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THE GRAND TOUR OF WASHINGTON DC

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Introduction

Washington, DC attracts visitors from all over the world. Whatever the reason for their visit i.e vacation, or a business related, there are many things to be done and numerous sights to be seen. Visitors to Washington DC who are here for business could still enjoy the city either in the afternoons or evenings.

The international presence in Washington, DC is very clear. Many of the memorials, monuments and int'l organizations show their influence, either in the architectural style or the physical existence of international people. The tourism is the second industry in Washington, DC area after the government. Many people here benefit from tourism industry directly or indirectly. For examples: hotels, gift shops, tour companies, taxi cabs and restaurants are businesses that depend on visitors to Washington, DC area, and most of the employees who work in such businesses are local residents. An Average of twenty million people come to Washington, DC each year. Nineteen million of them come from around the nation, and just one million from around the world. Why all these people target Washington, DC every year to come and visit? What is it in Washington to attract such number of people to visit? What are the reasons behind the concentration of many of the ethnic groups such as Chinese, Spanish, Oriental, Africans, Middle Eastern and others, almost from around the world in the nation's capital?

This book demonstrates why millions of people visit Washington, DC. This document shows highlights of the monuments, memorials, national and international organizations that Washington, DC is famous for. Also, special attention will be paid to the international presence in Washington, DC represented in the ideas of some monuments and memorials that were taken out from ancient civilizations architectural styles. Some other memorials in Washington were gifts from other countries. This documentation will include description of famous buildings, memorials, and monuments, national and international organizations. Washington, DC is like an open museum. The following landmarks are among many that have been highlighted: White House, US Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Franklin Roosevelt memorial, Vietnam and Korean War memorials, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Smithsonian museums and other famous buildings and memorials

International presence and influence in Washington D.C.

The original plans for the nation's capital were drafted by a Frenchman, Pierre L'Enfant in 1792. Since then and Washington D.C. is a melting pot of humanity and heritage. Chinatown and Adams Morgan's restaurants serve International cuisine. Around these restaurants, you could meet people from China, Latin America, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Jamaica. It's Embassy Row where there are over 150 embassies are located with over 54 thousands diplomats working there to improve the International communications, corporations, trade and goodwill around the Globe. Also, there are international landmarks such as Japanese cherry trees, the Netherlands carillon. Even Washington's most famous landmark has a global influence. The 555 foot Obelisk-the world' s largest masonry structure—contains nearly 200 memorial stones from around the world in its interior walls, and its idea came from the ancient Egyptian Obelisk.

Visitors come to Washington D.C. for various

reasons. To conduct business with the government officials in the headquarters of the departments of Justice, Labor, Health and Human services, Education, Transportation, Energy, Agriculture, Interior, Defensive, Navy and Military. In addition, the U.S. Capitol's senators and representatives receive visitors from around the country almost all year long except during their month off in August. During the tourism season in the spring, summer and fall, families from around the country bring their children for educational tours about the nation's Capital. Visiting the memorials and the Smithsonian, museums are free of charge. They are federally funded. The admission fees are prepaid by the taxpayers. There are much savings in the admission fees during the visit to Washington DC.

The International visitors are fascinated not only with such free admissions but also with having accessibility to places like the White House and Pentagon, the President's resident and headquarters of the military facilities respectively. No other country has such places available for public to visit. Opening new memorials in Washington D.C. area often attract thousands of visitors during the opening ceremonies. Also conducting meetings, conferences and workshops draw interested groups to the nation's capital.

Washington D.C. is one of the most powerful cities in the World. Decisions are taken in buildings such as the White House, U.S. Capitol, State Department, Pentagon or the World Bank, these decisions not only affect Americans but also effect people in other parts of the World.

The International presence in the nations Capital is very significant. There are over fiftyfour thousands diplomats working in about one hundred and fifty embassies. Thousands or more people from around the World are working for the World Bank, International

Monetary Fund, World Health Organization and other international organizations.

Union Station



The Union Station Washington, DC Union Station. Picture courtesy of Ali. Zohery. Location: 1st and 2nd Street, NE, Massachusetts Avenue Admission: Free

Parking: Discounted Rate Parking. The red line train passes through the union station. Trains to major cities in the US can be taken from the Union Station.

Store hours: Mondays – Saturday: 10am -9pm and Sundays: 12noon- 6pm.

Contact: 202 289 1908

The Union Station is one of the nation's most conspicuous multipurpose structures. It is situated in the inner circle of Washington DC. The need for all the city's rail roads to converge in one central area brought about the creation of the Union Station.



The Grand Tour of Washington, DC

Christopher Columbus standing on the bow of the ship. In front of the Union Station we have the flags of all the States including Delawe which was the first state and the last States to enter the union, Alaska and Hawaii. After that there are also the flags of Guam, Puerto Rico, American

Samoan, Northern Mariana and the Virgin Island. To the left of the Union Station is the Building named after Thurgodd Marshall, the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court by Lyndon Johnson in 1967. In the middle of the circle of the Union Station is the statue of Christopher Columbus.

Two architects, Daniel Burnham and Peirce Anderson were instrumental in designing the

station. In 1908 the entire building was completed. It has over the years attracted tourists, visitors and travelers in and out of Washington DC since it has been furnished with shops, restaurants, and business offices. It is now seen as one of Washington DC busiest centers.

In front of the building of Union Station, there is a memorial dedicated to Christopher Columbus by Columbus Knights. This Memorial depicts



US Capitol Building



The US Capitol

Location: 1st street, S.W on the Capitol Hill.

Tours: Tours are conducted Mondays through Saturdays from 9:00 ñ 4:30pm. Tours can also be done on all Federal holidays excerpt Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

Tickets: Free tickets are given for tours at the Capitol Guide service kiosk. The maximum tour number is 40. Services are also provided to people with disabilities. There are also certified sign language interpreters.

Telephone: 202 225 6827 (voice)

Switchboard: 202 224 3121 (voice) 202 224 3091 (TTY) Congressional Special Service(voice) 202 224 4048 or 202 224 4049 Federal Relay Service (800 877 8339) (Voice/TTY)

Tips for Visitors: a) Visit your representative office in the Capitol buildings. b) Attend a committee hearing c) Visit the galleries d) Log on to www. House.gov/house/subpage_content/prohibited_ items.pdf to see the lists of prohibited items before you visit the US capitol. The Capitol Building is the building where law makers in the House of Representative and the Senate meet to discuss and debate economic, political and social issues affecting the nation.

The Grand Tour of Washington, DC

Since the beginning of the construction of the building in 1793, there have been numerous innovations to the building making it today the symbol of American political pride. Several people were in line for the designing and construction of





the Capitol Building, but in the end George Washington awarded the contract to Dr. William Thornton who was trained in Scotland as a physician. Thornton worked in collaboration with some architects. He only succeeded in completing the East Wing on November 17, 1800. By 1813, the north and the south wings were completed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe

The war of 1812 brought about the destruction. The Building was set on fire during the war of 1812. It was not until 1825 that Latrobe returned to Washington to ensure its renovation. But he later abandoned the project and it

was later given to another architect from Boston named Charles Burlfinch. He worked on the dome and decorations of the interior and exterior of the building.

On the Capitol there is a freedom statue. The freedom statute has a lady holding a symbol of peace and power, meaning freedom rises for ever and under the freedom there are thirteen columns. Under the columns is the dome which symbolizes the unity of the country. The thirteen columns represent the thirteen colonies. The north side of the dome is where the senators assemble.

The Library Of Congress



The Library of Congress Location: 1st street, independence Ave. S.E Contact: 101 Independence Ave, SE, Washington DC, 20540 Telephones: General info: 202 707 5000; Driving directions: 202 707 4700; Visitor info: 202 707 4700 Website: www.loc.gov The Library of Congress is an offshoot of the private collection of books by Thomas Jefferson. During the 1812 war when the US capitol was attacked, books on facts, statistics and laws of the United States were all burnt. Thomas Jefferson then offered to sell his books to Congress. Books were then bought from the library of Jefferson to start what has now become known as the Library of Congress.

Between 1851 and 1853, the library suffered many losses due to fire. Close to 55,000 volumes of materials were consumed by fire. Ideas then dawn on law makers that the Library of Congress needed to have separate structure independent of the capitol building. That idea was put into effect by Jefferson in 1886. By 1897, the new building was ready for the general public. Today, the Library of Congress enjoys the privilege of being the most prestigious and the best equipped library in the world with over 90 million items.

The Library of Congress has about 84 million articles, 74 millions books. All these documents

and articles are written in 365 languages. There are several buildings adjacent and across the Library of Congress that constitute and extension of the library. These houses include the Madison Building and John Adams Building. In the Madison building a number of services are located within it: the copyright office, geography room, law library, presidential papers, prints and photographs. Also in the Adams building you have the African, Asian, Hebrew, Near East, Science and social science reading rooms. In one of these buildings, a short film documentary is shown to visitors about the history of the Library of Congress. To gain access to the library and also to become a permanent member of library, you need to apply for a temporary library card or a permanent one. The services for membership cards are located on the first floor of the Jefferson building which is the main building of the library. It is the building that is located next to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court



The US Supreme Court

Location: 1st street, NE, across from US Capitol & East from the Library of Congress.

Contact Info: 202 479 3211

Accessibility: By Metro using either Blue and Orange lines & Union Station using the Red line.

Website: www. Supremecourtus.gov

In 1935 Cass Gilbert completed the construction of the United States Supreme Court. Prior to its full construction, the sessions of the court were conducted in the Royal Exchange Building in New York, and the independence and city Hall in Philadelphia when the nations Capitol was in Philadelphia. In 1800 while in the permanent capital in Washington DC, the Supreme Court was located in the capitol building.

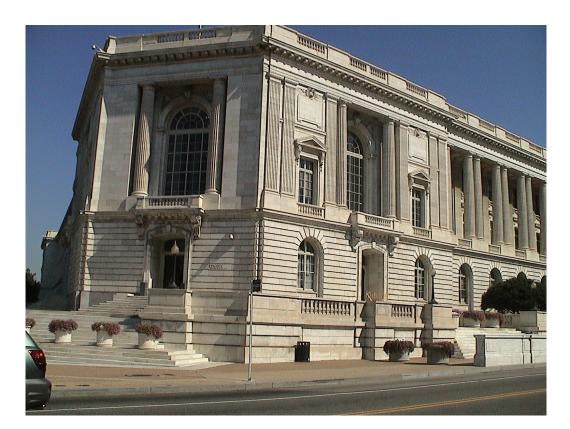
In 1929, the Chief Justice Howard Taft, who at the same time was the former president, initiated the arrangement for an independent building for the Supreme Court. He had to persuade Congress for this to happen.

