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Three-Day Itinerary

Ten Tips for Touring the Nation's Capital

All of the points of interest included in this introductory itinerary are marked on the map. If you prefer to tour away from the mainstream, consult the Official Visitors Guide, visit www.washington.org, or speak with your hotel concierge for more information about specialty tours.

Day One

Morning:
Start your tour of Washington, DC on the **National Mall**, home to several of the most popular museums in the **Smithsonian** system. Stop by the visitor information center at the **Smithsonian Castle** to plan your course. The National Mall is also home to the **National Gallery of Art**.

Lunch:
Taste cuisine from around the Americas at the National Museum of the American Indian's Mitsam Café or take Metro to Union Station for a variety of dining options. A quick walk up 7th Street, 11th Street or 13th Street will lead you to some appealing options for take-out or picnic fare.

Afternoon:
Take Metro to **U Street** for a look at the city's African-American history. A self-guided heritage trail leads past several historic theatres, churches, businesses and residences that shaped this corner of the city.

Evening:
Connect with one of Washington, DC's tour companies for a look at the famous monuments at night. Tourmobile and Old Town Trolley offer night tours; **Bike the Sites** and **City Segway Tours** also offer evening tours in season.

Day Two

Morning:
Capitol Hill- If you're visiting on a Saturday, head to **Eastern Market** and taste the market's 'Bluebucks,' blueberry buckwheat pancakes. Tour the highlights of the Capitol Hill neighborhood: the **U.S. Capitol**, **Library of Congress**, the **Supreme Court** and **Union Station**. Stop at the **Folger Shakespeare Library** to see the largest collection of Shakespeare materials outside of Stratford.

Lunch:
Take Metro to downtown's Penn Quarter neighborhood (Exit at Gallery Place/ Chinatown). Stop for a bite at a trendy new restaurant or one of the family-friendly eateries that line 7th Street, near the MCI Center.

Afternoon:
Head to the **International Spy Museum** to crack codes, assume a cover and eavesdrop on conversations throughout the museum.

Ride to the top of the **Washington Monument** (tickets required) or the **Old Post Office Pavilion** for a panoramic view of the city.

Evening:
Catch a classic performance at the **Kennedy Center**, **Ford's Theatre**, **Shakespeare Theatre Company**, **Warner Theatre** or **National Theatre**. For something more daring, try **Arena Stage**, **Woolly Mammoth** or **The Studio Theatre**. TicketPlace, located on Seventh Street, sells discounted same-day tickets to many performances.

Day Three

Morning:
Start your day at the **National Zoo**, home to giant pandas, cheetahs and other exotic species. For a cultural diversion, stop by **The Phillips Collection** or the **Corcoran Gallery of Art**.

Afternoon:
Travel to **Georgetown** to enjoy a bite to eat at a casual café. Shop designer boutiques, independent bookstores and admire some of the city's most magnificent residences. Take a step back in time with a mule-driven barge ride on the **Chesapeake & Ohio Canal**.

Evening:
Sample cuisine from around the globe in **Adams Morgan**. Stick around after dinner to see why the neighborhood is one of the city's top destinations for nightlife.

1. Pace yourself. Washington, DC is worthy of many visits. If you just have two or three days on your visit, don't try to see everything. Make a "must-see" list and use Metro to plan your route.

2. The National Mall isn't for shopping. The National Mall serves as "America's Common" spanning 2.25 miles from the U.S. Capitol building to the Lincoln Memorial. Home to many monuments, memorials and museums, the National Mall is where people exercise their democratic rights and reflect on American history. Metro: Smithsonian.

3. Use public transportation. On-street parking is very limited, so leave your car at your hotel. Take advantage of Metro, one of the world's most convenient, safe and clean subway systems. Refer to the station map (this side) or the city map (other side) for station locations. One-day unlimited ride passes are $6.50; weekly passes are $22. The new Circulator bus connects Georgetown and Downtown with Union Station and the National Mall for $1 per trip.

4. Washington, DC is all about "FREE"dom. Many of the city's attractions and experiences are free, including monuments, memorials and entrance to many museums. There are also many free music and street festivals that take place throughout the year.

5. There's more than one Smithsonian museum. The Smithsonian institution is the world's largest museum and research complex with 16 museums and galleries, plus the National Zoo. Make your first stop the Visitor Information Center at the Smithsonian Castle to map your course. Pick one or two museums per visit and save the others for future visits to the city.

6. Tour at "off-peak" hours. Look for special seasonal hours at select museums. Washington, DC's beautiful memorials and monuments are open 24 hours - visit them at dawn or at night when they are lighted and less crowded.

7. Feel good in the neighborhoods. Washington, DC is loaded with attractions, museums, entertainment and shopping in every part of the city. Explore neighborhoods such as Capitol Hill, Dupont Circle, Adams Morgan and Georgetown.

