



SUMMER 2009 EVENTS

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

- Under the Redcoat (June 26–28)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Williamsburg Farmers Market (Sat., June–Aug.)
- Revolutionary City Concert (June 5, 12)
- Merchants Square Summer Breeze Concerts (Wed., July)
- USAF Heritage of America Band (July 2, Aug.)

BUSCH GARDENS

- Boom 'n July Fireworks at Busch Gardens (July 1–4)
- Summer Nights at Busch Gardens (July–Aug.)
- Glory at the Gardens Concerts (Sun., June)

JAMESTOWN & YORKTOWN

- Tools of the Trade Month (June)
- Pastimes of Colonial Virginia (August)
- Liberty & Independence Day Celebrations (July 4–5)
- Yorktown Market Days at the River (Sat., June–Aug.)
- “Shagging on the Riverwalk” Beach Music Series (Fri., June, July 17–Aug. 7)

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 it’s time for pure recreation, you can head to theme parks such as Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

Virginia’s best-known tourist area will have you pinching yourself to make sure you haven’t entered a time machine. 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 earlier 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 recreation 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. **TIP → Although it is free to amble around the Historic Area, you will 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.**

Williamsburg anchors three elements of Colonial National Historical Park. The 23-mi 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.

EXPLORING THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE

The beginning of both Colonial America and the United States of America should require a visit, and this area is home to them both. To keep the chronology straight, visit Virginia’s “Historic Triangle,” in the order of Jamestown, Williamsburg, and then Yorktown. Although Jamestown is somewhat overshadowed by the much-larger Williamsburg, Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement (1607) in North America and commemorated its momentous quadricentennial—400th anniversary—in 2007. Just a short drive along the tree-lined Colonial Parkway is Williamsburg, which subsequently grew into the political and economic center of the Virginia Colony. The 301 acres of modern-day Colonial Williamsburg contain re-created and restored structures peopled with costumed interpreters. Everything from momentous political events to blacksmithing is portrayed. Completing the “Historic Triangle,” is Yorktown, 14 mi from Williamsburg, the site of the battle that ended the war for independence from England. The Yorktown Battlefield and the parkway are maintained by the National Park Service.

PLANNING

Williamsburg is west of I-64, 51 mi southeast of Richmond; the Colonial Parkway joins Williamsburg with Jamestown to the southwest and Yorktown to the east. When approaching on I-95, use the I-295 beltway to get around Richmond to I-64.

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WILLIAMSBURG
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COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG TOURS

DAYTIME

- Through the Garden Gate
- Gardens of Gentility
- Bits and Bridles
- Rubbish Treasures and Colonial Life
- Behind the Scenes at Bruton Heights

EVENING

- Listen My Children
- Courage or Cowardice?
- Papa Said, Mama Said
- A Grand Medley of Entertainments
- Ghosts Amongst Us
- The Original Ghosts of Williamsburg


Since weekend traffic on I-64 East can be quite heavy, consider leaving that interstate at Exit 205 for Route 60 East—a four-lane highway that leads into Williamsburg past several restaurants as well as outlet shopping centers. If you are coming from the north on I-95 and encountering heavy traffic outside Washington DC, you may want to leave I-95 at Fredericksburg and go south to Yorktown on Route 17, a narrower road with stoplights, but less congested.

DISCOUNTS AND DEALS

The America's Historic Triangle Vacation Package includes unlimited visits to all five attractions—Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement and Historic Jamestowne, Yorktown Victory Center, and Yorktown Battlefield—in the Historic Triangle.

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 outlet shops and a large water park.

Colonial Williamsburg sells a number of ticket options, starting with 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 and the Merchants Square ticket office.

GETTING HERE AND AROUND

Parking near the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area can be difficult during summer months and special events. It's best to park at the Visitor Center and ride the natural gas-powered shuttle buses to the living history museum. The parking lot behind the Merchants Square shopping area is a good bet if you're planning a short visit or going out to eat around the area.

