

# Learn More

Please visit the websites for Monticello and Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest.

*Monticello*  
[www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

*Poplar Forest*  
[www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org)

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*Information was researched and compiled by*  
Albemarle Chapter, NSDAR

Looking for more places to visit during your drive? Please visit our website below to see other locations along the route.

[albemarlechapterdar.org](http://albemarlechapterdar.org)



# The Escape

On June 3, 1781, John "Jack" Jouett overheard the British troops at the Cuckoo Tavern in Louisa County talking about capturing Virginia's governor and legislators. Jouett rode approximately 40 miles throughout the night to Monticello, warning Thomas Jefferson on the morning of June 4, then rode on to Charlottesville to warn the legislators.

Jefferson immediately sent his wife and children to a nearby farm, Colonel Carter's Blenheim, then enjoyed his breakfast and began gathering his documents. A Charlottesville resident, Christopher Hudson, overheard Jouett talking about the British soldiers while he was in Charlottesville and didn't realize Jefferson had already been warned by Jouett, so Hudson rode to Monticello and gave him a second warning. With his family safe, Jefferson went to the top of Montalto, a nearby mountain he owned, to get a better view of roads leading into Charlottesville. Seeing the British advancing, Jefferson rode his fastest horse, Caractacus, and caught up with his family's carriage.

A few minutes after Jefferson left, Captain McLeod and his men arrived at Monticello. According to family oral histories, two enslaved men, Martin Hemings and Caesar, were hiding silver under planks of the house so it wouldn't be pillaged. When Hemings saw the British arrive, he replaced the planks – leaving Caesar in the dark without food for a sustained period of time. McLeod and his men did not destroy anything at Monticello out of respect for Thomas Jefferson.

Meanwhile, Thomas and Martha Jefferson and their children went on to John Coles' Enniscorthy, staying the night. After leaving Enniscorthy, they traveled along Secretary's Road, crossed the Hardware River beside the Green Mountains, and reached the Rockfish River. They stayed the night at or near Joplin's Ordinary, then crossed Rockfish River at Joplin's Ford. They continued their travels across several mountains to the entrance of Findlay's Gap, where they stayed at Abraham Warwick's Ordinary. The family then continued southwest on the main Carriage Road, through Amherst Court House, across the Tye River, to the ford in the Piney River. They stayed at Hugh Rose's house, Geddes.

Thomas Jefferson left the family safely at Geddes and returned to Monticello to see what the current situation was. He stayed at Monticello for three days, also visiting another one of his properties, Elk Hill, because he saw smoke emanating from that area. Lord Cornwallis had burned the barns and crops and took or killed the livestock. Jefferson determined it was unsafe for his family, so he returned to Geddes. On June 14, the group used John Lynch's ferry to cross the James River, then traveled ten more miles on to Poplar Forest.

Thomas Jefferson had not yet built the house that currently stands at Poplar Forest, so he and his family stayed in the overseer's two-room home. While at Poplar Forest, Jefferson wrote *Notes on the State of Virginia*. Jefferson returned to Monticello five weeks later upon hearing that Lord Cornwallis withdrew to Portsmouth.



