

A WEEKEND IN DANVILLE!

River District Style Virginia



Danville's River District, nestled between the hills along the Dan River in South Central Virginia, has a rich history full of challenges and triumphs. It is open and welcoming, offering big city amenities with a small town feel. Whether you are looking for a romantic getaway, a fun family weekend, or a budget-friendly vacation, the River District has something for you!



For a full list of the River District's shopping, service, and dining options, and more information about the businesses mentioned, download the Distrx App and choose Danville's River District.



Location

Located right off of Highway 29, Danville is an easy day's drive from many places on the East Coast. Plus, Amtrak trains arrive once daily at the historic train station in the heart of the River District, and Virginia Breeze busses to and from Richmond and Washington, D.C. arrive and leave daily from the downtown transportation hub. Maybe you have or want to rent an airplane? You can fly into the Danville Regional Airport! Or, just fly into one of the three major airports that are within an hour and a half drive of Danville.

Friday

When you arrive, check into where you are staying, then stretch your legs with a leisurely walk to get ice cream at Commonwealth Pharmacy of the River City. The River District has several centrally located lodging options.

Arrival

THE BEE HOTEL

The Bee Hotel was once the headquarters of the Danville Register and Bee. Vacant for many years, The Bee Hotel realized the potential of this beautiful historic building and created a 47-suite boutique hotel that capitalizes on the historic character and charm of the building.

RIVER DISTRICT FOUNTAIN LOFT

River District Fountain Loft overlooks the Dan River and the Main Street Plaza. With room for six people, ample living space and a kitchen, it's the ideal vacation spot for a group of family and friends.

VANTAGE ART FLATS

Vantage Art Flats are located at the 500 Block of Craghead Street and have beautiful artistically decorated suites, perfect for families or a romantic getaway. The Flats are within walking distance of all River District attractions and restaurants.

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Book the rooftop suite at The Bee Hotel with it's large glass doors that open out onto a rooftop terrace with spectacular views; a gorgeous place to relax with a glass of wine and watch the sun set above the Dan River.

FUN FAMILY WEEKEND

Book a suite room at Vantage Art Flats. You will have ample room for your family to relax, and you will be within walking distance of fun activities and dining.

ON A BUDGET

Gather your friends or family members and reserve the River District Fountain Loft. The loft has a full kitchen where you can cook and enjoy family meals from locally-sourced ingredients.

Evening

From live music or comedy to a fun game at Ballad brewing; from family movie night to a relaxing walk along the pedestrian bridge and Riverwalk Trail to see the beautiful colors of the sunset over the river, there is an evening activity in the River District for everyone.

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Take a leisurely stroll into the Tobacco Warehouse district where you may still detect a faint scent of tobacco in the breeze. At Mucho Taqueria, fill up on delicious tacos and a flavorful margherita. Take a to-go dessert to Ballad Brewing, who won Gold for Specialty IPA at the 2021 Virginia Craft Beer Cup Awards! Play games, or relax in the outdoor courtyard by the firepit. Before turning in for the night stop, by Golden Leaf Bistro's outdoor patio to hear live music by local talent. Or, if you like theatre, check out what plays or improv shows are happening at Smokestack Theatre Company.

FUN FAMILY WEEKEND

Order a New York style pizza at Dell'anno's Pizza Kitchen, then be adventurous next door at Ma's Cakes and try a slice of "The Muddy River", a tribute to the Dan River and the River District! A short walk along the Riverwalk Trail will bring you to The Carrington Pavilion where you can settle down on the grass to enjoy a free outdoor movie, Movies at the Crossing.

ON A BUDGET

Pick up a delicious hotdog from Uncle Al's Hotdogs and more take it to Ballad Brewing, where you can play games or relax in the outdoor courtyard by the fire pit. After that, head to Funky's Arcade Bar or Grizzly's Hatchet House to enjoy some live music, or catch a free Movie at the Crossing.



Saturday

On Saturdays the River District is full of hustle and bustle, with plenty of things to do and see.

Arrival

BREAKFAST

Everyone can benefit from a coffee and breakfast at Links Coffee House Cafe on Craghead Street. They open early at 7 a.m., so whether you are an early riser, or like to sleep in, want a specialty drink or a drip coffee; need a \$5 coffee and bagel, or a more substantial breakfast, Link's casual atmosphere and simple, delicious, and affordable menu, makes it a great place to go for breakfast.

MORNING ACTIVITIES

Walk from Links to Danville's Farmers Market. The market is open from 7:30 am to 12 pm and has a variety of local vendors from meat and produce to baked goods and crafts. If you are on a budget, buy some yummy local ingredients for dinner. Sunday mornings are calm and quiet in the River District, so pick up fruit and baked goods to enjoy the next morning.

After your visit to the Farmers Market, there are a variety of things to do!

- Cross over the Dan River on the pedestrian bridge, and take a long walk along the Riverwalk Trail which has over 11 miles of paved trail that you can use to walk, run, or bike. Rent a bike through the Danville Bike Share program and cruise along the river, or head to Anglers Park and go hiking or biking through the bluffs and small streams on the top single track mountain biking trails in Virginia.
- If you are feeling creative, sign up for an art class at Main Street Art Collective, River District Artisans, or a pottery class at Impotters Clayworx.
- If you like to relax, swing on the hammocks just outside the Farmers Market and connect with nature. Or relax in a lounge chair at the S. Union Street Pocket Park.

