# The Historic Richmond Region

Lots of Diversity. Lots to Love.



# Be Our Guest

n behalf of our respective organizations, we would like to invite you to visit the Richmond Region. This is our home and we're eager to open our doors to you.

Although the specific traditions vary, every culture has its own way of conveying that its guests are important, whether it's the Indian belief that, "The guest is god" or the Spanish saying of "Mi casa, su casa." Sure, not everyone would be thrilled to receive the delicacy of a fish head as would be the case for an honored visitor in a Chinese home, but the idea remains the same and transcends cultures: guests are to be treasured and they should always receive the best one has to offer.

You'll certainly find that feeling alive and well here in the Richmond Region. And even though the area is increasingly home to a diverse population with different customs, we all—both old and new—still have more than a bit of that famous Southern hospitality to share.

We like the Richmond Region enough to call it home. Now we'd love to have y'all be our guests! (And if you don't like fish heads, maybe we can whip up our favorite pecan pie for you!)

#### Tinh duc Phan

Founder/CEO Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce

With members from 37 ethnic origins, Hanover-based VACC helps Asian businesses to compete in the global marketplace with strategic research, guidance and connections.





# Oliver R. Singleton

President Metropolitan Business League

The MBL promotes minority entrepeneurs in the Richmond Region and works to ensure minority participation in mainstream business activity at the local and national levels.

# Michel Zajur

Founder/CEO Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

The VHCC exists to empower Hispanics in the Virginia business community by building economic, social and cultural bridges between Virginia and its growing Hispanic community.



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On the cover top to bottom: Kings Dominion (Jackson Smith), Carytown (Jeff Greenberg) and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

On the back cover: Canal boats





Editor: Katherine O'Donnell

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Get Swept Up by the Richmond Region

Left: The James River's Class IV rapids run alongside downtown. Top: A myriad of bridges cross the James uniting the Richmond Region.

ondon famously hugs the River Thames. Paris straddles the Seine. Rome lies along the iconic Tiber.

Cities—and indeed whole civilizations—have habitually clustered around rivers because the location connects them to the world. A river gives a city a way to bring in goods and transport its own to distant markets. In the process, the tides of trade bring in people from near and far.

With myriad bridges and its historic canal system, the Richmond Region—the City of Richmond and the surrounding counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and New Kent—has always benefited from its association with the stately James River.

Archaeology shows that the James has been bringing people together for as long as there were people to be brought together, facilitating ancient trade along the river. More recently, the James carried barrels of precious tobacco leaf from isolated farms in Appalachia to the commercial hub of Richmond. From the city's endless rows of warehouses, it might then make its way to Philadelphia or New York—or to the docks in London, Paris or Rome.

Much like those cities—and because of the same tides of trade—the Richmond Region has always been a cultured meeting place with a diversity of people. Indeed, it was here where Jefferson and Madison created the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom,

one of the earliest declarations of the acceptance of diversity and a forerunner to the Bill of Rights.

As the Region has evolved—from barges to locomotives to the recently expanded airport—new residents and new cultures have arrived to call it home. For centuries, the area has been home to American Indians, African Americans and one of the country's oldest Jewish populations. Yet, an interconnected world has led to an even richer mix with more recent arrivals in Hispanic, East Asian and Indian populations.

In addition to a diversity of permanent residents, the Richmond Region also benefits from its longstanding central location that has historically meant a regular flow of new and different visitors from all over. Located only 100 miles south of Washington, D.C. and midway between Atlanta and Boston, it's easy to get here and easy to navigate once you're here.

Pack your bags, get swept up by the culture—and cultures—of the River City and discover why everyone says that the Richmond Region is Easy to love!

# African American

oday at the corner of First and Marshall Streets is the headquarters of the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company. On the surface, it's just another downtown bank. But it got its start in 1903 as the St. Luke Penny Bank, the first financial institution in the United States founded and led by a woman. However, in a time when it was exceptional to find female business leaders, the dynamic founder, Maggie Walker, also stood out as an African American bank president. What began as a small-scale local lending institution that served Richmond's large African American community has grown and persisted. Consolidated Bank and Trust Company is now the oldest continually African American-operated bank in the country.

The Richmond Region counts more than 350,000 African American residents—more than the entire city of St. Louis. Of course, the African American story in the Richmond Region is a long and complicated one, going back to the earliest days of Richmond and the Virginia colony. And while the Region is what it is today largely because of the unsung men and women who helped build it, in many ways, the Richmond Region is exceptional because stories like Maggie Walker and the St. Luke Bank are so common.

It was here, for example, where Bill Robinson—better known by his stage name, Bojangles—achieved his early successes that helped catapult him to fame as one of the country's



# Personally speaking ...

"Though not a native Richmonder, I have moved here twice—once in the late '60s and again after 15 years of living elsewhere, returning with my family to help start and sustain a 15-year old business, the Richmond Free Press.

Richmond is a place with pockets of remarkable natural beauty—tree-lined streets and neighborhoods—many where pride abundantly shows. It is a place where, for so many, family life matters—a great deal.

Richmond often has more leisure activity than there is leisure time; and it is a place where business gets transacted. With determination and good will, progress is evident.

It is city where one can become a part of the solution, for today and for future generations."

—Jean Patterson Boone Vice President, Paradigm Communications Advertising Director, Richmond Free Press



Jackson Ward, known as the birthplace of black capitalism and the Harlem of the South, is home to outstanding ironwork and architecture.

finest entertainers. Here too, on neighborhood playgrounds, began the career of Arthur Ashe, winner of the U.S. Open and Wimbledon tennis championships and a noted humanitarian. In the area's courtrooms began the career of renowned civil rights attorney, Oliver Hill. And it was here that America finally got its first African American governor, the Honorable L. Douglas Wilder.

In the Richmond Region, you'll do more than learn about African American history. Here you'll walk in the footsteps of leaders from Walker to Wilder. Here you'll feel that history.

# Did you know?

As part of an international project, Richmond's Slavery Reconciliation Statue is linked to identical memorials in Liverpool, England, as well as the Republic of Benin in Africa.

