

Georgetown

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Escape the concrete jungle by hiking or biking the waterside **C&O Canal & Towpath** (p117) past waterwheels, stone bridges and historic homes speckling the bucolic green trail.
- 2 Swirl a cocktail in the same room where JFK proposed to Jackie at **Martin's Tavern** (p121).
- 3 Meander the ponds, pools and terraced formal gardens of **Dumbarton Oaks** (p118).
- 4 Paddle past DC's stony monuments on a sunset tour with **Jack's Boat-house** (p128).
- 5 Sip an alfresco drink, ogle the yachts and watch rowing teams at **Georgetown Waterfront Park** (p118).



Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Georgetown is a terrific biking spot. Two top trails are the C&O Canal towpath, which is flat, wide, forested and scenic; and the Capital Crescent Trail, a paved path built on an old railroad bed that provides beautiful lookouts over the Potomac River. The neighborhood has several bike rental shops that make it easy to get rolling.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Baked & Wired (p120)
- ➔ Martin's Tavern (p121)
- ➔ Sweetgreen (p121)
- ➔ 1789 (p121)
- ➔ Ching Ching Cha (p121)

For reviews, see p120 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Birreria Paradiso (p125)
- ➔ Tombs (p125)
- ➔ J Paul's (p125)
- ➔ Mr Smith's (p125)
- ➔ Rhino Bar & Pumphouse (p125)

For reviews, see p125 ➔



Best Parks & Gardens

- ➔ C&O Canal & Towpath (p117)
- ➔ Dumbarton Oaks (p118)
- ➔ Georgetown Waterfront Park (p118)
- ➔ Tudor Place (p120)
- ➔ Oak Hill Cemetery (p120)

For reviews, see p118 ➔

Explore Georgetown

Thousands of the bright and beautiful, from students to academics and diplomats, call this leafy, aristocratic neighborhood home. Georgetown is Washington's house on the hill. To be more accurate, it's a series of beautiful houses, reflecting the best of American Federal and Victorian architecture, interspersed with velvet green gardens, high-end shopping arcades, hushed restaurants and a nightlife scene seemingly inhabited by J Crew catalogues given preppie life. Then there's the collegiate name behind the game: Georgetown University, the city's most prestigious school (sorry, GWU, but it's true).

This is an evocative place. In spring and summer, it's green and gorgeous, the trees waving over filigreed brick romance, laughing co-eds and well-off families. In fall and winter, Georgetown becomes dignified and reserved, her old-school atmosphere enhanced by the change of leaves or the flicker of gas lamps on snowy nights.

There's a subtle but palpable sense of exclusivity in many haunts, and to keep the commoners out, Georgetown residents killed any Metrorail extensions into their neighborhood in 1980. The other hitch: Georgetown is expensive.

Still, it's hard not to fall for the allure of the capital's equivalent of the prettiest, most popular girl in school. Shopaholics have their chic boutiques lined up in a row along M St, hikers and cyclists have idyllic trails, and garden lovers have genteel landscapes to stroll through. Afterward, the cafes and pubs invite lingering into the night.

Local Life

- ➔ **Book Hill** Wisconsin Ave between P St and Reservoir Rd is known as Book Hill for its art galleries, cafes and antique shops. The area holds the popular French Market festival in April, when merchants set up outdoors.
- ➔ **La Dolce Vita** When DC sweet tooths need a fix, Georgetown delivers: hulking pastries at Baked & Wired (p120), creamy frosted Georgetown Cupcakes (p125) and exotic gelato at Dolcezza (p124).
- ➔ **Party at the Waterfront** On warm nights the outdoor cafes and boating action make Georgetown Waterfront Park (p118) the neighborhood hot spot.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** The Foggy Bottom-GWU stop (Blue/Orange Lines) is a 0.75-mile walk from the M St action.
- ➔ **Bus** The DC Circulator's Dupont-Georgetown-Rosslyn line runs from the Dupont Circle Metro station (south entrance), with stops along M St. The Union Station-Georgetown line runs via K St.