

2026 Founders Tour

Welcome to this year's AACA **Founders Tour**, hosted by Historic Virginia Peninsula Region (HVPR). We have planned what we hope you will find to be **"An Amazing Race through History."**

Be sure that you have a pass from the National Park Service. It will give you access to Historic Jamestown and the Yorktown Battlefield.

Daily Summary

Day 1: Wednesday, September 9



3:00 pm: Check-in at Host Hotel (Double Tree, Williamsburg).

4:30 – 6:30: Welcome Reception that evening.

Day 2: Thursday, September 10 Jamestown

Via the Colonial Parkway, drive to Jamestown, taking in both the Historic Site and the Recreated Settlement. You'll learn about the Virginia Indians who occupied the landscape for centuries, the arrival of English colonists to Jamestown in 1607. See full-scale, sailing replicas of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607.



Learn about the first documented arrival of West Central Africans in 1619, leading to cultural encounters and events that planted the seeds of a new nation.

Explore the cultures of the Powhatan Indians, English and West Central Africans who converged in 1600s Virginia. Trace Jamestown's beginnings in England through the first century of Virginia colony life.

Your selected lunch will be provided on site. Then return to the Hotel via the Jamestown Ferry and the James River Bridge.

Day 3: Friday, September 11 Williamsburg



Drive to Colonial Williamsburg, for a private tour of the Colonial Capital. Must-see sites are:

- **Duke of Gloucester Street:** The main spine of Colonial Williamsburg. You'll walk through restored 18th-century streets filled with interpreters, tradespeople, taverns, gardens, and historic buildings.
- **Governor's Palace:** The grand colonial governor's residence and one of the most impressive buildings in town.
- **Capitol Building:** Where Virginia's colonial legislature met before Richmond became the capital.

Lunch will be at the famous Shields Tavern. (Lunch is included in your registration fee).

After more sightseeing, drive to the Saude Creek Vineyards, which sits high on a hillside adjacent to the Pamunkey River for a tour and tasting of the wines.

Day 4: Saturday, September 12
Yorktown

Drive to Yorktown, the site of the last major battle of the American Revolutionary War, where General George Washington defeated British General Lord Cornwallis in 1781.



In the morning stop by the shops of Riverwalk Landing, and the open-air market.

Take the free trolley to the historic area for a walking tour. See what life was like “Before the Siege” as Historic Main Street comes alive with reenactors. Tour the historic Grace Episcopal church.

The lunch you selected will be served at Riverwalk Restaurant. After lunch, take the trolley to the American Revolution Museum.

End your day driving your vehicle through the Yorktown Battlefield, a 16-mile, two-loop self-guided auto tour through Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia.

Day 5: Sunday, September 13
Berkeley Plantation



Drive to the historic Berkeley Plantation. Berkeley Plantation, commemorating its 300th anniversary.

Berkeley’s mansion is one of the oldest three-story brick houses in Virginia. Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence, was the first child born in the mansion and lived there until his death in 1791.

But Berkeley’s story reaches even further back, beginning in 1619, when settlers observed what is recognized as the first official Thanksgiving in America.

Berkeley is not only the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor of Virginia, but also the birthplace of William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States, and the ancestral home

of his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, the twenty-third president.

The mansion is furnished with a rare collection of eighteenth-century antiques, Chinese porcelain, and English silver. Costumed guides lead guests through the main floor sharing stories of the first Thanksgiving, the Harrison family, the Civil War, and Berkeley’s present owners.

The original kitchen dependency and reconstructed slave quarters tell the story of the enslaved workers who lived and worked at Berkeley.

Gardens and grounds tours are at your own pace and include five terraces leading to the banks of the James River.

Tea and cookies will be served at the plantation.

Return to the Host Hotel. Lunch is on your own.

Later that night, we’ll celebrate the week’s journey with a **Colonial Banquet**, which will include cocktails, dinner and awards.

Day 6: Monday, September 14

Enjoy Breakfast at the hotel, and before checking out, reminisce with the friends you made on your **Amazing Race through History**.