

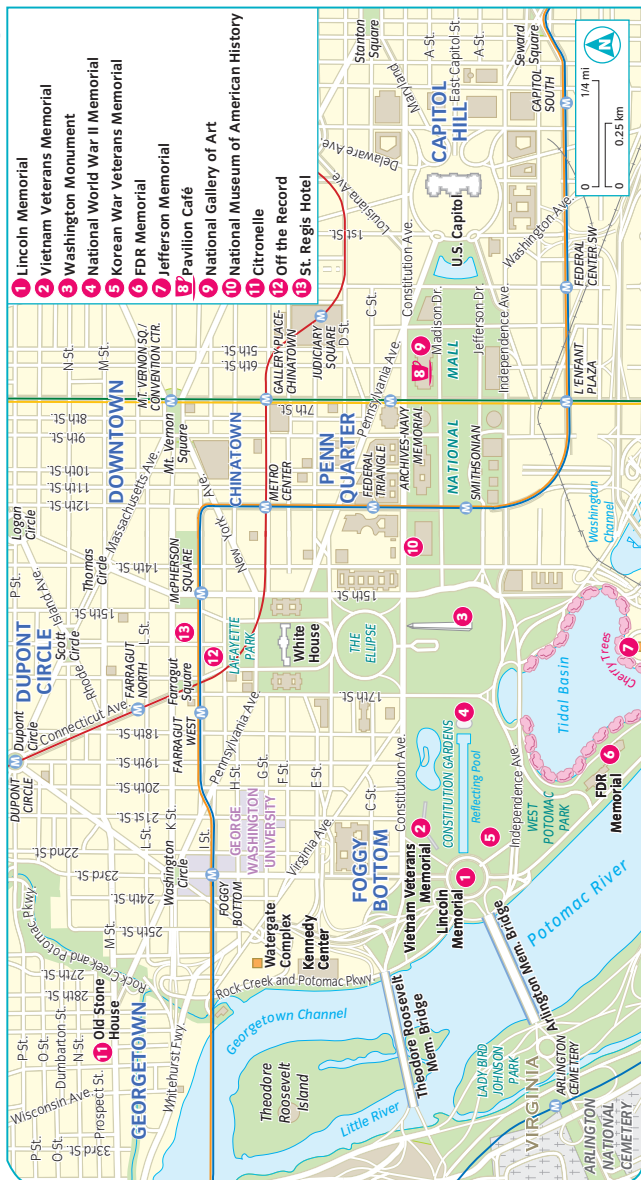
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# The Best **Full-Day** **Tours**



## The Best Full-Day Tours

## The Best of D.C. in One Day



Previous page: The Library of Congress.

**T**his full-day tour guides you through **The Mall and Georgetown**—the two parts of the District you must experience before leaving town, despite the fact that Georgetown is slightly off the public transportation grid. Both attract visitors in droves for good reason, so don't feel like a lemming if you end up following kids in matching T-shirts as you explore The Mall's free monuments and museums and then the cobblestone sidewalks of M Street in Georgetown. **START: Metro to Foggy Bottom, then a 30-minute walk, or take Tourmobile**

### Travel Tip

I recommend exploring the monuments on foot, but those who can't might consider **Tourmobile** (☎ **888/868-7707**; [www.tourmobile.com](http://www.tourmobile.com)). Its red, white, and blue sight-seeing trams travel in a loop around the monuments, passing by every 15 to 30 minutes. One fare is good for the day (\$27 for passengers 12 and up, \$13 for kids 3–11). National Park Service rangers are on duty at the following monuments daily 9:30am–11:30pm.

### ① ★★★ Lincoln Memorial.

Start your day at 8:30am, on the steps of this iconic tribute to Abraham Lincoln, the beloved 16th president of the United States. Architect Henry Bacon designed this marble, Greek temple–inspired memorial in 1914. Its 36 Doric columns reflect the states of the Union at the time of Lincoln's assassination in 1865—days after the Southern states surrendered the Civil War. Daniel Chester French designed the nearly 20-foot-tall (6m) sculpture of Lincoln, seated in solemn repose, surrounded by inscriptions of his immortal words from the Gettysburg address and his second inaugural address. You'll likely feel chills while gazing across The Mall and contemplating Lincoln's "dedication to the proposition that all men are created equal." ⌚ 30 min.

