

Upper Northwest DC

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Seek out the sacred and profane in the architectural treasures of **Washington National Cathedral** (p187). A Darth Vader gargoyle, a moon rock and a secret garden are but a fraction of the esoteric offerings.
- 2 Wave to the giant pandas and swinging orangutans at the **National Zoo** (p188).
- 3 Hike, bike or saddle up a horse in **Rock Creek Park** (p188).
- 4 Gaze at the exquisite collections from Russian royals at the **Hillwood Museum & Gardens** (p189).
- 5 Browse books by big-name authors, then meet them in person at **Politics & Prose Bookstore** (p192).



For more detail of this area, see Map p316 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Remember your geography. The Upper Northwest may seem far from the action, but it's right next door to Georgetown (to the southwest), Dupont (to the southeast) and Adams Morgan (to the west). You can easily walk to any of these neighborhoods and their rich stock of restaurants and nightlife.

Best Places to Eat

- Macon (p191)
- Comet Ping Pong (p190)
- 2 Amys (p190)
- Buck's Fishing & Camping (p191)
- Open City (p191)

For reviews, see p190. ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Bardeo (p192)
- St Arnold's Mussel Bar (p192)
- Nanny O'Brien's Irish Pub (p192)

For reviews, see p192. ➡

Best Parks & Gardens

- Rock Creek Park (p188)
- Hillwood Museum & Gardens (p189)
- Kahlil Gibran Memorial Garden (p189)
- Glover Archbold Park (p190)
- Battery Kemble Park (p190)

For reviews, see p188. ➡

Explore Upper Northwest DC

The leafy lanes of Upper Northwest have long been the place for upper-income Washingtonians to settle their families. While Georgetown houses more of the city's elite, the presence of its university and the traffic snarls have made it less appealing to folks seeking a quiet place to raise their children. The Upper Northwest's stretching serenity and supremely pleasant clumps of residential bliss do the job. It's no surprise Sidwell Friends School is here, where presidents Clinton and Obama sent their daughters.

Upper Northwest's sights could fill a day. The Washington National Cathedral and National Zoo are foremost. Rock Creek Park and Hillwood Museum (the amazing Russian art-filled manor of cereal heiress Marjorie Post) are less well known but equally worthwhile.

Some of the city's most inventive restaurants have posted up this way, attracted by a population that has disposable income to spend and an increasingly savvy attitude toward food. The nightlife scene hasn't quite caught up, but it's hardly boring either. Lots of sights and eateries cluster around Metro stops, but be prepared to bus or walk a fair distance to others.

Local Life

➤ **Zoo Lights** At the National Zoo in December, local businesses compete with each other to showcase elaborate Christmas-light displays fashioned to resemble animals. It's a great holiday treat to wander amid the brightness on sharp winter evenings.

➤ **Poetry Stars** On summer evenings, local poets read under the stars in Rock Creek Park's planetarium. The Joaquin Miller Poetry Series takes place Thursdays at 7pm in June and July.

➤ **Indie Cinema** The much-loved art-deco Avalon Theatre hosts family-themed weekend events and shows a wide range of films. You can also watch a film with a wine or beer in hand.

Getting There & Away

➤ **Metro** The Red Line is your main-vein train. Stations include Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan (for the zoo), Cleveland Park (for restaurants), Van Ness-UDC (for Hillwood Museum, bookstore, restaurants) and Tenleytown-AU (Washington National Cathedral).

➤ **Bus** L1, L2 and L4 buses roll along Connecticut Ave NW and pick up from the first three Metro stations mentioned above; 30-series buses run along Wisconsin Ave NW and pick up from Tenleytown-AU Metro station.