







*The Capitol Building in Washington D.C.*

## Quick Facts

Country	USA	
Currency	US Dollar \$	
	100 cents makes \$1	
Language	English	
Population	6.1 million	
Time Zone	GMT -5 or GMT -4 (March to November)	

## Climate

Summer Av Max	28°C	
Autumn Av Max	10°C	
Winter Av Max	2°C	
Spring Av Max	14°C	

## Introducing Washington D.C.

Only a handful of cities in America can truly boast about having a rich history and key significance in everything-USA. [Washington, DC](#) can boast the loudest, given that it is the seat of political power, hosting monuments and architecture that thousands upon thousands flock to see every year, and showcasing a wide array of people, rich to poor, all who work and live in a city that has seen so much throughout the years since its creation.

The American dream is indeed alive in many cities throughout the country, but almost more so here, where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States are housed. The city was founded on July 16, 1790, by order of the Constitution itself to specifically serve as the nation's capital.

Nestled between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and named after George Washington, the city was designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. With the beauty and elegance of Paris in mind, it is easy to see why L'Enfant created the city with so many open spaces and extensive boulevards.

With the mathematical genius provided by Benjamin Banneker, its layout was carefully organized to give true dignity to the capital. Over the years, things have changed, but much of the original design remains the same.

## What to See in Washington D.C.

**Architecture** First and foremost is the [White House](#), legendary not only in name and function, but also for its interior design, unique rooms, and historical goings on. The [National Mall](#), located in downtown Washington, is a large park which houses many of the monuments Washington is so famous for. It's pretty hard to miss the [Washington Monument](#). It stands at 555 feet, the tallest structure in the city. Wandering around on the Mall and you'll likely soon find the [Lincoln Memorial](#) - such a huge temple-like structure with a giant Abraham Lincoln sitting inside is hard to miss.

**Museums** Also known as the Castle, the [Smithsonian Institution](#) has a very interesting past behind it. A British scientist named James Smithson never stepped foot in America and yet dedicated his entire fortune to the United States in the case that his nephew died without an heir. The [National Museum of Natural History](#) is part of the Smithsonian Institute and has an impressive collection of natural history displays. Free to the public, the [Folger Library's](#) collection of Shakespearian works is enough to get any scholar or literature lover excited.

**Parks** There are two larger parks that offer plenty of space and amusement: [Rock Creek Park](#) and [Glover Archbold Park](#). The larger parks are thick with trees and are protected, which allow for deer and other animals to live and prosper. You may even see a coyote or two.

## Getting into Washington D.C.

**From [Dulles International Airport](#)** A taxi into DC costs around \$50. If you want to travel for cheap, hop onto the Metro bus. This express bus will only cost you \$3 and leaves the airport Monday through Friday on a forty-minute schedule, and typically around every hour on the weekends. The Washington Flyer shared coach runs every 30 mins to West Falls Church Metro stop in just less than a half hour and costs \$9.

**From [Ronald Reagan Airport](#)** Walking from the A terminal, it will take you only 5 to 10 minutes to reach a Metrorail platform. Taxis can also pick you up and take you right into the heart of DC. A trip will typically cost you about \$15.

**From [Union Station](#)** The main train station, Union Station, is located in the city centre and connected to the red Metro line.

## Shopping in Washington D.C.

The quickest shopping spots are around [The Mall](#) – simple souvenirs for family and friends or yourself. If your interest lies in books, visit the [Dupont Circle](#) for several different vendors. [Reiter's Books](#) is the oldest bookstore in DC and is visited by dozens of scientists and various scholars each month to see what they have in store.

Traveling to the outskirts of Washington DC will showcase an even wider selection of shops. The [Chevy Chase](#) shopping district offers upscale fashion in chic stores, located along the border of DC and Maryland.

No great city would be complete without a dizzying collection of eclectic and vintage shops to provide customers with a look at unique items and distinctive styles. Boutique stores, vintage clothing sellers, home furnishing shops, and antique dealers have made their home all along the [U Street corridor](#).

## Getting Around Washington D.C.

Walking is often the best way to explore Washington D.C., especially areas such as The Mall where the main sights are easily reached on foot.

**Metrolink** The Metrorail is one of DC's popular methods of travel. A single ride can cost a minimum of \$1.35, but if you want different passes that allow for more flexibility, a one day pass costs \$6.50 and a weekly pass costs \$32.50.

**Buses** Buses run all throughout DC from some of the main attractions all the way out to the suburbs. Fare on a bus is only \$1.25, and \$3.00 if you choose an express route.

**Taxis** Taxicab rates are competitive, often \$3.00 for the first 1/6th of a mile and then 25 cents for every 1/6th mile afterward. Much of what you plan to see in Washington is in quick driving distance of each other. The maximum fare is \$19.00 for a single person. Each additional person in the cab will add on \$1.50.

## Annual Entertainment in Washington D.C.

In January, politicians and common folks alike celebrate the work done by Martin Luther King, Jr. on the day of his birth. March carries with it three fun events; the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Smithsonian Kite Festival.

June is when things start to really kick off with the Caribbean Carnival Extravaganza, Marine Band Summer Concert Series and annual Barbeque Battle. Kids will love the Museum Walk Weekend and Soap Box Derby.

Be amazed at the display of fireworks during the Fourth of July Celebration and dip into French culture by celebrating Bastille Day.

In December the National Christmas Tree Lighting will get you into the warm and fuzzy Christmas spirit, no matter how much snow may be falling.

## Our Washington D.C. Favourites...

### Hotels

\$\$\$ [Four Seasons Washington](#) 2800 Pennsylvania Ave



\$\$\$ [Hilton Embassy Row](#) 2015 Massachusetts Ave



\$ [Holiday Inn Capitol Hotel](#) 550 C Street SW



\$ [Travelodge Gateway](#) 1917 Blandenburg Rd



\$ [Courtyard Washington Northwest](#) 244 W 64th Street



### Restaurants

\$\$\$ **1789 Restaurant**



21 West 52nd Street – classic, gourmet, smart dress

\$\$ **Kinhead's**



2000 Pennsylvania Avenue – seafood, fine dining, local favourite

\$ **Ben's Chili Bowl**



1213 U Street - quick food, much-loved, casual

## Don't miss...

### National Mall

*Along Constitution Ave NW*

**Why?** Boasting more US icons per square foot than most cities can dream of, the Mall is the place to see most of Washington's most famous monuments.



## Sightseeing Tips

### Old Town Trolley Tour

A fun and affordable way to take in the sights Washington DC has to offer. [Tickets from \\$32 online.](#)

### The Capitol Building

Queues to tour inside the building can be awfully long so book your ticket online well before.

### White House Tours

Tours for the White House must be requested well in advance either through one's Member of Congress or Foreign Embassy in Washington DC.