☎ 202/426-6841. [www.nps.gov/linc](http://www.nps.gov/linc). Free admission. Metro: See start, above.

② ★★★ **Vietnam Veterans Memorial.** In Constitution Gardens, "The Wall" honors the 58,000 servicemen and -women who perished or disappeared during the Vietnam War. Two black slabs of granite seem to grow from the earth toward each other, rising in height and joining to form a wide "V." Designed in 1980 by Maya Ying Lin, then an undergraduate at Yale, it has been likened to a "scar in the

*The Lincoln Memorial.*







*The Vietnam Veterans Memorial.*

earth,” evoking the deep rift the war created among Americans. The names of the dead and missing are inscribed into the reflective stone. In reverent silence, mourning families make rubbings and leave flowers for their late sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, husbands, and wives. ⌚ 20 min. ☎ 202/426-6841.

*The Washington Monument.*

[www.npa.gov/vive](http://www.npa.gov/vive). Free admission. Metro: Foggy Bottom, then a 25-min. walk.

### 3 Washington Monument.

Robert Mills designed this 555-foot-tall (169m) monument to honor President George Washington. The world's tallest masonry structure when it was built in 1884, it's still visible from points throughout the city. If you can, reserve a ticket to the observatory, with its breathtaking views of the capital city. Tickets are free but required, and usually run out by 9am. You can make advance reservations for a \$1.50 fee by calling ☎ 877/444-6777 or going to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). ⌚ 20 min.

☎ 202/426-6841. [www.nps.gov/wash](http://www.nps.gov/wash). Daily 9am–4:45pm. Closed July 4 and Dec 25. Metro: Smithsonian, then a 10-min. walk.

### 4 National World War II Memorial.

After controversy between activists demanding a tribute to “the greatest generation” that fought and died in World War II, and naysayers who didn’t want The Mall altered, this serene memorial





was completed in 2004—without obstructing the views of the Lincoln Memorial or Washington Monument. Built of bronze and granite, it features 56 pillars that represent the unity of the states and territories in their decision to enter the war. The

4,000 sculpted gold stars on the Freedom Wall signify the 400,000 Americans who died fighting from 1941 to 1945. 🕒 20 min. ☎️ 202/619-7222. [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com). Free admission. Metro: Farragut West, Federal Triangle, or Smithsonian, with a 25-min. walk.

**5 Korean War Veterans Memorial.** The image of 19 larger-than-life ground soldiers slogging through a field, dressed in identical flowing rain capes, helmets, and battle gear, is haunting. Completed in 1986, it reminds viewers of a war forgotten by many, and honors the men and women who gave their lives for it, far from home. 🕒 20 min. ☎️ 202/426-6841. [www.nps.gov/kowa](http://www.nps.gov/kowa). Free admission. Metro: Foggy Bottom, then a 30-min. walk.

**6 FDR Memorial.** This 7½-acre (3-hectare) outdoor memorial with four outdoor rooms, or galleries, celebrates the man who saw the U.S. through the Great Depression and much of World War II. Designed by Lawrence Halprin in 1978 (and completed in 1997), it tells the story of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's four-term presidency: Each gallery represents the challenges of the time and showcases FDR's most famous quotes alongside sculptures of soup



*The Korean War Veterans Memorial.*

lines, the president in his wheelchair, his passionately political wife Eleanor, and more. 🕒 20 min. ☎️ 202/426-6841.

[www.nps.gov/frde](http://www.nps.gov/frde). Free admission. Metro: Smithsonian, then a 30-min. walk.

### **7 ★★★ Jefferson Memorial.**

Modeled after the Pantheon in Rome, this circular colonnaded structure fronts the picturesque Tidal Basin—which is lined with cherry trees that burst into rosy color from late March through mid-April. Architect John Russell drew from Thomas Jefferson's love of neoclassical design to celebrate the third president's contributions as a renowned architect, scientist, politician, musician, diplomat, and inventor. Dedicated in 1943, it features a 19-foot-tall (5.7m) bronze statue of Jefferson inside. 🕒 20 min. ☎️ 202/426-6841. [www.nps.gov/thje](http://www.nps.gov/thje). Free admission. Metro: Smithsonian, then a 25-min. walk.

