

# Excursions and Day Trips

Washington is located in a region that is rich in historic lore and natural beauty. From the bustling sounds of a Chesapeake Bay harbor to the utter stillness of a Blue Ridge mountaintop, from the small, old tobacco farms of southern Maryland to the grand estates of Virginia's hunt country, you will find a richness of scenery and history. And much of this can be found just a short drive away; the beauty of Rock Creek is within the city itself. We invite you to get off the main roads—you may be surprised by what you find. To start you on your way, here are a few short trips to natural and historical sites, most of which are managed by the National Park Service.

**Antietam National Battlefield Site, Maryland**  
The park, 25 miles from Frederick, Md., via Alt. U.S. 40 and Md. 34, commemorates one of the bloodiest, most ferocious battles of the Civil War. Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North was stopped here. The visitor center has exhibits and audiovisual programs; open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed January 1, Thanksgiving, and December 25. 301-432-5124.

**Catoctin Mountain Park, Maryland**  
You may fish, swim, boat, camp, hike, and picnic at Catoctin Mountain Park or at adjoining Cunningham Falls State Park, 65 miles north of Washington on U.S. 15. Campgrounds have restrooms, fireplaces, tables, and trailer parking; trailers more than 22 feet prohibited. Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with extended summer hours. 301-663-9330.

**C&O Canal National Historical Park, D.C. and Maryland**  
The historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, projected to link the tidewater with the Ohio Valley, runs parallel to the Potomac River beginning in Georgetown. The 184-mile-long towpath is ideal for biking, hiking, and horseback riding. For information on the mule-drawn barge trips, go to the visitor center in the Foundry Building on the canal between Thomas Jefferson and 30th Streets. Open dawn to dark daily. (See also Great Falls, Maryland. 301-739-4200.

**Clara Barton National Historic Site, Maryland**  
Built in 1892 at 5801 Oxford Road in Glen Echo, Md., this building was intended for Red Cross storage, but it became home for Clara Barton and headquarters of the American Red Cross in 1897. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. 492-6246.

**Eisenhower National Historic Site, Pennsylvania**  
This farm, adjacent to Gettysburg Battlefield, was the retirement home of President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Visits are by reservation and by shuttlebus, for which there is a charge, from the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays from Thanksgiving to April 1. 717-334-1124.

**Fort McHenry, Maryland**  
In 1814, during the British bombardment of Baltimore and Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key penned the lines to the poem that is now the National Anthem. The fort is 3 miles from the center of Baltimore, accessible via East Fort Avenue which intersects with Md. 2. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with extended summer hours. 301-962-4290.

**Fort Washington, Maryland**  
This massive 19th-century fort south of Washington was built to protect the capital city. Interpreters in period dress lead tours. Use exit 3 south from the Capital Beltway (I-95) onto Md. 210 (Indian Head Highway) to Fort Washington Road. Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in winter, 9 a.m. to dark in summer. 763-4600.

**Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania**  
The park, 36 miles north of Frederick, Md., on U.S. 15, is the site of the Civil War battle in which Union forces repulsed Lee's second, and last, invasion of the North. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 717-334-1124.

**Glen Echo Park, Maryland**  
Glen Echo was the site of Chautauqua lectures and workshops and an amusement park in the early years of the 20th century. Today the park offers creative education programs with professional artists in residence to teach and to discuss their works with visitors. It also offers festivals and concerts during the summer. A 1912 carousel operates during the summer months on Wednesdays and weekends. Open daily. 426-6282.

**Great Falls Park, Maryland**  
About 15 miles from the Mall, at the end of MacArthur Boulevard, are the Great Falls of the Potomac, an excellent place for observing the fall foliage. The restored 19th-century tavern was an important stopping point on the C&O Canal and is now a museum. Woodland paths and picnic areas are further features of the park, which is also a good starting point for hiking or cycling along the towpath. Open dawn to dusk daily. 299-3613.

**Great Falls Park, Virginia**  
Excellent views of the cascading Potomac can be seen here. The park has a snack bar, restrooms, visitor center, picnic facilities, and hiking trails. Fishing is permitted, but swimming and wading are prohibited. The park is about 15 miles from Washington at 9200 Old Dominion Drive. Open dawn to dusk daily. 285-2965.

