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The Best of Washington, D.C., on a Budget

Nearly 20 million visitors come to the nation's capital each year plotting itineraries that list Washington, D.C.'s most famous "best" experiences: tours of the presidential memorials, the White House (at least from the outside), the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian museums, and other of D.C.'s premier museums. Your own itinerary should include all of these and more. Try to catch one of the free concerts staged nightly at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and make sure you fit in a delicious meal at one of D.C.'s many good and inexpensive ethnic eateries. Ride the Metro and observe Washingtonians at their most serious; rent a bike and pedal along a path that parallels the Potomac River; stroll one of D.C.'s charming neighborhoods. Discovering the best of Washington has as much to do with experiencing the city's less touted charms as it does with hitting its "hot" spots. This chapter suggests some of the best ways to see the best of Washington.

1 Frommer's Favorite Free & Affordable Washington Experiences

- **Visiting the Lincoln Memorial After Dark.** During the day, hordes of rambunctious schoolchildren may distract you; at night, the experience is infinitely more moving. See chapter 7.
- **Taking a Monument and Memorials Walking Tour.** Have a hearty breakfast, then take the Metro to Foggy Bottom, and when you exit, turn right on 23rd Street NW and follow it to Constitution Avenue NW. Cross the avenue, make a left, walk past Henry Bacon Drive, and follow the signs to the Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials; cross Independence Avenue, and follow the cherry tree-lined Tidal Basin path to the FDR Memorial and further to the Jefferson Memorial; proceed to the new World War II Memorial, if you're here after May 29, 2004, when it officially debuts; and finish your tour at the Washington Monument. This is a long but beautiful hike; afterward, head up 15th Street NW for a strength-restoring meal at one of the many excellent downtown restaurants. See chapters 6 and 7.
- **Rambling Through Rock Creek Park.** A paved bike/walking path extends 11 miles from the Lincoln Memorial to the Maryland border. You can hop on the trail at many spots throughout the city—it runs past the National Zoo, behind the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Woodley Park, near Dupont Circle, and across from the Watergate/Kennedy Center complex. You can rent a bike from **Big Wheel Bikes** at 1034 33rd St. NW (☎ 202/337-0254) in Georgetown, or from

Impressions

My God! What have I done to be condemned to reside in such a city!

—A French diplomat in the early days

Thompson's Boat Center (☎ 202/333-4861), located on the path across from the Kennedy Center. For a really long bike ride, trek to the Lincoln Memorial, get yourself across the busy stretch that connects the parkway to the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and cross the bridge to the trail on the other side; this path winds 19 miles to Mount Vernon. See chapter 7.

- **Spending the Day in Alexandria.**

Just a short distance (by Metro, car, or bike) from the District is George Washington's Virginia hometown. Roam the quaint cobblestone streets, browse charming boutiques and antique stores, visit the 18th-century houses and other historic attractions, and dine in one of Alexandria's fine restaurants. See chapter 10.

- **Weighing in Judgment.** If you're in town when the Supreme Court is in session (Oct to late Apr; call ☎ 202/479-3211 for details), you can observe a case being argued; it's thrilling to see this august institution at work. See chapter 7.

- **Admiring the Library of Congress.** The magnificent Italian Renaissance-style Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress—filled with murals, mosaics, sculptures, and allegorical paintings—is one of America's most notable architectural achievements. See chapter 7.

- **Attending a Millennium Stage Performance at the Kennedy Center.** Every evening at 6pm, the Kennedy Center presents a free 1-hour concert performed by local, up and coming, or nationally known musicians. This is a

winner. Call ☎ 800/444-1324 or 202/467-4600, or check the website, www.kennedy-center.org. See chapter 9.

- **Spending a Morning on the Mall.**

Take the Metro to the Smithsonian station early in the morning (about 8:30 is early enough), when the Mall is magical and tourist-free. Walk toward the Capitol Building along Jefferson Drive to the Smithsonian Information Center (the Castle) and stroll through the magnolia-lined parterres of the beautiful Enid A. Haupt Garden. Return to Jefferson Drive, walk further east to the Hirshhorn, ducking in, on your way, for a look at the lovely Ripley Garden, before crossing the street to tour the Hirshhorn's sunken Sculpture Garden. Climb back to street level and cross the Mall to the enchanting National Gallery Sculpture Garden, at 7th Street and Madison Drive. See chapter 7.

