Richmond Insiders Guide for Elon Alumni

- **Chapter Contacts**
  - **Richmond Area Alumni Chapter** – Great place to meet new alumni, network to find a new job, or catch up with old friends.
  - Check out our Facebook and E² Groups to find out about upcoming events.
    - Facebook Group: “Elon Alumni- Richmond Group”
    - E² Group: “Richmond, VA Alumni Chapter”
  - President: Ken Scott ’69 (kpscott@eaglestrategies.com)

- **Job Guides**
  - **Richmond Times Dispatch**: Richmond’s main newspaper with a job search engine on-line. ([www.inrich.com](http://www.inrich.com))
  - **Richmond Jobs**: A website developed by Human Resource Staffing Specialists with jobs in Richmond and Central Virginia. ([www.richmondjobsonline.com](http://www.richmondjobsonline.com))

- **Relocation Websites:**
  - **City of Richmond Website**: Offers great information on job opportunities, leisure activities, current projects and general city info. ([www.ci.richmond.va.us](http://www.ci.richmond.va.us))
  - **Chamber of Commerce**: Website for relocating to Richmond. Includes information on housing options, job options, schools, and much more. ([www.grcc.com](http://www.grcc.com))
  - **City of Richmond Cost of Living**: the website provides numerical data in the relocation process from your previous location to Richmond, Va. This data includes cost of living, moving funds, increases and wage adjustment, among other information. swz.salary.com/CostOflivingwizard
- **Areas to live**

  - **Downtown Richmond**: Richmond’s downtown is unique compared to other areas of the city because of its intensive mix of retail, commercial, and residential development. When Richmonders refer to “downtown,” they generally mean the business or governmental center of the city. A steady influx of new residents, restaurants and shops, however, is giving downtown a neighborhood identity all its own.

  - **Central Richmond**: Central Richmond is, geographically and socially, the heart of the city. The area includes Richmond’s best-known example of urban living, The Fan, as well as the architecturally diverse and culturally rich West of the Boulevard and the quiet Byrd Park and Carillon neighborhoods along the river.

  - **Northside**: Richmond’s Northside has offered city residents an ideal living environment since the turn of the last century, when an innovative electric streetcar system first made it possible for people to live on the edges of the city while still working downtown. The first of these “streetcar suburbs” was developed in 1890, and by the 1920s Northside was one of Richmond’s most desirable areas in which to live.

  - **East End**: Richmond’s East End is the city’s birthplace. It was among its hills overlooking the James River that William Byrd II, who owned the land, founded his new settlement, and named after a city in England that had a similar view of the Thames River.

  - **Southside**: Richmond’s Southside offers its residents a wealth of natural beauty, including river views, quiet, tree-lined streets and thriving woods and creeks. Much of the area was originally forests and farmland, so the majority of its homes offer sizeable yards and plenty of shade trees. In fact, Southside offers literally every type of community possible. From the converted warehouses and renovated storefronts of Old Manchester, to the sloping lots and gorgeous views of Riverside Drive, to the brand-new homes being built in Fawnbrook and Broad Rock, the range and diversity of the area’s neighborhoods is remarkable. The area features older neighborhoods such as Woodland Heights and Westover Hills, with winding streets, unique architecture, and an urban feel, as well as newer ones such as Broad Rock and Cherry Gardens, with quiet cul-de-sacs, quality affordable properties, and close proximity to schools and recreational activities.

