



James River Tour

James River Tour				
Odometer	DIR	Road Name	Route#	Leg
0.0		Start at Belle Isle Parking		
0.0	L	Tredegar St		0.15
0.2		Stop at River Walkway/Lincoln Statue		
0.2	St	Tredegar St		0.20
0.4	BR	Federal Reserve Driveway		0.15
0.5	BL	S. 10th St		0.10
0.6	R	E. Byrd St		0.10
0.7	BR	Unnamed driveway		0.08
0.8		Stop at Pipeline Overlook		
0.8	N	Unnamed driveway		0.08
0.9	N	12th Street		0.10
1.0		Cross E. Canal St		
1.0	R	Shockoe Ln		0.05
1.0	BL	Shockoe Ln		0.05
1.1	R	E. Cary St	147	0.10
1.2		Cross 14th St	US 360	
1.2	St	E. Cary St	147	0.20
1.4	L	S. 17th St		0.15
1.5	R	E. Franklin St		0.90
2.4	L	N. 29th St		0.14
2.6	R	E. Broad St	US 60	0.39
2.9	R	N. 32 St		0.10
3.0	BL	E. Grace St		0.10
3.1		Stop at Chimborazo Overlook		
3.1	St	E. Grace St		0.10
3.2	R	Government Rd	US 60	0.30
3.5	R	Stony Run Rd		0.52
4.1	L	Williamsburg Ave		0.14
4.2	R	Nicholson St		0.30
4.5		Cross E. Main St (US 60)		
4.5	St	Wharf St		0.30
4.8	St	Dock St		0.25
5.1		Stop at Great Shiplock Park		

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Odometer	DIR	Road Name	Route#	Leg
5.1	St	Dock St		0.40
5.5	BL	Cap-to-Cap Trail		0.30
5.8	St	Dock St		0.26
6.0	L	S. 14th St	US 360	0.60
6.6	R	Floodwall Trail Eastbound		0.20
6.8	L	Brander St		1.00
7.8		Stop at Ancarrow's Landing		
7.8	R	Brander St		1.00
8.8	R	Floodwall Trail Westbound		0.20
9.0	S	S. 14th St	US 360	0.05
9.1	R	Floodwall Trail Westbound		0.15
9.2		Stairclimb!		
9.2	W	Floodwall Trail Westbound		0.70
9.9		Stop at James River Overlook		0.20
10.1	W	Riverview Pkwy		0.15
10.3	L	W. 12th St		0.05
10.3	R	Semmes Ave	US 60	0.15
10.5	R	W 20th St		0.10
10.6	L	Riverside Dr		1.20
11.8	R	James River Park		0.05
11.8	L	Unnamed Park Rd		0.90
12.7		Return East		
12.7	St	Unnamed Park Rd		1.90
14.6	L	Emergency Access Bridge		0.20
14.8	BL	Belle Isle Loop		1.20
16.0	N	Lee Suspension Bridge		0.50
16.5		Finish at parking		

Key: R=right; L=left; BR=bear right; BL=bear left; St=straight

Carl Armstrong
Map Series





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Ride Description:

James River Tour

Pace	Time	Miles	Terrain	Stops	Leader
		17	4		

Description: This new route for riders of all abilities explores the banks of the scenic James River in downtown Richmond. This will be a leisurely ride with several stops for sightseeing. The route is partly on roads and partly on trails. Some trails are paved and others have a firm gravel or rock surface. The off-road portions do not require any special bike handling expertise. It is recommended that participants use a bike with wide tires (mountain bike preferred, although a touring or hybrid bike with at least 28 mm/1 inch tires or wider should also work). Riders will experience the Pipeline Overlook, Chimborazo Park, Great Shiplock Park, the future western terminus of the Cap-to-Cap Trail, Ancarrow's Landing, cruising the path on top of the south bank's floodwall (wide enough for a car and, yes, there are railings to protect you), the shoreline trail at Reedy Creek, and Belle Isle. Note we will need to use a 'bucket brigade' to move our bikes up one flight of stairs. Cue sheets and maps will be provided.

