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**WILLIAMSBURG**  
VIRGINIA

There is probably no better place in America to experience this country's pre-Revolutionary War history than the Historic Triangle. Between Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown, visitors get a full picture of life in Colonial times. The lessons are multisensory: museums, battlefields, restorations, and reenactments appeal to history buffs of every age. When you're ready to teleport back to the present, you can head to places of pure recreation: amusement parks such as Busch Gardens and Water Country USA, outlet shopping, or a round of golf.

#### WORD OF MOUTH

"Before you walk over to the Jamestown settlement do yourself a favor and stop at the amazing museum they have created. The museum takes you through several stages such as conditions in England, the trip on the ships (including finding the North Star), the East India company, history of the Indians (including a wonderful display on Pocahontas which enthralled our 3.5 year old daughter), the conditions of slavery and much more—it was well worth the time." —zlaor

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Start with Virginia's best-known tourist area, the Historic Triangle. You'll believe you're in another century, and you really are. Colonial Williamsburg, a careful, on-the-spot restoration of the former Virginia capital, gives you the chance to walk into the 18th century and see how early Americans lived. The streets may be unrealistically clean for that era, and you can find hundreds of others exploring the buildings with you, but the rich detail of the re-creation and the sheer size of the city could hold your attention for days. A ticket or pass (price is based on the number of attractions and the duration of visit) admits the holder to sites in the restored area, but it costs nothing just to walk around and absorb the atmosphere.

Williamsburg anchors three elements of Colonial National Historical Park. The 23-mile Colonial Parkway links Williamsburg to Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield, two other significant historical sites on or near the peninsula bounded by the James and York rivers. Close by are Jamestown Settlement and the excellent Yorktown Victory Center, both run by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Like Colonial Williamsburg, these two sites re-create the buildings and activities of the Colonial period, using interpreters in period dress.

#### JAMESTOWN

*9 mi southwest of Colonial Williamsburg via Colonial Pkwy.*

The desperate strivings of Englishmen to stay alive and establish a foothold in the New World become

evident when visiting Jamestown, the beginning of English settlement in this country. Its two major sights are places to explore the early relationship between the English and Native Virginia Indians.

#### Exploring



**Historic Jamestowne.** An island originally connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus, Historic Jamestowne was the site of the first permanent English settlement in North America (1607) and the capital of Virginia until 1699. May 13, 2007, marked the 400th anniversary of its founding. The first settlers' bitter struggle for survival here, on the now uninhabited land, makes for a visit that stirs the imagination. Redbrick foundation walls roughly outline the settlement, and artists' conceptions of the original buildings can be seen at several locations. The only standing structure is the ruin of a church tower from the 1690s, now part of the Memorial Church built in 1907; the markers within indicate the original church's foundations. Other monuments around the site also date from the tercentenary celebration in 1907. Statues portray the founder of Jamestown, Captain John Smith, and his advocate, the Native American princess Pocahontas, whom Smith credited with saving him from being beheaded.

Near the entrance to the park, you can stop at the reconstructed Glasshouse to observe a demonstration of glassblowing, an unsuccessful business venture of the early colonists. The products of today are for sale in a gift shop. Archaeological discoveries from the site are showcased at the Archaearium. You

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can also observe digs on-site where archaeologists from Preservation Virginia continue to dig up evidence of colonists' and Native Americans' ways of life, including the remains of the original 1607 fort. A visitor center near the main parking lot tells the history of Jamestown and the Virginia Indians, Europeans, and African peoples who lived here. Ranger-guided tours, held daily, explore events in Jamestown's history. Living-history programs are presented daily in summer and on weekends in spring and autumn.

A 5- or 8-mile nature drive that rings the island is posted with informative signs and paintings. ☒ Off Colonial Pkwy. ☎ 757/898-2410 ☎ \$10; (under 16 free) includes admission to both Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield ☺ Daily 9-5; gates close at 4:30.

