

ACCOMM

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Disturb



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## Basic Stuff

The tourist trade has come roaring back to our nation's capital, with hoteliers reporting occupancy rates at or above pre-9/11 levels. This is great for the local economy—tourism is Washington's second-most-important industry, trailing only government. However, it's not necessarily so good for the tourist, who will find fewer bargains, more no-vacancy signs, and bigger crowds at the attractions. Staying in Cap City, even for a few days, can eat up your tax cut really fast.

Washington has more than 25,000 hotel rooms, ranging from luxurious power palaces frequented by well-heeled lobbyists and political consultants to decent bargain spots popular among not-so-well-heeled political activists and traveling families. The capital is uniquely well endowed with apartment houses built in the first third of the 20th century and later converted into hotels. These converts, available in all price categories, generally offer larger-than-normal rooms with non-cookie-cutter furnishings. They often include kitchens and are situated in what were and are some of the city's prime residential neighborhoods. What Washington lacks are great numbers of good, clean, budget-priced hotels or motels like you may stay at along the highway. You'll find few rooms for under \$100 per weekday night. Nevertheless, if you check early for special deals—and again at the last minute—you often can find very nice facilities for less than \$150. Thanks to the Washington area's wonderful Metro-rail system, you also can find less expensive digs in the suburbs and take the train to town quickly, safely, comfortably (except at rush hour!), and at a modest cost. When inquiring at a suburban hotel, ask how long it will take to walk to the nearest Metro station and if the walk is safe (not only from crime but from busy highways without sidewalks or controlled pedestrian crossings). Some suburban hotels offer shuttle service to Metro stations.

Another thing Washington hotels lack is free parking. Expect to spend \$15 to \$30 per night most places. On the other hand, because of that great subway system, if you leave your car at home, you can travel around town to your heart's content for a few bucks a day.

### Winning the Reservations Game

Hotels are mimicking airlines when it comes to pricing. Yes, there are published rates, but they don't mean a thing when there's vacant space at the inn and the innkeeper slashes his prices to fill his beds.

The best way to get the best rate is to work at it. Check the chain's website, the hotel's website, and a couple of online travel agencies, such as **Expedia.com**, **Orbitz.com**, or **Travelocity.com**. If you want still more alternatives, try a local hotel booker, such as **Capitol Reservations** (Tel 202/452-1270, 800/847-4832; [www.washingtondchotels.com](http://www.washingtondchotels.com)) or **Washington, DC, Accommodations** (Tel 202/289-2220, 800/503-3330; [www.dcaccommodations.com](http://www.dcaccommodations.com)). For bed-and-breakfast reservations, contact **Bed and Breakfast Accommodations** (Tel 887/893-3233; [www.bedandbreakfastdc.com](http://www.bedandbreakfastdc.com)). Online, look for references to packages or discounts. On the phone, ask if there are cheaper rates than the first one quoted. Then ask again. And again. And be sure to mention personal affiliations that might earn you discounts—auto club membership, hotel frequent-sleeper membership, your status as an employee of the government or of a corporation that might have negotiated discounts.

The time of your visit also affects what you'll pay. Peak season runs from mid-March through June, thanks to wonderful weather. School trips are scheduled and families take spring-break vacations while Congress is in session and lobbyists swarm. September through mid-November is the next-busiest time, with Congress in session again and nice weather again attracting vacationers who can get off work in the fall.

July and August make up part of the low season, because Congress usually is in recess and Washingtonians try to flee the hot and humid weather. There's low season in January and February, too. Congress may be back at work for part of that time, but few tourists want to come here during the worst months of Washington's winter. The best deals of all can be found between Thanksgiving and New Year's, when Congress gets away, and tourists stay away.

There's also a "low season" throughout the year on weekends. Business travelers come here during the week, and business-oriented hotels offer great rates to fill their rooms on weekends. This is when you can score luxury or semiluxury accommodations at bargain-basement prices.

Check the travel sections of the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Washington Post* for advertised bargain packages.

## Is There a Right Address?

Well, if you're a member of Congress, the right address is Capitol Hill. If you're visiting the White House, the most convenient hotel

is downtown. The State Department picked up the nickname “Foggy Bottom” because that’s the name of its neighborhood. (And you thought there were other, insulting, reasons.)

Washington’s neighborhoods differ, and what they’re really like may surprise you if you’re suffering from long-distance stereotypes.

In addition to being the Hill upon which the Capitol sits, **Capitol Hill** is an attractive residential neighborhood of brick town houses and a community business district with restaurants, bars, small stores, and a wonderful old market, all frequented by people who live and/or work here. It’s also a major tourist draw that sports—in addition to the **Capitol**—the **Supreme Court**, **Library of Congress**, **National Postal Museum**, **Union Station**, and three Metro stops. From near the congressional buildings and Pennsylvania Avenue to about 8th Street SE, this is a vibrant, gentrifying community. Unfortunately, it’s close to neighborhoods that aren’t so attractive, so crime can be a problem if you wander away from the government/tourist crowds after dark.

**Downtown** is a large, amorphous area in Northwest D.C. bounded roughly by 10th Street, 22nd Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, and the Dupont Circle neighborhood. You’ll encounter office buildings, shops, hotels, sandwich shops, and restaurants galore, and much of the area will remind you of every other downtown business district you’ve ever ventured into—except, that is, for the **White House** and some other government edifices. Here you can choose from the full gamut of hotel types—luxurious, historic, convention, business, suites, family, B&Bs, and the ultimate bargain **Hostelling International**, which charges as little as \$29 per person per night for mostly dormitory-style accommodations. Many of these are a fairly easy walk to the **National Mall** or to one of the many downtown Metro stations.

**Penn Quarter** is, among other things, a triumph of public relations. D.C. boosters started plastering that name to the area inside 10th Street, 6th Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Massachusetts Avenue to give it some cachet. As the place boomed with restaurants, shops, galleries, and the MCI (now Verizon) Center, the moniker caught on. It’s now one of Washington’s top nightspots, and it encompasses much of what’s left of D.C.’s minuscule **Chinatown**.

**Dupont Circle** is one of Washington’s liveliest and most interesting neighborhoods, best known for boutiques, galleries, restaurants, nightspots, and as the focal point of D.C.’s large, active, and influential gay community. It also can brag about attractive residential side streets, interesting and reasonably priced hotels, and many think tanks and other nonprofit organizations.

The Dupont Circle Metro station provides quick access to the rest of town.

The **Foggy Bottom/West End** neighborhood offers some respite from the noise and bustle of nearby downtown, Georgetown, and Dupont Circle. You'll find row houses lining brick sidewalks on residential blocks that mix uneasily with the academic buildings of ever-growing George Washington University. The **State Department** and **Kennedy Center** guard the south flank of this neighborhood, which is why the area's reasonably priced hotel suites often are occupied by visiting diplomats and performers. (Is that redundant?) Foggy Bottom doesn't have a lot of tourist attractions of its own, but you can stroll to Georgetown, downtown, or Dupont Circle, catch the train at the Foggy Bottom/GWU Metrorail station, or hop a 30-series Metrobus, which traverses Pennsylvania Avenue, M Street, and Wisconsin Avenue.

