

Touring Washington, D.C. and the Surrounding Area

The Washington area offers a wonderful variety of opportunities for exploration and fun for visitors. Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah offer hiking, the Chesapeake Bay offers boating and fishing, and of course our Capital City is full of museums, monuments, theaters, and walking tours. We hope this document will help you find opportunities to explore this area in conjunction with the 2010 WOSA reunion. (See <http://www.tourmobile.com/pdf/map.pdf> for a visitor's map of the District.)

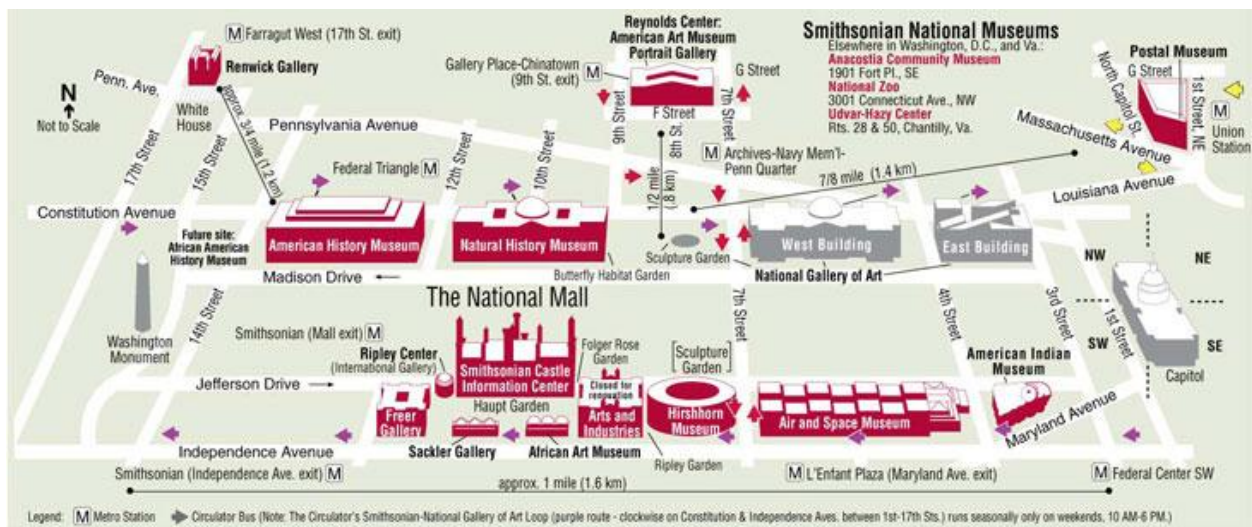
The National Mall



The Mall – our country's front yard – is managed by the National Park Service and is the city's center of gravity. Most of our museums and monuments, and many of our public activities, are here or take place here. It runs from the Capitol on the eastern end to the Lincoln Memorial and Potomac River on the west. During the summer the Mall is alive with the National Folk Life Festival, concerts, outdoor movies, and volleyball and softball games. There are also many points of interest that are within a few blocks of the Mall – the White House, Library of Congress, Newseum, and Kennedy Center, for example.

Museums on the Mall

There are 16 Smithsonian museums on or near the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Capitol (between 3rd and 14th streets and Independence and Constitution Avenues). Admission is free and hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Phone 202-633-1000 or visit <http://www.si.edu/visit/infocenter/mallmap.htm> for a full list, a map, and interactive floor plans



Memorials on the Mall



Visiting the many memorials on the mall can easily take a full day. Memorials are open daily from 8 AM to Midnight. (Click [here](#) for an interactive map of memorials on the Mall.)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Located among the cherry trees near the Tidal Basin and the Jefferson Memorial, this is a tribute to the 32nd President, tracing twelve years of history through four outdoor galleries, one for each of FDR's terms in office. <http://www.nps.gov/fdrm/home.htm>

Lincoln Memorial

This tribute to President Abraham Lincoln was built to resemble a Greek temple and is located at 23rd Street, N.W. Metro riders can access the Lincoln Memorial on the Orange and Blue Lines at the Foggy Bottom Stop.

<http://www.nps.gov/linc/>



Washington Monument

Located between the Capitol building and the Lincoln memorial. Reserve tickets in advance at 1-800-967-2283 or go to click [here](#) to reserve tickets online. Visitors may also obtain same-day, timed tickets at the 15th Street kiosk.

