

Proceed to the Loop Drive entrance at the far end of the parking lot. Drive along the tour road till you reach a fork in the road then bear right. As you begin the tour you will come to a wooden bridge which crosses a branch of the Pitch and Tar Swamp. Its name may come from the early efforts of the colonists to extract pitch and tar from the native pine trees along its edges. Proceed over the bridge to a large pull off area on your right.

### **STOP 1**

**Loop Drive--**(Painting) The loop drive is 5-miles in length. It consists of a 3-mile and 2-mile loop. The first painting at this stop illustrates these two loops.

**Brickmaking--**(Painting) The plentiful supply of Virginia clay assisted the colonist at Jamestown in producing most of their own brick. Bricks were used for houses, wells, and walkways. Brick kilns, such as the one in the painting, have been excavated at Jamestown. Each produced bricks of a unique size and shape. Such differences can help date archaeological remains to the time a kiln was active.

Continue on the Loop Drive to the pull off on your left

### **STOP 2**

**Orchard Run--** The marshy inlet to your right empties into the James River. It formed the eastern boundary of Jamestown and may have taken its name from an orchard which was planted on land adjoining the run.

**Potash and Soap--**(Painting) By the 1600s, hardwood lumber was scarce in England. Early exports of the colony were potash, used in the manufacture of glass, and soap ash, which yields liquid soap.

To prepare potash and soap the ashes of hardwood logs were mixed with water, strained, and heated to a syrup-like consistency. The mixture could then be shipped to England. In time the colonists cleared all of the hardwood forests from Jamestown Island. Today's forest is regrowth, mostly of pine.

**Civil War Fort--** During the American Civil War the James River provided a natural avenue of approach to the Confederate capital in Richmond. In order to deny the use of fortified in 1861. Forts, such as the one you see here, and batteries were erected at strategic points.

Continue on the tour route to the large pull off on your right.

### **STOP 3**

**Harvesting Ice--**(Painting) Among the ruins of Jamestown was a seven-foot pit, dug during colonial times. In 17th century England, perishables were often stored in huts built over pits filled with layers of ice and straw. The trapped frigid air could keep meat and

daily products fresh until autumn. The hole found at Jamestown was very likely a traditional English ice pit.

**Passmore Creek--** On your right is Passmore Creek, which takes its name from Thomas Passmore, a carpenter, who lived in the vicinity. Earlier it was known as the "Marshes of Goose Hill." Goose Hill itself was the higher strip of ground on the far side of the marsh.

Continue on the loop drive. For those taking the shorter 3 mile tour, bear to the left at the fork in the road and skip to STOP 9. To continue the 5 mile tour bear to the right and stop at the pull off on the left.

#### **STOP 4**

**Medical Research--**(Painting) Dr. Lawrence Bohun arrived at Jamestown in June of 1610, and stayed until the spring of 1611. He experienced with native plants, herbs, extracts, and minerals, seeking remedies for distresses of the Old World and the News.

Continue driving to the next large pull off on your left.

#### **STOP 5**

**Pottery--**(Painting) By 1640, Jamestown potters were making thick-walled jugs, bowls, and pots for everyday use. The local ware fired red, due to the iron-rich Tidewater clay.

**Winemaking--**(Painting) The plentiful grape vines in the New World raised hopes of a profitable wine making industry. Native and imported varieties produced a drinkable vintage, but the wine often spoiled during shipment to England. The venture failed.

Continue driving to the next pull off on your right.

#### **STOP 6**

**Trading With The Powhatan--**(Painting) At first, the English needed food from the natives in order to survive. The Powhatans sought the colonist's commercial goods: metal tools, glass beads, and copper. Exchanges could be forceful or friendly. The Powhatans sometimes offered corn as a gift; at other times, they refused contact, or attacked those who had come to trade. The English wrote home of successful trading, yet on occasion they stoke or raided at gunpoint.

**Black Point--** This tip of the island is known as Black Point. It was this part of the island that was first seen by the colonists as they sailed up river in 1607. At this time you have the opportunity to leave your car and walk the trail to Black Point where you will ave a panoramic view of the James River.

The trail follows one of the ridges from which Jamestown Island was formed. On either side is a forest in the process of renewing itself. The ridge was once covered in

hardwood, which was cleared by the English. The pine you now see is evidence of a forest in the process of regeneration.

To continue the driving tour proceed over the wooden bridge to the next pull off on your left.

## **STOP 7**

**Tobacco--**(Painting) King James I called smoking "a filthy novelty", but tobacco proved the salvation of his Virginia colony. Seeds from the West Indies, grown in Virginia's soil and climate, produced a pleasing leaf. From 1615 to 1619, tobacco exports increased twentyfold.

continue the tour by proceeding to the next pull off on the left.

## **STOP 8**

**Silk Cultivation--**(Painting) England -- and Jamestown -- imported silk from the Mediterranean and the Orient. Spinning fibers from the silk worm cocoon was a lengthy, smelly chore. Despite orders from the Virginia Company to produce silk as a staple commodity, the colonists preferred to raise tobacco. Jamestown silk, like Jamestown wine, was not the hoped-for New World treasure.

**Travis Graveyard--** This prominent family was a part of the Jamestown story for two centuries and some of their dead lie buried here. In 1663, Edward Travis II obtained 326 acres in this vicinity near his "dwelling house." Gradually Travis holdings increased until the 1700s when they embraced nearly half of the island.

At this time you have the opportunity to leave your vehicle and take a short walk to the Travis Graveyard.

As you continue the tour you will cross another wooden bridge. **Continuation of 3 Mile Tour Starts Here.** Stop at the next pull off on the right.

## **STOP 9**

**Jamestown Home--**(Painting) The first Jamestown colonists owned few items to make a home cosy and cheerful. By 1650, however, their homes were furnished with most of the necessities of the time as well as a few luxuries.

**Agricultural Beginnings--**(Painting) It took 12 years for the colonists to become self-sufficient. The forests gave way to fields of native squash, pumpkin, beans, peas, and most importantly, "Indian corn" or maize. Some European crops adapted well: apples, apricots, and oats. Other imports were failures: bananas, pineapples, and olives. To continue the tour proceed across the wooden bridge and stop at the next large pull off on your right.

## **STOP 10**

**Lumber--(Painting)** Colonists marvelled at the deep, tall forests of Virginia -- then set to clearing them away. The "goodly tall Trees" yielded firewood, fort walls, house frames, boat planks, barrel staves, industrial fuel, and lumber exports.

**Cooper--(Painting)** This painting reveals how a cooper is believed to have worked in the time of early Jamestown. Wooden barrels, buckets, kegs and hogsheads were needed for storage as well as for shipping products within the colony and to the home country.

To complete the tour proceed to the next pull off on the right.

## **STOP 11**

**Boatbuilding--(Painting)** Shortly after their arrival, the first Jamestown colonists assembled a small boat, which they had brought with them in order to explore the road less wilderness. Once settled, they gathered the raw materials of boat building for export as well as for their own use: hardwoods for masts, staves, and planks; pine trees for pitch, resin, and tar.

This completes your driving tour of Jamestown Island. By continuing along the road you will return to the visitor center parking lot. If you would like to visit the Glasshouse, proceed to the yield sign and bear right. This will direct you to the park entrance. Just before the entrance station you will see signs directing you left to the Glasshouse.