

Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travelers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to lonelyplanet.com/hotels and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- **Mansion on O Street** (p212)
- **Willard Inter-Continental Hotel** (p205)
- **Chester Arthur House** (p209)
- **St Regis Washington** (p204)
- **Tabard Inn** (p210)
- **Hotel Monaco** (p210)
- **Intown Uptown Inn** (p214)
- **Hay-Adams Hotel** (p203)
- **Dupont at the Circle** (p211)
- **DC Guesthouse** (p209)

SLEEPING

DC has always been a good town for accommodations. Before there was even a city here there was Suter's tavern, where George Washington himself sank some beers with local landowners and persuaded the latter to sell their holdings to Congress for \$66 an acre, thus forming the core of the new capital.

Since then the city has done a good job of defining much of itself via providing places to stay. This is, after all, a town full of two 'T's – transients and tourists – and both groups require a place to lay their head. Visiting heads of state, politicians, journalists and the rest of the pack that comes here to participate, plan or cover important events are also a key target for local hoteliers. That said, the city has also learned to cater to Joe Travepack and family, who've always been drawn to DC's sights, and Jacques Hipster and girlfriend, who are just now being drawn to its emerging cultural scene. Almost all of the hotels reviewed in this chapter are kitted out with wireless internet, and most luxury hotels also come with fitness rooms, 24-hour concierge services and the like.

Hotels are so crucial to Washington's identity they've become an indispensable part of our architectural heritage. Some of the city's classic accommodations (or new hotels in classic buildings) are monuments of Victorian, beaux arts and jazz-era opulence – exemplars include the Hay-Adams St Regis and Hotel Washington (now the W Hotel Washington), located near the White House. All of these hotels are fine in their own right, and we're sure your city also has some grande dame institutions similar to the above, but the historical scope of DC accommodations is tough to bear. When we call rooms the Roosevelt suite, we mean it: Teddy slept here.

Over the past two decades folks in need of a Washington bed have become more demanding and (ostensibly) more hip, to the general benefit of capital hotel hounds (the addition of the massive Convention Center to Downtown also helped in this regard). As a result, some digs don't have the sterile sense of ruthless similarity you get in your run-of-the-mill garden/comfort/executive by [insert chain here]. There is a bit of edge – nothing too racy, just pleasantly funky – to boutique sleeps like the Rouge, the Helix and to a lesser extent, the Palomar.

Bed and breakfasts often occupy any one of the gorgeous renovated Victorian mansions scattered about town. The character here is usually redolent of Old Washington, a place to flaunt cigars and brandy and ridiculous moustaches in baroquely appointed sitting rooms. The better B&Bs in town capture the dignity of the old days minus their pretension; the best ones, like DC Guesthouse DC, take it a step further, livening the chintz with a playful bit of kitsch and eclectic design. B&Bs are also usually cheap compared with the bigger luxury hotels, yet come with more personalized service. Their drawback is less of a sense of privacy and the creaks that come with operating businesses in some of the city's older houses – rooms are often small, and you occasionally have to deal with the odd grotty bathroom or musty smell.

If you're in DC for a while and need a roof over your head, your first option is, of course, the *Post* or *City Paper* classifieds, but you also might try websites like www.roomster.com, www.easyroomate.com, www.apartmentsearch.com and [Craigslist](http://www.craigslist.com) (www.craigslist.com). The latter in particular is also useful if you're looking for rent swapping or short-term subletting deals.

Most of the following sleeping places offer parking. However, it's rarely free. Expect to pay from \$15 to \$40 (!) per day to keep your car in the city.

ROOM RATES

Sleeping options are organized here by budget, with the cheapest rooms listed first. Prices in Washington, DC fluctuate widely according to season and availability. Peak seasons are spring (late March to June) and autumn (September to October). Hotels that cater mainly to business and government

travelers drop their prices significantly – by as much as 25% – on weekends. The best rates are usually available by reserving on the internet or through a booking agent. Many small B&B options do not advertise or book rooms *except* through a booking agent. See [opposite](#) for more information on web-based hotel deals. Check-in/check-out time is normally 3pm/noon. Many places will