All vehicular traffic is prohibited within Colonial Williamsburg to preserve the historic authenticity. Shuttle buses run continuously from 9 AM to 10 PM to and from the Visitor Center.

Biking around Colonial Williamsburg is a wonderful way to explore its 301 acres. Rental bikes are available for those staying at the Williamsburg Inn, The Spa of Colonial Williamsburg, and Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites. Bikesmith, in Williamsburg, rents bikes and has especially reasonable multiday rental prices. Bikes Unlimited, close to the Williamsburg Transportation Center, also rents bikes.

TOURS

Hour-long guided walking tours of the Historic Area depart from the Gateway Building daily every 15 minutes from 9 AM to 4 PM. Reservations are required for the walking tours and evening programs, but not for the Orientation Walk. Daytime tours are available only by those with tickets to Colonial Williamsburg, but evening programs can be purchased separately. See some of the tours at right.

Interpreters well versed in Williamsburg and Colonial history also lead tours of the Historic Area. Carriage and wagon rides are available daily, weather permitting. General ticket holders may purchase tickets on the day of the ride at the Lumber House.

TIP→ For walking tours, be sure to park at the Visitor Center, as cars are not permitted on Duke of Gloucester Street.

Lantern Tour is an evening walking tour of shops to see how tradesmen operated in the 18th century. Tickets for this program may be purchased at the Visitor Center, Greenhow Lumber House, or Merchants Square ticket office.

Three self-guided audio tours of Colonial Williamsburg can be rented at the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center: "Highlights of the Historic Area," "Reading the Restoration Architecture," and "Voices of the Revolution." Wander at your own pace; when you stop in front of a numbered location, enter the number into the player and hear all about it. Each tape is about 45 minutes and costs \$6 for ticketed guests or \$15 for those without tickets.

"The Original Ghosts of Williamsburg" Candlelight Tour is operated independently of Colonial Williamsburg. Based on the book of the same name by L.B. Taylor, Jr., this 1½-hr. lantern-guided tour is offered every evening at 8 (there's also an 8:45 tour June–August). Tickets are \$11 per person (ages 6 and under are free).

TIMING

Williamsburg can be very warm in summer and even in spring and fall. Be sure to carry water and replenish your bottles at the Historic Area's water fountains. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes since walking is the primary way to navigate Williamsburg.

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WORD OF MOUTH

"Before you start your day in the historic area, visit the Visitors Center and see the short movie *A Story of a Patriot*. It really sets the mood and will make your visit to the historic area much more meaningful, particularly the Capitol and Raleigh Tavern." —Gekko

"I definitely recommend a ticket that includes the Governor's Palace, one of the highlights of CW." —longhorn55

"We participated first in a conversation with Colonel Washington in the Revolutionary City. In addition to being an incredible orator, the character was well-versed in his subject and was never stumped by any audience question, including our daughter's of, 'What is your horse's name?'" —fourfortravel

"You might consider spending a day in Colonial Williamsburg and then going back in the evenings when it is cooler. One thing that was fun was watching the Fife and Drum corps marching through Colonial Williamsburg." —kismet04

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Because of the size of Colonial Williamsburg and the large crowds (especially in the warmer months), it's best to begin a tour early in the day, so it's a good idea to spend the night before in the area. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation suggests allowing three or four days to do the area justice, depending on your own interest in the period—and that interest often increases on arrival. The Historic Area closes at 5 PM, but walks and events take place in the evening. The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg are open until 7 PM, mid-March through December. Some sites close in winter on a rotating basis.

ESSENTIALS

Bike Rentals **Bikesmith** (☎515 York St. ☎757/229-9858). **Bikes Unlimited** (☎141 Monticello Ave., in the Williamsburg shopping area ☎757/229-4620).

Walking Tours **Greenhow Lumber House** (☎Duke of Gloucester St. ☎757/220-7645 or 800/447-8679).

