

Georgetown

Neighborhood Top Five

- ❶ Swirl a cocktail in the same room where JFK proposed to Jackie at **Martin's Tavern** (p99).
- ❷ Meander the ponds, pools and terraced formal gardens of **Dumbarton Oaks** (p94).
- ❸ Escape the concrete jungle by walking or cycling a bit of the bucolic **C&O Canal Towpath** (p103).
- ❹ Sip an alfresco drink, ogle the yachts and watch rowing teams at **George-town Waterfront Park** (p94).
- ❺ Paddle past DC's stony monuments on a sunset tour with **Key Bridge Boathouse** (p103).



For more detail of this area, see Map p308 ➔

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 preppie nightlife scene. 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 Metro 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 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** A Paris-like row of art galleries, interior-design stores and antique shops slope down the 1600 block of Wisconsin Ave (between Q St and R St NW). The area is called Book Hill, and when Georgetowners need Chinese laquered chests or lavender linen-drawer liners for their home, it's their one-stop shop.

➔ **La Dolce Vita** Georgetown has the goods for DC sweet tooths: hulking pastries at Baked & Wired, creamy frosted Georgetown Cupcakes, flaky goodness at Pie Sisters and exotic gelato at Dolcetta.

➔ **Party at the Waterfront** On warm nights the outdoor cafes and boating action make Georgetown Waterfront Park the neighborhood hot spot.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** The Foggy Bottom-GWU stop (Blue/Orange/Silver Lines) is a 0.75-mile walk from M St's edge.

➔ **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.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Georgetown is a terrific cycling 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 (p98)
- ➔ Chez Billy Sud (p99)
- ➔ Martin's Tavern (p99)
- ➔ Pie Sisters (p99)
- ➔ Fiola Mare (p100)

For reviews, see p98. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Tombs (p101)
- ➔ Cafe Bonaparte (p101)
- ➔ J Paul's (p101)
- ➔ Kafe Leopold (p101)

For reviews, see p101. ➔

Best Parks & Gardens

- ➔ Dumbarton Oaks (p94)
- ➔ Georgetown Waterfront Park (p94)
- ➔ Tudor Place (p94)
- ➔ Oak Hill Cemetery (p98)
- ➔ Dumbarton Oaks Park (p94)

For reviews, see p94. ➔