**Georgetown** is a nice place to visit and a nice place to live—but you wouldn't want to park here. Washington's oldest neighborhood has no Metrorail service. The 30-series Metrobuses do run on Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, and the Georgetown Metro Connection shuttle buses link the area with the Rosslyn, Dupont Circle, and Foggy Bottom/GWU Metrorail stations. Away from Wisconsin and M, Georgetown is Washington's most exclusive residential neighborhood and home to Georgetown University. JFK lived here before he moved to the White House. The late *Washington Post* publisher Katharine Graham made her home in an enormous mansion at the top of Georgetown's hill. Former secretary of state Madeleine Albright lives here now, as do many other well-known government, political, and media figures. Republicans had fun during the 2004 presidential campaign pointing out that Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry and vice-presidential candidate John Edwards—running as champions of the middle class, working families, and the poor—both made their D.C. homes in ultraexpensive Georgetown. Along and near the main drags, this is a lively, eclectic shopping and entertainment center with numerous restaurants, bars, and stores of all flavors—exclusive, commonplace, and tacky.

North and west of Dupont Circle and Georgetown is a collection of residential neighborhoods known generically as **Upper Northwest**. This is a wonderful place to live, and it's well stocked with good and reasonably priced restaurants, movie theaters, and shopping of all kinds, from **Filene's Basement** and **T.J. Maxx** to **Tiffany** and **Versace**. Unless you're into shopping or film, however, there's not much here to attract tourists beyond the **National Cathedral** and the **National Zoo**.

# The Lowdown

**Power palaces...** If you've got the bread, you can stay with the powerbrokers in these luxurious hotels that attract folks with business with the White House, Congress, or free-spending lobbyists. Public spaces and guest rooms are opulent at the **Willard InterContinental**, which houses the powerful and influential—and would-be powerful and influential—practically across the street from the White House and D.C. government headquarters. The ornate Willard Room restaurant and polished-mahogany Round Robin Bar define the traditional stereotypes of how rich and powerful Washingtonians eat and drink. Similarly, lobbyists and political activists swarm the public spaces at the **Renaissance Mayflower Hotel**, which hosted Calvin Coolidge's inaugural ball the year it opened (1925) and has been a preferred site for balls, conventions, and other political meetings ever since.

At **Capitol Hill Suites**, it's the government officials themselves—members of Congress—who take up residence, attracted by special long-term rates. Tourists here for short-term stays can play at being political insiders. Guests get access to dining facilities at the Capitol Hill Club, the GOP social club that's next door to Republican National Committee headquarters.

**Democracy's dowagers...** Three of Washington's grandest hotels, all near the White House, have a European ancestor in common: The **Hay-Adams**, the **St. Regis**, and **The Jefferson** were built in the 1920s, either as hotels or apartment buildings, by English immigrant Harry Wardman. Before he lost everything in the stock market crash of 1929, Wardman was responsible for scores of ornate Washington buildings, including the British Embassy. The Hay-Adams is so named because its prime site, across Lafayette Square from the White House, once was occupied by the adjoining homes of John Hay, Lincoln's private secretary and later a secretary of state, and journalist/scholar/novelist/statesman Henry Adams, author of *Democracy: An American Novel*, *The Education of Henry Adams*, and much else. The St. Regis sits at the nexus of presidential Washington (16th St.) and lawyer/lobbyist Washington (K St.), while The Jefferson is in the 16th Street Corridor, five blocks north of the president's mansion—close enough to

be involved in the action but far enough away to harbor strategic retreats.

**For conventional thinkers...** Lots of organizations hold big meetings in Washington, so Washington has more than its share of humongous convention hotels. If you're one of those bigger-is-better folks—or if you're savvy about looking for bargains in humongous hotels when conventioners aren't filling the rooms—you'll love these big boys. The biggest of the big is the **Wardman Park Marriott**, with nearly 1,500 rooms and suites, including 125 VIP suites, a little bit out of the way, by the Woodley Park–Zoo Metro Station. Before it grew up, its oldest section (built in 1918) was residence for distinguished Washingtonians. Across Calvert Street from the Wardman's back door is another mature giant, the **Omni Shoreham**. A commentary on the Wardman's enormity, the 75-year-old Shoreham has “only” 834 rooms and suites. But it sits on 11 acres of land adjacent to Rock Creek Park, where guests can walk, run, and bicycle, and it offers a large heated outdoor pool, a for-fee fitness center, and a garden for casual strolling.

A few blocks down Connecticut Avenue but still a tad away from the tourist action, the **Hilton Washington** packs in big gatherings (the White House Correspondents Association dinner, the National Prayer Breakfast) with 1,119 rooms and a ballroom with two zip codes. For size and location, you can't beat the **J.W. Marriott**, an easy walk from the White House, National Press Club, National Mall, theaters, galleries, and Metro stations.

**Candidates of character...** The **Mansion on O Street** has about 1,480 fewer rooms than the Wardman, but it's got a ton of character that springs from the unbounded imagination of its proprietor, H. H. Leonards. She created her hotel from four adjacent Victorian town houses, and the styles of the rooms and suites range from log cabin (really) to Art Deco and pure whimsy. The **Tabard Inn** also derives from contiguous Victorian town houses in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, but about the only other thing it shares with Leonards's Mansion is a firm commitment to eclecticism. The Tabard is warm, charming, European, and not the least bit pretentious. Adhering to this trend of creating hotels of character from adjoining town houses is the antiques-laden **Morrison-Clark Historic Inn and Restaurant**. The Morrison-Clark exposes Washington's Southern



soul with a sweeping veranda and a girdle of greenery. Thursday evenings from spring into fall feature the “Big Easy on the Veranda”—free hors d’oeuvres and cash bar from 5:30 to 7:30pm. (Try the Steel Magnolia, the vodka-and-Cointreau-based house specialty.) Another Morrison—the **Morrison House**—offers 18th-century elegance in Alexandria.

**Suite deals...** Especially for families, suites can be convenient and frugal. You can have breakfast at your leisure, bring the kids back for midday snacks and naps, make lunch (and dinner, too, if you wish), and have some privacy in separate sleeping quarters at night. A surprising number of all-suite or many-suite hotels offer reasonable rates as well. Be warned that many of these hotels define “suite” liberally—often meaning a large room with kitchen facilities.

In Foggy Bottom, the suite-est part of town, visiting diplomats, performers, and academics mingle at the **George Washington University Inn**, which is convenient to the State Department, Kennedy Center, and (natch) GWU. The university, which owns the place, has laid on a Williamsburg motif befitting the GW teams’ nickname (the Colonials). One former U.S. president called **One Washington Circle** “one of the most truly outstanding hotels in the nation.” All right, so it was Richard Nixon. But he liked the hotel enough to make an eighth-floor suite his post-Watergate Washington outpost. (Some rooms have a view of the Watergate complex in the distance.) If the Nixon connection doesn’t reel you in, this suite hotel is also a magnet for traveling musicians and show folk. Also in Foggy Bottom, the **State Plaza** offers spacious, reasonably priced suites, and **The River Inn** offers ideal suite accommodations to business travelers and great deals to vacationing families during off-peak periods. Despite its name, **Washington Suites Georgetown** actually is on the Foggy Bottom/West End side of Rock Creek, Georgetown’s west boundary. That’s actually not a bad location, an easy stroll to the Georgetown action and just three blocks from the Foggy Bottom/GWU Metrorail station. And all suites here have a living room with a desk and sofa bed, separate bedroom, two TVs, and kitchen with stove, oven, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher, and kitchenware.

