

WASHINGTON DC



The US Capital was named in honour of George Washington, the country's first President, when it was founded in 1791. Since that time, this prestigious city has been home to the country's top politicians. Nearly 715,000 people live in Washington, DC. In addition to its museums and important political monuments, you will enjoy the natural beauty of the nation's capital. Seasonal highlights include the cherry blossoms in April, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in summer, and the bright foliage of the US National Arboretum in the fall.

WHAT TO DO

THE VISION OF PIERRE-CHARLES L'ENFANT

Washington, DC. was designed in **1791** by the great French architect and city planner **Pierre-Charles L'Enfant**. The location of every monument, building and avenue was carefully planned to provide visitors with spectacular views.

CAPITOL HILL ★★★

UNITED STATES CAPITOL ★★★

The United States Capitol is the home of the United States Congress, and the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government. Sitting on top of **Jenkins Hill** (now known as Capitol Hill), it is certainly Washington's most visible landmark. The city's major thoroughfares converge on Capitol Hill, directing the nation, physically and symbolically, to this place of democratic debate. The Exhibition Hall features original documents, artifacts and videos informing visitors about how Congress works and the history of the Capitol.

EAST CAPITOL STREET NE AND FIRST STREET SE,
WASHINGTON DC
202-226-8000
WWW.VISITTHECAPITOL.GOV

UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN ★★

This botanic garden, located on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, is made up of the **Conservatory** (a vast greenhouse), the **National Garden** (featuring a rose garden) and **Bartholdi Park** with its majestic fountain. A second-storey catwalk looks down over the jungle canopy. Usually open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Admission is free!**



UNITED STATES CAPITOL

© Wikimedia Commons, Jon Phelan



UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN

© Wikimedia Commons, Dillif

100 MARYLAND AVENUE SW,
WASHINGTON DC
202-226-1047
WWW.USBG.GOV

Not far from the Capitol is the **Library of Congress** ★★★, the largest library in the world, with its vast collection of books, manuscripts and musical

recordings, stored on close to 560 km of bookshelves.

101 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE SE,
WASHINGTON
202-707-5000
WWW.LOC.GOV

Across from the Capitol sits the imposing **Supreme Court** ★★

building, seat of the Supreme Court of the United States, the country's highest federal court.
1 FIRST STREET NE, WASHINGTON
202-479-3000
WWW.SUPREMECOURT.GOV

DOWNTOWN★★

THE WHITE HOUSE★★★

The famous **White House★★★** is the President's official residence and a worldwide symbol of the United States of America. The site was selected by George Washington himself in 1791, and every president since John Adams has occupied the White House. Today it has **132 rooms**, 35 bathrooms, 3 elevators, 8 staircases, 6 floors and a kitchen equipped for 140 guests! Only certain rooms may be visited, and **tour requests can be submitted up to 3 months in advance and no less than 21 days in advance**. For more information or to submit a request, you need to contact your embassy in Washington DC.

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW,
WASHINGTON DC
202-456-1111
WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV



AERIAL VIEW OF THE WHITE HOUSE



WHITE HOUSE'S GARDENS

THE WHITE HOUSE, THE FBI AND THE PENTAGON

Unfortunately, you will **not be able to visit these major attractions during your stay in Washington**: requests to tour these iconic high-security sites must be submitted months in advance!



FBI BUILDING



THE PENTAGON

NATIONAL MALL ★★★

The **National Mall** ★★★ is a long green pedestrian avenue between the Washington Monument and the United States Capitol. It is home to iconic monuments, memorials and museums. The nearby **Tidal Basin** is another lovely attraction, known for its spectacular cherry blossoms in the spring.

FAMOUS MONUMENTS

The grand temple-like **Lincoln Memorial** ★★★ was built in honour of the 16th American President. Abraham Lincoln sits immortalized in marble as an enduring symbol of unity, strength and wisdom. On a hill across from the Lincoln memorial soars the **Washington Monument** ★★, built to honor George Washington. This iconic obelisk is one of the country's most recognizable structures. **169 metres tall**, it took 40 years to complete.