**Fodor's Choice** **Jamestown Settlement.** Adjacent to but distinct from Historic Jamestowne is a mainland living-history museum called Jamestown Settlement. The site marries 40,000 square feet of indoor facilities (completed in 2006) with outdoor replicas of the early James Fort, the three ships that brought the founding colonists from England, and a Powhatan Indian village. The introductory film *1607: A Nation Takes Root* is shown in a 250-seat theater. The handsome Tudor-style Great Hall is arranged by decades from 1607 to 1699, when the capital was moved to Williamsburg. Gallery

exhibits examine the lives of the Powhatans and their English-born neighbors, their interaction, and world conditions that encouraged colonization. Outdoors within James Fort, interpreters in costume cook, forge metal, and describe what life was like under thatch roofs and between walls of wattle and daub (stick framework covered with mud plaster). In the Powhatan Indian village you can enter a *yehakin* (house) and see buckskin-costumed interpreters cultivate crops and make tools. At the pier are full-scale reproductions of the ships in which the settlers arrived: *Godspeed*, *Discovery*, and *Susan Constant*. All the vessels are seaworthy; you may climb aboard the *Susan Constant* and find out more from the sailor-interpreters. Indoor exhibits examine the lives of the Powhatans and their English-born neighbors, their interaction, and world conditions that encouraged colonization. A riverfront discovery area provides information about 17th-century water travel, commerce, and cultural exchange, reflecting Powhatan Indian, European, and African traditions. Dugout-canoe making takes place in this area. Spring and fall bring lots of school groups, so it's best to arrive after 2 pm. ☒ Rte. 31 off Colonial Pkwy. ☎ 757/253-4838 or 888/593-4682 ☉ [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org) ☎ \$14; combination ticket with Yorktown Victory Center \$19.25 ☺ June 15-Aug. 15, daily 9-6; Aug. 16-June 14, daily 9-5.

## GUIDED TOURS

Hour-long guided walking tours of the historic area depart from the Greenhow Lumber House daily. Reservations should be made on the day of the tour at the Lumber House (☎ Duke of Gloucester St. ☎ 757/220-7645) and can be made only by those with tickets to Colonial Williamsburg.


“The Original Ghosts of Williamsburg” Candlelight Tour (☎ 757/253-1058 [www.theghosttour.com](http://www.theghosttour.com)), a 1¼-hour, lantern-lighted guided tour, costs \$11 and is led by interpreters well versed in Colonial history.

Lantern Tours (available in summer ☎ 757/229-1000) takes you on an evening walk of trade shops where jewelry and other products are made in 18th-century style. Tickets for this program may be purchased at the visitor center or the Greenhow Lumber House.



## COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

51 mi southeast of Richmond via I-64.

 Williamsburg was the capital of Virginia from 1699 to 1780, after Jamestown and before Richmond. Williamsburg hasn't been politically important for a long time, but now that Colonial Williamsburg is there to represent it in its era of glory, it's a jewel of the commonwealth. Outside the restored area is a modern city with plenty of dining and lodging options and attractions, including theme parks, outlet shopping, and fantastic golf greens.

Colonial Williamsburg has a number of ticket options, from a \$34.95 one-day pass (\$17.45 for ages 6–17) to a full-year membership.

The **Visitor Center** is the logical first stop at Colonial Williamsburg. Here you can park for free; buy tickets; see a 35-minute introductory movie, *Williamsburg—the Story of a Patriot*; and pick up *This Week*, which has a list of regular events and special programs and a map of the Historic Area. Tickets are also sold at the Lumber House in the historic area.

### Main Attractions

**Bruton Parish Church.** Since it was built in 1715, this lovely brick church has served continuously as a house of worship. One of its 20th-century pastors, W.A.R. Goodwin, provided the impetus for Williamsburg's restoration. The church tower, topped

by a beige wooden steeple, was added in 1769; during the Revolution its bell served as the local “liberty bell,” rung to summon people for announcements. When sitting in a pew, listening to the history of the church, keep in mind that you could be sitting where Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, or George Washington once listened to sermons. The stone baptismal font is believed to have come from an older Jamestown church. Many local eminences, including one royal governor, are interred in the graveyard. The fully operational church is open to the public; contributions are accepted. ☎ Duke of Gloucester St. west of Palace Green.

