

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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colonialwilliamsburg.org

Colonial Williamsburg Offers Free Admission, Special Programming July 4



Images courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Download high-resolution images [here](#)

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 20, 2024) – Colonial Williamsburg is offering free single-day admission tickets to its Historic Area and Art Museums on July 4 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Celebrate Independence Day at the birthplace of democracy alongside Thomas Jefferson, Martha Washington, Gowan Pamphlet and other members of the nation’s founding generation with fireworks, musical performances and special programming. Visitors can pre-register to claim complimentary tickets at colonialwilliamsburg.org/tickets/july4.

“July Fourth is an opportunity to celebrate all this nation has accomplished in our continuing and unfinished pursuit to create a more perfect union,” said Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. “There’s no better place to take stock of our collective achievements and opportunities than here in Williamsburg, in the very same streets and buildings in which our national identity was first shaped.”

Event Highlights

9:30 a.m. – [Declaration of Independence Reading](#)

Gather in Capitol Circle to hear Thomas Jefferson give a rousing reading of the Declaration of Independence from the balcony of the Capitol.

10:30 a.m. – [Salute to the States](#)

Head to Market Square North (behind the Courthouse) to join the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums and the Virginia State Garrison Regiment to salute the original thirteen states of the Union.

12 p.m. – [Noon Reading of Declaration](#)

Gather on the steps of the Courthouse with costumed interpreters representing 18th-century Williamsburg's diverse community to hear the Declaration of Independence read as they would have first experienced it.

NEW 2:30 p.m. – [Building Washington's Army](#)

New this year, participate in a military drill behind the Courthouse with members of the Virginia State Garrison Regiment, culminating in an inspection by Colonel Washington himself!

8 p.m. – [Lights of Freedom](#)

Gather on Palace Green for a celebration of the words and music of the American Revolution. Guests are invited to bring chairs, blankets and food to enjoy the concert

9:30 p.m. – Fireworks

The evening concludes with a dazzling fireworks display above the Governor's Palace sponsored by the City of Williamsburg. Fireworks last approximately 20 minutes and can be seen from Palace Green and Market Square.

Visit the [CW Planner](#) at colonialwilliamsburg.org/events-calendar for a full list of the day's events including historic trade demonstrations, building tours, performances, ongoing exhibitions and additional special programming.

Important Information

- **Transportation and Parking:** A variety of [free and paid parking options](#) are available around the perimeter of the Historic Area, in downtown Williamsburg and at the Visitor Center. [Complimentary bus service](#) is provided by Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) on Route 15: Colonial. Visit gowata.org for up-to-date information about route times and stops.
- **Food and beverage:** A variety of dining opportunities, ranging from grab-and-go drinks and snacks to reservation-only buffets, are available throughout the Historic Area and in nearby Merchants Square. Visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/special-event/july-4/#dining for more information.
- **Weather:** 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.

A full list of July Fourth FAQs including additional information on parking, food and beverage, restroom locations and more can be found at colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/special-event/july-4#faq.

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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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