

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Historic Yorktown Celebrates Yorktown Day, the Return of Lafayette, and...



## **Historic Yorktown Celebrates Yorktown Day, the Return of Lafayette, and the *USS Yorktown* Reunion in October**

October 2, 2024

October 18th and 19th are jam-packed with exciting and historic events in Historic Yorktown. The weekend features the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's Grand Tour of 1824, a specially-themed Victory Market, and a day of celebration to commemorate the British surrender at Yorktown. All events are FREE, unless otherwise indicated.

### **[USS Yorktown \(CG-48\) Reunion](#)**

**Friday, October 18 – Saturday, October 19 | Times and Locations Vary**

Former officers and crewmembers aboard the *USS Yorktown (CG-48)* will be attending a reunion in Historic Yorktown to honor the legacy of the ship's sponsor Mary Mathews and to reminisce about their time sailing on the legendary vessel. During its time in service, the *Ticonderoga*-class cruiser played a pivotal role in the *Achille Lauro* rescue efforts and Operation El Dorado Canyon off the coast of Libya. The group will meet at 12 p.m. on Friday, October 18, at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown to honor Nick and Mary Mathews. The following day at 10:30 a.m., they will be featured in the Yorktown Day Parade on Historic Main Street. The group has several other events planned throughout the weekend to commemorate their time together.



### **[Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour – 200th Anniversary](#)**

**Friday, October 18 | 3 to 5 p.m. | Riverwalk Landing**

This event marks the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's return to America in 1824 as the "guest of the Nation" in which he visited all 24 states and all surviving presidents. At 3 p.m., interpreter Mark Schneider will appear as Major General Lafayette and disembark the tall ship *Luna*. The Fifes and Drums of York Town will lead him to the Riverwalk



Landing Stage for a special ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of his return. Prior to the event, the 229th Infantry Band will perform at Riverwalk Landing, and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will host an artillery salute. The tour is presented by the American Friends of Lafayette, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, and America 250.

#### [Yorktown Day](#)

**Saturday, October 19 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Victory Monument & Historic Main Street**



The day begins with a wreath-laying ceremony followed by a patriotic parade down Main Street to commemorate the victory at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781, coordinated by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. The Fifes and Drums of York Town will perform during the parade and at a special ceremony at the Victory Monument. The festivities will end with a performance by the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra and a lecture in York Hall by Dr. Tom Chávez regarding Francisco de Saavedra and his efforts to support the American war effort. In addition, visitors may tour the Nelson House, Yorktown Custom House, York County Historical Museum, Watermen's Museum, American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, and the Battlefield roads. The Colonial National Historical Park will also be hosting a Yorktown Day Youth Art Contest, a walk down Surrender Road with a ranger, and cannon firing demonstrations.

#### [Yorktown Market Days – Yorktown Victory Market](#)

**Saturday, October 19 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Riverwalk Landing**



To celebrate Yorktown Day and the Bicentennial of the Lafayette Tour, Yorktown Market Days will feature an inaugural Victory Market at Riverwalk Landing. Guests will be able to shop from a variety of vendors selling patriotic art, jewelry, local produce, and seasonal goods, as well as enjoy a wine garden with selections from France, Germany, and Spain. The event will also include games for children and a patriotic concert from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by the band Prime Time. As an added bonus, participants can take part in a Lafayette Storytelling Trail where they'll learn the story of the war hero and win a prize upon completion.

### Victory Celebration

**Saturday, October 19 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | [American Revolution Museum at Yorktown](#)**



Stories of citizens and soldiers unfold daily through immersive films, exhibition galleries, and outdoor recreations of a Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm. Among the interpretive programs, visitors can discover military tactics on land and at sea with a look at the Battle of the Capes, one of the most significant naval battles in American history. Artillery demonstrations, showcasing the varied roles of the artillery crew, will take place in the outdoor amphitheater at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., followed by the crew firing a salute in honor of the victory at Yorktown. On October 19, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown offers free admission to active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel and up to three direct family members with military identification.

For more information on these or our partner events, visit [www.visitryorktown.org/va250](http://www.visitryorktown.org/va250), or call Visit Yorktown at 757-890-5900. Events are subject to change without notice. For inclement weather updates, please call the Event Weather Hotline at 757-890-3520.

#### **Additional Event Info:**

- o Facebook, Instagram & TikTok: VisitYorktown
- o #visityorktown #lafayette #va250 #americanrevolution #ussyorktown #yorktownday

**Additional photos are available at**<https://bit.ly/3MN6vEl>.

To request other images, please contact [Deirdre Roesch](#), Marketing and Communications Manager, York County Economic and Tourism Development.

County of York 2024  
Yorktown, VA

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