Group Tour Information (☎800/228-8878). "**The Original Ghosts of Williamsburg**" **Candlelight Tour** (☎757/253-1058 🌐www.theghosttour.com).

Visitor Information **Colonial Williamsburg Dining and Lodging Reservations** (☎800/447-8679). **Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center** (📍102 Visitor Center Dr. Williamsburg 23187-1776 ☎800/246-2099 🌐www.history.org).

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

The lovely brick Episcopal **Bruton Parish Church** has served continuously as a house of worship since it was built in 1715. 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, 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.

■ **TIP** → Check www.brutonparish.org for free evening candlelight recitals. ☒Duke of Gloucester St. west of Palace Green.

The **Capitol** is the building that made this town so important. It was here that 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 a witch trial, dramatize the evolution of American jurisprudence. What stands on the site today is a reproduction of the 1705 structure that burned down in 1747. Dark-wood wainscoting, pewter chandeliers, and towering ceilings contribute to 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.

The **DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum** adds another cultural dimension that goes well beyond Colonial history. 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 tend to be creative and surprising. You enter the museum through the Public Hospital. ☒Francis St.

The **George Wythe House** was the residence of Thomas Jefferson's law professor; and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. General Washington used the mid-18th-century house as a headquarters just before his victory at Yorktown. The outbuildings, including a smokehouse, kitchen, laundry, outhouses, and a chicken coop, are reconstructions. ☒West side of Palace Green.

His Majesty's Governor Alexander Spotswood built the original **Governor's Palace** in 1720, and seven

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DID YOU KNOW?

Colonial Williamsburg makes an effort to represent not just the lives of a privileged few, and not to gloss over disturbing aspects of history. Slavery, religious freedom, family life, commerce and trade, land acquisition, and the Revolution are portrayed in living-history demonstrations.

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.*

The **Peyton Randolph House** 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 was the scene of prerevolutionary revels and rallies that 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. The French general Marquis de Lafayette was feted here in 1824. In 1859 the original structure burned, 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

The **Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum**, within the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, showcases American “decorative usefulware”—toys, furniture, weather vanes, coffeepots, and quilts—within typical 19th-century domestic interiors. There are also folk paintings, rustic sculptures, and needlepoint pictures. ☒ *Francis St.*

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; they can make for a humorous photo opportunity. The courthouse's 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.*

The spine of Colonial Williamsburg's restored area is the broad 1-mi-long **Duke of Gloucester Street**. On Saturday at 1 PM from March to October, the Fifes and Drums 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.

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.

At James Anderson's Blacksmith Shop, smiths forge the nails, tools, and other iron hardware 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.*

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 60 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.*

In **Market Square**, an open green between Queen and Palace streets along Duke of Gloucester, cattle, seafood, dairy products, fruit, and vegetables were all sold—as were slaves. Market auctions are sometimes reenacted.

The handsome **Palace Green** runs north from Duke of Gloucester Street up the center of Palace Street, with the Governor's Palace at the far end and notable historic houses on either side.

The **Public Hospital**, a reconstruction of a 1773 insane asylum, 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

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COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FAST FACTS

- The restoration project that gave birth to Colonial Williamsburg began in 1926.
- More than 88 original 18th- and early-19th-century structures have been meticulously restored, and another 500 have been reconstructed on their original sites.
- The restored area is surrounded by a greenbelt controlled by the foundation, which guards against development that could mar the illusion of the Colonial city.
- Nearly 1 million people come here annually.

to the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum is through the hospital lobby. ☒ *Francis St.*

Wetherburn's Tavern, which offered refreshment, entertainment, and lodging beginning in 1743, 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.*

