Insider’s Guide
A SPIDER’S GUIDE TO RICHMOND, VA
RICHMOND
School of Law™
Welcome to Richmond

Skyscrapers and cobblestone streets. Concerts on the water and Class IV rapids. A downtown arts district and the World Road Cycling Championships. Fortune 500 companies and tech start-ups. Farm-to-table restaurants and packed food festivals. Richmond has a little bit of everything.

Welcome to Richmond Law, where location matters. We’ve created this Insider’s Guide to showcase the best of the area, including information on student housing, dining, and entertainment. We invite you to explore more that Richmond has to offer!

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Where to Live

The greater Richmond region covers over 62 square miles, which translates into a wide variety of housing options. Richmond is often subdivided into smaller neighborhoods and districts, including the City Center, Far West End/Short Pump, Southside, Northside, Downtown, and East End.

Although we’ve listed many options below, we strongly encourage students to thoroughly research and vet their final housing selection carefully.

City Center

NEAR WEST END

Near West End encompasses neighborhoods in both the city limits and Henrico County. The University of Richmond is located within this area.

Pros

• Close to school (5-10 minute drive)
• Close to many restaurants and shops
• Many family-friendly neighborhoods

Cons

• Housing can be expensive
• Not a lot of night life

Popular Apartment Complexes

• The Estates/Village at Horsepen // one-, two-, and three-bedroom townhomes; pet-friendly; amenities such as a fitness center and pool
• Tuckahoe Creek Apartments // one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments; pet-friendly
MUSEUM DISTRICT

The Museum District is a neighborhood anchored by a six-block tract of museums, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

**Pros**
- Walking distance to many restaurants, grocery stores, shops, and museums

**Cons**
- Parking can be limited
- About a 15-minute commute to campus

**Popular Apartment Complexes**
- **Kensington Place Apartments** // one- and two-bedroom apartments with historic charm
- **Malvern Manor** // one- and two-bedroom apartments on the edge of Carytown

THE FAN

The Fan is a historic district that is conveniently located close to Downtown. Perfect for walking, it boasts many amenities such as shops and restaurants.

**Pros**
- Walking distance to many restaurants, shops, and parks

**Cons**
- Parking can be limited
- About a 15-minute commute to campus
- Limited public transportation options in some areas

**Housing Options**

The Fan is home to many privately-owned apartments as opposed to large complexes. Check local apartment listings for openings.

SCOTT’S ADDITION

Formerly a bustling industrial area, Scott’s Addition is now an up-and-coming neighborhood featuring modern restaurants and breweries.

**Pros**
- Lots of things to do in the area, tons of entertainment

**Cons**
- Housing costs can be higher
- Busy area; can be noisy at times
- Parking can be limited

**Popular Apartment Complexes**
- **The Preserve at Scott’s Addition** // one- and two-bedroom apartments with tons of amenities in a remodeled Coca-Cola bottling building
Far West End/Short Pump

Short Pump is a suburb located in Henrico County. In recent years, the population has greatly increased due to Short Pump Town Center, a high-end, open-air shopping mall.

**Pros**
- Close to many restaurants and shops
- Relatively safe, family-friendly area

**Cons**
- Housing can be expensive
- Lots of traffic
- About a 20-minute commute to campus

**Popular Apartment Complexes**
- Harbor Village // two-bedroom apartments with a community fitness center and pool
- The Crossings at Short Pump // one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments with family-friendly amenities

Southside

The Southside includes portions of the city south of the James River, including Manchester and parts of Chesterfield County.

**Pros**
- Rent is lower than in other areas
- Neighborhood feel

**Cons**
- Fewer students in the area
- Can be a longer commute depending on area

**Popular Apartment Complexes**
- Creek’s Edge at Stony Point // one-, two-, and three-bedroom layouts close to shopping & dining
- Willow Oaks Apartments // one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments close to amenities

Northside

The Northside is composed of northern Richmond and some parts of Henrico County, and is close to Richmond Raceway and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

**Pros**
- Rent is lower than in other areas
- Close to I-95 and I-64

**Cons**
- Often less square footage
- Some areas are higher in crime
- About a 20-minute commute to campus

**Housing Options**
The Northside is home to many privately-owned apartments and houses as opposed to large complexes. Check local apartment listings for openings.
Downtown

**JACKSON WARD**

Jackson Ward is a historic district located on the northern edge of the Downtown district, less than a mile from the Virginia State Capitol.

**Pros**
- Close to Downtown
- Near many social activities

**Cons**
- Small housing
- Parking is limited
- About a 20-minute commute to campus
- Some areas are higher in crime

**Popular Apartment Complexes**
- The Richmond Dairy // converted dairy company complete with 40-foot architectural milk bottles

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East End

**CHURCH HILL**

Church Hill boasts the title of being Richmond’s oldest neighborhood. It is home to Chimborazo Park, where the largest Civil War hospital was located.

**Pros**
- Great views of the city
- Close to many restaurants and shops

**Cons**
- Often less square footage
- Parking is limited
- About a 25-minute commute to campus
- Some areas are higher in crime

**Popular Apartment Complexes**
- The Lofty // recently renovated one- and two-bedroom apartments with off-street parking
- Lava Lofts // former Church Hill school building converted to pet-friendly loft-style apartments
Where to Eat

Richmond is home to hundreds of delicious restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries, and food trucks. When it comes to good food, Richmond truly excels. Here are just a few of our favorites that scratch the surface of the extensive dining scene.