World War II Memorial

Completed in the spring of 2004, our newest memorial is in granite and bronze and situated on 17th Street, N.W. near the Reflecting Pool. <http://www.wwiimemorial.com>



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

Set in the grassy park of Constitution Gardens, this is perhaps the most moving of our memorials. The Wall contains the names of 58,260 men and women who were killed or remain missing from the Vietnam War. The wall is built into the earth below ground level and is located at Bacon Drive and Constitution Avenue. <http://thewall-usa.com>



The Jefferson Memorial

This is a particularly lovely attraction during the spring's Cherry Blossom festival because it is on the Tidal Basin and fronted by 3,700 cherry trees, but it is a wonderful memorial to visit any time of the year. <http://www.nps.gov/thje/>

The Korean War Veteran's Memorial

Made up of a series of sculptures representing a squad of soldiers on patrol, the memorial honors those who fought in the Korean War. It is located a short distance from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. <http://www.nps.gov/kowa>

Arlington National Cemetery

Although not located on the Mall, the cemetery is just west of the Lincoln Memorial, a lovely walk across the Memorial Bridge that spans the Potomac River. Over 300,000 veterans and government personnel are interred at Arlington Cemetery. The cemetery grounds contain the Tomb of the Unknowns; John, Robert, and Ted Kennedy memorials; and memorials to many others, including PanAm flight 103 victims, the space shuttle challenger crew, and the Civil War Unknowns. The changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns is pretty awesome. The cemetery is open to the public every day from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ample paid parking is available at \$1.25 for the first three hours. You can also reach the cemetery on Metro's Blue Line at the Arlington National Cemetery stop. Call 703-607-8000 or visit <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org>



Getting To and Around the Mall

We recommend that you not try to drive and park in the Mall area unless you are very patient and willing to search up and down for a precious parking spot. The easiest way to get to the Mall is by subway, taking the Orange line to the Smithsonian station. That will let you out approximately in the middle of the Mall. If you plan to visit the western end of the Mall, the Orange and Blue line Foggy Bottom stop are probably closest.

The Mall stretches 2.2 miles from the Capitol to Lincoln memorials, so if you like to walk it is not too demanding to cover the Mall by foot. However, for \$7.00 (last summer's price) you can purchase an all-day pass on a Tourmobile bus that circles the Mall and nearby sites. The all-day pass allows you unlimited hops on and off. For further details, including a route map, see <http://tourmobile.com>.

Other Washington Points of Interest

The White House

The White House needs no introduction. It is located between 15th and 17th Streets, NW just on the north side of the Washington Monument and Mall. The word on the street is that tours have become even more restricted due to recent party crashing events, but if you would like to try you must request tickets through your Member of Congress, or through one's Washington embassy, at least one month and up to six months in advance. There is a White House Visitor's Center at 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue (202-208-1631) or go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov>



U.S. Botanic Garden

This is North America's oldest botanic garden with a jungle area and orchid house. It is located just west of the Capitol at 100 Maryland Ave., S.E. Entrance is free. Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The closest Metro stop is at Federal Center. 202-225-8333 www.usbg.gov

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

See where your money is manufactured. Tours are offered Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and last 45 to 50 minutes. Call 202-874-2330 or visit <http://www.moneyfactory.gov>

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are required for entry to the Holocaust (but not the Hall of Remembrance). Same-day tickets are available at the Museum Ticket Office on the 14th Street side. Advance tickets are available through 1-800-400-9373. For more information call 202-488-0400 or visit <http://www.ushmm.org>



U.S. Capitol

Tours can be booked in advance online. Visitor services are available at the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center on the west side of the building, or call 202-226-8000. Also see www.visitthecapitol.gov

Washington National Cathedral

This is the world's sixth largest cathedral, a Gothic-style house of worship for all Christian faiths; it is considered a "Church for National Purposes". Guided tours and gardens open daily till dusk. 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cathedral is at 3101 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Tel. 202-537-6200, or see www.nationalcathedral.org.

Library of Congress

This is the world's largest library with 130 million books, manuscripts, and artifacts. It is located in two buildings on the southeast corner of the Capitol. It also houses the Mary Pickford Theater (Motion Picture and Television Reading Room). Entrance is free and doors are open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tours start at half past each hour. Take the Metro's Orange or Blue lines to the Capitol South station. For information call 202-207-8000. For film information call 202-707-5677 or see <http://www.loc.gov>

Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens

This 25-acre estate overlooking Washington's Rock Creek Park is a Georgian-style mansion with a grand entrance, large library and pavilion. The estate belonged to Post cereal heiress Marjorie Meriwether Post, and has some of the rare 18th and 19th century Russian imperial art from Czarist treasures, jewelry, and portraits. The gardens include French, Rose, Japanese styles and greenhouses. There is a café and gift shop on the property, which is located at 4155 Linean Ave., N.W. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays and evenings. Free Parking. Suggested donation: Adults \$12, Seniors (65+) \$10, Children \$5. Call 202-685-5807 or visit www.hillwoodmuseum.org

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

This center is a living memorial to John F. Kennedy and hosts dramas, musicals, dance, and orchestra performances, operas, jazz, and popular music. It houses eight theaters and gives 3,000 performances a year. There is a free musical performance every evening at 6:00 PM on the Millennium Stage. Special-priced tickets are available for students, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Call 877-965-3872 to charge tickets or visit <http://www.kennedy-center.org> for schedules or to purchase tickets online.