The US Supreme Court is the highest office in the land. After the verdict in the Supreme Court, there is no other appeal. There are nine Justices and one Associate. The Supreme Court is the judiciary branch of the government.

The sitting position in the Supreme Court is according to seniority and rank. The Chief justice, who is the presiding judge always sits in the center followed by the senior associate judge.

There is order in the way cases are heard in the Supreme Court. The bench sits on Mondays at about 10 am for preliminaries. The public can assist in hearing cases from 9:30-3:30 daily. When a case has been announced, copies of the ruling are available to the public 30 minutes after. The ground floor has more information for first time visitors and other relevant materials for regular visitors.

The Russell Building



Senate Office Building Location: Crypt of the Capitol, US Capitol, Washington, DC 20510 <u>Time of Operation:</u> Monday- Friday: 9- 4:30pm <u>Contact Info:</u> 202 224 3121 <u>Website:</u> www.senate.gov

The Russell Senate Office was designed and executed by architect Edward Clark in 1901.

Ofall the Senate Office Buildings in Washington DC, the Russell Senate Office is the oldest. It was constructed between 1903 and 1908. It was in 1909 that the 61st Congress Senate used the Russell Building. Since there has been a steady growth in the number of staff and committees that need to use the building, there have been additional rooms built in the last score years. Of particular significance to this building is the Rotunda where caskets of prominent statesmen and women have been displayed for public view. The building was named after Senator Richard Brevard Russell, Jr.

The Dirckens Building



After the completion of The Russell Building, there was the need for another building to house State Senators. This is what gave birth to the construction of the Dirksen Senate Office Building that was named after Everett Dirksen who in 1972 was the minority leader from Illinois. The issue of space was very crucial to satisfy the needs of senators who wanted to accommodate their increasing number of staff. Another reason for wanting to create additional senate building was because Alaska and Hawaii had been added as states after the Second World War and so their senators needed accommodation.

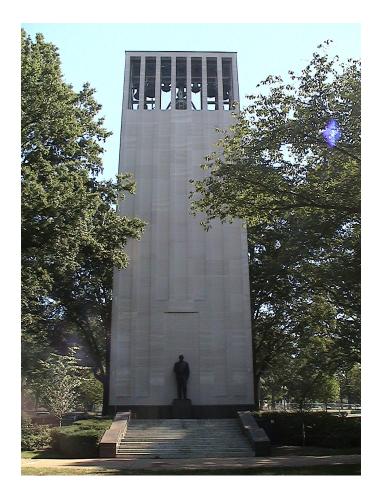
Otto Eggers and Daniel Higgins were the two architects from New York who were entrusted the task of designing the building. It was in 1958 that the new building was completed. With the dawn of the television technology, this new building was constructed in a way to accommodate those exigencies.

The Hart Building



The reason that propelled the construction of the second senate building was what brought about the third: The need for more space. The architect that was chosen to carryout this project was George M. White. He then commission the work to John Carl Warnecke. The building has office allowance for about fifty senators. In 1976, the senate building was officially named after Senator Philip Hart.

The Robert Taft Memorial



This memorial is located between the Constitution Avenue and New Jersey Avenue. It represents the statue of Senator Taft. According to the information provided on the website (http:// www.aoc.gov/cc/grounds/art_arch/taft.cfm) " This memorial to Robert A. Taft, presented by the people to the Congress of the United States, Stands as a tribute to the honesty, indomitable courage, and high principles of free government symbolized by his life." Also commenting about his role in the US senate, Moser, (2001) said that most of his colleagues in the Senate use to look at him as an obstructionist because he had a tough mind that needed strong argument to influence. He was difficult to be swayed. A case in point was during World War II when one intelligent official from Britain described him as one with a tough mind. He again manifested this tendency of his during Harry Truman administration during the cold war when he openly criticizes him.

The Newseum



Newseum is one of the pioneer buildings located between the US Capitol and the White House on 555 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC. It was inaugurated on April 11, 2008. This unique building houses the latest digital information as it is related to News production. There are interactive news studios in the building where visitors can practice news anchor skills, watch news events on High Definition TV monitor screens. This is actually a place to come face-to-face with state-of-theart technology. Visitors can also have the luxury of sitting in a live studio where program like "This week with Stephanopoulos" is hosted.



Crime and Punishment Museum

National Museum of Crime and Punishment Contact Info: 575 7th Street. NW, Washington DC, 20004 Telephone: 202 393 1099 <u>Website</u>: crimemuseum.org

The Museum of Crime and Punishment is located on 575 7th Street, NW, Washington DC, 20004. As in all museums, this museum specializes in documenting important facts and statistics about special crime cases. The emergence of new technologies has made it possible for documenting crimes and punishments that occurred years ago. Like Newseum, there are also studios located in this museum where visitors and tourists can watch live broadcast crime shows or watch one of John Walsh's investigative pieces. There are also tools used by law enforcement officers that children can explore in this museum; these include night vision goggles, lie detector test machines, simulating police chase etc.

Holocaust Museum

Holocaust Museum Contact Information: 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington DC 20024. Telephone: 202 488 0400 Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 10 am -5:30pm

Website: www. Ushmm.org



In order to keep the memory of one of mankind's worst tragedies, the holocaust museum was created. It serves as the center for remembrance and reflection.

The years 1933 to 1945 were one of the bloodiest epochs in the annals of Nazi- Germany. About six million Jews were decimated under Hitler's Germany for their race and religion. Other ethnic entities like the Poles were also victims of Nazi-Germany during this era. Materials in the museum include pamphlets, memoirs, testimonies and other historical artifacts that could benefit

researchers and other scholars interested in history and sociology.

Walking inside the Museum brings to mind some of the stark horrible experiences that were faced both by the Jews and some Americans. Noticeable in this museum are: a) The Hall of Witness, where most Americans GIs who were in the mission of helping in the concentration camps can be remembered. B) The children Wall of remembrance. This is to pay tribute to the Jewish children that were murdered by the Nazis.

The Washington Monument



The Washington Monument

Contact: 900 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC 20024

Visitor Info: 202 426 6841

Hours of Operation: Daily from 9:00 ñ 5:00pm

<u>Website:</u>www.nps. gov

The Washington Monument is a giant structure that is symbolic of Washington DC. The idea of building such a structure to represent George Washington, the first president of the United States came from Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant. He wrote to Congress requesting that to be done when George Washington died in 1799.

Work took off for the construction of this monument between 1848 and 1884. The lack of funds to continue the project halted the construction for a while. The resumption of the project took place in 1876 under the supervision of Lt. Col. Thomas L. Casey. He changed the design of the monument to reflect Egyptian obelisk. Today, there is an elevator that transports tourists and visitors to the top most part of the monument. There is also a trial and a park that is around the monument.

The Washington Monument is 555 feet high and five inches. The Monument has been opened to the public since 1885. There is an elevator inside that takes the public high up to have a panoramic view of the city of Washington and its surroundings. Along the way up and the down the monument, visitors can see the gifts that were donated to the monument from around the world. The monument is similar in shape to the Egyptian obelisk. The Monument is also surrounded by fifty flags representing the fifty states.

The Tidal Basin



This Basin is situated around the Jefferson is the fact that it releases tons and tons of water Memorial and next to the Potomac River. The basin was conceived in 1880 to help flush the Washington Channel that is separated by the Potomac River. Interesting about the Tidal Basin

sometime measuring up to 250 million gallons. Also of interests about the Basin is the line of Japanese trees that surround it.

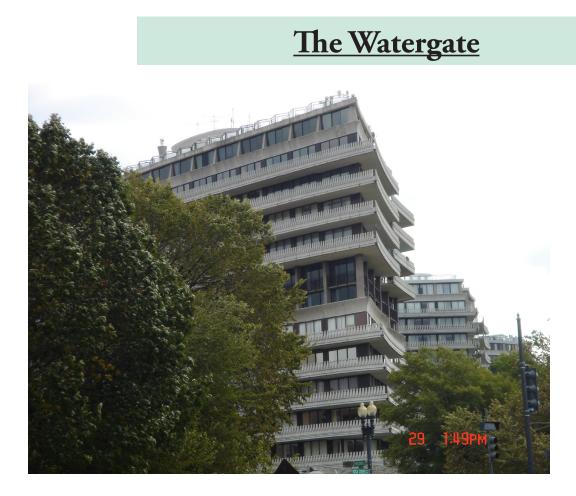
The Jefferson Memorial



The Cherry blossoms festival is a very renowned festival that started way back in 1912 with the inaugural ceremony performed by The then first Lady Howard Taft and Viscountess Chinda of China.

As a result of the blossoming of fresh leaves around the Tidal Basin round the year, it has attracted many tourists and visitors. A yearly festival called the Cherry blossoms festival is organized yearly in Washington DC to mark this event. This festival usually falls around the spring period.

Between late February and early March, the buds from the trees are monitored and depending on weather forecasts, the dates for the festival (3-4) days are announced. Visitors to this event come from around the country and abroad.



This Watergate Hotel complex has come to symbolize a significant locale in the history of the United States. It was the center of a political scandal that rocked the White House and the nation as a whole.

The Nixon White House republican administration had been under intense attack from the Democrats in 1972 because of the unstable times in the country made worse by the effects of the Vietnam War. In order to strengthen his hold on power, President Nixon secretly dispatched spies to break into the Watergate hotel where the offices of the DNC were located to bug their telephones.

The spies were caught by the security guard. The matter grew out of control as it was later revealed that the President Nixon himself was at the

The Watergate Location: 2650 Virginia Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20037 Contact Info: 1800.447 4136 <u>Website:</u> www. Thewatergatehotel.com

center of this deal. John Dean his chief Counsel resigned and revealed to the prosecutor in charge of the case that there was a tape in the President's Office that recorded their conversation. When asked by the special prosecutor for the tapes to be turned in, President Nixon declined. This political imbroglio finally led to his impeachment on August 8, 1974. He was the first American president to be impeached.