**Capitol.** It was this building that made Williamsburg so important. Here the prerevolutionary House of Burgesses (dominated by the ascendant gentry) challenged the royally appointed council (an almost medieval body made up of the bigger landowners). In 1765 the House eventually arrived at the resolutions, known as Henry's Resolves (after Patrick Henry), that amounted to rebellion. An informative tour explains the development, stage by stage, of American democracy from its English parliamentary roots. In the courtroom a guide recites the sentences that were meted out: for instance, theft of more than 12 shillings was a capital crime. Occasional reenactments, including witch trials, dramatize the evolution of American jurisprudence. What stands on the site today is a reproduction of the 1705 structure

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## COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG TIPS

You can amble around the Historic Area for free, but you'll miss some of the most interesting aspects of Williamsburg by not entering the buildings or seeing the excellent programs staged by skilled reenactors. It is well worth the price of admission.

The best deal for tickets is if you buy in advance off the Historic Williamsburg Web site.

For walking tours, be sure to park at the visitor center, as cars are not permitted on Duke of Gloucester Street.

The stirring Fifes and Drums March travels from the Capitol to the Palace Green. Don't miss the spectacle of dozens of young men dressed in period costume marching through Williamsburg's streets.

Check the Bruton Parish Web site, [www.bruntonparish.org](http://www.bruntonparish.org), for free candlelight recitals in the evening.



that burned down in 1747. Dark-wood wainscotting, pewter chandeliers, and towering ceilings make a handsome impression. That an official building would have so ornate an interior was characteristic of aristocratic 18th-century Virginia. ☒ *East end of Duke of Gloucester St.*

**DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.** Adding another cultural dimension that goes well beyond Colonial history, this museum covers the decorative arts of the time. Grouped by medium are English and American furniture, textiles, prints, metals, and ceramics of the 17th to the early 19th century. If you're yawning at the thought of fancy tableware, stop: presentations here are creative and surprising. You enter the museum through the Public Hospital. ☒ *Francis St.*

**George Wythe House.** Wythe, Thomas Jefferson's law professor and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, lived in this home. General Washington used the residence as a headquarters just before his victory at Yorktown. The large brick structure, built in the mid-18th century, is conspicuously symmetrical: each side has a chimney, and each floor has two rooms on either side of a center hallway. The garden in back is similarly divided. The outbuildings, including a smokehouse, kitchen, laundry, outhouses, and a chicken coop, are reconstructions. ☒ *West side of Palace Green*

**Governor's Palace.** His Majesty's Governor Alexander Spotswood built the original Governor's Palace in 1720, and seven British viceroys, the last of them Lord Dunmore in 1775, lived in this appropriately showy mansion. The 540 weapons, including 230 muskets and pistols, arrayed on the walls of several rooms herald the power of the Crown. Some of the furnishings are original, and the rest are matched to

an extraordinary inventory of 16,000 items. Lavishly appointed as it is, the palace is furnished to the time just before the Revolution. During the Revolution, it housed the commonwealth's first two governors, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. The original residence burned down in 1781, and today's reconstruction stands on the original foundation. ☒ *Northern end of Palace Green.*

**Peyton Randolph House.** This was the home of a prominent colonist and revolutionary who served as attorney general under the British, then as Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and later as president of the first and second Continental Congresses. The oak-paneled bedroom and Randolph family silver are remarkable. ☒ *Nicholson and. N. England Sts.*

**Raleigh Tavern.** Prerevolutionary revels and rallies took place in this gathering spot, and were often joined by Washington, Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and other major figures. The spare but elegant blue-and-white Apollo Room is said to have been the first meeting place of Phi Beta Kappa, the scholastic honorary society founded in 1776. In 1824, the French general Marquis de Lafayette was feted here. The original structure burned in 1859, and today's building is a reconstruction based on archaeological evidence and period descriptions and sketches of the building. ☒ *Duke of Gloucester St., west of Capitol.*

### Also Worth Seeing

**Courthouse.** The original courthouse of 1770 was used by municipal and county courts until 1932. Civil and minor criminal matters and cases involving slaves were adjudicated here; other trials were conducted at the Capitol. The stocks once used to punish misdemeanors are outside the building and make for a funny photo opportunity. The building's

## NEED A BREAK?

At the west end of Duke of Gloucester Street, for a block on both sides, **Merchants Square** has more than 40 shops and restaurants, including an ice cream parlor, coffee shop, cheese shop, chocolatier, movie theater, peanut shop, and gourmet food store. The Kimball Theatre on Merchants Square shows movies daily and has live family entertainment on weekends.

