

Dupont Circle & Kalorama

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Travel to India, Kenya, Laos, Luxembourg, Malawi, Morocco and Zambia during an hour's walk (literally – embassy grounds are technically another nation's territory) along **Embassy Row** (p144).
- 2 Stand face to face with Renoirs and Gauguins in the intimate setting of the **Phillips Collection** (p145).
- 3 Browse the stacks, sip cocktails and stuff your face at **Kramerbooks** (p153).
- 4 Expand your mind at **Studio Gallery** (p145) or other neighborhood showplaces.
- 5 Experience the genteel Washingtonian lifestyle, both past and present, at **Woodrow Wilson House** (p145).



For more detail of this area, see Map p306 ➔

Explore Dupont Circle & Kalorama

A well-heeled splice of gay community and DC diplomatic scene, Dupont Circle – or, much more commonly, Dupont – is city life at its best. Here you'll find flash new restaurants, hip bars, cafe society and nifty bookstores. The neighborhood has Washington's highest concentration of embassies, many set in captivating historic mansions along Massachusetts Ave NW (aka Embassy Row). Dupont is also the out-and-about heart of DC's gay and lesbian community. This combination gay and international pulse tends to beat out the social rhythm for young professionals of all stripes and persuasions.

Kalorama adjoins Dupont to the northwest. Greek for 'beautiful view,' it was named for an estate built by Jefferson confidant Joel Barlow that dominated this hilly area in the 19th century. These days it's a sort of Dupont with an extra helping of regal reserve and mansions.

The neighborhood is easy to explore, since almost everything radiates from the literal Dupont Circle, the traffic rotunda. Spend the morning getting cultured in under-the-radar museums. An embassy stroll coupled with artsy shopping is a fine way to spend the afternoon. Have dinner in one of the international eateries, then get ready for a big night out. Romantic cocktails, crazy dance parties, retro board games and 24-hour bookstores await.

Local Life

➔ **Midnight bite** Afterwords Cafe (p148) hops late-night on weekends, when it slings chow – and tomes at attached store Kramerbooks – 24/7. Brunch is equally jam-packed.

➔ **Lunchtime journey** During the spring and fall, the National Geographic Society Museum (p146) shows a free documentary on Tuesdays at noon. Join locals on their lunch break to explore distant lands.

➔ **Happy hours** Lots of bars and clubs mean lots of happy hours. Dupont is a great spot for post-work tipples that won't flatten your wallet.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Access most points from Dupont Circle (Red Line). Use the Q St exit for destinations north of P St, and the 19th St exit for destinations south. Farragut North (Red Line) is closer to M St.

➔ **Bus** To catch the DC Circulator's Dupont–Georgetown–Rosslyn bus, depart Dupont Circle Metro station from the south exit; the bus stop is at 19th and N Sts.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you really want to take advantage of the embassy scene, check out the **International Club** (www.internationalclubdc.com). It organizes concerts, dinners and cultural events – many held at embassies – for 'internationally minded' locals to socialize. Anyone can join and be off to dinners at the Ukrainian Embassy, concerts at the Austrian Embassy and more.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Little Serow (p148)
- ➔ Bistrot du Coin (p148)
- ➔ Duke's Grocery (p148)
- ➔ Komi (p148)
- ➔ Bub & Pop's (p147)

For reviews, see p147. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Tabard Inn Bar (p151)
- ➔ Firefly Bar (p151)
- ➔ Bar Charley (p151)
- ➔ Filter (p152)
- ➔ Russia House (p150)

For reviews, see p151. ➔

Best Museums

- ➔ Phillips Collection (p145)
- ➔ National Geographic Society Museum (p146)
- ➔ Woodrow Wilson House (p145)
- ➔ Society of the Cincinnati (p145)
- ➔ Laogai Museum (p145)

For reviews, see p145. ➔