



*Pocket*  
**WASHINGTON, DC**

**TOP SIGHTS • LOCAL LIFE • MADE EASY**

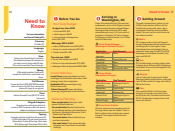
A thick, curved rainbow arc that starts from the left and curves upwards and to the right, ending at the edge of the frame.

**Karla Zimmerman**

# In This Book

## QuickStart Guide

Your keys to understanding the city – we help you decide what to do and how to do it



**Need to Know**  
Tips for a smooth trip



**Neighborhoods**  
What's where

## Explore Washington, DC

The best things to see and do, neighborhood by neighborhood



**Top Sights**  
Make the most of your visit



**Local Life**  
The insider's city

## The Best of Washington, DC

The city's highlights in handy lists to help you plan



**Best Walks**  
See the city on foot



**Washington, DC's Best...**  
The best experiences

## Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free city experience



**Getting Around**  
Travel like a local



**Essential Information**  
Including where to stay

Our selection of the city's best places to eat, drink and experience:

 **Sights**

















 **Eating**

 **Drinking**

 **Entertainment**

 **Shopping**

These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Telephone Numbers     |  Family-Friendly |
|  Opening Hours         |  Pet-Friendly    |
|  Parking               |  Bus             |
|  Nonsmoking            |  Ferry           |
|  Internet Access       |  Metro           |
|  Wi-Fi Access          |  Subway          |
|  Vegetarian Selection  |  Tram            |
|  English-Language Menu |  Train           |

Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighborhood:



### Bar Hemingway

**16**  Map p233, B2

Legend has it that Hemingway, wielding a machine gun, created this timber-paneled bar during his Paris showpiece in 1925. Then by Papa and Hemingway's town. Dress code: smart casual. 6.30pm-2am. [barhemingway.com](http://barhemingway.com); Hôtel Ritz Paris

## Lonely Planet's Washington, DC

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city.

Inside you'll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We've split the city into easy-to-navigate neighborhoods and provided clear maps so you'll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our 'Local Life' pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Washington, DC.

And of course you'll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day's exploration.

It's your guarantee of a really great experience.

## Our Promise

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.

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# QuickStart Guide

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## Welcome to Washington, DC

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The USA's capital teems with iconic monuments, vast (and free) museums, and the corridors of power where visionaries and demagogues roam. Seeing the White House and soaring Capitol will thrill, but it's the cobblestoned neighborhoods, global cafes and jazzy bohemian quarters that really make you fall for DC, no matter what your politics are.



# Washington, DC

## Top Sights

### Lincoln Memorial (p24)

There's something extraordinary about climbing the steps of Abe Lincoln's Doric-columned temple, staring into his solemn eyes, and reading about the 'new birth of freedom' carved in stone beside him.

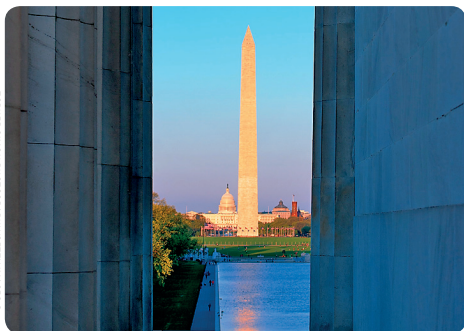






## Vietnam Veterans Memorial (p26)

Simple and moving, the black wall shows the names of the Vietnam War's 58,272 Americans who gave their lives, listed in the order they died. The mementos people leave will break your heart.



## Washington Monument (p28)

DC's tallest structure – the 555ft obelisk honoring the nation's first president – is back in business after renovations, and it's more viewtastic than ever.



## Capitol (p68)

You're welcome to go inside this mighty, white-domed edifice and count the statues, ogle the frescoes and visit the chambers of the folks who run the country.

## 10 **Top Sights**

### **White House**

(p44)

Tour the president's home and learn stories about Martin Van Buren's favorite color, Eleanor Roosevelt's ghost sightings and Bill Clinton's jogging track, among many others.



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### **National Archives**

(p84)

Gawp at the Declaration of Independence, the real, live, yellowing parchment with John Hancock's, er, John Hancock scrawled across it. The Constitution and Bill of Rights unfurl nearby.



