A Student’s Guide to Richmond

Some of the Housing, Dining, and Entertainment available in Richmond

The following information was collected from current law students of the University of Richmond School of Law. It includes comments on a variety of areas to live in Richmond, as well as places to eat, shop, run errands, and enjoy the nightlife and cultural activities.

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<td>There are many districts in Richmond: the Far West End, West End, the Fan, South Side, Downtown, Museum District</td>
<td>The best places to eat, including where to take your parents, where to grab coffee, and the best night spots</td>
<td>Everything from what to do on the weekend to where to shop for local produce – we’ve got it all.</td>
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There are a wide variety of housing options in Richmond. Most students choose to live in the West End, the Fan, or the Museum District.
Far West End (Short Pump)

“The Short Pump area has everything I need in terms of shopping and eating. The mall is across the street. Martins, Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s and Kroger are all within a mile radius of my apartment. The only downside is that it takes about 15 minutes to get to school, and 25 minutes to drive downtown.”

“Traditional suburban area. Known to be a very safe area of greater Richmond with better schools, great shopping and dining, and easy access to I-64, 295, and I-95.”

“It’s farther from school, but also cheaper and more practical. There is always parking. It’s far from bars in the Fan and where most people live, so you will always have to go to them and they will rarely come to you.”

**Pros:**
- Quieter than apartment living, more privacy
- Plenty of parking, fenced in backyard
- More space
- 15-20 minutes from school

**Cons:**
- Extra cost in gas
- Travel time to school
- Traffic
- It can be a little more expensive to rent a house than an apartment

**Apartment Complexes in the Far West End**

**Colonial Village** Pros: Lower rent and a quiet apartment community. Close to school, Short Pump, the Broad Street area, and I-64.

**Kings Crossing** Pros: Close to school, parking at my front door, pool and playground for my kids, dog park for my dog, and the townhouse is large enough for my family of four. There is a business center in the leasing office, they clear the snow off sidewalks/streets quickly, full size washer/dryer in every unit, quiet neighborhood, good for families. Cons: They will tow your car if you park in a reserved space without a parking pass.

**Other known options that students prefer:** Copper Mill, Chase Gayton, Three Willows, Tuckahoe Creek, Sundance Station, Cabin Creek and Canterbury Square, Wilde Lake Apartments, West Broad Village, The Crossings, and others.
West End

“The West End is great because it is so close to school and the rent is cheap!”

Pros:
- Close proximity to school, low crime, private schools in immediate area (St. Christopher's/St. Catherine's)

Cons:
- Not a lot of night life

Estates/Villages at Horsepen

Pros:
- The clubhouse has a gym, business center, free coffee, and a pool. The gardeners take care of the lawn for you and if anything breaks, the maintenance men respond quickly.
- Movie theater and a barbecue area.
- Friendly staff and very quiet neighborhood

Cons:
- Apartments are a little older as well as the appliances, but still nice and well maintained
- It's a bit more expensive than some other options

Malvern Manor

Pros:
- Great, safe location to live by yourself and close enough that you are basically in the fan but are also a 7 minute drive from school. Great amenities with old world charm.

Cons:
- Expensive. Some units have old appliances.

Regency Woods Condominiums

Pros:
- North of the river; Close to Regency Square Shopping and Short Pump. Easy access to I-64. About 15 minutes from school with traffic. Lower Rent.

Cons:
- Further from the Fan; more traffic; generally an older crowd since they are condos.

Tuckahoe Creek

Pros:
- Very close to school.
- New Management has improved the apartment complex and it is priced very competitively.

Cons:
- Limited availability
From Carytown to Downtown

The FAN

“Fun, young people, lots of social life, and opportunities to meet people. The Fan and the Museum District are both historic, beautiful, unique places to live. I highly recommend it, especially if you don’t know many people in the Richmond area.”