The Arlington Cemetary

American heroes are buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. These are heroes who have fought for dignity of the American flag during the world wars, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and many other combat zones that have recorded American casualties. The cemetery is the largest in the Country with burial every week days. There are close to 300.000 deaths buried in the Arlington Cemetery. The cemetery is partly run by the military as well as the Park services.

Whenever burial is to be performed in the cemetery, the flag of the nation in the Cemetery is flown at half-staff. There have been record numbers of visitors visiting the tombs of the unknown in the Arlington Cemetery. These are mostly unknown servicemen who died in duty or after but were not identified by any family.

> Arlington National Cemetery Contact Info: National Cemetry, Arlington, VA, 22211 Telephone: 703 607 8000 Hours of Operation: daily from 8 am 365 days a year. <u>Website:</u> www. Arlingtoncemetry.org



The Army Caisson Platoon

The United States Army Caisson Platoon is the 3rd Infantry regiment often referred to as the old guard is located in Fort Myer, Virginia. They are strategically located near the Arlington Cemetery because their primary mission is to specialize in carrying out military funerals. Those who ride the horses and those who perform the military honors have been specially trained since 1948 to perform these tasks. They have stables that are opened for tours daily from noon-4pm. Visitors who are interested in touring their facilities can call 703 696 3018 for more information.



Georgetown



Georgetown

Website: www. Georgetowndc.com Touristic Attractions: The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, Old Stone house, Oak Hill Cemetry etc.

Georgetown has become one of the attractive touristic sites in Washington DC. During the First World War, Georgetown was identified as a place with lots of slum but that quickly changed especially in the early fifties when it became a booming commercial center with hotels and taverns. Military supplies for the country were shipped through Georgetown. Around 1789, Congress made it possible for most imported goods to come through Georgetown since it is situated north of the Potomac River. But when adjacent cities like Alexandria, Baltimore and Philadelphia, Georgetown is no longer gaining that attraction since most fanciful hotels, taverns and shopping centers are being constructed there.

Eisenhower Executive Building



Eisenhower Executive Building Contact Info: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NWm Washington DC, 20500 Telephone: comments: 202 456 1111; Switchboard: 202 456 1414; visitorís office: 202 456 2121 Website: www. Whitehouse.gov

The Old Executive Building is one the nation's most significant building since it houses most of the nation's Presidents before their elections. President Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Howard Taft, Eisenhower, Lyndon Johnson, Ford and George Bush were already having their offices in that building before their elections as presidents. In addition, about 37 secretaries have also had offices in this building including 24 Secretaries of State.

Blair House



Blair House Location: 1651 Pennsylvania ave, NW Metro: McPherson Square on Orange and Blue Lines. Hours: Not open to the public

The Blair House was purchased in 1836 by Francis Preston Blair. Dr. Joseph Lovell is credited for the construction of the House in 1824. The prestige of the House can only be explained by the succession of other dignitaries that used the house after the Blair's: Thomas Ewing, the first Secretary of the Interior lived in that house as a tenant. Since then a succession of people affiliated to the Blair's have used that house and in 1852, another residence was constructed nearby. It housed Montgomery Blair, the son of Francis Preston Blair and President Lincoln.

The importance of the Blair House was rekindled in 1942 when it was used as the residence for foreign Dignitaries. Also President Truman lived temporarily in Blair House during the reconstruction of the White House still in 1942.

The White House



The Whitehouse

Contact Info: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20500

Telephone: comments: 202 456 1111; Switchboard: 202 456 1414; visitorís office: 202 456 2121

Website: www. Whitehouse.gov

In 1792, a man by the name James Hoban won a competition launched by the then President George Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson for the construction of the White House. He was Irish-trained architect. It should be noted that even though George Washington was instrumental in overall construction of the White House, he did not live in the White House. It was the second President John Adams who lived there when he was elected in 1796.

The White House has undergone several innovations especially under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson who came in there as president in 1801. He added several compartments and changed some of the structural designs. He employed architect Benjamin Latrobe to make some of the additions to the building in the way he saw it fit. Hoban later came back to add some structures to the house after the 1812 war when the British damaged some parts. This was during the leadership of James Madison who was President from 1809-1817.

Further expansion of the building has been made by subsequent Presidents including Theodore Roosevelt who remodeled the building. The White House is the only house in the Country that has its own zip code. The zip code is 20500.



The Treasury Department



Treasury Department Contact Info: 15 00 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20220 General Info: 202 622 2000 Website: www.ustreas.gov

Several Architects have been instrumental in the construction of the Treasury Department building. These architects include Robert Mills, Thomas Ustick Walter, Ammi B. Young, Isaiah Rogers and Alfred Mullet. The Treasury Department Building is the oldest building in Washington DC. In 1972, it was declared one

of the Washington's historical landmarks. Like the White House, this building has undergone several innovations as seen through the various architects that have worked on the building. President Andrew Johnson used the building as a temporary resort during the assassination of President Lincoln. At the north side of the treasury department there is the Statue of Albert Gallatin. He was the fourth Secretary of the Treasury and also the first one to balance the budget. On the South side of the Building, there is the statue of Alexander Hamilton. He was the first Secretary of the Treasury.

The treasury department was built to block the view from the US Capitol. It was in the original

The Grand Tour of Washington, DC

plan in 1792 to build the Treasury building to block the view from the White house. But Andrew Jackson was the one who requested that the Treasury Department be built to block the view. He was not having a good relation with the Congress when he was in the White House.

The Ellipse



The Ellipse Location: See White House Description

The Backyard of the White House is known as the Ellipse. The beautiful view of the White House can be seen from the Ellipse. Also around this area called the Ellipse, you find the National Christmas tree. It is also known as the President's South Park. When visitors come to see the White House, they are usually taken but to this side of the building.

The National Christmas Tree

The idea of the national Christmas tree was conceived in 1923 when Paul Moody donated a 48-foot "Balsam Fir" to President Coolidge. It was placed near the Ellipse and was lit on the Christmas Eve. There was in total 2,500 electric bulbs that were lit on that tree. By 1924, the Christmas tree had become a great celebration and was named "National Community Christmas Tree. This time it was as a result of the 35-foot tree that was presented by the American Forestry Association. It should be noted that all through the years, these trees have been constantly replaced due to damage especially due to heat or trimming. Thousand of visitors have been drawn to the tree because in 1932, there were hidden loud speakers in the tree to play Christmas carols. Due to logistical reasons, the ceremony for lighting the Christmas tree moved from the Sherman Plaza to Lafayette Park in 1936. Several Presidents have taken part in the lighting of the tree but President Ronald Regan could not light the tree for fear of an assassination attempt. In 1995, the tree was lit by solar energy. During the Christmas time, the National Christmas tree is decorated with fifty trees to represent the fifty states.



The Zero Mile Stone

The Zero Mile Stone was an idea from Dr. S.M. Johnson in 1919 about situating a symbolic stone that mark the point of departure on which all roads around Washington DC can be measured. His idea was that this stone could live for generation to come and it can serve as a symbol of the city's transportation starting spot.

This idea was bought by the Secretary of War, Newton Baker. They now had to ask Dr. Johnson to provide the first stone that will be used. There was some complication about the project that needed Congress's approval and he had to erect a temporary monument in the place of zero mile stone.

The permanent Zero Mile Stone was dedicated in 1923 under the auspices of Dr. Johnson and it brought together 8000 people.



General Sherman Memorial

General Sherman staged a march in Georgia during the Civil war. He was born in 1820 and died in 1891. Author Wayne Bengston writing on http://ngeorgia.com/and/william_tecumseh_ Sherman discusses some of the controversies surrounding this General. Firstly, in the Georgia politics he was the most hated because of the onslaught of hostilities engendered in this state during his tenure. He led a march in 1864 that led to the capture of Savannah making the confederacy to be split. By 1861 he sent a letter to the Secretary of war about his intention to offer his services to the nation for as long as three years. He was in consequence promoted to the rank of Brigadier general assigned to Cumberland. He was later reassigned to Missouri, St.Louis and in many other states. One of his great achievements was in 1864 when he was made the supreme

commander that prepared him to start the Atlanta campaign. He later retired in 1883.

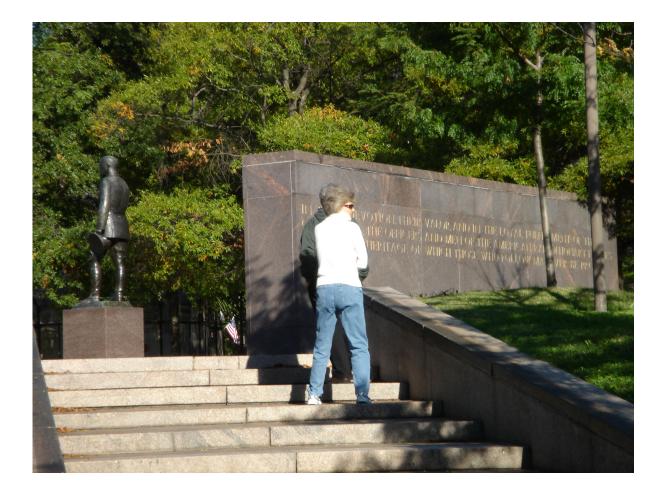


The Freedom Plaza



The name Freedom Plaza was given to the street adjacent Willard Hotel as a result of Martin Luther King's "I have a dream speech". It was at this hotel that he stayed and prepared the speech that was to be delivered along the steps of Lincoln Memorial. This street has remained freedom plaza because of him. It was in this freedom plaza that he started the march to the Lincoln memorial to deliver the famous speech that is being quoted round the world.