  - **Southwest**: Richmond’s Southwest area has a dual personality. It offers elements of country living such as wildflower-filled meadows and secluded riverfront properties. It also contains the city’s newest office, retail and residential development, Stony Point, and a fast growing retail area at Forest Hill and Chippenham Parkway. Many of the neighborhoods pay homage to their origins with names such as Hobby Hill Farms and Huguenot Farms, but they are only minutes from the offices, museums and nightlife of downtown. The Southwest area runs along the south bank of the James River from the Powhite Parkway, west to Old Gun Road at the city limits. It contains several different subdivisions and neighborhoods, from Stratford Hills and Oxford closer to the city center to Hobby Hill and Huguenot Farms bordering the city limits. Winding streets meander through wooded areas and alongside creeks, and many of the houses are set far back from the road. These neighborhoods offer seclusion and the beauty of an unspoiled natural setting.
West End: Richmond’s West End is the perfect combination of city and suburban living. It offers river views, winding streets flanked by mature trees, and stately brick homes, and also corner restaurants, urban parks and boutique shopping. The campus of the University of Richmond All the cultural amenities of an urban center and the quiet of a tranquil riverside are both just a stone’s throw away. Though the area has some of Richmond’s most beautiful and historic homes, it also offers cozy brick bungalows and quaint cottages, each with their own individual character. The extensive tree cover and multitude of gardens help preserve the tranquility of each property, but a short walk down any street will afford the opportunity to meet neighbors and friends out and about. Neighborhoods such as Windsor Farms, Westhampton and Sauer’s Gardens each offer their own particular charms and surprises, but their common thread is what makes the area so distinct, and distinctly Richmond; living in the West End means experiencing the best of both worlds.

Cost of Living

2008 Average Rents In Richmond, Virginia

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<th>Feb</th>
<th>Jan</th>
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Places to go out

- **The Fan**: The primary place to head out for Happy Hour or appetizers in Richmond, a long street with multiple bars. In downtown Richmond.
- **Shockoe Slip**: A shorter road with multiple bars and restaurants. More for dinner and/or nightlife.
- **Farmer’s Market**: An less-crowded area of Richmond featuring great eateries and smaller, niche bars.
- **BlackFinn**: A large restaurant and nightclub in downtown Richmond, close to Shockoe Slip.
- **Canal Street**: Newly renovated and up-and-coming area of Richmond, with live music and outdoor patios.
- **West End**: Tons of chain restaurants, pubs, sports bars, and grills up and down Broad Street in the West End of Richmond, heading towards Short Pump.
Outdoor activities

- **Amphitheatre at Strawberry Hill**: Located at 600 E. Laburnum Avenue, the Amphitheatre at Strawberry Hill is a 10,000-seat outdoor amphitheater at the State Fairgrounds at Strawberry Hill. Its season runs from April to October with country, rock and pop shows.

- **Arts in the Park**: Held the first weekend in May in Byrd Park, is the largest outdoor arts and crafts show on the East Coast. More than 100,000 people attend the show each year. It's a must on any art lover's calendar. For more information, call (804) 358-8198.

- **Canal Walk**: Adjacent to north bank of James River from Tredegar Iron Works at Fifth Street to 17th Street, with pedestrian entrances to the walk at Tredegar Iron Works, Seventh, 12th, 14th, 17th and Virginia Streets (accessible to people with handicaps). For more information, call (804) 648-6549.

- **River District Canal Cruises**: Enjoy 35-minute historically narrated tours or private charters of the James River & Kanawha Canal along the historic Canal Walk in a covered boat that accommodates up to 38 passengers and departs on the hour from the Turning Basin between 14th and Dock Streets in downtown Richmond’s River District from April through November. For more information, or to book a private charter, visit www.venturerichmond.com. Call Venture Richmond at 788-6466 or 649-2800.

- **Friday Cheers**: Held weekly May through August on Brown's Island. Every Friday thousands of people come to relax after the work week, meet friends and hear some of the region’s top bands. Admission is free. Contact CityCelebrations at (804) 788-6466.

- **Fridays at Sunset**: Fridays at Sunset (May - August) at Kanawha Plaza located at Cary and Eighth Streets. For tickets or additional information visit the web site or contact Johnson Inc. at (804) 644-8515.

- **Golf Courses**: There are a whole slew of golf courses in the area in every price range.

