



# National Mall Times October 2009

Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

October is a great time to experience your national park! Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park from bike tours and evening walking tours to shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website ([www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan](http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan)) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting, and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks!

## "Malady in City Increasing Despite Preventive Measures" The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Washington, D.C.

By Ranger Sandy Tennyson

In the fall of 1918, as the United States was coming to grips with the horrors of death from the First World War, the country found itself battling another horror, an extremely deadly and infectious influenza spread across the county in epidemic proportions. Stealthily, the gruesome virus known as the Spanish Influenza began its march from the trenches of Europe to U.S. military facilities.

As it reached Americans shores, millions were stricken and hundreds of thousands died. The onset of the disease was severe. Victims reported dull headaches and body aches in the morning. By noon, symptoms included an increasingly high fever. Nightfall brought no relief as the victim drifted into a semi-conscious state. Most would not see sunrise, succumbing to suffocation from fluid buildup in their lungs.

The first cases of influenza appeared in Washington, D.C. in the last week of September. The federal city, overcrowded with new employees supporting the war-time government, was extremely vulnerable. District officials

*"From the moment I got up in the morning to when I went to bed at night, I felt a constant sense of fear. We were afraid to kiss each other, to eat with each other, to have contact of any kind. You were surrounded by death... entire families were gone completely... they disappeared from the face of the earth."*

- William H. Sardo, Jr.,  
Washington, D.C. resident,  
6 years-old in 1918

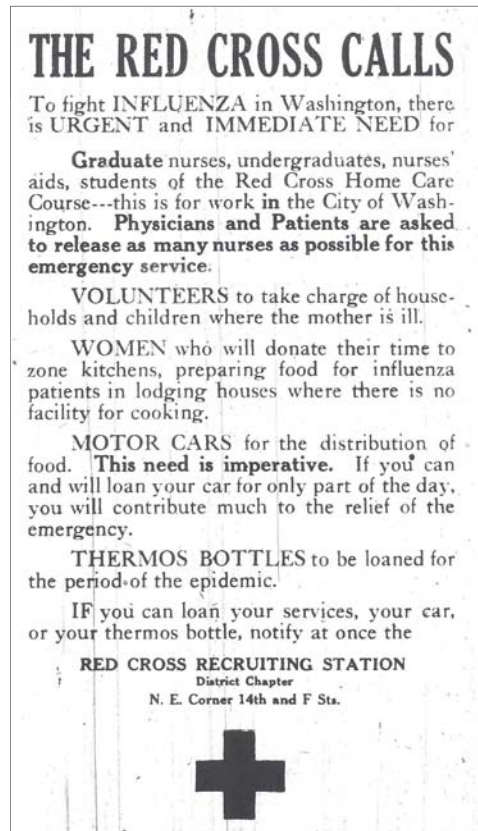


Makeshift treatment area on a porch at Walter Reed Hospital during 1918 flu epidemic. Library of Congress

including vital War Bond Drives, were suspended. Unfortunately, these measures were in vain. By Saturday, October 5, fifty-four police officers were sick and two hundred sixty-one trolley car drivers became ill, causing the transportation system to ground to a halt. With so many firemen sick, the Fire Marshal believed "the whole city'd burn to the ground if a fire ever got started."

The U.S. Government, in the midst of trying to win a war, staggered work hours of all its employees, hoping to stop the spread of the virus by relieving crowding on street cars. Workers were also advised to keep office windows open, and thirty-minute "fresh air breaks" were mandatory twice a day.

The disease peaked in the late fall and disappeared as suddenly as it had arrived, leaving its mark of fear across the nation. By the time the pandemic had subsided in Washington, at least 30,000 residents had become ill and 3,000 had died.