President Lincoln's Cottage

Newly renovated, Lincoln and his family lived here during the summer and fall seasons of the civil war and the President rode his horse daily to and from the White House. It is located about 3 miles north of the White House on the campus of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Tickets (\$12/adult, \$5 for children) are required. <http://www.lincolncottage.org>.

Newseum

This museum of American news is an interactive group of 14 galleries and 15 theaters and has become a very popular stop for visitors. It is located across Pennsylvania Avenue from the National Gallery of Art at 6th Street. Admission is \$20 (adults), \$18 for Seniors (65+). Call 888-NEWSEUM or visit <http://www.newseum.org> for details.

International Spy Museum

This museum's mission is to "educate the public about espionage in an engaging way and to provide a context that fosters understanding of its important role in and impact on current and historic events." It offers a variety of tours, permanent exhibits, and interactive role-play tours for children and adults. It is open daily from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM and located at 800 F Street NW. Take the Red, Yellow, or Green line to the Gallery/Chinatown stop or the Orange or Blue line to the Metro Center stop. See <http://spymuseum.org> for details.

The Supreme Court

The Court is the highest tribunal in the nation for all cases and controversies arising under the Constitution of the United States. It is located at 1st Street and East Capitol, immediately to the east of the Capitol. The building is open for business from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. See www.supremecourtus.gov for details.

Union Station

Our Amtrak depot is a Beaux Arts landmark with a glorious (and infamous) history marked by Presidential and royal travel (and tremendous contracting graft during its many construction projects). It now houses movie theaters, international restaurants, cafes, and shops that are open from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Take the Metro's Red line to the Union Station stop. Call 202-371-9441 or visit www.unionstationdc.com for details.

The Zoo

The Smithsonian's National Zoological Park was established 117 years ago. It is located at 3000 Connecticut Ave., NW and sits on 63 acres. It holds 2,700 animals of 435 species. Admission is free. Parking is available for a fee. Take the Red line to the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan stop or the Cleveland Park stop. See <http://www.nationalzoo.si.edu>

Northern Virginia

George Washington's Mount Vernon

Tour the Mansion house situated in a beautiful location, explore over a dozen outbuildings including slave quarters, kitchen, stables, greenhouse. Stroll through four different gardens, hike the forest trail, the four-acre working farm and more. Open daily, with restaurant and food, souvenir shop amenities.

Admission: Adults: \$15, Seniors aged 62+: \$14, Youth 6-11: \$7. Children under 6 are free. Mount Vernon is located 16 miles south of Washington, D.C in Virginia at the southern terminus of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Parking is free. You can also take a bus from the Metro Yellow line Huntington Station, or take a river cruise along the Potomac River from Washington DC.

<http://www.mountvernon.org>

The Shenandoah National Park

This park covers a 105-mile stretch from Front Royal, Virginia to the Waynesboro-Charlottesville area. It includes 300 square miles of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the southern Appalachians. The landscape is forested with tens of thousands of living creatures. Skyline Drive is the scenic drive that takes you through the park with four entrances and exits. A Forest Ranger greets cars that enter with maps noting overlooks, visitor centers, bookstores, exhibits, lodges, restaurants and gift shops. Ranger-guided programs give you an opportunity to explore. 1 to 7-day vehicle fee is \$15.00. Shenandoah National Park has four developed camp sites. Rates are \$15-\$20/night. Reservations can be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or at <http://visitshenandoah.com/>.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

The 88.5-acre island – located immediately across the Potomac River from the Kennedy Center on the George Washington Memorial Parkway -- is open year round from dawn to dusk. There are trails for spotting wild life and a bronze statue of Roosevelt, the environmentalist. There is free parking at the island. For directions and information call 703-289-2500 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/this/>

National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

This center near Washington Dulles International Airport (and the WOSA reunion site) is the companion facility to the Museum on the National Mall. Thousands of aviation and space artifacts are on display. Its address is 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly, VA 20150. Admission is free. Public parking is \$15.00 per vehicle. Call 202-663-1000 for information and directions or visit <http://www.nasm.si.edu>.

Historic Neighborhoods

See: <http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/homepage2549/index.htm>

Adams Morgan

This is an international community known for dining and vibrant nightlife. Cuisines range from African to Vietnamese. Metro stops via Calvert, 18th and U Street.

