



AMERICA'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY

The Journey That Changed the World

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America's 400th Anniversary — Fact Sheet

Throughout 2007, America will commemorate an event that changed the world — the settling of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. The first permanent English settlement in North America, Jamestown established the culture that would flourish and leave to our nation the legacies of free enterprise, representative government and cultural diversity.

Americans have observed Jamestown anniversaries every 50 years in a spectacular manner. The 1907 Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition drew 1.5 million visitors to Norfolk and featured speeches by President Theodore Roosevelt, Booker T. Washington and Mark Twain. In 1957 more than a million visitors came to Virginia as America's 350th anniversary focused on historical preservation and education. Perhaps the most memorable moment, however, came when Queen Elizabeth II addressed thousands of people at Jamestown during her first official trip to the U.S. as monarch.

Jamestown 2007, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, is working with local, state and national groups to stage a memorable commemoration of America's 400th Anniversary. The commemoration began in May 2006 and continues through 2007 with a series of national and international Signature Events commemorating aspects of the Jamestown story.

The premier Signature Event will be **America's Anniversary Weekend**, a three-day spectacular event being held at the Jamestown sites on **May 11 – 13, 2007**. The President and First Lady, Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the Royal Family are being invited to participate in this landmark event, featuring pageantry, musical performances, cultural presentations and celebrity appearances.

Other Signature Events include:

The 2006 Godspeed Sail: The inaugural event of America's 400th Anniversary, Jamestown Settlement's *Godspeed* toured six East Coast ports from May-July, 2006. More than 456,000 people visited the newly built replica vessel and accompanying "Landing Party Festival" in Alexandria, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Newport, R.I. Jamestown's story came to life through family entertainment, historical exhibits and interactive educational activities, all free to the public.

Yorktown 225th Anniversary (October 19 – 22, 2006): America celebrated the 225th anniversary of its decisive Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown from October 19-22 with "A Salute to the Military." Re-enactments, parades, patriotic ceremonies, hands-on activities, live performances, a juried art show, tall ship displays and fireworks transformed the Yorktown National Battlefield, Riverwalk Landing and the Yorktown Victory Center into a four-day festival honoring this important milestone.

Native-American Cultural Events (October 5 – 7, 2006/July 21 – 22, 2007): Members of Virginia's Indian tribes are hosting two events. The October 2006 symposium, "Virginia Indians: 400 Years of Survival" drew Native speakers and participants from across Virginia and the United States to discuss topics such as sovereignty, Indian law, economic development, myths in history, and education. An American-Indian Intertribal Festival, being held in July 2007 at the Hampton Coliseum, will be an opportunity to experience the similarities and differences among American-Indian nations. Activities will include musical performances, storytelling, dancing, craft demonstrations, and children's games. Exhibits will showcase the history of Virginia tribes, and members of guest tribes from around the country will discuss issues facing American Indians today.

Jamestown Live! (November 9, 2006): The Jamestown sites hosted a free electronic classroom on November 9, 2006, to engage and enlighten students and teachers via a live webcast into schools across the nation. Nationally known television journalist Gwen Ifill hosted this event, which included historical experts, student reporters and special guests. Jamestown Live! was created in partnership with leading educational associations for grades 4-8. Jamestown-related lesson plans are available free to educators at www.JamestownJourney.org

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Jamestown 2007 is a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia

African-American Imprint on America (February 9 – 10, 2007): Events include the 2007 State of the Black Union in partnership with *Tavis Smiley Presents*, highlighting 400 years of the African-American Imprint on America; a Commerce and Cultural Exposition (August 2007) highlighting African-American culture and minority-owned businesses. On October 14, 2006, the Virginia African-American Forum hosted a Preview Gala highlighting the African-American Imprint on America as well as the exhibits in the expanded galleries at Jamestown Settlement.

The World of 1607 (Opens May 1, 2007): This special exhibit at Jamestown Settlement will place Jamestown in a global context of the 17th-century's discovery, strife, expansion, innovation, artistic expression and cultural exchange, portrayed through rare treasures on loan from major museums and international collections. Major artifacts will include a 15th-century copy of the Magna Carta lent by the Earl of Leicester.

Journey up the James (April 24 – May 5, 2007): The initial Virginia landing of the settlers at Cape Henry will be commemorated during a voyage of the *Godspeed* in the Chesapeake and up the James River. Communities including Virginia Beach, Hampton, Newport News and Clarendon will stage festivals and special events as the replica ship retraces the 1607 route that led to Jamestown. On May 24 – 25, the *Godspeed* will also visit Richmond and participate in the capital region's 2007 festivities.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival (June 27 – July 8, 2007): Virginia culture will be featured on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. as part of the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Attracting more than a million people annually, visitors will get a taste of Virginia through exhibits and performances, while learning about the state's traditions, folkways, industry and agriculture.

Forums on the Future of Democracy (2007): Seven of Virginia's premiere colleges and universities are hosting a year-long series of conferences focusing on how the principles of democracy have been models for countries worldwide. The culmination will be a global summit, September 16 – 19, 2007, in Williamsburg, focusing on the future of democracy and involving leaders and students from around the world.

The Jamestown Sites: Historic Jamestowne (the original site) is jointly administered by the National Park Service and APVA Preservation Virginia. Among important features of the site are an original 17th-century church tower, reconstructed foundations of many 17th-century buildings, remains of the 1608 glass factory and a reconstructed and operating glasshouse. State-of-the-art facilities opening in 2006/2007 include a new Visitor Center and the Archaearium, an innovative exhibition facility showcasing the artifacts and findings of the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project.

Jamestown Settlement, located adjacent to Historic Jamestowne, is a museum of 17th-century life owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and administered by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Gallery exhibits chronicle the first century of the Virginia colony, and historical interpreters depict early 17th-century life in outdoor re-creations of the three ships that arrived in 1607, a colonial fort and a Powhatan Indian village. Revitalized living-history areas and new 30,000-square-foot gallery space, supported by one of the most varied collections relating to the history of the nation's beginnings in Virginia, will serve the public in 2007 and beyond.

Virginia 2007 Community Program: More than 169 communities throughout Virginia are observing the commemoration by adopting 2007 projects. Participating communities are developing neighborhood, tourism, education, and other projects that will have a lasting impact on their citizens. Projects range from documenting community histories to establishing walking trails to building new visitor centers and museums.

For More Information: Detailed information about America's 400th Anniversary is available at www.Americas400thAnniversary.com. Major corporate support is provided by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Norfolk Southern Corporation and Verizon. Additional supporters include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., AirTran Airways, Dominion, James City County, Philip Morris USA, SunTrust, Wolseley PLC/Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. and Towne Bank. For additional information, call the Jamestown 2007 office at (757) 253-4659.