🌐 [www.kimballtheatre.com](http://www.kimballtheatre.com).

exterior has been restored to its original appearance. Visitors often participate in scheduled reenactments of court sessions. ☒ *North side of Duke of Gloucester St., west of Queen St.*

**Duke of Gloucester Street.** Colonial Williamsburg's spine runs up this broad 1-mile-long street. On Saturday at 1 pm from March to October, the Fifes and Drums Corps marches the length of the street and performs a stirring drill. Along this artery alone, or just off it, are two-dozen attractions. Walking west on Duke of Gloucester Street from the Capitol, you can find a dozen 18th-century shops—including those of the apothecary, the wig maker, the silversmith, and the milliner.

**James Anderson's Blacksmith Shop.** Smiths forge the nails, tools, and other iron hardware at this blacksmith shop, which is used in construction throughout the town. The shop itself was reconstructed by carpenters using 18th-century tools and techniques. ☒ *Between Botetourt and Colonial Sts., on south side of Duke of Gloucester St.*

**Magazine.** The original Magazine (1715), an octagonal brick warehouse, was used for storing arms and ammunition—at one time 60,000 pounds of gunpowder and 3,000 muskets. It was used for this purpose by the British and then by the Continental army. Today 18th-century firearms are on display within the arsenal. Every able-bodied man in Colonial times was expected to have and maintain a musket in his home. Between the ages of 16 and 55 men were expected to be a part of the militia, the civilian army that could be called to arms in defense of hearth and home. ☒ *West of Queen St. on south side of Duke of Gloucester St.*

**Public Hospital.** A reconstruction of a 1773 insane asylum, this hospital provides an informative, shocking look at the treatment of the mentally ill in the 18th and 19th centuries. It also serves as cover for a modern edifice that houses very different exhibitions; entrance to the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum is through the hospital lobby. ☒ *Francis St.*

**Wetherburn's Tavern.** Beginning in 1743, this tavern offered refreshment, entertainment, and lodging. It may be the most accurately furnished building in Colonial Williamsburg, with contents that conform to a room-by-room inventory taken in 1760. Excavations at this site have yielded more than 200,000 artifacts. The outbuildings include the original dairy and a reconstructed kitchen. ☒ *Duke of Gloucester St. across from Raleigh Tavern.*

### Where to Eat

✂ **Aberdeen Barn.** Saws, pitchforks, ox yokes, and the like hang on the barn walls, but the wood tables are lacquered, and the napkins are linen. Specialties include slow-roasted prime rib; baby-back Danish pork ribs barbecued with a sauce of peach preserves and Southern Comfort; and shrimp Dijon.

An ample wine list offers a wide variety of domestic and imported choices. After dinner try one their specialty coffees, including Tennessee Mud with Jack Daniels, or Franciscan Coffee. A children's menu is available. ☒ *1601 Richmond Rd.* ☎ 757/229-6661 🌐 [www.aberdeen-barn.com](http://www.aberdeen-barn.com) ☰ AE, D, MC, V ☺ No lunch. \$20.

✂ **Old Chickahominy House.** Reminiscent of old-fashioned Virginia tearooms, this Colonial-style restaurant has delectable goodies served in an 18th-century dining room. For breakfast there's Virginia ham and eggs, made-from-scratch biscuits, country bacon, sausage, homemade pancakes, and grits. Lunch brings Brunswick stew, Virginia ham biscuits, chicken and dumplings, fruit salad, and homemade pie. There's a gift shop adjacent to the restaurant. It's a great, inexpensive, and filling place for families on a budget. ☒ *1211 Jamestown Rd.* ☎ 757/229-4689 🌐 [www.oldchickahominy.com](http://www.oldchickahominy.com) ☰ MC, V ☺ No dinner. \$10.

✂ **Regency Room.** This hotel restaurant is known for its elegance, attentive service, and quality cuisine. Among crystal chandeliers, Asian silk-screen prints, and full silver service, you can sample chateaubriand carved tableside, as well as rack of lamb, Dover sole, lobster bisque, and house-smoked and -cured salmon. It may almost seem as if you're treated like royalty. A jacket and tie are required at dinner but are optional at Sunday brunch. Breakfast or brunch may be good value, but dinner could be budget-breaking for a family. ☒ *Williamsburg Inn, 136 E. Francis St.* ☎ 757/229-1000 🐾 *Reservations essential. Jacket required for dinner* ☰ AE, D, DC, MC, V. \$35.

