

## Travel Directions to St. Helena Island, SC

## 27th Annual Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration



**By Air:** St. Helena Island is accessible from two International airports, Savannah, GA, & Charleston, SC. Major airlines include, Delta, US Air, Air Tran, United Express, COM air/Delta Connection & American.

**Rental Car:** Major companies

**By Train:** Amtrak service is available to & from Savannah, GA. Charleston, SC and Yemassee, SC.

**By Car:** From I-95 take exit 33 onto Hwy 17 North to Hwy 21 South through the city of Beaufort. Proceed through Lady's Island to St. Helena. Continue to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Make a right. Travel 1/2 mile to the Historic Penn Center District.

## For More Information

For additional information on Heritage Days Celebration events, dates & times, please call the Penn Center at 843-838-2432 or visit our web site at [www.penncenter.com](http://www.penncenter.com). For accommodations in Beaufort, call the **Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce** at 843-986-1102 and the **Greater Beaufort Chamber of Commerce** at 843-524-3163.

### Parking Fee: (Saturday Only)

- Reservations for RVs in Advance (843) 838-2432
- Overnight RV Parking—\$125.00

## “The Legacy of the Sea Islands”

Come join us for a down-home celebration showcasing the history of Penn School and the rich cultural legacy of the Gullah people of the Sea Islands. For the 27th year, Penn will host the Heritage Days Celebration to showcase Gullah culture featuring entertainers, such as The Darien County Gullah Shouters, Lady's Island Gospel Choir and Aunt Pearl Sue and the Gullah Kin-folk. Witness the Africanisms of basketry, storytelling, net-making, hair braiding, and bateau making that are part of a cultural legacy rooted in West Africa.

Designated a National Historic Landmark District since 1974, Penn School was the first school in the South for formerly enslaved Africans, and came to be an international model for rural education. Today, Penn is one of the premier centers for the study of Gullah culture and remains at the heart of a community of history and achievement since 1862.

Penn Center's mission is to promote and preserve Sea Island history and culture. The 27th Annual Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration will feature an Old Fashion Prayer Service, an art exhibition, traditional Gullah cuisine, a cultural symposium, community education seminars, a fish fry, oyster roast, blues performance, and an Old Fashion Craft Fair. See inside for more details on a fun-filled Gullah experience enriched by the historical significance of Penn Center.

**NEW !!**  
**SATURDAY ADMISSION**  
**\$5—Adults**  
**(Youth up to 16-FREE)**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit # 60  
St. Helena Island, SC  
29920

Penn Center, Inc.  
P. O. Box 126  
St. Helena Island, SC 29920



## 27th Annual Heritage Days Celebration

**HBCU REUNION WEEKEND**  
**“THE HOMECOMING”**  
**NOVEMBER 12-14, 2009**  
Celebrating the 27th Annual Heritage Days  
at the Historic Penn Center, Inc.  
St. Helena Island, SC  
(843) 838-2432 [www.penncenter.com](http://www.penncenter.com)



*Historically Black Colleges & Universities*

**Penn Center Historic District**  
P. O. Box 126  
16 Penn Center Circle West  
St. Helena Island, SC 29920  
843-838-2432

Email: [info@penncenter.com](mailto:info@penncenter.com)

Web: [www.penncenter.com](http://www.penncenter.com)

## Thursday, November 12th

**Penn School Founders Memorial Service**  
*Honoring Laura Towne, Ellen Murray & Charlotte Forten*  
3:00 PM– 4:00 PM  
Brick Baptist Church Cemetery

**27th Annual Heritage Days Celebration**  
**Opening Ceremony**  
**Flags of the Gullah People**  
**Processional & Presentation**  
4:00 PM– 5:30 PM  
Center Stage

**Gallery Opening**  
**“African American Artists of the Lowcountry”**  
York W. Bailey Museum  
Gallery Talk & Reception  
5:30 PM–7:00 PM  
(Open to the public)

**“The Road of Remembrance”**  
(Youth theatrical production of Eras of Penn School )  
6:00 PM– 7:00 PM  
Frissell Hall  
Adults \$5/ Students \$3 (6 years old and under)

**Old Fashion Prayer Service**  
7:30 PM– 9:00 PM  
Bethesda Christian Fellowship  
Brick Baptist Church  
Ebenezer Baptist Church



## Friday, November 13th

**Heritage Symposium & Luncheon**  
**“Preserving the Gullah Geechee Heritage”**  
10:00 AM—1:00 PM  
1:00 PM—Lunch Served

The Heritage Symposium will feature a panel of  
**HBCU Presidents and Commissioners of the**  
**Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor**  
Adults \$25/Students \$15  
St. Helena Elementary School Auditorium

**“Kids Day”**  
**Educational Exhibit**  
**“Growing the Dream”**  
Learn about Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.  
and visit a life-size replica of his Atlanta home.  
(Sponsored by the Nat. Black Arts Festival)

9:30-3:00 PM—Darrah Hall  
**Center Stage Entertainment**  
10:00 AM—3:00 Noon  
Storytellers, Dancers, Poets, Musicians,  
African Drummers, Step Teams, School Choirs  
All Outdoor Campus Events / Ticket: \$4

### **Gullah Roots Village & De Rice Shack**

**“Nyam em op”** (Gullah for “Let’s eat”)  
12:00 Noon–4:00 PM  
Visit Penn Center Dining Hall (East)

**Fish Fry, Oyster Roast, Crab Crack & Blues**  
6:00 PM– Midnight  
Penn Center Grounds  
\$5—\$15

## Saturday, November 14th

**27th Annual Heritage Days Parade**  
(Visitors should be in place by 8:00 am)  
9:00 AM– 10:30 AM  
Sea Island Parkway to M.L. King Drive

**Old Fashion Craft Fair**  
9:00 AM– 5:00 PM  
Crafts, exhibits, food, and merchandise vendors

**FESTIVAL TICKETS: \$5-Adults; Youth-Free**  
**(up to 16 years old) - Buy tickets at entrance**

**Center Stage Entertainment**  
11:00 AM–5:00 PM  
Gullah Storytellers, Singers, Aunt Pearl Sue, African  
Drummers & Dancers, Gospel Singers  
Penn Center Grounds

**YORK W. BAILEY MUSEUM**  
Tickets: \$4-Adults; \$2-Youth

**Gullah Roots Village & De Rice Shack**  
Demonstrations of the West African/ Gullah  
cultural connection, including bateau making  
Penn Center Grounds

1:00 p.m.  
Special presentation and reception  
**National HBCU Art Exhibition**  
Frissell Community House

**Motown Hit Parade Dance**  
**Frankie “The Big Bopper”**  
\$15 Per Person / \$25 Couples  
Location: St. Helena Elem. School Gymnasium

## Sunday, November 15th

**Sunday Morning Worship Service**  
11:00 AM–1:00 PM  
**Local Churches**  
(Brick Baptist—10:00 a.m.,  
all other churches 11:00 a.m.)



*Heritage Days Performers*

### **Thursday-Saturday** **Ongoing Activities**

Visit the **York W. Bailey Museum** and see the exhibit on the *Port Royal Experiment* and enjoy daily Gullah film series. The museum interprets the history of Penn School and the cultural legacy of the Gullah People. Special Heritage Days admission fees.

Tour the Gullah communities of:  
St. Helena Is./Gullah Mahn Tours—(843) 838-7516  
Hilton Head Is./Gullah Heritage Tours(843) 681-7066  
Or email: [tourinfo@gullahheritage.com](mailto:tourinfo@gullahheritage.com)