

# Exploring Richmond

Richmond features a host of parks and trails, museums, festivals and music venues. There's plenty to see and do — all within minutes of campus.



## Brown's Island

With the downtown skyline as its backdrop, Brown's Island serves as a venue for many of Richmond's high-profile events. On Friday summer evenings, music lovers pack the island for Friday Cheers, a weekly and budget-friendly concert series.

## Festivals and events

Numerous festivals — Greek, Italian, Irish, Lebanese, vegetarian and watermelon — take place throughout the year in Richmond. In May, Dominion Riverrock combines running, biking and kayaking competitions with free concerts on Brown's Island. In June, the island hosts the East Championship for the Xterra Games. Then each fall, spectators flock to the riverfront for the Richmond Folk Festival, which features performers from all over the world.

## Arts and culture

Richmond offers a premier destination for art lovers. After a \$150 million renovation, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts boasts a collection

THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOASTS A COLLECTION SPANNING 5,000 YEARS.

spanning 5,000 years. Each Friday of the month, First Fridays Art Walk showcases more than 30 diverse creative venues on Broad Street. For those who may be more into literature, the Edgar Allan Poe museum offers a glimpse into the home of one of the city's literary masters.

## History and museums

A drive along Richmond's historic Monument Avenue serves as the perfect route to The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar. Opened in 2006, the center features four films, interactive displays and hundreds of artifacts. The Science Museum of Virginia dazzles children and adults with scientific concepts in what was once the city's primary train station. The Virginia Holocaust Museum engages visitors through dramatic exhibits accompanied by a 70-minute audio guide

featuring the voice of an actual survivor. The Valentine Richmond History Center offers more than 1 million relics of Richmond's past.

## Music venues

The recently renovated Richmond CenterStage includes two theaters, a music hall and an education complex. The site houses the 1,800-seat Carpenter Theatre, one of the city's great historical music venues. Other locations include the Landmark Theater (just steps off of VCU's Monroe Park campus) and The National, which has been renovated to include modern amenities like video screens and monitors, while maintaining its historical charm. Bigger shows find a home at the Richmond Coliseum, the largest venue in town.



From top to bottom: First Fridays Art Walk, VCU's Intercultural Festival and the Carpenter Theatre

THIS GUY CAN BE FOUND AT RICHMOND'S HISTORIC CAPITOL SQUARE.





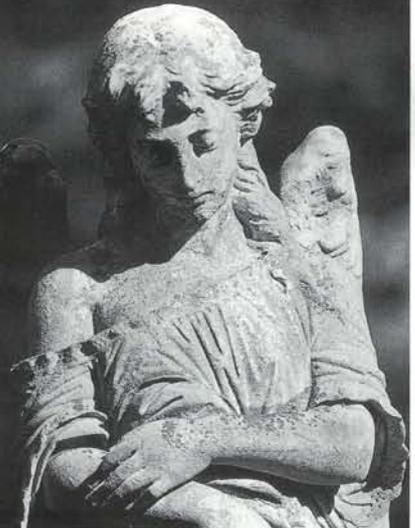
WHAT'S YOUR  
FAVORITE  
THING TO DO  
IN RICHMOND?

"I love to just comb the streets – walk around, ride my bike. There's so much to do and see."

– ISAAC LEE, VCU FRESHMAN

#### Hollywood Cemetery

The last place you might expect to visit (for pleasure) is a cemetery, but Hollywood Cemetery classifies as a true outdoor museum. The site gets its name from the holly trees dotting its 135 acres. Winding paths provide spectacular views of the James River, as well as some of the best examples of ornate iron work in the nation and a 90-foot-tall stone pyramid made of James River granite. Famous residents include U.S. Presidents James Monroe and John Tyler, as well as J.E.B. Stuart and Jefferson Davis.



#### Canal Walk

Richmond's Haxall Canal and the Canal Walk offer a tranquil setting for walks or seasonal boat rides. The 1 ¼-mile stroll along the canal's edge can be accessed via any number of entrances between 5th and 17th streets, and covers four centuries of history through interpretive medallions, monuments and exhibits.

#### The James River Park System

Stretching from east of downtown to west of the Huguenot Bridge, the more than 550-acre James River Park System offers a seemingly endless network of trails for not only running, but for walking, mountain biking, fishing and bird watching. For those who want to venture in the water, Pony

Pasture and 42nd Street Rocks allow for easy entry and safe wading. Novice and expert paddlers take note: Numerous spots along the shore allow for convenient put in and take out of your kayak or canoe.

**As seen  
on TV!**



We're not the only ones who herald Richmond's eating scene; several local hot spots caught the attention of some foodies on the national scene.

#### THROWDOWN WITH BOBBY FLAY

Celebrity chef and Food Network personality Bobby Flay challenged local barbecuer Buz Grossberg over the famous spare ribs at **Buz and Ned's Real Barbecue**. The victor? That would be Buz.

#### MAN V. FOOD

The Travel Channel's Adam Richman also journeyed to Richmond for a taste of **Buz and Ned's**, sticking around to sample **Black Sheep's** battleship-sized sandwiches and to undertake the Stupid Wings Challenge at **Caliente**.

#### DINERS, DRIVE-INS AND DIVES

Guy Fieri searched out some neighborhood faves across the country and settled on Richmond's own **Village Café**, a VCU favorite, for its New York-style calzones. He later visited Northside restaurant **Dots Back Inn** to highlight its made-from-scratch deliciousness.

#### THE BEST THING I EVER ATE

**Ronnie's Ribs, Wings & Other Things**, a barbecue shack near Church Hill, was the first to make an appearance on this Food Network show, followed by Cuban outpost **Kuba Kuba**, whose famed tres leches cake recently received its 15 minutes of fame.

# Shopping

It's only fitting that a city with Richmond's rich historical legacy boasts a fine dose of vintage and consignment stores as well.

WHAT'S THE  
BEST-KEPT  
SECRET IN  
RICHMOND?



"The underground music scene and the food. There are lots of local places to hear music and there are so many great small places to eat. You just have to dive in there and go for it."

- DAMARIS GARCIA, VCU SENIOR

#### Rumors

Founded by two VCU alums within shouting distance of the Monroe Park Campus, Rumors thrift boutique deals in pre-loved clothing at starving-artist prices. The owners regularly host evening fundraisers that benefit deserving local nonprofits.

#### Clementine

Located in the stylish Carytown district, Clementine consignment shop features lightly worn contemporary clothing by upscale labels, including Marc Jacobs, Rebecca Taylor and J Brand, in a charming boutique atmosphere.

#### Bygones

Another Carytown must since 1979, Bygones offers a well-organized collection of vintage clothing from 1900

to 1970. The airy shop is stocked with endless accessories for men and women, as well as a generous assortment of vintage reproductions.

#### Books, Bikes and Beyond

A thrift outpost that grew out of a mobile nonprofit providing free books and bicycle repair to those in need, this store sells a host of gently used goods, including clothing. Net proceeds benefit Books on Wheels.