Georgetown does have suites, including the unimaginatively named **Georgetown Suites**, which scatters a variety of accommodations—all with kitchens—through two

buildings in relatively quiet spots south of ever-busy M Street. The State Department has been known to house traveling diplomats here. On M, the **Latham Hotel** offers two-story carriage suites along with other suites that sport heated towel racks and high-speed Internet access. The Latham also has a rooftop swimming pool, on-site exercise center, and free access to a nearby health club. In addition to 10 one-bedroom suites, the **Georgetown Inn** has some adjoining rooms that can be converted to suites for traveling families.

Outside of central D.C., the **Embassy Suites Hotel at the Chevy Chase Pavilion** is modern, efficient, and located in Washington's most exclusive shopping district. For travel to the tourist centers, the hotel sits right on top of the Friendship Heights Metrorail Station.

**Rooms with a view...** The **Willard Inter-Continental's** honeymoon suite contains a large, round window that centers on the Washington Monument. Upper-floor rooms on the south side of the **Hay-Adams Hotel** look across Lafayette Square to the White House and the Washington Monument beyond. (Ask if there's any way you can check out the spectacular view from the roof.) Some rooms at the **Four Seasons** and the **Omni Shoreham** offer idyllic visions of Rock Creek Park.

Some of the best hotel views in Washington come not from guest rooms but from two swimming pools and a restaurant. At **Four Points by Sheraton** downtown, the indoor heated pool on the top floor features a panoramic view of Washington. At the **Holiday Inn on the Hill**, it's the outdoor pool on the roof that lets you look around Capitol Hill and to the rest of D.C. in the distance. The Sky Terrace open-air restaurant on the top floor of the **Hotel Washington** has a breathtaking view of the president's mansion. Many of the Washington's guest rooms also look onto the White House and/or the Washington Monument.

**Hip in Washington?...** Washingtonians may not be naturally hip, but several new or recast hotels are making hipness available to visitors. Some claim hipness through sophisticated cutting-edge design, some through super-trendiness, others through an over-the-top, off-the-wall approach to hospitality. All are courtesy of the Kimpton Group, which specializes in—well—hip boutique hotels.

The **Hotel George**—slyly named for the first president and ideally located near everything on Capitol Hill—greet guests with a sleek and bold decor. Andy Warhol protégé Steve Kaufman’s portrait of Washington hangs in every guest room, and other Kaufman works appear in public spaces. Room service is from the on-site **Bistro Bis**, a good—and hip—French dining spot whose sleek bar is popular with Hill staffers unwinding after a hard day of spending your money.

You expect hip around Dupont Circle, and the most modern version of it is supplied by the **Hotel Madera** and the **Topaz Hotel**. Madera’s distinction is personalized service right down to room design, a Kimpton signature. “Cardio rooms” have exercise equipment, “flash rooms” computer with high-speed Internet access, “screening rooms” DVD player and DVDs, and “nosh rooms” kitchenette and grocery-shopping service. At the Topaz you encounter a bit of supertrendy California on the Potomac. Guests are offered complimentary morning “energy potions.” The bar’s happy hour is called **Liquid Therapy**, and its signature cocktails include **Blue Nirvana**, **Liquid Yoga**, and **Tao of Pomegranate**.

**Hotel Helix**, downtown, captured national travel-press attention with its colorful, over-the-top, pop-art references to the ’60s and ’70s. Interior decorations come in red, orange, pink, purple, mohair, and leather. There’s free champagne in the lobby during the nightly “Bubbly Hour.” You probably can guess which colors predominate at the renovated **Hotel Rouge**—red accents in the lobby, red lights in the elevator, red silk on the hall walls, and red headboards in the guest rooms along with crimson velvet drapes and deep red carpet. There’s a complimentary red-wine-and-beer hour on weekdays and a complimentary **Bloody Mary** bar on weekends.

**Grassroots accommodations...** If you’re coming to Washington on a grassroots budget, not on a big-time lobbyist’s expense account, the least expensive, *reasonable*, place to stay is **Hostelling International**—except, of course, for a friend’s or relative’s spare room or floor. For as low as \$32 per night (\$29 for members), you get a bed in a dormitory-style room that sleeps 4 to 12 people. There are a few private family rooms that must be reserved *at least* a month in

advance and cost up to \$89 or \$93, depending on membership. For a little more cash, you can purchase standard hotel accommodations at the **Hotel Harrington** or **Red Roof Inn**. The Harrington, a family-oriented tourist hotel near Pennsylvania Avenue and 11th Street NW, prices its rooms from \$99 to \$169. Standard rooms at the Red Roof start at about \$155. Another bargain option is the charming **Tabard Inn**, which offers rooms for two, sans private bathroom, for as little as \$118 and doubles with a private bathroom for \$163. Some bed-and-breakfasts offer low-priced accommodations. See two in the B&B section below.

**Where the big spenders lay their heads...** If your intentions run to big spending rather than budget balancing, Hostelling International probably is not the place for you. For puttin' on the Ritz, you want to head for the **Ritz-Carlton Washington**. Why not reserve a 2,250-square-foot suite with fireplace, dining room, Jacuzzi, and private terrace? Or for a more common touch, get a room on the Club Level, with concierge and special food and beverage service. Also luxurious—and a magnet for rich celebs—is the **Four Seasons Hotel** at the eastern edge of Georgetown. Take high tea. Enjoy the views of Rock Creek Park. Be on the lookout for Tom Hanks, Sheryl Crow, or Nicolas Cage. Don't forget your checkbook or your plutonium MasterCard.

**Where to go for foreign affairs...** It's hardly surprising that Washington mixes international affairs with political ones. D.C. has several Irish-themed hotels, not because Ireland is such an important world power but because Irish Americans are so important in U.S. politics. The most prominent is the **Phoenix Park Hotel**—on Capitol Hill, of course—named for a park in Dublin. Here, you'll also find the Dubliner pub, a popular watering hole. The Irish Times, another Irish pub, is on the block, too. **Jurys Normandy** and **Jurys Washington** hardly have Irish names, but they are run by Dublin-based Jurys Doyle hotels. Jurys Washington, right on Dupont Circle, is home to Biddu Mulligans, a self-styled Irish pub with a bar brought over from the old country. Beyond their ethnic ties, the Jurys hotels offer comfortable lodging at reasonable prices, sometimes close to \$100.

The French-owned **Sofitel Lafayette Square** is named for the square that honors the Frenchman who helped win the American Revolution. What Sofitel calls *art de vivre* and translates as “the art of French living” infuses the place—from the Cafe 15 French restaurant and the French-sounding Le Bar lounge to the French-designed interiors and staff uniforms.

