

Mary's Walk

Explore Williamsburg's History at Your Own Pace

Colonial Williamsburg and The Edge District (5.1 Miles)

Mary's Walk Williamsburg is a free annual outdoor community-wide walking event for all ages emphasizing walking for health, active transportation, the environment - and fun! This is a "walk at your own pace, start any time, start anywhere" fun walk, not a race. All ages can participate. Distances from 1 to 10 miles.

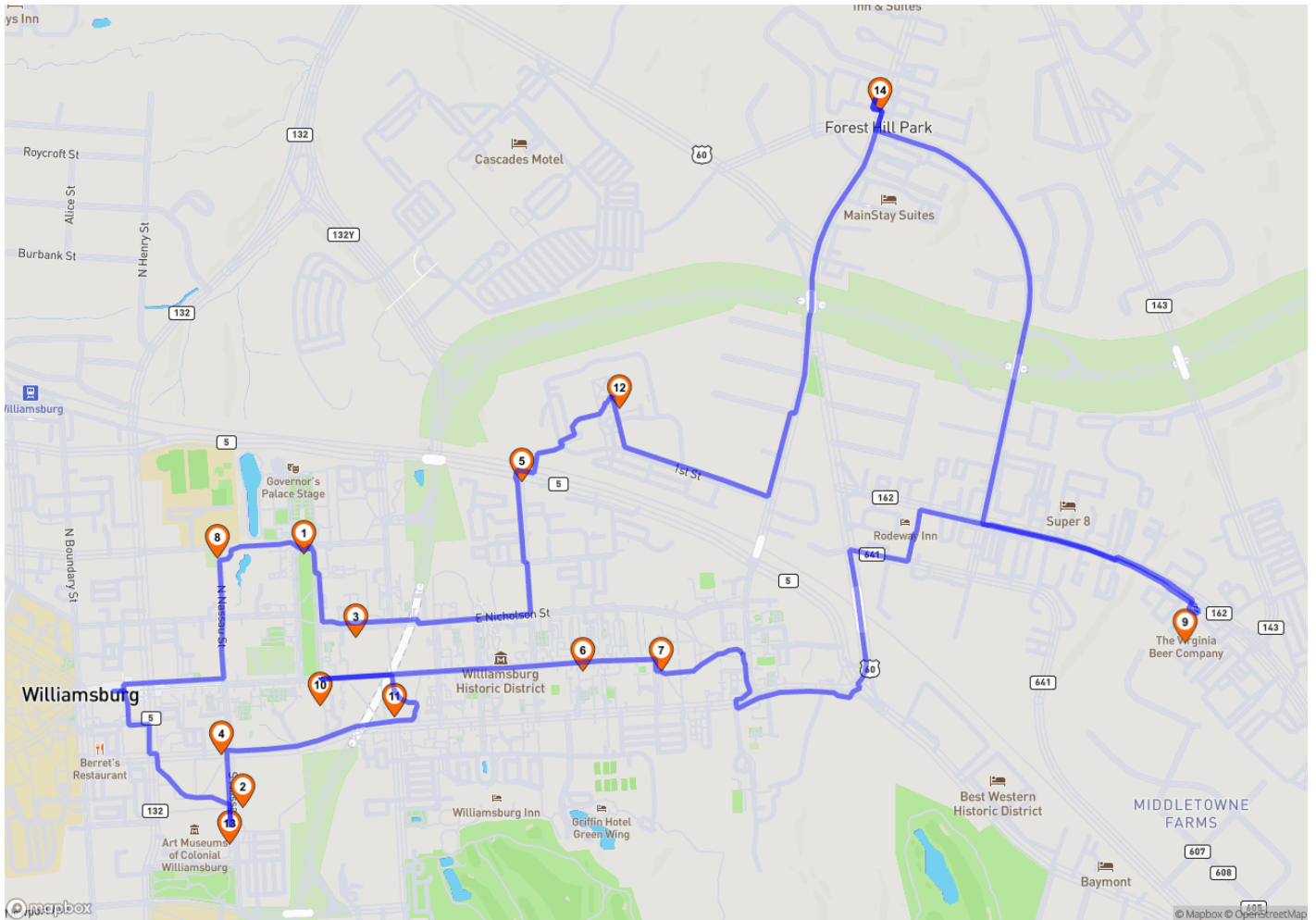
This site provides fully interactive maps for the three walking routes, with clickable markers to describe each Point of Interest along the way.