General Pershing Memorial

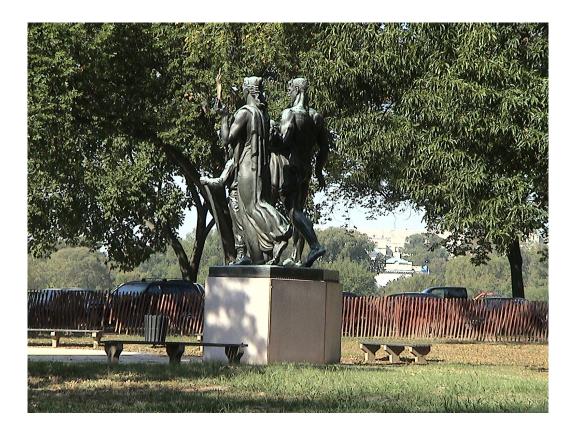


General Pershing was one of the great military servants of the State. When he graduated from West Point in 1886, he commanded the large American force in Europe during World War 1. During the Spanish-American war he got the nickname "Black Jack" because he was African American and led campaigns in India and Cuba. Among his other accolades, he led forces in Philippines and was an American attaché in Japan in 1905.

General Pershing also earned a distinguish

award of brigadier general from President Theodore Roosevelt. He served in Philippines until 1914 when he was sent to the Mexican border. In 1915 his wife and three daughters died in a fire incident. His son Warren was the lone survivor. In 1917, Pershing was sent to command an expeditionary force during World War 1 in France. In 1919, he was given the honor, National hero and given the title, General. He died in 1948.

The Boys Scouts Memorial



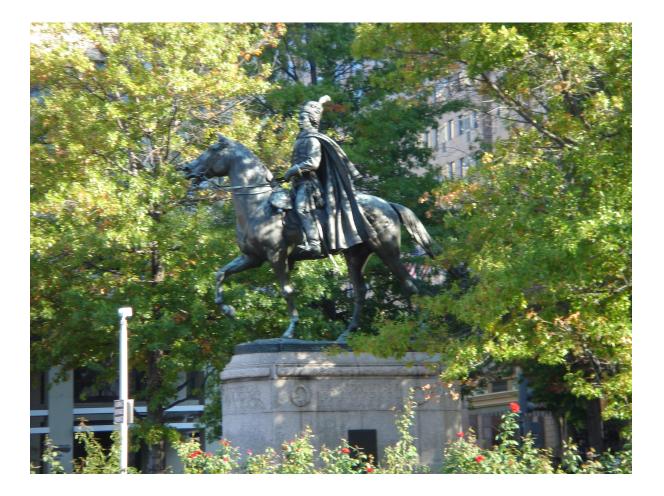
The Boys Scouts Memorial in Washington DC represents the first Scout Jamboree in 1937. This Memorial was constructed thanks to the financial contributions from all scouts in the United States. This memorial situated in the South side of the White House pays tribute to the sacrifice of all the past, present and future scouts all over the world. There are male and female statues represented in this memorial. The male represents physical prowess, valor, magnanimity, loyalty, honor etc while the female symbolizes Godliness, freedom and democracy.

The Federal Triangle



The Federal Triangle is a center that houses most of the Federal office buildings along the Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC. This site known as the federal triangle is about 70-acre. It was designed by three prominent architects from a Chicago firm. They were: Bennett, Parsons and Frost. Under them were members of the board charged with coming up with strategic plans to develop the site. The aim of the architects and the board was to look for ways that all the federal buildings and offices will have one unified designs and harmony so as to show the might of the federal government. These are some of the monumental structures that general form what is today's the federal triangle: The Ariel Rios federal building usually called " the new Post Office", The auditorium of Andrew W. Mellon on 14th Street and constitutional avenue, Interstate Commerce Commission building, The US Custom Service, The Department of Commerce building or the Herbert Hoover building, and the Department of Justice building.

General Pulaski Memorial



General Pulaski is generally known as the "the father of American Calvary". This distinction was given to him as recognition of his valiant contribution to the continental army's Calvary when assigned by George Washington. It was here that he gave up his life for American freedom. This was during the siege of Savannah in 1779. Considering the fact that he was born in Poland and came to America to contribute in American freedom quest made him to be highly honored by the country. This is why every October 11, the country honors him.

General Pulaski has been honored in this country in many ways including the erection of his statue in 1910 in Washington DC. There are several counties, towns and streets that have been named in his honor.

Ford's Theater



Fordis Theater Contact Info: 511 10th Street, NW, Washington DC, 20004 Box Office: 202 347 4833 Group Sales: 202 638 2367 Website: www. Fordstheater.org

The Ford Theater will always be remembered as the scene where an American president was first assassinated in 1865. Abraham Lincoln and his family were watching the play titled "Our American Cousin" when he and his wife were assassinated.

As a result of this sad incident, the theater has undergone several reconstructions. The theater was consumed by fire in 1861 and by 1863 another edifice was constructed on the site. When the National Park Service took over control of the building in 1933, they renovated the interior and designed a place reserve for the "night of assassination". Abraham Lincoln finally died in the Paterson House adjacent the theater

The Department of Commerce



Department of Commerce Contact Info: 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20230 Telephone: 202 482 2000 Website: www.commerce.gov

The Department of Commerce building is where all issues regarding domestic and foreign trade are handled. The Commerce secretary and his staff have the utmost responsibility of designing economic policies in consultation with government agencies and the president's cabinet and other related offices. They also work in close collaboration with international trade agencies to foster economic cooperation, and strengthening the positions of the United States.

The National Archives



The National Archive Contact Info: 700 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington DC, 20408 Telephone: 202357 5000 Hours of Operation: From 10 am daily. Closing times vary. Website: www.archive.gov

most valuable document in the Country. The Bill of Rights, the Constitution, the Declaration of

The National Archive is where they keep the Independence, and other important documents. They are kept there away from any harm. Every evening they sink down automatically.

The Ronald Reagan Building



The Ronald Reagan Building/ International Trade Center Contact Info: 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20004 Telephone: 202 312 1300 Website: www. itcdc.com

The Old Post Office



Custom House and Post Office Contact Info: 12th Street Pennsylvania Ave, NWm Washington DC Telephone: 202 606 8691 or 202 289 4224 Admission: Free Hours of Operation: 7: 30 am- 11pm Website: www. Tourofdc.org/tours/oldpostoffice

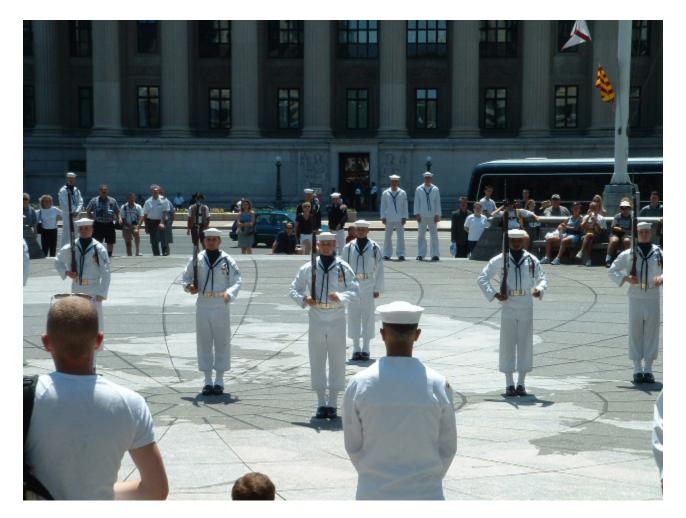
The Custom House and the Post Office building came about as a result of the growth of Georgetown that became famous in 1779 as the port of entry into America. When the name of the port changed to Washington DC port through a bill in 1864 to abolish Georgetown, the need for a permanent structure for the Custom House and Post office was designed thanks to Ammi Young and another architect from the Treasury Department.

Benjamin Franklin Memorial



Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachussetts. But he spent most of his years in England where he became a publisher. Among his many achievements like being a printer, author, scientist, philosopher, political theorists, diplomat and inventor, he was one of the founding fathers of the United States. With all these talents that he had, he became the envy of the world. For instance, in Physics he formulated theories with respect to electricity. Benjamin Franklin also invented the idea of an American nation. As a diplomat in France where he became one of the French Ministers, he tactfully sought France's alliance to make the United States Independence a reality. He is popularly being referred to as the architect of slave abolition.

US Navy Memorial



Of all the naval museums in the United States of America, the Navy Memorial in Washington DC is the only one that captures the scenario of US naval history. War heroes, battles, peace initiatives, space flight etc are among the items that are displayed in the Museum. Although it was created in 1961, it was opened to the public only in 1963.

The collection of naval artifacts helped push the need for the creation of the navy memorial. Admiral Arleigh Burke was the one who is credited for maintaining the museum at its current site. Prior to his arrival the museum moved twice to another location. Artifacts in this museum date back as 1800. As war increased over the years, more and more artifacts were collected for the museum.

The Evening Star Building



The Evening Star Building Contact Info: 1101 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20004 Telephone: 202 375 5105 Accessibility: Federal Triangle: Orange Line, Blue and Red

The Evening star newspaper was founded by Joseph Barrow Tate in 1852. It was a very famous afternoon and evening newspaper in Washington DC between 1852 and 1981. It was in 1981 after 130 years of circulation that the paper ceased to exist. One of the reasons for the termination of the Evening Star newspaper was the influx of other media companies notably the television. Washington then bought the land and building where it used to operate.

The FBI



The FBI

Contact Info: 601 4th Street NW, Washington DC, 20535 Website: www. Washingtondc.fbi.gov Telephone: 202 278 2000

FBI was created in 1908. The opening statement from the FBI website states that its mission is "To protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners." (http://www.fbi.gov/hq/area.html)

The FBI was named after President Herbert Hoover. He held the position as the director of the FBI for 48 years.

The Federal Trade Commission



Trade Commission Contact Info: 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20580 Telephone: 1877 382 4357 Website: www. Ftc.gov

The role of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is to regulate the market for goods and services in the United States. Product labels, warranties, energy costs, honest advertisements are among some of the roles of the FTC. Additionally, the FTC is also responsible for creating laws that fight against anti competitive practices.

Since most entrepreneurs are untrustworthy, the congress in 1938 passed "the Wheeler-Lea

Amendments." This amendments prohibited " unfair and deceptive acts and practices" in trade. They have also been very instrumental in creating the " telemarketing Sales Rule, The Pay Per call Rule and the Equality credit Opportunity Act". (http: www.ftc.gov)

<u>US Federal Courts</u>



US Federal Courts Contact Info: 717 Madison Place, NW, Washington DC, 20439 Hours of Operation: Monday ñ Friday from 9 am- 5 pm Telephone: 202 633 6550 Website: www.cafa.uscourts.gov

The United States federal courts are subdivided into the Court of Appeals, the district courts and the Supreme Courts. The US court of Appeals in Washington DC was established in 1982. It was a merger of the court of customs and the Patent Appeals and the appellate. There is also the federal circuit court that is unique from the other courts of appeals. The Federal circuits are found nationwide. The job of the federal circuit is to have jurisdiction in many areas including government contracts, international trade, patents, trademarks etc.