Directions to the starting point at the Belle Isle parking: Traveling north on I-95: take exit 74C west, then follow signs to Civil War Visitor Center. Traveling South on I-95: use exit 75 for Civil War Visitor Center. Traveling east on I-64: follow to intersection with I-95 south, and then see directions for I-95. Traveling west on I-64, use the 5th Street (downtown) exit for the Richmond Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works. Once on Tredegar St, continue west past the Visitor Center to the Belle Isle parking lot on the right, just before you pass under the Lee Bridge. If possible, avoid parking directly under the train trestle as debris sometimes falls off the trains.

Ride Notes:

Safety

- E. Main St, Mayo Bridge (14th St) & Semmes Ave can be busy-please ride single file
- Railings on Lee pedestrian bridge are relatively low

Sights

- Tredegar Iron Works--the leading ordnance foundry of the Confederacy
 - Statue of Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad (Thomas was his real name; Tad was an abbreviation of his nickname "Tadpole" given because he had a 'big head'). Tad had no playmates-of two older brothers, Robert (oldest) was in college and Willie, had died three years earlier. Abraham Lincoln was a worn and weary fifty-six year old, and his son, Tad, an exuberant and irrepressible boy, the day that father and son, hand in hand, made history in Richmond. It was April 4, 1865 the day the President of the United States entered the City, which, until 36 hours earlier had served as the capital of the Confederacy.
 - It was also Tad's 12th birthday. Ten days later Tad went to the Grover Theater to see "Aladdin and the Magic Lamp" while his parents attended "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater. The same night, his father was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. Six years later, at the age of 18, Tad died as a result of tuberculosis.
- Pipeline Overlook and Hydro Plant
 - In 1888, Richmond became the first city in the world to successfully run an electric streetcar system. The plants that powered the system were eventually rebuilt on Brown's Island.
- Chimborazo Park
 - The park was named after the highest peak in Ecuador.
 - Chimborazo Hospital, established here during the Civil War, cared for thousands of Confederate wounded and was one of the world's largest military hospitals.
 - Note the smaller scale replica of the Statue of Liberty in the park.
- Great Ship Lock
 - Completed in 1854, the locks allowed ships to bypass the falls of the James and travel into Virginia's hills by connecting the James with Richmond Dock.



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- This was the first of several locks that raised boats about 60 feet.
- Cap-to-Cap Trail
 - A pedestrian and bicycle trail that connects the Commonwealth's past and present capitals of Jamestown, Williamsburg and Richmond along the Scenic Route 5 corridor, traversing 50+ miles, five jurisdictions and 400 years rich in history along one of the first inland routes in North America.
- Slave Trail
 - The trail many imported slaves took upon their arrival and entry into Virginia at Manchester Docks to Richmond. The same route also took some slaves sold from Lumpkin's Jail and other establishments in downtown Richmond during the antebellum years to the docks to be exported.
- Floodwall Trail
 - \$135 million floodwall was built along both the north and south sides of the river, ranging in height from 7 to 30 feet. But only the southern side has a walkway.
 - Begun in 1988, dedicated in 1994, the floodwall protects low-lying areas. The Flood Wall walk is a 1.5 mile paved trail from 9th street and Semmes Avenue (Manchester Bridge) to I-95.
- Reedy Creek Trail
 - Includes biking & hiking trails, nature trails, canoe put-ins, access to Belle Isle, and the headquarters of the park system.
- Belle Isle
 - The one-mile trail around the edge of the 54-acre island includes a walk along the falls of the James River, Civil War earthworks, an old quarry, ruins of a hydroelectric plant and plenty of rocks to relax and watch the river flow by.
 - It was used as a fishery in the 18th century
 - In the 1860s, the island had its own village, including a church, store and school.
 - During the Civil War thousands of Union soldiers were imprisoned there after July 1862. About 30,000 people were held there, and the most often cited number of dead is 1,000.
 - In 1865, the prison camp closed and a nail factory reopened and stayed open until 1972.
 - Belle Isle also was the site of a Virginia Electric Power Co. plant that was built in 1904 and closed in 1963. The ruins of a concrete dam steers all the water on the south side northward around the island. It originally sent water into a canal for the hydroelectric plant.