WALTER BIBIKOW/GETTY IMAGES ©

### **US Holocaust Memorial Museum**

(p70)

Brutal, direct and impassioned, the museum uses artifacts, historic film footage and eyewitness testimonies to remember the millions of people murdered by the Nazis.



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## National Air & Space Museum (p30)

The Wright brothers' first airplane? Check. Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*? Uh-huh. Skylab? Yup. Name the famed machine and it's displayed here, along with hulking rockets and nuclear missiles.



ROBERT DODGE/GETTY IMAGES ©

## Arlington National Cemetery (p122)

An eternal flame flickers over the grave of John F. Kennedy, while rifle-toting military guards maintain a 24-hour vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



TOM WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES ©

## Reynolds Center for American Art & Portraiture (p86)

It's part portrait gallery, part who's who of big-name US artists a la Edward Hopper, Andy Warhol and Georgia O'Keeffe, all hanging in a gorgeous landmark building.



# Washington, DC

## Local Life

*Insider tips to help you find the real city*

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After checking off DC's top sights, seek out the bohemian jazz quarters, curio-filled markets, sweet patisseries and arty shops that make up Washington for the locals. Count on rambling bookstores and waterfront parks making appearances.

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### A Capital Day on Capitol Hill (p72)

- ▶ **Markets**
- ▶ **Neighborhood bars**

Browse Eastern Market's food stalls and the Flea Market's bric-a-brac. The local dive bar serves breakfast all day, while the creaky-floored bookstore has mountains of tomes to flip through. For dinner, everyone lines up for small plates and cocktails.

### Exploring Jazzy U Street & Shaw (p110)

- ▶ **Music venues**
- ▶ **Soul food**

The neighborhood where Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald used to hit their notes is one of DC's most happening places.

It's prime for poetry cafes, timeless jazz clubs and humble restaurants where locals gossip over sweet iced tea.

### A Night Out in Dupont Circle (p100)

- ▶ **24-hour bookstore**
- ▶ **Vodka and cocktail bars**

Join DC's young professionals as they congregate after dark. The neighborhood's welcoming bars, vintage chic cafes and arty shops stay open late so locals can hobnob over board games, gelato, caviar and a cocktail or three.

### Strolling Genteel Georgetown (p58)

- ▶ **Swanky antique shops**
- ▶ **Redolent bakeries**

Stroll through Washington's smartest neighborhood and you'll get a taste of the high life: opulent homes, elegant antique shops and pastry-stuffed patisseries. Finish at the waterfront park where yachtspeople pull up for an alfresco drink.

### Mixing It Up in Columbia Heights (p120)

- ▶ **Latino art and culture**
- ▶ **Hip cafes**

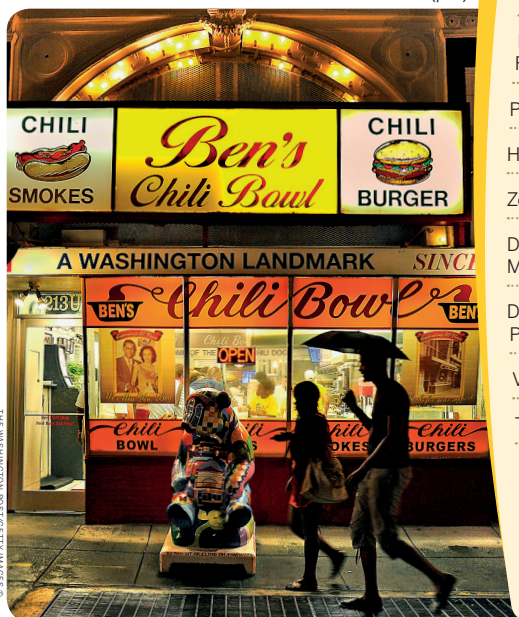
Immigrants and hipsters share the 'hood. Visit a local *pupuseria* for Salvadoran snacks and peruse Mexican art exhibits. Then delve into a slew of wine-pouring cafes and friendly corner taverns, many with patios that are local gathering spots.