The Court is famous for many trials such as Watergate trial, The Oliver Nord Trial, and John Hagel trial.

The Reserve Officers Building



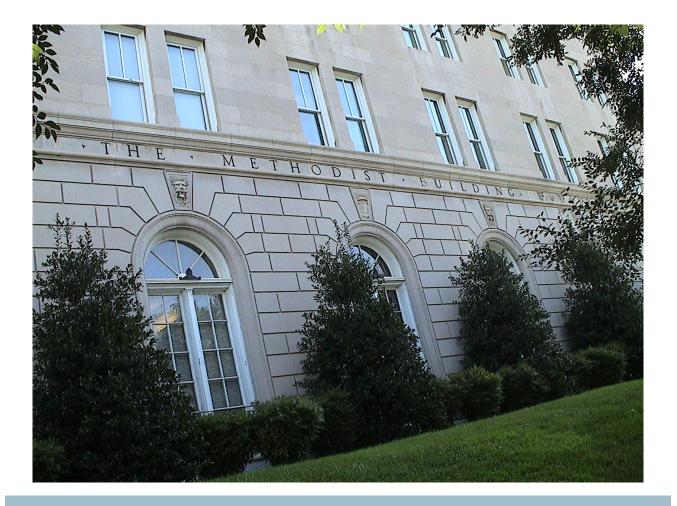
Reserve Officers Association Contact Info: One Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington DC 20002 Telephone: 202 479 2200 Website: www.roa.org

The ROA was created in 1922. Its mission is "to ...support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security". (http://www.roa.org)

Among some of its activities are annual conventions that are held during summertime,

and military exposition during mid-winter and late January. Their overall goal is to provide leadership, training and mentoring for reservists. Most of the transactions of the ROA are done at its headquarter in Washington DC.

The Methodist Church



The Methodist Church Contact Info: Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, 421 Seward Sq SE, Washington DC Telephone: 202 548 0548

On the Capitol Hill, the Methodist church is the only building that is owned and operated by the government. But the activities that have taken place in that building have had government involvement in one way or the other. It was built in 1922 and since then it has witnessed great occasions like the 1963 March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther king, the Poor People's march, the farm workers boycott and the Vietnam anti war protest. The aim of constructing the Methodist was for it to stand for peace justice and love not only for Methodists but for denominations. When the building was dedicated in 1924, there were a number of speeches delivered. The ones that remain in the minds of many are those from the Pennsylvania Governor, Gifford Pinchot and orator Jennings Bryant. They stressed the need for reform that would be long lasting for all mankind.

The House of Representatives



Representative Houses Contact Info: US House of Representative, Washington DC, 20515 Telephone: 202 224 3121 Website: www. House.gov

The House of Representatives is a building in Washington DC that house members of the main political parties, the Republican and the Democratic Party. The members of the house are elected directly by the people of the United States for a two years mandate and their role in the House of Representatives is to initiate tax and vote on spending legislation.

The first Congress only had 65 members who were elected from thirteen states. Today there are about 435 members including representatives from Hawaii and Alaska who were elected to join the Union. There are about three principal institutions that are in the House of Representatives: The committee system, the legislative party and the office of the Speaker.

Three buildings that represent the House of Representatives have been named after the first speaker of the House Rayburn. He was a Texas representative. He held the position as speaker of the House for 19 years.

The US Botanic Garden



The US Botanic Garden Admission: Free from 10 am -5pm Location: 245 First Street, SW, Washington DC, 20024 Telephone: 202 225 8333 or 202 225 1116 Website: www.usbg.gov

The United States botanical garden was set up in 1838 as a place where specimens and other live plants could be kept for exhibition. The building has moved several times and now it is located at south west of the Capitol. There are about ten rooms in the building that house the botanical garden. Each of the rooms has specific names that are similar to the kinds of plants that are exhibited there. There are no air-conditions in the rooms. The plants are made to experience natural environment.

The US Botanical Garden has plants from all over the world and from all climates. It has been renovated. The cost of the renovation went to millions of dollars. The reason for the high cost was because there are several climates in the building. Some hot some cold.

The Garfield Memorial



James Garfield was the 20th president of the United States. There are three Statues around the base of the memorial: one is for a student representing the presedent carrier in teaching.

One is for a waroir representing his cariar in the military. One is for a statsman representing the president's cariar as a representative, santor and president.

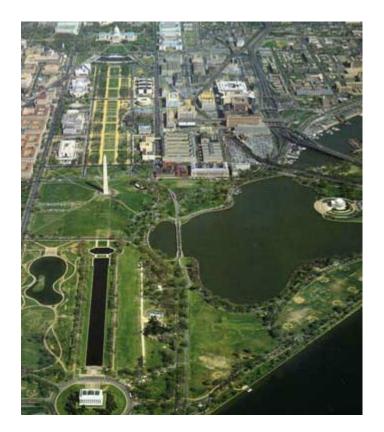
The US Capitol Reflecting Pool



The US Capitol Reflecting Pool is one of the attractions in Washington DC. Of all the reflecting Pools in the nation, this pool is perhaps the best of all. It is about 2,029 feet long and i67 feet wide. It also contained about 6,750,000 gallons of water. The pool is located at the end of the National Mall west of the US Capitol Building.

The statue is a US grant. It was a present during the civil war.

The National Mall

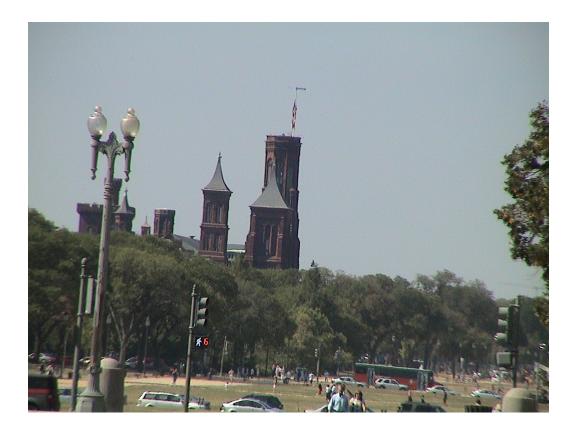


The National Mall Location: 900 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC, 20024 Telephone: 202 426 6841 Website: www.nps.gov

The National Mall in Washington DC was created in 1965. It has several attractions from without that visitors to the nation's capital can enjoy. The National mall vicinity provides an

opportunity for visitors to view some significant landmarks of Washington DC such as the Presidential legacies, world war II memorials, the monument etc.

The Smithsonian Museum



Smithsonian Museum Location: 1000 Jefferson drive, SW, Washington DC Operating Hours: 8:30 am ñ 5:30pm Telephone: 202 633, 1000 Website: www.si.edu

The need for a building that could house objects that reflect natural history, art and other foreign artifacts for tourism purposes and research prompted the need for the construction of the Smithsonian Museum.

The Museum was constructed between 1847 and 1855. The architect in charge of this project

was James Renwick from New York. Today, a lot of activities go on in the Museum. As a result of reconstructions, more rooms were added to house the Smithsonian Information Center and several administrative offices that run the day to day activities of the institution.

The Air and Space Museum



Air and Space Museum

Contact Info: 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantily, VA, 20151 & Independence Ave, 6th Street. SW, Washington DC, 20560

Hours of Operation: 10:00 am ñ 5:30pm

Admission: Free

Telephone: 202 633 1000

Website: www. nasm.si.edu

The Air and Space Museum is a new Museum that was constructed in 2003 around the Dulles International Airport. This Museum was erected as a supplement to the one around the National Mall that could not handle all the air and space artifacts coming in from around the nation and abroad.

The two Museums showcase the best aviation materials in the world. At its completion in 2003, the center was named after Steven F. Udvar-Hazy.

Albert Einstein Memorial



Albert Einstein was born in Germany. He is one of the single most influential theorists of our times. He propounded the theory of relativity. This theory that explains the phenomena of mass energy in Physics made him receive the noble prize in Physics in 1921. He has since made several strides in that area as he has made significant publications in electromagnetism, gravitation and relativistic cosmology.

Bureau of Engraving



Bureau of Engraving and Printing Contact Info: Department of treasury, Bureau of engraving and printing, 14 th and C street, SW, Washington DC, 20228 Telephone: 1877 874 4114 Website: www.bep.treas.gov

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is in charge of the nations billions of reserve notes. There are about two centers in the United States that are in charge of printing dollar notes: Washington DC and Forth Worth, Texas. The job of this office is not only to produce dollar notes, one of their responsibilities is to produce US passports, ID cards and much materials for the Homeland security.

Kennedy Center for Performing Arts



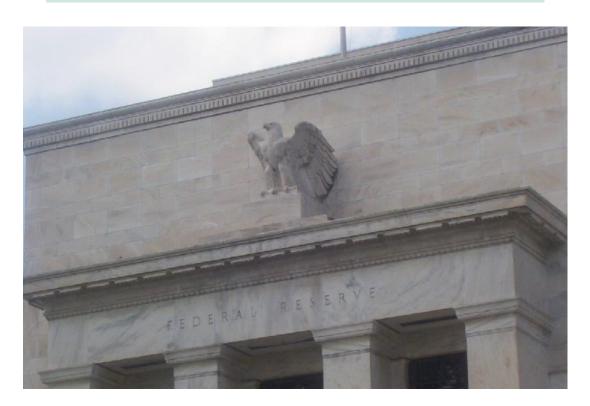
Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Contact Info: 2700 F street, NW Washington DC, 20566 Tickets info: 1800 444 1324 or 202 467 4600 Website: www.kennedy-center.org

After much debate about the need for a multipurpose cultural center that can cater for entertainment without discrimination, the Kennedy Center was authorized to be open by an act of Congress in 1958. This was done thanks to the effort of Arthur Glein who introduced a bill in Congress for a cultural center to be built.

