

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Colonial Williamsburg Offers Free Admission, Special Programming Juneteenth and July 4



Images courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 1, 2023) – Colonial Williamsburg is offering free admission to the Historic Area and Art Museums on both June 19 and July 4 in honor of Juneteenth and Independence Day. Visitors can pre-register to claim complimentary tickets to the world’s largest American history museum at colonialwilliamsburg.org/tickets/juneteenth and colonialwilliamsburg.org/tickets/july4.

“The struggle for freedom – on both a national and a personal level - is a core component of America’s identity, and much of that struggle took place here in Williamsburg,” said Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, “Offering free admission on Juneteenth and July 4 upholds our commitment to making Colonial Williamsburg’s educational resources accessible to as many people as possible so that together we can better understand our history and more effectively continue in our pursuit of a more perfect union.”

Juneteenth

Juneteenth marks the anniversary of June 19, 1865 when thousands of enslaved people were finally emancipated by federal forces arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enact President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation signed more than two years earlier. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Colonial Williamsburg will commemorate this Juneteenth with a [Juneteenth Sunrise Service](#) on Sunday, June 18, at 6 a.m. under the Compton Oak. The service will feature a keynote address by Tina Lifford, CEO of wellbeing initiative The Inner Fitness Project and an actress who most recently finished shooting the final season of the Oprah Winfrey Network drama series, *Queen Sugar*.

[Free Colonial Williamsburg admission on Monday, June 19](#), includes access to a variety of special programming including a visit from [New Orleans master blacksmith Darryl Reeves](#) at the Public Armoury from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., a [drum circle](#) under the Compton Oak at 11:30 a.m., a special viewing of the [Albert Durant photography collection](#) – photos taken by Williamsburg’s first Black city-licensed photographer – at the [Lane Auditorium](#) from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and a series of tours, exhibitions and theatrical programming offered throughout the day. Visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/juneteenth for a full list of events.

Colonial Williamsburg’s programming will coincide with other Juneteenth programming across the region coordinated by the Juneteenth Community Consortium, an association of organizations throughout Greater Williamsburg that organized in early 2022 with a common goal to educate, commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth. Visit juneteenthcc.org/events for a full list of programming taking place throughout the region.

July 4

Colonial Williamsburg will celebrate July 4 with spectacular fireworks as well as music and special programming. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with Thomas Jefferson [reading the Declaration of Independence](#) from the Capitol West balcony. Additional programming includes a [Salute to the States](#) with the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums and a musket volley in Market Square at 10:30 a.m.; a [noon reading of the Declaration of Independence](#) on the steps of the Colonial Courthouse; and [Lights of Freedom](#), a celebration of the words and music of the American Revolution, beginning on Palace Green at 8 p.m. Guests are invited to bring chairs, blankets and food to enjoy the concert. Visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/july4 for a full list of events.

A fireworks display above the Governor’s Palace sponsored by the City of Williamsburg begins at 9:30 p.m. Fireworks last approximately 20 minutes and can be seen from Palace Green, Market Square and the eastern side of the Lawn of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg.

Colonial Williamsburg does not offer a rain date for the July 4 fireworks. In the case of unfavorable weather conditions, communication on the status of the fireworks will be posted on the foundation’s social media channels. To opt in for weather related July 4 information via text message, please text CWEVENT to 226787.

For additional information about parking and buses for both holidays visit <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/visit/parking/>

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About The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers and 18th-century inspired culinary options from historic taverns situated along historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Colonial Williamsburg Resorts complement the experience, offering guests five unique hotel properties including the iconic Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond Williamsburg Inn, newly renovated Williamsburg Lodge-Autograph Collection,

Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites, the Griffin Hotel, and authentic 18th-century Colonial Houses. The resort offers a range of events and amenities including four historic taverns, 15 food and beverage outlets providing exquisite culinary experiences from casual to elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a world-class full-service spa and fitness center, pools, meeting and flexible event spaces, and scenic gardens providing the perfect venue for weddings and special events. Merchants Square, built alongside the Historic Area in 1935 as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States, features more than 40 specialty boutiques with products ranging from apparel to fine jewelry, art, specialty foods and gifts. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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