Pros:
- Decent rent
- Walking distance to everything
- Proximity to restaurants/bars
- Not far away from campus and close to the fun stuff to do downtown
- Minutes from Texas Beach on the James River and close to Belle Isle and Brown's Island.
- May luck out and find a really unique place with lots of character as opposed to a standard apartment building.

Cons:
- Parking – limited off street parking, with on-street parking not always available close to the apartment, usually within a few blocks
- 15 minutes from school
- There are some not-so-nice areas, investigate the area before you pick an apartment
South Side

“Southside is cheap living in relatively quiet neighborhoods.”

Pros:
- Cheaper rent
- Neighborhood feel
- Close to Pony Pasture for river activities
- Easy parking

Cons:
- It can be up to 20 minutes from school depending on where you live
- Fewer students live in the area.

Creek’s Edge at Stony Point

Pros:
- Close to school (about 8 minutes), walking distance to a nice outdoor mall, very nice and spacious apartments, two pools and a gym, helpful office workers, quick maintenance responses, and plenty of parking.
- Very safe gated community. Pet friendly. Short walk across the street to get a quick bite to eat. You have a full laundry room.

Cons:
- You have to drive to Carytown/Fan/Downtown instead of walking, but it’s not too far. The tolls can be annoying. Also, if you want to go out, you’ll likely have to take a cab.
- Kitchens are a little small in some models.
- Expensive

Bramblewood Estates (Jahnke Rd area)

Pros:
- Low rent; Quiet; Easy access to Shockoe over the 9th Street bridge; Easy access to Carytown over the Boulevard Bridge; Close to necessary shopping (Wal-Mart, Target, Martin’s, etc…) in the Forest Hill Shopping Center; Not too far from school (about 15 minutes up Chippenham).

Cons:
- Not necessarily the best neighborhood; Sort of far away from where everyone else lives; the Huguenot bridge construction zone; Sirens from the close proximity to the Chippenham Hospital
### Northside

“Not a lot of students live on the Northside, but the rent is lower and proximity to downtown is great with easy access to the interstates.”

**Pros:**
- Cheap Rent
- 20 minutes from school
- Close to I-95 and I-64

**Cons:**
- Some areas are high in crime

### Downtown

“I live in Jackson Ward and I love that it feels like I’m living in a city. The Fan might be the center of law school social life, but Downtown is the center of Richmond social life.”

**Pros:**
- Near Downtown
- Lots of social activities

**Cons:**
- Small housing
- Parking is limited
- 20 minute commute to school
- Some areas are high in crime
Where We Eat:
The Black Sheep
Comfort
Burger Bach
Can Can
8½
Edo’s Squid
Continental
Kuba Kuba
Sticky Rice
Mezzanine
Carytown Burgers & Fries
Mission BBQ
Buz and Ned’s BBQ
Joe’s Inn
Mosaic
Peter Chang’s China Cafe
Bottom’s Up Pizza
Urban Farmhouse
Stella’s
Chiocca’s
Kitchen 64
Lunch
Mekong
Galaxy Diner
Capital Ale House
Mint
Baker’s Crust
El Caporal
The Magpie
Bertuccis
Toast
Conch Republic
Greek on Cary
Proper Pie
Palani Drive
Weezies
Strawberry Street Cafè
Belmont Pizza
Don’t Look Back
Proper Pie

Where We Take Our Parents:
The Boathouse: awesome outdoor patio, great food, and gorgeous views on the river.
Can Can Brasserie: great atmosphere, outdoor seating, a Richmond classic, delicious food and great drinks.
Julep’s: tasty southern style cuisine with a wonderful atmosphere.
Comfort: delicious southern food in the heart of downtown Richmond.
Café Caturra: upscale wine bar with great wine selection, delicious food, and a relaxing atmosphere.
Bottom’s Up Pizza: fun atmosphere and family friendly in Shockoe Bottom, which is a cool and historic part of Richmond to show visitors.
Acacia: Great Richmond seafood.
Edo’s Squid: The best Italian you can get in Richmond.
Mama Zu’s: Get there early, bring cash, and enjoy the osso bucco.
Stella’s: Greek. Really, really good Greek.
The Blue Goat: Featuring euro comfort food, sourced locally, in a nose to tail concept.
La Grotta: Great Italian food downtown.
Best Local Food