✂ **Sal's Restaurant by Victor.** Locals love this family Italian restaurant and pizzeria. Victor Minichiello and his staff serve up pasta, fish, chicken, and veal dinners as well as subs and pizzas. It's a good choice for families who want to please the kids: parents can get quality "adult food" while their children graze on pizza and subs. An interesting side note: Chef Victor was on the International Olympics Committee. The restaurant delivers free to nearby hotels. Families rave about Sal's, especially its family feast that serves five for less than \$30. ☒ *1242 Richmond Rd.* ☎ 757/220-2641 🌐 [www.salsbyvictor.com](http://www.salsbyvictor.com) ☰ AE, D, MC, V. \$12.

### Colonial Taverns

For an authentic dining experience to match the historic setting, try one of the reconstructed taverns in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. No reservations are taken for lunch (or anytime at Chowning's Tavern), but make dinner reservations up to two or three weeks in advance (☎ 800/447-8679).

✂ **Chowning's Tavern.** A reconstructed 18th-century alehouse, Chowning's serves casual quick fare for lunch, including traditional pit-style barbecue, beef brisket sandwiches, and Smithfield ham and Gloucester cheese on a pretzel roll. You can eat either inside

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## BUSCH GARDENS SHOWS

Celtic Fyre

Mix It Up

More...Pet Shenanigans

Pirates 4-D

Sunny Days Celebration

This Is Oktoberfest

the tavern or under a grape arbor behind the tavern. After 5 pm, Chownings becomes a true Colonial tavern where Gambols (18th-century entertainment), a program presented for 25 years, operates throughout the evening. Costumed balladeers lead family sing-alongs, and costumed servers play popular games of the day. From 8 pm until closing, Chowning's caters to a more mature audience. ☎ 109 E. Duke of Gloucester St. ☹ AE, D, DC, MC, V. \$10.

✘ **Christiana Campbell's Tavern.** Across the street from the Capitol, this tavern serves traditional seafood from the rest of the British colonies of North America. Mrs. Campbell's favorite dishes are sherried shrimp, scallops, and lobster, as well as the Waterman's Supper and lump crab cakes—the tavern's signature dish. Classic sides include cabbage slaw, spoon bread, and sweet potato muffins. An evening's entertainment might include storytelling or traditional music. George Washington often met with local residents at Mrs. Campbell's tavern. ☎ Waller St. ☹ AE, D, DC, MC, V. \$31.

✘ **King's Arms Tavern.** This 18th century–style chop-house is where the gentry dined and is still the finest of the historic area's four Colonial taverns. Colonial delicacies include roast prime rib of beef, collops of pork, roast duckling, game pie, and favorites such as peanut soup and stuffed mushrooms. Mrs. Vobe's Tavern Dinner, named after the tavern's 18th-century proprietress Jane Vobe, is a fixed-price three-course meal with the trademark peanut soup; chicken and ham with potatoes, mushrooms, and tarragon; Sally Lunn bread; and a choice of desserts. ☎ 409 E. Duke of Gloucester St. ☹ AE, D, DC, MC, V. \$28.

### Amusement Parks

**Busch Gardens.** Voted the world's most beautiful theme park for 19 consecutive years, Busch Gardens features more than 50 rides and attractions, including five of the world's best roller coasters. Six beautifully landscaped European "countries" re-create the look and feel of France, Germany, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Italy. A new addition in 2009, Sesame Street Forest of Fun brings Elmo and his Sesame Street friends to life. Grover's Alpine Express, the park's newest roller coaster, is one of four new rides designed for children and parents to enjoy together and is among Busch Gardens' most popular KID-siderate attractions. In 2011 Mach Tower debuts, the park's tallest ride and a free-falling plunge for thrill-seekers. Busch Gardens also hosts popular song-and-dance shows (country, Americana, Irish, German folk) in several theaters. ☎ U.S. 60, 3 miles east of Williamsburg ☎ 800/343-7946 🌐 [www.buschgardens.com/va](http://www.buschgardens.com/va) ☎ \$59.95, child \$49.95 (prices vary according to ticket package; check Web site for deals); parking \$13 ☺ Late Mar.–mid-May, weekends; mid-May–Labor Day, daily; early Sept.–Oct., weekends; late-Nov.–Dec., weekends. Check Web site or call for exact hrs.



