



## Williamsburg Trail

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The following pages outline a walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg. The tour has been designed to view the most popular and important aspects of Colonial Williamsburg. While a ticket is not required to walk the streets of Colonial Williamsburg, one will be required to enter most sites to get the full experience.

- The Tour is about 5 miles long

- The tour is designed for young boys. It keeps them moving.

- The tour passes by restrooms, vending machines, and water fountains

Please have your boys answer the questions found at the end of the Tour Description. You may want to review them now so you may emphasize points in the tour which will help them understand the answers.

## A WALKING TOUR OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

See map for site locations. Some sites on this tour may not be entered without a CW admission pass. This tour does not require entry into those buildings. Those sites that do not require admission are noted.

The walk begins at the CW Visitor's Center, where restrooms, ticketing facilities, gift shops, and light refreshments are available. Begin by exiting out the back doors of the Visitor's Center, crossing the bridge to the Windmill site.

### 1 Windmill

The mill requires constant attention to ensure that it faced the wind and that the grinding and bolting operations ran properly. If the wind changed directions, the miller lifted the stairs and pushed on the tailpole and wheel to turn the mill to face the wind. The windmill site also includes a field for pasturing or planting.

### 2 Great Hopes Plantation

The plantation is a recreation of a middling plantation, very different from large tobacco plantations. Great Hopes shows the life of the majority of Virginians, who live outside of towns and cities, growing food for themselves. Here you can find kitchens and slave quarters, as well as other assorted out buildings.

### 3 Governor's Palace

The palace was the residence of seven royal governors and the first two elected governors of Virginia, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. It burnt down after the siege of Yorkton in 1781, and was reconstructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, finishing in 1934.

### 4 Wythe House

This is the home of George Wythe, a patriot, first professor of law at the College of William & Mary, and teacher to both Thomas Jefferson and George Wythe. His home was used as the headquarters of George Washington during the siege of Yorktown.

### 5 Bruton Parish Church

Bruton Parish Church is one of Colonial Williamsburg's original buildings. Outdating the capital, it had large influence on the moving of the seat of government to Middle Plantation, which would eventually become Williamsburg. (No charge, donation requested)

6 Wren Building

The Wren Building is the oldest building of the second oldest academic building in continuous use in the United States. Higher education was rare in the eighteenth century and William & Mary's earliest graduates were educated as clergymen. (No charge)

7 Tailor Shop

Feel free to stop by the Tailor Shop and visit the tailors, participants of one of the most prolific trades in eighteenth century Williamsburg.

8 Public Hospital

This is a reproduction of the first hospital in America to deal with mental disorders. Behind the building is the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Gallery which houses thousands of unique objects ranging from firelocks to fine furniture.

9 Williamsburg Inn

The Williamsburg Inn was built in 1937, only three years after the original building of Colonial Williamsburg opened to the public.

10 Bassett Hall

This was the Williamsburg residence of John D. Rockefeller and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. It is furnished with many of their personal choices and maintained as Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller knew it. Mr. Rockefeller was the principal financier of the restoration and establishment of Colonial Williamsburg.

11 Gunsmith

At the Gunsmiths you can see smiths fashioning iron, steel, brass, and wood into firearms that are both functional and pleasing to the eye. As well as seeing the art form that gunsmithing, you can discover the importance of muskets, fowling pieces, and rifles to eighteenth century life.

12 Christiana Campbell's Tavern

Campbell's Tavern was a favorite of George Washington whenever he visited Williamsburg. His own personal diary notes that he enjoyed dining on oysters here. Today you can too, as it is Colonial Williamsburg's premiere seafood destination.

### 13 Benjamin Powell House

The Benjamin Powell House belonged to Mr. Benjamin Powell, a successful builder in the capital city. He constructed the Public Hospital and the bell tower on Bruton Parish Church, which you have seen already. He also had contracts at the Public Gaol and the Capitol, your next two stops.

### 14 Public Gaol (pronounced jail)

The public Gaol was the only building of its kind in Virginia, and was built to serve the general court in the Capitol Building, your next stop.