It's tough to know where to find a quick bite to eat amid so many museums and government buildings. The **8 kids Pavilion Café**, in the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden, has a solid menu of salads, sandwiches, espresso drinks, and baked goods. Dine outdoors on warm days, or gaze out at the ice-skating rink in winter. **9th St. and Constitution Ave., NW.** 🕒 45 min. ☎️ 202/289-3360. \$. Metro: Archives, Judiciary Square, or Smithsonian.

**9 ★★★ National Gallery of Art.**

If you visit only one of the city's free art museums, make it this one, founded in 1937. Its permanent collection spans 9 centuries of masterworks: early Italian and Flemish Renaissance paintings, including the single Leonardo da Vinci painting in the U.S.; the High Renaissance works of Titian; the Dutch interiors of Vermeer; the pre-Impressionist and Impressionist works of Monet, Manet, van Gogh, Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Gauguin, and Cézanne; and the modern masterpieces of Picasso, O'Keeffe, Johns, and Pollock, to name a few. Art lovers may want to clear out a whole day to wander these halls. Everyone else, allot 2 hours before heading to the National Museum of American History, your next stop. 🕒 2 hr. See p 60 for service details.

**10 ★★ National Museum of American History.** Want to see

*Edgar Degas' Little Dancer Aged Fourteen, at the National Gallery.*

the original Kermit the Frog hand puppet? How about Dorothy's ruby red slippers, Archie Bunker's chair, or Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves? America's history is told through its objects, art, advertising, communications, and songs at this popular museum that reopened in 2008 after extensive renovations. The

Star-Spangled Banner, the flag that inspired the national anthem, has been recently restored and is now housed in a dramatic new gallery and atrium dedicated to its preservation. Julia Child's kitchen, a 1903 Winton—the first car driven across the United States—and 14 dresses from First

Ladies including Laura Bush, Jackie Kennedy, and Michelle Obama are just a few more of the objects on display here. For those

who wish to immerse themselves for an afternoon or a full day, see chapter 3. 🕒 1 hr. See p 68.

*John Singer Sargent's Nonchalair (Repose), at the National Gallery.*



## White Elephants

As you wander among the monuments, memorials, and museums, you can't help but notice the **U.S. Capitol Building** (see p 28), at the eastern end of The Mall; the **Federal Reserve Building**, on Constitution Avenue, almost directly across from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (open to the public through prearranged group tours; ☎ 202/452-3324); and the **White House**, behind its imposing wrought-iron fence, at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The new **Capitol Visitors Center** (p 39) features an exhibit hall and detailed tour information. The **White House Visitor Center**, at 15th and E streets, offers more details and a 30-minute video. See "Political Washington" on p 28 for more information.

### 11 ★★★ Citronelle for dinner.

After touring The Mall, hail a cab and head for historic Georgetown, home of the wealthy, the preppy, the powerful—and some of the city's finest restaurants. Chef Michel Richard has cultivated a dining empire in D.C., and Citronelle is squarely on top with its stylish, electric atmosphere and cuisine. *See chapter 7 for service details and other dining options.* 3000 M St., NW (at 30th St). ☎ 202/625-2150. Entrees \$14–\$42. AE, DC, MC, V. Metro: Foggy Bottom or Roslyn.

### 12 ★★ Off the Record for after-dinner drinks.

No visit to D.C. would be complete without a stop at the historic Hay-Adams Hotel, across Lafayette Park from the White House, and home to this legendary drinking establishment. The bar is a well-known place to see and be seen in the District, and a frequent haunt of journalists, lobbyists, politicians, and statesmen—some of whom just might be pictured in the dozens of political caricatures on display. Ask the bartender for the lowdown.

1 Lafayette Square, NW. ☎ 202/638-6600. www.hayadams.com. Metro: McPherson Square or Farragut West. See p 149.

### 13 ★★★ St. Regis Hotel.

In the heart of downtown, 2 blocks from the White House, this stately hotel recently reopened after a renovation restored its original architectural details. Rooms reflect the classic Washington design, but offer high-tech amenities. Don't miss the nightly champagne sabering ritual in the lobby (6pm fall and winter, 5pm spring and summer). *See chapter 10 for other lodging options.* See p 166 for service details.

Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves, at the National Museum of American History.





The Best of D.C. in **Two Days**

- 1 National Zoological Park
- 2 National Archives
- 3 Eastern Market
- 4 Library of Congress
- 5 U.S. Capitol Building
- 6 Supreme Court
- 7 The Mall
- 8 Sonoma Restaurant and Wine Bar
- 9 The Shakespeare Theatre



**Day 2 starts at the National Zoo**—home of giant pandas, lions, tigers, elephants, and more rare species. If you set out early enough (the zoo opens at 6am), you'll have time left to explore Capitol Hill—from the bustle of Eastern Market to the hustle of lawmakers and judges in the U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court buildings, both open for tours and spectators. **START: Metro to Woodley Park–Zoo**

**1 ★★★ kids National Zoological Park.** In 2005, the birth of Tai Shan, a giant panda cub, instantly captivated Washingtonians, who followed the little critter's progress, every step of the way, via the zoo's online, live "pandacam." In 2010, the nearly 200-pound panda returned to China as part of a program to help sustain pandas in the wild, but Tai Shan's parents and the giant panda enclosure are still the main attraction at this 163-acre (65-hectare) park in downtown D.C. You won't need tickets to catch a glimpse of these rare creatures, but crowds regularly flock to see the bears romp through their habitat and eat frozen treats, so be sure to get there early. The pandas aren't the only draw here: Established in 1889, the National Zoo is home to some 500 species, many of them rare and/or endangered. You'll see cheetahs, zebras, camels, elephants, gorillas, hippos, seals, monkeys, meerkats, and, of course, lions, tigers, and (other) bears. Be warned that the hilly terrain can be tiring for very *big cats at the National Zoo.*



*The Panda House, at the National Zoo.*

young children, especially on hot days. The zoo rents strollers, and the Kids Farm also provides a nice break from all that walking. Children 3 to 8 can observe farm animals up close: ducks, chickens, goats, cows, and miniature donkeys. ⌚ **60–90 min.** **Start: 8am** (the zoo opens at 6am, so you can start earlier if you'd like more time) and allow 20 min. for Metro to next tour stop. 3001 Connecticut Ave. NW, adjacent to Rock Creek Park.



☎ 202/673-4800 or 673-4717. [www.natzoo.si.edu](http://www.natzoo.si.edu). Free admission. Daily Apr–Oct (weather permitting): grounds 6am–8pm; animal buildings 10am–6pm. Daily Oct–Apr: grounds 6am–6pm; animal buildings 10am–4:30pm. Metro: Woodley Park–Zoo/Adams Morgan or Cleveland Park.

Need a quick coffee or snack? Look for one of the three year-round eateries on zoo grounds: the **Mane Restaurant** on Lion/Tiger Hill, **Panda Café** near the Fujifilm Panda Habitat, or **Express Grill** at Panda Plaza. **PopStop**, across from the Small Mammal House, is seasonal. Vending machines are positioned near restroom and information facilities throughout the park.

② ★★ **National Archives.** After the Zoo, return to the Metro and head for the National Mall where you'll find, among the Smithsonian museums, some of the most important historic documents in U.S. history. The original Declaration of Independence, signed by members of Congress; the Constitution; the

Bill of Rights; and other fascinating glimpses into America's past are on display in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building. The Emancipation Proclamation, Articles of Confederation, Edison's light bulb patent, and letters from Abraham Lincoln can also be ogled at this monument to history. ⌚ 1 hr: Start 9:45am. One-hour guided tours are available Mon–Fri, 9:45am. Reservations for self-guided tours are encouraged. 700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW. [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). Mar 15 to Labor Day Mon–Fri 10:15am–5:30pm, Day after Labor Day to Mar 14, Mon–Fri 10:15am–4pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Dec 25. Metro: Archives/Naval Memorial.