- **Debarking at Union Station.**

Noted architect Daniel H. Burnham's turn-of-the-20th-century beaux arts railway station is worth a visit even if you're not trying to catch a train. Dawdle and admire its coffered 96-foot-high ceilings, grand arches, and great halls, modeled after the Baths of Diocletian and the Arch of Constantine in Rome. Then shop and eat: The station's 1988 restoration filled the tri-level hall with everything from Ann Taylor and Crabtree & Evelyn to a high-quality food court. See chapters 7 and 8.

- **Enjoying an Artful Evening at the Phillips Collection.** Thursday evenings year-round, from 5 to

8:30pm, you pay \$5 to tour the mansion-museum rooms filled with Impressionist, post-Impressionist, and modern art. Your tour ends up in the paneled Music Room, where you'll enjoy jazz, blues, or other musical combinations performed by fine local musicians, topped off by an artful lecture. It's a popular mingling spot for singles (there's a cash bar and sandwich fare). Call ☎ **202/387-2151** for information. See chapter 7 for complete details on the Phillips Collection; see chapter 9 for more nightlife.

- **Strolling Along Embassy Row.** Head northwest on Massachusetts Avenue from Dupont Circle. It's a gorgeous walk along tree-shaded streets lined with beaux arts mansions. Built by fabulously wealthy magnates during the Gilded Age, most of these palatial precincts are occupied today by foreign embassies. See chapter 7 for more information.
- **People-Watching at Dupont Circle.** One of the few "living" circles, Dupont's is the all-weather hangout for mondo-bizarre biker-couriers, chess players, street musicians, and lovers. Sit on a bench and be astounded by the passing scene. See chapter 4.
- **Cutting a Deal at the Georgetown Flea Market.** Pick up a latte from the nearby Starbucks and spend a pleasant Sunday browsing through the castoffs of wealthy Washingtonians, hand-painted furniture by local artists, and a hodgepodge of antiques and collectibles. Everybody shops here at one time or another, so you never know who you'll see or what you'll find. The market is located at Wisconsin Avenue NW at S Street NW in Georgetown; it's open year-round, Sunday from

9am to 5pm. See chapter 8 for more shopping.

- **Shopping at Eastern Market.** Capitol Hill is home to more than government buildings; it's a community of old town houses, antiques shops, and the veritable institution, Eastern Market. Here, the locals barter and shop on Saturday mornings for fresh produce and baked goods, and on Sunday for flea market bargains. It's located at 7th Street SE, between North Carolina Avenue and C Street SE.
- **Ordering Drinks on the Sky Terrace of the Hotel Washington.** Posher bars exist, but none with this view. The experience is almost a cliché in Washington: When spring arrives, make a date to sit on this outdoor rooftop terrace, sip a gin and tonic, and gaze at the panoramic view of the White House, Treasury Building, and monuments. Open from the end of April through October, for drinks and light fare (☎ **202/347-4499**).
- **Chilling to the Sounds of Live Jazz in the Sculpture Garden.** Friday evenings in summer at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden, dip your toes in the fountain pool and chill, as a live jazz group plays a set for you, from 5 to 8pm. The garden's Pavilion Café sells tapas and wine and beer, by the way. See chapter 7.
- **Ice Skating on the Mall.** The National Gallery Sculpture Garden pool turns into an ice skating rink in winter. So visit the Gallery (at 7th St. and Madison Dr.), finishing up at the Sculpture Garden, where you can rent skates and twirl around on the ice, admiring sculptures as you go. Treat yourself to hot chocolate and sandwiches at the Pavilion Café in the garden. See chapter 7.

2 Frommer's Best Budget Hotel Bets

See chapter 5 for complete reviews of all the hotels mentioned below. The “Family-Friendly Hotels” box on p. 87 rounds up the best choices for families traveling with kids.