1. Comfort (Downtown)
2. Black Sheep (Downtown)
3. South of the James Farmer’s Market
4. Buzz N Ned's BBQ (Boulevard & Broad Street)
5. 8 ½ (The Fan)
6. Lulu’s (The Fan)
7. Mezzanine (Carytown)
8. The Blue Goat (West End)
9. The Continental Westhampton (West End)
10. Café Caturra (West End)

Best Sandwiches

1. Black Sheep (Downtown)
2. Garnett’s (The Fan)
3. Mosaic (West End)
4. Coppola’s (Downtown)
5. Chiocca’s (The Fan)
6. Libbie Market (West End)
7. The Continental
8. Capitol Ale House (Innsbrook)
9. Carytown Burgers and Fries (Carytown)
10. Greek on Cary (Carytown)
11. Alamo BBQ (Downtown)

Best Places for Good, Cheap Food

1. Sushi King (West End)
2. Mexico (West End)
3. City Dogs (Downtown)
4. Cook Out (West End)
5. 8 ½ (The Fan)
6. Mojo’s (Carytown)
7. The Grill (Patterson Ave)
8. The Tavern (Patterson Ave)
9. Pho So #1 (Horsepen)

Best Happy Hour

1. Joe’s Inn (The Fan)
2. Banditos (The Fan)
3. New York Deli (Carytown)
4. Weezie’s (Carytown)
5. Curbside (The Fan)
6. Tobacco Co. (Downtown)
7. The Continental
   Westhampton (West End)
8. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (Museum District)
9. Post Bellum (The Fan)

Dessert Spots

1. Pearl’s Cupcakes (West End)
2. Jean Jacques (Carytown)
3. Dixie Donuts (Carytown)
4. Westhampton (West End)
5. Carytown Cupcakes (Carytown)
6. Duck Donuts (Willow Lawn)
7. Sugar Shack (West End)
8. Boyer’s Ice Cream (West End)
9. Shyndigz (Carytown)
1. Lamplighter: They roast their own coffee, make their own syrups (The Fan)
2. Lift (Downtown)
3. Crossroads (The Fan)
4. Black Hand: small, but great coffee (The Fan)
5. Café Caturra: great atmosphere, especially with the fireplace going (West End)
6. Rostovs: (The Fan)
7. Taza Coffee (near South Side)
8. Elwood Thompson’s Café (Carytown)

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Best Brunch

1. Millie’s: Best in Richmond if you can get in, but it’s well worth the wait (Downtown)
2. Sidewalk Café: (The Fan)
3. Dots Back Inn (Downtown)
4. Joe’s Inn (The Fan)
5. The Daily (Carytown)
6. Stella’s (Near West End)
7. Post Bellum (The Fan)
8. Strawberry Street Café (The Fan)
9. 3 Monkeys (The Fan)
10. Star-lite (The Fan)

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Best Nightspots

1. Curbside (The Fan)
2. Metro Bar and Grill (The Fan)
3. Capital Ale House (Downtown and Far West End)
4. Social 52 (The Fan)
5. deLux: upstairs club great for dancing (The Fan)
6. New York Deli: Trivia Tuesday! (The Fan)
7. Sullivan’s (The Fan)
8. Buddy’s (The Fan)
9. Siné (Downtown)
10. Starlite (The Fan)
11. McCormack's Whiskey Grill and Smokehouse (The Fan)
12. Off the Hookah (Downtown)
What do you do on the weekend?

