


# Adams Morgan

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Explore **18th St NW**, where Africans, Latin Americans and hard drinkers collide in a row of restaurants, music clubs, dive bars, vintage boutiques, and indie book and record shops.
- 2 Make a bleary-eyed stumble into the **Diner** (p157) to quell late-night munchies.
- 3 Soak up the previous night's debauchery with a drag-queen brunch at **Perrys** (p160).
- 4 Catch a band at **Mad-am's Organ** (p162) and snap a photo under the bawdy mural.
- 5 Indulge in a squirt bottle of booze at **Dan's Cafe** (p161), DC's premier dive bar.



For more detail of this area, see Map p310 

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Hit the roof. Several bars and restaurants in the 'hood have rooftop decks where you can eat, drink and survey the scene playing out below. Madam's Organ and Perrys offer swell vistas. If heights aren't your thing, settle in at ground level for al fresco drinks on the patios at Tryst or Mintwood Place.

### Best Places to Eat

- Donburi (p157)
- Mintwood Place (p160)
- Diner (p157)
- Perrys (p160)
- BUL (p160)

For reviews, see p157. ➡

### Best Places to Drink

- Dan's Cafe (p161)
- Black Squirrel (p161)
- Dr Clock's Nowhere Bar (p161)
- Millie & Al's (p161)

For reviews, see p161. ➡

### Best Places to Shop

- Crooked Beat Records (p162)
- Meeps (p162)
- Brass Knob (p162)
- Idle Time Books (p162)
- Skynear Designs (p163)

For reviews, see p162. ➡

## Explore Adams Morgan

Adams Morgan has long been Washington's fun, night-life-driven neighborhood. It's also a global village of sorts, from an earlier time when rents were cheap and immigrants set up shop. The result is a raucous mash-up centered on 18th St NW. Walk the half-mile stretch between Columbia Rd and Florida Ave and you'll sniff shish kebabs, Ethiopian lamb stew, jerk chicken and vegetable biryani mingling in the air. Vintage boutiques, arty homewares stores and record shops poke up between the ethnic eats, and make for good browsing by day.

But nighttime is when AdMo (as it's called in local text message-ese) really lets loose. Whether you love it or hate it – and everyone in DC seems to experience both emotions at some point – 18th St becomes one of the great bar crawls in town. It's a youthful crowd: bored kids from the 'burbs, Hill interns, fraternity guys and sorority gals, multiracial young professionals and even a fair number of party people from the rough side of town. All throw aside their differences for a while to shake a tail feather and scream in your face. If you're looking for a quiet night out, this is *not* your place.

There are no real sights here, unless it's the foot-and-a-half-long, 1000-calorie pizza slices that everyone chows on late at night. That said, Adams Morgan has recently shed a few of its get-hammered venues and welcomed high-aiming foodie restaurants in their stead.

## Local Life

➤ **Long weekend** It starts on Thursday in Adams Morgan, when many bars and clubs offer 'college night' promotions that draw crowds.

➤ **Jazz jam** Local musicians gather at Columbia Station (p162) for a lengthy open jam session on Sunday.

➤ **Block party** The Adams Morgan Day Festival rocks the second Sunday of September. International bands, dance and food vendors take over the streets for DC's biggest neighborhood bash.

## Getting There & Away

➤ **Metro** To reach most of 18th St, use the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan station (Red Line). For points on 18th St south of Kalorama Rd, the Dupont Circle station (Red Line) is closer. Each station is about a 15-minute walk away.

➤ **Bus** The DC Circulator runs from the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan Metro to the corner of 18th and Calvert Sts (a block north of Columbia Rd), before heading east out of the neighborhood.