- **Best Location for Touring Capitol Hill:** The **Capitol Hill Suites**, 200 C St. SE (☎ 800/424-9165 or 202/543-6000), is the only hotel actually *on* Capitol Hill, which is why a number of congressional members book long-term stays here. You're a block away from the Capitol, Library of Congress, and Supreme Court, and just up the hill from the Mall. See p. 86.
- **Best Location for Visiting the Smithsonian Museums:** The **Hotel Harrington**, 436 11th St. NW (☎ 800/424-8532 or 202/628-8140; www.hotel-harrington.com), lies within easy walking distance of both the White House and the Mall. See p. 91.
- **Best Budget Boutique Hotel:** In the District, the boutique hotel, the **Jurys Normandy Inn**, 2118 Wyoming Ave. NW (☎ 800/424-3729 or 202/483-1350; www.jurysdoyle.com), charges \$89 to \$185 for rooms that are small but charming, and for service that's personable; extras like an exercise room, a pool, and a restaurant are available at its sister hotel around the corner. See p. 98.
- **Best Lodging If You're on a Shoestring Budget:** The less private the accommodations and the fewer number of bathrooms a property offers, the cheaper its rates. If you don't mind bunking down with strangers, check out **Hostelling International**, 1009 11th St. NW (☎ 202/737-2333; www.hiwashingtondc.org), which is well run, centrally located, close to the Metro, and dirt cheap (\$29 a night). See p. 93.
- **Best B&B:** I recommend two, each a restored 100+-year-old house in the wonderful, walk-to-restaurants-and-shops neighborhood of Dupont Circle. **Swann House**, 1808 New Hampshire Ave. NW (☎ 202/265-4414; www.swannhouse.com), is remarkably pretty and comfortable, with luxurious accommodations that include whirlpool baths, fine art, working fireplaces, and antique furnishings. My new favorite B&B, **The Inn at Dupont Circle**, 1312 19th St. NW (☎ 888/467-2100 or 202/467-6777; www.theinnatdupontcircle.com), opened in 2000 and offers gracious common rooms and guest rooms with distinctive features, such as loveseats in alcoves and Persian rugs on shining hardwood floors. See p. 103 and 102.
- **Best Service:** The staff at **Lincoln Suites Downtown**, 1823 L St. NW (☎ 800/424-2970 or 202/223-4320; www.lincolnhotels.com), aims to please, greeting you by name and serving you complimentary homemade cookies and milk each evening. See p. 96.
- **Best for Romance:** Either of the B&Bs mentioned above would be lovely. In the hotel category, downtown's **Henley Park Hotel**, 926 Massachusetts Ave. NW (☎ 800/222-8474 or 202/638-5200; www.henleypark.com), is the hands-down winner. The English-style hotel features luxurious lodgings, plus little bonuses, like afternoon tea, an intimate restaurant, a fun pub, and nearly nightly entertainment (see description, below, for “Best for In-House Entertainment”), so you need never leave the hotel. The rack rates make this a splurge choice, but you can often get lucky with good packages and discounts here, perhaps paying as

little as \$99 on some summer and weekend nights. See p. 93.

