

Virginia Beach 2024: Travel, Venue & Lodging Info

(with restaurant list) Aug 8, 2023

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE A RED-EYE FLIGHT, ARRIVING THE MORNING OF CLASS, BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD SITUATIONS WHERE A FLIGHT IS DELAYED SUFFICIENTLY THAT BY THE TIME THE STUDENT ARRIVED, IT WAS TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS.

The 2024 Divine Magic class in Virginia Beach is being held at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 3900 Atlantic Ave (at 39th Street). (More hotel details below.) It is located right on the beach. There are many restaurants within an easy walk of both, so no car is needed. It's easy to tell by the address just how close a restaurant is to the venue.

IMPORTANT: Virginia Beach is a very busy place year round. There are all kinds of conventions, festivals, reunions, etc., and the hotel may book up, as well as other places nearby. So, if you know you are coming to the class, **book your hotel room early**. If you book late, you may have some difficulty finding a room within an easy walk of the venue.

REGISTRATION: Done online at ric-classes.com, or contact Konstantin: konstantin@vortexhealing.org // (+1)-760-237-8114. Note that he is on US Pacific time.

TRAVEL:

Airport: There is an airport about 20 miles and a 25-minute drive from the beachfront of Virginia Beach, where the class and your hotel will be: **The Norfolk International Airport** (abbreviation is ORF). Unless you are flying from the East Coast of the US, you will most likely need to make a connecting flight from a larger hub. For airport information, go to <http://www.norfolkairport.com/>. Another option, if you want to have a car for your stay, is to fly direct into Washington DC, (Dulles International Airport), rent a car there, and then drive the rest of the way. That should save you some money on your flight, which will help pay for the car. The drive is about 210 miles and should take about 3 ½ hours, if there is mild traffic.

Getting to your hotel from Norfolk International Airport: The easiest thing is to take a taxi. There is a taxi stand at the airport, where cabs from different companies line up to take you to wherever you want to go. The cost should be about \$35-\$50. This is the rate for the cab (not including tip), not per person, as long as you are all going to the same hotel.

There is also:

Carey VIP service: If you have a few people, you can save by using this service. There are *no reservations* taken. You go to Door 3 of the airport for pickup, usually with a maximum wait of 15 minutes. \$33 plus \$5 for each additional passenger for up to 3 additional passengers (ie, 3 passengers would cost \$43; 4 would cost \$48). 1-877-422-1105 or 1-757-321-1541 (at the airport). Website is: <http://careyvip.net/careyvip/airportconnection/> or email sales@careyvip.net

Orange Peel Transportation: If you have a few people, you can save by using this service as well. Cost is \$42 for 1 person, \$44 for 2 people, \$46 for 3 people and then \$13 extra for each additional person. For this service, you need to *make advance reservations*. Call 1-757-463-7500. Or go to www.norfolkairportshuttle.com.

Train & Bus: There does not seem to be any bus or train possibilities from the airport.

Note that all the hotels below have free parking for their guests, and for their guests only. Our venue, though, may be able to accommodate parking for those needing to drive there. You'll have to check when you come to class the first day.

Car Rental: You can typically save quite a bit here by renting from an Enterprise Car Rental place that is just a few minutes by taxi off-airport. (Ric recently saved over \$160 on a 9-day rental this way.) Just go to Enterprise.com and type in Norfolk VA for the pickup place. After putting in your dates and going to the next page, choose the North Military Highway site, at 3561 N. Military Highway. Their phone number is 757-853-7700. You would need to take a short taxi over to them, but you could drop it at the airport without a fee for the return. Their schedule may change during the year, but most of the time it seems they are open to 7pm on weekdays and until 4pm on the weekend.

Often, the best discounts are with **Autoslash.com**, especially if you make your reservation far in advance. Once you make your reservation, go back to autoslash.com and click on Track a Rental. Enter the info and they will keep looking for prices to go down and when it does, they will send you the info. So, the further in advance you do this, the more likely that over time you will get significant price drops – and drops several times. Just note the number of stars of different companies they show post as options, and avoid the ones with 2 stars even if the price is better. Also, some of the cheaper prices are for paying in advance, which you don't want, because that means your rate is now set, so make sure you don't choose this by mistake.

