

Colonial

National Historical Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Jamestown Story

WHERE YOU WALK TODAY
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
ENGLISHMEN WALKED.

THEY LEFT BEHIND A
HERITAGE OF LAW,
LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS ...
A WAY OF LIFE.

Here is the place! The site of the first permanent English-speaking settlement in North America. The meeting place of the first representative legislative assembly of 1619. And for 92 years, the first capital of Virginia from 1607 to 1699.

At Jamestown the historian, archeologist and architect have worked closely together to construct a picture of life in the 17th century. Excavations have uncovered foundations, countless artifacts and burial grounds.

The objects suggest the manner of living of the first Virginians while building remains and the terrain trace out the town's development. Walk through the OLD TOWN SITE where exhibits, statues and memorials interpret the historic scene for you. In addition, a rental tape of the Old Town walking tour is available at the gift shop.

1. Begin your self-guided tour at the **VISITOR CENTER** which recounts the story of the English colonization in Virginia. See the 15-minute orientation film and the museum exhibits to help acquire a "feeling" for Jamestown's history.

2. From the terrace of the **TERCENTENARY MONUMENT**, you can survey the foundations of the town site. The 103-ft shaft of the New Hampshire granite, erected in 1907, commemorates the 300th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.

3. Beyond to the right is the **STATUE OF POCAHONTAS**, daughter of Chief Powhatan. Her marriage to John Rolfe in 1614 helped improve relations between the native Americans and the English.

4. The **OLD CHURCH TOWER**, the only 17th century structure still standing, is an addition to the first brick church built in 1639. In 1907, a memorial church was built over the foundations of the 1639 brick church and an earlier frame church, constructed in 1617. Here on July 30, 1619, the first representative legislative

assembly in North America convened, laying the foundations for representative government which we enjoy today.

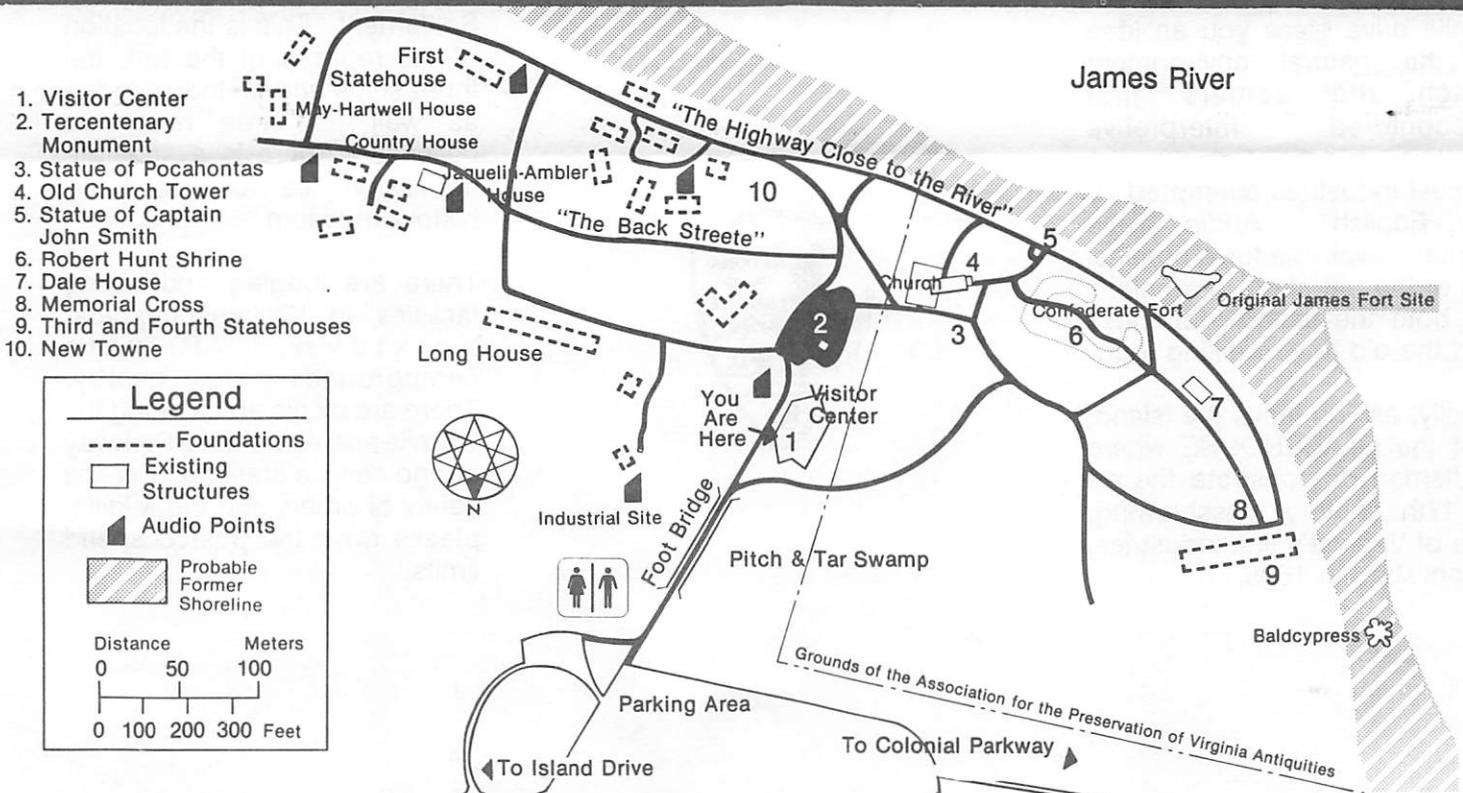
5. Nearby is the **STATUE OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH**, explorer, author, soldier and president of the Virginia Council, 1608-1609. He instituted a policy of rigid discipline with this admonishment: "He who will not work, will not eat." Under his strong leadership, the colony survived and grew.