③ ★★ **Eastern Market.** Built in 1873, this city institution is a flea market, farmer's market, and crafts fair all rolled into one. A fire in 2007 nearly destroyed historic South Hall, but following two years of massive renovations, the market reopened in 2009 better than ever. Catch farmers' merchants selling their wares in the East Hall directly across the street. Before you start shopping, charge up over lattes,

The original Declaration of Independence, at the Library of Congress.







*Interior of the Library of Congress.*

pancakes, muffins, omelets, or even ham sandwiches and salt-and-vinegar chips. The outdoor lot fills on weekends (Mar–Dec) with farmers and fresh produce, artisans and ceramics, and bargain-hunters haggling over a mishmash of antiques.

🕒 1 hr. See p 99 for service details.

**4 Library of Congress.** Want to see the original “rough draft” of the Declaration of Independence written in Thomas Jefferson’s own hand? This American treasure is here, along with the papers of other presidents, historic maps, revolving exhibitions, and multimedia resources. 🕒 1 hr.; arrive 30 min. before tour begins. Docent-led, scheduled public tours depart Mon–Sat, in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building, at 10:30, 11:30am, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30pm. No 3:30pm tour on Saturdays. 101 Independence Ave. SE. [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov). Mon–Sat. 8:30am–4:30pm, except for federal holidays. Metro: Capitol South or Union Station.

**5 ★★★ U.S. Capitol Building.** This majestic, 19th-century neoclassical landmark has served as the seat

of American lawmaking since the first Congress in 1800. In 1793, George Washington laid the cornerstone of Dr. William Thornton’s original design, and various architects saw to the building’s completion in 1819. A museum of American art and history, as well as its principal civic forum, the Capitol is worth a stop just to see its architecture and hundreds of paintings, sculptures, and other artworks throughout its 17-acre (6.8-hectare) floor area. Tours can be arranged at the new Capitol Visitor Center (📞 202/226-8000; Mon–Sat 8:30am–4:30pm except Thanksgiving, Dec 25, and Jan 1), whose exhibition hall features the original plaster cast of the *Statue of Freedom*, the bronze statue that stands atop the Capitol dome, as well as 24 sculptures from the Capitol’s Statuary Hall depicting each state’s favorite sons and daughters. Visiting the CVC and the Capitol are free, and you can preorder Capitol tour tickets online. All food, beverages, large bags, and pointed objects are prohibited. 🕒 1 hr. Entrance at the Capitol Visitors Center on E. Capitol St. at 1st St. NW. 📞 202/225-6827. [www.visitthecapitol.gov](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov). Metro: Capitol South or Union Station.

*The Library of Congress reading room.*





*The Supreme Court of the United States.*

### Tip

You can find complete coverage of how to view the House or Senate galleries in session in “Political Washington” (see p 28).

**6 ★★ Supreme Court.** The chamber of the U.S. Supreme Court, the highest tribunal in the land, has been restored to its mid-19th-century appearance. Its nine justices, appointed for life terms, decide our collective fate—whether they’re

*The interior of the Supreme Court.*



weighing in on federal laws or, more rarely, sealing a contested presidential election. The court convenes the first Monday in October and stays in session until it has heard all its cases and handed down decisions. The Court hears oral arguments the first 2 weeks of each month on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Visitors can listen to the arguments on short tours, or they can watch the day’s entire proceedings. ⌚ **1–2 hr.; lines can be long, so be prepared to wait for up to 1 hr.** **If you’re a legal eagle or Court TV fanatic and absolutely must see the day’s full proceedings, arrive by 8:30am and get in line early, for first-come, first-served seating. Everyone else can start at 2pm or 3pm and gain entry with time to spare.** 1 1st St. NE (between E. Capitol St. and Maryland Ave. NE). ☎ 202/479-3211. [www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov). Free admission. Mon–Fri 9am–4:30pm, except for federal holidays. Metro: Capitol South or Union Station.

You have an hour or two before dinner and don’t want to spoil it. If the weather is warm, grab a soda and

snack at any of the many vendor carts stationed on **7 The Mall**. Then, either relax on the grass and people-watch, admire the sights, check out a monument, or take in one of the dozens of events held on The Mall through the year—from kite-flying festivals to international dance performances. (Visit [www.nps.gov/mall](http://www.nps.gov/mall) for a schedule.) Otherwise, take shelter at **Union Station** (Columbus Circle at Massachusetts Ave. and 1st St.), just a few blocks north, where you'll find snacks, coffee, shopping, and stunning architecture—plus a Metro station for transportation to your next stop.

