# Colonial Parkway

The Colonial Parkway not only illustrates the English colonial experience in America, but is also an outstanding example of American parkway design. Retaining its original scenic and historic integrity to a remarkable degree, the 23-mile route connects the historic sites of Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown.

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|---|---|
| Length: | 23 miles / 36.8 km |
| Time to Allow: | One hour to drive the byway. |

## Local Information

**National Park Service, Colonial National Historical Park**
757-898-2410
Send E-mail

## Visitor Services

### Food

There are places to buy food along this byway.

### Gasoline

Gasoline is available.

### Information

Each of the three primary gateways for the Colonial Parkway offer full-service visitor information centers. At Historic Jamestown and Yorktown Battlefield, visitor centers operated by the National Park Service offer exhibits, orientation film, and Park Ranger guided tours of the sites, along with traveler information and brochures on the history of the parkway. The Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center provides information about the gateway and traveler information maps of the parkway.

### Lodging

There is overnight lodging along this byway.

## Special Considerations

Each of the three gateway visitor centers at Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown are fully accessible for disabled visitors. Additionally, the parking areas at the of the Visitor Centers have designated disabled parking, as well as curb cuts.

## Restrictions

Commercial vehicles are prohibited from the Colonial Parkway, in order to preserve the integrity of the parkway's original design as a scenic road. Additionally, vehicles with a weight in excess of 20 tons (single axle) are prohibited from the parkway.

The portion of the Colonial Parkway between Newport and Route 199 has been closed indefinitely due to storm damage. Heavy rains caused a massive culvert failure and washed away the ground beneath the pavement. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians must detour using Newport Ave. and S. Henry Street in Williamsburg.

## Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Though the Colonial Parkway is a beautiful drive all year long, the best time is in late April and early May, when the dogwood and redbud are in bloom, and during the brilliant fall color display in mid-October.

High Season

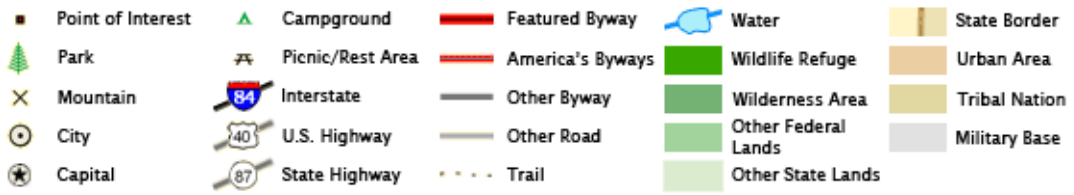
Due to heavy out-of-town summer visitation at Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown, the months from June through August produce extra traffic.

# Map and Directions

## Standard Map - Western Section

## Standard Map - Eastern Section

## Legend:




## Driving Directions

- The byway begins at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center parking lot southeast of Yorktown, VA.

- Follow the Colonial National Historic Parkway from Yorktown as it winds towards Williamsburg.
- Continue along the Colonial National Historic Parkway to the Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center parking lot, where the byway ends.

## Getting to the Byway

### Nearby cities

**Washington, DC** (156 miles / 251.06 km, 2 hours 40 minutes)

**Start:** ◉ I-395 southbound, Washington, DC
N 38.883° W 77.016° [?]

**Directions:**

- On I-395 go southwest toward Springfield, VA.
- Merge onto I-95 continuing southwest to Richmond.
- Take I-295 southeast to I-64 east.
- Take I-64 east to VA-199.
- Follow VA-199 approximately 2 miles to access the byway to Williamsburg and Jamestown; follow VA-199 approximately 3 miles to access the byway to Yorktown.

**Junction with byway:** * Colonial National Historical Pkwy Exit of MD-199
N 37.249° W 76.700° [?]

# Road Trip:
# America's History Highway

**Departure:** Historic Jamestowne, Virginia

**Destination:** Yorktown Victory Center

**Time to allow:** 1 day

By traveling the 23 miles of the Colonial Parkway, travelers can take in the entire 174 year period of British colonial history in North America at Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown.

## Day 1

- ### Start: Historic Jamestowne

  Witness archeology in action at the 1607 James Fort excavation, tour the original 17th-century church tower, and reconstructed 17th-century Jamestown Memorial church, or take a walk with a park ranger through the original settlement along the scenic James River.

- ### Stop 1: Jamestown Settlement

  **From previous stop:** 3 minutes / 1.26 mi (2.0 km)

  **Directions:** Go northwest on Colonial Parkway, drive for 1 mile and then turn left to stay on the Parkway and end at Jamestown Settlement.

  **Suggested time at this stop:** 3 hours

  Get a glimpse of 17th-centry Virginia life, at the site of America's first permanent English colony. Through films, indoor gallery exhibits and outdoor living history, Jamestown Settlement lets you experience what life was life centuries ago. Board a replica of one of the three ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607 or explore a life-size re-creation of the colonists' fort and a Powhatan village.

- ## Stop 2: Colonial Williamsburg

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|---|---|
| **From previous stop:** | 17 minutes / 7.05 mi (11.3 km) |
| **Directions:** | Go north on Colonial Parkway, then make a right onto Jamestown Road. After 5.5 miles, make another right onto S. Boundary St., then a left onto VA-5; road then turns into W. Francis St. Turn left onto Waller St., after road becomes Capitol Landing Rd, turn left onto 1st St. to end at Colonial Williamsburg. |
| **Suggested time at this stop:** | 2 hours |

Experience what life was like in the 18th century; visit the homes and public buildings where men like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Patrick Henry met to change a society and inspired a fight for independence. This living breathing community shows you farmers in their fields, craftspeople practicing their trades and merchants selling their wares. Pause in the town square to hear impassioned speeches and watch powerful performances that once inspired a nation to change and strike out on their own.

- ## Stop 3: Yorktown Battlefield

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|---|---|
| **From previous stop:** | 25 minutes / 13 mi (20.8 km) |
| **Directions:** | Leaving the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, take the Colonial Parkway approximately 13 miles east to the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center. The visitor center is located at the eastern end of the parkway. |
| **Suggested time at this stop:** | 30 minutes |

Visit the site of the last major battle of the American Revolution at the Yorktown Battlefield.

- **End: Yorktown Victory Center**

**From previous stop:** 5 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

**Directions:** Leaving the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center, take the Colonial Parkway approximately 1.5 miles west and turn right, following signs to the Yorktown Victory Center.

Visit the Yorktown Victory Center to lean about the start of the American Revolution, from the start of colonial unrest to the formation of a new nation through a timeline, indoor exhibits, an engaging film and outdoor living history area. The past comes to life through costumed historical interpreters participating in drills and chores in this recreated Continental Army encampment.

## Totals for Day 1

**Total Distance Traveled:** 23.31 miles / 37.3 km

**Total Travel Time:** 50 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 5 hours 30 minutes