

Patrick Henry History Tours

Frequently Asked Questions

DURATION	START TIME	MEETING POINT	INCLUDES
8+ Hours	9:00 AM	Hanover Courthouse	Lunch Provided

About the Tour

What is the Patrick Henry History Tour?

The Patrick Henry History Tour is an immersive, full-day experience that takes you on a 50-mile journey through Hanover County, Virginia—the landscape that shaped America's most passionate voice for liberty.

Experience the complete story of Patrick Henry's transformation from failed shopkeeper to Revolutionary hero. Visit six historic sites, witness a live reenactment of his famous Parsons' Cause trial, and walk in the footsteps of the man who declared "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

This expertly guided circular tour begins and ends at Hanover Courthouse, taking you through the places that forged the legend—from his humble birthplace to the mansion where he served as Virginia's first governor.

What sites will we visit on the tour?

The tour visits six historic sites that tell the complete story of Patrick Henry's extraordinary life:

Hanover Courthouse — Where Fame Began (1763): Witness a live reenactment of 27-year-old Patrick Henry defending local taxpayers in the famous "Parsons' Cause" trial, where his passionate argument launched his career as America's voice for liberty.

Studley Plantation — Patrick Henry's Birthplace (1736): Visit the site where Patrick Henry was born on May 29, 1736, to John Henry (a Scottish immigrant) and Sarah Winston Henry. Stand on the ground that shaped his origins.

Polegreen Church — Where Oratory Was Born: Discover the Presbyterian meetinghouse where young Patrick Henry heard Reverend Samuel Davies deliver powerful sermons advocating for religious freedom—the speaking style that became the model for Henry's legendary oratory.

Scotchtown Plantation — Revolutionary Mansion (1771–1778): Tour one of the largest wooden mansions in Virginia, where Henry lived during his most dramatic years and served as Virginia's first governor while dealing with personal tragedy.

Pine Slash — *Never before open to the public!* Site of Failure and Redemption: Learn about Patrick Henry's early struggles at the site of his failed general store—the crushing defeats that pushed him toward law, where his love of argument became an asset rather than a liability.

Shelton House/Rural Plains — Where Love Began (1754): End your tour at the Shelton family home, where Patrick Henry married Sarah Shelton in 1754. John Shelton operated the ordinary (tavern) at Hanover Courthouse, creating family connections that supported Henry's early career.

How long is the tour?

The tour is approximately 8+ hours, including a lunch break. This allows ample time to fully explore each site, enjoy the live reenactment at Hanover Courthouse, and travel the scenic 50-mile route through Hanover County.

We recommend planning for a full day and wearing comfortable shoes!

Is lunch included?

Yes! Lunch is included in your tour registration. We'll break at a designated location during the tour so you can rest, refresh, and discuss the morning's experiences with your fellow history enthusiasts.

*If you have dietary restrictions or food allergies, please let us know when you register so we can accommodate your needs.

Dates & Registration

When are the 2026 tour dates?

Date	Day	Start Time
March 14, 2026 (Open for registration)	Saturday	9:00 AM
May 16, 2026 (Opening March 15, 2026)	Saturday	9:00 AM
July 18, 2026 (Opening May 17, 2026)	Saturday	9:00 AM
September 12, 2026 (Opening July 19, 2026)	Saturday	9:00 AM

Tours begin promptly at 9:00 AM. We recommend arriving at least 15 minutes early to check in

and find parking.

How do I register for a tour?

You can register for a Patrick Henry History Tour in several ways:

- Online: Visit www.historicpolegreenchurch.org for the March 14, 2026 tour date. Future dates will be available for booking as each tour fills.
- Phone: Call us at (804) 730-3837
- Email: Contact us at admin@historicpolegreenchurch.org

Tours have limited capacity, so we encourage you to register early to secure your spot!

How much does the tour cost per person?

\$125 per person includes lunch and transportation

Can I book a private tour for my group?

Yes! We welcome groups and can arrange private tours for organizations, schools, family reunions, tour operators, and other groups.

Please contact us at (804) 730-3837 or admin@historicpolegreenchurch.org to discuss your group's needs, preferred dates, and pricing.

Logistics & Planning

Where does the tour meet?

The tour meets at Hanover Courthouse in Hanover, Virginia. This historic courthouse is where Patrick Henry's public career began, making it the perfect starting point for our journey.

Free public parking is available at the courthouse. The tour is a circular route that returns to this same location at the end of the day.

Is parking available?

Yes—free public parking is available at Hanover Courthouse. You can leave your vehicle there for the duration of the tour and return to it at the end of the day.

What should I wear and bring?

We recommend:

- Comfortable walking shoes — Some sites involve walking on uneven ground

- Weather-appropriate clothing — Dress in layers; portions of the tour are outdoors
- Sunscreen and a hat — For sunny days
- A camera — You'll want to capture these historic sites!
- Water bottle — Stay hydrated throughout the day

What happens if it rains?

The tour proceeds in light rain—please bring an umbrella.. Much of the experience takes place at indoor sites or covered areas.

In the event of severe weather that would compromise guest safety, we will contact registered participants to reschedule. Please ensure we have your current contact information when you register.

Accessibility

Is the tour accessible for those with mobility challenges?

Most sites offer good accessibility, though conditions vary:

- Polegreen Church involves walking on uneven ground
- Scotchtown Plantation tours include stairs
- Other sites are generally accessible

*Please call ahead at (804) 730-3837 to discuss your specific accessibility needs. We want to ensure everyone can enjoy Patrick Henry's story and will work with you to accommodate your requirements wherever possible.

Is the tour appropriate for children?

Yes! The Patrick Henry History Tour is an excellent educational experience for families. Children who are studying American history or the Revolutionary period will especially benefit from this immersive experience.

Please note that the tour is 8+ hours long, which may be challenging for very young children. We recommend the tour for ages 10 and up, though younger children who are enthusiastic about history are welcome.

Contact us if you have questions about whether the tour is appropriate for your family.

About Historic Polegreen Church Foundation

Who organizes these tours?

The Patrick Henry History Tours are presented by the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the historic sites where America's fight for freedom began.

The Foundation stewards three significant properties: Polegreen Church (the birthplace of religious freedom in Virginia), Studley (Patrick Henry's birthplace), and Pine Slash (Patrick Henry's honeymoon cottage).

How can I support the Foundation's mission?

Your support helps us interpret, preserve, and share the courageous struggle for liberty that began here. There are several ways to contribute:

- **Join a tour** — Tour proceeds support our preservation work
- **Make a donation** — Visit our website to contribute
- **Become a member** — Join our community of history supporters
- **Volunteer** — Share your time and talents
- **Spread the word** — Tell friends and family about our mission

Your support ensures these American treasures endure for future generations.

Still Have Questions?

We're here to help you plan your Patrick Henry History Tour experience.

Phone: (804) 730-3837

Email: admin@historicpolegreenchurch.org

Website: www.historicpolegreenchurch.org

Celebrating Virginia's 250th Anniversary