The **Hilton Washington Embassy Row** brags that its Massachusetts Avenue location puts guests within walking distance of more than 100 embassies. It’s also a treaty’s throw from all the action of Dupont Circle and the convenience of the Dupont Circle Metrorail station.

**Where history is in the architecture...** Even the hotels have history in Washington, although often not as hotels. The edifice that houses the swanky **Hotel Monaco**, for instance, was built in 1842 and expanded in 1859 as Washington’s General Post Office. It later housed the Tariff Commission and didn’t become the Monaco until a 3-year renovation was completed in 2002. The Beaux Arts **Churchill Hotel** made it onto the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s list of historic hotels by maintaining its “historic integrity, architecture, and ambience.” Opened as a luxury apartment building in 1906, the Churchill claimed to provide “every convenience of a high-grade modern hotel, in conjunction with the restful quietude and exclusiveness of a private residence.” Now it offers hotel guests large rooms and suites. The **Washington Plaza** might *someday* qualify as a historic property as an example of the 1960s architecture of Morris Lapidus, who perhaps is best known for designing the Fontainebleau in Miami Beach.

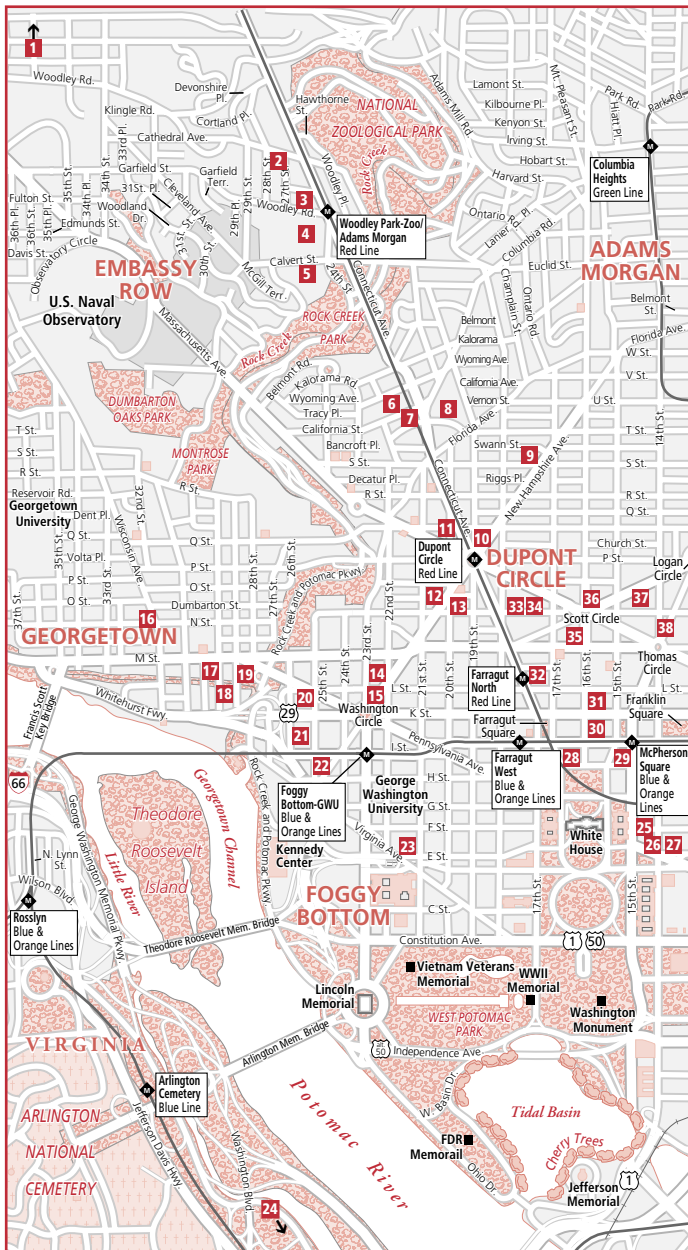
**When you want breakfast with your bed...** Bed-and-breakfasts aren’t the first things that come to mind when you contemplate lodging in Washington. But D.C. has quite a few, from the charming and inexpensive to the luxurious and priced that way. The **DC Guest House**, a renovated 1876 mansion, falls into the latter category, with rates ranging from \$175 to \$300 per night. The guest rooms are large but cozy with eclectic decor, from country manor to urban chic. Two rooms have working fireplaces, most have private bathrooms, and gourmet breakfast is served in an

elegant dining room. The four owners collect art, and it's displayed everywhere. Your jaw will drop at the Guest House's strikingly modern renovation. At the 1883 **Swann House**, the jaw-dropping will be in response to the lush restoration of the turreted mansion's early-20th-century grandeur. The innkeepers make you feel like your visiting the home of a very wealthy family at the turn of the 20th century. The entire first floor is common space, and there's a second-floor balcony for sitting.

For those whose budgets don't allow for lifestyles of the rich even if not famous, the **Kalorama Guest House at Woodley Park** offers neat, clean, well-maintained, comfortable, and relatively spacious rooms starting at \$55 single and \$60 double. Rates here top out at \$95 to \$135 for a two-room suite with a private bathroom that sleeps up to six. For a touch of elegance, stop by for sherry hour in the late afternoon. At the nearby **Woodley Park Guest House**, you can sit on the front porch and look across the street and up the hill at the gigantic Wardman Park Marriott. People who attend conventions at the Wardman, but who don't like to attend conventions, stay here to escape the crowd. Stay here and hike over to the Wardman to hop on tour buses.

**Tough to categorize...** Finally come hotels whose claims to fame don't fit easily into other categories. Smaller than the city's humongous convention hotels, the **Capital Hilton** still has sufficient guest rooms and meeting spaces to be a place where things happen—notably the National Spelling Bee (for the nation's most precocious practitioners of orthography). For half a century, this Hilton, just a few blocks from the White House, also hosted the prestigious Gridiron Club dinner (for the capital's most prominent journalists and politicians). But as we go to print the Gridiron is being moved to the **Renaissance Washington**, a hotel that previously was known best for easy access to the new Washington Convention Center and what's left of Chinatown. With its Coeur de Lion restaurant and Blue Bar lounge, the relatively small, elegantly appointed **Henry Park Hotel** is a fine place for romance.

# Map 2: Washington, D.C., Accommodations









## The Index

See Map 2 on the previous page for all Accommodations listings.

\$\$\$\$\$	more than \$400
\$\$\$\$	\$301–\$400
\$\$\$	\$201–\$300
\$\$	\$100–\$200
\$	less than \$100

Price ratings are based on the lowest price quoted for a standard double room in high season. Unless otherwise noted, rooms have air-conditioning, phones, private bathrooms, and TVs.

