Self Guided Campus Tour

This tour will take you around campus in 30-45 minutes and begins at the Stephen Robert ’62 Campus Center at Faunce House located at 75 Waterman Street. Please refer to the map (see reverse) as needed.

A few facts about Brown: Founded in 1764, Brown is the seventh oldest college in the nation. The campus has over 240 buildings, half of which were built before 1900. First known as Rhode Island College, the university was renamed Brown University in 1804 when Mr. Nicholas Brown, a prominent graduate of the school (class of 1786), contributed $5,000.

* Your starting point is Faunce House (1903), which is home to many student resources, including the Stephen Robert ’62 Campus Center, which opened in 2016. Faunce provides a beautiful space for students to gather, work on projects, and grab a bite to eat. Faunce also houses the Undergraduate Council of Students, which is the oldest student government in the nation.

* Exit Faunce onto the Main Green. Follow the path on the right that will lead you next to Manning Hall (1855), which houses a non-sectarian chapel on the upper level and the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology Gallery on the lower level. To the left is University Hall (1770), the college’s oldest building. During Brown’s early years, University Hall held everything from classrooms to dorm rooms. George Washington’s troops stayed here briefly in 1776.

* As you pass between University and Manning Halls, you will enter the Quiet Green. Look right to the corner of the green and you will see the Carrie Bell Tower. Across Waterman Street from Carrie Bell Tower on your right is Robinson Hall (1878), a former library and current home of the Department of Economics. In front of you, on Prospect Street, the large marble building directly in front of you is the John Hay Library (1910), one of seven libraries on campus. The John Hay currently houses rare books and special collections, including Babylonian clay tablets, John Audubon’s Birds of America, and the world’s largest collection of comic books and toy soldiers. It held the main University library collection until 1964, when they moved across College Street to the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library (located in front of you on the left). Commonly known as “the Rock,” this is the main humanities and social sciences library of Brown. It holds approximately 3 million of the university’s 5.2 million volumes, and the stacks are open.

* Turn left and walk along the front of University Hall. At the bottom of the Quiet Green to your right you will see the Van Wickle Gates. The gates open twice a year — once during Convocation to welcome incoming students and once during Commencement to usher out the graduating class. Legend has it that those students who pass through the main center gates more than twice during their undergraduate years court disaster.

* Turn left and return to the Main Green. On your right are two buildings: Slater Hall (1877), a popular upperclassman dorm, and Rhode Island Hall. Recently renovated, Rhode Island Hall houses the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, which integrates the Departments of Classics, Anthropology, Egyptology, Religious Studies, and the History of Mathematics into one institute.

* Cross the Green. The stone building directly in front of you is Wilson Hall (1891). Wilson holds many small classrooms, and many student groups use it for meetings or practices. To the right of Wilson is the John Carter Brown Library (1904), which holds one of the world’s largest collections of early Americana, including a newly uncovered extremely rare print made by Paul Revere. To the left of Wilson Hall is Sayles Hall (1881), which displays paintings of past presidents and friends of the University. It also houses the largest Hutchings-Votey organ in the world, with over 6,000 pipes and 100 miles of wire. The hall is used for many purposes, including midnight organ concerts on the scariest nights of the year. To the left of Sayles is Salomon Hall (1862), where invited speakers, musical groups, and dance troupes perform and large lecture classes are housed.

* Walk between Sayles and Salomon Halls onto Simmons Quadrangle formerly known as Lincoln Field. It used to be a swamp, but was filled in to make a baseball field. This use was short-lived, since baseballs could damage the glass window on the back of Sayles. To your left is Lyman Hall and Leeds Theater (1861), one of four main stages at Brown. Many theatrical performance groups put on different types of shows here. To your right is Maxcy Hall (1895), one of the oldest Sociology departments in the country.

* Continue walking down the Lincoln Field. Turn left on the path between the Lyman Hall and Metcalf Research Lab (1898). Metcalf was recently renovated and now houses the Cognitive, Linguistics, and Psychological Sciences Department. The award-winning greenhouse on your left is open to visitors — stop in if you have a moment. Continue until to reach Waterman Street, the greenhouse will be on your left.

* Cross Waterman Street at the crosswalk, look right to see the Sciences Library (1971), the tallest building located on the corner of Waterman and Thayer Streets. The “SciL” houses the recently renovated Friedman Study Center and Science Center. In 2000, students from Technology House, one of the program houses at Brown, wired the outside of the building with flicking lights to offer Brown students the world’s largest game of Tetris. As you continue down “the walk,” note the Urban Environmental Lab on your left. The Lab has a garden in which students develop sustainable living techniques and urban self-sufficiency.

* Cross Angell Street. On your right is the Perry and Marty Granoff Center (2011). This building is designed to help foster interdisciplinary creativity and collaboration between the arts, humanities, and sciences. Almost all of the interior walls are made of glass so that students may glean inspiration from all of the different activities that the Center hosts. Continue to walk and cross Olive Street. As you pass under the bridge, you will be surrounded by the Biomedical Center (1969) and the Sidney Frank Hall for Life Sciences (2006). These buildings host the Biology and Neuroscience departments, and include useful research tools like MRI machines and 3D televisions for molecular modeling. In 2004, Sidney Frank gave what was at the time the single largest donation to any university; although he only spent one year at Brown it was life changing and he never wanted any student to be unable to attend Brown due to finances.

* Cross Meeting Street. You are now on the Pembroke portion of campus. Pembroke College was Brown’s sister school until the two merged in 1971. To your right is the Verney Woolley Dining Hall (1966). Affectionately known as the “V-Dub,” this is an all-you-can-eat buffet-style dining hall with salad bar, hot entrees, vegetarian entrees, kosher meals, freshly baked breads and desserts, ice cream machines and theme meals. Sample the fare — visitors are welcome to buy lunch at the V-Dub. Just above the V-Dub are Emery and Woolley Halls (1965). These are popular residence halls for first-year students. To the left, note Alumnae Hall (1927). It holds a multipurpose space used for everything from performances to dances. Across from Alumnae Hall is Smith-Buonnano Hall, which houses many classrooms.

Although this concludes the tour, we recognize there is much more to see and recommend reviewing the Brown University Campus Map to locate additional areas of interest including specific departments, athletic facilities, dining halls, dormitories, Brown Bookstore and more...

Thank you for joining us today, we hope you enjoyed your walk around Brown! To return to Faunce House, turn around, walk back to Waterman Street, and take a right. Faunce House will be on your left. If you are hungry, we recommend walking down Thayer Street and sampling one of the many restaurants.