Lunch

For lunch, Nana Karen's on Main is a yummy option.

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Order your food and then sit at a table for two in the shade on the sidewalk.

FUN FAMILY WEEKEND

Bundle the whole family into a booth and chow down on mac and cheese, bbq and more!

ON A BUDGET

If you don't have a big appetite you could split an order of cheesy fries, or a bbq sandwich and be quite content!

Afternoon

No matter what your interests are, there are fun retail stores along Main Street.

- Browse all genres of books at The Dog-Eared Page, and even join in on a book discussion or story time.
- If you like clothes, Vintage Boutique offers fashion consultations and spectacular vintage clothing. For a personal touch and a spectacular hat, visit Angie's Hats and Boutique. Lizzy- Lou's has comfortable and modern clothing for women. Sauce VA has vintage sneakers and streetwear. Or if your style is a little more glamorous, then Glitz and Glamour is for you. If you are more into a classic style, head over to Rippe's, one of the longest running businesses on Main Street.
- Chestnut Lane Antiques, Main Street Art Collective, Commonwealth Silver and Goldsmiths, and River District Artisans are great for purchasing gifts or art.

If history interests you more than shopping, the River District has several options for walking tours.

- Book an engaging tour with Our History Matters for an in depth and inspiring look at Danville's Civil Rights history and Black business district. Some of the most prominent Civil Rights leaders visited Danville, including Martin Luther King, Jr..
- Head over to the Danville Historical Society, to learn more about Danville's long history as one of the largest tobacco auctions in the country, as well as its history as one of the largest textile mill towns in the country.
- If you don't have the budget to book an in person tour, the River District App: Distrx, has three amazing self guided audio tours: The Civil Rights Tour, The Downtown Revitalization Tour, and the Arts and Sculpture Tour.

Dinner

For a bit of a rest while shopping or touring stop by Vintages by the Dan between 12-5 for personalized advice on the best beer or wine for your dinner, and free tastings. Or, get a frozen yogurt treat at Di'lishi Danville to eat at the Fountain on Main Street Plaza before taking an afternoon break.

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Have dinner on the patio at Cotton while enjoying the evening breeze and watching the Dan River flow by.

FUN FAMILY WEEKEND

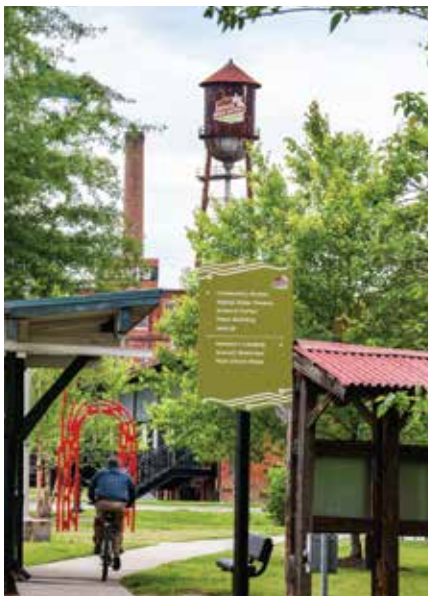
Enjoy a family dinner at the outdoor dining room of Me's Burgers and Brews, a literary inspired restaurant where "every burger tells a great story." You can even check out their website to see what the owners are currently reading, and then go buy it at The Dog-Eared Page bookshop!

ON A BUDGET

Make a locally-inspired dinner from ingredients you bought at the Farmers Market.

Evening

If you still have energy, Saturday evening is a great time to go to Grizzly's Hatchet House for some food, drinks, and hatchet throwing! For families with children over 10 River City Escapes will help you work together to solve a mystery!



Sunday

BREAKFAST

Take your newspaper, or your book from The Dog-Eared Page to S. Union Street Pocket Park to relax and eat the breakfast goodies you bought Saturday at the Farmers Market. The Park is built on the site of a building constructed sometime between 1877 and 1885 for the New & Miller Carriage Company during a time when streets in Danville were filled with horses, wagons, and carriages. When in the park, visitors are standing in the former stable, where horses bringing tobacco to auction would rest while their owners conducted business.

Lunch

ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Spend your last few hours in the River District taking one last leisurely walk on the Riverwalk Trail. Then stop by the Art Gallery on Craghead Street for a moment of beauty and inspiration.

FUN FAMILY WEEKEND

The Danville Science Center has something for everyone in its newly renovated exhibit space. You can catch an afternoon movie in the Digital Dome theatre, or let your kids run around Crescent Crossing (a play space for children up to 5 years old) housed in the newly renovated train station. The whole family can enjoy the interactive Water and Go! exhibits in the main building.

ON A BUDGET

If you already have a membership to another museum in the region, you might be able to take advantage of the Danville Science Center's reciprocal membership program, and get in for free! Or walk down Craghead to the Art Gallery on Craghead Street to view the latest exhibit.

Thank you for visiting the River District. We hope you had a fun, relaxing weekend, and we can't wait to see you again!