**8 ★ Sonoma Restaurant and Wine Bar.** Oenophiles and fans of simply prepared, New American fare will adore Sonoma. With 40-plus wines by the glass, plus a lovingly edited wine list of some 200 Italian and French bottles, this upscale but casual bistro is the perfect place to sit and unwind after a

long day of sightseeing. Airy and elegant, Sonoma serves “small plates” in four food groupings: cheeses and charcuterie, handmade pasta and pizzas, wood-grilled meats and fish, and organic salads and produce. Book your table in advance to be guaranteed an evening at this ever-popular hotspot.

**🕒** *If you plan to see a show after dinner, reserve for 5:30 or 6pm and tell your server you need the check by 7:30pm. See chapter 7 for other dining options. 223 Pennsylvania Ave. SE. ☎ 202/544-8088. [www.sonomadc.com](http://www.sonomadc.com). Lunch Mon–Fri; dinner daily. Metro: Capitol South.*

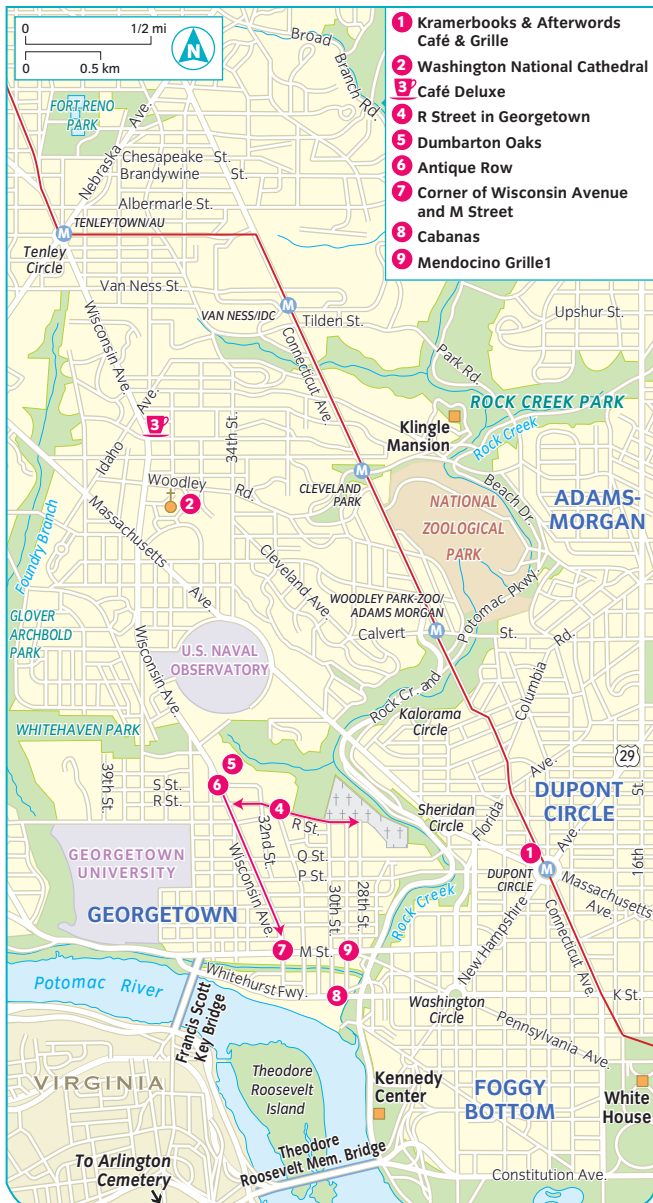
**9 ★★ The Shakespeare Theatre.** Catch the Bard's best, from *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* to *Othello*, in productions with astounding sets and nationally known actors. **450 7th St. NW (between D and E sts.).** ☎ 202/547-1122. [www.shakespearedc.org](http://www.shakespearedc.org). Tickets \$23–\$68. Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown or Archives/Navv Memorial.