For more information about Mary's Walk Williamsburg, visit [BikeWalk Williamsburg](#).

This 5.1-mile loop through Colonial Williamsburg takes you past many historic landmarks, and then proceeds to the Edge District. An area Established in 2019 where James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg converge, the district offers many dining opportunities. Start at Merchant Square in Colonial Williamsburg, follow the orange path on the map, and enjoy the self-guided experience at your own pace.

Be sure to click each point of interest on the map to learn more, and explore the links for additional historical info, photos, and resources.

Points of Interest for Mary's Walk



1. Governor's Palace



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- Completed in 1722
- Garden with canal designed by its first occupant, Governor Alexander Spotswood
- Served as home for governors Spotswood, Fauquier, Botetourt, and

Dunmore until 1775

- Palace and garden admission free to locals with a "Good Neighbor" Pass

2. Custis Square Archaeology Project

134 S Nassau St

- Original site of the home and garden of John Custis, IV, first father-in-law of Martha Washington
- In its day, the Custis ornamental garden was said to be remarkable
- Purpose of archaeological project is to uncover early American gardening practices



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3. Compton Oak

- Compton Oak, on Nicholson St. at Market Square
- Found in 1937 by a CW arborist when it was a sapling growing in an undeveloped area near Norfolk and transplanted in Colonial Williamsburg
- About 88 years old, it is now 70 feet tall, 97 feet wide, with trunk 14 feet in circumference
- Latin name: *Quercus xcomptoniae*, a natural hybrid of a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and an overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*)
- Named for a Mrs. Compton of Natchez, Miss., when a specimen found growing in her garden was identified as a unique oak tree species in early 1900's



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4. Bray School



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- Located on Francis St. at Nassau St.
- One of the 89 original 18th century structures preserved in Colonial Williamsburg
- Discovered on College of William & Mary property, moved to its current location and restored to its original appearance 2023-2024
- The Bray School was originally established by London-based Anglican charity "Association of Dr. Bray"
- Operated 1760-1774 as a school for Black children taught by Ann Wager
- One of the earliest schools dedicated to the education of Black children in America

5. The Railroad Underpass



- The underpass was built to enable pupils from Williamsburg to access Bruton Heights School without having to cross the railroad tracks

6. Raleigh Tavern Bake Shop

410 E. Duke of



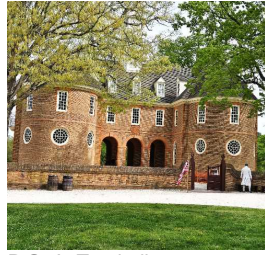
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Gloucester St.

- Located on patio Behind Raleigh Tavern
- Access also from Nicholson St through back garden
- Fresh "ginger cakes" straight from the oven are available most days at around 10:00-10:30 am

7. Colonial Capitol

- Served as the center of British authority in colonial Virginia after the decision was made to move government activities from Jamestown to Williamsburg
- Completed in 1705, and in order to prevent any disastrous fire, it was built with no fireplaces or chimneys
- Later, when it was determined that important documents were deteriorating due to dampness, fireplaces and chimneys were added.
- Burned to the ground in 1747 and was rebuilt and continued to be used by the Virginia legislature until 1779 when the government was moved to Richmond
- Was later used as the Court of Admiralty, then as district court, as a "moot court" for law students to practice disputing "with elegance, method & learning", and a military hospital
- In 1832 it was burned down to the ground again.
- Recreated in 1934 based on the 1705-1747 structure.