The following abbreviations are used for credit cards:

AE	American Express
DC	Diners Club
DISC	Discover
MC	MasterCard
V	Visa

**Capitol Hill Suites (p. 20)** CAPITOL HILL Key attractions here are location at the heart of Capitol Hill and access to dining facilities at the Republican Party's Capitol Hill Club. The hotel is two blocks from the Capitol Grounds and across the street from the Library of Congress's Madison Building. All rooms have kitchenettes and there's a free continental breakfast.... *Tel* 202/543-6000 (866/716-8114). *Fax* 202/547-2608. [www.capitolhillsuites.com](http://www.capitolhillsuites.com). 200 C St. SE, 20003. *Capitol South Metro*. 152 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$

**Capital Hilton (p. 27)** DOWNTOWN Less than two blocks from Metro and three blocks from the White House, this upscale convention and business hotel is noted for convenience, a wide range of tourist and business services, a large health club and spa, and a ballroom to host events.... *Tel* 202/393-1000 (800/445-8667). *Fax* 202/639-5784. [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com). 1001 16th St. NW, 20036. *Farragut N. or McPherson Sq. Metro*. 544 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**The Churchill Hotel (p. 26)** DUPONT CIRCLE Listed as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Hotels of America, the Churchill offers large guest rooms as well as junior and

deluxe suites. International travelers account for much of the clientele. There's an in-house fitness center. The Chartwell Grill serves three meals a day.... *Tel 202/797-2000 (800/424-2464). Fax 202/462-0944. www.thechurchillhotel.com. 1914 Connecticut Ave. NW, 20009. Dupont Circle Metro. 144 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**DC Guest House (p. 26)** DOWNTOWN One block from D.C.'s new convention center, this 19th-century mansion offers large guest rooms and a warm, comfortable ambience. Antiques mixed with modern furnishings, original art, and African artifacts reflect the personal tastes of the four friends-cum-innkeepers who lovingly restored and furnished this historic home near Logan Circle. A gourmet breakfast is included.... *Tel 202/332-2502. Fax 202/332-6013. www.dcguesthouse.com. 1337 10th St. NW, 20001. Mt. Vernon Sq. Metro. 6 rooms. AE, MC, V. \$\$*

**Embassy Suites Hotel at the Chevy Chase Pavilion (p. 23)** UPPER NORTHWEST This hotel is convenient to Washington's most exclusive shopping district on the Maryland-D.C. border. There are lots of nearby restaurants and an on-site Metro station with a 10-minute ride to Dupont Circle and 14 minutes to Metro Center. The two-room suites come with free breakfast, complimentary cocktails at the manager's reception, and free use of the indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, and fitness center.... *Tel 202/362-9300 (800/362-2779). Fax 202/686-3405. www.embassy-suites.com. 4300 Military Rd. NW, 20015. Friendship Heights Metro. 198 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**Four Points by Sheraton (p. 23)** DOWNTOWN When you're not taking in the view from the top-floor pool, you can play with your in-room high-speed Internet access or work out in the fitness center. For sleeping accommodations, you can choose from several room configurations plus a couple of suites.... *Tel 202/289-7600 (888/481-7191). Fax 202/349-2215. www.fourpoints.washingtondc.com. 1201 K St. NW, 20005. Metro Center Metro. 265 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**Four Seasons Hotel (p. 23)** GEORGETOWN This is one of Washington's most luxurious hotels (try the 3,300-sq.-ft. Presidential Suite), one of its most kid-friendly hotels, and a magnet for celebrities. The rooms are tastefully furnished, and many overlook Rock Creek Park or the C&O Canal. The spa and fitness center inspire calorie burning by adults, and there are numerous children's services to keep kids from getting antsy.... *Tel 202/342-0444 (800/819-5053). Fax 202/944-2076. www.fourseasons.com. 2800 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 20007. Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro. 196 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$*

**Georgetown Inn (p. 23)** GEORGETOWN If you want to stay in Georgetown, you can't beat this address. Double-paned windows insulate street-side rooms from the raucous Wisconsin Avenue late-night scene. The hotel offers one-bedroom suites and adjoining rooms that can be converted to suites.... *Tel 202/333-8900 (800/368-5922). Fax 202/333-8308. www.georgetowncollection.com. 1310 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 20007. Take Georgetown Connection Rte. 1 shuttle bus from Foggy Bottom/GWU Metrorail Station or take a 30-series Metrobus. 96 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Georgetown Suites (p. 22)** GEORGETOWN This two-building hotel south of M Street offers studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, town-house, and penthouse suites, all with kitchens. Guests get free continental breakfast, Internet access, and use of an exercise center. The building on 30th Street is quieter.... *Tel 202/298-7800 (800/348-7203). Fax 202/348-7203. www.georgetownsuites.com. 1111 30th St. and 1000 29th St. NW, 20007. Take Georgetown Connection Rte. 1 shuttle bus from Foggy Bottom/GWU Metrorail Station or a 30-series Metrobus. 220 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$*

**George Washington University Inn (p. 22)** FOGGY BOTTOM/WEST END Located on a quiet, residential street in Foggy Bottom, the GWU Inn offers spacious rooms with fridges, microwaves, and coffeemakers. There also are 31 suites, many with kitchenettes. Free access to a Bally Total Fitness center is included. Deep discounts are often available.... *Tel 202/337-6620 (800/426-4455). Fax 202/298-7499. www.gwuinn.com. 824 New Hampshire Ave. NW, 20037. Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro. 95 rooms. AE, DC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$*

**Hay-Adams Hotel (p. 20)** DOWNTOWN This is the best-situated hotel in Washington, directly across Lafayette Square from the White House. It's also one of the most luxurious, renovated to the tune of \$18 million in 2002 and offering all the amenities desired by traveling business executives with plump expense accounts.... *Tel 202/638-6600 (800/853-6807). Fax 202/638-2716. www.hayadams.com. 1 Lafayette Sq. NW, 16th and H sts., 20006. McPherson Sq. Metro. 145 rooms, including 20 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$*

**Henley Park Hotel (p. 27)** PENN QUARTER The staff at this relatively small, Tudor-style hotel provides attentive service and makes a point to get to know regular guests. The on-site Coeur de Lion restaurant, with even more-attentive maitre d's, is a favorite for romantic dinners, and the Blue Bar is a comfortable spot for listening to a pianist from about 8pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings.... *Tel 202/638-5200 (800/222-8474). Fax 202/638-6740. www.henleypark.com. 926 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 20001. Mount Vernon Sq. Metro. 96 rooms, including a few suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**Hilton Washington (p. 21)** DUPONT CIRCLE Known by local practitioners of dark humor as “The Killer Hilton” because John Hinckley shot President Reagan here, this curving mid-1960s structure is the type of hostelry that “boutique” and “Euro-style” hotels position themselves against. With the big size come a heated outdoor pool, a children’s pool, a large fitness center, and tennis courts. It’s a bit out of the way, but at least the walk to Dupont Circle is downhill.... *Tel 202/483-3000 (800/445-8667). Fax 202/232-0438. www.hilton.com. 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW, 20009. Dupont Circle Metro. 1,119 rooms, including 41 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Hilton Washington Embassy Row (p. 26)** DUPONT CIRCLE Come here for prime location, rooftop pool with drinks, and 21st Century hotel amenities. Discounts as low as \$110 can be found at non-peak times.... *Tel 202/265-1600 (800/445-8667). Fax 202/328-7526. www.hilton.com. 2015 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 20036. Dupont Circle Metro. 193 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Holiday Inn on the Hill (p. 23)** CAPITOL HILL A \$10-million renovation completed in 2003 makes this a much more attractive—and more expensive—spot. The staff wears jet-black-and-cobalt-blue uniforms, and the facilities are decorated in a similarly striking way. Standard rooms now come with one king bed and easy chair or sofa, or two queen beds with an easy chair. The prime location hasn’t changed, of course—about two blocks from the Capitol and Union Station. The outdoor pool on the roof, with a great view of the area, is still open in summer, too. Deep discounts are often available with advance reservations.... *Tel 202/638-1616 (800/638-1116). Fax 202/638-0707. www.hionthehilldc.com. 415 New Jersey Ave. NW, 20001. Union Station Metro. 347 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**Hostelling International (p. 24)** DOWNTOWN These dormitory-style rooms sleep 4 to 12 people at \$32 per person per night (\$29 for Hostelling members). The bathroom’s down the hall. But, for your money, you get free continental breakfast, high-speed internet access, and access to a theater-style TV room with a 60-inch television screen, a kitchen, dining room, luggage storage, lockers, coin-operated laundry, and expert staff for touring advice and special events. If you want one of the few private family rooms, reserve at least a month in advance and pay \$89 or \$93 per room.... *Tel 202/737-2333. Fax 202/737-1508. www.hiwashingtondc.org. 1009 11th St. NW, 20001. Metro Center Metro. 300 beds. MC, V. \$*

