

Doswell, Virginia

Lew Brodsky #2585



The International Airstream Rally in Doswell is only four months away. If you haven't yet planned your trip to and from Virginia this summer, you probably should start thinking about your route of travel. Between you and Doswell lie miles of highway with stops that are worth visiting. But not too far from the rally site itself are several unique places and experiences Virginia offers to visitors from around the world, and a few of the most significant are only a two-hour drive (or less) from Doswell. This is the third of six Blue Beret articles about things to see and do while in Virginia. This one describes several major "not-to-miss" attractions in the southeast part of the state.

We've said it before, but it's worth repeating: Virginia is all about American history! Nowhere is this fact more evident than along the James River and on Virginia's "peninsula." Visiting them properly and thoroughly takes time. So, while seeing the James River Plantations can be done as a long "day trip," enjoying "America's Historic Triangle" takes much longer. This article should help you plan accordingly.



Berkeley Plantation Interior

If you'd like to see the James River Plantations, start at Berkeley Plantation, located in Charles City County. Like most

large colonial estates, the land there was settled in the early 1600s by Virginia's founding families. The brick house at Berkeley was built in 1727. Furnished in period antiques, Berkeley is the ancestral home of the Harrison family. Our nation's ninth president, William Henry Harrison was born in the house in 1773. More than a century later his grandson, Benjamin, became America's 23rd president. After stopping at Berkeley, you may wish to visit one or more of the other nearby plantations: Shirley; Westover; and Sherwood Forest - the home of President John Tyler from 1842 until his death in 1862. Then you can cross to the other side of the James River where Bacon's Castle is worth a look, if you have time. From Berkeley, it's about 41 miles. Use the bridge on SR156 to get there. The "castle" is historically significant for three reasons: it is the oldest brick dwelling in the U.S. (1665); a rare example of High Jacobean architecture; and it got its name when occupied by followers of Nathaniel Bacon during "Bacon's



Bacon's Castle

Rebellion" in 1676, an early but unsuccessful colonial uprising against a corrupt English governor and oppressive British rule.

But the best of Virginia will require even more of your time. You absolutely must consider spending a week or more in the area called "America's Historic Triangle." It would be a shame to be so close and miss it! This is not a one-day trip...to fully appreciate what can be seen will take several days or perhaps a week (or more). Located on Virginia's "peninsula," the Triangle sits on the land between the James and York Rivers. Its three "legs" are short totaling less than 31 miles, but the historical significance of the area is measured over four centuries! Plan to stay a while!

There are hundreds of hotels here, of course, but also several campgrounds. A favorite campground, used often for rallies by Virginia's Airstream clubs, is American Heritage (757) 566-2133. Or, if you have a military I.D. card (Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, or Retired) there is a great campground at Cheatham Navy Annex (757-887-7418).

So what is America's Historic Triangle? It's formed by lines on a map connecting three monumentally significant points: Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown.

Colonial Williamsburg was a bold and expensive idea that became a reality in the 1920s and 30s. Williamsburg, once the bustling colonial capital city of Virginia, had fallen on hard times. The state capital was moved to Richmond in 1780 and, by the early 20th Century, much



Colonial Williamsburg

of Williamsburg was in disrepair, its rich history all but forgotten. The idea of restoring the town to its colonial grandeur came from a local clergyman who convinced John D. Rockefeller, the oil billionaire, to buy up properties throughout the town and fund its rebirth. Over many years, Rockefeller money restored original buildings and dwellings. What no longer existed - shops, homes, the Governor's palace, and the Capitol Building, as well as gardens and livestock areas - were fully reconstructed. The result was "Colonial Williamsburg," a non-profit, faithful recreation of Williamsburg as it looked in 1775 when its citizens and frequent visitors included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, James Madison and James

continued on page 35

continued from page 35

Monroe, to name just a few! You can walk its “living history” streets, talk to costumed interpreters throughout the town, ride in horse-drawn carriages, eat 18th Century food in period restaurants, and visit its shops and taverns as you step back in time! This was the most ambitious historic preservation project in America, and it is still the one against which all others are measured.

Williamsburg is connected to Jamestown and Yorktown by the scenic Colonial Parkway. Visit Historic Jamestowne at the Triangle’s southern point. If you happened to watch the “Jamestown” PBS TV series that recently aired, you watched a fictional soap opera filmed in Hungary! Here, you can view the site of the authentic Jamestown! Administered by the National Park Service and Preservation Virginia, this is where the first successful English colony in North America was established in 1607. There is a large visitor center, jointly operated by the National Park Service and Preservation Virginia, featuring displays and a film. From there, a



Jamestown Ships

short walk to riverside takes you to a reconstruction of a part of the wooden stockade, portions of the original Anglican church, archaeological digs, an excellent new museum filled with artifacts, and lots of monuments and statues. The earthen outlines of town dwellings are also visible.

Then learn more about Jamestown nearby. Less than three miles from the historic site is the popular, state-operated, Jamestown Settlement, which includes a re-creation of the original James Fort (c. 1607 to 1614), a Powhatan Indian Village, indoor and outdoor exhibits and displays, and docked replicas of the three ships that crossed the Atlantic with the original settlers.

At the northern end of the Colonial Parkway lies the third point of the Historic Triangle: Yorktown. This charming community on the south bank of the York River is where General Washington and his Army, along with French allies led by a young Marquis de Lafayette, defeated English General Earl Cornwallis. Their victory hastened the end of the American Revolution and the birth of the U.S. On the southeast side of the town is the National Park Visitor Center. It has exhibits, a film, and offers ranger-



American Revolution Museum

led tours of the battlefield. About a mile away, on the northwest side of the town, is the newly-opened American Revolution Museum. This is a wonderful place to spend a day. It has outdoor military exhibits and re-enactors, costumed docents, and a large, state-of-the-art museum featuring artifacts, awesome short

films, and multi-media shows covering all aspects of the Revolution.

