

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Grand Illumination: An Evening of Free Mirth, Jollity and Fireworks Dec. 8

The beloved Williamsburg tradition is generously supported in part by Mars Wrigley and AMERICAN HERITAGE® Chocolate



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Nov. 26, 2019) – Colonial Williamsburg invites guests and the community to ring in the holidays at Grand Illumination Sunday, Dec. 8 with three hours of the finest seasonal music and other entertainment, culminating in free Historic Area fireworks demonstrations over the Governor’s Palace, Magazine and Capitol.

“Each year the community and guests from around the world gather in Williamsburg for Grand Illumination – an evening of holiday celebration spanning the decades back to the illuminations of the 18th century,” said Bill Schermerhorn, Colonial Williamsburg creative director of signature events. “Starting at 4 p.m., we celebrate the season at ten locations throughout the Historic Area with merry music and dance, spirited theatrics, and the glorious pomp and pageantry of fifes and drums, culminating in simultaneous fireworks displays at 7 p.m.”

Historic Area performance highlights include vintage sounds from the Williamsburg restoration era of the 1930s with 504 Supreme and Truetone Honeys, traditional African-American song with the Jubilee Performers, handbell selections by the Westminster Ringers, a Capella holiday favorites sung by the William & Mary Gentlemen of the College, Massachusetts’ Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums, and of course the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums.

Father Christmas himself is scheduled to appear at the William Pitt Shop on Duke of Gloucester Street at 4 and 5:30 p.m. At 5 p.m. on the Palace Green Stage, a reading of “Goodwin and the Ghost,” a Williamsburg Christmas tale, features the William & Mary Botetourt Chamber Singers, followed at 5:30 p.m. just across the street by the illumination of the George Wythe House.

Tickets for premium guaranteed fireworks seating on the Palace Green are available for \$25 per guest. Premium seating opens at 3 p.m. and is first-come, first-served. Fireworks

demonstrations begin promptly at 7 p.m. and are followed by a torch-lit procession of the Fifes & Drums down Duke of Gloucester Street.

Colonial Williamsburg historic sites are open to ticketed guests from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 8, followed by the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Ice Pavilion is open to guests with a special ticket from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Duke of Gloucester Street near Colonial Williamsburg's Merchants Square.

At 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. at the Hennage Auditorium, Henley Fork presents a celebration of holiday music from the time of Jamestown through the 20th century. Tickets for the shows are \$10 in addition to Colonial Williamsburg or Art Museums admission.

Dining highlights include Grand Illumination Dinners at Shields Tavern from 3:45-8 p.m. and at Christiana Campbell's and King's Arms taverns from 4:15-8 p.m.

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Event-related street closures are anticipated and guests and members of the community are encouraged to plan accordingly. Guest parking is available at the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center.

Residents of the City of Williamsburg, James City County and the Bruton District of York County as well as municipal employees and local teachers are eligible for the Colonial Williamsburg Good Neighbor Pass, which is \$19.99 and \$9.99 for youths ages 6-12 and provides admission to Colonial Williamsburg sites and the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg for one year from date of purchase.

The Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums also perform free for the public at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 on the Historic Area's Charlton Stage.

Tickets and program information, including FAQs and full a event schedule are available by visiting colonialwilliamsburg.com/holidays. Dining information and reservations are available via colonialwilliamsburghotels.com/events. Tickets, reservations and information are available by calling 855-296-6627, toll-free. Information is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and @colonialwmsburg on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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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 nearly 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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