**Hotel George (p. 24)** CAPITOL HILL This bright, energetic Capitol Hill hotel, one of Washington’s hippest, is a welcome antidote to D.C.’s ubiquitous traditional decor and federal architecture. Cleverly fitted guest rooms have an open, streamlined feel. Bistro Bis chef Jeffrey Buben’s restaurant serves updated French

bistro classics. All this is one block from Union Station, about three from the Capitol, and a reasonable stroll from the other sights on the Hill.... *Tel* 202/347-4200 (800/576-8331). *Fax* 202/347-0359 [www.hotelgeorge.com](http://www.hotelgeorge.com). 15 E St. NW, 20001. *Union Station Metro*. 139 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**Hotel Harrington (p. 25)** DOWNTOWN An easy walk from many attractions, the Harrington may be the best housing bargain in town. It's not fancy by anyone's imagination. But it's got rooms starting at \$99, extra-large rooms that sleep up to six, and two-room family accommodations that include a compact fridge. In fact, if you need it, you can get a fridge put into many of the rooms.... *Tel* 202/628-8140 (800/424-8532). *Hotel fax* 202/347-3924. *Fax for guests* 202/393-2311. [www.hotel-harrington.com](http://www.hotel-harrington.com). 436 11th St. NW, 20004. *Metro Center Metro*. 242 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$

**Hotel Helix (p. 24)** DOWNTOWN Elle called Helix a "tongue-in-cheek '60s acid trip." *Travel + Leisure* described it as a "palace devoted to kitsch Americana." Whatever you call it, it's striking, fun, and doesn't take itself seriously. The entry drive sparkles. Interiors are wildly decorated. Four specialty guest rooms are equipped with plasma TVs, high-end stereos, and lava lamps. Oh, and the rooms are large and comfortable with all the expected 21st-century amenities.... *Tel* 202/462-9001 (800/706-1202). *Fax* 202/332-3519. [www.hotelhelix.com](http://www.hotelhelix.com). 1430 Rhode Island Ave. NW, 20005. *Farragut N. or McPherson Sq. Metro*. 160 rooms, 18 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**Hotel Madera (p. 24)** DUPONT CIRCLE A strikingly attractive boutique hotel near Dupont Circle, the Madera offers personalized service right down to the kind of amenities you'd like in your room. All guests get free overnight shoeshines and are invited to the complimentary "wine hour" each evening. Rooms are sometimes available for as low as \$129.... *Tel* 202/296-7600 (800/430-1202). *Fax* 202/293-2476. [www.hotelmadera.com](http://www.hotelmadera.com). 1310 New Hampshire Ave. NW, 20036. *Dupont Circle Metro*. 82 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**Hotel Monaco (p. 26)** PENN QUARTER Opened in 2002 after a 3-year rehabilitation, this swanky boutique hotel is housed in a National Landmark, the original General Post Office Building. The exterior sports marble Corinthian columns; the interior is a whimsical jumble of 19th- and turn-of-the-21st-century elements. The guest rooms are colorful and spacious, with workspaces, cordless phones, and high-speed Internet access. Lest you forget you're in the nation's capital, each room is guarded by a bust of Thomas Jefferson.... *Tel* 202/628-7177 (800/649-1202). *Fax* 202/628-7277. [www.monaco-dc.com](http://www.monaco-dc.com). 700 F St. NW, 20004 *Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro*. 184 rooms and suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**Hotel Rouge (p. 24)** DUPONT CIRCLE The superhip Rouge carries its red theme all the way through happy hours with free red drinks. Rooms are spacious and comfortable and come with a few more than the usual amenities. You sometimes can find rooms for \$125.... *Tel 202/232-8000. (800/738-1202). Fax 202/667-9827. www.rougehotel.com. 1315 16th St. NW, 20036. Dupont Circle Metro. 137 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Hotel Washington (p. 23)** DOWNTOWN It's the hotel closest to the White House and, opened in 1913, the oldest continuously operating hotel in town. The lobby is comfortable and has a good people-watching bar at one end. The rooms, some with Mall/Monument views, have classy two-poster beds and lace curtains. There is a fitness center, and you can get discounts on weekends, holidays, and when Congress not in session.... *Tel 202/638-5900 (877/512-6314). Fax 202/638-1594. www.hotelwashington.com. 515 15th St. NW, 20004. Metro Center or McPherson Sq. Metro. 315 rooms, 26 suites. AE, DC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**The Jefferson (p. 20)** DOWNTOWN A superb, intimate hotel with excellent 24-hour service. A third of the rooms are suites, some with wood-burning fireplaces. Antiques, original art, and historical documents are scattered among the rooms and public spaces. There's a 24-hour fitness center on-site, along with access to a private health club across the street.... *Tel 202/347-2200 (866/270-8118). Fax 202/331-7982. www.thejeffersonwashingtondc.com. 1200 16th St. NW, 20036. Farragut N. Metro. 100 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Jurys Normandy (p. 25)** DUPONT CIRCLE A bargain by Washington standards, this small hotel is a bit out of the way but situated in a neighborhood of exclusive homes and diplomatic residences. The rooms are comfortable, and you may run into traveling diplomats at the Tuesday-evening wine-and-cheese reception. Stroll about five blocks to Dupont Circle or Adams Morgan for some of D.C.'s most vibrant shopping and nightlife.... *Tel 202/483-1350 (800/424-3729). Fax 202/387-8241. www.jurys-washingtondc-hotels.com. 2118 Wyoming Ave. NW, 20008. Dupont Circle Metro. 75 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**Jurys Washington (p. 25)** DUPONT CIRCLE Located at 1 o'clock on Dupont Circle, this Jurys hotel is patronized by organizations holding meetings in the area because of location and reasonable rates (when discounted). The rooms are large and comfortable and equipped with high-speed Internet access. It also has 24-hour room service, a business center, and an exercise room.... *Tel 202/483-6000 (800/424-3729). Fax 202/328-3265. www.jurys-washingtondc-hotels.com. 1500 New Hampshire Ave. NW, 20036. Dupont Circle Metro. 314 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**J.W. Marriott Hotel (p. 21)** DOWNTOWN This gigantic convention/meeting hotel offers full services for business and vacation travelers and a central location. There are a large indoor pool, fitness center with sauna and whirlpool, two restaurants, and 24-hour room service. The adjacent Shops at National Place contain several quick-eating places. Rates can dip below \$200.... *Tel* 202/393-2000 (888/236-2427). *Fax* 202/626-6991. *www.marriott.com*. 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 20004. Metro Center Metro. 738 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**Kalorama Guest House at Woodley Park (p. 27)** UPPER NORTH-WEST This 18-room B&B encompasses two early-20th-century houses on a relatively quiet residential street just off Connecticut Avenue and a three- to four-block walk from the Woodley Park-Zoo Metrorail Station.... *Tel* 202/328-0860. *Fax* 202/328-8730. *www.kaloramaguesthouse.com*. 2700 Cathedral Ave. NW, 20008. Woodley Park-Zoo Metro. 18 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$

