



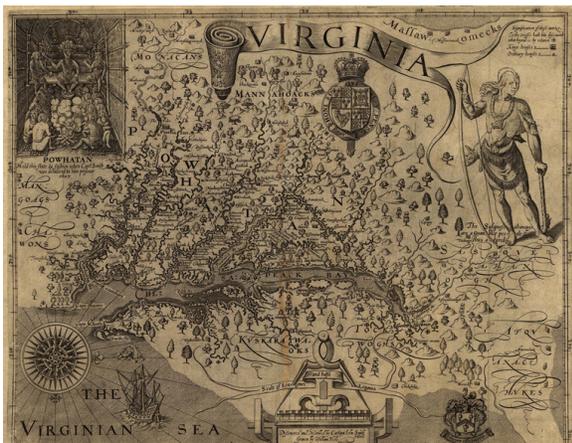
# Welcome to Colonial Virginia with School Tours of America!

## The Jamestown Settlement

### Jamestown Settlement Park

Jamestown National Historic Site is the location of the first permanent English settlement in North America. Prior to the arrival of the English, Jamestown Island was inhabited by more than 30 Powhatan Indian tribes. In 1607, John Smith and company chose Jamestown Island because it provided a secure harbor that would be important for trading. To keep their settlement secret from the Spanish and safe from Algonquin Indian attacks, John Smith and the settlers moved inland and constructed a fort. Today, the site of this fort is called "Old Towne." The fort has been reconstructed, and inside are artifacts that teach about the lives of the early settlers, including their complicated relationship with the Powhatan people. One of John Smith's most important contacts was the Chief of the Powhatan people and his daughter, Pocahontas.

New Towne was the site of the English experiment in colonization at Jamestown. In the mid-1620s, streets and brick homes appeared in New Towne. Archaeologists continue to uncover objects that give insight into the colonists' experience on the island. Warehouses, a jail, and a gun shop are among the discoveries. The Greate Road also reveals the colony's connection to other settlements for trade purposes.



## Paspahegh Town



The Paspahegh was one of the 30-plus Algonquian-speaking tribal groups that belonged to the Powhatan chiefdom. The village was created using information from archaeological sites and oral traditions from the Paspahegh tribe.

The town features reed-covered houses in a wooded clearing with cooking and garden areas. There is a ceremonial circle marked by carved wooden posts. There are exhibition galleries that include a scale model of the town, artifacts like arrowheads and pottery shards, and information about Pocahontas. The village is full of costumed interpreters demonstrating cultural activities like hunting, fishing, weaving, and pottery-making.

## James Fort



This re-created 1610-1614 fort offers insight into how the colonists of the time would have lived. Visitors can explore thatched roof structures, an Anglican church, a court of guard, a storehouse, and a governor's house.

Inside the fort, historical interpreters make wood and leather products using 17th-century tools, sew, or prepare meals. They also grow heirloom vegetables, herbs, tobacco, and corn. There is a working blacksmith forge, and each day, there is a matchlock musket demonstration.



## Replica Ships



*Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* & *Discovery* are recreations of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607. Historical interpreters teach about the ships' capabilities as well as what life was like on board the ship during the four-and-a-half-month voyage from England in December 1606 to Jamestown in May 1607.

### A Brief History of the Three Ships

The original *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed*, and *Discovery* set sail from London on December 20, 1606, bound for Virginia. The ships carried 105 passengers and 39 crew members on the four-month transatlantic voyage. A 17th-century source noted that a total of 71 people were aboard the *Susan Constant*, 52 were aboard the *Godspeed*, and 21 were aboard the *Discovery*.

The expedition was sponsored by the Virginia Company of London, a business venture that had been organized to form a colony in Virginia. The fleet reached the Virginia coast in late April and, after two weeks of inland waterway exploration, arrived at the selected settlement site on May 13, 1607. The *Susan Constant* and *Godspeed* returned to England in June 1607, while the *Discovery* remained in Virginia and was used for Chesapeake Bay and coastal exploration.



# Colonial Williamsburg

## Capitol



Williamsburg's Capitol was the center of British authority in Virginia for most of the eighteenth century. It was where the people of Virginia passed laws, debated revolutionary ideas, appeared in court, and pleaded for emancipation. The Capitol housed both Houses of the Virginia General Assembly, which is the legislative body of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The capital was relocated from Jamestown until 1780, when it was relocated to Richmond.

The Capitol is a two-story H-shaped structure - two buildings connected by an arcade (a series of arches supported by columns or piers that create a passageway or open area). One wing housed the Council which was the upper house of the legislature, the other the House of Burgesses, which was the elected representative part of the Assembly..

On January 30, 1747, the building burned, and only some walls and the foundation remained. It was rebuilt and used again in 1753. It was destroyed by fire again in 1832. The third Capitol was rebuilt and opened in 1934.

Notable events that took place in the Capitol include speeches by Patrick Henry, meetings with Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and others that led to the Revolution. It is where, on June 29, 1776, Virginians declared their independence from Great Britain four days before Congress voted for the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on July 4. The Capitol at Williamsburg served until the American Revolutionary War began when Governor Thomas Jefferson urged that the capital be relocated to Richmond. The building was last used as a capitol on December 24, 1779, when the Virginia General Assembly adjourned to reconvene in 1780 at the new capital, Richmond.