Lastly, our Points of Interest chart lists two non-historical places to visit in southeastern Virginia. Busch Gardens, just outside of Williamsburg, is a 383-acre amusement park mimicking the look and culture of quaint European towns. That’s why it was once called “Busch Gardens: The Old Country.” This



Busch Gardens

theme park is larger than Kings Dominion in Doswell and has live shows, plenty of rides (it’s known for its roller coasters) and many places to eat. Nearby is a popular satellite water park called “Water Country USA,” where you can seek splashy relief from the summer’s heat.

But if it’s a larger body of water you seek, or would like some ocean beach time, travel Interstate 64 eastbound for 80 miles more to reach Virginia Beach. This city in Virginia’s southeast corner offers resort hotels, restaurants, a boardwalk, and two miles of public beach on the Atlantic. There is also a world-class aquarium and marine life center just south of downtown, with two large campgrounds nearby: Holiday Trav-L-Park (757-425-0249) and KOA (757-428-1444).

And that’s not all, folks. There’s a lot more to see and do in Virginia. In the April issue of Blue Beret we will discuss points of interest NORTHEAST of Doswell.

WBAC Chorus & Band

Yes, You Are Personally Invited! WE MUST KNOW by March 15.

Airstream traditions continue! Your WBAC International Chorus and Band need YOU!

Singers, Tubas, Euphoniums, Percussionists, Saxophones, Clarinets urgently needed!

We are planning a joint concert for Wednesday evening at the Doswell International in Virginia.

Chorus Conductor Bob Hawkins and Band Conductor Greg Heuer need to hear from you via email so we can select great music. No auditions; all experience levels welcome!

Follow us on Facebook – 2019 WBAC International Band and Chorus
[<https://www.facebook.com/groups/279011162726224>]

Check out who is already coming on box.com – Updated WBAC Band Roster
[<https://woodworkcareer.box.com/v/2019BandRoster>]

Check out the Repertoire from which our performance tunes will be selected –
[<https://woodworkcareer.box.com/v/2019Repertoire>]

If you’re already registered or thinking about coming, drop us a quick note to get on the Communication List. Heuer will coordinate the sign up list. Email to him - gheuer@umich.edu

Contact Information: Greg Heuer, Conductor, WBAC International Band, gheuer@umich.edu, 189 Dogwood Lane, Nellysford, VA 22958, Ph: 434-298-4650



Virginia Points of Interest Driving SOUTHEAST from The Meadow Event Park	# miles from Doswell (Est. driving time)	Website	GPS Coordinates
James River Plantations Near the James River in the vicinity of Charles City, VA 804- 829-6018 (Berkeley Plantation)	48.5 (southeast) (60 min.) via I-95, I-295, I-64 & SR 156	www.jamesriverplantations.org www.berkeleyplantation.com	37.31769N -77.18057W
Bacon's Castle 465 Bacon's Castle Trail Surry, VA 23883 800-847-4878	85.0 (southeast) (90 min.) via I-95, I-295, SR 156 & SR 10	https://preservationvirginia.org/historic-sites/bacons-castle/	37.10654N -76.72205W Entry gate
Colonial Williamsburg* 101 Visitor Center Drive Williamsburg, VA 23185 888-965-7254	69.5 (southeast) (75 min.) via I-95, I-295 & I-64	https://colonialwilliamsburg.com/	37.27902N -76.69816W Visitor Center
Historic Jamestowne* 1368 Colonial Pkwy Jamestown, VA 23081 757-856-1250 Jamestown Settlement 2110 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, VA 23185 757- 253-4838	76.0 (southeast) via I-95, I-295 & I-64, SR199 & Colonial Pkwy (80 min.)	Historic Jamestowne (National Park Service & Preservation Virginia) https://historicjamestowne.org Jamestown Settlement: www.historyisfun.org	37.21156N -76.77730W National Park Visitor Center 37.22768 -76.78256 Jamestown Settlement
Yorktown-Colonial Nat'l Historic Park* Park & battlefield: at the end of Colonial Parkway 757-898-2410 American Revolution Museum Museum: 200 Water Street, Route 1020, Yorktown, VA 23690 888-593-4682	82.0 (southeast) (90 min.) via I-95, I-295, I-64 & The Colonial Parkway	Colonial Park at Yorktown www.nps.gov/york/index.htm American Revolution Museum www.historyisfun.org	National Park: 37.23015N -76.50416W American Rev Museum: 37.23947N -76.51858W
Busch Gardens (Theme Park) also: Water Country USA (Water Park) 1 Busch Gardens Blvd. Williamsburg, VA 23185	75.2 (southeast) (80 min.) via I-95, I-295, to I-64 exit 243	www.buschgardens.com/williamsburg/	37.23524N -76.63939W Entrance to parking areas
Virginia Beach Area Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center 700 Block to 1200 Block of General Booth Boulevard Virginia Beach, VA 23451	128.2 (southeast) (130 min.) via I-95, I-295, & I-64	www.visitvirginiabeach.com www.virginiaaquarium.com http://www.campingvb.com/ www.koa.com/campgrounds/virginia-beach/	36.84843N -75.97510W - Downtown & beach area 36.82179N -75.98196 - Aquarium and nearby campgrounds

*A part of "America's Historic Triangle"