American Red Cross advertisement, The Evening Star, Wednesday, October 9, 1918

acted swiftly closing schools, playgrounds, churches, theaters, vaudeville houses and "all places of amusement." Public meetings,



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

202-233-3520  
[www.nps.gov/nama](http://www.nps.gov/nama) or [www.nps.gov/mall](http://www.nps.gov/mall)  
National Mall Plan Website:  
[www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan](http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan)

Radio: 1670 AM

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- Getting Around in Washington, D.C.

Join National Park Service rangers every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for FREE guided bike tours of the Nation's Capital. (Family Tours are given on the third Sunday of the month from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) Tour season begins Saturday, March 28, and continues through Sunday, November 29, 2009. Please bring your own bike, helmet (required), and water. All tours begin at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza.

For more information call Bike Program Coordinator, Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391, or check our website: [www.nps.gov/mall](http://www.nps.gov/mall).

**Saturday, October 3  
The Mercury Seven**

Fifty years ago America's first seven astronauts were introduced to the world at a news conference in Washington, D.C. Their enthusiasm and charm captured the national spotlight, and they became virtual celebrities overnight. Their mission, known as Project Mercury, was the initial phase of America's first attempts at breaking the veil of our atmosphere, and hurtling brave volunteers in the vast reaches of outer space. Join National Park Service rangers as we explore the story of the Mercury Seven and their impact upon the world.

**Sunday, October 4  
Transportation History of D.C.**

Come and explore the history of Washington, D.C. as told through the development of the regional transportation network. This tour will trace Washington, D.C. transportation history from the canals of the earliest days to the rail, road, and air networks of the 21st century.

**Saturday, October 10  
Did Silly Putty Win the War?  
Everyday Items from Wartime**

No, silly putty did not win the war, but it may not have existed if World War II had not taken place. Many items we take for granted today have emerged from war-time society-items that were invented to speed the war along, and items that were created purely by accident. Join park rangers for a bike tour through war history, and the surprising inventions that came out of it. You may never look at a can of soup the same way again!

**Sunday, October 11  
On This Date in History- The United States Navy—Past and Present**

Did you know that the United States Navy is older than the United States itself? Moreover, the Navy has always played a major role in the creation, development, and defense of this country and its capital city. When Peter L'Enfant designed the federal city in 1791, he included a prominent site for a Navy memorial, and designated military use areas such as that occupied by the Washington Navy Yard. Throughout American history, the U.S. Navy has provided heroic men and women whose service to country has been vital to our survival. Explore Washington's strong naval tradition by experiencing some of its many memorials dedicated to the performance and sacrifice of this nation's sea service veterans.



**Saturday, October 17  
From Infection to Election: Presidential Illnesses**

Do you suffer from asthma? Gout? Dysentery? Hypertensive cardiomyopathy? If so, then you have something in common with quite a few American presidents. Join park rangers for a bike tour around the National Mall, stopping at thematically-related sites to explore the illnesses and diseases of select commanders-in-chief. Find out who had food poisoning, who was blind in one eye and deaf in one ear, who may not have had polio after all, and whose debilitating stroke was covered up throughout his presidency. "From Infection to Election" uncovers the back story of several diseases that may have had an adverse effect on the presidency, thereby affecting American, and world, history.

**Sunday, October 18  
On this Date in History - "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight:" The Battle at Ball's Bluff**

On October 21, 1861, a great Civil War battle raged just a few dozen miles from Washington City, near a bend in the Potomac River. Immediately in the wake of the Union disaster there, Washington politicians and newspapers commenced the usual game of finger pointing, backstabbing, and fault finding in their search for a scapegoat. Would they blame the President, the Secretary of War, the commanding general, or the senior officer on the field—who just happened to be the best friend of Abraham Lincoln? Who would take the fall? We will focus our attention on Washington, D.C. and National Park Service sites where the story of this small-scale, yet fascinating, military engagement forever altered the course of the American Civil War, and affected the lives of everyone associated with it—for better or for worse.