# **Organizations**

Urban League of Greater Richmond, Inc.

www.urbanleaguerichmond.org

Richmond Metropolitan Business League

www.thembl.com

#### NAACP

• Virginia State Conference www.virginianaacp.org

- Henrico County Branch www.henriconaacp.org
- Hanover County Branch www.hcbnaacp.org
- Richmond Branch (804) 644-9337

Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council www.vmsdc.org

#### Media

#### **Richmond Free Press**

www.richmondfreepress.com

#### Soul of Virginia

www.soulofvirginia.com

#### The Voice Newspaper

www.voicenewspaper.com

WBTJ 106.5 Mainstream/Urban

www.1065thebeat.com

WCDX-FM 92.1 Mainstream/Urban

www.power921jamz.com

WKJM-FM 99.3 Urban Adult Contemporary

www.yestokiss.com

WKJS-FM 105.7 Urban Adult Contemporary

www.yestokiss.com

WPZZ-FM 104.7 Gospel

www.praise1047.com

WROU-AM 1240 News/Talk and S olid Gold Oldies

http://newstalk1240wrou.com

# American Indian

o group can claim deeper roots in the Richmond Region and Virginia than the American Indians who have been living here for more than 15,000 years. When the English arrived, the area today known as the Richmond Region was border territory between the Monacan confederacy of the Piedmont and the Algonquians of the Coastal Plain. Most of the latter were part of the paramount chiefdom controlled by the great leader Powhatan. Pocahontas, Powhatan's daughter, lived in the area's first town, Henricus, where she married tobacco planter John Rolfe.

Today, the Commonwealth of Virginia formally recognizes eight American Indian tribes, whose ancestors and cultural connections can be traced directly to groups documented to have been living in Virginia in 1607 at the time of initial English colonization. Those tribes are the Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Pamunkey, Rappahannock and Upper Mattaponi.



Explore Native American life at Henricus Historical Park.



A young tribe member performs at a pow-wow.

The Mattaponi and Pamunkey tribes still live on the reservations granted to them in the 17th century. Each year, in a public ceremony held in November, the tribes honor the 350-year-old treaties by presenting gifts of game to the Governor. A number of the tribes hold major pow-wows annually in May.

# Did you know?

In 2007, the Legislature amended the Code of Virginia to state that Virginia "recognizes the continuous contributions of the Indian tribal nations to the Commonwealth's history and culture and hereby reaffirms the spirit and intent of the original treaties between the Tribes and the British Crown in 1646 and 1677 and shall operate, to the extent permitted by the United States Constitution, in accordance with that spirit."



Various tribes hold pow-wows each spring.

# **Organizations**

Virginia Council on Indians www.indians.vipnet.org

Virginia Indian Tribal Alliance for Life (VITAL)

www.vitalva.org

Chickahominy Tribe www.chickahominytribe.org

Eastern Chickahominy Tribe www.cied.org

Mattaponi Tribe

www.baylink.org/mattaponi

Monacan Indian Nation www.monacannation.com

Nansemond Tribe www.nansemond.org

Pamunkey Tribe www.baylink.org/pamunkey

Rappahannock Tribe www.rappahannocktribe.org

**Upper Mattaponi Tribe** www.uppermattaponi.org



# Personally speaking ...

"The James River is one of the best rivers for catfish fishing, striper fishing and small mouth bass fishing in the world! Anyone who wants to flyfish can wade the river downtown. There are 30-40 pound rockfish at the rapids, and catfish go up to 80-90 pounds. Drifting the James River in a raft or a canoe or just a john boat from Goochland on down is just a beautiful, beautiful area to drift."

– Ben Adams, Upper Mattaponi

# East Asian

s befits a group of more than 30,000 people from more than a dozen nationalities, there are many stories that explain why the Richmond Region's East Asian population has settled here. Generally, it is a new group of arrivals with many having been born abroad; most have only come to Richmond in the last 20 to 30 years. In many cases, the decision was partly due to the Region's affordability, quality of life and its moderate climate. Some of the first Chinese residents opened restaurants serving their native cuisine and their experiences in the area pulled in friends and relatives. Friends and family attracting and supporting others is a recurring theme among the Region's various East Asian communities. Of course, those family ties were not always between blood relatives and, in many cases, support came from friends who'd never met one another.

For example, when the Region's Vietnamese citizens were spurred to leave their homeland because of war, they needed friends across the globe who would offer safe haven and support. Beginning around 1975, many came to call Richmond and the surrounding area home because of the altruism of native Richmonders who sponsored them individually or through churches or other civic organizations. It was much the same for Simon Rinthalukay who emigrated from Laos in 1979 and settled in Richmond because of the sponsorship of a Richmond refugee organization. When he arrived, he recalls that there

were only three Laotian families; now he alone has repaid the favor by sponsoring more than a dozen families. Although the nations and circumstances may have changed, it is a cross-community tradition that continues today. In many cases, the bonds between the sponsor and the new arrivals—many of whom now run their own successful small businesses—have remained strong decades after the first meeting.



# Personally speaking ...

"Richmond is a welcoming community. Many immigrants and refugees from around the world started their new lives in the Richmond Region. They have contributed to the economic growth and cultural diversity of this area. I truly enjoy all of the year-round multicultural festivals, museums, ethnic markets and variety of international restaurants in Richmond."

– Suwattana Sugg Refugee and Immigration Services Asian American Society of Central Virginia



Enjoy a sampling of culture, dance and food at the Asian American Celebration.

# Did you know?

Unique among Asian organizations on the Eastern Seaboard, the Asian-American Society of Central Virginia acts as an umbrella organization that unites 18 of the area's Asian nationalities.