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**Greenbelt Park, Maryland**  
The park, just 9 miles outside Washington in Maryland, has 175 campsites with hiking trails and picnic groves. Take exit 23 off the Capital Beltway (I-95), south on Kenilworth Avenue, left on Md. 193 to the entrance. Open dawn to dusk daily. 344-3948.

**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia**  
Located 65 miles from Washington via I-270 and U.S. 340, Harpers Ferry, one of two U.S. armories in the early 1800s, is historically associated with John Brown's raid and the first rumblings of the Civil War. Much of the town has been restored to its pre-1860 appearance. Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. 304-535-6371.

**Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia**  
The park, 26 miles southwest of Washington near the intersection of I-66 and Va. 234, is the site of the two Civil War battles of Manassas, known as Bull Run in the North. The visitor center, where maps of the battlefield are available, contains a museum, slide program, folders, and booklets. Open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. 703-754-7107.

**Mount Vernon, Virginia**  
South of Alexandria is the plantation that George Washington inherited from his half-brother Lawrence and which Washington made into a home for himself and his wife and her two children. The grounds and the house are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily March to September and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily the rest of the year. Fee. 780-2000.

**National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland**  
Located at Pier 3, 501 East Pratt Street, the National Aquarium is an exploration of the realm of water and the creatures that make it their home. Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with extended hours on Fridays and during the summer. Fee. 301-727-3000. Docked nearby is the lightship *Chesapeake*.

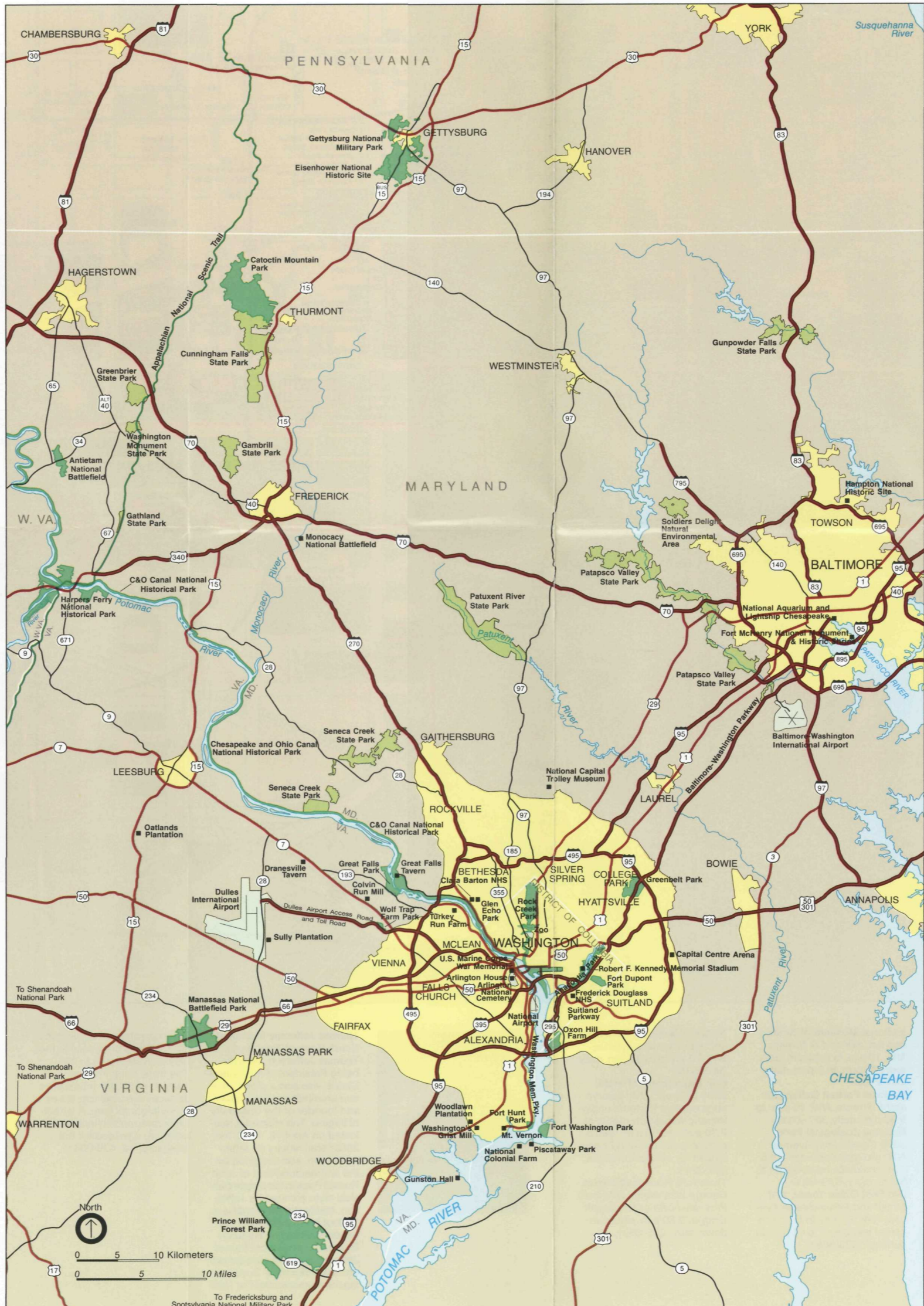
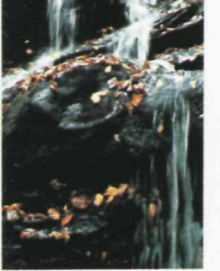
**Oxon Hill Farm, Maryland**  
This turn-of-the-century working farm in Oxon Hill is especially appealing to children. Take the Capital Beltway (I-95) to exit 3 south; directly at the end of the ramp is Oxon Hill Road. The farm is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. 839-1177.

