

bonaventure cemetery map self guided tour

bonaventure cemetery map self guided tour offers an enriching way to explore one of Savannah, Georgia's most famous and historic cemeteries at your own pace. This self-guided approach allows visitors to appreciate the artistry, history, and natural beauty of Bonaventure Cemetery without the constraints of a scheduled tour. By utilizing a detailed cemetery map, individuals can navigate the winding paths and locate significant monuments, notable graves, and scenic spots that define this iconic location. Whether interested in the famous sculptures, the stories of those interred, or the lush landscape, a self-guided tour with a map enables a personalized experience tailored to each visitor's interests. This article will provide comprehensive information on how to effectively use a Bonaventure Cemetery map for a self-guided tour, including key points of interest, practical tips, and historical context. Explore the best routes and highlights to create a memorable and informative visit. Below is an overview of the main topics covered in this guide.

- Understanding Bonaventure Cemetery
- Using the Bonaventure Cemetery Map
- Key Attractions on a Self-Guided Tour
- Practical Tips for Visitors
- Historical Significance and Notable Burials

Understanding Bonaventure Cemetery

Bonaventure Cemetery is a historic and picturesque cemetery located in Savannah, Georgia. Established in 1846, it spans over 100 acres and is known for its beautiful statuary, majestic oak trees draped with Spanish moss, and winding pathways. The cemetery serves as the final resting place for many notable figures and reflects Savannah's rich cultural heritage. Understanding the layout and significance of Bonaventure Cemetery is essential for a rewarding self-guided tour experience. It combines natural beauty with deep historical roots, making it both a cultural landmark and a serene outdoor space. This section will provide an overview of the cemetery's background, layout, and importance to the local community and visitors alike.

Overview of the Cemetery Layout

The cemetery is divided into several sections, each featuring unique monuments, family plots, and landscapes. The main entrance is located on Bonaventure Road, where visitors can obtain maps and information. The grounds include notable areas such as the Historic District, the Potter's Field, and various memorial gardens. The pathways are well-maintained but can be winding and hilly, so having a map is crucial to avoid confusion. The layout encourages leisurely exploration, with many benches and shaded areas for rest along the way.

Significance in Savannah's History

Bonaventure Cemetery is more than just a burial ground; it is a repository of Savannah's history. Many influential citizens, artists, and veterans are buried here, and the cemetery reflects changing funerary art styles from the 19th century to present. It also symbolizes Savannah's Southern Gothic charm, often featured in literature and film. This historical context adds depth to a self-guided tour, enhancing appreciation for the stories behind the gravestones and monuments encountered along the route.

Using the Bonaventure Cemetery Map

The Bonaventure Cemetery map is an essential tool for visitors undertaking a self-guided tour. It provides a detailed layout of the grounds, highlighting significant gravesites, sculptures, pathways, and facilities. Proper use of the map ensures that visitors can easily locate points of interest without missing important features. This section will explain how to read and utilize the map effectively, including tips for planning your route and maximizing the tour experience.

Features of the Cemetery Map

The map typically includes marked trails, numbered plots, and symbols indicating restrooms, benches, and parking areas. Key landmarks such as the Bird Girl statue, famous family plots, and notable monuments are often highlighted. The map may also show elevation changes and suggested walking routes to accommodate different visitor preferences. Understanding these features allows visitors to customize their tour according to time available and interests.

Planning Your Self-Guided Route

Before beginning the tour, it is advisable to study the map and decide on a starting point and key sites to visit. Visitors can choose either a circular route to cover the major attractions or focus on specific sections of the cemetery. The map aids in estimating the distance and time required for the walk, which helps in scheduling the visit comfortably. Planning also involves identifying areas with shade or seating to take breaks, especially during warmer months.

Key Attractions on a Self-Guided Tour

Several prominent features and gravesites make Bonaventure Cemetery a compelling destination. Using the cemetery map, visitors can locate these highlights and gain insight into their historical and artistic significance. This section outlines some of the most notable attractions that should be included in a thorough self-guided tour.

The Bird Girl Statue

One of the most famous sculptures in Bonaventure Cemetery is the Bird Girl statue, originally featured on the cover of the book "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." The statue is an iconic symbol of the cemetery's artistic heritage and draws many visitors. The map shows its exact location, allowing tourists to easily find and photograph this hauntingly beautiful sculpture.

