



Historical Williamsburg - A Colonial Christmas!

*Yorktown, Jamestown, The Home of Jefferson Davis,
The Grand Illumination, 100 Miles of Lights, and much more*

Join TRIPS as we embrace the Christmas Spirit in Colonial Williamsburg!

The Christmas season officially begins in Colonial Williamsburg with the Grand Illumination, a spectacular evening when candles twinkle in the windows of Historic Area homes and buildings and the heavens explode with pyrotechnics!

From the millions of twinkling lights you'll see on Christmas trees to the 100 Miles of light that will delight you, there is no better way to get in the spirit! You'll find that Virginia loves their light displays, from the traditional to the unusual and yep, the down-right tacky!

That's right, Richmond has their own Tacky Light Tour, and they are rightfully proud of it! Tour Plantations and Mansions that are decorated as they might have been hundreds of years ago right down to the elegantly dressed dining room table! Enjoy Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration complete with hot chocolate and fresh-baked cookies. There is no better way to get into the spirit of the season that joining TRIPS as we enjoy a Williamsburg Christmas!

Day 1 - Your Journey Begins!

Board your flight today bound for **Virginia** where you'll be met by your TRIPS guide and board your private motor coach. Your 100 miles of lights is off to an illuminating beginning as your drive along the **McDonald's Holiday Lights at the Beach!** With over **250 light displays** and over 400,000 bulbs, Virginia Beach lights up **25 blocks!** Delight in this two mile illuminated journey as you be surrounded by festive fish, colorful sailboats, jumping dolphins and Santa himself! Enjoy dinner this evening in a local restaurant overlooking a picturesque inlet before checking in to your hotel for the evening.

Overnight: Williamsburg, VA

(D)

Day 2 - Get in the spirit at Christmas Town!

After breakfast at your hotel, board your motor coach and join in the celebration of a **Jamestown Christmas!** Experience Christmas traditions and holiday festivities as the earliest settlers to America might have enjoyed. It features full-size replicas of the three ships that arrived in 1607. Enjoy lunch on your own in the Jamestown Visitor Center before departing for the **Yorktown Victory Center.** Here, you'll hear accounts of Christmas and winter in military encampments during the American Revolution and glimpse holiday preparations on a 1780s Virginia Farm. Then, travel to the **Boxwood Inn for Dinnertainment!** The Inn is aglow with candles and welcoming fireplaces and Christmas is celebrated in the finest traditional sense complete with "The Holly and The Ivy", "Deck the Halls" and "Good King Wenceslas". Bring on the plum pudding and boar's head and have a Happy Holiday! After you've had your fill, enjoy the **Celebration in Lights**, a **two-mile drive** through spectacular light displays in **Newport News.** See whales, angels and hundreds of characters decorated using hundreds of thousands of lights. It's magical!

Overnight: Williamsburg Area

(B/D)

Day 3 - Plantations and Christmas Town!

Your day begins with a tour of **Berkeley Plantation**, located along the James River. This picturesque plantation was the setting of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619 and is where "**Taps**" was composed. Five terraced gardens, leading from the house to the James River were dug by hand before the War of Independence. Inside the mansion, handsome woodwork and arches were installed by Benjamin Harrison VI in 1790 at the direction of Thomas Jefferson. Good Housekeeping magazine suggests: "**If you only have time for one plantation, Berkeley should be at the top of your list.**" Guides in period costumes conduct tours of the original **1726 mansion** and the museum collection includes Civil War artifacts as well as a unique collection of paintings by artist Sydney King. Next tour **Edgewood Plantation**, once a part of Berkeley Plantation. Edgewood was the **ancestral home** of US Presidents **William Henry and Benjamin Harrison**, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. This exquisite 7,000 square foot mansion dates to 1849. Lunch this afternoon will be at the Charles City Tavern after which you'll return to your hotel to relax and freshen up. Then, depart for **Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration.** Enjoy all new attractions, dazzling shows and one-of-a-kind gift ideas for that special person. You'll surely be captivated by the **million twinkling lights** while enjoying **hot chocolate and fresh fresh-baked cookies.** Complete your Christmas Town experience with a visit to Santa's workshop and the park's 45-foot tall, light-animated Christmas tree! Enjoy dinner on your own this evening while at Busch Gardens.

