



48 HOURS IN

Richmond

SLOW DOWN · STAY AWHILE

WELCOME

Welcome to Richmond.

Richmond carries more American history per square mile than almost any city its size — colonial capital, Confederate capital, and now a city actively working through what to do with all of it. That reckoning is visible and ongoing: Monument Avenue's Confederate statues came down in 2020 and 2021, while the Arthur Ashe monument, installed in 1996 amid controversy of its own, still stands.

What most first-time visitors miss: Richmond has genuine urban whitewater — class III and IV rapids on the James River run directly through downtown, a rarity for any American state capital, with kayaking and rafting outfitters launching just minutes from the office towers. The city's food and brewery scene in Scott's Addition, a former industrial district, has become one of the most talked-about in the mid-Atlantic. And the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts offers a genuinely excellent collection with free general admission.

Richmond is well suited to solo travel — the Fan District and Church Hill are entirely walkable, restaurant bar seating is standard even at the best kitchens, and the compact scale makes it easy to build a full solo day without a car.

Day One · Church Hill · Downtown · Monument Avenue

8:30 AM Breakfast: Sub Rosa Bakery

620 N 25th Street, Church Hill: a wood-fired bakery known for naturally leavened bread and pastries, baked in a wood oven built by the owners themselves. \$8–14.

Insider Tip: Go early — the best pastries sell out, and the wood-fired bread is worth timing your visit around.

9:30 AM St. John's Church & Church Hill

2401 E Broad Street: the 1741 church where Patrick Henry delivered his 'Give me liberty, or give me death' speech in 1775, in a historic hilltop neighborhood of well-preserved 19th-century homes. Admission \$8.

Insider Tip: Check for a live reenactment of the speech, performed on a seasonal schedule — otherwise the self-guided visit and neighborhood walk are still well worth the trip.

11:00 AM Virginia State Capitol

1000 Bank Street: designed by Thomas Jefferson and modeled on a Roman temple, still Virginia's working capitol building. Free.

Insider Tip: The underground visitor entrance and exhibit space are easy to miss — look for the entrance below the front lawn rather than the columned facade.

1:00 PM Lunch: The Roosevelt

623 N 25th Street, Church Hill: seasonal Southern cooking in a converted corner storefront, a short walk from St. John's Church. \$18–30.

Insider Tip: The bar seats fill fast at peak lunch — arrive right at open for the easiest solo seat.

2:30 PM Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

200 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard: a world-class encyclopedic art museum with free general admission, including standout Art Nouveau, Fabergé, and African art collections.

Insider Tip: Free general admission means there's no pressure to rush — budget a genuine hour or two rather than a quick pass-through.

4:30 PM Monument Avenue

A grand, tree-lined boulevard through the Fan District, once lined with Confederate statues largely removed in 2020–2021, with the Arthur Ashe monument still standing. Free to walk.

Insider Tip: The empty pedestals and altered plinths are themselves part of the current historical moment — worth walking the full stretch rather than viewing from a car.

7:00 PM Dinner: L'Opossum

626 China Street: a playful, maximalist fine-dining restaurant with a devoted local following and a genuinely unique dining room. \$45–70, bar seating available.

Insider Tip: Book ahead if possible, but the bar often has space for a solo diner — ask when you call.

Day Two · James River · Scott's Addition · Carytown

9:00 AM Belle Isle & the James River

Reached via a pedestrian bridge from Tredegar Street: a former Civil War prisoner-of-war camp, now a car-free island park with hiking trails and river swimming spots. Free.

Insider Tip: The old power station ruins and quarry pond on the island's interior are easy to miss if you only walk the riverside loop.

11:00 AM James River Kayaking or Rafting

Multiple outfitters launch near downtown for the James River's class III–IV urban rapids, a rare feature for an American state capital. Guided trips typically \$50–90.

Insider Tip: Book a guided trip if it's your first time on the river — the rapids are genuinely challenging class III–IV water, not a lazy float.

1:30 PM Lunch: Alamo BBQ

1712 Summit Avenue, Scott's Addition: a casual, well-regarded barbecue spot in the middle of the city's brewery district. \$14–24.

Insider Tip: Order at the counter and grab an outdoor picnic table if the weather allows.

3:00 PM Scott's Addition Brewery Walk

A former industrial district turned dense cluster of breweries, distilleries, and cideries within a few walkable blocks. \$6–10 per pour.