6. The **ROBERT HUNT SHRINE** is dedicated to the colony's first Anglican minister. The Reverend Hunt played an important role as conciliator and provided spiritual leadership to unite the first settler's efforts in survival.

7. Near the seawall is the **DALE HOUSE**, named for Sir Thomas Dale, Governor of Virginia 1611-1616. On a seasonal basis, you may watch pottery being made using 17th and 18th century designs from the Jamestown archeology collection.

8. The **MEMORIAL CROSS** marks some 300 shallow graves hastily dug by the colonists during the winter of 1609-1610, known as the "Starving Time."

Jamestown



9. Representative government grew and developed in the **THIRD AND FOURTH STATEHOUSES**. The Third Statehouse was destroyed, along with the rest of Jamestown, by Nathaniel Bacon in 1676 during his short-lived rebellion against the colonial administration of Governor William Berkeley. Rebuilt as the Fourth Statehouse, the structure accidentally burned in the fall of 1698, sparking a movement by the General Assembly to relocate the capital from Jamestown to Williamsburg.

10. Return to the monument terrace. To the east is **NEW TOWNE**, developed after 1620. Here you encounter a section of Jamestown where colonists, thriving on the tobacco trade, built more substantial homes. The foundations of many homes and other buildings were excavated by archeologists in the 1930s and 1950s. Later these excavations were covered with outlines of whitened brick for their protection. Please do not walk or stand on these fragile ruins. The reconstructed mounds once served as drainage ditches and boundary markers for the settlers.

For your safety, please keep on the paths and watch your children. Stay off the ruins and away from the river, which is deep and polluted.

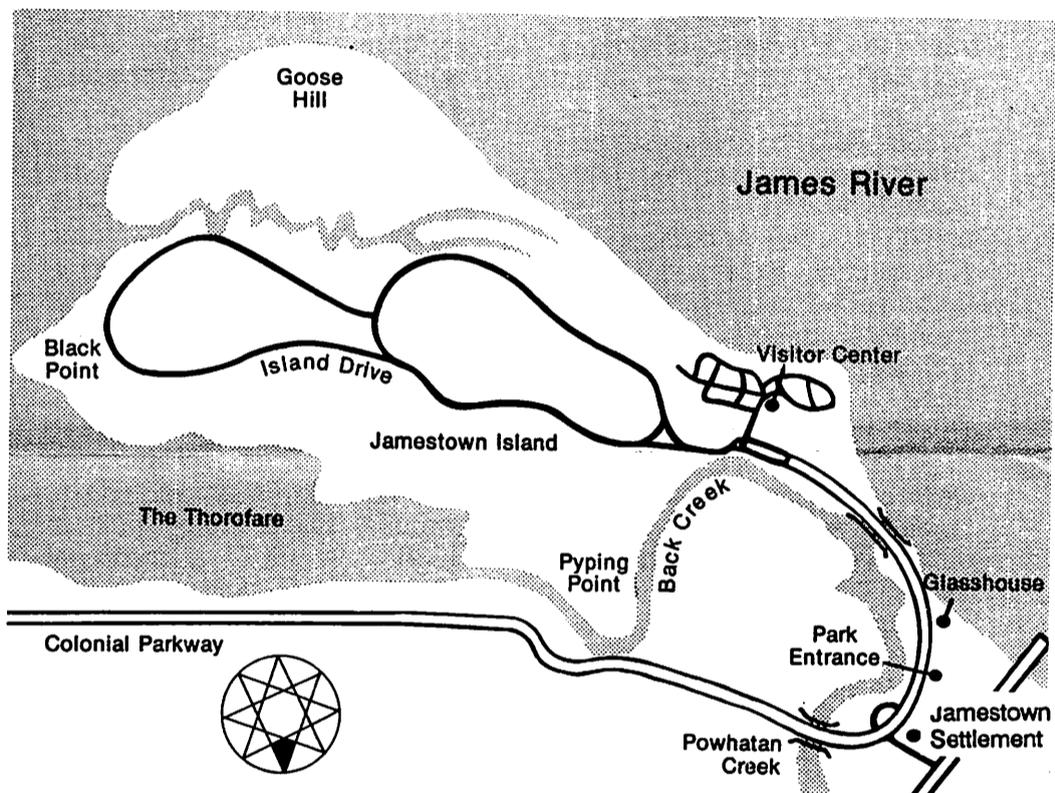
Jamestown Today

You may explore the island on the loop drive, located at the far end of the parking lot. This 3 or 5-mile drive gives you an idea of the natural environment which the settlers first encountered. Interpretive paintings and signs discuss the earliest industries attempted by the English. Audio Tape Rentals, available for a nominal fee at the gift shop, are helpful for both the island loop drive and the old town walking tour.

Finally, as you leave the island, visit the **GLASSHOUSE** where craftsmen demonstrate the art of 17th century glassblowing, one of Virginia's first industries, established in 1608.

ADMINISTRATION

In 1893 the **ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES (APVA)** acquired 22 1/2 acres on Jamestown Island. The remainder of the 1,500-acre island became part of **COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK** in 1934. Jamestown has been jointly administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the APVA since 1940. Inquiries should be made to the Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Virginia 23690.



After you pass the National Park Service Entrance Station, to your left is a state operated facility called the Jamestown Settlement. This is the location of the replicas of the fort, the three ships and an Indian lodge as well as three renovated galleries. There is a separate admission fee for this living history museum.

There are lodging and eating facilities in Williamsburg and Yorktown. Private campgrounds are nearby. There are picnic areas along the 23-mile scenic Colonial Parkway but no service stations. For the safety of others and the wildlife, please drive the posted speed limits.