- **Best for Business Travelers Without a Bottomless Expense Account:** The **Four Points Sheraton, Washington, D.C. Downtown**, 1201 K St. NW (☎ 888/481-7191 or 202/289-7600; www.fourpointswashingtondc.com), is your best bet. With a great central downtown location near the new convention center, weekday rates as low as \$99, and perks that include high-speed Internet access in all rooms, an excellent on-site restaurant for business entertaining, and a 24-hour fitness center, this hotel might please even the most jaded business traveler. See p. 90.
- **Best Health Club:** Though the **Hotel Tabard Inn**, 1739 N St. NW (☎ 202/785-1277; www.tabardinn.com), doesn't have its own on-site health club, guests get free passes to the nearby YMCA, which offers Universal equipment, basketball, racquetball/handball/volleyball courts, a weight and exercise room, 25-meter indoor heated pool, a jogging track, stair climbers, treadmills, stationary bikes, a steam room, a whirlpool, and more. See p. 101.
- **Best for Travelers with Disabilities:** **Jurys Washington Hotel**, 1500 New Hampshire Ave. NW (☎ 800/423-6953 or 202/483-6000; www.jurysdoyle.com), has 11 rooms equipped for disabled guests, four with roll-in showers, and wider than normal corridors and entryways. Ramps throughout the hotel allow for easy access to the meeting room, restaurant, and pub. See p. 102.
- **Best Hotel for Feeling at Home Acting the Tourist:** The **Hotel Harrington**, 436 11th St. NW (☎ 800/424-8532 or 202/628-8140; www.hotel-harrington.com), may not be anything fancy, but the friendly staff at the front desk is willing to answer questions, and a tour bus stops right outside the front door. See p. 91.
- **Best for In-House Entertainment:** The **Henley Park Hotel**, 926 Massachusetts Ave. NW (☎ 800/222-8474 or 202/638-5200; www.henleypark.com), is notable for hosting live jazz and dancing weekend nights in its Blue Bar, and a pianist plays there Monday through Wednesday nights. See p. 93.
- **Best Hotel for Running into Locals:** Several D.C. hotels have excellent restaurants and fun bars that draw a regular crowd of inside-the-beltway types. Two of the best, and most affordable, are the **Hotel Tabard Inn**, 1739 N St. NW (☎ 202/785-1277; www.tabardinn.com), and the **Jurys Washington Hotel**, 1500 New Hampshire Ave. NW (☎ 800/423-6953 or 202/483-6000; www.jurysdoyle.com). See p. 101–102.
- **Best Views:** The **Channel Inn**, 650 Water St. SW (☎ 800/368-5668 or 202/554-2400; www.channelinn.com), overlooks the boat-filled Washington Channel. Be sure to ask for a waterfront room.
- **Best Choice If You've Got Hippy Sensibilities and a Discriminating Palate:** The **Hotel Tabard Inn** (see mentions in other categories above) is decorated in a comfortable but decidedly funky style; fortunately, the well-esteemed restaurant focuses on seasonally fresh American cuisine, so there's nary a wheat germ or square of tofu to be found. See p. 101.
- **Best Lodgings for a Spiritual Experience:** Of course, it doesn't get much more uplifting than the quarters provided in the College of Preachers' building on the hilltop

Site Seeing: The Best Washington Websites

- **www.washingtonpost.com:** This is the *Washington Post's* site, a most helpful source for up-to-date information on restaurants, attractions, and nightlife (as well as world news).
- **www.washington.org:** The Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation operates this site. It gives a broad overview of what to see and do in D.C. and provides travel updates on security issues. Click on "Visitor Information" for tips on where to stay, dine, shop, and sightsee.
- **www.washingtonian.com:** Sure, you'll find some nice articles from the print magazine of the same name, but there's much more here. "What's Happening" is a monthly guide to what's on at museums, theaters, and other cultural showplaces around town. The magazine really wants you to buy the print edition, though—for sale at bookstores, drugstores, and grocery stores throughout the area.
- **www.fly2dc.com:** In addition to its extensive information about airline travel in and out of Washington (and ground transportation from each airport), this site also offers fun articles about restaurants and things to do in D.C.
- **www.opentable.com:** This site allows you to make reservations at some of the capital's finest restaurants.
- **www.dcaccommodations.com:** This nicely designed site recommends hotels suited for families, women, sightseers, or business travelers.
- **www.hotelsdc.com:** Capitol Reservations, a 20-year-old company, represents more than 100 hotels in the Washington area, each of which has been screened for cleanliness, safety, and other factors. You can book your room online.
- **www.bnbaccom.com:** For those who prefer to stay in a private home, guesthouse, inn, or furnished apartment, this service offers more than 80 options for you to consider.
- **www.si.edu:** This is the Smithsonian Institution's home page, which provides information about visiting Washington and leads you to the individual websites for each Smithsonian museum.
- **www.kennedy-center.org:** Find out what's playing at the Kennedy Center and listen to live broadcasts through the Net.

campus of **Washington National Cathedral**, 3510 Woodley Rd.

NW (☎ 202/537-6383; www.pecf.org). See p. 107.

3 Frommer's Best Dining Bets on a Budget

See chapter 6 for complete reviews of all the restaurants mentioned below.

- **Best Spot for a Celebration:** **Café Atlantico**, 405 8th St. NW (☎ 202/393-0812), will give you reason to celebrate even if you

didn't arrive with one. The restaurant is pure fun, with charming waiters, seating on three levels, colorful wall-size paintings by Latin and Caribbean artists, fantastic cocktails, and unusual but not