**Prince William Forest Park, Virginia**  
Prince William, 35 miles south of Washington, has picnic sites, a family and group tent campground, a trailer campground complete with water, restrooms, grills, and picnic tables, and backpacking in the Chopawamsic Backcountry Area. Group tent and cabin camping is available by reservation only. Hiking trails and fire roads invite hikers, cyclists, and crosscountry skiers to enjoy the scenery and wildlife of the eastern deciduous Piedmont forest. Open dawn to dark daily. 703-221-7181.

**Rock Creek Park, District of Columbia**  
Established in 1890, Rock Creek Park offers 29 miles of hiking trails, 11 miles of bridle trails, horse rentals, tennis courts, athletic fields, and dozens of picnic areas. The Rock Creek Nature Center gives guided nature walks daily and has nature exhibits and planetarium shows. Demonstrations at Pierce Mill illustrate the working of a 19th-century gristmill. The Art Barn, adjacent to the mill, houses exhibits by local artists. And in Georgetown, tours are given of the Old Stone House, the oldest dwelling in Washington. Open daily. 426-6829.

**Shenandoah National Park, Virginia**  
Skyline Drive threads for 105 miles through Shenandoah, the closest national park to Washington, and provides magnificent vistas from the Blue Ridge. The park has four campgrounds with 700 campsites, mountain cottages, and lodges, fishing, horse rentals, picnic spots, 94 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and 200 miles of park trails. The park is about 80 miles southwest of Washington and may be reached via I-66 and U.S. 340 or via I-66 and U.S. 211. Open daily with museum hours 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 703-999-2266.

**Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts, Virginia**  
Opera, ballet, jazz, pop, symphony orchestra, musical theater, and modern and folk dance are performed in the Filene Center during the summer. Children's programs are performed in the Theater-in-the Woods. Ticket information: 255-1868. Open daily. 255-1800.



**Floral Displays**  
Massive seasonal displays of flowers, planted and maintained by the National Park Service, can be found throughout the city during most of the year. A favorite is the Floral Library, created in 1969, near the Tidal Basin at Independence Avenue and East Basin Drive. Other sites include Pershing Square, Lafayette Square, Fountain Four at the entrance to East Potomac Park, the west bank of the Potomac, which has plantings of more than one million daffodils, and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens located at Anacostia Avenue and Douglas Street, NE.

**Tourmobile Sightseeing Services**  
Parking in downtown Washington is difficult, and searching for a parking space can be frustrating. To complement the public transportation system, the National Park Service provides the concessioner-operated Tourmobile Service that stops at all major points of interest on the Mall and Capitol Hill and at Arlington Cemetery. Rates vary with unlimited reboarding privileges. Tickets can be purchased as you board. Service to Frederick Douglass Home and Mount Vernon is available only during the summer. 554-7950.

