



Colonial Williamsburg Grand Illumination

December 11 – 16, 2025

6 Days / 5 Nights

Day #1 – Thursday, December 11th:

- 6:15 AM** Depart Peoria from 2600 NE Adams Street.
- 6:40 AM** Depart Morton from Wal Mart, 155 E Courtland Street (behind Culvers)
- 7:15 AM** Depart Normal from Schnuck's off Raab Road, 1750 Bradford Lane. We'll make a ½ hour break stop in LeRoy before picking up our Urbana passengers.
- 8:45 AM** Depart Urbana from Peoria Charter, 1910 N Federal Drive traveling east to Chillicothe, Ohio to our home for the night. ***Note: Don't forget to set your watches ahead an hour as we enter the Eastern Time Zone.***
- 5:00 PM** We check into the **Hampton Inn & Suites*** and have time to freshen up before dinner.
- 6:00 PM** **Dinner*** is included at a local restaurant.

Day #2 – Friday, December 12th:

- Breakfast*** is served.
- 7:00 AM** We check out, board our coach and depart for a stop in Richmond, Virginia. We'll make rest & meal stops along the way.
- 4:00 PM** We arrive at **Historic St. John's Church***. We meet our **Step-on Guide*** who will be with us the entire weekend. At the church you'll enjoy a rare re-enactment of Patrick Henry's famous speech. As tensions grew between the colonies and Great Britain in the 1770's, Virginia held a series of meetings to organize its protests against the mother country. In March of 1775, the Second Virginia Convention was held here at what was then called Henrico Parish Church. Patrick Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Peyton Randolph and other prominent Virginians were delegates to the convention. Here, Patrick Henry embodied the spirit of the Revolution on March 23, 1775 with his words, "Give Me Liberty or give me Death".
- 5:00 PM** Following our visit, we depart for our hotel in Williamsburg, Virginia.
- 6:00 PM** We check into the **Embassy Suites*** and enjoy the **Manager's Reception**.
- 6:45 PM** **Dinner*** is included here at the hotel before we venture out for our evening event.

Peoria Charter Travel

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- 7:30 PM** We depart for the **Celebration in Lights*** in Newport News, Virginia. This is a “Riding Tour” so you’ll stay on the coach for this tour.
- 9:00 PM** We return to the hotel for the evening.

Day #3 – Saturday, December 13th:

- Full Breakfast Buffet*** is provided at the hotel.
- 9:00 AM** It’s time to depart for **Colonial Williamsburg with our Step-on Guide***. Upon arrival we’ll enjoy a **Guided Tour of Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic District*** including the **Governor’s Palace***.
- 12:15 PM** You’ll have about an hour & a half to explore Merchants Square.
- 1:45 PM** It’s time to depart for lunch
- 2:00 PM** **Lunch*** is included at Rocco’s Smokehouse and is a southern buffet.
- 3:00 PM** Return to the hotel to relax before our evening festivities
- 5:00 PM** Depart for Colonial Williamsburg where we’ll enjoy the **Grand Illumination Festivities with Fireworks at the Governor’s Palace @ 7:00 PM**. The Grand Illumination is an adaptation of a common practice during the 18th century when ordinary citizens celebrated extraordinary events – major military victories, the arrival of a new colonial governor or the birthday of the monarch – by firing guns and using fireworks. The festivities begin with a variety of traditional holiday entertainment – Fifes & Drums provide 18th Century holiday music, balladeers and musicians perform, church choirs sing Christmas carols and costumed performers’ present entertainment found in Williamsburg 200 years ago. As the evening progresses a magnificent fireworks display takes place simultaneously at three locations in the Historic Area – Palace Green, the Magazine, and the Capitol. Candles are then lit in the public buildings, shops and homes, throughout Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area.
- 7:45 PM** We return to the hotel for the evening and enjoy dinner on your own. There is a Peking, Cracker Barrel or Golden Corral nearby.



Day #4 – Sunday, December 14th:

- Full Breakfast Buffet*** is provided at the hotel.
- 9:00 AM** We depart for Jamestown with our local guide.
- 9:30 AM** Our guide takes us on a **Guided Tour of Jamestown Settlement***. “A Colonial Christmas” offers a glimpse of 17th and 18th-century holiday traditions. Little is known about Christmases at Jamestown, but it is likely there were few celebrations other than church services to mark the holiday. “A Jamestown Christmas” holiday film and special interpretive programs compare and contrast 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. In England, the holiday season – extending from December 25 – January 6 – was

a time of merriment and feasting. Lunch will be on your own today at Jamestown Café.

1:00 PM Load the coach and depart for Yorktown, Virginia!

1:30 PM Next we enjoy a **guided tour of the American Revolution Museum at**



Yorktown*. Gain a new appreciation and understanding of our nation's beginnings at the American Revolution Center where America's evolution from colonial status to nationhood is chronicled through a unique blend of timeline, thematic exhibits and outdoor living history areas that emphasizes the experiences of ordinary the experiences of ordinary people. In an outdoor re-created Continental Army encampment, historical interpreters depict the daily life of a soldier and a re-created 1780's farm provides a look at how many Americans lived in the early years of our nation.

3:30 PM It's time to board our coach and depart for Norfolk, Virginia!

5:00 PM **Winterfest on the Wisconsin***. Enjoy the holiday season with nightly entertainment, illuminations, and seasonal treats! Featuring more than one million festive lights aboard the Historic Battleship Wisconsin and the Mistletoe Marina.

6:30 PM **Dinner*** is included.

8:00 PM Approximate return time to the hotel for the evening.

Day #5 – Monday, December 15th:

Full Breakfast Buffet* is provided at the hotel.

8:00 AM We board our awaiting coach and depart for the drive back to Chillicothe, Ohio where we'll overnight. We'll make rest and meal stops along the way as needed.

6:00 PM We arrive at the **Hampton Inn & Suites* Chillicothe, Ohio.**

7:00 PM Dinner is on your own tonight.

Day #6 – Tuesday, December 16th:

Breakfast* is served at the hotel.

8:00 AM Depart for home making necessary break stops along the way as needed. ***Note: Don't forget to set your watches back an hour as we re-enter the Central Time Zone.***

3:00 PM Approximate return time in Urbana.

4:00 PM Approximate return time in Normal.

4:45 PM Approximate return time in Morton.

5:15 PM Approximate return time in Peoria.

Cost Per Person:

Single: \$2260.00 Double: \$1785.00 Triple: \$1580.00 Quad: \$1520.00

Tour Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Professional Driver & Tour Hosts, Hotel Accommodations, All Attractions & Meals in bold print and marked with an asterisk*.

If you feel the Driver & Tour Hosts have done a good job, it is appreciated & appropriate to tip them. We suggest \$4 per customer per day for the Driver & \$4 per customer per day for the Tour Hosts on this trip.

Hotels:

Days #1 & #5:

**Hampton Inn & Suites
100 N. Plaza Blvd.
Chillicothe, OH 45601
(740) 773-1616**

Days #2, #3 & #4:

**Embassy Suites by Hilton
3006 Mooretown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 229-6800**