**Sunday, October 18  
Family Tour – The Hunt is On!  
The Search for Symbols on the National Mall  
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Have you ever wondered if there is anything hidden inside the monuments and memorials on the National Mall? If you did, you're right! There are symbols, some in plain view, others hidden, which are clues about the person or event being memorialized that help visitors better understand the structure. Plants, animals, and even different types of stone have meaning. You just need to know where, and what to look for. What can the leaves at the World War II Memorial teach us? Who is that man in the painting at the

Lincoln Memorial? What is George Washington leaning on? You will never look at the monuments and memorials on the National Mall the same way again!

Parents – Please note; all participants (children and adults) must have their own bike and helmet. Reservations for Family Tours are required. Please call Bike Program Coordinator Ranger Jason Martz 202-438-4391 to make reservations. Space is limited.

**Saturday, October 24  
Pop Culture on the National Mall**

Join park rangers as they lead a bike tour exploring the history of the National Mall from a slightly different angle. This won't be your average, textbook history of the monuments and memorials, but history through the eyes of film, music, sports, and other modes of popular culture. Aliens crash into the Washington Monument in "The Day the Earth Stood Still", Nixon welcomes Elvis to the White House, Houdini wants to parachute off the top of the Washington Monument, Jenny runs through the Reflecting Pool in "Forrest Gump", and much, much more. Come out and hear how popular culture has changed our perspective in these alternative annals of history.

**Sunday, October 25  
Photography on the Mall - Then and Now**

Ever wonder where you can best photograph the United States Capitol, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the White House, the Washington Monument, or any of the other iconic locations around the city? Grab your camera and join us for a two-wheeled jaunt across the National Mall to see what it looked like after the turn of the 20th century, and then take your own shots from some of our best vantage points today! See the National Mall through the eyes of the camera lens, and take home the pictures of a lifetime!



**Saturday, October 31  
Unexplored Tales of the City – Murderers**

Everyone has heard of Lizzie Borden, Jack the Ripper, and Charles Manson. What is less known is how these murderers are connected to Washington, D.C. Join park rangers for a tour that will help explain how these and other murderous connections are linked to our nation's capital. Gory stories will be told, crime scene pictures will be shown, and nightmares hatched. *Due to the graphic nature of the tour it is not recommended for children.*

**Daily at 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m**  
**FDR's Fireside Chats**



Imagine... it's 1935, and the United States is in the tightening chokehold of the Great

Depression. In the midst of massive job losses, starvation, and financial chaos, one voice rings out clearly to bring calm and reason to a frightened nation. Out of the darkness of the depression emerges a beacon of hope in the person of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Come and listen to Roosevelt himself as he delivers one of his famous "Fireside Chats," with an introduction and follow-up summary from a National Park Service staff member. Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.

**Daily at 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m**  
**"I Have A Dream"**

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King climbed the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and delivered one of the great



examples of rhetoric known to man – the speech known as "I Have a Dream." Referring to the Bible, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Constitution of the United States, the Gettysburg Address, and even Shakespeare's Richard III, King informed and urged his audience to action in support of the advancement of the civil rights movement. You can stand exactly where King stood, imagining the energy of a crowd 200,000 strong listening to the immortal words of his speech. Listen to King himself as he delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech with an introduction and follow-up summary from a National Park Service staff member. Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.

**Every Saturday in October**  
**"Viva la Revolution": the South American Rebellion from Spain**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

The statues along Virginia Avenue, N.W. honor those who helped the United States acquire its freedom, as well as Latin American revolutionary leaders. Bernardo Galvez assisted the United States during its revolution; Jose San Martin, Simon Bolivar, and Jose Artigas led rebel forces that liberated twelve million people in South America from 1810-1824.

Join a National Park Service ranger for a two-hour walking tour of the history and culture of the Spanish and Latin American statues on Virginia Avenue. The tour will start at the entrance to the Foggy Bottom Metro Station, (23rd & I Street, N.W.) and will end at the intersection of Virginia and Constitution Avenues, N.W. This will be a strenuous walk, and comfortable shoes are recommended. There are no public restrooms along the route. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information.