# **Organizations**

# Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce

www.aabac.org

Asian American Society of Central Virginia

www.aasocv.org

Bangladeshi American Organization of Central Virginia

www.baocv.com

Filipino-American Association of Central Virginia

www.faacv.org

Japan Virginia Society

www.japan-virginia.org

**Khmer Society** 

www.khmersociety.org

# Korean American Society of Greater Richmond

www.aasov.org/korean/index.html

# **Laotian Community**

srinthal@comcast.net

# Organization of Chinese Americans

www.oca-cvc.org

#### **Richmond Chinese School**

shmukuo@aol.com

#### **Richmond Korean School**

www.aasov.org/korean/index.html

#### Richmond Vietnamese Association

www.hoinguoivietrichmondva.org

#### **Thai Community**

www.aasocv.org

#### The Rose Group

www.therosegroup.org

#### Virginia Asian Advisory Board

www.vaab.virginia.gov

#### Media

#### Asian Fortune News

www.asianfortunenews.com

#### **Dominion Asia Review**

www.aabac.org

# Indian

t is unlikely that The Diamond, the Richmond Region's minor league baseball stadium that seats 12,000, will soon switch from the traditional American pastime to the more Britannic batting game of cricket. However, while seeing bowlers and batters was a rarity in the Region until only a few years ago, thanks to a wave of emigration from the



# Personally speaking ...

"Arriving in Richmond 40 years ago from Kolkata, India, I discovered a city of enormous charm and grace. The rich architecture and attractions like Maymont, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a host of other offerings inspired me to make Richmond my permanent home. People accepted and welcomed me as they would a native son. These first impressions have not changed with the passage of time. Richmond remains the friendliest city I have encountered in my years of traveling the globe and I feel privileged to call it my first and only home in the United States."

> —Ranjit Sen President and CEO, CXI, Inc.

Indian subcontinent, the flat bat is no longer so uncommon. The Richmond Region's half dozen upper-level cricket teams, composed largely of Indians as well as Pakistanis, may not play at the level of Dravid or Tendulkar, but they do compete in the Mid-Atlantic Cricket Conference along with teams throughout the Southeast. Another dozen teams compete at a lower, more recreational level.

Watching games from the grassy sidelines, you might not realize that Virginia has now turned the table on history. After all, the European colonists who populated early Virginia still had a hope of finding a passage to India as Columbus had envisioned—but now there's a part of India in Virginia. And, the portion of India that now calls the Richmond Region home is nearly as diverse as the subcontinent is, with a vibrant population that spans from Bengalis to Gujaratis to Tamils and most ethnicities in between.

Much of the Region's Indian population—and its cricket—is based in the West End of Henrico County near the large corporations where many Indians now work. And while many of the Richmond Region's Indians immigrated specifically for jobs in the technology or medical sectors, others began working in the lodging, food service and small business arenas after arriving. Indian culture is supported and perpetuated in the area by Asian and Indianspecific associations which promote a number of annual festivals, as well as by a number of individual state and ethnic groups and sangams.



The Richmond Region's cricket teams compete in the Mid-Atlantic Cricket Conference.

# Did you know?

The Hindu Center of Virginia's first fundraiser was a Ravi Shankar concert held at the Mosque Theater—now known as the Landmark Theater—in 1976.

# Organizations

India Association of Virginia www.iava.us

Cultural Center of India www.geocities.com/ccihall/

Hindu Center of Virginia www.hinducenterofvirginia.org

Greater Richmond Association of Malayalees www.gramam.org

Greater Richmond Bengali Association

www.grbaonline.org

**Greater Richmond Telugu Association** 

www.grtava.com

# Pakistani American Society of Central Virginia

www.aasocv.org

Richmond Kannada Sangha www.richmondkannadasangha.org

Richmond Tamil Sangam www.richmondtamilsangam.com

Sikh Association of Central Virginia www.richmondgurdwara.org



A Taste of India presents an array of traditional dance.

# **Jewish**

Ithough the Jewish scholar
Dr. Jacob Marcus would say
that no Jew was ever the first
Jew anywhere, it is believed that the
first Jewish settler in Richmond, Isaiah
Isaacs, put down roots in 1769. Along
with Revolutionary War veteran Jacob
I. Cohen, the two formed a partnership.
They opened a dry goods shop known
across Virginia as "the Jews' store,"
they engaged in land speculation in
Kentucky—employing Daniel Boone
to do survey work for them—and they
owned The Bird in Hand, possibly the
first inn and tavern in Richmond.

One of the oldest Jewish communities in America, Richmond was one of only six communities—including Newport, Savannah, Charleston, Philadelphia and New York City—to draft a congratulatory note to George Washington when he became President. As with other immigrants to early America, Virginia's Jews came seeking economic opportunities and a chance to practice their own religion free from persecution. Colonial laws didn't give Jews the same rights as Christians, but many reported that they seemed as equals due to the democratizing effect of the Virginia frontier. The enactment of the Statute for Religious Freedoms in 1786 solidified the community's freedom to worship as they pleased.

Until the 1840s brought an influx of German Ashkenazi Jews, Virginia's Jewish community followed Sephardic traditions. And whereas the original Jews were to be found in many jobs and professions, many of the new immigrants began as street peddlers

and eventually opened storefronts. Some of these such as Thalhimer's—begun on Main Street in 1842—became large Southern department stores. Another wave of newcomers, this time from Eastern Europe, began in the 1880s. The area also became a haven for Jews fleeing Nazi Germany and, later in the 1990s, as a home for resettled Soviet Jews. Today the Richmond Region is home to seven synagogues, the very active Carole and Marcus Weinstein Jewish Community Center, and the Virginia Holocaust Museum.



Personally speaking ...

"One of Richmond's greatest assets is the rich sense of tradition throughout the community. Driving down Monument Avenue or walking through the historic neighborhoods in the Fan or visiting one of the many museums enhances this perspective. Exploring Richmond creates a real appreciation for American history.

> – Jordan Shenker Executive Director, Weinstein JCC



The Beth Ahabah Synagogue is adjacent to its museum and archives.

# Did you know?

A special section of the Hebrew Cemetery in Richmond—the oldest active Jewish cemetery in the South—contains the graves of 30 Jewish Confederate soldiers who died in or near Richmond. It is believed to be the only exclusively Jewish military burying ground outside of Israel.

# **Organizations**

# Chabad-Lubavitch of the Virginias (Lubavitch)

www.chabadofva.org

# Congregation Beth Ahabah (Reform)

www.bethahabah.org

# Congregation Kol Emes/Young Israel of Richmond (Orthodox)

www.geocities.com/kolemes

#### Congregation Or Ami (Reform)

www.or-ami.com

# **Congregation Or Atid (Conservative)**

www.oratid.org

#### The Farbreng Inn Kosher Conference & Retreat Center

www.farbrenginn.com

# Jewish Community Federation of Richmond

www.jewishrichmond.org

## **Jewish Family Services**

www.jfsrichmond.org

## Keneseth Beth Israel (Orthodox)

http://kbirichmond.org

#### **Richmond Jewish Foundation**

www.rjfoundation.net

#### **Temple Beth El (Conservative)**

www.bethelrichmond.org

#### Weinstein JCC

www.weinsteinjcc.org

#### Media

#### Virginia Jewish News

www.virginiajewishnews.com

#### The Reflector

www.jewishrichmond.org

# Hispanic

n the late 1950s and 1960s, a small number of Cubans began to settle in the Richmond Region. From this small pocket, the Region's Hispanic population now officially numbers close to 40,000, having more than quadrupled since 1990. However, estimates of the actual population place it perhaps higher than 100,000.