The **Wren Building** is part of the College of William and Mary, founded in 1693 and the second-oldest college in the United States after Harvard University. The campus extends to the west; the Wren Building (1695) was based on the work of the celebrated London architect Sir Christopher Wren. Its redbrick outer walls are original, but fire gutted the interiors several times, and the current quarters are largely reconstructions of the 20th century. The faculty common room, with a table covered with green felt and an antique globe, suggests Oxford and Cambridge universities, the models for this New World institution. George Wythe became America's first law professor at the college and taught law to Thomas Jefferson, Henry Clay, James Monroe, and John Marshall. Tours, led by undergraduates, include the chapel where Colonial leader Peyton Randolph is buried. ☒ *West end of Duke of Gloucester St.*

WHERE TO EAT

Dining rooms within walking distance of Colonial Williamsburg's restored area are often crowded, and reservations (☎ 800/447-8679) are necessary. Many restaurants, including nationally known chain eateries—with options ranging from pizza to seafood—line both sides of U.S. 60 on the east side of the city.

\$\$ **Aberdeen Barn**. Saws, pitchforks, oxen AMERICAN 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. ☒ 1601 Richmond Rd. ☎ 757/229-6661 🌐 www.aberdeen-barn.com ☒ AE, D, MC, V ☺ No lunch.

¢-§ **College Delly**. It's easy to forget that this DELI is a college town, but this cheerful dive keeps up the school spirit. The white-brick eatery with forest-green canvas awnings is dark and scruffy inside. Walls are hung with fraternity and sorority pictures, graduation snapshots, and sports-team

photos. Booths and tables are in the William and Mary colors of green and gold. Deli sandwiches, subs, specialty pizzas, pasta, stromboli, and Greek dishes are all prepared with fresh ingredients and are all delicious, and there's a wide selection of beers on tap. The Delly delivers free to nearby hotels from 6 PM to 1 AM. ☒ 336 Richmond Rd. ☎ 757/229-6627 ☒ MC, V.

¢ **Old Chickahominy House**. Reminiscent of SOUTHERN 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 ☒ MC, V ☺ No dinner.

¢-§ **Sal's Restaurant by Victor**. Locals love ITALIAN 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. ☒ 1242 Richmond Rd. ☎ 757/220-2641 🌐 www.salsbyvictor.com ☒ AE, D, MC, V.

\$\$ **The Trellis**. With vaulted ceilings and AMERICAN hardwood floors, the Trellis is an airy and pleasant place. The imaginative lunch and dinner menus change with the seasons. A good wine list complements such dishes as homemade tomato bisque, wild boar, and soft-shell crabs. The seafood entrées are particularly good, and many patrons wouldn't leave without ordering the rich Death by Chocolate, the restaurant's signature dessert. Prices on the outdoor terrace menu are lower than in the indoor dining room. ☒ Merchants Sq., 403 Duke of Gloucester St. ☎ 757/229-8610 🌐 www.thetrellis.com ☒ AE, D, DC, MC, V.

\$\$ **The Whaling Company**. Fresh seafood is SEAFOOD the calling card at this large wooden building, which wouldn't look out of place in a New England fishing village. Despite its out-of-town look, the restaurant has an authenticity sometimes hard to find in touristy towns. Locals come in for the fresh Virginia scallops, shrimp, fish, and other seafood. Steaks and lemon herb chicken are available for the non-Whalers. The restaurant is off U.S. 60 near the

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BUSCH GARDENS SHOWS

- Emerald Beat
- This is Oktoberfest
- Festivale Italiano
- Kinetix
- More . . . Pet Shenanigans
- Sesame Street presents Lights, Camera, Imagination!
- Christmas Town (in December)



Route 199 interchange. ☒494 *McLaws Circle*
☎757/229-0275 🌐www.thewhalingcompany.com
☒AE, DC, MC, V ☺No lunch.

COLONIAL TAVERNS

For an authentic dining experience to match the historic setting, try one of the reconstructed taverns in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. Colonial-style and modern American fare is served at lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. A tavern experience is a good way to get into the spirit of the era. 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 AMERICAN 18th-century alehouse, Chowning's serves casual quick fare for lunch, including traditional pit-style BBQ, beef brisket sandwiches, and Smithfield ham and Gloucester cheese on a pretzel roll. You can eat either inside the tavern or under a grape arbor behind the tavern. After 5 PM, Chowning's 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. ☒Duke of Gloucester St. ☒AE, D, DC, MC, V.