**Water Country USA.** Nearly 45 acres of pools, children's play areas, lazy rivers, and water rides reside at this park, boosted by a colorful 1950s surf theme. Blast down Rock 'n' Roll Island's nearly 600 feet of body slides, ride the 700-foot lazy river, or soak in the 9,000-square-foot pool. Thrill-seekers should head directly to Vanish Point, offering what the park dubs "pure liquid adrenaline" in drops from a 75-foot tower. Or relax by Virginia's largest wave pool in a lounge chair or a private cabana. There are also live entertainment, shopping, and restaurants. ☎ Rte. 199, 3 miles off I-64, Exit 242B ☎ 757/253-3350 or 800/343-7946 🌐 [www.watercountryusa.com](http://www.watercountryusa.com) ☎ \$42.95 for anyone 10 and older, child \$36 (Prices vary according to ticket package. Check the Web site for deals); parking \$13 ☺ Mid-May, weekends; June–early Sept., daily. Check Web site or call for exact hrs.

### Golf and Outdoor Activities

With 14 golf courses and miles of shoreline, the Historic Triangle has many options for sporting activities. Parks, byways, and nature trails invite walking, hiking, and biking; the James and York rivers and various tributaries are great for boating, canoeing, birding, and fishing.

#### Golf

**Colonial Williamsburg** ☎ 757/220-7696 or 800/447-8679 🌐 [www.colonialwilliamsburgresort.com/golf](http://www.colonialwilliamsburgresort.com/golf) operates three courses—the excellent 18-hole **Golden Horseshoe Course** designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr.; 18-hole **Golden Horseshoe Green**; and the 9-hole

## WORD OF MOUTH

"It is amazing what they are doing at Colonial Williamsburg to teach not only kids, but adults, what it is like to live in the 17th century. A tavern meal (Kings Arms and Christiana Campbell are my favorites) [and] an evening tour...would be a wonderful way to end a busy day. The outdoor performance of Revolutionary City is not to be missed."  
—girlwilltravel

"Do not miss eating dinner (or if you only have time for lunch, then lunch) in one of the restored area restaurants, for which you must make a reservation for dinner (can do that online or by phone) well ahead of time. I like Kings Arms or Christiana Campbell, but any are fun."  
—nomorecleaning

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executive **Spottswood Course**—but they can be used only by visitors staying in Colonial Williamsburg hotels.

**Kingsmill Resort** (☎ 1010 Kingsmill Rd. ☎ 757/253-3906 🌐 [www.kingsmill.com](http://www.kingsmill.com)), near Busch Gardens, has three 18-hole golf courses, a par-3, 9-hole course, and an award-winning golf school. **Kingsmill's River Course**, designed by Pete Dye, has hosted PGA and LPGA tournaments for more than 20 years. The resort also features **The Plantation Course**, designed by Arnold Palmer, and the **Woods Course** designed by Tom Clark and Curtis Strange.

### Jogging and Walking

The historic district as well as the College of William and Mary campus make for a splendid run. The best times for an amble along the sidewalks or cobblestone streets are early in the morning and at sundown. In the district is a 3-mile loop. Some of the nicest paths to run include the main thoroughfare of Duke of Gloucester Street, and the myriad side streets such as Botetourt and Blair streets. A 30-mile path starts at the college and runs all around the Colonial area.

### Wineries

**Williamsburg Winery**. Carrying on a Virginia tradition of wine making that began with early settlers, Virginia's largest winery produces 60,000 cases yearly. The winery offers guided tours, a well-stocked wineshop, a 17th-century tasting room, and a museum of wine-making artifacts. Be sure to give the cabernets and merlots a try. The Gabriel Archer Tavern serves a casual lunch daily and dinner Tuesday to Saturday (April–October only). In 2007 a 28-room country inn, Wedmore Place, opened on the premises. The winery is off Route 199E. To get there, turn east on Brookwood Drive and left onto Lake Powell Road. ☎ 5800 Wessex Hundred ☎ 757/229-0999 🌐 [www.williamsburgwinery.com](http://www.williamsburgwinery.com) ☎ \$8, includes tasting of 5–7 wines and a souvenir glass ☺ Apr.–Oct., Mon.–Sat. 10:30–5, Sun. 11–5; Nov.–Mar., Mon.–Sat. 10:30–4, Sun. 11–4.

