

STRATFORD HALL FOSSIL EXCURSIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I wear?

Comfortable clothing that is appropriate for the season that you do not mind getting wet if you choose to wade or fall. Shoes are required during fossil hunting excursions. Footwear with a hard sole such as sneakers, galoshes, or water shoes are acceptable. Flip flops are not safe for fossil hunting excursions.

What should I bring on my trip?

- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Bug repellent
- Change of shoes and clothing
- Bottled water
- Snacks/lunch
- Sandwich bags or other containers for carrying fossils
- Small colanders or screens for sifting (optional)

Do I have to stay the whole time?

Participants are not required to stay the whole 6 hours of the excursion. However, once a participant has signed themselves out, they may not leave and return later.

Can I keep what I find?

Yes, you generally may keep the fossils you find. Per Stratford Hall's collections policy, the museum may retain any fossil of scientific value. A Stratford Hall employee and/or volunteer may determine if a fossil specimen found by a participant has potential scientific value and as a result may be retained by Stratford Hall for further determination. If a specimen is retained, the provenance/location will be recorded, as well as contact information of the finder.

Am I allowed to dig on the property?

Participants are welcome to bring tools to sift for fossils while on the property. However, digging into the ground or cliffs is not allowed. Metal detecting is also prohibited on the property.

May I bring my dog?

For your safety and the safety of others Stratford Hall does not allow pets on fossil hunting excursions. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Are there bathroom facilities available?

The primary restroom is at the Visitor Center. Closest facilities to the beach are portable restrooms located at the Overlook and the Mill Pond area.

What is the parking situation?

Participants are asked to park at the overlook and walk down to the beach. This is approximately a two-tenth of a mile downhill walk along a gravel drive. **Please note that there are no shuttle services provided by Stratford Hall.** Participants that have difficulty walking long distances and need accommodations please contact Hunter Peal at (804) 493-1972 or hpeal@stratfordhall.org prior to your visit.

What is your cancellation policy?

Fossil hunting will occur rain or shine. However, a Stratford Hall employee will review the weather condition prior to upcoming excursions and notify the group if there are any changes in plans. If the weather conditions are such that a cancellation must occur prior to the scheduled excursion date, Stratford Hall will notify the trip coordinator or participants of the necessary cancellation.

During an excursion, if weather conditions deteriorate, a Stratford Hall staff member will advise the group, and make the decision whether to cancel the remainder of the trip. Excursions canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances may be rescheduled and/or refunded if the excursion duration is less than 1 hour of beach time. Cancellations after one hour will result in no rescheduling or refund.

Am I able to get a refund?

All cancellations by participants require a 48-hour email notice before the fossil hunting excursion takes place. Cancellation requests with less than 48-hour notice will not be honored unless we can fill your space. Absence from an excursion is nonrefundable. Refunds are at the sole discretion of Stratford Hall and will be considered in such cases where there is an illness or emergency. Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to Hunter Peal, Director of Education, at hpeal@stratfordhall.org.