**Friday, October 2**  
**Stalingrad and the Battles of 1942**  
**5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

The Battle of Stalingrad was a critical campaign for the Germans and the Soviets in 1942. How would this battle help shape the ultimate outcome of World War II? However, the Battles of the Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal, El Alamein, and the landings in North Africa by the Allies were decisive battles in 1942 as well. Join two National Park Service rangers as they explain the details and minutiae about the Battle of Stalingrad, the battles of 1942, and how they helped determine the ultimate result of World War II. Meet at the World War II Memorial to learn more. Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173 for more information.

**Saturday, October 3**  
**The Lincoln Haunts Jaunt**  
**5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Celebrate our sixteenth President's Bicentennial by stopping at sites that would have been familiar to Abraham Lincoln. This walking tour will concentrate in areas around Lafayette Square, the White House, and along Pennsylvania Avenue. Meet at the base of the Washington Monument for this two-hour walking tour. Contact Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603 for more information.

**Sunday, October 4**  
**Bird Walk Around the Tidal Basin**  
**5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

What is bipedal, endothermic, and a vertebrate species? Join a park ranger to explore the Tidal Basin area for birds! Discover waterfowl, songbirds, and possibly even birds of prey. B.Y.O.B! Bring Your Own Binoculars, bug spray, and wear comfortable shoes. Tour begins at the base of the steps of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Kristel Nelson at 202- 497-1357 for more information.

**Wednesday, October 7, 14, 21, 28**  
**America's Railroads**  
**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

For over one hundred years American railroads touched almost every aspect of American life. Whether it was travel, transportation, communication, settlement, war or politics, railroads

were essential to all Americans. Join a park ranger to learn about how railroads had a profound impact on American life. This walking tour of Washington, D.C. railroad station sites will start at Union Station. Contact Matt McNamer at 202-438-9563 for more information.

**Saturday, October 10**  
**The Washington Monument at 125: The Man, the Monument, its Memorial Stones**  
**12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.**

This year we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the completion of the Washington Monument. Learn little-known facts about the remarkable man it honors, the history of the idea of a National Monument, and why it took so long to build. Discover the secrets of its decoration, and some of the stories behind the memorial stones embedded in its interior walls. Meet at the base of the Washington Monument. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.



**Saturday, October 10**  
**Washington and the Heroes of the Revolution**  
**5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

General George Washington led American forces to victory in the Revolutionary War, and he did so with the aid of European tactics, troops, and leaders. Join a park ranger to learn about some of these leaders, and how they are commemorated in the landscape of the capital city. Tours begin the Washington Monument, and walking shoes are recommended. Contact Don Stanko at 240-375-4857 for more information.

**Sunday, October 11**  
**World War II Operations and Vehicles**  
**5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

The operations and vehicles of WWII proved to be of crucial importance to the United States' rendezvous with destiny. Meet at the Pacific Theater entrance of the WWII Memorial to take a walking tour to learn about timelines, battles, aircraft, tanks, and ships such as the USS *Enterprise*, (the Big E,) which contributed to more major actions than any other ship, and still survived the war. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624 for more information.

**Saturday, October 17**  
**In Wildness is the Preservation of the World: A Celebration of "America's Best Idea"**  
 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Two events made America's Declaration of Independence the "shot heard round the world" on April 19, 1775, and the Continental Congress's subsequent appointment of George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Patriot troops. The Old-North-Bridge landscape of the "shot heard round the world" (Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord, M.A.) inspired Henry David Thoreau's famous dictum: "In wildness is the preservation of the world." Learn why that historic battlefield prompted his early articulation of "America's best idea," and how it all connects to the National Mall. Meet at The 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial in Constitution Gardens. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.



