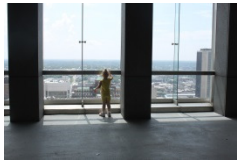


BEST PLACES TO EAT A PICNIC LUNCH

(Richmond has many wonderful restaurants
But sometimes you just have to pack your own.)



Rooftop viewing area at the top of City Hall. (900 E. Broad Street Richmond VA) – The best bird's eye view of the city. Take the elevator to the top floor. Some tables and seating. It is glassed-in but open air.



Picnic Tables Near the Virginia Historical Society – (428 North Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220) – Picnic tables beneath the shade of huge magnolia trees.



Picnic Tables in Byrd Park – (Shields Lake Ct.) some have a nice sun shade above them and you can watch the geese.



Meadow Park in the Fan – (N. Meadow Street and Park Avenue) No formal picnic tables but some nice benches under big trees right in the center of one of Richmond's nicest historical home districts.



Chimborazo Park – (3200 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA) – A circle of benches beneath crepe myrtle trees and the park has a great view of the city. Playground nearby at 29th & E. Grace St.



Great Shiplock Park- (Dock & Pear Streets) Park is under renovation currently but there are some great spots by the river if you bring a blanket.



Henricus Historical Park Picnic Area (251 Henricus Park Rd, Chester, VA 23836) – Just outside the park grounds on a high overlook above the James River. There are picnic tables and shade trees.

FAVORITE DAY TRIP ITINERARIES

In good weather and for people in good physical health



Walk the Bridge to Belle Isle and Enjoy a Picnic Lunch on the Rocks of the James – nearby hiking trails take you around the island or you could visit Tredegar Iron Works nearby or a museum of choice.

For Civil War Buffs



In good weather, pack a picnic lunch and head to Drewry's Bluff and Malvern Hill. For maximum enjoyment, you need to be able to walk about 2 miles at each site.



In bad weather, check out the Chimborazo Medical Museum and Tredegar Iron Works, stopping for lunch at one of Richmond's eateries.

Traveling with visitors who can't walk long distances



Canal Path Boat Ride - Take a 45-minute boat tour on the Canal Path (small fee associated per passenger) and eat lunch at a restaurant downtown (or pack a picnic lunch and eat along the path).



Seven Days' Battles Driving Loop — Start with a short tour at the Dabbs' House, site where Lee planned the battles, then visit Beaver Dam Creek and Chickahominy Bluffs, picking up lunch along the way. You could also squeeze in Cold Harbor Visitor Center and walk a short distance to the left of the visitor's center to see some impressive Civil War trenches.

ruly.

FREE AND CHEAP
GUIDE TO RICHMOND

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RICHMOND'S "SMITHSONIANS"

If you are used the wonderful free museums in Washington, you will find that Richmond has plenty to offer too.



Virginia Museum of Fine Arts – (200 N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220) a gorgeous building with an extensive art collection from all time periods. Free admission but some special exhibitions require paid admission. Paid parking garage nearby. Wonderful café overlooking the water.



Virginia Historical Society – (428 North Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220) permanent and special exhibitions on Virginia's History. Free admission. The Story of Virginia is a great place to start. Free parking.



Virginia Holocaust Museum – (2000 E. Cary Street Richmond, VA 23223) An interactive exhibit pathway relives the Holocaust in a dramatic and powerful way. Might be a bit too scary for children under 12. Free admission but donations accepted. Free parking.



Virginia War Memorial – (621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220) Learn military and intelligence history with engaging displays, a multi-sensory war reenactment film and a second theater with historical films. Reflect on Virginia's war dead at the memorial wall. Some material may be too scary for children under 12. Free admission and parking.



Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond – (701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, VA 23219) You need to sign up in advance at <http://www.thefedexperience.org/> and be ready for extensive security but it is a wonderful building to visit and there is an educational exhibit on economics. Free admission and parking.



Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site – (600 North 2nd Street in Richmond, Virginia 23219) Learn about Civil Rights pioneer Maggie L. Walker and enjoy her finely preserved 1920's home. Free admission and parking.



Virginia Center for Architecture – (2501 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220) – It's a wonderful old building to walk around in and hosts periodic exhibits. Free admission. Free street parking nearby.

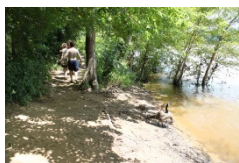
WALKING PATHS



The Bridge to Belle Isle – (300 Tredegar St.) is the most spectacular walking path in Richmond. The bridge soars high above the James River for an incredible view. On the other side, the "beach" on the rocks is incredible fun for adults and children alike.



Virginia Slave Trail – (2000 Branders St.) Passing through some beautiful trails along the James River then through the downtown area, the entire trail is probably 4-ish miles. Start the trail in the Manchester Docks section. Download a brochure from the slave trail commission website before you go.



The Trail to Texas Beach (North Bank Trail parking lot at end of Texas Ave.) – This trail was suggested by a local. It goes across a railroad bridge and then along the James River where you can stop to picnic on various rocks or small sandy beaches. When the river level is not so high, you can access "Texas Beach" which apparently has a lot of sand.



Hollywood Cemetery (412 S Cherry St Richmond, VA 23220) – It may seem a little creepy to be walking around a cemetery but there is really a lot to see here. Graves of two presidents, Jefferson Davis and many Civil War dead are here. You can drive much of the cemetery or take a long walk.



Canal Walk (14th and Dock Streets) – The Canal Walk is scenic and lovely, passing by several historical markers and a graffiti art wall along the way. While the path is 1.25 miles, be ready to walk twice that far (out and back) to get back

to your car.



CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

The National Park Service has an excellent brochure outlining the many Civil War sites in the Richmond area. If you are overwhelmed by choice, here are my favorite Civil War spots: 1) Drewry's Bluff, 2) Malvern Hill, 3) Chimborazo Medical Museum, 4) Tredegar Iron Works, 5) Cold Harbor and 6) Gaines' Mill.

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

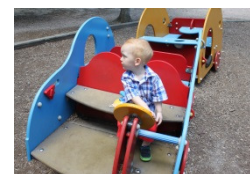


Maymont – (2201 Shields Lake Ct Richmond, VA 23220) - In good weather, the gardens are wonderful and children love them! There are free animal petting areas and for a small admission charge, a nature center with river otters.



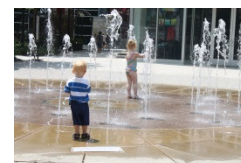
Three Lakes Nature Center and Aquarium – (400 Sausiluta Dr. Henrico, VA 23227) My children loved this as much as they loved any zoo! There is an incredible collection of turtles, some snakes and fish. There is an amazing

large playground as well. You can spend hours here. Drinking fountain and restroom available in the nature center. Free admission. Free parking.



Meadow Farm – (3400 Mountain Rd. Glen Allen, VA 23060) This is a wonderful playground with a wooden train, cars and fire truck to climb on as well as other wonderful toys.

There are numerous nature trails to enjoy. At certain times, there are historical activities going on that kids may enjoy, including some with farm animals. The Park also offers a variety of free activities for kids and families throughout the year.



Pop-jet fountains at Short Pump Town Center (11800 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23233) – In summer, this is where all Richmond's children are! Bring a swimsuit and a towel and make sure to put on sunscreen. There are

benches to sit on nearby for parents. Stores nearby offer ice cream and other treats. Free. Free parking available.

*Note that kids also enjoy some adult activities. The sculpture garden and the swivel chairs in the lobby at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts were a hit with my children. The Canal Path and the Bridge to Belle Isle held their interest as long as we didn't try to walk too far. Many of the Civil War battlefields are great for kids too. Any hiking path that allows for a spot to throw rocks in the water never gets old.