



In addition to tours available through my congressional office below is information on public tours that are available to you during your trip to Washington.

[United States Capitol](#)

The Capitol is open to the public for guided tours only. Tours start at the brand new Capitol Visitor's Center. They are offered Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The tour includes the Crypt, the Rotunda and Statuary Hall. It can be booked online or through your Congressional office. Visitors are welcome to view the floor debates from the galleries by obtaining passes from your Congressman or Senator.

[The White House](#)

Due to the heightened security in Washington, D.C., public tours of the White House have been suspended until further notice. East Wing tour request may be made through Congressional offices, though 6 months advance notice is preferable. The White House also offers a visitors center for those who cannot go on East Wing tours. It is located at 15th and E Streets, NW and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week, for more information visitors may call (202) 208-1631.

[Library of Congress](#)

The world's largest and most open research library, millions of scholars, readers and tourists visit the Library of Congress annually. Our country's national library contains over 75 million volumes. Open Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Public tours are available Monday – Friday, at the following times: 10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm, along with Saturday: 10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm. They begin at the ground floor of the

Jefferson Building, 1st Street and Independence Avenue, S.E. The Library asks that groups over 10 make a reservation.

[The Bureau of Engraving & Printing](#)

See how United States currency is printed. PUBLIC TOURS - PEAK SEASON - Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free tickets are required for all tours from the first Monday in March through the last Friday in August. The Bureau offers same day tickets only, and tickets are distributed on a first-come first-served basis. The ticket booth is located on Raoul Wallenberg Place (formerly 15th Street). The Ticket Booth opens at 8:00 a.m., and closes when all tickets have been distributed. Lines form early and tickets go quickly. Please plan accordingly.

PUBLIC TOURS - NON-PEAK SEASON – Tours run every 15 minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. No tickets are required for all tours from the first Monday in September through the last Friday in February. Space is given on a first-come, first-served basis with the line forming at the Visitor Entrance on 14th Street. Please allow 45 – 50 minutes from the time you enter the building until the end of your tour.

[Washington National Cathedral](#)

The National Cathedral is the second-largest Gothic cathedral in the United States. From the cathedral, you may view the nation's capitol or simply enjoy the peaceful gardens and the beauty of the cathedral. Open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., except during services and special events. Tours are from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

[Washington Monument](#)

The Washington Monument is the city's tallest structure, standing at 555' 5 1/8" tall, a tribute to our nation's first president. There are 897 steps the public may walk down, however, to reach the top, elevators must be used. The lines tend to be long, but they generally move quickly. Your wait will be rewarded by a panoramic view of the nation's capitol from the top of the Monument. Open daily the day after Easter to Labor Day from 8:00 a.m. to midnight and from Labor Day through March from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[The U.S. Supreme Court](#)

This impressive building of white marble houses the highest court in the land. Public Lectures are available in the Courtroom Monday-Friday, every hour on the half-hour from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except on Federal holidays. Courtroom seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-seated basis.

[Botanic Gardens](#)

At the foot of the Capitol, under 29,000 square feet of glass, surrounded by ornamental pools this conservatory has more than 8,000 different types of exotic fruits, flowers and plants. Admission to all public areas of the U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) is free. The Conservatory is open 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily. The Conservatory main entrance is on Maryland Avenue; SW. Visitors are welcome in Bartholdi Park from dawn until dusk and can access it from any of the three bordering streets - Independence Avenue, Washington Avenue or First Street.

[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)

The Holocaust Museum serves as a national repository for Holocaust related artifacts and materials. Permanent exhibition is recommended for those over the age of 11.

[Smithsonian Museums](#)

As the world's largest museum complex, it holds over 139 million artifacts of American history; including the Air and Space Museum, Arts and Industries, Museum of Natural History, and Museum of American History. Open year round from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

[National Gallery of Art](#)

The National Gallery of Art is one of the world's largest marble structures, measuring 780 feet in length and containing more than 500,000 square feet. Open year round Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day except Christmas and New Year's Day.

[Ford's Theater and Lincoln Museum](#)

The Peterson House, where President Lincoln died, is across the street and free tours are available. The building is open every day between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

[Arlington National Cemetery](#)

Open daily October through March from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and April through September from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. View the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every hour on the hour and every half hour during the summer months. See the amphitheater, the Custis-Lee Mansion, and the graves of Presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft.

Smithsonian National Zoo

Visit the panda exhibit, see the orangutans swing or tour the heritage gardens and wetlands. This visit takes a minimum of three hours; parking charges are per hour. The grounds are open daily from May 1 to September 15 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Buildings are open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and September 16 to April 30 from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Buildings are open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Other Sites of Interest:

National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/>

Mount Vernon: <http://www.mountvernon.org/>

National Geographic DC Museum: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/museum/>

International Spy Museum: <http://www.spymuseum.org/>

National Aquarium: <http://www.nationalaquarium.com/>

National Building Museum: <http://www.nbm.org/>

Union Station: <http://www.unionstationdc.com/>

Pentagon: <http://pentagon.afis.osd.mil/>

The Kennedy Center: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): no public tours available

State Department: <https://receptiontours.state.gov/>

World War II Memorial: <http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

Air Force Memorial: <http://www.airforcememorial.org/>

Old Post Office: <http://www.oldpostofficedc.com/>

National Park Service (monuments in DC): <http://www.nps.gov/state/dc/>