Notable Family Plots

The cemetery contains several distinguished family plots, including those of prominent Savannah families such as the Scarbroughs and the DeWolfs. These areas often feature elaborate monuments and mausoleums, reflecting the wealth and status of the families. The map provides plot numbers and locations, enabling visitors to explore these sections and learn about the families' contributions to Savannah's history.

Historic Monuments and Sculptures

Bonaventure Cemetery is renowned for its funerary art, including marble angels, obelisks, and symbolic carvings. These monuments represent various artistic styles and cultural influences over the decades. Visitors can follow the map to encounter these works scattered throughout the cemetery, each

telling a unique story about the deceased and their era.

Practical Tips for Visitors

To optimize the experience of a Bonaventure Cemetery map self guided tour, visitors should consider several practical aspects. This section outlines essential tips to ensure safety, comfort, and enjoyment during the visit.

Best Times to Visit

Early mornings and late afternoons are ideal for touring Bonaventure Cemetery, as temperatures are cooler and lighting enhances the natural beauty. Weekdays tend to be less crowded, allowing for a more peaceful atmosphere. Seasonal considerations include spring and fall when the weather is mild and the foliage complements the cemetery's scenery.

What to Bring

Visitors should bring water, comfortable walking shoes, and sun protection such as hats and sunscreen. A printed or digital copy of the Bonaventure Cemetery map is essential for navigation. Additionally, a camera or smartphone is useful for capturing the scenic views and monuments. Carrying a small notebook or guidebook can also enrich the experience by providing historical context during the walk.

Respect and Etiquette

As a place of rest, Bonaventure Cemetery requires visitors to observe respectful behavior. Loud conversations, littering, and disturbing gravesites are prohibited. Visitors should stay on designated paths and avoid climbing on monuments. Following these guidelines ensures the preservation of the cemetery's dignity and allows all visitors to enjoy the site responsibly.

Historical Significance and Notable Burials

The historical importance of Bonaventure Cemetery is reflected in the lives of those buried within its grounds. The cemetery serves as a testament to Savannah's cultural, military, and social history. This section explores some of the notable individuals interred at Bonaventure and their contributions to

the region and beyond.

Prominent Figures Buried at Bonaventure

Bonaventure Cemetery is the final resting place of many influential figures, including politicians, artists, and war veterans. Among them are members of Savannah's founding families and individuals who played key roles in Georgia's development. Visiting their gravesites provides insight into local history and the narratives that shaped the community.

Military Memorials and Veterans

The cemetery contains dedicated sections honoring military veterans from various conflicts, including the Civil War and both World Wars. These memorials and gravesites offer a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by service members. The cemetery map highlights these areas, allowing visitors to pay respects and reflect on the historical significance of these commemorations.

Influence on Literature and Culture

Bonaventure Cemetery has inspired numerous literary and artistic works, most notably featured in John Berendt's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." The cemetery's evocative atmosphere and storied past continue to attract writers, filmmakers, and tourists alike. Understanding this cultural impact adds another layer of appreciation during a self-guided tour using the cemetery map.

List of Essentials for a Successful Bonaventure Cemetery Self-Guided Tour

- Detailed Bonaventure Cemetery map (printed or digital)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Water bottle to stay hydrated
- Sun protection: hat, sunscreen, sunglasses
- Camera or smartphone for photos

- Notebook or guidebook for historical notes
- Respectful attitude and adherence to cemetery rules
- Plan for breaks and rest in shaded areas
- Awareness of weather and timing for best conditions

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Bonaventure Cemetery map for a self-guided tour?

The Bonaventure Cemetery map for a self-guided tour is a detailed layout of the cemetery that helps visitors navigate and explore notable graves, monuments, and landmarks at their own pace without a guided group.

Where can I find a Bonaventure Cemetery map for a self-guided tour?

You can find a Bonaventure Cemetery map for a self-guided tour on the official Savannah or Bonaventure Cemetery websites, visitor centers, or through downloadable PDF guides available online.

What are some must-see sites on a Bonaventure Cemetery self-guided tour?