Kramerbooks (p101)

Ben's Chili Bowl (p111)



**Other great places to experience the city like a local:**

Maine Avenue  
Fish Market (p78)

Pie Sisters (p64)

HR-57 (p80)

Zorba's Cafe (p107)

Dupont Circle  
Market (p106)

Dumbarton Oaks  
Park (p62)

Veranda on P (p93)

Tryst (p116)

Enid A Haupt  
Garden (p36)

BreadLine (p52)



# Washington, DC Day Planner

## Day One



Dive right into the good stuff with the monuments at the National Mall's western end. The **Lincoln Memorial** (p24) is about as iconically DC as it gets. The powerful **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** (p26) and **Martin Luther King Jr Memorial** (p36) are must-sees nearby. Then comes the **Washington Monument** (p28), which is pretty hard to miss, being DC's tallest structure and all. Superb views unfurl from the top.



Delve into the Mall's trove of museums during the afternoon. First fuel up at **Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe** (p40), guaranteed to expand your palate. The **National Air & Space Museum** (p30) is next door with incomparably cool missiles and the Wright brothers' original plane. Mosey across the lawn to the **National Gallery of Art** (p36) for Leonardo da Vinci, impressionists and other classics. Afterward, sooth tired feet with a dip in the fountain at the **National Sculpture Garden** (p36).



Spend the evening in Dupont Circle at local hot spots such as vodka-rich **Russia House** (p100) and open-till-the-wee-hours **Kramerbooks** (p101).

## Day Two



Do the government thing this morning. Start at the **Capitol** (p68) and tour the statue-cluttered halls. Then walk across the street and up the grand steps to the **Supreme Court** (p76); hopefully you'll get to hear a case argument. The **Library of Congress** (p76) and its 500 miles of books blows minds next door.



Spend the afternoon downtown, where sightseeing riches await. Check out the Declaration of Independence at the **National Archives** (p84), and the seat where Lincoln was shot at **Ford's Theatre** (p90). The **Reynolds Center for American Art & Portraiture** (p86) hangs sublime paintings. If you still have time, the **Newseum** (p90) has the Unabomber's cabin. The **White House** (p44) is nearby, so saunter over and snap a few photos. When hunger strikes, try **Rasika** (p93) or **Hill Country Barbecue** (p93).



Stroll north up 14th St NW toward Logan Circle, a bountiful food and drink zone. Buzzy **Le Diplomate** (p93) wafts a Parisian vibe, while **Churchkey** (p96) pours 550 different types of beer. Continue north and you'll come to jazzy U St and Shaw (p110).

## Short on time?

We've arranged Washington, DC's must-sees into these day-by-day itineraries to make sure you see the very best of the city in the time you have available.

## Day Three



Walking around **Arlington National Cemetery** (p123) you can't help but be moved, from the Tomb of the Unknowns' dignified guards to John F Kennedy's eternal flame. The grounds spread over 624 acres, and include the Space Shuttle Challenger and Columbia memorials among many others.



Spend the afternoon in Georgetown. Have lunch at **Martin's Tavern** (p59), where JFK proposed to Jackie. Go shopping – antiques on Book Hill (58) or designer shopping along M St (p59). Bakeries provide sweet sustenance along the way. Amble along the Potomac River, past outdoor cafes and boaters in **Georgetown Waterfront Park** (p59). Keep following the riverside path to the **Kennedy Center** (p54) to watch the free 6pm show.



Fork in to buttermilk fried chicken or pork-and-lentil stew at **Founding Farmers** (p52) for dinner. Then revisit the Mall. The dramatically lit monuments glow ethereally at night, particularly the Lincoln Memorial. **DC by Foot** (p39) and **Bike & Roll** (p76) offer nighttime tours through the atmospheric scene.

## Day Four



Start at Dupont Circle (the traffic circle) and walk northwest on Massachusetts Ave gaping at the enormous mansions along **Embassy Row** (p104). The **Phillips Collection** (p104) also spreads out in a Dupont manor; the modern paintings and sculptures provide an hour or two of groovy browsing.



Adams Morgan sits just north of Dupont. It's Washington's party zone, but during the day shops such as **Meeps** (p119) and **Crooked Beat Records** (p119) provide plenty to do. So do comfort-food havens such as the **Diner** (p115) and **Tryst** (p116). Come 4pm, you're well situated for happy hour at **Millie & Al's** (p118), a classic dive bar.



In the evening head to Columbia Heights and see what's going on along 11th St NW. In fine weather the patio benches at **Wonderland Ballroom** (p121) fill with locals enjoying libations. And it's pretty much the same scene up the road at wine-pouring **Room 11** (p121), beer-and-pool bar **Meridian Pint** (p121) and Italian-tinged **Maple** (p121).