### 15 Capitol

Third building on this site, the Capitol was reconstructed and opened to the public in 1934, one of the first reconstructed buildings in Colonial Williamsburg. Inside, the General Court, the Joint Committee Room, and the Chamber of the House of Burgesses show how eighteenth century government and politics functioned, as well as laying out the early forms of our own government.

### 16 Palmer House

The Palmer House is one of the 88 original buildings in the Historic Area. Its primary claim to fame comes from the Civil War. Before the Battle of Williamsburg in 1862 it served as Confederate army headquarters. After the battle it served as the headquarters for the victorious Union army.

### 17 Shields Tavern & King's Arms Tavern

These taverns are just two of many taverns open in Colonial Williamsburg where guest can come in and enjoy a meal, just as eighteenth century travellers would have done.

### 18 Apothecary Shop

The eighteen century apothecary was a pharmacy, a shop, an operating room, and a doctor's office. However, most people treated themselves at home and grew whatever remedies they could.

### 19 Raleigh Tavern

One of the first buildings reconstructed in 1934, the Raleigh Tavern was where the House of Burgesses met after being dissolved by Lord Dunmore. A favorite of George Wythe, Peyton Randolph, and Patrick Henry, to name a few, today there is a bakery around back.

## 20 Wigmaker

Anyone could afford to wear their own hair in the eighteenth century, but only the wealthy could afford to wear someone or something else's. Step inside and learn the arduous process of eighteenth century wig making.

## 21 Wetherburn's Tavern

This is an original 18<sup>th</sup> century tavern. Taverns important in 18<sup>th</sup> century travel, as they provided travelers with lodging, food, and stabling for their horses. The building is furnished based off of a surviving inventory from the period.

## 22 Public Armory

The Public Armory, located behind the James Anderson house, was in operation from 1778-1780. The Armory was responsible for furnishing Virginia's military with whatever it needed. Blacksmiths, tinsmiths, cooks, and others can be found working at this location.

## 23 Printing Office & Post Office

This site, home of the *Virginia Gazette*, was responsible for the spread of news in Williamsburg and the colony as a whole.

## 24 Ludwell-Paradise House

This large home was the first building purchased during the restoration of Williamsburg to its colonial appearance. This was one of only four buildings opened in 1934.

## 25 Stocks & Pillory

These devices are associated with the Courthouse next to them. These structures were used as a form of punishment for misdemeanor crimes. No, no one threw vegetables at you and you weren't in these for days.

## 26 Courthouse

Built in 1770 the Courthouse dealt with local issues and misdemeanor crimes.

## 27 Magazine

The magazine, built in 1715, was the storage location for the King's arms and powder for the defense of the colony. Events at this building in April 1775 pushed Virginia toward revolution.

28 Weaver

The weaving trade was responsible for creating fabric in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. On this site, tradesmen practice not only weaving but, the trade of dying cloth as well as the process of spinning fibers in to yarn.

29 Shoemaker

Shoemaking was one of the most common trades practiced in 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginia, shoemakers on this site practice this vital trade.

30 Geddy Foundry

The foundry on the Geddy property practiced the melting and casting of metals necessary in 18<sup>th</sup> century life.

31 Peyton Randolph House

The Peyton Randolph house stands on the largest private property in town, at 4 acres. Peyton Randolph himself was a well-connected politician in Virginia. Mr. Randolph was also unanimously elected to be both the first and second president of the Continental Congress.

32 Visitor Center

This building is both the end and beginning of your visit to Colonial Williamsburg. By the time you return here you will have walked approximately 5 miles. (No charge)

## QUESTIONS FOR COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG TOUR

1. What were windmills used for in the colonial period?
2. What was John D. Rockefeller's role in the restoration of Williamsburg?
3. Who won the Battle of Williamsburg (1862)?
4. The building called the Magazine was used for what purpose?

5. Where did George Washington stay when he was in Williamsburg?

6. Name one of the two non-Royal governors to live in the original Governor's Palace?

7. What three things did taverns provide to travelers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century?

8. What famous Williamsburg resident was elected to be the president of the continental congress in 1774?



9. Name one structure in Williamsburg built by Benjamin Powell?

10. When did the reconstructed Capitol open for tours?