CLOSE TO CAMPUS
- Toast // comfort food with a global twist
- Mosaic // fresh, local, American eats
- Kuba Kuba Dos // friendly Cuban restaurant
- The Continental Westhampton // retro neighborhood spot with classic fare
- Jack Brown’s // burgers and more

CHEAP EATS
- City Dogs // extensive hot dog menu in the Fan and Shockoe Bottom
- Chicken Fiesta // great chicken and sides to go, with locations around Richmond
- La Milpa // authentic Mexican south of the river
- Garnett’s Cafe // great soups and sandwiches in a cute storefront in the Fan
- Pho So 1 // terrific Vietnamese menu close to campus

SPECIAL OCCASIONS
- The Roosevelt // creative Southern fare in historic Church Hill neighborhood
- Heritage // seasonal new American and craft cocktails in the Fan
- Stella’s // high-end Greek in the Near West End
- Can Can // French brasserie in Carytown
- The Boathouse at Rocketts Landing // modern restaurant with great views of the river at Rocketts Landing
COFFEE SHOPS

- Lamplighter // Fan
- Black Hand // Museum District
- Crossroads // Southside
- Captain Buzzy’s // Church Hill
- Sefton Coffee Company // Downtown

BAKE SHOPS & DESSERTS

- Pearl’s Bake Shoppe // quaint cafe near campus offering breakfast pastries, mouthwatering cupcakes, and other desserts
- Shyndigz 2Go // dessert specialist in the Fan featuring a rotating menu of cakes and pies to go
- Carytown Cupcakes // charming bake shop in Carytown with cupcakes in many flavors
- Charm School // Downtown ice cream parlor featuring several vegan options
- Sugar Shack Donuts // tasty donut shops located in and around Richmond

RICHMOND LANDMARKS & INSTITUTIONS

- Millie’s // a brunch spot in Shockoe Bottom that makes the wait in line worthwhile
- Mamma Zu // hole-in-the-wall Italian in Oregon Hill
- The Jefferson Hotel // high-end restaurant and bar in a beautiful Downtown hotel
- Joe’s Inn // classic neighborhood Fan spot with a great happy hour
- Acacia // one of Richmond’s first and best fine-dining spots, located in the Fan

HEALTHY EATS

- Pit and Peel // several locations offering smoothies and acai bowls
- Ellwood Thompson’s Cafe and Grocery Store // health food cafe and grocery in Carytown
- Ipanema // vegetarian hole-in-the-wall in the Fan
- The Daily // eclectic and healthy spot with great decor, located in Carytown and Short Pump
- Goatocado // fast casual spot in the Fan with vegetarian focus
What to Do

With a thriving brewery scene, miles of hiking trails, and plenty of good shopping, you’ll be hard pressed to get bored in RVA.

ENTERTAINMENT

• The Byrd Movie Theatre // a beautiful historic theater with $4 tickets to second-run movies
• Virginia Museum of Fine Arts // free admission and beautiful collections, open 365 days a year
• The Valentine // museum dedicated to Richmond’s rich history
• Hollywood Cemetery // historic cemetery with a lovely city overlook

BREWERIES & GAMES IN SCOTT’S ADDITION

• Tang & Biscuit // shuffleboard and more, with a bar menu of biscuit sandwiches
• Circuit Arcade // classic arcade games in an industrial space with a big beer menu
• Bingo // board games, classic arcade games, brewery, and a high-end menu
• Ardent // one of several great breweries, complete with food trucks and a big patio
• The Veil // highest rated brewery, known for its great IPAs
**GET OUTSIDE**

- **James River Park System** // bike paths, hiking trails, kayaking, and rafting
- **River City Sports Social Clubs** // adult kickball, dodgeball, and more
- **Maymont Park** // extensive gardens, petting zoo, historic home, all at no cost
- **Flying Squirrels** // minor league baseball games
- **Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens** // one of the best public gardens in the nation

**LIVE MUSIC**

- **The National** // historic Downtown theater that draws national acts
- **The Broadberry** // a more intimate setting for smaller bands in the Fan area
- **Cary St. Cafe** // local bar with live music most nights of the week in the Fan
- **Innsbrook Pavilion** // outdoor music venue in the West End
- **The Camel** // late-night music hub with lots of local performers in the Fan

**SHOPPING**

- **Carytown** // walkable shopping district with boutiques
- **Short Pump Town Center** // large, open-air shopping center in RVA, located to the west
- **Stony Point Fashion Park** // smaller outdoor shopping center, home to CineBistro, located south of the river

**TRANSPORTATION**

- **University Shuttle** // several shuttle options connect campus with local shopping centers and UR Downtown; learn more at transportation.richmond.edu
- **Zipcar** // five cars available on campus for reservation
- **GRTC** // city-wide bus system includes the Pulse Rapid Transit line, with connections at nearby Willow Lawn; learn more at ridegrtc.com

**RICHMOND FESTIVALS**

- **Richmond Bacon Festival** (June)
- **Broad Appétit** (June)
- **Richmond Greek Festival** (June)
- **Carytown Watermelon Festival** (August)
- **Richmond Jazz Festival** (August)
- **Richmond Folk Festival** (October)
- **Scott’s Addition Pumpkin Festival** (October)
- **French Film Festival** (March)
- **Shamrock the Block** (March)
- **Riverrock Outdoor Festival** (May)
- **RVA First Friday Art Walk** (all year)