- **James River**: The James River Park System, the largest park in Richmond, may well be the most popular, most diverse and most unusual! It includes nearly 450 acres lining both banks of the James River from Huguenot Woods to Ancarrow’s Landing. The City of Richmond is full of many hidden treasures. For additional information, contact our Park Naturalist, at (804) 646-8911.

- **2nd Street Festival**: The Jackson Ward District, Second Street north of Broad Street was once the focal point of African-American business and nightlife in Richmond. If you like jazz and R&B music, this is the place to be. For more information, call (804) 788-6466.

- **Summer City Fest – Concerts**: Summer City Fest, Richmond's Summer music festival in July, consists of small and large concerts held Downtown and all around the city. Visit their website for a full schedule. Contact City Celebrations at (804) 788-6466.
- **Virginia State Parks**:: In the Richmond area, there are seven state parks within an hour's drive, so boating, swimming, miles of trails, and other outdoor adventures are closer than you imagine. Visit this web site for more information on Virginia State Parks or call (800) 933-PARK.

- **Busch Gardens Amusement Park**:: Located off I-64 East at exit 199 in Williamsburg, Virginia, Busch Gardens has been acclaimed as America's "Most Beautiful Theme Park" for nine consecutive years and is nationally ranked with two of the top 10 coasters in the US - the Loch Ness Monster and Alpengeist. Shows and rides of all kinds fill the park's European themed villages, dozens of thrilling rides and attractions, eight main stage shows, a wide variety of authentic foods and shops, - all make Busch Gardens Williamsburg the ticket to a world-class adventure. Open from mid-March to the end of October. For more information, call (757) 253-3350 or (800) 343-SWIM (7946).

- **Paramount's Kings Dominion**:: Located off of I-95 at exit 98, in Doswell, this theme park draws on Paramount movies and TV series for its inspiration. Star Trek characters such as Klingons, Vulcans, and Romulans stalk the grounds and the rides are patterned after such movies as Days of Thunder, Top Gun, and Wayne's World. Shows, simulator rides, water slides, and roller coasters offer traditional theme park thrills. For more information, call (804) 876-5000.

- **Paramount's Water Works**:: Located off I-95 North in Doswell, Paramount's Water Works is bigger, better, wetter and one price covers both Paramount experiences! Cool off and chill out on those hot summer days with some quality time spent in a cool wet world with some great water slides, rapids and thrills! Try Pipeline Peak, the tallest fully enclosed water ride in the country! Check the weather, open May through early September and swimsuits are required. For more information, call (804) 876-5000.
Sites to See

- **Bell Tower**: This brick tower was built in 1824 to replace a wooden one on this site. It rang in legislative sessions and warned of fires, raids and other dangers. It is now a state visitors' center.

- **Belle Isle**: One-of-a-kind pedestrian suspension bridge starts under the Lee Bridge on Tredegar Street. The one-mile trail around the edge of the 54-acre island includes a walk along the falls of the James and Civil War earthworks. For more information, call 804-780-5311.

- **Capitol Square and Virginia State Capitol**: Located at Ninth and Grace Streets, The Virginia State Capitol is the first public building of neo-classical style in the United States designed by Thomas Jefferson and is where Virginia's General Assembly meets. Free-guided tours are available. Capitol Square features several monuments: Jean Antoine Houdon's life sized statue of George Washington - the only statue in existence for which Washington posed - in the Capitol Rotunda, as well as busts of other Virginia-born presidents. The statue in Capitol Square depicts Washington on horseback.

- **Old City Hall**: Located at 1001 E. Broad Street, this Victorian Gothic building, completed as Richmond's city hall in 1894, is as dramatic inside with its 3-foot granite walls as it is outside. Now a private office building, the interior "courtyard" is a three-story painted cast-iron marvel. Troubled from the beginning, with a 400 percent cost overrun during its construction, the building was saved from demolition by the Historic Richmond Foundation. Visitors welcome on the first floor only. The building is open during normal business hours.

