



OTHER THINGS TO DO IN RICHMOND

There are lots of things to do in Richmond that have nothing to do with the con (weirdly). If you're interested in any of the things listed below, please contact the business directly and book in advance. Lots of other people are starting to travel too, and if you wait until you arrive, you may not be able to find a reservation or a ticket. If you're still at a loss for ideas, the concierge service at the Jefferson is *ne plus ultra* of local knowledge of the city.

TAKE A CRUISE

<https://venturerichmond.com/our-services/riverfront-canal-cruises/>

Take a boat tour of downtown along the Kanawha Canal. Each tour lasts about an hour and provides a unique vantage point to see several of the oldest neighborhoods in Richmond.

If you'd rather walk along the canal, you can have pretty much the same view. Popular with runners on the weekend, the canal is readily accessible at multiple places in the *Shockhoe Slip* district.

A GALLERY AND LIBATIONS WALK

<https://va-rep.org/november.html>

Just two blocks north of the Jefferson, along Broad Street, is one of Richmond's premier arts districts. There are lots of interesting galleries and even more cafes, restaurants, and bars. The Quirk Hotel has a good restaurant, Maple & Pine, that features a rooftop bar. Whether or not that's a good idea in Richmond, in July, is up to you. Check out the gorgeous Art Deco façade of the Repertory Theater and have your picture taken under the lights!

A TOUR OF 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY RICHMOND

<https://www.richmondtourguys.com>

Shockhoe Bottom is the original industrial heart of Richmond. Long abandoned, under-developed, and unappreciated, it is now filled with new development, bars, restaurants, and lots of public artwork. Grandstaff & Stein comes recommended as a speakeasy-style bar, although there are lots of other establishments nearby, including Wonderland, which has won local polls of the "best dive bars" in Richmond.

Church Hill is the oldest residential neighborhood in the city. You can visit St. John's Church, where Patrick Henry gave his fiery oration "Give me liberty, or give me death!" There is a weekly recitation of that speech at 1:30 on Sunday afternoons.

WHISKEY, GIN, RYE, AND BEER

<https://www.visitrichmondva.com/drink/>

No, we're not talking about that 18-pack of Milwaukee's Finest you and your friends drank in college. Scotts Addition neighborhood features 10 craft distillers and brewers located within a short walk of one another. About two miles from the Jefferson, there is a tippie for every taste. Take an uber and leave the car (and your 5" heels) at the hotel.

SHOPPING? DID SOMEONE SAY SHOPPING?

<https://www.carytownrva.com/>

The best bet for leisurely browsing or finding something that you won't find in a big box retailer is a walk through Carytown. The small footprint of most of the buildings discourages national retailers and allows small shop-owners to thrive. There are antique shops, vintage and new clothing stores, chocolatiers, cafes, and even a record store. "*Grandma, what's a CD?*"

TIME FOR TWO MORE MUSEUMS?

The Virginia Museum of History and Culture <https://virginiahistory.org/> is in the middle of a major renovation. It recently re-opened some of its galleries even as work continues. Its Virginia Landscapes exhibit is open again, which contains gorgeous paintings of the Old Dominion. It's just across the driveway from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, so it pairs up well with a trip to the VMFA.

The Virginia Museum of Contemporary Arts <https://virginiamoca.org> has two new exhibits opening on July 17th, that may well interest fans of Miss Fisher. The first, Amplify, features women artists and explores gender identities and roles. The second, She Says: women, words, and power, which uses text as the starting point for the works the artists produced.

WORSHIP

Like many other downtowns, Richmond has lost population over the past half-century. Come to Richmond on Sunday morning though, and you'll swear that everyone in Virginia is here. While many people moved to the faster growing suburbs, Richmond churches continue to attract worshippers who have maintained their membership in churches within the city. You'll find many beautiful and historic churches throughout the Fan & Museum Districts and in Carytown. Most restrictions on worship have been lifted in VA. Please check the websites of individual congregations for details and times.

For our Jewish Con attendees, a special call-out for Shabbat on Friday night at 225 year-old Congregation Beth Ahabah (Reform), which features Tiffany glass. As our Jewish friends in the South say, "Shalom, y'all!"