Another favourite is the circular white columned **Jefferson Memorial** ★★★, dedicated to Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL

© Wikicommons, Jeff Kubina



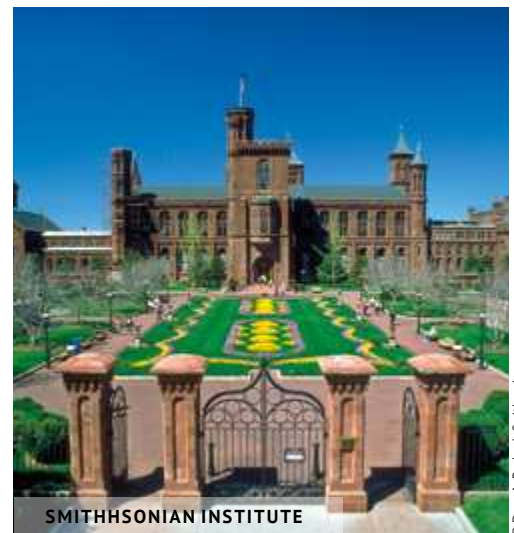
WASHINGTON MONUMENT

© Wikicommons, USAirForce-Sgt. Andy Dunaway



JEFFERSON MONUMENT

© Wikicommons, Micahmm



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

© Diane A. Penland- Smithsonian

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The National Mall is bordered by a number of world-class museums including the **Smithsonian Institution**, the world's largest museum and research complex, with **19 museums and galleries and the National Zoological Park**. The Smithsonian was established in 1829 when **James Smithson**, a British scientist, left his estate to the United States to found "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge". Without even setting foot on American soil, this visionary saw American democracy as the future of civilization. The Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo are open every day of the year and are **absolutely free!**

Must-see museums include:

- The **National Air and Space Museum** ★★★ houses an impressive collection of aircraft and space objects, from the first flying machine (1903) to the Apollo 11 command module. (655, Jefferson Drive, Washington DC / 202-633-2214 / airandspace.si.edu).
- The **National Gallery of Art** ★★★ is another popular museum and boasts one of the world's finest collections of pictorial and sculptural art from the Middle Ages to the present day. (6th and Constitution Ave NW / 202-737-4215 / www.nga.gov)

- The **National Museum of African American History and Culture** ★★★ is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history and culture. Explore the rich saga of African American history and life in the United States from slavery to emancipation, and learn all about this fascinating segment of the American population. (1400 Constitution Avenue NW / nmaahc.si.edu)
Note: due to the museum's great popularity, **entry passes are required** even though admission is free. Visit nmaahc.si.edu/visit/passes for more information.

- The **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden** ★★ is a modern art museum presenting European and American art from the late 19th century to the present, including a superb outdoor sculpture garden. (Independence Ave and 7th St / hirshhorn.si.edu)
- The **Smithsonian's National Zoo** ★★ is a world-class zoo in the heart of the city, home to more than 300 different species of animals. The zoo also conducts research on conservation, reproductive biology, and wildlife behaviour and ecology. (3001 Connecticut Avenue NW / 202-633-2614 / www.nationalzoo.si.edu).

You also have many other museums to choose from, depending on your interests and the time available to you: the **Freer Gallery of Art ★★**, the **National Museum of African Art ★★**, the **Arthur M. Sackler Gallery ★★**, the **National Museum of the American Indian ★★**, the **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum ★★**, the **National Museum of American History ★★**, and the **National Museum of Natural History ★★**.

BIKE TOUR OF THE NATIONAL MALL

The best way to explore the National Mall is by bike! Get out, enjoy some fresh air, and explore the many sites the area has to offer. **Set out on your own or take a guided tour** with a professional guide who will teach you all about the sites. You can rent a bike or book your guided tour at **Bike and Roll**. (955 L'Enfant Plaza, North Building #905, Washington DC / 202-842-2453 / www.bikeandrolldc.com).



