



Abingdon, VA



Abingdon, Virginia, is nestled in the Blue Ridge Highlands region of the Appalachian Mountains. Established in 1778, Abingdon was named for the ancestral home of Martha Washington. During the Revolutionary War, patriots from Virginia and North Carolina gathered at the Abingdon Muster Grounds to begin a 300-mile march to Kings Mountain, South Carolina, where a major battle occurred.

The Abingdon Historic District is a collection of 18th- and 19th-century domestic and commercial buildings that depict the variety of architectural styles and forms that appeared on the main thoroughfare of a rural Virginia town.

The William King Museum of Art exhibits world art, contemporary regional art, and cultural heritage displays. Star Museum presents pop culture with one-of-a-kind celebrity collections. Housed in a 19th-century freight station, the Arts Depot is a community-based art gallery that promotes and supports regional artists by providing studios and gallery exhibits. Among the historic homes, the Fields-Penn 1860 House Museum is filled with period antiques that show 19th-century life in southwest Virginia. Retirement was built between 1776 and 1813 by Captain Robert Craig in honor of his retirement and is the second oldest brick house in Abingdon. The Yeary Cabin, which is located in Walnut Grove, is a recreation of an early Appalachian homestead from the late 1700s until the early 1900s and includes two log cabin dwellings connected by an enclosed “dogtrot,” outdoor bread oven, century old bee gums, blacksmith shop, outhouse, portable grist mill, horse drawn farm equipment, and other supporting additions.

The Keller Interpretive Center is located within the 9-acre Abingdon Muster Grounds and is the center for colonial Backcountry history from the American Revolutionary period in southwest Virginia. Exhibits document the lives of Overmountain Men (frontiersmen from west of the Appalachian Mountains who took part in the Revolutionary War), backcountry (frontier) women, African Americans, Native Americans, and British Loyalists.

The Old Mollie Steam Engine–Norfolk & Western Steam Engine 433 is located at the Virginia Creeper Trailhead and is the same type of engine that pulled the Virginia Creeper Railroad for many years; Abingdon’s Mollie is 1 of 2 engines like this still in existence.

Located near Abingdon, White’s Mill is a 150-year-old flour and grist mill and a Virginia Historic Landmark.

Known as the State Theatre of Virginia, Barter Theatre is the most famous stage in Virginia and has a resident repertory company that celebrates Appalachia.

The Virginia Highlands Festival is an annual 10-day August event that features traditional Appalachian old time and bluegrass music as well as music from around the world, a juried arts and crafts show, photography competition, and various artistic performances.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Abingdon’s downtown district features houses from the 18th and early 19th centuries along Main Street and Valley Street. Main Street is lined with many historic residences, such as the Doctor H. Pitts House that dates from 1854 and the James Fields’ home, both built in the Greek Revival style. The Cave House is a Victorian mansion and now home to the Holston Mountain Arts and Crafts Cooperative. The earliest surviving building on Valley Street is the Alexander Findlay House. Other 19th-century properties on Valley Street include the restored Gabriel Stickley House and the Daniel Trigg House. A few Queen Anne style homes from the late 19th and early 20th century are also available, as are many Bungalow style homes and a Colonial Revival style home.

The Winterham neighborhood features large contemporary and traditional styled luxury homes that are located on Glenrochie Golf Course and were constructed in the 2000s. Homes in the nearby neighborhood of Country Club Estates date from the late 1970s. Newer town houses are also available in this area.

The Southview Estates neighborhood is located near the Johnson Memorial Hospital. Homes in this area were built primarily in the ranch style during the late 1970s.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Abingdon has 13 parks with such amenities as basketball and tennis courts; a recreation center; playgrounds; football, baseball, and softball fields; a skate park; an outdoor pool; and an amphitheater.

Abingdon has many opportunities for biking, hiking, and fishing. The town is located on the Virginia Creeper National Recreational Trail, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, and 12 miles from the Appalachian Trail. Hidden Valley Lake, Bear Creek Lake, and South Holston Reservoir are major fishing areas.

EDUCATION

Washington County Public Schools system educates 7,200 students in 7 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 4 high schools. In addition to its 2 career and technical centers, an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school are located in Abingdon.

Higher education is available at the Virginia Highlands Community College, which offers many programs of study that include occupational-technical and transfer degrees.

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center partners with 11 Virginia universities and colleges to offer more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in addition to many certificate programs.

HEALTH CARE

Johnson Memorial Hospital is a 116-bed acute care community hospital.

CITY STATS

2012

City Population	8,188
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	309,006
Per Capita Personal Income, Kingsport (TN)- Bristol (TN)-Bristol (VA) (MSA)	\$34,975