



# Richmond, VA



**R**ichmond, the capital of Virginia, is situated on both sides of the James River. In 1607, Captain Christopher Newport and a party of explorers arrived at the site of modern-day Richmond and planted a cross in honor of England's King James I. Powhatan Confederacy Indian tribes were living in the region at that time. Richmond was incorporated in 1742, and then a city and the state capital in 1782. Between 1861 and 1865, Richmond served as the capital of the Confederacy.

The Virginia Capitol was designed by Thomas Jefferson and has been home to the General Assembly since 1788. The Executive Mansion is the oldest continuously occupied governor's home in the country.

Many attractions in Richmond are focused on the Civil War. The American Civil War Center documents the war through Union, Confederate, and African American perspectives. The Richmond Slave Trail that begins at Manchester Docks chronicles the history of slavery in Richmond along the 3-mile route. The White House of the Confederacy was the residence of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and the adjoining museum contains important Civil War artifacts. The Confederate War Memorial is a nondenominational chapel built by Confederate veterans in 1887. Located on the site of the Chimborazo Hospital that cared for more than 75,000 Confederate soldiers, Chimborazo Medical Museum features exhibits about the practice of medicine during the 1860s.

The Valentine explores 400 years of the Richmond region's history. The Valentine First Freedom Center delves into America's experience of religious liberty. The Edward V. Valentine Sculpture Studio features original works. Other museums include the Black History Museum, Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives, Children's Museum of Richmond, Edgar Allan Poe Museum, Richmond Railway Museum, Science Museum of Virginia, The Fed Experience, Virginia Historical Society, Virginia Holocaust Museum, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and Virginia Telephone Museum.

Agecroft Hall, Virginia House, Bolling Haxall House, Maymont Mansion, Wilton House Museum, Winfree Cottage, The John Marshall House, Wickham House, and the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site are historic home museums in Richmond.

Richmond CenterStage hosts Broadway in Richmond, African American Repertory Theatre, Richmond Ballet, Richmond Forum, Richmond Symphony, Virginia Opera, School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community, and Virginia Repertory Theatre. The Latin Ballet of Virginia, Richmond Boys Choir, Richmond Philharmonic, and Virginia Jazz Society are local performing groups. The Dogwood Dell Amphitheater is home to the summer-long Festival of Arts. Elegba Folklore Society, Inc. is a resource for African cultural arts and the Capital City Kwanzaa Festival, Down Home Family Reunion, a Celebration of African American Folk Life, and Juneteenth, A Freedom Celebration. The Landmark hosts theatrical and musical performances. Firehouse Theater, Quill Theatre, and Theatre IV produce annual play series. The University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University also have performance centers.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Richmond has many residential options along the Riverfront and Canal Walk ranging from newly constructed, high-rise condominiums to historic warehouses renovated into lofts.

The Fan Area Historic District is an 85-block Victorian residential neighborhood built between 1900 and 1915 that consists of 2.5-story brick row homes and semidetached or detached townhouses. Architectural styles include Italianate, Richardsonian Romanesque, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, American Foursquare, Tudor Revival, Spanish Colonial, and Art Deco.

Ginter Park and Bellevue neighborhoods in the Northside date from the late 1800s. Ginter Park features elaborate green spaces and architectural styles ranging from modest builder's cottages to large Colonial Revival mansions in such styles as Tudor Revival, Spanish Colonial, Bungalow, American Foursquare, Queen Anne, and Shingle Style. The Bellevue neighborhood is known for its welcoming Arch and features homes in Bungalow, American Foursquare, Shingle Style, Colonial Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles set along tree-lined streets.

Windsor Farms was designed in 1926 in the manner of an English village with the equivalent of a "town green" in the center. Housing styles include Tudor, Colonial Revival, and Cape Cod.

Across the James River are Richmond's Southside neighborhoods. Woodland Heights features homes on tree-lined streets built between 1914 and 1933 in Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, American Four Squares, and Bungalow styles. Forest Hill Park separates Woodland Heights from the Forest Hill/Westover Hill neighborhood where Cape Cods, Spanish Colonials, Tudor Revivals, farmhouses, and Arts and Crafts homes situated on large lots were built between

1920 and 1940. Located near the James River Park, housing in Stratford Hills was built in the mid-1900s and consists primarily of two-story colonials, ranchers, or tri-level homes situated on large lots with narrow, winding streets.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Richmond has 62 parks and 21 community centers. Amenities include playgrounds and tot lots, athletic and baseball/softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, walking/exercise trails, swimming/spray pools, and dog parks.

The 550-acre James River Park is a system of parks along both sides of the river. The park's wilderness shoreline amid woods, islands, meadows and rocks offers opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, tubing, walking, jogging, hiking, rock-climbing, biking, fishing, boating, swimming, sunning, birding, nature study, and is the site of the XTERRA triathlon. Pony Pasture Rapids Park is a popular spot for swimming and playing in the Class II rapids.

The 287-acre Byrd Park features Fountain Lake, Swan Lake, Shields Lake, a self-lighted tennis complex, two softball fields, the Vitacourse exercise trail, an historic World War I Carillon, the Dogwood Dell Amphitheater and Ha'Penny Stage, a playground, and dog park.

The 40-acre Gillies Creek Park is home to the city's BMX race track and also has an 18-hole disc golf course and horseshoe pits.

The 30-acre Chimborazo Park contains a miniature of the Statue of Liberty and a dog park. The nearby Chimborazo Playground also has a community garden.

The Richmond National Battlefield Park preserves more than 2,200 acres of Civil War resources, including the main visitor center at the famous Tredegar Iron Works, the Chimborazo Medical Museum, a naval battle, and miles of elaborate original fortifications.

## EDUCATION

Richmond Public Schools educates 24,000 students in 26 elementary schools, 8 middle school, 5 comprehensive high schools, and 3 specialty high schools. The district also has schools serving students with exceptional needs and offers career and technical education.

Higher education is available at Virginia Commonwealth University, which is an urban, public research university with undergraduate programs and Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dentistry, and Allied Health Professions. The University of Richmond is a suburban, private liberal arts university with undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs. The J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is Virginia's newest community college. ECPI Moorefield and ITT Technical Institute are private career-oriented colleges.

## HEALTH CARE

- The following hospitals are located in Richmond:
- VCU Medical Center: 805 licensed beds
- Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital: 104 licensed beds
- Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital: 391 licensed beds
- CJW Medical Center: 758 licensed beds
- Henrico Doctors' Hospital: 767 licensed beds
- Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center: 385 total beds
- HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Virginia: 40 licensed rehabilitation beds
- Vibra Hospital of Richmond: 60 licensed, long-term acute care beds

## CITY STATS

**2013**

City Population	214,704
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,245,764
Per capita personal income, Richmond, VA, MSA:	\$46,118