8. Details, details, details. How do I get tickets to the Washington Monument? How do I tour the U.S. Capitol building? All of the little details and procedures for visiting some of the most popular attractions can be found on the Travel Update page on www.washington.org, or call 202-789-7000 for assistance.

9. Learn from the experts. Take advantage of free recorded tours and guided group tours in most museums and attractions - call in advance for details. Regularly scheduled walking and sightseeing tours are also great ways to learn about the history and culture of the city. Refer to the Official Visitors Guide or ask your hotel concierge for touring options.

10. Fun photography. The nation's capital is one of the most photogenic cities in America. Head across the Potomac River to the Iwo Jima Memorial Park in nearby Arlington. Stand on the hill near the Netherlands Carillon and look across the river toward the Lincoln Memorial.

monumental views

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For more information, visit **www.stayarlington.com** or call **800.677.6267** for a free Visitors Guide.

Neighborhoods

Beyond the inspiring monuments and news-making public figures, Washington, DC is a city of colorful, diverse neighborhoods. Filled with hip boutiques and galleries, historic homes and small museums, as well as urban parks and spectacular gardens, neighborhoods are comfortable for walking and almost all are accessible by Metrorail or Metrobus.

ADAMS MORGAN:
Centered on 18th Street and Columbia Road, NW, Adams Morgan is synonymous with entertainment, especially late-night. Ethnic restaurants, nightclubs and bars line the two streets and fill with diverse and excitable crowds most nights of the week. During the day activities are more subdued as shoppers browse independent bookshops, music stores and boutiques while gazing at murals that adorn many of the buildings' facades. The recent history of Adams Morgan is one of immigration, and vibrant Latino and African communities lend an international flavor to this eclectic neighborhood.

ANACOSTIA:
Follow the 11th Street Bridge, across the Anacostia River to what was Washington's first planned suburb, Uniontown. Now the Anacostia Historical District, the neighborhood retains its late 19th century architecture and working class feel. The great abolitionist Frederick Douglass made his home here at Cedar Hill. His residence is now a National Park Service site open to the public. Also explore African-American history and culture at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum located in this Southeast community.

BROOKLAND:
Nicknamed "Little Rome," this Northeast neighborhood contains the largest concentration of Catholic institutions (more than 60) outside of the Vatican. Catholic University, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center and the Franciscan Monastery delight Brookland's visitors with beautiful gardens, architecture and art. Other sites beyond the religious icons include the city's oldest cemetery and the expansive gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmstead at the National Arboretum.

CAPITOL HILL:
East of the Capitol is the District's largest residential historic community. Each street contains a variety of rowhouse designs and styles beginning with modest duplexes of the mid-1800s and ending with the press brick manor houses of the early 1900s. Lincoln Park, the East Capitol Street Carbam and the Eastern Market (which is the oldest operating public market in the city) make the neighborhood feel alive even when Congress is not in session. The U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress form the typical impression of the neighborhood. Beyond the federal superstructures, Capitol Hill is home to the Folger Shakespeare Library, Union Station and the National Postal Museum.

CHINATOWN:
Colorful signs, potent aromas from restaurants and lively Asian grocery stores all stand in the shadow of the world's largest single-span Chinese arch. "Friendship Arch" was built cooperatively between the Washington city government and its sister city Beijing. The neighborhood is bordered to the west by 9th Street and on the eastern edge by the MCI Center.

DOWNTOWN:
The Downtown district is the crossroads of new and old in Washington, DC. This neighborhood east of the White House is seeing a renaissance best symbolized by the $834 million Washington Convention Center. What was once the center of social and political life is now the center for dining and entertainment. Not all of its classic flair has been pushed out, though. Downtown is still home to the Old Post Office Pavilion, Warner Theatre, National Theatre, Ford's Theatre and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

DUPONT CIRCLE/KALORAMA:
In its beginnings, Dupont Circle (at Connecticut and P Streets, NW) was the neighborhood where Washington's elite lived and played. Today it's the hub of cosmopolitan Washington. Victorian row houses and Beaux-Arts mansions have been restored to house embassies, international restaurants, art galleries and museums. Some of these museums include The Phillips Collection, the Woodrow Wilson House, the Textile Museum, and the National Geographic Society's Explorers Hall. Culture and entertainment collide at the many cafés and bars in the area where patrons discuss the latest happenings in politics and art alike. Also, the circle itself is a fabulous place to people-watch or play a pick-up game of chess.

EMBASSY ROW:
Just west of Dupont Circle lies the largest concentration of the city's 150 international embassies. Many of them are housed along Massachusetts Avenue in grand Beaux-Arts mansions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The terminus of Embassy Row is at the US Naval Observatory, whose grounds include the Vice President's residence and the atomic clock, which keeps the official time for the country.

FOGGY BOTTOM:
This riverfront neighborhood named for the fog that rose off of the Potomac is east of Georgetown and west of Lafayette Square. Today Foggy Bottom is home to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Washington University, and the Watergate complex. A cluster of charming 19th-century houses reflect its early history as a working class community sometimes referred to as the West End.