**Saturday, October 17**  
**Who Won the Civil War? Slavery, Causes, Consequences, and Steps toward Reconstruction**  
 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The obvious answer to that question is only partially correct. The last Civil War veteran died only fifty years ago. Why has this conflict, that took 620,000 American lives, been termed "our felt history?" We have to start at the Washington Monument to find out! Meet on the west side of the Washington Monument. Contact Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603 for more information.

**Sunday, October 18 & 25**  
**A Tradition of Honor**  
 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join National Park Service rangers for a tour of the Japanese-American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II. Learn more about the internment of over 100,000 Americans without any due process, and the service of over three thousand. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information about this program, and where to meet.

**Saturday, October 24**  
**Friends and Rivals: The Turbulent Relationship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson**  
 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Over the fifty-one years during which Founding Fathers John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were acquainted, they were alternately close friends and bitter political adversaries. The relationship between the short, pugnacious, and self-described "obnoxious" Adams, and the tall, stately, soft-spoken Jefferson is one of the great dramas of American history. They worked together to craft the Declaration of Independence, served together as President and Vice-President of the new nation they helped to conceive, then didn't speak to each other for twelve years. Come and learn about the unlikely friendship, the vicious personal attacks, political disputes, and the eloquent correspondence that they shared in their later years. Program begins at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial steps. Contact Harry Gedney at 202-438-9640 for more information.

**Saturday, October 31**  
**Hurtgen Forest: Not an Easy Walk Through the Woods**  
 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

After the Allies landed on the Normandy coast in June 1944, broke through France and liberated Paris, and advanced into Belgium and Holland, it seemed as though the war would be over by Christmas. The Hurtgen Forest was thought to be an easy way to break into Germany for American forces, but it was not to be. German forces were not the only difficult problem Americans

would endure; the forest itself created problems as well. Come learn more about why the Hurtgen Forest was a challenge for the Americans. This tour begins at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.



Potomac Nature Packs

**Birds, Bugs and Trees, OH MY!**

Discover the wild side of the National Mall with nature packs designed to engage the entire family. Each pack is filled with a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps, and activities for the whole family. These self-guided nature packs allow the whole family to put on their Eagle eyes, and explore the unbe-leaf-able sights and sounds of the National Mall!

Packs are available at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station near the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds. Packs are available on a first come, first served basis, and require an adult's drivers license. One pack per family. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.



Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website! <http://www.nps.gov/linc>

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook and an Interactive Site. The flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the memorial construction from inception to completion. You can experience a virtual walk-through of the memorial, and listen to ranger reflections of the memorial and its history on the Interactive Site.

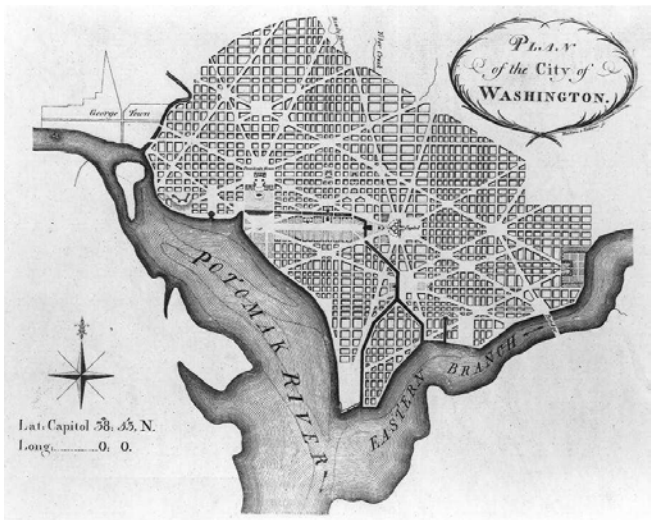


## Getting Around in Washington, D.C.

By Ranger George A. McHugh

Venture to the outskirts of any major American urban center, and you can see the highly evident effects of suburban growth. You can see strip malls, one after the other along wide, multi-lane boulevards. You can see residential developments with broad tree lined streets. From such a journey, a typical picture of 20th century land-use planning can be accurately drawn. With that image of modern American planning however, we sometimes forget that planning was just as necessary for development in early America, and Washington, D.C. was no exception.