- **Farmers' Market**: Located at 17th and Main Streets, this marketplace is said to be one of the oldest such places in the country. Shockoe Creek once ran adjacent to the site used by Indians to trade in produce. Colonial use dates to the 1740s when the area was designated for fairs. In 1779, the site officially became a market and has continued as such ever since. Markets are held on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. For more information, call 804-780-8597.

- **The Jefferson Hotel**: Located at 100 W. Franklin Street, the Jefferson is Richmond's only five star hotel. Originally built in 1895, this grand Richmond hotel was damaged severely by fire in 1901 and reopened only months later. Edward Valentine's statue of Thomas Jefferson stands in the upper lobby over a pool that once was the home of live alligators. A staircase offers a first-class view of the opulent lower lobby. For more information, call 804-788-8000.

- **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**: Located at 1800 Lakeside Avenue, the Garden was founded in 1984 and covers over 25 acres. This non-profit organization focuses on education, horticultural display and botanical research. For more information, call 804-262-9887.

- **Library of Virginia**: Previously housed in a building facing Capitol Square, the Library of Virginia moved in 1997 to a stunning new building at 800 East Broad Street. Since 1823 this institution has collected and preserved the records of Virginia's history and culture. The collection includes 83 million manuscripts and over than 1.5 million books, periodicals, newspapers, prints, photographs and maps relating to Virginia's history. For more information, call 804-629-3592.
- **St. John's Episcopal Church**: Located at 2401 East Broad Street, this church is one of the oldest wooden buildings standing in Virginia and the oldest church in Richmond. It is the site of Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty or Give me Death" speech. The exact dates and times of reenactments of Patrick Henry's famous speech can be obtained by calling 804-648-5015.

- **Barksdale Theatre**: Located at 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, this theater is the oldest not-for-profit theater in the area. The theater features professionally-staged productions throughout the year. For more information, call 804-282-2620.

- **Landmark Theater**: Located at 6 North Laurel Street, this theater is one of the best known and most striking buildings in Richmond. The Landmark also ranks among the City's most popular stages for theatrical and musical performances. Some of America's greatest entertainers have appeared on stage beneath its towering minarets and desert murals. The theatre has the largest proscenium stage on the East Coast. Know for its excellent acoustics, the Landmark has seating for over 3,500. Additionally, the ballroom is host of numerous gala affairs and has a capacity of 1,400. The Landmark is accessible to the impaired. For Sales & Marketing call (804) 646-0546, and for the Ticket Office call (804) 646-4213 or (804) 646-4214.

- **Richmond Ballet**: Located at 407 Canal Street, the Richmond Ballet is a professional ballet company. Current productions include: The Nutcracker, a holiday tradition. Performances are also held at the TheatreVirginia stage in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. For more information, call 804-344-0906.

- **Agecroft Hall**: Located at 4305 Sulgrave Road, this English manor home, was originally built in the 15th century. Then it was dismantled, transported to Richmond and totally reconstructed in 1928. Note the leaded glass windows, original Tudor and Stuart artifacts, authentic furnishings and formal gardens. For additional information, call 804-353-4241.

- **American Historical Foundation Museum**: Located at 1142 W. Grace Street, this National Historic Landmark was restored to its Federal Period grandeur. It houses the Monument Avenue Museum, The US Marine Raider Museum and the Military Knife and Bayonet Museum. For additional information, call 804-353-1812.