Overnight: Williamsburg Area

(B/L)

Day 4 - The Grand Illumination!

After breakfast, depart for a **walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg** decorated for Christmas! From the first candle placed in windows in 1936 to the Grand Illumination celebration that takes place every year, the holiday spirit of Colonial Williamsburg continues to grow. Miles of pine roping, truckloads of greenery and bushels of fresh fruit combine to give Colonial Williamsburg it much-imitated but never-duplicated charm and elegance. You'll have time for lunch on your own in Colonial Williamsburg as well as plenty of free time to soak in that wonderful Christmas spirit before returning to your hotel mid-afternoon. Return to the hotel to relax a bit before you join in **Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination!** This tradition has taken visitors' breath away for over 60 years, and we're sure you'll be just as awed! The celebration includes **fireworks**, musical entertainment, dancing, caroling and dramatic presentations. Colonial Williamsburg is alight with holiday glitter and the warmth of the season. **Nothing quite matches the excitements, sights, smells, sounds and grandeur of the Christmas season in Colonial Williamsburg.** It's breathtaking! It's glorious! It's enchanted! Return to the hotel this evening and enjoy dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Overnight: Williamsburg Area

(B/D)

Day 5 - Tacky Light Tour!

Today you tour **The Virginia State Capital**, Thomas Jefferson's neoclassical marvel that features a hidden dome, pre-historic fossils in the floor marble and the world-famous **statue of George Washington**. Next, visit **The White House of the Confederacy**, President Jefferson Davis' wartime residence that is filled with memories of the Davis family. You also visit the **Museum of the Confederacy** with Civil War artifacts. It will be decorated for Christmas as it might have been during that time period. The house is lavished with holly and mistletoe as well as with beautiful Christmas trees. After lunch at The Tobacco Company, celebrate the season at **Maymont** as you revel in Victorian holiday splendor! Major & Mrs. Dooley's spectacularly decorated Gilded Age home brings the wonders and festivities of Christmas past to life. Beautiful trimmings on the 12-foot Christmas tree, the opulent dining room set for a feast, evergreen decorations and lavish gifts welcome the season in grand Victorian style! Later this afternoon, tour the **Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens** with nearly 24 acres brilliantly decorated for the season. You'll enjoy dinner here before departing on a **Tacky Light Tour** of Richmond! See the holiday lighting traditions of by-gone days as well as today's dazzling Christmas season displays. Richmond's love holiday tacky lights! It's colorful, dazzling, beautiful, zany and fun!

Overnight: Williamsburg Area

(B/D)

Day 6 - Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!

After breakfast, you'll check out and return to **Colonial Williamsburg** for some free time to take in the beauty of the holidays and perhaps do some last minute shopping. Enjoy a farewell lunch at one of the taverns in Williamsburg before departing of the airport and your flight home. **Memories of your Colonial Christmas in Williamsburg will last a lifetime!**

(B/L)

Inclusions

- Round trip airfare to Virginia (checked baggage fees are not included)
- Breakfast daily at your hotel
- 5 nights accommodations in the Williamsburg Area
- 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- Driving tour of McDonald's Holiday Lights at the Beach, Newport News Celebration in Lights and Tacky Light Tour of Richmond
- All admissions as described in the detailed itinerary including Jamestown Settlement and Visitor Center, Yorktown Visitor Center, Berkeley Plantation, Edgewood Plantation, Christmas Town: Busch Gardens, Colonial Williamsburg walking tour, Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination, Virginia State Capitol Tour, White House of the Confederacy and Museum of the Confederacy, Maymont, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and more
- Deluxe, private motor coach throughout your tour
- Services of a professional guide throughout your tour
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags
- All government taxes and fees

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