- Go to the James River with friends: Belle Isle, Brown's Island, Pony Pasture
- Join an intramural team, start a pick-up Ultimate Frisbee game, or try out the UR disc golf course
- Check out the local museums: VMFA is really great!
- Historic sightseeing on Monument Ave
- Concerts: The National & Innsbrook Pavilion put on some great shows
- Get out of town! Weekend vacations are so relaxing.
- Food/wine festivals – check out Richmond.com for local events
- Run down Monument Ave or play bocce/corn hole on the Monument median
- Go to the Farmer’s Markets
- Day trips to Charlottesville for their great vineyards, breweries, and orchards
- Go to the movies – I love the Byrd ($1.99 movies in a historic Carytown theatre)
- Maymont Park is great for all ages
- Shop in Carytown
- Peak Experiences Indoor Rock Climbing Center
- Get ice cream at Bev's Homemade Ice Cream
- Richmond Funny Bone
- Friday Cheers
- Go to Williamsburg or DC or Virginia Beach for the day
- Byrd Park is one of many great, local parks
- Flying Squirrels games!
- Go to The Keys inside the Beach House for dueling pianos
- Weekend Adventure Races, kayaking, white water rafting
- Visit the Colonial Shooting Academy on Broad Street for indoor shooting sports
Maymont Park
Innsbrook Pavilion
Byrd Park (has a fitness trail and tennis courts)
Buttermilk trails and Pony Pasture (good for running & biking)
The River: canoe, tube, kayak, swimming, fishing, white water rafting @ Texas Beach, Belle Isle, 42nd St, Pump House
Goochland Drive-In Theater
Jogging trails downtown (by Tredegar Street)
River City Sports and Social Club: kickball, volleyball, flag football
Flying Squirrels Games (cheap & fun!)
Manchester Bridge for rock climbing
Shenandoah Mountains for hiking
Pocahontas State Park, an awesome place to hike, mountain bike, and go swimming or fishing
Deep Run Park, Bryan Park (disc golf), Scuffletown Park, Triangle Park, Meadow Park, Echo Lake

“River City Sports and Social Club offers adult dodgeball, kickball, and football among others and is a great chance to meet people outside of law school”

“I bring anyone who comes to visit to Maymont Park, whether they be young or old. It’s gorgeous and a great place to run, have a picnic, or play soccer!”

“The James River Park System is a huge asset to the city. There are many places along the north and south banks of the river with open access to the public, safe for swimming, tubing, canoeing, kayaking, or just laying out.”

INDOORS

Byrd Theatre: a two dollar movie theater in Carytown
Bowtie Cinema (great Tuesday specials!) or CineBistro
Bowling sunset lanes
Weinstein Recreation center
UR Basketball Games
Richmond Symphony/Orchestra
Theatre IV, Virginia Reparatory Theatre, Altria Theatre
Colonial Shooting Academy
**Best Places for Live Music**

- Cary St. Café
- The National
- Innsbrook Pavilion
- Shenanigans
- The Camel
- The Republic
- Poe's Pub
- Bogart's
- Legend
- The Keys in The Beach House bar
- Brown's Island
- Emilio's
- Conch Republic
- Richmond Symphony
- Pocahontas State Park

**Best Festivals In and Around Richmond**

- Richmond Bacon Festival (June)
- Carytown Watermelon Festival (August)
- Richmond Folk Festival (October)
- French Film Festival (March)
- Shamrock the Block (March)
- Richmond Greek Festival (May)
- Riverrock Outdoor Festival (May)
- Richmond Jazz Festival (August)
- Broad Appetite (June)
- RVA First Friday Art Walk (All Year)
“Richmond has a crazy amount of malls. Stony Point is very nice, but pricey. Short Pump is affordable, but always packed. Regency isn’t quite as nice and big as the others, but it’s closer to campus and rarely crowded.”

