

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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Jamestown Commemorates the Anniversary of the Arrival of the English to Virginia

JAMESTOWN, Va. (May 1, 2023) –

On May 14th, 1607, three ships anchored in the deep waters of the James River and their passengers, 104 men and boys plus crewmembers, stepped onto a swampy, unoccupied peninsula “in Paspaha’s [Pasphegh] country.” (George Percy) Their goals were to find gold and a water route to the Pacific Ocean. The settlers did not succeed at either, but they set in motion the events that helped build the foundation of America. To mark this momentous occasion, visitors are invited to a day of activities and themed tours, as well as the return of two behind-the-scenes programs.

Jamestown Day:

Historic Jamestown will commemorate Jamestown Day on Saturday, May 13th. Jamestown Day programming includes walking tours and living history that take visitors back to the 17th century and share the context behind this pivotal event in American history. Jamestown archaeologists will share recent discoveries, including sites north of the fort that may contain the first expansion of the settlement and the ca. 1617 well potentially associated with Lieutenant Governor Samuel Argall. The Ed Shed will host hands-on archaeological activities for children and families where they can handle and interact with real pieces of Jamestown history. Jamestown curators will also host a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections and conservation facilities (additional ticket required).

The full schedule of tours and activities for Jamestown can be found at historicjamestowne.org/visit/calendar/jamestown-day.

New Programs:

Jamestown Day also marks the return of behind-the-scenes tours with Jamestown archaeologists, curators, and conservators! Beginning May 9, visitors can join senior staff to explore our collection of more than four million artifacts and learn how advanced technology helps archaeologists reveal a lifetime of information about the people who lived and died at Jamestown.

Inside the Vault: Go behind the scenes to the Jamestown archaeology lab and collections facility. Visitors will tour the lab with a senior team member to learn about our collection of more than four million artifacts recovered by Jamestown Rediscovery archaeologists since 1994. Program attendees will also have the opportunity to see conservation and collections projects in progress. “Inside the Vault” is offered on select Tuesdays year-round and is recommended for ages 16+. Additional ticket is required.

Learn more about “Inside the Vault” tours and buy tickets at:
historicjamestowne.org/shop/programs/curators-tours/inside-the-vault-tour

Forensic Friday: Join a senior forensic archaeologist to take a deeper dive into colonial cold cases being investigated by Jamestown archaeologists. Forensic and genetic analyses have yielded profound insights into the lives of the people who lived and died on Jamestown Island. These studies are instrumental in solving Jamestown's mysteries, from uncovering evidence of cannibalism to identifying the first English colonists. "Forensic Friday" is offered on select Fridays May-October and is recommended for ages 16+. Additional ticket is required.

Learn more about "Forensic Friday" tours and buy tickets at:
<https://historicjamestowne.org/shop/uncategorized/forensic-fridays/>

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About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. The Foundation is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit. JRF jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. Admission includes the James Fort site, New Town, and the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as walking tours, living history, and public programs. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.