Insider Tip: The Veil Brewing Co. and Hardywood Park Craft Brewery are the two anchors most worth prioritizing if time is short.

5:30 PM

Carytown

A mile-long eclectic shopping and dining strip in the Fan District, anchored by the historic Byrd Theatre movie palace. Free to browse.

Insider Tip: Check the Byrd Theatre's schedule — it still shows classic and repertory films in a genuinely grand 1928 movie palace.

7:00 PM

Dinner: Lehja

3600 W Broad Street: refined North Indian cooking consistently ranked among Richmond's best restaurants, in an unassuming shopping-center setting. \$22–38.

Insider Tip: Don't be put off by the strip-mall location — the cooking is genuinely excellent and the dining room is comfortable for a solo meal.

9:00 PM

Hollywood Cemetery Overlook (Daytime Alt) or Downtown Nightcap

If timed for daylight, Hollywood Cemetery's James River bluff is one of the city's best views; in the evening, downtown's Shockoe Bottom offers a livelier nightcap scene.

Insider Tip: Hollywood Cemetery closes at dusk, so save it for a daytime slot if you haven't visited yet — otherwise Shockoe Bottom is the easy evening option.

WHERE TO EAT

Richmond's Table

CHURCH HILL

Sub Rosa Bakery

CHURCH HILL · \$

Wood-fired, naturally leavened bread and pastries.

The Roosevelt

CHURCH HILL · \$\$

Seasonal Southern cooking in a converted corner storefront.

Metzger Bar & Butchery

CHURCH HILL · \$\$\$

German-inflected fine dining with an in-house butcher counter.

DOWNTOWN & THE FAN

L'Opossum

DOWNTOWN · \$\$\$\$

Playful, maximalist fine dining with a devoted local following.

Lehja

WEST BROAD STREET · \$\$

Refined North Indian cooking, consistently ranked among the city's best.

Alamo BBQ

SCOTT'S ADDITION · \$

Casual, well-regarded barbecue in the city's brewery district.

BREWERIES & BARS

The Veil Brewing Co.

SCOTT'S ADDITION · \$\$

One of the most acclaimed modern breweries in the mid-Atlantic.

Hardywood Park Craft Brewery

SCOTT'S ADDITION · \$\$

A Richmond original and anchor of the city's brewery district.

Wong Park Wine & Snack Bar

SCOTT'S ADDITION · \$\$

A relaxed wine bar with a globally inflected snack menu.

GETTING AROUND

Navigating Richmond

MODE	COST	NOTES
Walking	Free	The Fan District, Church Hill, and Carytown are all walkable, with real hills.
GRTC bus	Free	Richmond's local bus system, including the Pulse rapid-transit line, is fare-free.
Uber / Lyft	Varies	Best for Scott's Addition, Belle Isle, and evenings between neighborhoods.
Rental car	\$45–65/day	Not needed downtown, but useful for day trips beyond the city.
Amtrak	Varies	Richmond sits on the Northeast Corridor with easy connections north and south.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TOPIC	DETAILS
Getting There	Richmond International Airport (RIC) is about 15 minutes from downtown — Uber runs \$25–35.

Best Time	April through May and September through October bring mild weather and blooming or turning trees; summer is hot and humid, ideal for the James River but less so for walking tours.
Solo Dining	Bar seating is standard at the city's best restaurants — solo dining here is entirely unremarkable.
Reservations	Book L'Opossum ahead on weekends; most Scott's Addition breweries and Church Hill spots are more flexible with walk-ins.
River Safety	The James River's rapids are genuinely challenging — use a guided outfitter rather than going it alone if you're not experienced.
Useful Apps	Uber, GRTC's app for bus and Pulse times, and a river-level/flow site if planning to kayak or raft.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE: FINAL CHECKLIST

- ☐ Book a guided rafting or kayaking trip if it's your first time on the James River
- ☐ Reserve L'Opossum ahead on weekends
- ☐ Wear real walking shoes — Church Hill and the Fan both have real inclines
- ☐ Check the Byrd Theatre schedule if a classic film screening lines up
- ☐ Check St. John's Church for its seasonal reenactment schedule
- ☐ Bring water and sun protection for a river or Belle Isle day
- ☐ Carry cash for smaller Church Hill bakeries and Scott's Addition vendors

GoingSolo.Life

Your interactive map is one scan away.

All locations from this guide, colour-coded by day, open on your phone.



goingsolo.life/maps/richmond

TRAVEL ALONE. LIVE FULLY.

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