After the Cubans, the Region became home to Central Americans—particularly from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—during the 1980s, and the last five years have seen a dramatic increase in Mexicans, many of whom have come as a result of the Region's building boom. The Region also counts many South Americans including Columbians, Venezuelans, Peruvians, Ecuadorians and Bolivians—as well as many second- and third-generation Puerto Ricans.

As many of the area's Hispanics have come from a country where the nation's capital was the biggest city that offered the most opportunity, in many cases they initially gravitated towards Northern Virginia and the nation's capital. However, because the Richmond Region offers a more tranquil and affordable lifestyle (as well as a strong economy), many Hispanics have settled here versus D.C.—or even New York or Miami—finding it a great place to raise a family. They now call Richmond home for a variety of reasons. Some have become enmeshed in the Region's institutes of higher learning while others have come from Central America to do research work at Philip Morris.



# Personally speaking ...

"Born in Cuba and forced to leave to seek freedom, I appreciate the privilege of living in a society where I can raise my children and teach them the value of dreaming and the rewards of achieving. It's easy to fall in love with Richmond where diversity is welcomed and embraced. It is a region rich in history, heritage, hospitality and charm. Whether enjoying the majestic columns at the State Capitol, St. John's Church in Church Hill, the museums along the Boulevard, Magnolia Grange in Chesterfield, or the City's impressive institutions of higher education, the Region's coveted sites tell a magnificent story and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape."

—Mirta M. Martin, Ph.D. Executive Director and Associate Professor John Tyler Community College Foundation

A number of religious organizations in the Richmond Region maintain strong ties with Latin America—sending numerous missions each year—and



Hispanic culture thrives in the Richmond Region.

in 2004, the City of Richmond created the Hispanic Liaison Office to serve the area's Hispanics. A variety of community organizations and events such as the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, based in Chesterfield County, and the annual ¿Qué Pasa? Festival of Virginia highlight the growing importance of the Region's Hispanic community.

# Did you know?

The Richmond Region has four Hispanic soccer leagues with dozens of teams of mixed nationalities. While it has been commonplace for top level Central American soccer teams like El Salvador's Deportivo Fas and Gautamala's Communicaciones to stop in the D.C. area, they now include Richmond on their North American tours, even playing local Hispanic all-star teams.

# Organizations

# Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

www.vahcc.com

#### City of Richmond's Hispanic Liaison Office

www.richmondgov.com/departments/humanservices/ hispanicliaison

#### Media

#### Nuevas Raíces newspaper

www.nuevasraices.com

#### Horizontes newspaper

(804) 745-1241

# La Voz Hispana de Virginia magazine (804) 437-3790

#### Centro de Richmond newspaper

www.centrovirginia.com

#### **WVNZ Selecta 1320**

www.selecta1320.com

#### WBTK Poder 1380

www.wbtk.com

#### WTOX La Equis 1480

www.laequis1480.com

# A Multitude of Multicultural Things to Do

njoy the Region's diverse multicultural attractions. Find more information about each online at www.VisitRichmondVa.com. For locations, refer to the map on page 34.

## American Civil War Center At **Historic Tredegar**

The American Civil War Center takes a new approach to explaining the Civil War—that is to say it takes three approaches. The first museum of its kind, the center highlights Union, Confederate and African American points of view. Opened in 2006, the museum uses interactive, familyfriendly exhibits to convey how the war affected all people. www.tredegar.org, (804) 780-1865

#### Arthur Ashe Statue

The Richmond Region is famous for its grand statues on Monument Avenue. The first to be erected since 1929 commemorates Richmond native Arthur Ashe as a humanitarian, scholar and athlete.

www.richmondgov.com/visitor/arthurashe.aspx

#### Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives

The museum adjacent to the Beth Ahabah synagogue collects, preserves and interprets the history and culture of the Region's Jewish community and provides insight into understanding the Southern Jewish experience.

www.bethahabah.org/bama, (804) 353-2668



The Arthur Ashe statue is on Monument Avenue.

## Black History Museum and **Cultural Center of Virginia**

Founded in 1981, the museum is located in the historic Jackson Ward district. It seeks to be a permanent repository and statewide resource for visual, oral and written records and artifacts commemorating the lives and accomplishments of African Americans in Virginia. The African American Heritage Walking Tour starts at the museum and covers a number of other nearby attractions.

www.blackhistorymuseum.org, (804) 780-9093

## **Bojangles Statue**

Located at the corner of Adams and West Leigh Streets in Jackson Ward, the statue not only commemorates the Richmond-born dancing phenom but also marks the site of the city's first traffic light, a gift from



Elegba Folklore Society presents traditional African dance.

Bojangles to keep children safe in his native community.

#### "Box" Brown Memorial

Born into slavery in 1815, Henry Brown became a celebrity because of his bold escape to freedom in 1849. The 5'8" Brown who weighed 200 pounds had himself nailed into a 2' 8" x 2' x 3' box that was shipped from Richmond to Philadelphia disguised as dry goods. Over the course of the 26-hour journey, Brown was sometimes placed upside down, but he emerged upbeat. A lifesize replica of the box is on the Canal Walk. In his later life, Brown dedicated himself to the anti-slavery movement.

