

# Revolutionary Elegance in Colonial Williamsburg

Presented by the Historic New Orleans Collection

June 7–11, 2026

## Tour Leaders:

- Tom Savage, director of educational travel and conferences, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Lydia Blackmore, curator of decorative arts, HNOC
- Amanda McFillen, director of audience engagement, HNOC

## Day 1 - Sunday, June 7: Arrival & Orientation

Your journey begins with arrival at Richmond International Airport (RIC) (recommended) or Newport News–Williamsburg International Airport (PHF). Ground transportation to Colonial Williamsburg can be arranged by contacting Amanda McFillen for options. Upon arrival, you'll check in at the Williamsburg Inn, one of Colonial Williamsburg's premier five-star accommodations with elegant Regency-style architecture. Located adjacent to the Historic Area, it offers immediate walking access to all sites.

In the afternoon, we'll gather in the Williamsburg Inn's designated meeting room or lobby for our orientation and welcome session. You'll receive your Colonial Williamsburg passes, tour schedules, and information packets, followed by an overview of the week ahead with your tour leaders. We'll then take a walking orientation of Duke of Gloucester Street and the Historic Area.

The evening culminates with a welcome reception and dinner at the Williamsburg Inn, where you'll have the opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and tour leaders in the Inn's elegant surroundings.

## **Day 2 - Monday, June 8: Introduction to Colonial Williamsburg**

After breakfast at the Williamsburg Inn, we begin our exploration of Colonial Williamsburg with a guided tour of the reconstructed Governor's Palace. An expert Colonial Williamsburg interpreter will lead us through this magnificent residence, and we'll explore the extensive gardens and outbuildings that showcase the grandeur of colonial Virginia's seat of power.

Following our tour, you'll have time to wander through the palace gardens at your leisure before we break for lunch at a nearby restaurant. The afternoon is yours to explore the Historic Area independently. This remarkable district features 89 original 18th-century buildings as well as hundreds of reconstructed properties, offering endless opportunities to learn about the daily lives of the diverse men and women who lived in Williamsburg before and during the American Revolution.

Dinner this evening is on your own, with recommendations provided. For those interested, Colonial Williamsburg offers optional evening programs including ghost tours, theatrical performances, and tavern entertainment.

## **Day 3 - Tuesday, June 9: James River Plantations**

Following breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a full day exploring magnificent estates along the James River. Our first stop is Historic Westover, where a private guided tour awaits. Built around 1730, Westover stands as one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in America. We'll tour the grounds overlooking the James River while discussing plantation life and the architectural influences that shaped Westover and other estates like it.

After enjoying a picnic lunch, we continue to Shirley Plantation for a guided tour of this 18th-century estate. Our focus will be on the architecture, landscape design, and the colonial plantation economy.

We'll return to Colonial Williamsburg in the late afternoon, leaving the evening free for you to dine on your own and relax after our day of exploration.

## **Day 4 - Wednesday, June 10: Behind the Scenes & Decorative Arts**

Today offers exclusive access to Colonial Williamsburg's treasures. After breakfast at the Williamsburg Inn, we'll visit the newly opened Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Archaeology Center for a special tour. Here you'll view artifacts uncovered in archaeological excavations

beneath Williamsburg's streets, learn about the methodology behind these discoveries, and discuss how archaeology informs historical interpretation.

After lunch at a nearby restaurant, we then move to the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum to begin an in-depth exploration of colonial and early American furniture, silver, ceramics, and textiles. Paying special attention to pieces relevant to New Orleans collectors and HNOC collections, this morning session will deepen your appreciation for the decorative arts of this period.

The evening brings special gatherings to celebrate our time together. We'll begin with a private cocktail reception at the home of Tom Savage, followed by our farewell dinner at Shields Tavern, where we'll enjoy authentic colonial fare while reflecting on the week's experiences and discoveries.

## **Day 5 - Thursday, June 11: Departure**

After a final breakfast at the Williamsburg Inn, those with later flights may choose to explore Colonial Williamsburg on your own, perhaps revisiting favorite sites or discovering new corners of the Historic Area. Check-out takes place in the late morning, and group transportation to the airport can be arranged for an additional fee for those who need it.

## **Registration & Pricing**

### **Trip Cost**

- Double occupancy: \$2,550 per person
- Single occupancy: \$3,750 per person

### **What's Included**

- Four nights accommodation at the Williamsburg Inn
- Colonial Williamsburg admission passes (good for all days)
- All scheduled group meals as indicated on itinerary
- Motorcoach transportation for plantation day trip
- All guided tours and special programs

- Day 1 welcome reception
- Services of tour leaders throughout

## Physical Requirements

This tour involves significant walking on uneven surfaces, cobblestones, and stairs. Most historic buildings have limited accessibility. Please contact tour organizers about specific mobility concerns.

**Group Size:** typically 18–26 participants

## Contact Information

Amanda McFillen, director of audience engagement, HNOC

(337) 962-0444

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## Pre-Trip Preparation Suggestions

- Visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org) to explore sites and plan personal interests; review information about specific buildings and programs

## Weather Planning

- Average June temperatures: 70–88°F
- High humidity typical
- Afternoon thunderstorms possible

*This itinerary is subject to change based on availability, weather, and unforeseen circumstances. Final confirmations will be provided closer to departure date.*