Must-see sites include the graves of poet Conrad Aiken, songwriter Johnny Mercer, the famous Bird Girl statue, and various historic family plots that showcase beautiful sculptures and Southern Gothic architecture.

How long does a self-guided tour of Bonaventure Cemetery typically take?

A self-guided tour of Bonaventure Cemetery typically takes about 1 to 2 hours, depending on how many sites you stop to explore and the pace you choose to walk.

Is the Bonaventure Cemetery map easy to use for first-time visitors?

Yes, the Bonaventure Cemetery map is designed to be user-friendly with clear markers and descriptions that help first-time visitors find key locations and navigate the large grounds effectively.

Are there any mobile apps available for a Bonaventure Cemetery self-guided tour?

Yes, some mobile apps and audio guides are available that include interactive maps and detailed information to enhance a self-guided tour experience at Bonaventure Cemetery.

Can I print the Bonaventure Cemetery self-guided tour map before visiting?

Absolutely, many official sources provide printable PDF versions of the Bonaventure Cemetery map so visitors can bring a hard copy while touring the cemetery.

Is photography allowed during a self-guided tour of Bonaventure Cemetery?

Yes, photography is generally allowed during a self-guided tour of Bonaventure Cemetery, but visitors are encouraged to be respectful of the site and other visitors.

Are there any tips for using the Bonaventure Cemetery map on a self-guided tour?

Tips include wearing comfortable walking shoes, bringing water, using the map to plan your route ahead, and allowing extra time to appreciate the art, history, and peaceful environment of the cemetery.

Additional Resources

1. Exploring Bonaventure Cemetery: A Self-Guided Tour

This book offers a detailed map and comprehensive guide for visitors wanting to explore Bonaventure Cemetery at their own pace. It includes historical background, notable gravesites, and tips for making the most of a self-guided tour. Perfect for history buffs and casual tourists alike, it enhances the visitor experience with insightful commentary.

2. The Spirits of Bonaventure: Stories from the Cemetery

Delve into the fascinating tales behind the famous gravesites of Bonaventure Cemetery. This book combines historical facts with local legends, providing readers with a rich narrative that brings the cemetery's past to life. It also includes a handy map for those wishing to explore the grounds independently.

3. Bonaventure Cemetery: An Illustrated Guide

Featuring beautiful photographs and detailed maps, this guidebook is ideal for visitors who want to appreciate the art, architecture, and natural beauty

of Bonaventure Cemetery. Each section highlights key areas of the cemetery and provides historical context to the monuments and landscaping.

4. *Walking Through History: Bonaventure Cemetery Self-Guided Tours*

This book offers several thematic self-guided walking tours within Bonaventure Cemetery, focusing on topics such as notable individuals, sculptures, and the cemetery's role in Savannah's history. It includes easy-to-follow maps and insightful commentary to enrich your visit.

5. *Hidden Gems of Bonaventure Cemetery*

Discover the lesser-known stories and secret spots within Bonaventure Cemetery with this guidebook. It provides a unique map highlighting these hidden gems, encouraging visitors to explore beyond the popular sites and uncover fascinating details often overlooked.

6. *The Art and Symbolism of Bonaventure Cemetery*

Learn about the rich symbolism and artistic styles found in the monuments and sculptures of Bonaventure Cemetery. This book includes a detailed cemetery map and explanations of the various symbols, helping visitors interpret and appreciate the artistry during their self-guided tour.

7. *Bonaventure Cemetery: A Savannah Landmark*

This comprehensive guide covers the historical and cultural significance of Bonaventure Cemetery within the city of Savannah. With maps and walking routes, it's an excellent resource for those wishing to explore the cemetery independently while understanding its place in local heritage.

8. *Ghosts and Legends of Bonaventure Cemetery*

For those intrigued by the supernatural, this book explores the ghost stories and legends associated with Bonaventure Cemetery. It pairs these captivating tales with a self-guided tour map so readers can visit each spooky site on their own.

9. *Nature and History Intertwined: Bonaventure Cemetery Tour Guide*

Highlighting the unique blend of natural beauty and historical significance, this guide provides a map and detailed descriptions of the flora, fauna, and historical monuments found in Bonaventure Cemetery. It's designed for visitors interested in both nature walks and historical exploration.

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