**Visitor Information**  
The Washington Convention and Visitors Association, 1575 I Street, NW, has current information for travelers. The association operates the Washington Visitor Information Center at 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. 789-7000.  
**Dial-A-Park** gives recorded information on current park activities and events in the Washington area. 485-PARK.  
**Kiosk**, a monthly calendar of park events, is available at most park sites.  
**Metrobuss** and subway schedules are available. 637-7000.  
**International Visitors Information Service (IVIS)**, 733 15th Street, NW, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. 783-6540.  
**Traveler's Aid Society**, 347-0101.  
**Handicapped Visitors**. For information on tours for individuals with disabilities call 426-6770 (voice) or 472-5264 (TTY).  
**Emergency Help**. Police: 911. U.S. Park Police: 426-6600.  
**USO**, 783-8117.

**Camping**  
Tent camping and trailer facilities are available at: Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia, 301-641-1441; Catoctin Mountain Park, Thurmont, Maryland, 301-663-9330; Greenbelt Park, Greenbelt, Maryland, 344-3948; C&O Canal, 301-739-4200; Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, Virginia, 703-221-7181 (tents) or 703-221-2474 (trailers).

**Picnic Areas**  
Picnic areas are available at: East and West Potomac Parks, East and West Ohio Drive, SW, no reservations necessary; Anacostia Park, between South Capitol Street and Benning Road, SE, no reservations necessary; Fort Dupont Park, Minnesota Avenue and Randle Circle, SE, for reservations call 673-7646; Rock Creek Park, north of the Zoo and west of 16th Street, NW, for reservations call 673-7646; Fort Hunt, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Virginia, for reservations call 285-2601; Fort Washington, Maryland, for reservations call 433-1190; Greenbelt Park, Maryland, for reservations call 344-3948; C&O Canal, Carderock, Maryland, for reservations call 299-3613.

**Recreation and Sports**  
**Ice Skating**: Sculpture Garden Ice Rink, 9th and Madison Drive, NW, winter only. 371-5342. Pershing Park Ice Rink, 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, winter only. 737-6938. Fort Dupont Park, 37th and Ely Place, SE, year-round on an indoor rink. 581-0199.  
**Golf**: East Potomac Park, Hains Point, SW. 863-9007. Langston Park, 25th and Benning Road, NE. 397-8638. Rock Creek Park, 16th and Rittenhouse Streets, NW. 882-7332.  
**Horseback Riding**: Rock Creek Horse Center, Military Road, NW. 362-0117.  
**Tennis**: There are about 150 public courts, which are free, on a first-come, first-served basis. Most of these are run by the D.C. Department of Recreation, 3149 16th Street, NW. 673-7646. East Potomac Courts, Hains Point between Park Service headquarters and 14th Street Bridge, SW, open 9 a.m. to dark. 554-5962. Anacostia Park, between 11th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, SE. 767-7345. Sovran Bank Courts, Rock Creek Park at Park Road, NW. 429-0690. Rock Creek Tennis Stadium, 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW. 722-5949.

**National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior**



Welcome to Washington

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# Major Sites

Our Nation's Capital is a city of government buildings, museums, and people. Here the institutions of government work at fulfilling the ideals of the Founding Fathers. Here the many museums contain treasures from all over the country and around the world reflecting the kaleidoscopic diversity and origins of America's people. And here more than 600,000 persons make their homes. With this brochure, the National Park Service hopes to acquaint you with these many Washingtons.



**The White House**  
1800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The White House has been the official residence of every American President except George Washington, who selected the site for the mansion. The original design was drawn by James Hoban, an Irish-born architect. Burned by the British in 1814, the President's House was restored and painted white, thus its current name. The house contains furnishings collected by its occupants

throughout its history. Open for tours 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Saturday. From Memorial Day to Labor Day a ticket system is in effect. Closed for official functions. Handicapped persons may use the North Entrance on Pennsylvania Avenue. 755-7798.