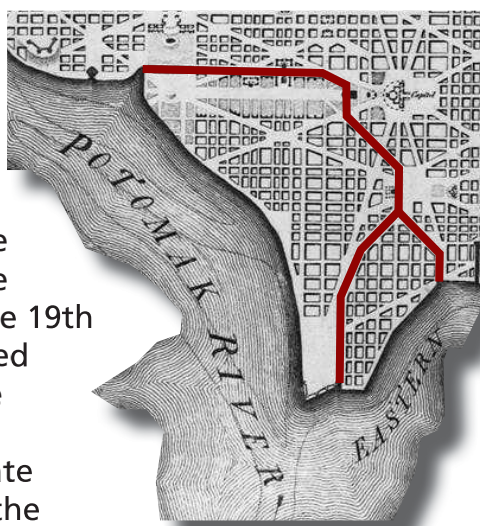
While most major American cities developed around commerce or trade, and thus began to radiate outwards from that core business, Washington went a different direction. As the product of the U.S. Congress, Washington was destined not to be a spontaneous city, but a planned city. While buildings, institutions, and landmarks may be the heart and soul of a city, its true lifeblood is the infrastructure that connects the people and places.



L'Enfant Plan

Prominent architect, Pierre C. L'Enfant was chosen by George Washington to design the newly commissioned capital city in 1791. L'Enfant envisioned a city connected by a road network that still exists today, including the network of lettered and

numbered streets that cross at 90° angles, and the broad avenues that today bear the names of the states of the union. Thus was created the beginnings of Washington's transportation infrastructure. Up until the mid 19th century, these roads did not resemble the roads of today – rather, they were simply wide dirt pathways. This was no problem on dry days, as the traffic was all on foot, horseback, or carriage. Rainy days were a different story. Washington, D.C.'s proximity to the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers contributes to a topography laden with water. Present day Constitution Avenue was once Goose Creek, a tributary of the Potomac that stretched eastwards towards the U.S. Capitol before turning southward towards the Anacostia. By the middle of the 19th century, Goose Creek was turned into a profit-making enterprise – the Washington City Canal. The canal was intended to create a transportation pipeline into the city. Shortly after the Civil War, the canal, which was more of an open sewer, ceased operations. Constitution Avenue, today a major thoroughfare, would be paved atop the old canal.



Washington City Canal

Around the time that canals were gaining popularity in the United States, so too was the iron horse. In 1835, the recently chartered B&O Railroad opened their Washington branch from Baltimore, Maryland. Canals could not compete with railroads, and in 1924; the nearby C&O Canal ceased operations for good.

In May, 1971 Amtrak was formed to take over the passenger rail operations of the major Class I railroads in the United States. Prior to that time, the city was served by a number

of colorful railroads including the B&O, the C&O, the Seaboard Air Line, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Pennsylvania, the RF&P (Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac), and the Southern Railway. Many of these railroads consolidated their Washington, D.C. operations under one roof with the opening of the new Union Station in 1908.



Union Station

Alongside their long-distance cousins, some Washington streetcars and trolleys also called Union Station home. The Washington, D.C. streetcar and trolley system began years earlier in the midst of the Civil War. For nearly 60 years, Washington, D.C.'s streetcar system would grow to over 100 miles of track in the city. There were also over 100 miles of track outside the city

running towards suburbs as far as Bluemont, Virginia. The streetcar system generally peaked in popularity around 1916, about the same time that the potential of the combustion-engine powered automobile was realized. Almost exactly 100 years after



Washington, D.C. streetcars around Thomas Circle

the streetcar system was born, the last remaining streetcars picked up their last passengers in late January of 1962. Oddly enough, while the equipment and infrastructure is nearly nonexistent today, the routes still remain. Most of WMATA's (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority) bus routes closely follow the routes of the original streetcars. For streetcar aficionados there is hope on the horizon. While nothing will ever replicate the streetcars of old, the District has purchased three brand new streetcars for use on a proposed line extending from the Anacostia Metro station. The cars are currently being stored and maintained in the Czech Republic, and will hopefully ride the roads of the District someday soon.