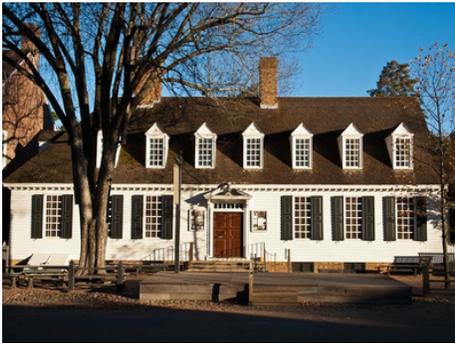
## Gaol (Jail)



This was the place where anyone accused of a crime awaited trial. This included thieves, runaway slaves, debtors, and political prisoners. During the American Revolution, it also housed spies, prisoners of war, deserters, and traitors.

Construction of the jail was authorized by Virginia's General Assembly in 1701, soon after Williamsburg was made the new capital. The first cells were ready in May of 1704. The Public Gaol appears today as it did after the renovations of 1722, with eight cells, a courtyard, an exercise yard, and rooms for the jailer. Each cell was designed to hold six inmates shackled to the walls. Conditions were not ideal, with overcrowding and a lack of sanitation making illness and suffering commonplace. The gaol housed many infamous occupants, including 15 of Bluebeard's henchmen and Henry "Hair Buyer" Hamilton, who was suspected of buying pioneer scalps from Native Americans.

## Raleigh Tavern



The Raleigh Tavern was named after Sir Walter Raleigh, an important figure in the English settlement of Virginia. The original tavern is believed to have been built sometime before 1735 and was one of the largest in colonial Virginia. The tavern was an institution in Williamsburg and was the site of auctions, balls, and reception dinners held for at least two Royal Governors upon their arrival in Virginia.

The building was burned down in 1859 by an arsonist and rebuilt in 1930–31. It was both the first building to be reconstructed and to be opened as part of Colonial Williamsburg. It serves as a museum, showing visitors how the tavern would have appeared during the colonial era.



## Printer-Bookbinder



Books are taken for granted today, but in the colonial era, only the rich could afford them. Printing and binding books was a specialized and time-consuming art. The printer-bookbindery played various roles during the 18th century. It functioned as a stationer, post office, advertising agency, and newsstand, in addition to being a printing press.

It needed to serve a variety of functions because relying on bookbinding alone was not viable due to the high cost of bound books and the fact there wasn't a high demand for them. Williamsburg never actually sold printed books during the colonial era. There was more of a market for blank-bound books in different styles, including ledgers, waste books, and account books, all available in different sizes and bindings.

## Court House



The Court House in Williamsburg was constructed from 1770-1771. It was a place where citizens conducted business, interacted with the government, and held trials and punishments. The courthouse was the site where Benjamin Waller read aloud the Declaration of Independence on July 25, 1776, after it arrived from Philadelphia.

## Governor's Palace



The Governor's Palace was the official residence of the royal governors of the Virginia Colony. The main building was destroyed by fire in 1781 while being used as a hospital for wounded soldiers after the Siege of Yorktown. It was reconstructed in the 1930s on its original site.

# Yorktown

## American Revolution Museum



This is where the story of our nation's founding comes to life, from the beginning of the colonial period to the writing of the Constitution and all that comes after. The museum is full of artifacts like an original portrait of King George III, a statue of George Washington, and an American silver-hilted, eagle-pommel sword.

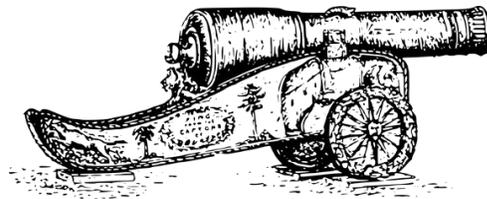
Experience Personal Stories of the Revolution, which features actors in period attire, as well as Battles of the Revolutionary War which covers more than 150 battles and skirmishes of the American Revolution. Then there is Battle Game which allows visitors to command troops during several battles of the Revolution. Finally enjoy the film, "The Siege of Yorktown," that has a 180-degree surround screen and amazing special effects.

## Battlefield Tour



Follow in the footsteps of the allied American and French forces, led by General George Washington, as they defeated General Charles Lord Cornwallis's British army in the fall of 1781. It is here that Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, thus ending the Revolutionary War and setting the path to American independence.

## Colonial Life



Colonial Yorktown was a bustling port and an economic hub of Virginia. The area relied heavily on the tobacco trade, which led to its importance as a tobacco port. The town boasted many merchants, shopkeepers, and other tradesmen that allowed the town to prosper.

## Colonial Seaport



Cargo ships were a common sight in Yorktown, which sits on the York River just a short distance from the Chesapeake Bay. Yorktown's economy was heavily reliant on the tobacco trade, with ships from Great Britain arriving to collect large wooden barrels (called a hogshead) of tobacco.

In addition to tobacco, other items such as clothing, furniture, jewelry, and books were shipped to the port. The Colonial Seaport Foundation operates the Sloop Luna, a replica 18th century sail cargo vessel that was common at the time.

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