Once you get an email that they have found a cheaper price, if you take it then you need to cancel your original one (which will be with Priceline) and go back to tracking again, to track the new reservation. I've had reservations that started with \$600+ drop down to \$300+ with the better companies, with more stars.

Insurance: If your credit card doesn't cover collision damage insurance, and/or if liability insurance is required, you may be interested in buying that ahead of time from a 3rd party, such as <https://www.insurance4carhire.com/products/usa-canada-car-hire-excess-insurance>. I haven't used them, so I cannot vouch for this one personally, and they can only be used by UK and some EU residents. But do look around and compare policies and customer reviews.

Car Rental Scams: Many car rental places have a scam where the contract says that they will ask for your gas receipt for proof that you've filled the tank close by, and if you can't provide it they will charge you a fee. But they may not ask and charge the fee anyway. You have to remember to show it them on your own accord. Also, there are no tolls between the airport and hotel, so no need to pay for any automatic toll coverage.

OUR VENUE:

Holiday Inn & Suites. +1-757 428-1711 // 3900 Atlantic Ave

<http://www.vboceanfrontnorth.com/> (For reservations at our group rate, use our link below.)

Rooms: They have very nice rooms here in this upscale hotel. And each room also has a private balcony which looks out to the sea. The regular queen-queen rooms (\$143+tax weekdays & \$163 Fri & Sat nights)) look out over the pool to the sea. The king rooms (same price as standard queen-queen) are oceanfront and have a pullout sofa. The queen-queen *suite* rooms are oceanfront (\$179/\$199 + tax) have a sofa pullout in a separate living room area. All rooms have balconies, except first floor rooms which have a patio. All come with cable TV, call-out phone, hair drier, refrigerator and microwave. Internet here is pretty good and is free. suites have pull-out queen sofas. The suites have a separate living area from the sleeping room.

We have a block of rooms and when this block fills up, we should be able to get more if there is still availability--until about a month beforehand. *Note that the hotel itself can become booked because of other events before that 'month beforehand' even arrives.* So, reserve early. Let me know if you try to reserve a room and there are no more left and I will see if I can get any more.

Free parking for guests.

Making a Reservation: You can call them or use their online link: [2024 VH VB Reservations](#) .

When you get to the page, the price shown will be an average of your total nights of weekdays & weekend nights, which may be different than the initial average prices shown on the page, depending on your dates. Click on the dates on the black bar a bit below the top that has the hotel's address in it, and that opens a drop-down in which you can choose your dates. (You can come in earlier and/or leave later than what the initial page shows.) Then scroll down and choose your room type.

If you book by calling the hotel, say you are with the VortexHealing group block, the code for which is **VOR**.

Note: They will take a charge of one night's stay to hold the reservation, but it is fully refundable by 72 hours before arrival, and later cancellations due to 'acts of God' will be taken under consideration.

Other Bits about the Hotel: The hotel has both an outdoor pool and a business center with a few computers. There is no free continental breakfast, but there is a breakfast restaurant, The Greenery, on site. On site is also an upscale restaurant, Isle of Capri, for dinner. There is also a patio café on site, The Square Whale, but it is only open certain times of the year, and first opens at noon. The hotel also has a children's activity program called Splash Kamp, but we don't know how extensive it is.

OTHER HOTELS:

Some students prefer to look for their own perfect dream hotel, and there are many of them in Virginia Beach. But I haven't made a list of these because I would rather encourage students to stay at the venue. Our rates are reasonable, the rooms are nice and the more students stay on site the more it starts to feel like a residential class. In addition, the more of us that are in the hotel, the more it will feel like our own space—and the quieter the hotel will be. There are all kinds of teenage groups that come through Virginia Beach: bands, cheerleader groups, etc. And they are not the quietest folk. So, the more of us that are at the hotel, the less of 'them' there will be, and the better chance you have of being in a quiet environment in the evening, when you want to sleep. Of course, if you need a suite and they have run out, or if you intend on cooking, or simply need less expensive accommodations, do check out other places. There are lots of other hotels, with all kinds of price ranges, to be found within walking distance.

