



## Cruise Line Could Call Savannah Home

By Chris Justus, The Coastal Source, 9/29/09

SAVANNAH, GA-- The fact that Savannah is already a tourist friendly city has Savannah City Council, the Georgia Port Authority, and the Savannah Visitor's Bureau meeting Tuesday to discuss the possibility of making Savannah a permanent home to a cruise line. An idea that would have a major impact on the area's economy. "Well a permanent cruise line for savannah would be a tremendous economic boom," says City Councilman Jeff Felser. Savannah does have some cruise ships sail through the city every now and then. On November 6 and 7, the MS Deutschland, a ship holds 600 passengers will be coming through the city. Felser hopes the visiting cruise lines will one day make Savannah its permanent port. "Savannah would be a great home because our port is ever expanding and ever growing, and our city is attractive to tourist in many ways this would just add to it as a destination site," says Felser. "You got the largest registered historic district in the nation, 72 square blocks. most parks of any city in the nation, 21 in the downtown area, 31 islands, 2 light houses and beach area, 9 other rivers great stop off point waiting for a cruise ship," explains Ron McLendon who supports the idea. Savannah's geographic location is also a plus for tourists, "Well it would be a little closer, yeah we usually have to go to Florida to catch a cruise ship, this would be a nice place to catch one," says Janet Bedwell who is visiting Savannah from Ohio. With the addition of a cruise line, more jobs could be created. "People are still indulging in entertainment and having fun, so it'll be a good boost for the city of Savannah," states Phillip Rector. Tuesday's meeting got the ball rolling on the idea. However, concerns like downtown parking and the depth of the river still need to be addressed.