- **Black History Museum & Cultural Center**: Located at 00 Clay Street, Carroll Anderson founded the museum in 1981 before moving the museum to its current location. The museum is a neoclassical style structure built in 1832 and purchased by Maggie L. Walker in 1922. In 1932, it became the African-American branch of the Richmond Public Library; in 1991 it was converted to a museum and cultural center for visual, oral and written records and artifacts commemorating the lives and accomplishments of Blacks in Virginia from their arrival in 1619 to present. Artifacts, videos, historical documents, and photographs are used to highlight the achievements of African-Americans in Virginia through. For more information, call 804-780-9093.
- **Chimborazo Medical Museum:** Located at 3215 E. Broad Street, the museum stands on the eastern end of downtown Richmond, at the site of the Civil War's famous Chimborazo Hospital. Between 1861 and 1865 more than 75,000 Confederate soldiers received treatment at this sprawling facility. The medical museum tells the story of those patients and the hospital and physicians that cared for them. Using artifacts, uniforms and documents, the exhibits describe the state of medicine in 1860. In highlights the care of wounded and sick soldiers on the battlefields, and in the many large centralized Richmond hospitals like Chimborazo. Chimborazo Medical Museum is open to the public, free of charge from 9 - 5 daily. For more information, call 804-226-1981.

- **Edgar Allan Poe Museum:** Located between 19th & 20th Streets on East Main Street, this museum features exhibits on the life and career of Edgar Allan Poe. By documenting his accomplishments with pictures, relics, and verse, and focusing on his many years in Richmond; visitors get a glimpse of what Edgar Allan Poe was like. Five small buildings and an enclosed garden house the poet's possessions and memorabilia. For more information, please call 804-648-5523.

- **Maymont House and Park:** Located at 1700 Hampton Street, this 100-acre Victorian estate, once home of Major James H. and Sallie May Dooley, was bequeathed to the City of Richmond in 1925. Features include: nature center and gardens, a carriage collection, children's farm and native Virginia wildlife exhibits (with more than 300 animals, almost 60 species), and the restored mansion. Since 1975, Maymont has been maintained and operated by the private nonprofit Maymont Foundation. For more information, call 804-358-7166.

- **Meadow Farm Museum/Crump Park:** Located at 3400 Mountain in Richmond, this 1860's living historical farm recreates the life of a middle-class rural family. Changing exhibits, gift shop and orientation videos are features in the orientation center. For more information, call 804-501-5520.

- **Monument Avenue:** This avenue is home to several famous monuments, including: A.P. Hill, Stonewall Jackson, J.E.B Stuart, and Arthur Ashe.

- **Museum of the Confederacy:** Located at 1201 East Clay Street, adjacent to the restored historic White House of the Confederacy, this modern facility holds the world's most comprehensive collection of military, political and domestic artifacts and art associated with the period of the Confederacy, 1861-1865. For more information, call 804-649-1861. Old Dominion Railway Museum Located at 102 Hull Street, steam, passenger, freight and other artifacts of Virginia's rail heritage are on display near the 1831 birthplace of Virginia railroading. For more information, call 804-233-6237.
- **Richmond National Battlefield Parks:** Located at 3215 East Broad Street, in the Chimborazo Park Visitor's Center Between 1861 and 1865, Union armies repeatedly set out to capture Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to end the Civil War. Three of those campaigns came within a few miles of the city. The park commemorates eleven different sites associated with those campaigns, including the battlefields at Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill and Cold Harbor. Established in 1936, the park protects 763 acres of historic ground. Begin with an explanatory film, and then tour the well-preserved sites of the Civil War battle fields. There are history programs and more at the Chimborazo Park Visitors Center. For more information, call 804-226-1981.

- **Science Museum of Virginia:** Located at 2500 West Broad Street, this museum offers wonderful hands-on learning and fun. There is also a planetarium and special shows all year. For more information, call 804-864-1400.

- **Valentine Museum:** Located at 1015 East Clay Street, this museum features the life and history of Richmond. Major changing exhibitions focus on American urban and social history, costumes, decorative arts and architecture. The museum's 1812 Wickham House features rare neoclassical wall paintings. For more information, call 804-649-0711.

- **Virginia Holocaust Museum:** Located at 2000 East Cary Street in Shockoe Bottom, this museum is a tribute to Holocaust survivors. It features hands-on children's exhibits and an educational resource center. For more information, call 804-257-5400.