The idea to construct such a center was initiated by the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt who suggested an idea of creating work for the unemployed. The idea then went to hearings and it was rather decided that a performing center be created.

The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts is the home for the national Opera and orchestra.

The Federal Reserve



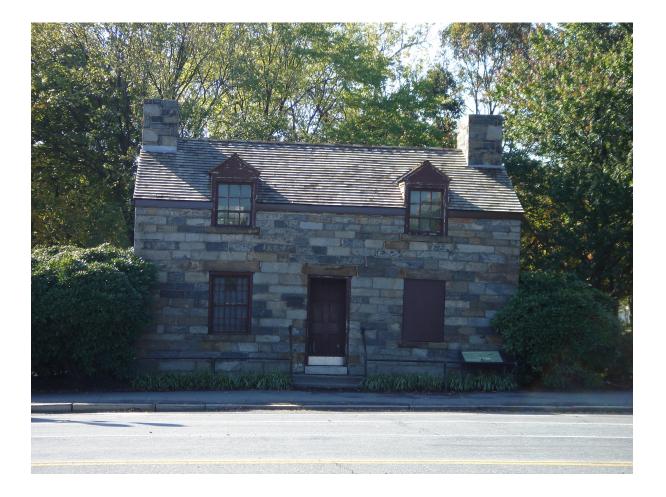
The Federal Reserve Contact Info: 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20551 Website: www. federalreserve.gov Telephone: 202 452 3684 Operating Hours: Mondays ñ Friday, 9:00- 5pm

The need to reform the banking system in the United States gave birth to the Federal Reserve. The Bank panic of 1907 whereby, loans were not repaid and new loans were hardly renewed brought about the need for checks and balances. There was the necessity for an institution that could reform the banking system. A commission was named to look at this matter and the head of that commission was Nelson Aldrich.

In order of Aldrich to create a befitting institution that will help reform the banking **66**

system in the United States, he traveled to Europe to study their central banking system. This gave birth to the Aldrich plan that was called "the Aldrich bill for the establishment of the national Reserve Association. Even though it was defeated in Congress, it took the effort of President Woodrow Wilson to have it passed in 1913.

Locks Keeper House



The canal connection is located in the constitutional avenue in Washington DC. Between 1813 and 1870, there was a canal connection and this house used to be the home of the man who used to lock and open the canal.

The name of this house was the "locks keeper house". The man who kept the key of the canal used to live in this house with his thirteen children.

Organization of American States

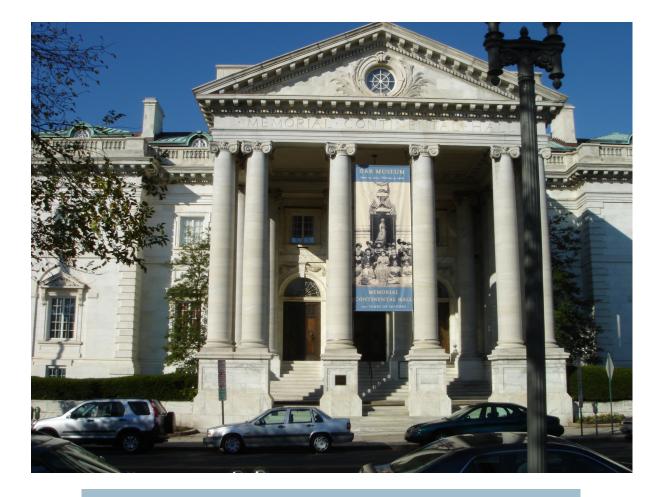


Organization of American State Contact Info: 17th street & Constitution Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20006 Telephone: 202 458 3000 Website: www.oas.org

The Organization of American States (OAS) combines most of the countries of the Western hemisphere. They come together to strengthen their cooperation and encourage democratic values for their members. They also strive to promote

human rights and freedom usually during their summits that is usually called the summit of the Americas. There are 35 member countries in this organization and they speak over four languages ie English, Spanish, French and Portugues.

Daughters of the American Revolution



Daugthers of American Revolution Contact Info: 1776 D Street. NW Washington DC 2006 Telephone: 202 628 1776 Website: www.dar.org

The Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) was created in Washington DC in 1890. It is a female volunteered Organization that seeks to encourage and promote patriotism, enhance freedom and seeking better education for children. Their support for education is seen in their creation of scholarships for students in schools especially for the have-nots across the country. They have provided over 150.000 scholarships to students over the years. They have about 168.000 members in the United States.

American Red Cross



Headquaters of the American Red Cross Contact Info: National Headquaters, 430, 17th Street, NW. Washington DC, 20006 Telephone: 202 639 3591 Website: www. redcross.org

headquarter in Washington DC is in charge of based services.

All Red Cross centers around the world cater disaster relief and other natural emergencies. They to emergency needs. The American Red Cross also give assistance in many other community

The Jefferson Memorial



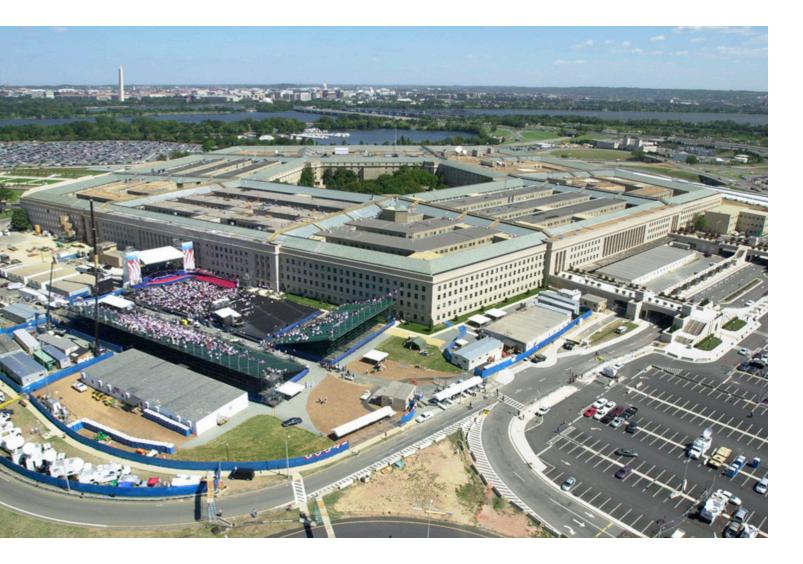
The Thomas Jefferson Memorial was designed by the architect John Russell Pope. But when he died in 1937, Daniel Higgins and Otto Eggers took over the construction of the memorial. The Construction of the Memorial was after the 1934 act of Congress that wanted a landmark edifice to symbolize the third American president who helped draft the "declaration of Independence".

The construction site for the memorial caused a stir since they had to remove the beautiful flowery cherry blossom trees from the Tidal Basin. The statue of Jefferson was sculpted in 1941 by Rudolf Evans and it was placed on the site.

When the announcement was made by Franklin Roosevelt about constructing a monument for Thomas Jefferson, people protested all over the nation. Women came from all over and chained themselves around each tree that was ready to be cut. They asked Franklin Roosevelt to find another location for the memorial. The response of President Roosevelt was not only to cut the trees around the area but he cut all the trees between the White House and the memorial. This was an honor for him to construct the memorial for the man he admired. The memorial has the statue of Thomas Jefferson under the Rotunda surrounded by various writings that he was famous for such as the Declaration of Independence. At the basement of the memorial, there are displays of various activities that the President was known for.

Thomas Jefferson is known as the man of three distinctions. He was the first Secretary of State, The third President, the second vice president, the primaryauthoroftheDeclarationofIndependence. He was the first ambassador to France, musician, educator, architect, philosopher, farmer, lawyer, artist, scientist, social revolutionarist. During his reign, the land was enlarged by the Louisiana Purchase.

The Pentagon



The Pentagon was built after the Second World War. It has over 23.000 civilian workers. Its structure is very attractive. The original building was used for the war department. So this new structure under the reign of Franklin Roosevelt combined the war department with other services. This structure has been remodeled after the terrorist struck the building on 9/11/2001.

The Pentagon Contact Info: Army Navy Dr & Fern St Arlington, VA 22202

The Air Force Memorial



The Air Force Memorial Contact Info: One Air Force Memorial Drive Arlington, VA 22204 Phone: 703-979-0674 Fax 703-979-0556 E-mail: afmf@airforcememorial.org Website: www.airforcememorial.org

George Mason Memorial



Born in Fairfax County in Virginia, George Mason was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesss in 1759. He was a very fiery critic of the British policies in the United States. Among his numerous duties, he has served as delegate to the Virginia Convention and was very influential in the draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights His ideas were used by Thomas Jefferson in drafting the Declaration of Independence. George Mason also played an important role during the war of Independence.

Abraham Lincoln Memorial



The Lincoln Memorial was built in a Greek styletemple surrounded by 36 columns representing the 36 states during his administration. The other states are inscribed on top and the rest of the two States, Alaska and Hawaii are inscribed on the ground in front of the 58 steps. The fifty eight steps represent the age of Abraham Lincoln when he was assassinated at Ford Theater. Below the Memorial is the display of important events that occurred during the times of Abraham Lincoln such as Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream Speech". Across from the Lincoln Memorial, there is the view of Washington Reflecting pool, The Washington Monument and the US Capitol.

Vietnam War Memorial



The need for a place to honor the veterans that fought during the Vietnam War to defend the name of the country made it possible for the Vietnam War memorial to be created in Washington DC. One other primary reason for the creation of the Vietnam War memorial was the urge to heal the wounds of the war. The effect of the war was weighing heavily on the nation and the memorial served as a place for people to come and pay tribute to the fallen heroes whose names are inscribed on the walls.

At the Memorial there are the Servicemen's Statue, Flagpole and the Vietnam Women's memorial. The purpose is for reconciliation with the war victims and the nation.

The Vietnam War memorial is in a V shape design and a marble with the names of 58000 soldiers who were either killed or missing in action during the war. On the memorial, the government sets conditions on it that the memorial should not state any judgment of the war.