*Sonoma Restaurant and Wine Bar, with more than 40 vintages by the glass.*





# The Best of D.C. in **Three Days**



**T**he Day 3 itinerary spirits you away from the crowds, past the highlights of Dupont Circle to the National Cathedral. Then you'll spend a leisurely afternoon browsing, spending some dosh, and sipping espressos in Georgetown. By the end of Day 3, you'll feel as though you know Washington—and we bet you won't want to leave. **START: Metro to Dupont Circle**

**1 ★★ Kramerbooks & Afterwords Café & Grill.** This bookstore, grill, and coffee shop is the nerve center of Dupont Circle. A legendary gathering place, it's always packed with cool college kids, stylish gay men, voracious readers, debating politicians, and curious tourists who feel the urge to pick up Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Open early in the morning and late at night, it's the perfect spot to start the day, over breakfast and the *Washington Post*. 🕒 **1 hr. Start: 8:30am. 1517 Connecticut Ave. NW (between Dupont Circle and Q St.). ☎ 202/387-1400. [www.kramers.com](http://www.kramers.com). \$6.25–\$9.75; lunch \$8.25–\$13; dinner \$11–\$18. Daily 7:30am–1am. Metro: See start, above.**



*Kramerbooks & Afterwords Café & Grill, Dupont Circle.*

**2 ★★★ Washington National Cathedral.** This glorious cathedral, the world's sixth largest, is where presidents are eulogized and sometimes interred, and where many a

member of high society is wed. With vaulted ceilings and rich stone carvings, the English Gothic architecture incorporates stones from shrines and historic buildings around the

*Dumbarton Oaks, former home of Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss.*





*Washington National Cathedral.*

universe—including outer space. That's right: A piece of lunar rock from the Apollo XI mission is embedded in the stained-glass Space Window. It's a big hit with kids, as is the Darth Vader gargoyle hidden among the spires. Episcopalian, the church has no local congregation; rather, it has functioned as a national house of prayer for various denominations, including Jewish and Serbian Orthodox citizens. (Download your own self-guided tour at [www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org).) 🕒 **1 hr. Start: 11am. Massachusetts and Wisconsin aves. NW.** ☎️ **202/537-6200. [tours@cathedral.org](mailto:tours@cathedral.org) for tour information. Free admission. Mon–Fri 10am–5:30pm; Sat 10am–4:30pm; Sun 8am–6:30pm. No direct Metro access.**

Airy, light, and warm, **3★ kids** **Café Deluxe** is a bustling neighborhood bistro that serves New American classics such as roasted chicken, tuna steaks, and burgers. With small portions and crayons for kids. 🕒 **1 hr. 3228 Wisconsin Ave. NW (at Macomb St.).** ☎️ **202/628-2233. \$\$.** **No direct Metro access.**

In pleasant weather, walkers will enjoy the roughly 20-minute downhill stroll to R Street, our next stop. Everyone else can take the 30, 32, 34, 35, or 36 bus lines in front of the Russian Embassy at 2650 Wisconsin Ave. NW, about a block north of the intersection of Wisconsin and Calvert. Taxis are also always plentiful on this main drag.

#### 4 R Street in Georgetown.

With its four- and five-story brick Federal and Georgian-style mansions, painted in robins-egg blue and sunny yellow; its private gardens rife with red tulips and pale pink hydrangeas; and its uniform row houses and manicured lawns, this street epitomizes residential Georgetown. Simply put, R Street between Wisconsin Avenue and 28th Street NW is where most Washingtonians would choose to live if money were no object. It is also home to a spectacular botanical garden, a historic park, meandering trails with romantic benches and weeping willow trees, and a grand, private cemetery. 🕒 **2 hr. Start: 1:30pm.**

*Samuel Francis Dupont Memorial.*







Antique stores on Wisconsin Avenue, in Georgetown.