- **www.mountvernon.org:** Click on "Visitor's Guide" for daily attractions at Mount Vernon and a calendar of events, as well as information on dining, shopping, and school programs. For a sneak preview, click on "Mansion Tour" to see images of the master bedroom, dining room, slave memorial, and the Washingtons' tomb.
- **www.nps.gov/nacc:** This National Park Service site includes links to about a dozen memorials and monuments. Among the links: the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, National Mall, Ford's Theatre, FDR Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- **www.house.gov:** Once you're in the U.S. House of Representatives site, click on "Visiting D.C." to learn more about touring the Capitol building. From here, click on "The House Chamber," where you can get a view of the chamber where the House meets and learn whether the House is in session. The site also connects you with the Web pages for each of the representatives; you can use this site to e-mail your representative.
- **www.senate.gov:** In the U.S. Senate site, click on "Visitors Center" for an online virtual tour of the Capitol building and information about touring the actual Senate Gallery. It takes a few seconds for the images to download, but it's worth the wait to enjoy the panoramic video tour. Also, find out when the Senate is in session. The site connects you with the Web pages for each of the senators; you can use this site to e-mail your senator.
- **www.whitehouse.gov:** You'll find all sorts of links here, from those for Congressional Tours, to Web pages for each U.S. president, to archived White House documents, to an e-mail page you can use to contact the president or vice president.
- **www.metwashairports.com:** Ground transport, terminal maps, flight status, and airport facilities for Washington Dulles International and Ronald Reagan Washington National airports.
- **www.bwiairport.com:** Ground transport, terminal maps, flight status, and airport facilities for Baltimore-Washington International Airport.
- **www.wmata.com:** Timetables, maps, fares, and more for the Metro buses and subways that serve the Washington, D.C., metro area.

trendy Latin/Caribbean food. Another good choice: **Kinhead's**, 2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (☎ 202/296-7700), a terrific splurge choice for a special occasion. See p. 128 and 148.

- **Best View: Les Halles**, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (☎ 202/347-6848), whose awning-covered sidewalk in summer becomes enclosed in winter, is a fine spot for

viewing the sights along Pennsylvania Avenue all year round. Or consider one of the restaurants at the **Kennedy Center** (at the southern end of New Hampshire Ave. NW, and Rock Creek Pkwy.; ☎ 202/416-8555): its **Roof Terrace**, **Hors D'Oeuvre**, or **KC Café**, where immense windows provide a sweeping panoramic view of the Potomac River and

Washington landmarks. See p. 124 and 119.

- **Best for Kids: Famous Luigi's Pizzeria Restaurant**, 1132 19th St. NW (☎ 202/331-7574), serves up some of the best pizza and spaghetti in town, plus the place is loud and indestructible. See p. 132.
- **Best Chinese: Tony Cheng's Seafood Restaurant**, 619 H St. NW (☎ 202/371-8669), in the heart of Chinatown, is consistently good and a great place for Hunan, spicy Szechuan, and Cantonese specialties. See p. 126.
- **Best French:** For French staples and bistro atmosphere, head to **Bistrot Lepic & Wine Bar**, at 1736 Wisconsin Ave. NW (☎ 202/333-0111), or **Bistrot du Coin**, 1738 Connecticut Ave. NW (☎ 202/234-6969). See p. 154 and 140.
- **Best Southern: At Vidalia**, 1990 M St. NW (☎ 202/659-1990), chef Jeff Buben calls his cuisine "provincial American," a euphemism for fancy fare that includes cheese grits and biscuits in cream gravy. See p. 134.
- **Best Mexican: Lauriol Plaza**, 1835 18th St. NW (☎ 202/387-0035), isn't completely Mexican (it's also Salvadoran and Cuban). But it's all delicious and well priced, and worth standing in line for, since the restaurant does not take reservations.
- **Best Pizza:** At **Pizzeria Paradiso**, 2029 P St. NW (☎ 202/223-1245), peerless chewy-crusteds pies are baked in an oak-burning oven and crowned with delicious toppings; you'll find great salads and sandwiches on fresh-baked focaccia here, too. If you like thick, old-fashioned pizzas, head to **Famous Luigi's Pizzeria Restaurant**, 1132 19th St. NW (☎ 202/331-7574). See p. 143 and 132.
- **Best Healthy Meal:** At **Legal Sea Foods**, 2020 K St. NW (☎ 202/496-1111), follow up a cup of light clam chowder (made without butter, cream, or flour) with an entree of grilled fresh fish and vegetables and a superb sorbet for dessert. It's guilt-free dining. See p. 133.
- **Best for a Bad Mood:** At **Al Tiramisu**, 2014 P St. NW (☎ 202/467-4466), the waiters, the owner, the conviviality, and the Italian food gently coax that smile upon your face. See p. 145.
- **Best Spot for Romance on a Budget: Bistro Français**, 3124-28 M St. NW (☎ 202/338-3830), is *très romantique*, but you must ask to be seated in the more intimate, candlelit dining room section. For something exotic, try the **Bombay Club**, 815 Connecticut Ave. NW (☎ 202/659-3727), where the food is ambrosial and the service royal. Here you can linger over a meal as long as you like, enjoying the mood created by the pianist's music, in a dining room that recalls the days of the British empire. See p. 150 and 131.
- **Best Breakfast:** Stuff yourself at an all-you-can-eat buffet at **Reeves Restaurant & Bakery**, 1306 G St. NW (☎ 202/628-6350), for just \$6.95 daily. See p. 127.
- **Best Brunch:** For something a little different (like drag queens slinking around the room), go to **Perry's**, in Adams-Morgan, at 1811 Columbia Rd. NW (☎ 202/234-6218), where brunch is \$23. For best value, make a beeline to **Old Glory Barbecue**, 3139 M St. NW (☎ 202/337-3406), and pay \$12 (\$6.95 for kids 11 and under) for a limitless buffet of waffles, omelets cooked to your liking, muffins, biscuits with sausage gravy, fruit salad, complimentary beverages, and more. Live music is sometimes an added feature. See p. 140 and 152.