## **Elegba Folklore Society**

Elegba offers a variety of cultural arts programs with a focus on the various strands of African American culture. Interpretive tours of unmarked sites in the area's history follow a Trail of Enslaved Africans.

www.elegbafolkloresociety.org, (804) 644-3900

#### Henricus Historical Park

Established in 1611, Henricus was the first place where tobacco was grown to be sold in Europe, the second successful English settlement in the New World and the residence of Pocahontas who married tobacco planter John Rolfe. Every day, costumed interpreters bring an early American Indian village to life and also portray early English settlers. In addition, special events and programs are offered throughout the year. www.henricus.org, (804) 706-1340



Henricus Historical Park provides hands-on history

## A Multitude of Multicultural Things to Do (continued)

#### Jackson Ward

Prior to the 1860s, the 40-block community of Jackson Ward was a melting pot of nationalities, including free African Americans and immigrants from Germany and Ireland. Known as the birthplace of black capitalism, from the 1920s through 1960s it earned the title of "the Harlem of the South." One of the Richmond Region's National Historic Districts, Jackson Ward boasts beautiful architecture and some of the most impressive decorative ironwork outside of New Orleans.

#### Latin Ballet of Virginia

Through its compelling performances, the ballet company preserves and promotes Latin American and Spanish cultures and spreads the joy and love of life through the common language of dance.

www.latinballet.com, (804) 379-2555

#### Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

The site offers year-round beauty with its 40 acres of spectacular gardens

including the Asian Valley which celebrates the sacredness of nature. Within this garden are plants native to East Asia which are adaptive to conditions in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States. It incorporates the spirit of Asian garden design with dramatic tree forms and cascading water.

www.lewisginter.org, (804) 262-9887

#### Library of Virginia

As the library and archival agency of the state and the government's principal reference library, the Library of Virginia contains a wealth of information about the state's history and can be a treasure trove for genealogists. In addition, the library produces a number of exhibits which have included topics such as Virginia Roots Music, Understanding 400 Years of Virginia History, Virginia's Coal Towns, and Brown v. Board of Education: Virginia Responds.

Richmond's Reconciliation Statue is one of three worldwide.



Enjoy exquisite dance from the Latin Ballet.

#### Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

The National Park Service maintains this site to honor the life and legacy of a progressive and talented African American woman who achieved national prominence in the early 20th century as a businesswoman and community leader. Restored to its 1930s appearance, Walker's residence of 30 years details not only her life but also the community in which she lived and worked.

www.nps.gov/malw, (804) 771-2017

#### **Maymont**

The house and grounds of Maymont are beautifully preserved examples of Gilded Age living. Maymont's wealthy owners, the Dooleys, purchased the most costly evergreens from all parts of the world—many of which are still found in the park's 100 acres. Also meticulously maintained today are the spectacular Italian Garden and the Japanese Garden with its thick stands of bamboo. A new exhibit, In Service & Beyond, showcases the workday lives of the Dooleys' mostly African American employees.

www.maymont.org, (804) 358-7166

#### **Reconciliation Statue**

The Richmond Slavery Reconciliation Statue and Plaza was erected in March 2007 not far from the former slave market. The statue, which depicts two people melded in an embrace, is linked to similar memorials in Liverpool, England and Benin in Africa.

www.reconciliationtriangle.org

#### Richmond National Battlefield Civil War Visitor Center

Encompassing more than 1,400 acres, the Civil War battlefield sites paint a picture of the numerous defining battles in the Richmond Region and also highlight the 14 African American soldiers who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry in action.

www.nps.gov/rich, (804) 226-1981

#### Richmond Slave Trail

The Richmond Slave Trail chronicles the history of the trade of enslaved Africans to Virginia. Begin at the Manchester Docks.

(804) 646-3012

#### Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church

In 1867 the church began in abandoned horse stables, but since 1869 the active congregation has met at the same location. The church's original leader, John Jasper, became one of the nation's most well known African American ministers of his time; he gave his famous "Sun Do Move" sermon more than 250 times and attracted standing-room-only black and white audiences. www.smzbc.org, (804) 648-7511

## Virginia Civil Rights Memorial

The Virginia Civil Rights Memorial, located in front of the Governor's Mansion in Capitol Square, tells the story of Barbara Johns, the 16-year-old student who organized and led in protest of intolerable conditions at her high school in Farmville, VA in April 1951. The monument depicts the walkout, Oliver W. Hill and Spottswood Robinson III who tried the case, the Reverend Leslie Francis Griffin, and a vision for racial harmony in the future.

## A Multitude of Multicultural Things to Do (continued)

#### Virginia Historical Society

The society collects, preserves and interprets Virginia's past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. Exhibits include Virginians at Work and The Story of Virginia. www.vahistorical.org, (804) 358-4901

#### Virginia Holocaust Museum

Covering a wide array of experiences of the Holocaust, the museum gives visitors a sense of what it was like to live through Kristallnacht, the Dachau concentration camp and Displaced Persons Camps. Because of the disturbing nature of some of the displays, the museum is not recommended for children under 11. www.va-holocaust.com, (804) 257-5400

## Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

The VMFA houses a remarkable permanent collection of more than 20,000 works of art from almost every major world culture. The museum's holdings of South Asian, Himalayan and African art are among the finest in the nation. In addition, the museum has noteworthy collections of Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Contemporary American, as well as French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art. Visitors also make a point of seeing the popular Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of Fabergé eggs-the largest collection outside of Russia. www.vmfa.museum, (804) 340-1400

# Virginia Randolph Museum

Built in 1937, the museum has the home economics cottage for the Virginia Randolph Education Center. Randolph, an innovative black educator in vocational training, kept an office in



The Virginia Historical Society presents Virginians at Work.

the building during the latter part of her life.

www.varfoundation.org, (804) 261-5029

#### Virginia State University

Begun as the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute in 1882, VSU was the first fully state supported, four-year institution of higher learning for African Americans in the country. Until 1992, the university's first president, John Mercer Langston (great-uncle of Langston Hughes), was the only African American ever elected to the United States Congress from Virginia. www.vsu.edu, (804) 524-5000

#### Virginia Union University

Founded among the old slave buildings of Lumpkin's Jail, VUU has served as a historically African American institute of higher education since 1865. One of the first graduates, Pastor Richard Wells, led the first known civil rights protest march. The Museum Galleries at VUU include collections of masks, sculpture, instruments and paintings from Africa and the South Pacific. www.vuu.edu, (804) 257-5600

# So Much More To Do

#### **Kings Dominion**

A 400-acre theme park, Kings
Dominion is home to more than 40
rides, shows and attractions. The park
features 14 world-class roller coasters,
making it one of the largest coaster
collections on the East Coast. There
are also two children's areas and
WaterWorks, a 20-acre water park.
www.kingsdominion.com