**5 Dumbarton Oaks.** Once a private residence, this 19th-century mansion is a research center for studies in Byzantine and pre-Columbian art and history, as well as landscape architecture. A former cow pasture, the grounds of Dumbarton Oaks were fashioned into staggeringly beautiful traditional European gardens—with an orangery, crocus, scilla, narcissus, magnolia, and cherry blossoms. Walkways are lined with bubbling fountains, stone archways, romantic hideaways, tiled pools, and a Roman-style amphitheater. The mansion reopened in 2008 after renovations, and the gardens remain open year-round, weather permitting (Apr–May are peak months). 🕒 **30 min.** **1703 32nd St. NW** (garden entrance at 31st and R sts.). ☎ **202/339-6401.** **[www.doaks.org](http://www.doaks.org).** **Gardens: \$8 adults; \$5 kids and seniors. Tues–Sun year-round; Mar 15–Oct 31 2–6pm, Nov 1–Mar 14 2–5pm (except national holidays and Dec 24). No Metro access.**

**6 Antique Row.** Depending which way you're walking, Antique Row is either a cool cruise downhill

or a steep upgrade. In either case, antiques lovers won't care—they'll be too busy gaping at the storefronts with mint condition 18th-century divans, beautifully painted Persian consoles, weathered ceramic water jugs, and all sorts of one-of-a-kind finds. The best of the lot: Carling Nichols, Cherry, Gore-Dean, and for early-20th-century fans, Random Harvest. Bring your black AmEx card for this shopping stroll—prices are that steep. 🕒 **45 min.** **Start: 3:45pm. Wisconsin Ave., from S to N sts.**

**7 ★★ Corner of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street.** Look down M Street and you'll spy Intermix, Coach, Lacoste, Sephora, Kate Spade, and the new design district, Cady's Alley. Look up Wisconsin and see Benetton, Ralph Lauren, the Apple Store, Baby Gap, Sugar, Urban Chic, and a slew of antiques stores. It could be an expensive afternoon. When you're all shopped out, walk south, downhill, on Wisconsin Avenue. It will deliver you to the Washington Harbor and the Potomac River. 🕒 **1½ hr.** **Start: 4:30pm.**

## Detour to Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery's 612 acres (248 hectares) honors national heroes and more than 260,000 war dead, veterans, and dependents. Many famous Arlington graves bear nothing more than simple markers, such as five-star General John J. Pershing's tomb. Highlights include the **Tomb of the Unknowns**, containing the unidentified remains of service members from World Wars I and II, and the Korean War. **Arlington House** (📞 703/235-1530; [www.nps.gov/arho](http://www.nps.gov/arho)), built by Martha and George Washington's grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, is a 20-minute walk from the Visitor Center. **Pierre Charles L'Enfant's grave**, near Arlington House, is believed to afford the best view of Washington, the city he designed. Below Arlington House is the **gravesite of John Fitzgerald Kennedy**.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis rests next to her husband, and Robert Kennedy is buried close by. Arrive close to 8am to contemplate the site quietly. The **Visitor Center** offers a detailed map, restrooms, and **Tourmobile tickets** (p 9).



*Tombstones at Arlington.*

**8 Cabanas for cocktails.** Stroll the promenade, gaze at the boats slicing through the Potomac waves, and then order a cocktail—you deserve to sit down and relax. The Washington Harbor has loads of restaurants, but most are better for their outdoor seating and views of the river than for their culinary inventiveness. So we suggest you stop by Cabanas, or any of its neighboring restaurant/bars (they're right on top of each other), for a dirty martini or cold beer. And don't snack: Save room for a great meal, back on M Street. 🕒 **Head back to M St. by 7:15pm.** 3050 K St. NW (waterfront). 📞 202/944-4242. **Cocktails \$7–\$10. Lunch & dinner daily.** **Metro: Foggy Bottom.**

**9 ★★ Mendocino Grille for dinner.** On a beautiful night, nothing beats a garden table at this stylish restaurant, which fuses the flavors of California and the Mediterranean. The interior is open and airy, the wine list is great, and lovely small touches abound. Bowls of zesty warm olives, for example, help stave off hunger while chef Drew Trautmann works his magic in the kitchen. It's casual enough that you won't need to change or fuss for dinner, but elegant enough that you shouldn't wear shorts. Book your table in advance, especially on weekend nights. See chapter 7 for other options. 2917 M St. NW (at 29th St.). 📞 202/333-2912. [www.mendocinodc.com](http://www.mendocinodc.com). **Entrees \$18–\$27. Metro: Foggy Bottom.** ●