

# White House Area & Foggy Bottom

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 It doesn't matter how many times you've seen it on TV: strolling through the **White House** (p78) thrills, from the ceremonial East Room to Thomas Jefferson's green dining room.
- 2 Knock back a Scotch at the **Round Robin** (p89), reputed birthplace of the mint julep.
- 3 Watch a free performance any night of the week at the **Kennedy Center** (p90).
- 4 Browse exquisite rooms of fabrics and weavings at the new **Textile Museum** (p86).
- 5 Play spot-the-politician while slurping oysters at the **Old Ebbitt Grill** (p87).



For more detail of this area, see Map p296 →

## Explore White House Area & Foggy Bottom

When you play image association with the words 'Washington, DC,' the mental snapshot most people have of the city is the White House, a pale flame slipped into a grid of dark, manicured grounds. The president's pad does take your breath away the first time you see it, if only because you're standing in front of the *real thing*, the building you've seen a thousand times before in photos and on TV.

All in all, there's a sense of regal importance on these streets, blended with the bustle of a very alive nerve cluster of federal power. By day the area hums with the comings and goings of office workers, diplomats, lobbyists, tourists and bureaucrats. At night it dies a sudden death, like most urban business districts, aside from scattered fine dining restaurants and hotel bars mixing Manhattans.

West of the White House Area is Foggy Bottom, deriving its name from its low-lying geography, which serves as a catchment for Potomac mists. Foggy Bottom is synonymous with the State Department, World Bank, IMF and other hefty institutions. George Washington University infuses it with a bit of youthful energy.

With worthy art museums such as the Renwick Gallery, Textile Museum and Corcoran of Art (now part of the National Gallery), a slew of terrific architecture to browse – including that big white house – and the Kennedy Center for evening performances, plan on a full day here.

## Local Life

➔ **Cheap Eats** Follow local office workers to food trucks and lunch spots such as BreadLine for economical fare in this neighborhood of power-player dining.

➔ **Romantic Drink** The terrace at the Kennedy Center unfurls fantastic views where sharp-dressed Washingtonians enjoy a romantic cocktail.

➔ **Smell the Roses** Students and workers looking for a green respite grab a bench in rosebush-strewn University Yard.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** The Blue, Orange and Silver Lines run in tandem here. Get off at Federal Triangle or McPherson Sq for the White House; Farragut West for the Renwick and other museums; and Foggy Bottom-GWU for the university and Kennedy Center.

➔ **Bus** A free shuttle runs every 15 minutes between the Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro station and the Kennedy Center.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Plan ahead! To visit the White House you need to make a tour request 21 days to six months in advance. For the best chance of success, do it three months beforehand. You also need to make advance arrangements to tour the Federal Reserve and the Department of the Interior – at least five days notice for the former, and two weeks for the latter.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Founding Farmers (p87)
- ➔ Old Ebbitt Grill (p87)
- ➔ Marcel's (p88)
- ➔ Bombay Club (p87)
- ➔ BreadLine (p87)

For reviews, see p87. ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Round Robin (p89)
- ➔ Off the Record (p90)
- ➔ Le Bar (p90)
- ➔ Hamilton (p90)

For reviews, see p89. ➔

## Best Art Museums

- ➔ Renwick Gallery (p82)
- ➔ Textile Museum (p86)
- ➔ Corcoran Gallery of Art (p83)
- ➔ Art Museum of the Americas (p84)
- ➔ Daughters of the American Revolution (p84)

For reviews, see p82. ➔