### Shopping

Merchants Square, on the west end of Duke of Gloucester Street, has both licensed Williamsburg shops and non-Colonial, upscale shops that include Laura Ashley, the Porcelain Collector of Williamsburg, and the J. Fenton Gallery. There's also Quilts Unlimited and the Campus Shop, which carries William and Mary gifts and clothing.

**Williamsburg at Home** (☎ 439 W. Duke of Gloucester ☎ 757/220-7749), an official store of Colonial Williamsburg, features the full line of Williamsburg furniture, bedding, rugs, fixtures, and wallpapers. **Celebrations Williamsburg** (☎ 110 S. Henry St. ☎ 757/565-8642) displays seasonal decorations and accessories. The **Williamsburg Craft House** (☎ 305 S.

*England St.* ☎ 757/220-7747) sells a full line of Williamsburg dinnerware, flatware, glassware, pewter, giftware, and jewelry.

### Outlet Shopping

You can find many outlet malls less than 10 minutes west of Colonial Williamsburg, in the tiny town of Lightfoot. If you're driving from Richmond to Williamsburg on I-64, take Exit 234 west to Lightfoot. When you reach U.S. 60 (Richmond Road), the outlets—both freestanding and in shopping centers—are on both sides of the road. Most outlet shops are open Monday–Saturday 10–9, Sunday 10–6. In January and February some stores close weekdays at 6.

The largest of the outlets, **Prime Outlets at Williamsburg** (☎ U.S. 60, Lightfoot ☎ 757/565-0702 🌐 [www.primeoutlets.com](http://www.primeoutlets.com)) has more than 85 stores. Liz Claiborne, L. L. Bean, Waterford-Wedgwood, Eddie Bauer, Coach, Tommy Hilfiger, Brooks Bros., Nike, Guess, Nautica, and Cole Haan are all here.

The **Williamsburg Pottery Factory** (☎ U.S. 60 W, Lightfoot ☎ 757/564-3326 🌐 [www.williamsburgpottery.com](http://www.williamsburgpottery.com)) is an attraction in itself, and the parking area is usually crammed with tour buses. Covering 200 acres, the enormous store sells luggage, clothing, furniture, food and wine, china, crystal, and—its original commodity—pottery. Individual stores such as Pfaltzgraff are within the compound.

The **Williamsburg Outlet Mall** (☎ U.S. 60 W, Lightfoot ☎ 757/565-3378 🌐 [www.williamsburgoutletmall.com](http://www.williamsburgoutletmall.com)) has more than 60 shops, including Pendleton, Lee, Healthtex, Avon, and Lee/Wrangler.

**Patriot Plaza** (☎ 3032 Richmond Rd., Lightfoot ☎ 757/258-0767) has Lenox, Villeroy & Boch, Orvis, Lenox, and other factory outlets.

## YORKTOWN

*14 mi northeast of Colonial Williamsburg via Colonial Pkwy.*

It was at Yorktown that the combined American and French forces surrounded Lord Cornwallis's British troops in 1781; this was the end to the Revolutionary War and the beginning of the United States. In Yorktown today, as at Jamestown, two major attractions complement each other. Yorktown Battlefield, the historical site, is operated by the National Park Service; and Yorktown Victory Center, which has recreations and informative exhibits, is operated by the state's Jamestown–Yorktown Foundation. A stately Watermen's Museum educates visitors about those who earn their living from the nearby waters.

### Exploring

Settled in 1691, Yorktown had become a thriving tobacco port and a prosperous community of several hundred houses by the time of the Revolution. Nine buildings from that time still stand, some of them open to visitors. **Moore House**, where the terms of

## WORD OF MOUTH

"If you are traveling with kids, then I would opt for the Jamestown Settlement/Yorktown Victory Center combination. There are more costumed interpreters and activities directly engaging kids. The canoe hollowing and the tour of the ships are big hits at Jamestown and there is a lot of hands-on stuff about colonial life at Yorktown." —obxgirl

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surrender were negotiated, and the elegant **Nelson House**, the residence of a Virginia governor (and a signer of the Declaration of Independence), are open for tours in summer and are included in the Yorktown Victory Center's entrance fee.