NATIONAL MALL

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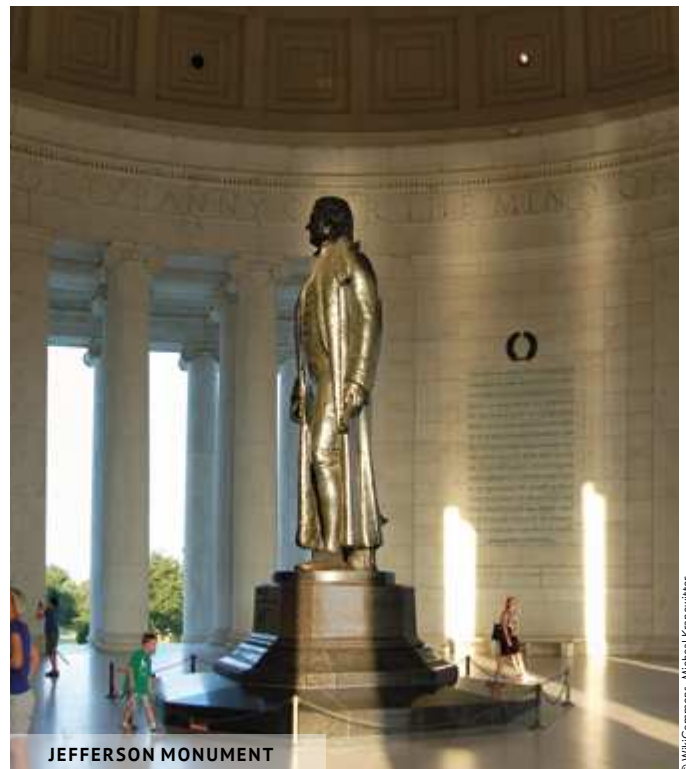
NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

© WikiCommons, HrAtsuko



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

© WikiCommons, Amanda



NEARBY

UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM ★★

If you need a break from monuments, this large park is the perfect place for a nature escape, away from the urban hustle and bustle! The site can be explored on foot, but if you are short on time, you can also drive from one area to another. The arboretum features many gardens and collections, including the largest azalea garden in the country, magnificent orchids and the cherry blossoms in the spring.

The **National Bonsai & Penjing Museum** ★ houses a vast collection of bonsais.

Admission is free! Open every day (except December 25).

3501 NEW YORK AVENUE NE,
WASHINGTON DC
202-245-2726

WWW.USNA.USDA.GOV

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ★★

The neo-Gothic National Cathedral is **one of the largest religious buildings in the country**, and the 6th-largest in the world! Although it was built during the 20th century, the Cathedral was constructed primarily in the masonry tradition of the great medieval churches of Europe. Guided walking tours provide an overview of the Cathedral's art, architecture, history, and mission.

3101 WISCONSIN AVENUE NW,
WASHINGTON DC
202-537-6200
WWW.CATHEDRAL.ORG



UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM

© WikiCommons, Abraham



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

© WikiCommons, Martin Klünzel



AERIAL VIEW OF WASHINGTON DC

© WikCommons, Carol M. Highsmith

WHERE TO EAT

BEN'S CHILI BOWL (\$)

A meal at Ben's Chili Bowl is a must during your stay in the nation's capital! A landmark restaurant in Washington, DC since it opened in 1958, it is regularly visited by celebrities and presidents come to sample their famous "Chili Half-Smoke", a hot dog covered in mustard, onions and spicy homemade chili sauce. You will find all the fast-food classics and even a few vegetarian options.

1213 U STREET NW, WASHINGTON DC
202-667-0909
BENCHILIBOWL.COM/U-STREET

SWEET GREEN (\$)

Sweet Green is an excellent choice for a quick, healthy meal prepared with the freshest ingredients. This small restaurant offers a variety of spectacular and delicious salads served with homemade dressings, as well as an array of chicken, fish, bean and tofu bowls.

221 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE,
WASHINGTON DC
202-547-9338
WWW.SWEETGREEN.COM

AMBAR CAPITAL HILL (\$\$-\$\$\$)

This popular Capitol Hill restaurant is a good place to try when you've worked up an appetite! Ambar offers delicious

Balkan cuisine featuring a wide variety of small plates, including an all-you-can-eat tasting menu (Ambar Experience). Be sure to try Rakia, a traditional Balkan fruit brandy. Reservations are strongly recommended.

523 8TH STREET SE, WASHINGTON DC
202-813-3039
WWW.AMBARRESTAURANT.COM

OLD EBBITT GRILL (\$\$-\$\$\$)

Founded in 1856, this iconic Victorian saloon-style restaurant is just steps away from the White House. The menu features American cuisine including succulent oysters, one of the house specialties. A casual atmosphere and quick service, but it can be noisy due to its

popularity.

675 15TH STREET NW, WASHINGTON DC
202-347-4800
WWW.EBBITT.COM

THE CAPITAL GRILLE (\$\$\$\$)

If you love tender dry-aged steak, this is the place for you! The Capital Grille is one of the finest steakhouses in Washington DC. The menu also includes fish, vegetarian options and giant desserts to share. Interesting wine menu and comfortably elegant atmosphere. Reservations are strongly recommended!

601 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW,
WASHINGTON DC
202-737-6200
WWW.THECAPITALGRILLE.COM