A restored city that still lives

Past, present coexist in historic Williamsburg

WILLIAMSBURG, VA.: It is noon in Merchanis Square. The outdoor cafes, red with flowers, are busy on both sides of Doke of Gloucester Street. Chef Marcel Desaulniers is making his elegant soups in The Trellis Restaurant to my left, and the staff of Colonial Williamsburg is serving a fast food lunch, including the best croissants in town, across the street at A Good Place To Eat.

I am having my own very elegant

Eat.

I am having my own very elegant lunch on one of the many benches scattered across the wide brick sidewalks on either side of the street; pate, cheese and fresh bread carried in a paper bag from the Cheese Shop, and shared with



1-of-a-kind traveler Iris Jones contributing travel editor

The Wren Bullding, oldest bullding in cown, and one of the oldest building in cown, and one of the oldest buildings in America, is on the College of William and Mary campus half a block behind me, and the wonderful restored streets of Colonial Williamsburg are visible ahead. This beautiful square, with its 18th and 19th-century rooflines, is where the townies, the students and the tourists meet for lunch.

Colonial fashions such as these (at left) are considered very chic on the streets of

Merchants Square is not 18th century at all, of course, it was built 50 years ago to conform to the architecture of the 500-year-old city. It is a good example of how pleasant and human a shopping center can be: tree-shaded benches, flower boxes on the mullioned windows of clothing, gift and other shops, even an "olde Englishe" brick front to the local movie theater.

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THE JOGERS go by at any time of day, doing their daily run for one mile straight down the wide sweep of Duke of Gloucester Street from the College and Merchants Square through the restored houses, shops and public buildings of the historic area to the Capitol. Sometimes they divert, halfway down the street, to the Palace Green and the Royal Governor's Palace.

Cars are not allowed in the historic district during the day, but you can Jog. bloyele, walk, push strollers or move in goasipy groups down the bumpy brick sidewalks and wide roadway between the brick and clapboard buildings, with their white pleket fence. Only a small sign alerts you that "You are entering the historic district. Colonial Williams and the control of the street of the colonial williage." with permeter walks and tollageie; it is a living city where people work, play and go to school, and where you easily can walk back and forth between yesterday and today.

Williamsburg was designed and built as the capital of the Virginia colony in 1699, 92 years after the first English settlers settled the New World at Jamestown. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington served in the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg. It was on these streets that they joined with Patrick Henry in opposing taxation-without-representation, and in these taverns and church pews where they ate, prayed and worked along with other signers of the Declaration of Independence.



This craftswoman at work on a musical instru-ment is one of many Williamsburg artisans who ply trades dating from colonial days. Although the focus is on history in Williamsburg, this is

still a living, breathing city. No barriers separate "historic" Williamsburg from the rest of the town.

Beauty for a church and a millionalire restored it in the 1920s.

EIGHTV-EIGHT of the historic buildings were intact when the Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin, former rector of Bruton Parish Church, convinced John D. Rockefeller Jr. In 1928 that this town should be restored and preserved for posterity. The church had been in continuous use since 1715. The two men imagined bringing that whole 18th-century world back to Ilie.

To take you back 300 years: The College of William and Mary already had been established as a grammar school bere in what was known as Middle Plantation, a high ridge half way between Jamestown and Yorktown, when the second of the way of the second second to the swamp to higher ground so they built a planned capital city here and named ta fare King William the Third. The Wren Building, oldests academic edifice in continuous use in America, was the first major restoration project of Colonial Williamsburg more than two centures later.

The courthouse of 1770, where Jefferson read the Declaration of Independence, and the Powder Magazine, where the British removed the gunpowder from the reach of restless colonists, still stood beside Market Square. The Courthous of 1770, where Jefferson read the Declaration of Independence, and the Powder Magazine, where the British removed the gunpowder from the reach of restless colonists, still stood beside Market Square. The Capitol, the Palace and the Racket Tavern had to be reconstructed continuous uses were alive if sagging gently with age, their "new" dormers and porches easily removed by the renovators.

All up and down Duke of Gloucester Street, proud but poor old genteel ladies had stayed with the old family homes, like a seene from "The Glass Menagerie," waiting for time and men-

DAYS FREE 48:

Harbor Island Spa

Beauly for a century and a half unill a churchman and a millionaire restored it in the 1820s.

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COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG should be required viewing for all of us who have forgotten our American history, and the best place to start is at the Information Center. Here you can reserve a hotel room or a dinner table, buy tickets, and see the exciting, if slightly slick, Hollywood-made, film about how English coloniats made their choices on these streets. Some became Americans, others left for British soil. You don't need a ticket to wander the town or enter most buildings, You need it to four the important buildings or to ride the tour bus that leaves every five minutes for an eight-top circle around the historic district. The district covers about two streets on either side of Duke about two streets on either side of Duke Take the 30-minute ride full circle.

Take the 30-minute ride full circle once with the Visitor's Companion sheet in hand. You'll wear that single sheet out during your stay as you visit craft shops, eat at restored taverns, stop at your hotel or at Merchants Square, or come back full circle to the Information Center.

The first thing you'll see is the wind-mill and the street running to the Gov-

the tourists on the steps of the Courthous the tourists on the steps of the Courthous the Courthous

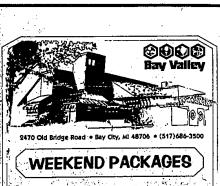


Photos by Iris Jones

re care are not allowed during the day.



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