



The Program

Since the days of John Adams, the White House has been the home and office of each President of the United States. Besides being a residence, the White House is also a public building, and, as such, is open at certain times for tours. On an average day, more than 7,000 people see the state rooms. To help make your visit enjoyable and avoid as much fuss and confusion as possible during the busy summer season, the National Park Service, which is responsible for the care and upkeep of the White House and its grounds,

hosts the White House Visitors' Program at the Ellipse. The key features of the program are free tickets for a visit at a specific time, live musical entertainment while waiting, canopied seating, and uniformed rangers, who are available to answer your questions about the White House and other places of interest in the area. Restrooms and refreshments are also located in the immediate vicinity. If you should leave the immediate area, make sure you return for the White House tour at the time specified on your ticket.

How to Get the Tickets

Tickets are given out at booths on the Ellipse, a 52-acre park just south of the White House where the President and his family light the live National Christmas Tree each year. At the booths each person must pick up a ticket. A group representative cannot request a block of tickets. They are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, allowing everyone an equal chance to visit the White House. All tickets are free. They cannot be reserved. Each ticket shows the approximate time that your tour will form on the Ellipse. A park ranger will escort you on the short walk from the Ellipse to the East Gate. Do not go directly to the gate.

From Memorial Day week to Labor Day weekend, the White House is open to the public from 10 a.m. until noon. The ticket booths are open from 8 a.m. until the day's supply of tickets is exhausted.

No tickets are required the rest of the year, when the hours are 10 a.m. until noon. Visitors should go directly to the East Gate for admittance. The White House is closed to tours on Sunday and Monday and occasionally for official functions.

Tours for the Handicapped

Handicapped visitors to the White House should go directly to the Northeast Gate (Tour Exit) on Pennsylvania Avenue for immediate admittance during regular tour hours. No ticket is required.

Special White House group tours given in sign language may be scheduled in advance by calling (202) 456-2202, or, for TTY callers, (202) 456-2216.

Further Information

The Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, and Lincoln Memorial are open daily from 8 a.m. until midnight. No tickets are required. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is near the Lincoln Memorial to the northeast.

The main floor of the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials may be reached by elevators. Curb ramps and specially marked parking areas are conveniently provided at the Washington Monument grounds.



The White House

The White House is the home and office of the President of the United States and his family. It is opened at specified times to all who wish to see it. Every year more than one million visitors from across the country and abroad come to Washington to tour the White House, and sometimes its grounds, where so much of our history has been made. The wait to enter the White House is usually long in the

summer, which is the peak visitation period. To eliminate confusion and the tedium of waiting in line, the National Park Service hosts the White House summer visitors' program on the Ellipse, the historic parade grounds south of the White House. Here you can get free tickets for a visit at a specific time and can wait on covered bleachers listening to musical performances until it is time for your tour to begin.



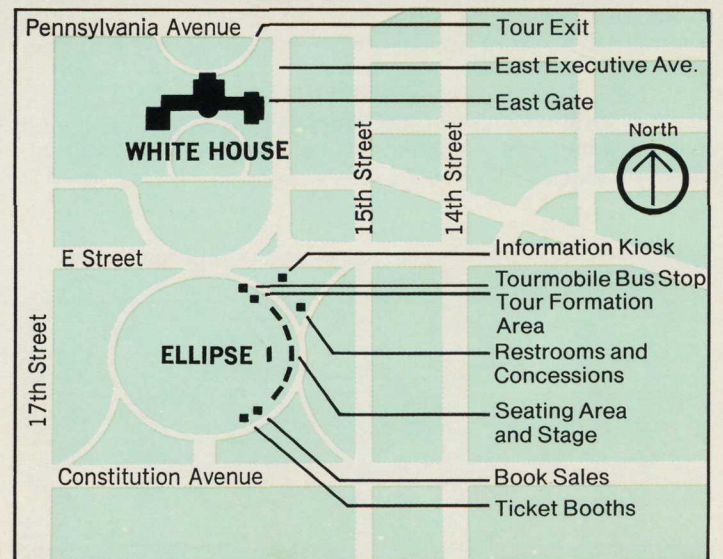
How You Can Help

From Memorial Day week through Labor Day, volunteer musical groups from across the nation and abroad will perform daily for the thousands of people waiting for White House tours. Since the program began in 1975, more than 1,000 groups have helped entertain the crowds. Marching bands, drum and bugle corps, drill teams, and other appro-

priate groups are welcome to participate. Each group, which performs before audiences of 2,000 to 5,000 people, will receive a White House tour, a handsome Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, and the thanks of everyone whose visit has been made much more enjoyable by the performance.

Performance Information

- Dates:** From Memorial Day week to Labor Day weekend
- Days and Times:** Tuesday through Saturday
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Place:** The Ellipse, just south of the White House
- Contact:** Park Ranger—Music Programming
(for scheduling)
President's Park
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C. 20242
(202) 755-7798



For 24-hour sightseeing information in and around Washington, D.C., call Dial-A-Park, (202) 485-7275