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ **Christiana Campbell's Tavern.** Across the AMERICAN 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.

\$\$\$ **King's Arms Tavern.** This 18th century-AMERICAN 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. ☒Duke of Gloucester St. ☒AE, D, DC, MC, V.

\$\$ **Shields Tavern.** Proprietor James Shields AMERICAN served the lesser gentry and upper middle ranks of locals and travelers in the 1740s. Today, the largest of the colonial taverns now serves more than just light fare, though gumbo soup, salads, wrap sandwiches, and pie are still popular. Heartier food includes traditional 18th-century fare such as welsh rarebit (spicy cheese served over toast) and more modern dishes like bison meatloaf. This tavern closes at 8:30 PM. ☒Duke of Gloucester St. ☒AE, D, DC, MC, V.

THEME PARKS

Busch Gardens in Williamsburg has been voted the world's most beautiful theme park for 19 consecutive years, and 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. New for 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 KIDSiderate attractions. Busch Gardens also hosts popular song-and-dance shows (country, Americana, Irish, German folk) in several theaters. ☒U.S. 60, 3 mi east of Williamsburg ☎800/343-7946 🌐www.buschgardens.com/va ☎\$59.95, child \$49.95; parking \$12 ☺Late Mar.–mid-May, open weekends; mid-May–Labor Day, open daily; early Sept.–Oct., open weekends; late-Nov.–Dec., open weekends. Check Web site or call for exact hrs.

At **Water Country USA**, nearly 45 acres of pools, children's play areas, lazy rivers, and water rides have a colorful 1950s and '60s surf theme. Blast down Rock

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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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'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. Or you can enjoy relaxing by Virginia's largest wave pool in a lounge chair or a private cabana. There's also live entertainment, shopping, and restaurants. ☒ *Rte. 199, 3 mi off I-64, Exit 242B* ☎ 757/253-3350 or 800/343-7946 🌐 www.watercountryusa.com 📄 \$41.95 for anyone 10 and older, child \$34.95; parking \$12 ☺ *Mid-May, weekends only; June-early Sept., open 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 🌐 www.colonialwilliamsburgresort.com/golf) operates three courses—the excellent 18-hole **Golden Course** designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr.; 18-hole **Green Course** designed by Jones's son Rees Jones; and the 9-hole executive **Spottswood Course** also designed by Jones Sr. The courses are surrounded by mature woodlands and ravines that are designated as Audubon sanctuaries.

Kingsmill Resort (☎ 1010 Kingsmill Rd. ☎ 757/253-3906 🌐 www.kingsmill.com), near Busch Gardens and along the shores of the historic James River, 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 PGA 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 Area 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. 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 3-mi path starts at the college and runs all around the Colonial area.

SHOPPING

The shopping in the Williamsburg area ranges from colonial crafts and reproductions to the popular outlets. 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 (☎ 757/220-7749) features the full line of Williamsburg furniture, bedding, rugs, fixtures, and wallpapers. **WILLIAMSBURG Celebrations** (☎ 757/565-8642) displays seasonal decorations and accessories. The **WILLIAMSBURG Craft House** (☎ 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 and recently expanded, **Prime Outlets at Williamsburg** (☎ U.S. 60, Lightfoot ☎ 757/565-0702 🌐 www.primeoutlets.com) offers savings of up to 65% at 120 well-known designer and brand-name outlet stores. Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, COACH Factory, Michael Kors, Burberry, and Brooks Brothers Factory Store are all here.

The **Williamsburg Pottery Factory** (☎ U.S. 60 W, Lightfoot ☎ 757/564-3326 🌐 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 Oneida and Easy Spirit Shoes are within the compound.