**Professional**

- **STONY POINT FASHION PARK**
  - **SAKS 5TH AVENUE**
  - **DILLARDS**
- **SHORT PUMP TOWNE CENTER**
  - **NORDSTROM**
  - **ANN TAYLOR LOFT**
- **BROOKS BROTHERS**
- **PETER BLAIR (AT LIBBIE AND GROVE)**
- **JOSEPH A. BANKS (GAYTON AND GASKINS ROAD)**
- **SECOND-HAND CLOTHING STORE NEXT TO ELLWOOD’S CAFÉ**

“The Short Pump area has the best shopping. I buy professional work attire

**Fashionable**

- **Boutiques on Grove, Libbie, and Carytown**
- **Pink in Carytown - “on-trend selection for women”**
- **Need Supply Co. (if you’ve got a little edge)**
- **Fabrik in Carytown**
- **Nordstrom, Saks, Pink Palm, Vineyard Vines**

**Locally Made**

- Farmer’s Markets: 17th St & St. Stephens Episcopal; themarketumbrella.com has them all
- First Friday Art Walks
- Ellwood Thompson
- Ten Thousand Villages (not local, but a must see fair trade store!)

**Good Deals**

- Thrift & vintage shops in Carytown
- Williamsburg Outlets (~ 45 min drive)
- Living Social, Groupon, Rvaspecials.com, Virginia living, Richmond Daily Deal
- Diversity Thrift, benefits the Richmond Gay Community Foundation

“Always use your student ID for discounts!”
Hair Salons

- Perception Salon in Carytown, great highlights and reasonably priced
- Pine Street Barber in Oregon Hill is a good option for guys and has a student discount
- Nesbit Salon is good for girls, started at Pine Street, so it has a good history
- Main Street Barber
- Mango Salon, locations at Libbie & Grove and in Short Pump (very popular, but pricey!)
- Salon Van De (right by UR off River Rd)
- Bombshell Salon in Carytown - ask for Shannon or Casey!
- Salon de Sol on Parham – a little more expensive but worth it; reasonably priced and very nice to customers!
- Beyond the Fringe. Tonya and Whitney have both cut/colored/highlighted my hair and it always looks great.
- Fantastic Sam’s – Forest Hill (Ask for Andrew)
- Headliners on Patterson (ask for Eddie!)
- Envy Salon in Stony Point – very pricey, but the best haircut I’ve ever received!

“If you need alterations done, I love the Nimble Thimble. It’s right by UR (off Ridge Rd.) and very reasonably priced.”

Nail Salons

- Diva Salon on Hugueneot
- Lily’s Nail Salon & Spa at Willow Lawn

Dry Cleaners

- Village Dry Cleaners
- #1 Cleaners, Kensington
- Puritan Cleaners
- Colonial Cleaners
- Hand Craft Cleaners
- Sylvia’s on Shepherd
- Tuckahoe Cleaners
- HandiCraft

Most Popular Result:

“Puritan – they do a good job, 24-hr turn around, multiple locations, email you when your clothes are done, and will deliver to your home for free. They are a little pricey, but it’s worth it.”

Finding good childcare in Richmond …

“Parham East Children’s Center! When my daughter was there, we had a great experience, and many of the teachers had been there for years. It’s small and has a family feel, not nearly as chaotic and loud as some of the larger childcare centers I looked at.

“Anyone new to the area should consult the Virginia Dept of Social Services website listing all daycare and certified preschools (one can search the site by zip code/locality). It also provides information regarding violations.”

http://www.dss.virginia.gov/facility/search/cc.cgi

- Tabernacle Child Care – great, but has a long waiting list!
- Primrose Centers and Cedar House on the South Side
- KinderCare @ Pump & Patterson – “I particularly liked the workers there”
- Ellwood House, Westminster Canterbury, and Monument Heights – “they’re top-notch”
Pets