**Latham Hotel (p. 23)** GEORGETOWN In Georgetown's commercial heart, the 10-story Latham offers both rooms and suites on bustling M Street. The hotel is home to Michel Richard's acclaimed Citronelle restaurant, which is the high-class source of the hotel's room service.... *Tel* 202/726-5000 (888/876-0001). *Fax* 202/337-4250. *www.thelatham.com*. 3000 M St. NW, 20007. Take Georgetown Connection Rte. 2 shuttle bus from Dupont Circle or Rosslyn Metrorail station, or a 30-series Metrobus. 142 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$

**The Mansion on O Street (p. 21)** DUPONT CIRCLE It's just about impossible to describe this Dupont Circle B&B. Luxurious rooms are decorated in eclectic fashion. Everything in the place—antiques, artwork, clothing—is for sale. The distinctive nature of each of the 18 rooms and suites is dramatized by the range of room rates—from \$250 to \$850 per night. That includes breakfast and use of an outdoor pool.... *Tel* 202/496-2000. *Fax* 202/833-8333. *www.omansion.com*. 2020 O St. NW, 20036. Dupont Circle Metro. 18 rooms and suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$

**Morrison-Clark Historic Inn and Restaurant (p. 21)** DOWNTOWN Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this inn incorporates the 1864 Victorian mansions of the Morrison and Clark families. Rooms are individually decorated. Furnishings include period antiques. Some rooms on Massachusetts Avenue have porches and character, but inner courtyard rooms are quieter and cozy. Rates include continental breakfast.... *Tel* 202/898-1200 (800/222-8474). *Fax* 202/289-8576. *www.morrisonclark.com*. 1015 L St. NW, 20001. Mount Vernon Sq. Metro. 54 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$

**Morrison House (p. 22)** ALEXANDRIA If you want to spend the night in Alexandria, this study in 18th-century elegance will make you feel pampered in a very understated way. Smallish rooms with four-poster beds are modulated with up-to-date touches such as hair dryers, TVs, and bathroom phones. On-site Elysium is a unique, expensive, good restaurant where the chef discusses your likes and dislikes with you before preparing your meal.... *Tel 703/838-8000 (866/834-6628). Fax 703/684-6283. www.morrisonhouse.com. 116 S. Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Take DASH shuttle bus from King St. Metro. 45 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Omni Shoreham (p. 21)** UPPER NORTHWEST Another large, ornate hotel that routinely hosts inaugural balls, conventions, and political gatherings of all kinds. The rooms are extra-large. Because it's a full-service convention hotel, the Omni has a restaurant, snack shop, lounge, and another bar and restaurant pool-side, plus 24-hour room service. Not a prime tourist location, but it's only a short walk from the Metro.... *Tel 202/234-0700 (888/444-6664). Fax 202/265-7972. www.omnihotels.com. 2500 Calvert St. NW, 20008. Woodley Park-Zoo Metro. 834 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**One Washington Circle (p. 22)** FOGGY BOTTOM/WEST END Popular with business travelers and families, this all-suites hotel was renovated in 2002. Choose from five classes of suites, most with kitchens and balconies. Unique morning touch: Every unit is supplied with coffee beans and a grinder. There's an outdoor pool and fitness facilities. Deep discounts, to the low \$100s, are sometimes available.... *Tel 202/872-1680 (800/424-9671). Fax 202/887-4989. www.thecirclehotel.com. 1 Washington Circle NW, at New Hampshire Ave., 20037. Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro. 151 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Phoenix Park Hotel (p. 25)** CAPITOL HILL This hotel's Dubliner pub serves as a hub of Irish cheer on Capitol Hill, one block from Union Station and about four from the Capitol. Rooms are small but comfortable. Some suites have balconies and working fireplaces. Discounts of below \$150 are sometimes available.... *Tel 202/638-6900 (800/824-5419). Fax 202/393-3236. www.phoenixparkhotel.com. 520 N. Capitol St. NW, 20001. Union Station Metro. 143 rooms, 6 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$*

**Red Roof Inn (p. 25)** CHINATOWN This 10-story hotel near Verizon Center and the Penn Quarter arts/entertainment district does not at first glance resemble your typical Red Roof Inn. However, it does have your standard highway motel amenities (two double beds in many rooms, free local phone calls, TV), plus an exercise facility and sauna. Business travelers can request a king



room with a large desk and speakerphone.... *Tel 202/289-5959 (800/733-7663). Fax 202/289-0754. www.redroof.com. 500 H St. NW, 20001. Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro. 195 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$*

**Renaissance Mayflower Hotel (p. 20)** DOWNTOWN The newly renovated rooms are luxurious. The Connecticut Avenue location is ideal, midway between Dupont Circle and the White House, right atop the Farragut North Metrorail Station. Discounted rates sometimes drop below \$200.... *Tel 202/347-3000 (800/228-7697). Fax 202/776-9182. www.marriott.com. 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW, 20036. Farragut N. Metro. 583 rooms, 74 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$*

**Renaissance Washington (p. 27)** DOWNTOWN A convenient choice if you have business at the Washington Convention Center or a hankering for Chinese food in nearby Chinatown. Rooms have all the expected amenities. The hotel offers a pool, exercise room, restaurant, coffee shop, and bar. Sometimes rooms are offered for less than \$200.... *Tel 202/898-9000 (800/228-7697). Fax 202/289-0947. www.marriott.com. 999 9th St. NW, 20001. Mt. Vernon Sq. Metro. 807 rooms, 13 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$*

**Ritz-Carlton Washington (p. 25)** WEST END In this luxurious hotel, even the standard rooms come with marble in the bathrooms, goose-down pillows, and your basic 21st-century communication amenities. Guests have access to the 100,000-square-foot Sports Club/LA next door. Frequent guests can opt for “luggage-less” travel—leave your clothes in your room and the hotel will launder, dry clean, press, and store them, and then place them in your room when you return.... *Tel 202/835-0500 (800/241-3333). Fax 202/835-1588. www.ritzcarlton.com. 1150 22nd St. NW, 20037. Foggy Bottom/George Washington University Metro. 300 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$*

