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**Celebrate Black History Month with Hampton's 400 Years
Forward Driving Tour**

Hampton VA - Celebrate of Black History Month by taking a driving tour that highlights Hampton, Virginia's more than 400 years of rich African American history. The [400 Years Forward Driving Tour](#) explores heritage sites including Fort Monroe National Monument, Emancipation Oak, Aberdeen Gardens, Little England Chapel, Tucker Family Cemetery, and the Hampton History Museum.

Driving Tour:

[Hampton History Museum](#)

120 Old Hampton Ln
Hampton, Va 23669

Begin your driving tour by calling ahead to reserve a visit at **Hampton History Museum**. Learn about Hampton history and contributions of African Americans in Hampton. The 10 galleries are filled with the city's history, as you travel from the 17th century to the present day. The exhibits include the first African arrival in 1619, to the Hidden Figures exhibit showcasing the city's involvement with the U.S. space program. Each gallery shares the important contributions of African Americans to Hampton history.

[Fort Monroe](#)

51 Fenwick Rd
Fort Monroe, Va 23651

After taking a trip through 400 years of history, travel to Fort Monroe, the largest stone fort in the United States. At Fort Monroe begin your tour at the **First Africans in Virginia Historical Marker**. It was at this spot in 1619 that the first Africans in English North America landed at Old Point Comfort. These first Africans brought with them their languages, cultures, and traditions that along with their perseverance would forever change the course of the United States. After visiting the First Africans Marker take a self-guided walking or driving tour of Fort Monroe.

Fort Monroe illustrates the “Arc of Freedom.” 242 years after the First African Landing, in 1861, three enslaved men escaped to Fort Monroe and were accepted at the Fort as “contraband of war”, and were not returned to their owners. Many more would follow them. While touring the Fort, visit the Fort entrance where contraband enslaved people from all over the area entered. Later nicknamed “Freedom Fortress”, Fort Monroe is filled with 21 unique sites featuring history, architecture, and nature for you to explore.

[Emancipation Oak](#)

100 E Queen St
Hampton, VA 23669

Next on your driving tour is the **Emancipation Oak** at Hampton University. A living symbol of freedom for African Americans, the first Southern reading of the Emancipation Proclamation was under this Oak in 1863. Designated as one of the “10 Great Trees of the World” by the National Geographic Society, this oak is 98 feet in diameter, and continues to be a source of inspiration and freedom for all.

[Little England Chapel](#)

4100 Kecoughtan Road
Hampton, Va 23669

After taking in the beauty and significance of Emancipation Oak drive to **Little England Chapel**. Built in 1879, this is Virginia’s only known African American missionary chapel. Exhibits interpret the religious lives of post-Civil War African

Americans in Virginia and include handwritten Sunday school lessons, photographs, a 12-minute video, and 19th-century religious books. Call ahead to tour this State and National Historic Landmark.

Tucker Family Cemetery

1 Sharon Court
Hampton, Va 23666

Your next stop will take you to the **Tucker Family Cemetery**. One of the oldest black cemeteries in Hampton, it is the resting place for generations of the William Tucker Family. William Tucker, the first recorded baby of African descent born to be baptized in English North America. He was the son of Anthony and Isabella who were among the first “twenty and odd” Africans to arrive at Point Comfort aboard the White Lion in 1619.

Aberdeen Gardens

55 and 57 N. Mary Peake Boulevard
Hampton, Va 23666

Finally, conclude your driving tour with a visit to Aberdeen Gardens. This historic neighborhood was built for “Blacks by Blacks” in 1935 as part of the New Deal Settlement. Out of the 55 New Deal communities proposed and constructed at the time, Aberdeen Gardens was the only Resettlement Administration community for Blacks in Virginia. Listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, this iconic neighborhood is also on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is currently closed for renovations, however, there are historical markers in the backyard to learn more about the neighborhood’s heritage and original residents.