# Need to Know

**For more information, see Survival Guide (p145).**

**Currency**  
US dollar (\$)

**Language**  
English

**Visas**  
Visitors from Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and many EU countries do not need a visa for stays under 90 days. Other visitors see <http://travel.state.gov>.

**Money**  
ATMs widely available. Credit cards accepted at most hotels, restaurants and shops.

**Cell Phones**  
Europe and Asia's GSM 900/1800 standard does not work in the USA. Buy a cheap local phone with a pay-as-you-go plan.

**Time**  
Eastern Standard Time (GMT/UTC minus five hours)

**Plugs & Adaptors**  
Plugs have two vertical pins; electrical current is 120V. European visitors will need an adaptor and maybe a transformer.

**Tipping**  
Expected most places. Restaurant servers 15% to 20%. Bartenders 15% per round (minimum \$1 per drink). Porters \$2 per bag. Hotel maids \$2 to \$5 per night. Taxi drivers 10% to 15%.

## 1 Before You Go

### Your Daily Budget

#### Budget less than \$100

- ▶ Dorm bed \$30–\$55
- ▶ Metro day pass \$14.50
- ▶ Lunch specials and happy-hour drinks \$20–\$30

#### Midrange \$100–\$350

- ▶ Hotel or B&B double room \$130–\$275
- ▶ Dinner in a casual restaurant \$20–\$40
- ▶ Theater ticket \$25–\$45

#### Top end over \$350

- ▶ Luxury hotel double room \$400
- ▶ Dinner at a top-end restaurant \$75–\$150
- ▶ Washington National Opera ticket \$100–\$150

## Useful Websites

**Lonely Planet** ([www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/washington-dc](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/washington-dc)) Destination information, hotel bookings, travel forum and photos.

**Destination DC** ([www.washington.org](http://www.washington.org)) Official tourism site.

**Cultural Tourism DC** ([www.culturaltourismdc.org](http://www.culturaltourismdc.org)) Neighborhood events and tours.

## Advance Planning

**Three months before** Book your hotel, request a White House tour.

**One month before** Reserve tickets online for the National Archives, Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington Monument, Ford's Theatre and Capitol tour.

**Two weeks before** Reserve ahead at your must-eat restaurants.

**One week before** Check [www.washingtoncitypaper.com](http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com) to see what's on and make bookings.

## 2 Arriving in Washington, DC

Dulles International Airport (IAD; [www.metwashairports.com](http://www.metwashairports.com)) is in the Virginia suburbs, 26 miles west of downtown. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA; [www.metwashairports.com](http://www.metwashairports.com)) is 4.5 miles south of downtown in Arlington, VA. Dulles is bigger, but Reagan is more convenient, as it's closer and has a Metro stop.

### From Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

Destination	Best Transport
White House area, downtown	Metro
Georgetown	Supershuttle, taxi
Capitol Hill	Metro
Dupont Circle	Metro
Adams Morgan	Supershuttle, Metro

### From Dulles International Airport

Destination	Best Transport
White House area, downtown	Washington Flyer to Metro
Georgetown	Supershuttle
Capitol Hill	Metrobus 5A
Dupont Circle	Washington Flyer to Metro
Adams Morgan	Supershuttle

### From Union Station

All trains and many bus companies arrive at this huge station near the Capitol. There's a Red Line Metro stop inside for easy onward transport. Taxis queue outside the main entrance.

## 3 Getting Around

The public-transportation system is a mix of Metro trains and bus. Visitors will find the Metro the most useful option. Buy a rechargeable SmarTrip card at any Metro station. You must use the card to enter *and* exit station turnstiles.

### Metro

DC's subway system is fast and frequent (except during weekend track maintenance) and will get you to most sights. It operates between 5am and midnight, later on weekends. Fares range from \$1.75 to \$5.90 depending on the distance traveled. A day pass costs \$14.50.

### Bus

DC Circulator buses run along handy routes including Union Station to/from Georgetown and Dupont Circle to/from Georgetown. One-way fare costs \$1.

### Bicycle

Lots of locals cycle to get around. Capital Bikeshare stations are ubiquitous; a day pass costs \$7. Bike rentals for longer rides start at \$16 per two hours.

### Taxi

Taxis prowl the District, but there never seems to be one when you need it. Fares are \$2.16 per mile; the meter starts around \$3.25. The rideshare company Uber is well-used in the District.