Veterinary Services / Boarding

- Quioccasin Vet (near Regency mall on Parham) - Dr. Mortimer is great and they really show a lot of interest in how your pet is doing.
- Richmond SPCA (spay/neuter clinic)
- Bon Air Animal Hospital. Dr. Haney is fantastic and they’re reasonably priced for vet services, although boarding is a bit more expensive.
- Gayton Animal Hospital (Dr. Tisnado)
- Countryside Vet Clinic in the West End
- Hanover Green Vet
- Colonial Vet – Dr. Riley (Pump Rd.)
- County Line Kennel (Anderson Hwy/Rte. 60, just outside Powhatan County) is worth the drive to board your dog.
- VCA Pet’s First Animal Hospital on Staples Mill Road
- Banefield clinic in Petmart, next to Short Pump Mall. They do a great job.
- The Sycamore Vet Hospital on Midlothian is a good one on the Southside.
- Broad Street Veterinary Clinic
- The Fan Veterinary Clinic

Grooming

- The Petsmart on Hull Street has a great grooming service.
- Holiday Pet Barn (also good for boarding)
- Dogma (Carytown)
- The Barking Lot
- Dogtopia on Broad (Self-Serve Bath Tubs)

Dog Parks

- Barker Field is an awesome dog park next to Maymont and Byrd Park.
- Hanover County/Ashland
- Deep Run Park
- Bandy Field Nature Park (next to UR)
- Byrd Park is great for pets!
TRANSPORTATION

[GETTING AROUND RICHMOND WITHOUT A CAR]

**UR Downtown Shuttle**: UR Downtown, Virginia State Capitol, and downtown community partners
- The Shuttle operates Monday – Friday, 9am to 6:15pm
- Departs UR at the Tyler Haynes Commons, stops at Cary and North Thompson St, and then continues downtown to 8th and Grace St, before returning to campus
- Cary and North Thompson provides access to major grocery stores and retail
- GPS tracking available!

**Spider Mall Crawl**: Short Pump, Stony Point Fashion Park, the Shops at Libbie and Grove, and the Village
- Schedule changes regularly, see UR Transportation Website (transportation.richmond.edu) for GPS tracking info

**GRTC Connector**: GRTC transfer points at Willow Lawn, and Grove Avenue at Thompson Street
- Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm and 7:30pm – 11:30pm; reduced weekend service
- Shuttle departs hourly from Tyler Haynes Commons, and makes two other stops on Campus

**The Hop**: Late-night bus service to the Fan, Carytown, Shockoe Slip and Shockoe Bottom
- 6pm to 3am, Friday and Saturday nights. GPS tracking available.

**Service Shuttle**: Access to community partners throughout the city, list available online at transportation.richmond.edu

**Zipcar**: Car-sharing service with hourly rates, 2 cars on UR campus

**Uber**
⇒ The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) is great. It’s a good place to escape, it’s free and you can walk through it as a nice break from school. They also have great happy hours some nights (usually Friday).
⇒ Go to a Flying Squirrels game. Tickets are cheap, and even if you hate baseball, you’ll have a great time since every night is a different (usually ridiculous) event. Check the calendar on their website to find out what event is happening on any given night.
⇒ Don’t forget to look for places with student discounts, like Boyer’s Ice Cream and Bow Tie Tuesdays!
⇒ I love that there are so many local markets around town – Libbie Market and Strawberry Street Market are great examples. They have great food, and the Strawberry Street Market sells kegs.
⇒ Museums: White House of the Confederacy, Civil War Museum, State Capitol, Holocaust Museum, so many options!
⇒ Belle Isle is definitely worth visiting.
⇒ Sweet Frog in Carytown is a delicious place to get frozen yogurt with friends!
⇒ Ellwood’s Café is a great place to study when the library gets too crazy.
⇒ Go outdoors: the river and trails are a great escape. One of the best local attractions in Richmond. More detailed information is available at http://www.jamesriverpark.org/visit-the-park/maps.php
⇒ Legend has become a favorite hangout this summer, with great music, incredible beer, and a gorgeous view of the river. Many of the Fan bars are great for having a pint and some chat.
⇒ The South of the James Farmers’ Market is one of the best on the East Coast.
⇒ Richmond is an amazing city. Use all of your free time to explore, try new things, and find your own places. You’ll have a great time!

“Don’t forget to stop by the Admissions Office often for hugs and free candy!”