The **Swan Tavern**, a reconstruction of a 1722 structure, houses an antiques shop. **Grace Church**, built in 1697 and damaged in the War of 1812 and the Civil War, was rebuilt and has an active Episcopal congregation; its walls are made of native marl (a mixture of clay, sand, and limestone containing fragments of seashells). On Main Street, the **Somerwell House**, built before 1707, and the **Sessions House** (before 1699) are privately owned and closed to the public: they're the oldest houses in town. The latter was used as the Union's local headquarters during General George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign of the Civil War.

**Watermen's Museum.** Situated in a Colonial Revival manor house on Yorktown's waterfront, this museum was floated across the York River on a barge in 1987. In it you can learn more about the generations of men who have wrested a living from the Chesapeake Bay and nearby waters. The five galleries display ship models, dioramas, and artifacts themed on Chesapeake watermen, bay boats, harvesting fish, aquaculture, tools, and treasures. Outdoor exhibits include an original three-log canoe, dredges, engines, and other equipment used by working watermen past and present. ☎309 Water St. ☎757/887-2641 🌐www.watermens.org 📧\$5 ☺Apr.–Thanksgiving, Tues.–Sat. 10–5, Sun. 1–5; Thanksgiving–Mar., Sat. 10–5, Sun. 1–5.

**Yorktown Battlefield.** Yorktown Battlefield preserves the land where the British surrendered to American and French forces in 1781. The museum in the visitor center has on exhibit part of General George Washington's original field tent. Dioramas, illuminated maps, and a film about the battle make the sobering point that Washington's victory was hardly inevitable. A look around from the roof's observation deck can help you visualize the events of the campaign. Guided by an audio

tour purchased from the gift shop, you may explore the battlefield by car, stopping at the site of Washington's headquarters, a couple of crucial redoubts (breastworks dug into the ground), the field where surrender took place, and the Moore House, where the surrender terms were negotiated. ☎East End of the Colonial Pkwy. ☎757/898-2410 📧\$10 for adults (under 15 free); includes admission to Historic Jamestowne as well as Yorktown Battlefield ☺ Visitor center daily 9–5.



**Yorktown Victory Center.** On the western edge of Yorktown Battlefield, the Yorktown Victory Center has wonderful exhibits and demonstrations that bring to life the American Revolution. Textual and graphic displays along the open-air Road to Revolution walkway cover the principal events and personalities. A renovated *Declaration of Independence* entrance gallery and long-term exhibition, *The Legacy of Yorktown: Virginia Beckons*, debuted in 2006. Life-size tableaux show 10 "witnesses," including an African-American patriot, a loyalist, a Native American leader, two Continental Army soldiers, and the wife of a Virginia plantation owner. ■ **TIP**→ The "witnesses" testimony is very dramatic and makes the American Revolution real for children. This presentation brings the personal trials of the colonists to life more effectively than the artifacts of the war.

The exhibit galleries contain more than 500 period artifacts, including many recovered during underwater excavations of "Yorktown's Sunken Fleet" (British ships lost during the siege of 1781). Outdoors, visitors may participate in a Continental Army drill at an encampment with interpreters costumed as soldiers and female auxiliaries, who reenact and discuss daily camp life. In another outdoor area, a re-created 1780s farm includes a dwelling, kitchen, tobacco barn, crop fields, and kitchen garden, which show how many Americans lived in the decade following the end of the Revolution. ☎Rte. 238 off Colonial Pkwy. ☎757/253-4838 or 888/593-4682 🌐www.historyisfun.org 📧\$9.25; combination ticket for Yorktown Victory Center and Jamestown Settlement \$19.95 ☺ June 15–Aug. 15, daily 9–6; Aug. 16–June 14, daily 9–5.

### Where to Eat

✕ **Nick's Riverwalk Restaurant.** Whether you dine indoors or out, enjoy the view of the York River, the Coleman Bridge, and Gloucester on the opposite shore. Nick's Riverwalk offers casual meals of soups, salads, and sandwiches at the Rivah Café and outdoor courtyard; the Riverwalk Dining Room is more formal, with a menu featuring baked crabmeat imperial, sautéed fillets, and local oysters. Right outside of the café are a boardwalk and a sandy beach. Parking is available across the street. There are many shops just outside the Riverwalk's door. ☎323 Water St. ☎757/875-1522 ☰MC, V. \$23.

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