The designer of the memorial was a Chinese engineer student and she was a 21 years old Marylyn from York University. Her design was selected out of the thousands that sent in contributions. When the committee that sat to review the designs noticed that the winner was a Chinese student, they rejected her design. Marylyn took the committee to court and the court ruled in her favor. That design was, in fact, a school project that she did for the school and got a "B" grade. The professor who gave her the "B" also submitted his own project for the memorial and his was rejected.

Iwo Jima Memorial



The purpose of the Iwo Jima memorial was to provide a place to honor American servicemen who fought valiantly in Japan in 1945. Iwo Jima was a little island in the south of Japan's capital Tokyo. The battle of Iwo Jima proved tough to the American forces since they had captured most of the territories in Japan. When they finally did after 72 hours of battle, they raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi that surrounds Iwo Jima. The Iwo Jima memorial is therefore a tribute to honor their valor for the nation. The American flag that was raised in Iwo Jima was done by five marines viz: Sgt. Micheal Strank, Capt. Harlon Block, Pfc. Franklin R. Souslev, Pfc. Rene Gagnon, Pfc.Ira Hayes and PhM. John Bradley. The memorial was dedicated by President Eisenhower in 1954.

World War II Memorial



The World War II memorial is one of the most important memorials in Washington DC. It honors the memory of over 400,000 American soldiers that died during the war. The effect of such a huge causality figure was felt at home and abroad and so to restore national pride and bring about healing, the World War II memorial was created.

The design of the memorial was done by a renowned architect from Providence, Rhode island named, Friedrich St. Florian. The Florian team completed the design and submitted to approval. It was approved in 1999 and since then worked had begun on the site. It consists of two divisions: the Pacific and the Atlantic showing that the war was fought around those two oceans. It has 56 pillars representing the States and the territories. The pillars are connected to each other from the ground that symbolizes the unity of the country during World War II. The World War II memorial grand stand is adorned with granite and bronze. A platform for full military service for the navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force and Coast Guards are displayed. A ceremonial steps lead from the 17th street to the plaza World War II memorial. There are ceremonial seal plaques on the plaza to show America's war years at home and overseas. There are also announcements about the memorial located at the 17th street entrance.

Within the commemorative area on the western side of the memorial is the sign showing the sacrifice of the World War II heroes and the contribution of allied forces. A field of 4000 of gold star on the freedom wall shows the contributions of the family sacrifice. The memorial was opened to the public on April 29, 2004.

Korean War Memorial



The Korean War Memorial was set up to remember the US Servicemen who sacrificed their lives for the nation from 1950 10 1953 during the Korean War.

At the memorial there are statues and names of real faces who took part in the Korean War. There are also the names of all the countries that participated in the Korean War. From 1950-1953, The United States lost over fifty-four thousand soldiers. The united nations countries lost over 600.000 soldiers in the war. For a long time this war used to be known as the forgotten war. But after the opening of the memorial in July 1995, many have come to see that it is a war that is no longer forgotten

More Useful Information:

Parks and Recreation, Wildlife,

Mason Recreation Center: www.dc.gov Telephone: 202 282 2180 Hours of Operation Fall/Winter Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 am -10 pm Saturday 9 am - 5 pm Address 3600 Calvert St., NW Washington, DC 20007





National Recreation& park 1901 Pennsylvania Ave Nw, #900, Washington, DC 20006 Telephone: 202 426 7745



Palisades Recreation Center: www.dc.gov Telephone: 202 282 2186



Emery Recreation Center: www.dc.gov Telephone: 202 576 3211

John F. Kennedy Recreation Center: www.dccouncil.washington.us Telephone: 202 671 4792

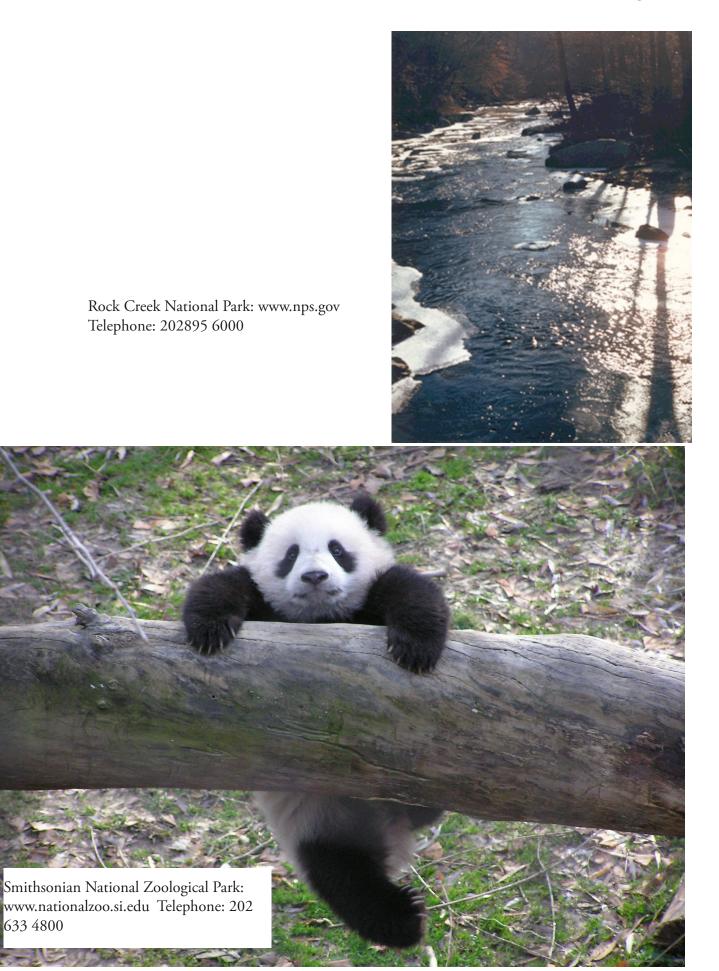




Georgetown Recreation Center: www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us Telephone: 202 282 0379

Fort Stevens Recreation Center: www.dpr.dc.gov Telephone number: 202 282 2198





The Grand Tour of Washington, DC **Parks In Washington DC**

Mary McLeod Bethune Counneil: www. nps.gov Telephone: 202 673 2402



Anacostia park: www.nps.gov Telephone: 202 472 3884





Meridian Hill Park: www.nps.gov Telephone: 202 387 9128



National Mall: www.dc.gov Telephone Number: 202 673 7660

Hiking and Biking Trails

Get Out, produced by Arlington Libraries, features a list of running, hiking, and other outdoor activities sites

Arlington County Bicycle Tours shows suggested routes, courtesy of the Arlington Department of Public works

Arlington County Bike Maps courtesy of Arlington County Department of Public Works

Arlington Trails features information on 36 miles of multi-use trails and 50 miles of connecting bike routes courtesy of Arlington County Parks, Recreation and Community Resources. Fitness Trails in Arlington, courtesy of Arlington County Parks, Recreation and Community Resources.

Washington and Old Dominion Trail. The 100foot wide park is one of the skinniest in Virginia, but also one of the longest - 45 miles in length.

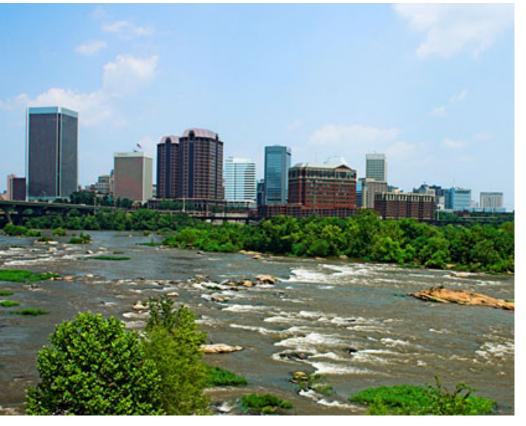
The Washington One Day Trip

Another important attraction that Zohery Tours offers its customers is the one day tour. This is an opportunity for tourists to visit landmark centers, museums, memorials and many other historic sites in Virginia and Maryland. Some of the sites and cities that this one day trip can cover include Richmond, Skyline Drive, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Alexandria, Annapolis and Baltimore Museum of Industry. In these sites the tourists will have the rare opportunity to be lectured on the historical importance of these sties as well as interact with the professional tour guide during the questions and answer session.

Richmond

Contact Information: 804 782 2777 or 800 365 7272.

Richmond is a city in the State of Virginia. Design to resemble the city of Paris, Richmond glitters and has been ever since great personalities like Thomas Jefferson there from 1779-1781 when he was the governor of Virginia State. There are many attractions that bring tourists to the city. These include: The Maymont in which we have the Children's Farm and The Great Hall; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Richmond Fan Districts.



To discover the rich city of Richmond, the following places are highly recommended Agecroft for tourists: Hall, Chesterfield Museum, Edgar Allan Poe Museum, James River and Kanawah Canal Locks, John Marshall House, Meadow Farm Museum, Maggie L Walker National Historic Site, Richmond National Battlefield Park, The Science Museum, Scotchtown and Barksdale Theater, Virginia State Capitol and The White House and Museum of the Confederacy.

Skyline Drive

The Skyline drive is a 105 mile route along the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. It passes through the Shenandoah National Park. Driving through the Skyline drive gives you the opportunity to have a beautiful view of the city as well as nature's gifts. The Speed limit on this route is just 35 mph due to frequent presence of wild turkeys, deers and other woodland animals that stroll by the side of the road.

One other attraction of this skyline drive is that it has about 71 outllooks for tourists. These are spots where visitors can literally look down the valleys and plains. It may not be possible to make all the 71 stops but in most cases, visitors who are leisurely driving do have time to stop at all of them. This skyline drive and the Shenandoah national park came into use during the Roosevelt administration. Since then, it has become one of the very popular spot for tourists visiting Virginia.