**The Washington Monument**  
Constitution Avenue at 15th Street, NW. In 1833 the Washington National Monument Society was organized "for the purpose of erecting a great National Memorial to Washington." Fifteen years later the cornerstone was laid. After many difficulties and delays, the building was opened to the public in 1888. An elevator takes visitors to the 500-foot level. Return is by elevator as well. If you wish to walk down

the 898 steps, from which the 190 memorial stones donated by local, state, and foreign governments can be seen, you must make arrangements beforehand with the staff. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; 8 a.m. to midnight in spring and summer. Inclined pathways lead from the parking lot and 15th Street to the entrance and elevator. 426-6841.



**Ford's Theatre**  
511 10th Street, NW. **House Where Lincoln Died**  
516 10th Street, NW. Restored Ford's Theatre—scene of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865—is maintained as a "living" memorial to the Civil War President. Its basement museum depicts the various phases of Lincoln's life and has many interesting objects owned by Lincoln, his family, and contemporaries. Theatrical

presentations are held throughout the year. Check local newspapers for times. Tickets for plays are available at the box office; telephone 347-4833. The museum and house are open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The theater closes at noon on Thursdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. 426-6927.



**Frederick Douglass Home**  
14th and W Streets, SE. Born in slavery, Frederick Douglass lived through the Civil War period to become an outstanding author, orator, and champion of civil rights. From 1877 to the end of his life in 1895, he lived here at Cedar Hill. Original furnishings in the home represent Douglass' late years, when he was U.S. Minister to Haiti, and the upper middle class standards of the neighborhood in the 1880s. Open for tours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in summer and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in winter. A visitor center has exhibits and regularly shows a film. Tourmobiles to Frederick Douglass Home depart from the Washington Monument twice daily, June through Labor Day. The route passes the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial in Lincoln Park. 426-5960.

**U.S. Supreme Court**  
First Street and Maryland Avenue, NE. The highest tribunal in the land was established by Article III of the Constitution. Originally the Court was made up of the chief justice and five associate justices appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Today the Court has nine members who annually hear arguments on some 170 cases out of almost 5,000 petitions. The Court moved into its present building in 1935 when Charles Evans Hughes was chief justice. Interpretive services and tours are conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Handicapped persons may call 479-3200, for arrangements, 479-3211.



**The U.S. Capitol**  
Capitol Hill. Through the halls of this magnificent structure have passed the leading figures in American history. Construction of the U.S. Capitol began in 1793. President John Adams addressed the first joint session of Congress in the Senate chamber on November 22, 1800, but the building was not finished until 1867, and since then numerous changes have been made. Open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily; closed January 1, Thanksgiving, and December 25. Tours start from the Rotunda every five minutes from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Visitor passes to the House and Senate galleries may be obtained from your representative or senator. A level entrance on the east front under the main portico plus many interior ramps and elevators provide access for the handicapped. Wheelchairs may be borrowed. 225-6827.



**The Kennedy Center**  
New Hampshire Avenue at F Street, NW. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is the culmination of an interest in a national cultural center dating back to George Washington. The center's facilities include the Eisenhower Theater, the Opera House, the Concert Hall, the American Film Institute Theater, the Terrace Theater, the Free Theater, a performing arts library, and restaurants. Guided tours are given from 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. daily. Entrance ramps provide easy access for handicapped persons. 416-8340.

**Lincoln Memorial**  
Foot of 23rd Street, NW. In 1867, two years after Abraham Lincoln's death, Congress organized the Lincoln Memorial Association to plan a monument to his memory. Work finally started on February 12, 1914. Henry Bacon was the architect, and Daniel Chester French sculpted the great marble statue of Lincoln. Carved on the walls are Lincoln's Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses. Interpretive services run from 8 a.m. to midnight daily; wheelchair ramps and an interior elevator are available for handicapped visitors. 426-6841.



**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**  
21st Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The polished black granite walls are inscribed with the names of more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing in the Vietnam War. Names of the service men and women are inscribed "in the order they were taken from us." Alphabetical directories at the memorial help visitors find specific names by panel and line number. A flagstaff and bronze statue of three servicemen stand at the entrance plaza. The memorial is open year-round from 8 a.m. to midnight. 426-6841.