The enclosed **Williamsburg Outlet Mall** (☎ U.S. 60 W, Lightfoot ☎ 757/565-3378 🌐 www.williamsburgoutletmall.com) has more than 40 stores with first quality merchandise and name brands, a Mexican food stand (Los Tres Gallos), and a Hershey's Malt Shoppe.

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WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

WORD OF MOUTH

"At Historic Jamestowne they are currently doing archeological digs M-F so if you are there during the week you can watch them work and talk with them."
—henny16

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CRAFTS

Nine stores and shops in Colonial Williamsburg imitate those once run in the 1700s. Typical wares include silver tea services, jewelry, pottery, pewter and brass items, ironwork, tobacco and herbs, candles, hats, baskets, books, maps and prints, and baked goods.

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.


GETTING HERE AND AROUND

From mid-March through the end of October, the Historic Triangle Shuttle offers free service every half-hour between the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center and Jamestown, where the Jamestown Area Shuttle then provides loop service around the Jamestown area every 20 minutes between Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement, and the Jamestown Glasshouse (part of Historic Jamestowne).

TIMING

One date to note—May 16 in 2009—is the annual “Jamestown Day,” commemorating the date when three ships brought English colonists to Virginia. Special programming, sponsored jointly by Historic Jamestowne and Jamestown Settlement, includes children’s entertainment, cultural, and educational presentations.





EXPLORING


 **Historic Jamestowne**, an island originally connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus, 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.

Archaeological discoveries from the site are showcased at the Archaearium. You 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.

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. 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 many different events in Jamestown’s history. Living-history programs are presented daily in summer.

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

 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 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-

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WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

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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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 living 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.

A seasonal 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. Guided tours are offered daily of living-history areas and there's also a café and gift shops. 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 ✉\$14; combination ticket with Yorktown Victory Center \$19.25 ☺June 15–Aug. 15, daily 9–6; Aug. 16–June 14, daily 9–5.

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 of the Revolutionary War and the beginning of our nation. 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. As well, a stately Watermen's Museum educates visitors about those who earn their living from the nearby waters. Riverwalk Landing is a group of specialty shops, an upscale restaurant, and an outdoor performance venue on the shores of the York River.

GETTING HERE AND AROUND

From mid-March through the end of October, the Historic Triangle Shuttle offers free service every half hour between the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor

Center and Yorktown. Once in town, the Yorktown Trolley provides free service between the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center and the Yorktown Victory Center, as well as seven stops between in the historic village. The trolley runs approximately every 20 mins.

ESSENTIALS

Colonial National Historical Park (📍Box 210, Yorktown 23690 ☎757/898-2410 🌐www.nps.gov/colo).

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 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 Battlefield'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.

The **Watermen's Museum** is sited in a Colonial Revival manor house on Yorktown's waterfront that 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 house ship models, dioramas, and artifacts. 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 ✉\$4 ☺Apr.–Thanksgiving, Tues.–Sat. 10–5, Sun. 1–5; Thanksgiving–Mar., Sat. 10–5, Sun. 1–5.



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

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WILLIAMSBURG
VIRGINIA

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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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 (under 16 free); includes admission to Historic Jamestowne as well as Yorktown Battlefield ☺ Visitor center daily 9-5.



On the western edge of Yorktown Battlefield, the **Yorktown Victory Center** has wonderful exhibits and demonstrations that bring the American Revolution to life. 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 to Revolution Gallery 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. 1020 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.

EN ROUTE

For a beautiful drive along countryside that's nearly the same as land the Jamestown settlers trod, take the 23-mi scenic Colonial Parkway between Jamestown and Yorktown, a 40-minute drive one-way. The road between Yorktown and Williamsburg, which was aligned along the York River, was completed in 1937, but it wasn't until 1955, for the 350th anniversary of Jamestown, that the road was completed to America's first permanent English settlement. The limited-access highway has broad sweeping curves, is meticulously landscaped, and is devoid of commercial development.

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