Alexandria (Old Town), Virginia

Old Town Alexandria is a restored neighborhood where 18th and 19th century row houses line the streets alongside cafes, antiques and boutiques. Take the Metro to King Street and then a free trolley to the Waterfront.

Arlington, Virginia

This county covers the ethnically very diverse neighborhoods of Rosslyn, Clarendon, Ballston, Shirlington, Crystal City and Pentagon City.

Bethesda, Maryland

Bethesda is a bustling center with offices, shops, theaters and eateries. Take Metro's Red line to the Bethesda stop. North Bethesda has the National Institutes of Health and the Music Center at Strathmore.

Capitol Hill

This community is one of Washington's oldest neighborhoods featuring 19th century residences and marble Congressional Offices. Southeast of the Capitol at 7th and C Streets, S.E. is the Eastern Market with crafts, produce, and hot lunches. North of the Capitol is Union Station, an Amtrak depot with shops, cafes and a Cineplex.

Chevy Chase

This retail district straddles the D.C.-Maryland boundary at Wisconsin and Western Avenues. It features restaurants, a cinema and fine shops – Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdale's Cartier, Bulgari, and Tiffany. Take the Metro's Red line to the Friendship Heights stop.

DuPont Circle

During America's Gilded Age, this was the promenade for old money. It is now known for galleries and night life.

Foggy Bottom

Located just east of Georgetown, Foggy Bottom is home to the State Department, George Washington University, G.W. Hospital, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Take the Orange or Blue lines to the Foggy Bottom/GWU stop.

Georgetown

Historically known for its homes of Washington's elite and Georgetown University, M Street and Wisconsin Ave. cross the center of this area. Brick row houses coexist with shops, restaurants and bars and Georgetown students. A circulator bus runs east-west (Union Station to Georgetown) on a 10-minute cycle from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Call 202-298-9222 or see <http://www.georgetowndc.com/>.

Tysons Corner, Virginia

Tysons is a retail hub with two megamalls – Tysons Corner Center and Tysons Galleria. The Tysons Corner Center is the largest mall in the Washington, D.C. area with 290 stores with anchor centers which include Nordstrom, Bloomingdales, Hecht's, Lord and Taylor, L.L. Bean and 16 AMC Theaters. It is located at 2001 International Drive, McLean, VA 22102. The Galleria, just across Rt. 123 from Tyson's Center is newer and more upscale. Both are just off 495 near the intersection of International Drive and Route 123. www.shoptyson.com

U Street/Logan Circle/14th Street Corridor

This neighborhood was the center of D.C.'s African-American community in the early 20th century. It now hosts bars, shops and cafes along U Street N.W. between 9th and 17th Streets. It also houses many of Washington's serious theaters and galleries on 14th Street N.W. between P and U.

Waterfront

Located in the Southwest quadrant of the city you'll find the Navy Museum and the new Washington National's baseball stadium. On the Southwest Waterfront, find seafood restaurants, nightclubs, a large

fish market on floating barges, and dinner cruises which dock at the east end of Water Street , S.W. between 6th and 10th streets. The Waterfront is walking distance to the National Mall, Smithsonian Museums, and national monuments

Woodley Park

Connecticut Avenue from Calvert Street to Cleveland Park, an area with cafes, restaurants, the National Zoo and Art Deco Uptown Theater.

Further Information Resources for Washington, DC:

1. <http://www.culturaltourismdc.org> is an excellent resource for activities across a wide variety of events and tours in the District, including many – such as walking tours through historical neighborhoods – that are not widely known or publicized.
2. <http://washington.org> provides information about upcoming events, hotels, night life, restaurants, and related activities. This site is sponsored by a consortium of local businesses and organizations that have an interest in promoting the District as a travel destination.
3. <http://clerk.house.gov> is an excellent resource for those interested in visiting the U.S. Capital building, its history, and current events and issues. It also contains information and telephone numbers for current House members. Also see <http://house.gov> and <http://senate.gov>.
4. <http://www.kennedy-center.org> offers a look at current and scheduled concerts and activities at the Kennedy, including those by the National Symphony. This site also contains details about the free nightly (6:00 PM) Millennium Stage concerts that are held in the lobby of the Kennedy Center. (Millennium Stage concerts are also streamed live over the Internet at this site.)
5. <http://www.washingtonian.com/> offers good information on hotels, bars, restaurants, all kinds of events, tours, etc.
6. <http://www.wmata.com> Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority site provides maps, information and trip planners for metro and bus services in Washington DC. This provides handy tools for those opting to use public transport. (Note for those with cell phones that run applications: There are a number of free apps available that offer similar tools for Metro services.)