Colonial Williamsburg's Holiday Season
Colonial Williamsburg's Revolutionary City, Hotels, Taverns and Art Museums
November 27 through January 1. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, special programs, dining, entertainment, hotel packages and events for children make it a holiday season to remember. (855) 296-6627.

Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia
Jamestown Settlement
November 27-29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Explore Virginia foodways of the 17th century during this three-day event beginning on Thanksgiving Day. Learn how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia's English colonists and Powhatan Indians. Discover how Powhatan Indians preserved crops of corn, beans and squash for nourishment and relied on seasonal bounty. Visitors can haul cargo out of a replica of one of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607 to learn how the colony was provisioned. Historical interpreters process an entire pig into hams and bacon and demonstrate open-hearth cooking of pudding, pies and pottage. Food preparation is for demonstration purposes only. A combination ticket is available with the Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution. (757) 253-4838.

Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia
Yorktown Victory Center
November 27-29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Explore Virginia foodways of the 18th century during this three-day event beginning on Thanksgiving Day. Examine typical soldiers' fare during the American Revolution and trace the bounty of a 1780s farm from field to kitchen. Examine how Continental Army soldiers turned meager rations of dried beans, salted meat and hard bread into nourishing soups and stews at an "earthen kitchen." Visitors to the re-created 1780s farm can see a variety of dishes prepared daily using 18th-century cooking techniques and recipes, as well as remedies for indigestion. Food preparation is for demonstration purposes only. A combination ticket is available with Jamestown Settlement, a museum of 17th-century Virginia. (757) 253-4838.

Specialty Tours at Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg
Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, 326 West Francis St.
November 27 through January 1, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily; November 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; December 7, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; December 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; January 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Delight in the collection of dollhouses and toys from days gone by; take in the
16-foot Christmas tree decorated with more than 1,000 handmade ornaments inspired by items in the museum collection. Specialty tours take place all month. An exhibition of exquisitely made American quilts, representing makers from many regions and ethnic groups including Anglo-Americans, African-Americans, Hawaiians and Amish, is on display. (855) 296-6627.

**Gingerbread Village at the Lodge**

*Williamsburg Lodge, 301 South England Street*

**November 29, 10 a.m.-noon.** Pastry chefs at the Williamsburg Lodge will assemble their famous gingerbread houses. Hot chocolate, warm cider and gingerbread cookies will be available for purchase to get the season off to a great start. (855) 296-6627.

**A Colonial Christmas**

*Jamestown Settlement*

**December 1-31 and January 2-4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** A holiday film and special guided tours compare English Christmas customs of the period with how the season may have been observed in the difficult early years of America’s first permanent English colony. Visitors will learn about Jamestown colony’s early years as well as the English colonists’ Christmas at sea in December 1606 and the Powhatan Indian hospitality shown to Captain John Smith’s trading party in 1608 during a winter storm. In the re-created 1610-14 fort, decorated with greenery, visitors can see periodic appearances by the Lord of Misrule and demonstrations of holiday cooking and, December 26-31 and January 2-4, enjoy 17th-century holiday musical entertainment. A combination ticket is available with the Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution. Closed Christmas and New Year’s days. (757) 253-4838.

**A Colonial Christmas**

*Yorktown Victory Center*

**December 1-31 and January 2-4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** Historical interpreters share accounts of Christmas and winter in military encampments during the American Revolution and show holiday preparations on a re-created 1780s farm. Continental Army encampment visitors can learn about winter camp life, hear stories of Christmas during the war, assist the quartermaster in preparing military supplies and observe artillery demonstrations. Farm interpreters will decorate with greenery, dip candles, prepare special dishes on an open hearth, set a farmhouse table for a holiday feast and, December 26-31 and January 2-4, present Christmas musical entertainment of the period. A combination ticket is available with Jamestown Settlement, a museum of 17th-century Virginia. Closed Christmas and New Year’s days. (757) 253-4838.

**Good Fires, Good Company and Diversions**

*Colonial Williamsburg, Powell House*

**November 28 to January 3, times vary.** Visitors discover how an 18th-century household prepared for the holiday season, with activities changing throughout the day. Dates and times vary throughout the season. (855) 296-6627.

**Secrets of the Chocolate Maker**

*Colonial Williamsburg, Governor’s Palace Kitchen*

**Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Guests will learn how chocolate was used in 18th-century
recipes and explore the process of roasting, shelling and crushing the cocoa beans and flavoring them with spices. (855) 296-6627.

**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
*Historic Yorktown, Riverwalk Landing*  
**December 5, 7:30-8:30 p.m.** A tradition that began in 1945 continues with a 7 p.m. performance by The Fifes and Drums of York Town at the Victory Monument, festive music at Riverwalk Landing, the procession of lights through the historic village, and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Free. (757) 890-3500.