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8. Matthew Whaley School

301 Scotland St.

- Built 1929-1930, Georgian Revival style, now serves as a public elementary school
- Listed on Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic



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Places

- The current Matthew Whaley School originally housed kindergarten-12th grade and was operated by the College of William & Mary as a training school for future teachers
- In 1955 it became a grammar school for K-5 when a new James Blair High School was built
- Sculpture of a child in front of the school represents the school's namesake, Matthew Whaley, born in 1696 and died at age 9 in 1705. "Mattey" was the only son of Mary Whaley who ran a grammar school in her back yard and later established a free school for poor children in memory of Mattey. Mattey is buried in Bruton Parish Cemetery.

9. Virginia Beer Company



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- Opened in 2016 by Chris Smith and Robby Willey
- Williamsburg's second micro-brewery uses 5-barrel and 30-barrel brewing, and provides diverse flagship beers as well as a changing mix of experimental small-batch beers
- The founders of the brewery conceived of their tap room as a community gathering space and the brewery is actively involved with an array of community non-profit partners
- Food trucks are present many days

10. Lumber House

122 W. Duke of Gloucester St.

- Currently it serves as the ticket office where one can purchase Colonial Williamsburg admission tickets, tickets for evening programs, Good Neighbor passes for Williamsburg area residents. Maps and monthly event schedules are also available
- Lumber house is an old 17th century English term for a building used for storing surplus or disused articles (it was also a term used for pawn shops)



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11. Powder Magazine

102 E. Duke of Gloucester St.



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- Commission in 1714 by colonial Governor Spotswood and built in 1715 to store military equipment that was dispatched from London for the defense of the colony
- Housed ammunition and guns as well as tents and mess kits
- One of the 89 surviving 18th century structures in Colonial Williamsburg
- Scene of the "Gunpowder Incident" of 1775 when Lord Dunmore, fearing a revolt, ordered his soldiers to seize the gunpowder, triggering a protest by the citizens of Williamsburg
- After the Revolution, the building was sold to a private owner, and over the years was used as a Baptist meeting house, a livery stable, and for storage
- Its wall partially collapsed in 1888 and that year the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities purchased it and restored it.
- In 2021 Colonial Williamsburg undertook a project to restore the Powder Magazine to its original 18th century appearance and to do archaeological investigations which have produced many artifacts from both the 18th century and Civil War eras

12. Bruton Heights Education Center

301 1st St.



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- Located on the Colonial Williamsburg research campus across the railroad tracks from the colonial area
- The original Bruton Heights School opened in 1940 as a K-12 school for the Black pupils living in Williamsburg and adjacent areas of James City County and York County during the segregation era, replacing a number of decrepit, unrepairable and overcrowded school facilities for Blacks
- The school also served as the community center for Black residents of the Williamsburg area
- In the late 1980's the school was closed as new integrated schools were built for the joint Williamsburg James City County school system
- A room off the entrance lobby contains a small museum dedicated to the years it served as a school and community center
- Currently used by Colonial Williamsburg research and media staff
- Other buildings on the campus include the John D. Rockefeller Research Library and the DeWitt Wallace Collection Conservation building

13. Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg



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301 S. Nassau St.

Free Admission

- Houses the Abbey Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection and the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum which includes many antique furnishings, musical instruments, and other colonial era artifacts
- Admission is free
- Includes the Museum Café, open to the public for lunch

14. Copper Fox Distillery

901 Capitol Landing Rd.



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- Owner Rick Wasmund established the Williamsburg distillery (his second) in the former Lord Paget Motel (the first distillery is located in Sperryville, VA.)
- The distillery uses Virginia grown grain to produce single malt whiskey using a unique process for maturing their whiskey with toasted applewood
- One of only 5 distilleries in the United States that uses a malt floor to process the barley. Fruitwood is used in the kiln to smoke and dry the grain
- Family friendly, open Sundays 12 noon-6 pm, tours of the distillery are available (cost \$10), also available are bar snacks, cheese flatbreads, charcuterie boards, seasonal fruits, as well as teas and other non-alcoholic beverages