**The River Inn (p. 22)** FOGGY BOTTOM/WEST END The amenities make this Foggy Bottom all-suite boutique attractive to business travelers: large desk, good lighting, and a wireless Internet connection in every unit. Also available are a sofa bed, full kitchen, coffee beans and grinder, free *Washington Post*, and a free shoeshine on weekdays. “Potomac Suites” have separate bedrooms, sitting areas, and dining/meeting niches. For families, off-peak rates below \$120 are hard to beat.... *Tel 202/337-7600 (800/424-2741). Fax 202/337-6520. www.riverinn.com. 924 25th St. NW, 20037. Foggy Bottom/George Washington University Metro. 126 suites. AE, DC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$*

**St. Regis (p. 20)** Routinely rated in best-hotels lists, the St. Regis was built in the style of an Italian Renaissance palace. Antiques are encountered throughout the hotel. The rooms are luxurious. The service is attentive. The Library Lounge is one of the most inviting bars in Washington, with dark-paneled walls, bookshelves, and a working fireplace.... *Tel 202/638-2626 (888/625-5144). Fax 202/638-4231. www.stregis.com. 923 16th St. NW, 20006. McPherson Sq. Metro. 193 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**Sofitel Lafayette Square (p. 26)** DOWNTOWN Cheerful, airy rooms with beige tones and lots of light greet you at this Sofitel near Lafayette Square and the White House. Opened in 2002 in a renovated 1928 office building, the hotel's French owners aimed for a decor that melds 1920s Art Deco with a contemporary style. Bathrooms have separate tubs and showers.... *Tel 202/730-8800 (800/763-4835). Fax 202/730-8500. www.sofitel.com. 806 15th St. NW, 20005. McPherson Sq. Metro. 220 rooms, 17 suites. AE, MC, V. \$\$\$*

**State Plaza (p. 22)** FOGGY BOTTOM This hotel is great for visiting diplomats, performers, scholars, and families who like the location as well as the convenience and economy of preparing some meals in their suite's kitchen.... *Tel 202/861-8200 (800/424-2859). www.stateplaza.com. 2117 E St. NW, 20037. Foggy Bottom/George Washington University Metro. 228 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$*

**Swann House (p. 27)** DUPONT CIRCLE Rooms and suites in this spectacular B&B come with some eye-popping amenities. A couple of them have fireplaces and/or Jacuzzis. One has a private balcony (with a less-than-spectacular view). One bathroom has a high-domed ceiling, an enormous bathtub, and a gigantic rain shower. Swann House's in-ground pool is a rarity in the Dupont Circle neighborhood.... *Tel 202/265-4414. Fax 202/265-6755. www.swannhouse.com. 1808 New Hampshire Ave. NW, 20009. Dupont Circle Metro. 8 rooms. AE, DISC, MC, V. \$\$*

**Tabard Inn (p. 25)** DUPONT CIRCLE This hotel supplies old European comfort, charm and eccentricity (including 11 rooms with shared bathrooms). Comprised of three contiguous Victorian town houses, this small hotel offers rooms in a variety of configurations and prices. Also included are free continental breakfast in the Tabard's excellent restaurant and free admission to the nearby Capital YMCA.... *Tel 202/785-1277. Fax 202/785-6173. www.tabardinn.com. 1739 N St. NW, 20036. Dupont Circle Metro. 40 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$*

**Topaz Hotel (p. 24)** DUPONT CIRCLE The supertrendy California flair here includes staff in sunburst tunics and furnishings accented with silk, mohair, velvet, and leather. Some guest rooms are special “energy rooms” or “yoga rooms,” with appropriate accoutrements for exercise or yoga. The spacious, comfortable guest rooms are brightly decorated. The lobby flows into the equally trendy Topaz Bar. Off-peak rates can fall to \$125.... Tel 202/393-3000 (800/775-1202). Fax 202/785-9581. [www.topazhotel.com](http://www.topazhotel.com). 1733 N St. NW, 20036. Dupont Circle Metro. 99 rooms. AE, DC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**Wardman Park Marriott Hotel (p. 21)** UPPER NORTHWEST Washington’s largest hotel, a mega-convention venue, serves up two outdoor swimming pools, fitness center, restaurant, pub, bar, deli, its own Starbucks, many suites (some with balconies), and easy access to the Metro.... Tel 202/328-2000 (888/236-2427). Fax 202/234-0015. [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com). 2660 Woodley Rd. NW, 20008. Woodley Park-Zoo Metro. 1,340 rooms, 125 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$

**Washington Plaza (p. 26)** DOWNTOWN The large outdoor pool at this 1960s hotel accommodates poolside dining and drinking as well as watersports. There’s a fitness center, and guests get a free *Washington Post* Monday through Saturday. Rooms have the standard amenities, but you pay for wireless Internet access. Promotions can cut rates to \$149.... Tel 202/842-1300 (800/424-1140). Fax 202/371-9602. [www.washingtonplazahotel.com](http://www.washingtonplazahotel.com). 10 Thomas Circle NW, at Massachusetts Ave. and 14th St., 20005. McPherson Sq. Metro. 314 rooms. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$

**Washington Suites Georgetown (p. 22)** FOGGY BOTTOM/WEST END On the edge of Georgetown and Foggy Bottom, this all-suites facility is a bargain, with deals as low as \$149 a night. Check out the list of freebies: cookies at check-in, reception Tuesday evening, *Washington Post* Monday through Friday, continental breakfast daily, high-speed Internet access, and an exercise room. Each suite has two TVs, and there’s a coin-operated laundry on-site.... Tel 202/333-8060 (877/736-2500). [www.washingtonsuitesgeorgetown.com](http://www.washingtonsuitesgeorgetown.com). 2500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 20037. Foggy Bottom/George Washington University Metro. 124 suites. AE, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$

**Willard InterContinental Washington (p. 20)** DOWNTOWN Long-time power palace near the White House, the Willard reeks of history and is a favorite haunt of business executives and lobbyists with generous expense accounts. The Federal, Victorian, and Edwardian decor in the luxurious rooms cunningly conceals 21st-century amenities.... Tel 202/628-9100 (888/424-6835). Fax 202/637-7326. [www.washington.intercontinental.com](http://www.washington.intercontinental.com). 1401

Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 20004. Metro Center Metro. 294 rooms, 40 suites. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. \$\$\$\$\$

**Woodley Park Guest House (p. 27)** UPPER NORTHWEST Rooms here range from tiny to moderately small, and some share bathrooms. But they're comfortable, modern (renovated in 2001), close to the Metro, and they can be had for as little as \$125. It's a good place to stay if you're an artist, as all the artwork on the walls was purchased from hotel guests.... Tel 202/667-0218 (866/667-0218). Fax 202/6671080. woodleyparkguesthouse.com. 2647 Woodley Rd NW, 20008. Woodley Park-Zoo Metro. 18 rooms. AE, MC, V. \$\$