**Christmas Market on Main**  
*Historic Yorktown, Main Street*  
**December 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** Whether you are searching for a holiday gift for family, friends, or as a treat to yourself, you’re sure to find it at the Christmas Market on Main. The market features arts and crafts vendors, strolling musical entertainment, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Free. (757) 877-2933.

**Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade**  
*Historic Yorktown, Water Street*  
**December 6, 7-10 p.m.** Festively decorated sail and power boats compete for “Best in Show” as the Yorktown waterfront is bedazzled with holiday sights and sounds, including a floating parade of lights, caroling around a beach bonfire, musical performances and complimentary hot cider. Free. (757) 890-4970.

**Grand Illumination**  
*Colonial Williamsburg’s Revolutionary City*  
**December 7.** In the 18th century, the firing of guns and lighting of fireworks were held to celebrate major events such as the commemoration of the birthday of a monarch, military victories or the arrival of a new governor. Colonial Williamsburg re-creates this tradition with Grand Illumination – a celebration that takes place the first Sunday in December, with musical performances on multiple stages, carolers, lit cressets – all the sights, sounds and scents of the season. Shortly after night falls, fireworks light the sky from three locations – the Capitol, the Governor’s Palace and the Magazine. No ticket required. (855) 296-6627.

**Breakfast with Santa**  
*Historic Yorktown, Riverwalk Restaurant, 323 Water Street*  
**December 13, 8:30-10 a.m.** Join Santa and Mrs. Claus, our special guests from the North Pole, for this once-a-year, family-oriented breakfast. Experience the enchantment on children’s faces as they relay their Christmas wishes to Santa. Special treats for children. Seating limited. Tickets required. (757) 875-1522.

**Yorktown Market Days**  
*Historic Yorktown, Riverwalk Landing, 425 Water Street*  
**December 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** The market will offer items unique to the holiday season, in addition to fresh produce, meat and seafood, baked goods, quality art and more. Free. (757) 890-3500.
Toyland Parade

*Historic Yorktown, Riverwalk Landing, 425 Water Street*

**December 13, 1-3 p.m.** Decorate a stroller, wagon, yourself, or even a pet, and join in the 1:30 p.m. parade. Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet guests, The Fifes and Drums of York Town will lead the parade, and the Polar Express will be chugging along through Riverwalk Landing. Free. (757) 890-3500.

“At Christmas be mery”: A Special Holiday Evening at Historic Jamestowne

*Historic Jamestowne*

**December 13 and 19, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.** Guests are met by the Captain of the Guard who escorts the “new arrivals” along a cresset-lit path to an early Virginia Christmas celebration. After a welcome by Governor Yeardley and singing carols in the historic church, guests herald in the season by the bonfire and the firing of the Christmas guns in the shadow of the old fort. Participants will walk approximately one-half mile during the program. A separate ticket is required. (855) 296-6627.

Caroling at the Robert Carter House

*Colonial Williamsburg, Robert Carter House on Palace Green*

**December 16, 6-6:45 p.m.** Guests gather next to MacKenzie’s Apothecary for a holiday sing-along. No ticket required. (855) 296-6627.

Ice Carving at the Lodge

*Williamsburg Lodge, 310 S. England St.*

**December 24, 2-4 p.m.** Chefs will be carving ice and making a gingerbread house Christmas Eve in the Lodge Lounge area. (855) 296-6627.

Firing of the Christmas Guns

*Colonial Williamsburg, Duke of Gloucester Street*

**December 24, 5 p.m.** As was done in the 18th century, guns are fired as an expression of joy and celebration in salute to the Christmas season. (855) 296-6627.

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony

*Colonial Williamsburg’s Courthouse and Market Square*

**December 24, 5:30 p.m.** Visitors and locals alike gather near the Courthouse steps on Duke of Gloucester Street for the tree lighting ceremony, re-telling of the story of the first Christmas tree, singing of carols and reciting of “T’was the Night before Christmas.” This popular annual event has been sponsored by Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg since 1959. (855) 296-6627.

A Colonial Christmas With Music

*Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center*

**December 26-31 and January 2-4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** Complementing a monthlong theme, songs and sounds of the Christmas season will be performed December 26-31 and January 2-4. Visitors can enjoy 17th- and 18th-century sounds of the holidays on instruments of the period, and at Jamestown Settlement, welcome periodic appearances by the Lord of Misrule, “grand captain of all mischief,” an English holiday tradition. (757) 253-4838. Closed New Year’s Day.