

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Captain John Smith rises over James Fort, where he helped ensure the survival of the fledgling settlement.

Commemorate Jamestown's Legacy on Saturday, May 17

JAMESTOWN, VA (May 8, 2025) –

Join Jamestown Rediscovery on Saturday, May 17 to mark Jamestown Day, a commemoration of the establishment of James Fort more than 400 years ago. On May 14, 1607, the Virginia Company landed at a swampy island “in Paspiha’s country” (George Percy) and established “James Cittie.” This small settlement would become the capital of England’s most successful colony in North America, Virginia, and would lay the foundations of the democracy in which we live today.

Jamestown Day programming includes walking tours with historians and archaeologists, living history that takes visitors back to the 17th century, and archaeology in action near the site of Jamestown’s last Statehouse. Plus, visitors of all ages can explore ground-penetrating radar and touch real artifacts in the Ed Shed.

Find the full event schedule at <https://historicjamestowne.org/visit/calendar/jamestown-day-2025/>.

“Jamestown almost failed many times,” said Director of Living History & Historic Trades Willie Balderson. “But through the tenacity – and desperation – of those who came here over 400 years ago, Jamestown became the capital of Virginia and the backdrop for two of the most pivotal moments in American history: the first General Assembly, held in the choir of Jamestown’s church in late July 1619 and, a few weeks later, the arrival of about twenty enslaved Africans, forcibly removed from their homeland by the Spanish and then trafficked once again to Virginia. This legacy laid the foundations of our nation, even to this day.”

Jamestown Day is hosted by Jamestown Rediscovery, which co-manages Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service (Colonial National Historical Park). Jamestown Rediscovery programs are included with admission to the Preservation Virginia portion of the site. For more information about ticketing and how to plan your visit, please go to historicjamestowne.org/tickets.

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 and 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.