#### James River and Canal Walk

It's little wonder that the River City has a park system that includes nearly 450 acres lining both banks of the James River. The river is popular for rafting, boating, fishing, kayaking and hiking. A recent \$52-million restoration of the Canal Walk includes restaurants and nightclubs and canal boat rides.

www.richmondgov.com/departments/parks www.venturerichmond.com

## **Performing Arts**

Sit back and enjoy the show. Richmond Ballet is the first professional ballet company in Virginia. With dancers from around the country and the world, the ballet performs throughout the year in addition to the annual Nutcracker. The Richmond Symphony entertains approximately 125,000 patrons each year, performing both contemporary and traditional symphonic repertoires that draw on classical, gospel, jazz and popular music. Guest artists have included Aretha Franklin, Marvin Hamlisch, Itzhak Perlman and André Watts. The Virginia Opera is known and respected nationwide for the musical and dramatic integrity of its productions.

www.richmondballet.com, www.richmondsymphony.com www.vaopera.org

Thrillseekers will love Kings Dominion.



#### So Much More To Do (continued)

#### Wineries

You don't need to go far from the Region's urban areas to sample Virginia wine fresh from the vine. From merlot to cabernet franc, find it at the nearby James River Winery or New Kent Vineyards.

www.virginiawines.org

#### **Speakers Series**

The Richmond Region hosts a number of renowned speakers in the form of the Richmond Forum, World Affairs Council and JCC Forum. Recent speakers have included Robert Redford, Rudolph Giuliani and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

www.richmondforum.org, www.richmondworld.org www.weinsteinjcc.org

#### More Museums

The Richmond Region has a rich history with dozens of diverse museums dedicated to it—from the Valentine Richmond History Center to the John Marshall House, Old Dominion Railway Museum and Edgar Allan Poe Museum. But there's so much more including the expansive Science Museum of Virginia, Hanover Tavern and the Virginia Aviation Museum, to name a few.

www.VisitRichmondVa.com



Short Pump Town Center is the Region's largest open-air upscale shopping center.



Hanover Tavern is home to a museum, theater and restaurant.

#### **Professional Sports**

In addition to NASCAR and Indy Racing League at the Richmond International Raceway, the Richmond Region's minor league professional sports teams include the Renegades hockey team and the Kickers, an A-League affiliate of Major League Soccer's DC United and Tampa Bay Mutiny.

www.rir.com, www.rrenegades.com, www.richmondkickers.com

## **Shopping and Galleries**

Whether it's small boutiques or big malls and national brands, the Richmond Region has something for everyone. Alongside boutiques in Carytown are numerous art galleries. More galleries abound along Broad Street near the artistic hub of Virginia Commonwealth University and its art program. The art scene is supported by regular art walks: Third Thursdays, First Fridays and Fourth Fridays.

www.VisitRichmondVa.com, www.retailmerchants.com

# Multicultural Events Calendar

t's not every day that you can partake in a cultural festival in the Richmond Region—but it's close. Check for specific dates and more information at www.VisitRichmondVa.com.

## **January**

#### VUU vs. VSU Freedom Classic Festival

Rivals Virginia State University and Virginia Union University compete in one of the premier collegiate basketball contests in the region. The festival is designed to acknowledge and commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and occurs annually on Dr. King's birthday weekend. More than 15,000 guests enjoy the numerous festival events including a showcase of regional gospel talent.

www.freedomclassic.com



Asia Blooms at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

#### March

#### Church Hill Irish Festival

Irish musicians, bagpipers, dancers and more descend on the Region's Church Hill neighborhood for this annual weekend-after-St.-Patrick's- Day event. www.saintpatrickchurchhill.org

#### Sister for Sister Conference

Boasting nationally acclaimed speakers and presenters, the Sister for Sister Conference is an energizing and anticipated conference for women on the East Coast.

www.sisterforsister.com

#### VCU French Film Festival

Virginia Commonwealth University's annual event at the Byrd Theater—a lavish local landmark that opened in 1928—is the largest French film festival in the United States. Held at the end of March or beginning of April, it attracts an astounding 17,000 entries for its selective list of 24 films. The festival brings directors and actors to present and discuss their films.

www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu



Dancers at the Lebanese Food Festival.

# **April**

#### Asia Blooms in the Garden at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Take a guided tour with a cultural interpreter, try tai chi, watch Asian folk dances and learn the art of ikebana floral arrangement during this event. www.lewisginter.org

## Punjabi Mela

The Punjabi Mela is a festival to promote the language, art, culture and literature of Punjabis, people who hail from the Punjab region of Northern India and Pakistan.

www.punjabimela.org

# May

#### **Asian American Celebration**

This annual festival highlights the cultural heritage of more than a dozen Asian groups through elegant music and dance, authentic cuisine, exquisite art, exhibits and more.

www.aasocv.org

#### Lebanese Food Festival

Enjoy food, music, folk dancing and other activities at this outdoor festival that routinely draws thousands from central Virginia.

www.stanthonymaronitechurch.org

#### Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

Held on Brown's Island, this event is less about an 1862 battle in Mexico and more about taking in a full music lineup and enjoying the Region's early May weather.

www.brownsisland.com

#### **Greek Food Festival**

This popular gathering at St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral features Greek dancing and cultural exhibitions but, of course, it's all about the gyros, souvlaki and delicious baklava. www.greekfestival.com

#### American Indian Pow-wows

May is the beginning of the pow-wow season for Virginia's Indian tribes.
While each tribe holds its own events—

often in concert with other tribes a large annual gathering is organized by VITAL, the Virginia Indian Tribal Alliance for Life, in Charles City County.

www.vitalva.org

#### Fridays at Sunset

Beginning in May and running through August at Kanawha Plaza, Fridays at Sunset is one of the East Coast's premier summer concert series. Boasting previous artists such as Natalie Cole, The Roots and Chaka Khan, Fridays at Sunset brings some of the best R&B, Jazz, Reggae and Neo-Soul artists to the Region each year. www.fridaysatsunset.com

#### June

#### Juneteenth

The Freedom Celebration commemorates the Juneteenth holiday by remembering the impact of the African slave trade and its legacy in Virginia. A family event, it features performances, speakers, ceremonies, exhibitors, historic reenactments and special children's activities.

www.efsinc.org



Exhibitors at Juneteenth celebrate African heritage

#### Taste of India

The Cultural Center of India puts India on display to show its culture, cuisine, handicrafts and music. Visitors can taste diverse foods from all over the country—from North Indian samosas to South Indian dosa pancakes as well as chicken curry, a variety of Indian breads, traditional Indian chai, a host of desserts and varieties of Indian beer. www.geocities.com/ccihall/

# August

#### **Down Home Family Reunion**

This extravaganza brings in a lot of "family" as some 25,000 people come to celebrate African American folk life. Nearly 20 years old, the reunion demonstrates how cultural traditions of West Africa have influenced the lifestyles of African Americans and the American South.