**Arlington House and Arlington National Cemetery**  
Arlington, Virginia, via Memorial Bridge. Cemetery: Prominent among the many memorials in this national cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknowns. The cemetery is open in the summer 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and winter 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; call 692-0931. Arlington House: The home of Gen. Robert E. Lee is at the top of the hill. It is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Guided tours are available; call 557-0613. Call in advance to use the elevator for the handicapped.

**Other Attractions**  
**Botanic Gardens, 1st Street and Maryland Avenue, SW;** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; guided tours are available; 225-8333 or recorded message 225-7099.  
**Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 14th and C Streets, SW;** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed holidays; continuous tours; 447-9709.  
**Corcoran Gallery of Art, 17th Street and New York Avenue, NW;** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday; 638-3211.

**Decatur House, 748 Jackson Place, NW;** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and holidays except December 25; 387-4062. Fee.  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover Building, 10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW;** 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday; the last tour begins at 4:15 p.m.; tours last approximately one hour; enter on E Street between 9th and 10th Streets; 324-3447.  
**Folger Shakespeare Library, 210 East Capitol Street, SE;** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 546-4800.

**National Archives, Constitution Avenue at 7th Street, NW;** main exhibit hall 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; 523-3000.  
**National Building Museum, 4th and F Streets NW;** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; tours on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; 272-2448.

**National Museum of American Art, 8th and G Streets, NW;** 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; 357-2700.  
**National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F Streets, NW;** 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; 357-2700.  
**National Zoological Park, 3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW;** grounds open daily at 6 a.m.; buildings open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily; 673-4800.  
**Old Post Office Tower, 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW;** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in winter and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. in summer; 523-5691.

**Renwick Gallery, 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW;** 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; 357-2700.  
**U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW;** reservations needed for tours of diplomatic reception rooms at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday; closed for official functions; 632-3241.  
**Theodore Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway north of Roosevelt Bridge;** 9:30 a.m. until sun-down daily; 285-2601.



**Thomas Jefferson Memorial**  
South Bank of Tidal Basin. Thomas Jefferson, besides being President of the United States, was also a gifted amateur architect, political thinker, and founder of the University of Virginia. This memorial, dedicated on April 13, 1943, the 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birth, was designed by the architectural firm of John Russell Pope in the simple classical style admired by Jefferson. Inside the memorial is a 19-foot bronze statue of Jefferson sculpted by Rudolph Evans. Excerpts from four of Jefferson's writings are carved on the interior walls. Surrounding the memorial and the Tidal

Basin are cherry trees that the City of Tokyo presented to the City of Washington in 1912. The trees burst into bloom in early- to mid-April. Interpretive services are available 8 a.m. to midnight all year. A wheelchair ramp and an interior elevator are provided for the handicapped. 426-6841.

**The Mall and Museums**  
From the Capitol to the Washington Monument. Rows of stately elms mark the sweep of the greensward, a key feature of Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the capital city. Footpaths, bikeways, information and map kiosks, and refreshment stands make the mall an attractive place for outdoor activities. Bordering the Mall are the Department of Agriculture, the National Gallery of Art and nine of the Smithsonian Institution museums: Freer Gallery, Sackler Gallery, African Art, Arts and Industries, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Air and Space, American History,

Natural History, and the central Smithsonian Institution building. Smithsonian museums are open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily throughout the year except December 25. In summer the hours are extended to 7:30 p.m. but Air and Space stays open until 9 p.m. The National Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Mall parking is limited; take the Metro to the Smithsonian Station. Smithsonian Information: 357-2700. National Gallery Information: 737-4215. All buildings are accessible to the handicapped and wheelchairs are available.

**Library of Congress**  
1st and East Capitol Streets, SE. It takes 340 miles of shelves to hold the books in the world's largest library. Established in 1800, the Library was burned by the British during the War of 1812. It was started up again in 1815 with about 6,500 volumes from Thomas Jefferson's personal collection. Originally designed as a research aid to Congress, the Library facilities were later opened to scholars and the general public. Its exhibition halls contain some of the most treasured items of U.S. history and priceless examples of early printing. The reading rooms are open Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Exhibit Halls are open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Continuous free guided tours are conducted Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular musical and literary programs are also part of the Library's services. A street-level entrance is located under the front stairs, and inside are elevators for the handicapped. Information on tours: 707-5458.