Perhaps the most noticeable element of transportation infrastructure in Washington, D.C. today is the Metrorail system. Despite its prominence among U.S. and world cities, Washington got off to a rather late start when it came to building what has traditionally been called a subway, or heavy-rail transit. Many factors held Washington back for many years, including the presence of a generally new and efficient highway system, and the negative images associated with other mass transit systems.



Metrorail System

Washington's subway opened its doors in 1976 with the first segment of the Red Line stretching from Rhode Island Avenue to Farragut North. In 2001 the system, as originally envisioned, was finally completed. Today the Metrorail system operates 85 stations over more than 100 miles of track. Expansion plans are currently in place to build a Purple Line, forming an outer loop line in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland, and to build a Silver Line via Tysons Corner and Reston in Virginia outwards towards Dulles Airport.

As we progress into the 21st century, Washington, D.C. and the metropolitan region continue to grow. The transportation network that carries us to and fro will continue to grow along with the city. Indeed, it is this very network that like a circulatory system of the city will transport the lifeblood of human and freight traffic throughout the region.

**Visiting the Washington Monument**

**Summer Hours:** 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
*Monday, May 25 - Monday, September 7*

**Rest of Year:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.

All persons who wish to visit the Washington Monument must have a ticket. One person may pick up to six tickets. Open daily (except July 4 and December 25).

**Timed entry tickets are required and may be obtained in two ways:**

1. Free, same-day tickets may be picked up at the Washington Monument Lodge (located at the base of the Monument along 15th Street) on a first come - first serve basis, the morning of your visit. Monument Lodge opens at 8:30 a.m.
2. Reserved tickets may be obtained in advance by visiting [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (for individuals) or 1-877-559-6777 (for large groups). **Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time.** Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a \$1.50 convenience charge.



The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation's Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation's Capital.

**Operating Hours**

**Summer:** Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday  
 9:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.  
 Sunday and Holidays  
 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

**Winter:** Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday  
 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 a.m.  
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 a.m.

202-606-8691 [www.nps.gov/opot](http://www.nps.gov/opot)



**Old Post Office Tower NHS Tours and Presentations**

**Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue**  
*Upon Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 a.m.*

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, D.C.'s more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

**For Whom the Bell Tolls:  
 The Washington Ringing Society  
 and the Bells of Congress**  
*First Thursday of every month 6:45 p.m.*

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

**Eastern National**

Want to learn more about National Mall and Memorial Parks? Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores throughout the park. The bookstores are located at:

Lincoln Memorial  
 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial  
 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial  
 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.

[www.easternnational.org](http://www.easternnational.org)

Washington Monument Lodge  
 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

**Tourmobile Sightseeing**

Get ready for the sights and sounds of the Nation's Capital. Tourmobile Sightseeing's narrated shuttle tours take you right where you want to go. Buy your tickets from the driver, and enjoy unlimited re-boarding. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then board and ride to another historic location.

202-554-5100

[www.tourmobile.com](http://www.tourmobile.com)

*"Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."*

National Park Service Organic Act  
 August 25, 1916

**Daily Ranger Programs**



- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Join National Park Service rangers to learn more about the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the park's many memorials. No prior sign-up is required, and all programs are free. Program length varies. For more information contact a park ranger at each memorial. Programs are offered at the following memorials...

Scheduled Programs are presented at:  
 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.  
 \*\*Additional programs on request.