GEORGETOWN:
Once a thriving colonial port, Georgetown is now a prime example of an intact historical community. Centered on Wisconsin and M Streets, NW, the community is most renowned for shopping, dining and nightlife as well as the university that shares its name. Dumbarton House, Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, the C&O Canal with 180 miles of biking and hiking trails, Old Stone House and Dumbarton Oaks represent the area's history beyond the boutiques and bars. Incorporated in 1751, the town was not actually named for George Washington, but in honor of King George II.

LAFAYETTE SQUARE:
It is nearly impossible to ignore the ambience of power at Lafayette Square, which surrounds the White House. It is a neighborhood of historic elegance and refinement. The story of the area and the tales of the Square's notable residents are told through many nearby museums and institutions, including the Octagon House, Decatur House Museum, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Renwick Gallery, Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, the American Red Cross Museum, and St. John's Episcopal Church.

PENN QUARTER:
Many presidential inauguration parades as well as protests have taken place along Pennsylvania Avenue. North of the avenue lies a revitalized downtown community of eclectic art galleries, numerous new restaurants and engaging attractions including the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, National Building Museum, U.S. Navy Memorial, Ford's Theatre, Marion S. Koshland Science Museum, International Spy Museum, and the Shakespeare Theatre.

U STREET/SHAW:
Predating Harlem as a Mecca for African-American culture and the largest urban African-American community, U Street was once home to such legends as Duke Ellington and Langston Hughes. Centered on U Street between 10th and 15th Streets, NW, Washington's historic "Black Broadway" is a landmark for music lovers. Numerous historic jazz clubs along with new mainstage clubs are drawing audiophiles of all kinds once again. Landmarks include the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum, Howard University, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House Historic Site, and the renovated Lincoln Theatre.

SOUTHWEST/WATERFRONT:
South of the National Mall is a neighborhood home to the award-winning Arena Stage (the first theater company to be awarded a Tony Award outside of New York), Benjamin Banneker Circle and Fountain, the Titanic Memorial and L'Enfant Plaza. The scenic waterfront area features a shimmering array of piers, sailboats, yachts, fishing boats, seafood markets, and restaurants. Sightseeing cruises depart from the marina regularly. Though once a working class, immigrant neighborhood, Southwest was revitalized through early urban renewal programs in the 1950s.

UPPER NORTHWEST:
The Woodley Park and Cleveland Park neighborhoods along Connecticut Avenue north of Calvert Street feature popular restaurants with cuisines from around the world, interesting local shops and beautiful, natural scenery. The National Zoological Park, Washington National Cathedral, Rock Creek Park, Hillwood Museum and Gardens, and the Kreeger Museum showcase the diversity of Washington's cultural and natural attractions.

Annual Events Calendar

January
Washington Auto Show
(866) WASH-AUTO
washingtonautoshow.com

March
National Cherry Blossom Festival
(202) 547-1500
nationalcherryblossomfestival.org
St Patrick's Day Parade
(202) 637-2474
dcpatrickparade.com

April
Filmfest DC - Washington International Film Festival
(202) 628-FILM
filmfestdc.org
White House Easter Egg Roll
whitehouse.gov/easter
Washington, DC
(202) 661-7581
visitdmv.com

May
Memorial Day Concert
(202) 619-7222
nps.gov/nmc
Rolling Thunder - Ride for Freedom
(908) 349-5439
rollingthunder1.com

June
Capitol Pride
capitolpride.org
National Barbecue Battle
(301) 840-0330
barbecuebattle.com
DC Chocolate Carnival
(202) 726-2224
dccholatecarnival.com
Smithsonian Folklife Festival
(202) 275-1150
folklife.si.edu/festival.html

July
Independence Day Celebration
July4parade.com
National Christmas Tree Lighting and Pageant of Peace
(202) 208-1631
pageantofpeace.org

August
Lego Mission Tennis Classic
legomissiontennisclassic.com

September
Kennedy Center Prelude Festival
(800) 444-1324
kennedy-center.org/prelude
Block Family Reunion
(202) 737-0130
nrcnw.org/blockfamily.htm
Adams Morgan Day
(202) 328-9145
adamsmorganday@yahoo.com
National Book Festival
(888) 714-4696
loc.gov/bookfest

October
Reel Affirmations Film Festival
reelaffirmations.org
Isle of Lesbohemia
isleofgeorgetown.com
Marine Corps Marathon
marinemarathon.com
(800) RUN-USMC
Washington, DC
(202) 661-7581
washingtondc.org

November
Veterans Day Celebration
nps.gov/nmc
Washington Craft Show
(202) 254-0486
craftshowcasetickets.com

December
National Christmas Tree Lighting and Pageant of Peace
(202) 208-1631
pageantofpeace.org

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