- **Best Teas:** Unlike the more formal, British-style afternoon repasts, afternoon tea at **Teaism**, 800 Connecticut Ave. NW (☎ 202/835-2233), is a casual affair, charming and relaxed. The Asian “tea list,” comprising several dozen varieties, is as lovingly composed as the wine list of the most distinguished French restaurant. The Teaism located at 400 8th St. NW (☎ 202/638-6010) also serves afternoon tea. See p. 144.
- **Best American Cuisine:** The whimsically decorated **Luna Grill & Diner**, 1301 Connecticut Ave. NW (☎ 202/835-2280), serves creatively homey food in a hip setting at fabulous prices. See p. 144.
- **Best Italian:** For traditional (and affordable) classic Italian fare, Roberto Donna's **Il Radicchio**, 223 Pennsylvania Ave. SE (☎ 202/547-5114), does the trick. See p. 117.
- **Best Seafood:** At **Johnny's Half Shell**, 2002 P St. NW. (☎ 202/296-2021), you simply can't go wrong choosing from the small but exacting menu of fried oysters, wild rockfish, softshell crabs, and the like, all superbly prepared. Or treat yourself to a splurge at **Kinthead's**, 2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (☎ 202/296-7700), one of the city's best restaurants. See p. 142.
- **Best Southwestern Cuisine:** It doesn't get more exciting than the **Red Sage Border Café**, 605 14th St. NW (☎ 202/638-4444), where hot cuisine trends meet traditional Southwestern cookery. See p. 125.
- **Best Place to Spot Your Congressperson:** If you're Mall-bound, slip into the opulent **House of Representatives Restaurant**, Room H118, at the south end of the Capitol (☎ 202/225-6300), and grab a cup of that famous bean soup. See p. 118.
- **Best Desserts:** No frou-frou desserts are served at **Café Berlin**, 322 Massachusetts Ave. NE (☎ 202/543-7656); these cakes and tortes and pies and strudels are the real thing—as hearty as those house-special wursts and schnitzels. See p. 117.
- **Best Late-Night Dining:** For comfortable, romantic surroundings and delicious French cuisine, try **Bistro Français** (see above), which serves a specially priced \$20, three-course menu until 1am nightly. Up all night? Head for **Kramerbooks & Afterwords Café**, 1517 Connecticut Ave. NW (☎ 202/387-1462), which stays open around the clock on weekends. See p. 145.
- **Best Outdoor Dining:** **Raku**, 1900 Q St. NW (☎ 202/265-RAKU), occupies a prominent, excellent people-watching corner near Dupont Circle. The scene gets better when, spring through fall, Raku's windowed walls open to its sidewalk café. See p. 143.
- **Best Ethiopian Cuisine:** **Meskerem**, 2434 18th St. NW (☎ 202/462-4100), is a good pick in this category, both for setting and for food. See p. 136.