# September

www.efsinc.org

## ¿Qué Pasa? Festival of Virginia

¿Qué Pasa? translates as, "What's Happening?" At this outdoor event that celebrates the Region's Hispanic community, happenings include local and national musical groups, folk performances and a taste-bud tour through stops in Cuba, Colombia and Mexico.

www.guepasafestival.com

#### Annual Armenian Food Festival

For nearly a half century, the Armenian festival has put the music and dance of Armenia on display—as well as plates full of traditional food.

www.stjamesva.org

#### Multicultural Events Calendar (continued)

# China-America Festival of Film and Culture

While the series involves seminars, lectures, concerts and food tasting, its heart is Chinese film. Over the course of a week, the series, which is largely free, delves into understanding Chinese culture.

www.therosegroup.org

#### October

#### Second Street Festival

The hands of time are turned back to the past when Second Street was the heart and soul of Richmond's African American community. Each year, approximately 45,000 people come to Richmond's historic Jackson Ward to hear live music on two stages, enjoy children's activities, taste delicious food, shop in the marketplace and dance in the streets.

www.venturerichmond.com

# Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival

The big draw is large men throwing heavy objects—a 22-pound hammer, a 56-pound weight and a 20-foot tree



Large objects are tossed great lengths at the Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival.



Dance in the streets at the Second Street Festival.

trunk—but there's a lot more. Listen to fiddle and harp competitions and tap your feet with the rhythm of Highland dancers. Also enjoy a Parade of Clans and Societies, pipe bands, living history encampments, a parade of Dogs of the British Isles and get the genealogical information that will help you pick your proper tartan.

www.richmondceltic.com

#### Festival of India

Established in 1981, the festival draws upwards of 20,000 visitors from all across central Virginia. It includes live dances and cultural performances, a delicious spread of Indian cuisine representing the various states in India, as well as unique jewelry and crafts. www.hinducenterofvirginia.org

#### Richmond Folk Festival

During the free, three-day event you'll find not only music and dance performances but also workshops, storytelling, parades, crafts and culinary arts.

www.venturerichmond.com

## November

#### Joy From the World

From late November through New Year's Day, this kid-centric event at the Science Museum of Virginia, injects some learning in the holiday season with demonstrations and trees from cultures around the globe.

www.smv.org



Music and dance are just part of the Capital City Kwanzaa Festival.

#### Kristallnacht Anniversary

The Jewish community remembers the Night of Broken Glass each year as part of the beginnings of oppression and persecution in Germany. Special ceremonies take place at the Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery, erected in 1955 for victims of the Holocaust.

www.jewishrichmond.com

## December

#### Capital City Kwanzaa Festival

Celebrate this seven-day African American holiday each December with musical and dance performances, children's activities and an African market.

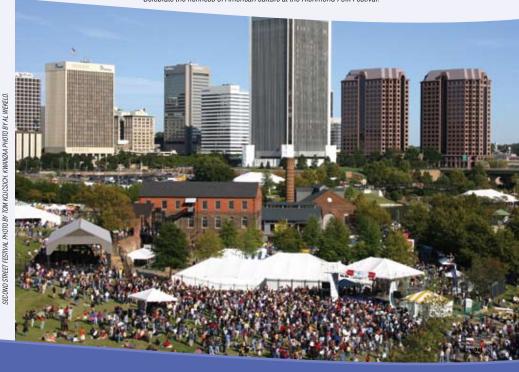
www.efsinc.org

#### **Chanukah Celebrations**

Join area synagogues for the eight-day Festival of Lights.

www.jewishrichmond.com

Celebrate the richness of American culture at the Richmond Folk Festival



# Other Notable Events

# **February**

# Maymont Flower and Garden Show

For nearly 20 years, this annual garden show has injected some color to mid-winter.

www.maymont.org

#### March

## Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k

Join some 24,000 others for the race voted the best road race in the Southeast.

www.sportsbackers.org

# April

## Strawberry Hill Races

Celebrate spring at Colonial Downs with exciting steeplechase racing featuring elite thoroughbreds.
www.strawberryhillraces.com



Race to Colonial Downs for the Strawberry Hill Races.

#### James River Film Festival

The weeklong event screens independent films from around the world. www.rmicweb.org

# May

#### **Friday Cheers**

From May through June hear great bands and relax on Brown's Island. www.venturerichmond.com

## Hanover Heritage Day

A kid-friendly event held at the historic Hanover Courthouse, the event provides many hands-on activities from by-gone times.

www.co.hanover.va.us

## June

## River City Beer and Seafood Festival

Discover the difference between lager and stout.

www.venturerichmond.com

#### James River Adventure Games

Jump in or just watch as thousands descend on the James for kayaking, wakeboarding, a triathlon and more. www.sportsbackers.org

#### **Ashland Strawberry Faire**

Celebrate the red berry with shortcake, drinks, breads and more.
www.ashlandstrawberryfaire.com



Vintage aircraft on display at the Chesterfield Air Show.

