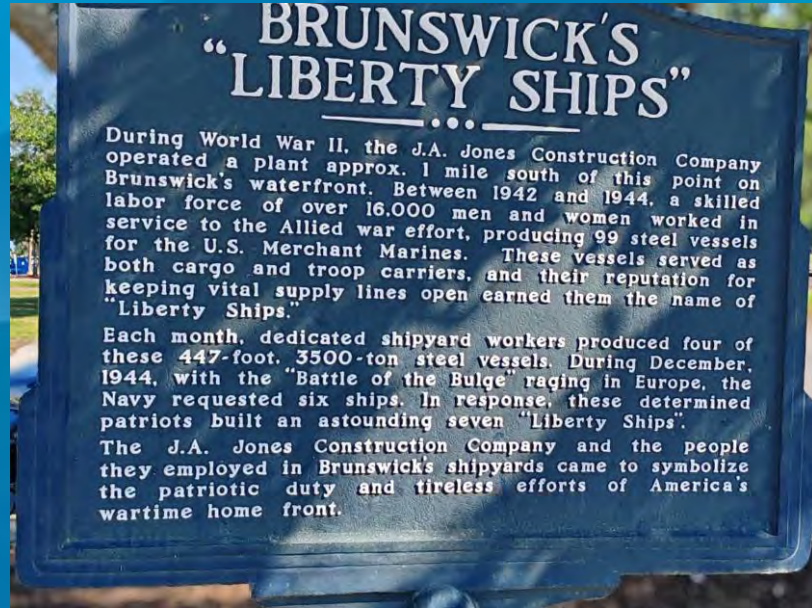


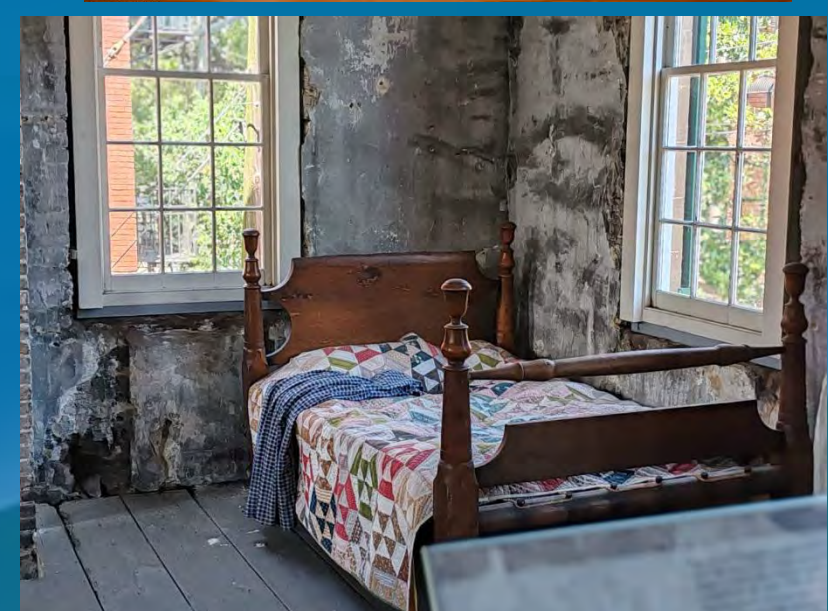
7. There are no tall buildings or skyscrapers in Savannah. There are many museums, monuments and historical buildings. The city of Savannah and its citizens protect their old part of the city; the squares are amazing with monuments, fountains and lots of parks and trees. New buildings perfectly fit together with the old ones (example - the JW Marriott Hotel in the Savannah Plant Riverside District).









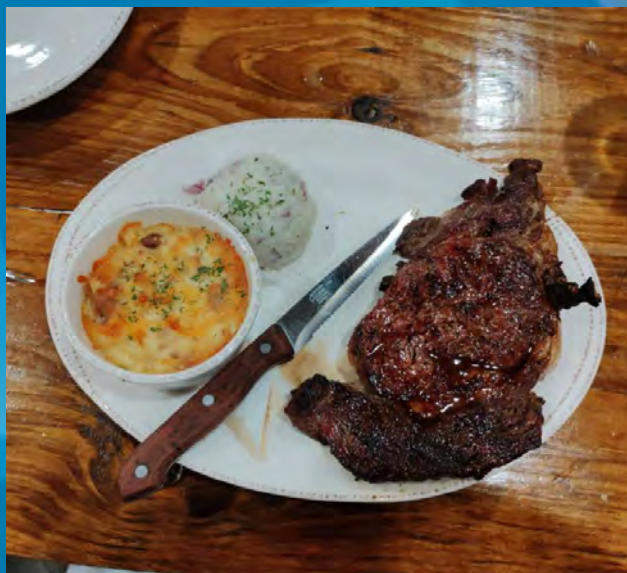


8. People are very kind and friendly, not only employees in shops and restaurants, but also passers-by in everyday contacts and situations - on the street, in the traffic, in restaurants, etc. During the entire stay, we did not hear any driver use the car horn!



9. The meals are plentiful; what surprised us that at Rotary club meetings there was no Coca Cola (that being the local brand from Atlanta) - just water and ice tea (sweetened and unsweetened).





10. The hospitality of all our hosts was phenomenal; the whole trip was perfectly organized with good accommodation, transfer from one host to the next, sightseeing in each city- museums, churches, historical sites, famous restaurants, the renowned Leopold's Ice Cream in Savannah and many other places.









A big thank you to our hosts Mike and Nancy, Janice, Gary and Sue, Misty, Pam, Joe, Allen, Shrad, Bill and Barbara, Marjorie, Pete and Joanie, Todd and Penny, Greg and Marcy, Terry and Teresa, who welcomed us in their homes and all the other Rotarians and Club Presidents who really went out of their way to take us around and make us feel welcome in their cities.

A special big thank you to PDG Hamsa Thota for the excellent organization of our trip and to his wife Sindhy and daughter Devi for their hospitality!





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