# Thomas Jefferson's ESCAPE ROUTE

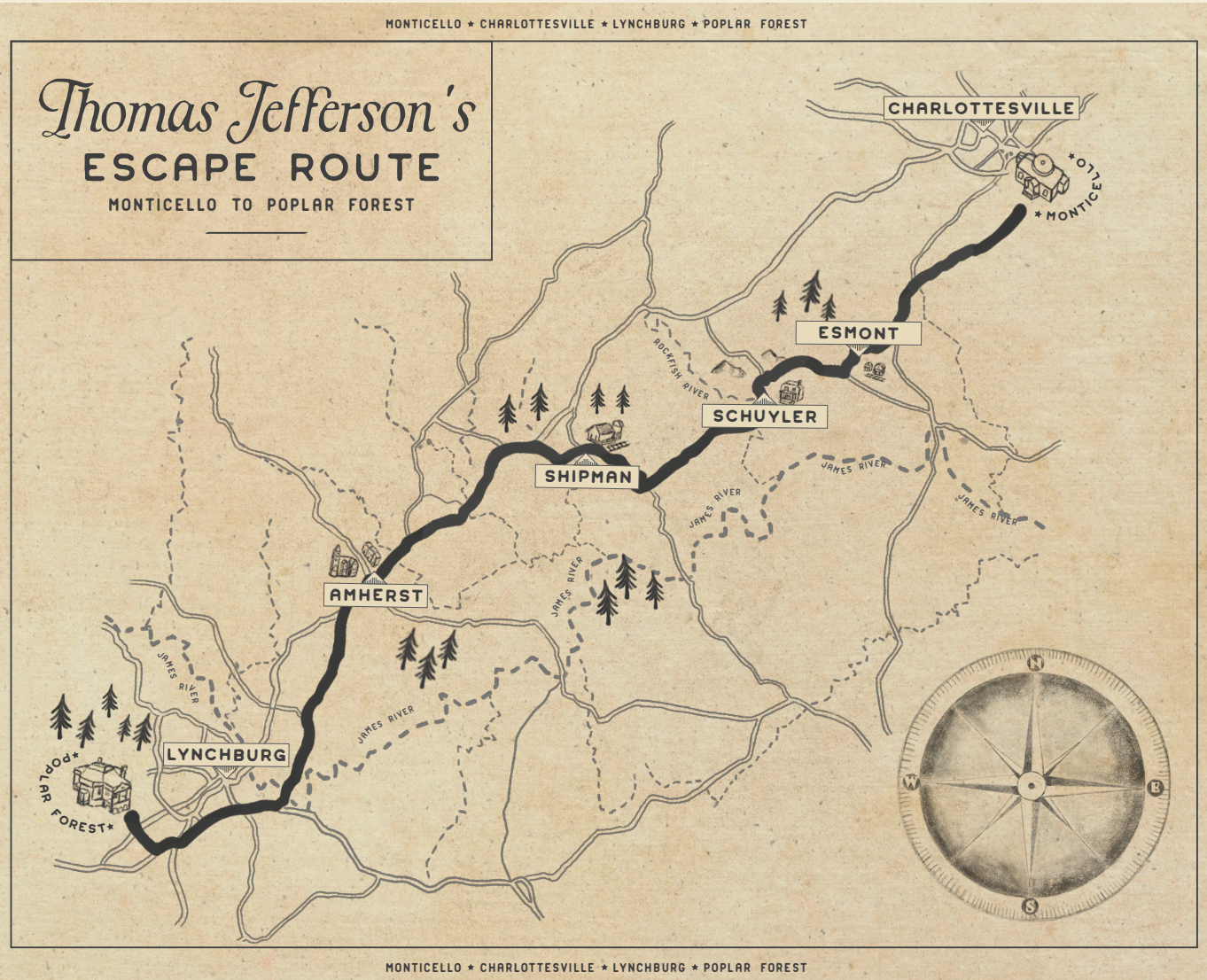
Follow Jefferson's path using modern roads while enjoying historical encounters





# Overview of Thomas Jefferson's Escape Route

using modern roads, from Monticello to Poplar Forest



## Driving Directions to use with your GPS

Start at Monticello (1050 Monticello Loop, Charlottesville, VA), and put in Schuyler, VA as your first GPS location – following SR-20 south, driving through Esmont, and taking SR-6 west. When you arrive in Schuyler, Walton's Mountain Museum will be in front of you. Turn left and put Shipman, VA as your next GPS location – following Glade Road south to SR-56 west. After Shipman, put Poplar Forest (1776 Poplar Forest Parkway, Lynchburg, VA) into your GPS – merging onto US-29 south, driving near Amherst, and taking the southeastern route (US-460) around Lynchburg to approach Poplar Forest.

There are many fascinating sites to explore along Jefferson's historic escape route. Below are some recommendations for what to do if you are planning a one-day or two-day trip.

### One Day Trip

**Start at Monticello**, paying special attention to the plaque laid by the DAR in 1924 on the west portico by the doors.

**You may want** to enjoy a midday meal at the Monticello Farm Table ([www.monticello.org/farmtable](http://www.monticello.org/farmtable)), Michie Tavern ([www.michietavern.com](http://www.michietavern.com)), or the Simeon Market ([www.simeonmarket.com](http://www.simeonmarket.com)).

**Continue on** for a stop at the Scottsville Museum ([www.scottsvillemuseum.com](http://www.scottsvillemuseum.com)) to learn about the various plantations in Jefferson's day including Enniscorthy.

**End your day** with a tour at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, learning about Jefferson's octagonal Palladian masterpiece.

### Two Day Trip

**Start at Monticello**, then also visit President James Monroe's home at Highland ([www.highland.org](http://www.highland.org)), before heading on to your midday meal. After visiting the Scottsville Museum, you could also see Walton's Mountain ([www.allaboutthewaltons.com](http://www.allaboutthewaltons.com)). Please check out a variety of overnight lodging options at the Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau ([www.visitcharlottesville.org/places-to-stay](http://www.visitcharlottesville.org/places-to-stay)).

**On your second day**, you have a selection of historical museums including the Monacan Indian National Museum ([www.monacannation.com/museum](http://www.monacannation.com/museum)), the Amherst County Museum ([amherstcountymuseum.org](http://amherstcountymuseum.org)), the Lynchburg Museum ([www.lynchburgmuseum.org](http://www.lynchburgmuseum.org)), and the Old City Cemetery ([www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org)). End your trip with a visit to Poplar Forest.

Are you interested in becoming more involved in preserving the history of the **United States of America** and **educating future generations**?

### DONATE TO MONTICELLO

Monticello is a touchstone for all who seek to explore the enduring meaning of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Your support helps us to safeguard this national treasure for years to come.



### DONATE TO POPLAR FOREST

Support the ongoing preservation, conservation, and interpretation of Jefferson's recently restored personal retreat, Poplar Forest. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.



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