Although I am not making a list of other hotels, I do want to make you aware of one near the Holiday Inn, since it is close by and has kitchenettes and efficiencies for cooking your own food, and they have some larger units, which can be shared by more students to lower rent costs. It is called the Cutty Sark Motel. www.cuttysarkvb.com . Note that to confirm a reservation there, the full amount of the stay must be paid in advance. If for any reason a guest needs to cancel an efficiency at least 14 days prior to arrival, they do refund fully, minus \$25 administrative fee. But if the guest books a reduced rate NON-REFUNDABLE unit, no refund will be given. There are only maybe 13 or 14 units, there, so they can't afford to allow last-minute cancellations for our long stays. If you will be arriving late, let them know and they will accommodate you.

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Local Tidbits:

(Note, except where noted, distances are from the Surfside venue.)

Sea, Beach & Boardwalk: these are the best attractions in the area.

Health Foods:

ARE – Association for Research and Enlightenment – This is the **Edgar Cayce Institute**

215 67th St, 1-757-437-7202 www.edgarcayce.org

Historic library, book store, labyrinth

Massage and day spa.

Pedaling on the Boardwalk: You can rent bikes, and there are little buggies you can rent that seat about 6 people, that move by everyone (or most everyone) pedaling. You can pedal down the boardwalk in them in the bicycle lanes.

RESTAURANTS & GROCERIES—lots of restaurants and one Supermarket within an easy walk. See the listings, below.

PHARMACY 17th Street and Atlantic

LAUNDROMAT Laskin (31st Street) between Arctic and Baltic

COMPUTER ACCESS:

Our Venues have a few computer stations on the ground floor that are free to use.

Public Library has free access to computer, 17th St (also called Virginia Beach Blvd and Cypress. Need a picture I.D. and apply for Internet card which is free. Library phone is 757-385-2640. Call for current hours of operation.

EXERCISE/GYM/YOGA www.wareingsgym.com // 700 19th Street // 757 491 0700

COMEDY CLUB

Ha! Comedy Club // 1910 Atlantic Avenue // (757) 491-3400

WEBSITES for More Info:

www.vbfun.com/visitors/

www.virginiabeachonline.com

www.frommers.com/destinations/virginiabeach

www.tripadvisor.com

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FOOD & RESTAURANTS

Note: some nearby restaurants will deliver directly, or deliver through orderup.com.

HEALTH FOODS & SUPERMARKET

Teddy's Health Food Market // 3701 Pacific Ave // 757-963-6636

This is just a few blocks away. A small health food store but with takeaway lunches. They were going to expand and have a café, which may or may not have happened by class time.

The Heritage Health Food Store // 984 Laskin Rd., (off Oriole Dr.) // 757-428-0500.

About 2 miles away (40 minutes brisk walk). This is a larger health food store, with a café, deli & juice bar. Vegan options. Macrobiotic options. Not pure vegetarian. Good selection of organic produce. Menu: Soups, salads, sandwiches and desserts. Fresh juices and smoothies.

Students with a business license, as well as practitioners, can apply for a business account for discounts. If you are over 50 years old, let them know at checkout and you will get a discount as well. Good discounts on Edgar Cayce products. They also offer massage.

Hours: Monday to Saturday 10 am to 7 pm (until 9 pm on Friday); Sunday noon to 7 pm.

Trader Joe's // 503 Hilltop Plaza // 757-422-4840. ~7 min drive (~3.7 mi) out on Laskin Rd.

All kinds of health foods along with regular supermarket items at excellent prices. 9-9am daily.

Whole Foods 1800 Laskin Rd.

Harris Teeter Large Supermarket (& pharmacy) within walking distance. // 2800 Arctic Ave. Just under a mile away. Open 24 hours. Has a decent selection of organic produce.

Virginia Garden Organic Grocery // 3640 Dam Neck Road // ~15 min drive (~10 mi) 757-427-0378. Monday-Saturday 10-7, closed Sun.

They have some prepared foods, organic produce and grocery. There is also a Farmer's Market at this location which features locally grown produce.