#### Vegetarian Festival

The big draw is the meatless food but it also offers a marketplace and live entertainment.

www.veggiefest.org

# July

#### **Hanover Tomato Festival**

With 200 arts and crafts vendors and musical groups, there's more to this festival than its world famous tomatoes. www.co.hanover.va.us

# August

## Carytown Watermelon Festival

The popular shopping district becomes a pedestrian zone with delicious watermelon and sidewalk sales.
www.carytownwatermelonfestival.com

# September

## Virginia State Fair

The fair has something for everyone: rides, games, livestock and small animal shows, baking contests and plenty of music.

www.statefairva.com

#### **Henricus Publick Day**

It's a day of Colonial fun with food, crafts, military drills and the reenactment of Pocahontas's wedding. www.henricus.org

#### October

#### Chesterfield Air Show

Along with vintage and modern aircraft displays, enjoy several hours of aerial performances.

www.chesterfield.gov

## November

#### Richmond Marathon

With 10,000 runners, it's "America's Friendliest Marathon."

www.richmondmarathon.com

## December

# Grand Illumination and the Christmas Parade

Downtown comes alive with a million holiday lights. Catch the accompanying Christmas Parade.

www.thejamescenter.com www.richmondchristmasparade.org

# **GardenFest of Lights**

More than a half million lights arranged in botanical themes throughout the extensive gardens. www.lewisginter.org

# **Ethnic Dining**

hen it comes to dining options, it's a small world in the Richmond Region. The Region counts more than 900 restaurants. There are small, local eateries on nearly every corner of the Fan, Shockoe Slip and Cary Street while many larger establishments can be found in the commercial districts of Henrico County's Broad Street or Chesterfield's Midlothian Turnpike. And while the Region has its share of smoky, fingerlickin' Southern barbecue, cheese grits and biscuits, you're never far from a menu that features more diverse fare. Here it's easy to fill your plate with international menus.

You can start by sharing a big communal platter of East African food at Nile Ethiopian Restaurant. Or rather than Nile's airy njera bread, dig into tortillas at a Mexican restaurant like La Siesta in Chesterfield. At Indian restaurants like Curry House in Henrico County, the flatbread of choice may be freshly baked naan. The buffet lets you try many new dishes at once.



The Nile brings Ethiopian food to Richmond.



From Southern and Soul Food to Asian and Cuban delights, the Richmond Region has it all.

From the tastes of India, a few miles in any direction will allow you to savor the flavors of the Far East at one of the area's many establishments like Mekong Vietnamese Restaurant where the pho, noodles and fish exude the delicate flavors of Vietnam. Or head to Shockoe Bottom where turning a corner is like jetting around the world; Europa Mediterranean Café serves tapas and Mediterranean dishes while there's hoppin' Cuban food not far away at Havana '59 and Japanese down the block at Hana Zushi.

But if you still have a craving for some traditional Southern fare, try the elegant and cozy Julep's New Southern Cuisine or get a fried fish boat and a side of cornbread at Croaker's Spot in Jackson Ward. Or find new southern cuisine with a focus on local and regional ingredients at Michelle's at Hanover Tavern.

No matter if it's paella or teriyaki, search for it online at www.Visit RichmondVa.com.

# **Visitor Information**

efore you begin exploring our historic and dynamic Region, take a moment to stop by one of our Visitor Centers.

At either location our staff is available to assist you with tour suggestions, hotel reservations and free regional maps. When your trip is over, be sure to take home a piece of the Richmond Region with one of the numerous items available in our main location's gift shop.

#### **Visitor Centers**

#### Main location

405 North 3rd Street, in the Greater Richmond Convention Center 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily (9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day)

#### **Airport location**

Richmond International Airport 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday

#### How to Get Here

Traveling to the Richmond Region couldn't be easier. Within a day's drive of half of the U.S. population, we're easy to get to from Interstates 95 and 64. Located two hours south of Washington, D.C. and two hours west of the Atlantic Coast, we're easily accessible by plane, train, motorcoach or automobile.

## By Air

The Richmond International Airport (RIC) is located 15 minutes from downtown. Major carriers and regional airlines—including AirTran and JetBlue, as well as American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, United and USAirways—offer non-stop flights to 21 cities and connecting flights to destinations worldwide.

#### On the Ground

If you prefer ground travel, you can access the Richmond Region by automobile, bus or train. Amtrak has two stations in the area: Main Street Station located in downtown Richmond and Staples Mill Station, located approximately 10 miles west of downtown. Greyhound/Trailways has a terminal only minutes from downtown Richmond. If you're driving your own car or renting one here, you'll find that the Region's minimal traffic makes traveling throughout the area a breeze.

#### Where to Stay

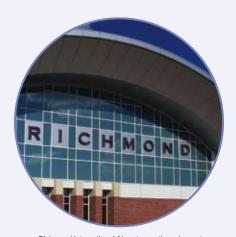
From the ritzy to the relaxed, we have a hotel to meet every need.

Visitors: Search for accommodations online at visitrichmondva.com/visitors/wheretostay.aspx

Meeting planners: Contact RMCVB at www.VisitRichmondVa.com/planner

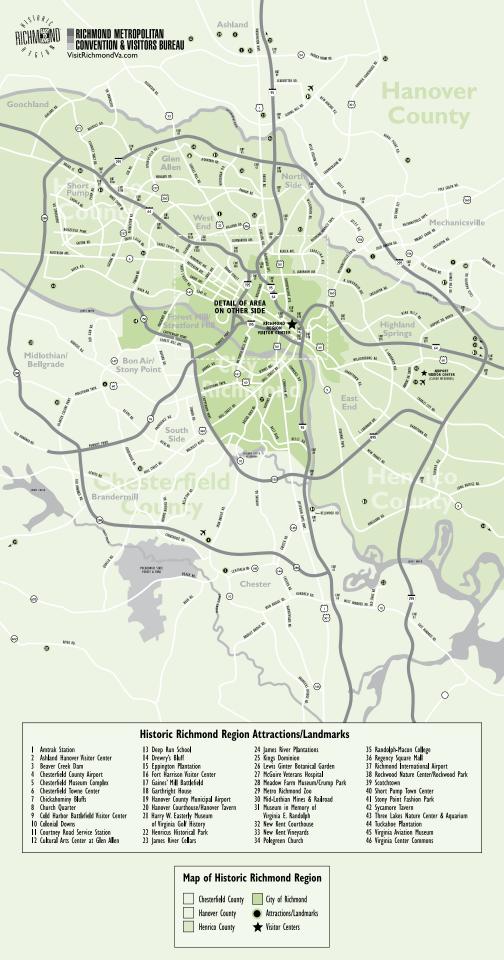
#### More Info Online

For local tips—from what to wear to liquor laws and customs—check online at www.VisitRichmondVa.com.



Richmond International Airport recently underwent a complete renovation and expansion.







Get Swept Up by the Richmond Region's cultures.



401 N. 3rd Street, Richmond, VA 23219 1-888-RICHMOND