Organic Food Depot // 4301 Commuter Drive // 757-467-8999 ~ 15 min drive (~11 mi) M-Th 10-7; Fri 10-8; Sat & Sun 10-6.. A grocery store with excellent produce selection.**Heath Food Centers** // 5312 Kemps River Drive // 757-523-8961 ~20 min drive (~13.5 mi) M-F 10-7; Sat 10-6; Sun closed. Grocery, but no produce or prepared foods.**RESTAURANTS less than a 15 min walk from Four Points**

Fish Bones Restaurant. 1211 Atlantic Ave.// 757-422-4557. Salad bar with main dish. Large fish portions. Next door to venue.

Raven // 1200 Atlantic Avenue // 757 425 1200. About a 25 min walk.

Rockfish Boardwalk Bar and Grill // 16th and Oceanfront. Has tables on the oceanside.

The Galley // 1401 Atlantic Ave. 491-6478. The Galley is tailored to the seafood lover

Mahi Mah's // 615 Atlantic Ave (in Ramada Hotel). 757-437-8030. There are two dining rooms, a large bar and a raw bar. The décor is elegantly paneled in mahogany with large windows for a good ocean view. Outdoor dining available stage. No reservations in summer. Great lunch menu; breakfast buffet Mon-Sat \$5.99. Early dining discounts.

Laverne's/Chix Café // 7th & Oceanfront. 757-428-6836. Chix Cafe is the 'smoking allowed' bar/cafe side, which serves the same menu. Prices are average for oceanfront setting. Can be noisy. Outside dining available. Lunch and dinner.

Black Angus Restaurant // 706 Atlantic Ave. 757-428-7700. In addition to black angus burgers & steak, they also have some salads, chicken, lamb chops and a few pasta dishes.

Waterman's Beachwood Grill // 415 Atlantic Avenue // 757-428-3644. You can eat outside next to the boardwalk or in the spacious dining area. Inside seating is in tiers & everybody has a great view of the ocean . Expect a slight wait for seating. Reservations accepted. Lunch & Dinner.

RESTAURANTS less than a 20 min walk from Holiday Inn:

Taste // 36th and Pacific 757 422 3399 lunch only closes at 6. Very slow on weekends.

Catch 31 // 3001 Atlantic Avenue// 757 213 3472. The lunch special was a student favorite.

Lager Heads // 3315 Atlantic Ave. Excellent Burgers. Noisy inside.

Shoreline Grill // 28 & Atlantic Ave

Katie's 33r St Cafe// 3301 Atlantic Ave // 747-428-4585

Isle of Capri // the restaurant at the Holiday Inn, 3900 & Atlantic Ave. The café on the 1st floor does breakfast.

Nat's Surf Sports: Grill // Laskin & Arctic. This will be smoky, but you can watch all the sports games here.

North Beach Bar & Grill // 3107 Atlantic Ave // 757-491-1800

Neptune's Restaurant // 30th St & Atlantic Ave // 757-216-3016

Nick's Seafood // Laskin between Arctic and Baltic

Ellington's on the Boardwalk at 29th St 757-417-7007. There is also another restaurant next door that is more expensive & most likely a wait without a reservation.

Eat, an American Bistro // 4005 Atlantic Ave. 757-965-2472. Excellent food with interesting menu. Try the veal meatloaf.

Perk Up Café // 34th and Pacific

Provisions Café // 33th and Atlantic

Pokahontas Pancakes & Waffles // Atlantic and 36th

Pacifica Tapas // 40th and Atlantic (behind 7-11)

Aqua Vi (in the Sheraton) 35th and Atlantic Ave // Lunch recommended

Murphy's Pub // 30th St & Pacific Ave // 757-417-7701

Papa John's Laskin & Arctic (1 block after Pacific Ave)

New Moon Café // 500 Pinewood Dr. // 757-437-8230 Go inland on 32nd St about 4 blocks
Dinner only.

Terrapin Restaurant // 3102 Holly Rd. 757-321-6688 Holly Rd is 3 blocks inland,
between 31 & 32nd Sts. Dinner only. Closed Monday.

Tautogs // 205 23rd St (by Atlantic Ave) 757-422-0081. Very reasonable prices. Dinner only.

Doc Taylor's: next door to Tautogs, has breakfast & lunch only.

Shucker's Café & Raw Bar // 2407 Pacific Ave (by 24th St) 757-425-8676

Tatums in Ramada Limited Hotel at Laskin & Atlantic Ave 757-266-8227 Lunch & dinner

Perk Up Café // 34 & Pacific

Provisions & Café // 33rd St & Atlantic Ave

Belvedere Motel, breakfast & lunch-3603 Atlantic Ave Supposedly, the locals like this for
breakfast. Closes at 2pm.

Soya Sushi Bar and Bistro // 225 Laskin Road (near Atlantic Avenue) // 757 417 7692

SPECIALTY & ETHNIC RESTAURANTS

INDIAN

Nawab // 756 1st Colonial Rd, // 757-491-8600 Needs a car to get to. (One student said it
the best Indian food he had ever eaten.

CHINESE

Wong's Chinese // 1102 Atlantic Avenue // 757-491-9664. About a 25 min walk.

China Harbor // 632 Virginia Beach Blvd. (17th Street) Between Mediterranean and
Cypress // 757 428 2467. About a 40 min walk.

JAPANESE

Sakura Japanese Restaurant // Pacific Ave between 36-37th Streets. (757) 428-2899.
Sushi.

Osaka Japanese Restaurant // 19th and Mediterranean 757 458 8609. About a 25 min walk.

ITALIAN

Mannino's Italian Bistro // Atlantic Ave 34-35 St.

Il Giardino Ristorante // 910 Atlantic Ave. 757-422-6464. About a half-hour walk. Fresh pizzas baked in a wood- burning, open-hearth oven in a corner of the spacious dining room. A varied selection of pastas, chicken, fish, meat, and vegetarian entrees. Extensive wine list is. Dinner only. Reservations accepted.

Venice Italian // 1516 Atlantic Ave 757-425-1360/ About a 25 min walk.

MEXICAN

Pelon's Baja Grill: California Style Mexican Food // Pacific Ave between 36th St- 37th St
They have soups & salads, tacos, burritos, etc. 757-417-3970

Baja Cantina // 206 23rd St. (by Atlantic Ave) 757-437-2920 lunch & dinner

PIZZA- *various pizza places on Atlantic & Pacific Ave*

COFFEE

Java and Surf "A Coffee Joint" // 25th Street and Pacific Avenue // 757 425 7650

Call in orders welcome // Monday-Saturday 6:30 am to 3 pm. // Sunday 8 am to 3 pm

Starbucks // Pacific and 31st Street

ICE CREAM *(These are over a mile away.)*

Ben and Jerry's // 14th Street and Atlantic

Haagen-Dazs // 6th Street and Atlantic & 200 21st Street (off Atlantic)

Dairy Queen // 17th Street and Atlantic

Frozen Custard // 15th Street and Atlantic

NOT at WALKING DISTANCE

There are a good handful of restaurants in the shopping center at 1550 Laskin Road, Hilltop East: Blue Turtle, Back Bay Bistro & Pizza Co, Melting Pot— a Fondue Restaurant, Five & Vine, Cobalt Grille, Blue Fin Japanese Restaurant, Balachi Mediterranean Café, Avanti, The Bar-B-Q Grill, PJ Gator's, Mei Zhen (Chinese), No Frill Grill.

In addition, a little past Hilltop is Bangkok Gardern (Thai) and Burton's Grill. Aztec Mexican Restaurant is in Hilltop Mall on Laskin Rd. And across the street, in the Trader Joe's shopping center is Guads Restarante (Mexican) and Viet Bistro (Vietnamese). Viet Bistro may have delivery available through orderup.com

Azar's Natural Foods Mediterranean Specialties // 108 Prescott Ave (757) 486-7778

This is about a 13 min drive inland (~9 miles) Recommended by locals.

Plaza Azteca // 1824 Laskin Rd (757) 431-8135. Excellent Mexican Restaurant. ~ 3 ½ mi