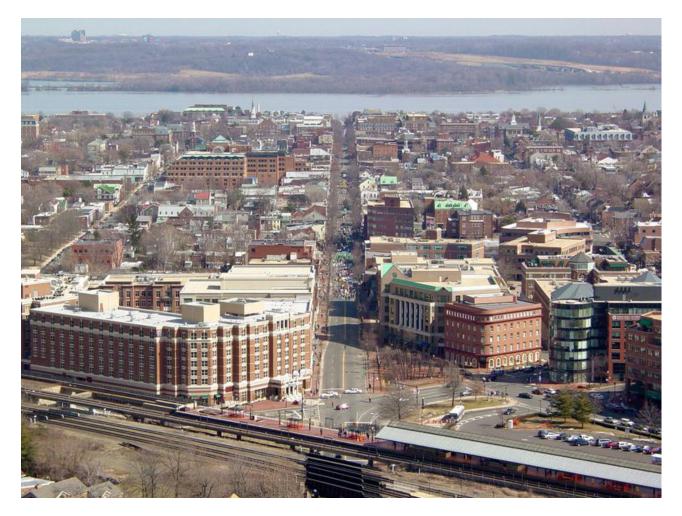
Theodore Roosevelt Island



This is a unique island about 88 acres has been preserved for site seeing. It is not uncommon to see people biking and hiking along the trails. It was in 1932 that this place was presented to the American people in honor of one of America's Conservative president, Theodore Roosevelt. He was one of America's President's who was really in love with nature. He was against the destruction of natural gifts. That is one of the reasons why he had to preserve this area. It is not uncommon to find visitors, tourists and guests on Saturday and Sunday mornings taking a walk in this island. One other amenity that this island provides to its visitors is a lecture on the historical ramifications of this place every 2pm on Saturdays and Sundays when they do have large crowd visiting the area.

Alexandria

Visitors and tourists in Washington DC and Virginia may take a days tour of Alexandria to enjoy the splendor of architecture, antiques, arts and other historic artifacts in this city. Situated in Virginia, Alexandria has some of the most attractive sites that visitors will find very impressive. Some of these sites include: Ramsay House Visitor Center, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, Boyhood Home of Robert Lee, Christ Church, Stabler-Lead-beater Apothecary Shop, Gadsby's Tavern and Torpedo Factory Art Center.



Williamsburg

Like Alexandria, the city of Williamsburg in Virginia offers another beautiful attraction to visitors interested in historical artifacts. Williamsburg is equally a city that offers countryside pleasure and view. One of the most impressive sites for guests and visitors of Williamsburg are: the Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour, Bassett Hall, Carter's Grove and Wolstenholme Towne, Gardens of Willimsburg, Public hospital, DeWitt Wallace decorative Arts Gallery and Abby Alderich Rockefeller Folk Center, Williamsburg private Homes and Businesses, Williamsburg public Buildings and Williamsburg's Tavern.

In most of these visiting sites there are recorded messages that can help the visitor on a self guided tour of most of the facilities. There are also posted time slot for visiting and closing hours for some of the locations.



Annapolis



Annapolis is the capital of the State of Maryland. It is often referred to as the city of Yachts. Little boats can transport tourists and visitors along the river for them to enjoy the natural beauty of the trees that surround the rivers and lakes. It is also referred to as the city that has the characteristics of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. In order to enjoy Annapolis much one needs to visit it during christmas. The kind of decorations that the residents in the city carryout are extremely fabulous. Since

Baltimore Museum Of Industry

This Museum is located in Baltimore in the State of Maryland. In this Museum, visitors and guests can have the rare opportunity to see the past and the present all embedded into one. Some the tools and equipment that people from Baltimore used top work with including those that they are using to work with today can all be seen in this museum.

The Grand Tour of Washington, DC

the city is the mixture of the new and the old that combination creates a great sightseeing.

These are some of the few important visiting centers that guests and tourists can find attractive when visiting Annapolis: Home of William Paca, Chase-Lloyd House, Hammond-Harwood House, Victualling Warehouse, Tobacco Prise House, The governor's mansion and The United States Naval Academy.

One of those tools can be the printing machine. It is intriguing to find out the progress that the printing machine has undergone over the years. In this Baltimore museum of industry, there is an opportunity for guests to see the past printing machine of the 1870 and the modern version that started in 1952.



The International Presence in Washington DC

Washington DC appears to the bustling city in the United States mainly due to its overwhelming diversity. There are so many people with diverse cultures that inhabit this city. The city itself has artifacts, visiting centers, Memorials, Embassies and Restaurants that are of international nature from Europe to Latin America, Caribbean, Asia and Africa. Below you will find some of the International sites and people present in Washington DC:

Washington Monument (Egypt)

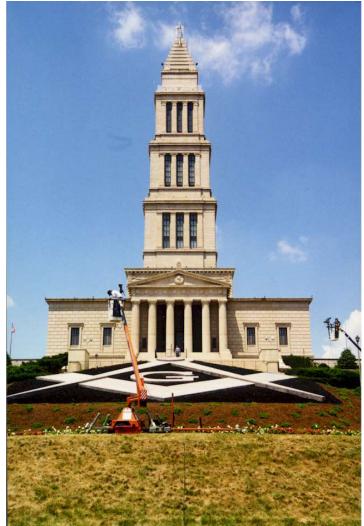
The Washington Monument was constructed in the style of the Egyptian Obelisk. Most international visitors to Washington DC



especially from North Africa quickly identifies with this structure. In order to fully appreciate the beautiful structure of the Washington monument one has to be familiar with Egyptian mythology and archeology.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial (France)

This structure is to honor and recognize the Free Masons that fought in the wars that America had been involved in. Browder (2004) acknowledges the fact in his book that the American war of



independence was financed by Free Masons from France. He goes on to indicate that some of these Free Masons took part in the actual battle. Since they were facing fierce battle from the British Free

Masons, it was actually the valiant efforts of these Free Masons from France and the American army that made them to succeed.

Lincoln Memorial

(Greece)



Iwo Jima Memorials (Japan)

The purpose of the Iwo Jima Memorial was to provide a place to honor American servicemen who fought valiantly in Japan in 1945. Iwo Jima was a little island in the south of Japan's capital Tokyo. The battle of Iwo Jima proved tough to the American forces since they had captured most of the territories in Japan. When they finally did after 72 hours of battle, they raised the American flag on mount Suribachi that surround Iwo Jima



Korean War Memorial

(Korea)

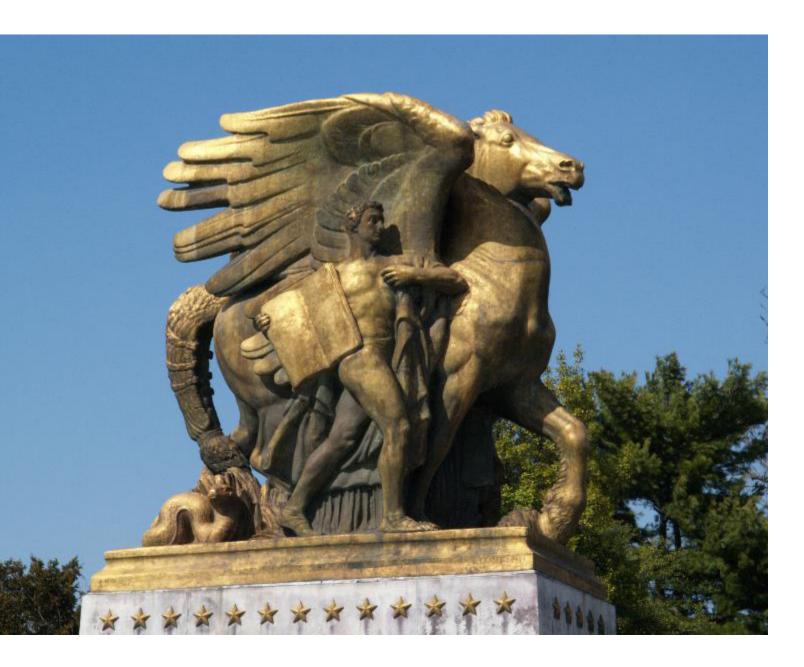
The Korean War Memorial was set up to remember the US Servicemen who sacrificed their lives for the nation from 1950 10 1953 during the Korean War.

At the Memorial there are statues and names of real faces who took part in the Korean War. There are also the names of all the countries that participated in the Korean War



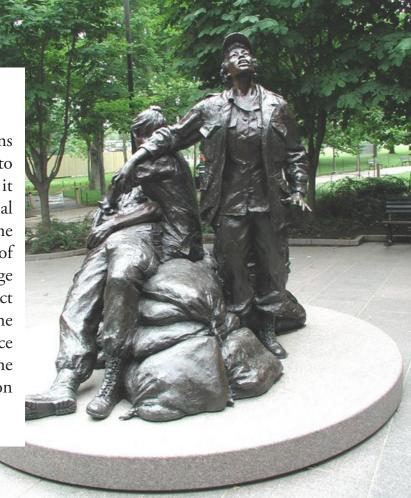
Four Gold Plated Statutes on Memorial Bridge

(Italy)



Vietnam War Memorial (Vietnam)

The need for a place to honor the veterans that fought during the Vietnam War to defend the name of the country made it possible for the Vietnam War memorial to be created in Washington DC. One other primary reason for the creation of the Vietnam War memorial was the urge to heal the wounds of the war. The effect of the war was weighing heavily on the nation and the memorial served as a place for people to come and pay tribute to the fallen heroes whose names are inscribed on the walls.





The Grand Tour of Washington, DC **Embassies in Washington DC**

There are over 180 embassies representing various countries in the world that have diplomatic ties with the United States. Some of these Embassies

distinguished themselves by Row and the style that they are being constructed to reflect the culture of their various countries.



Bengladeshy Embassy



British Embassy



Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Embassy of Mexico



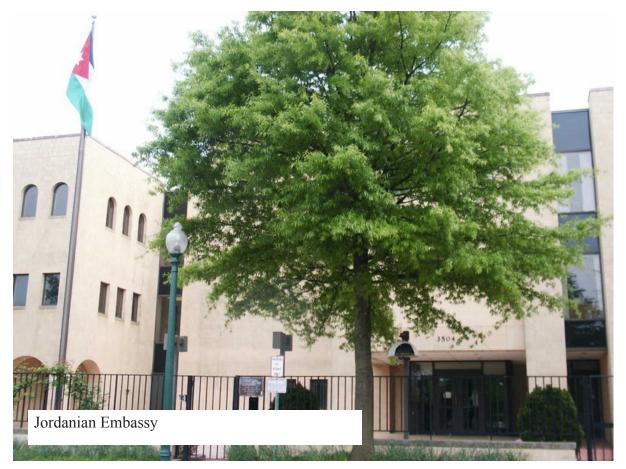


Italian Embassy





Canadian Embassy





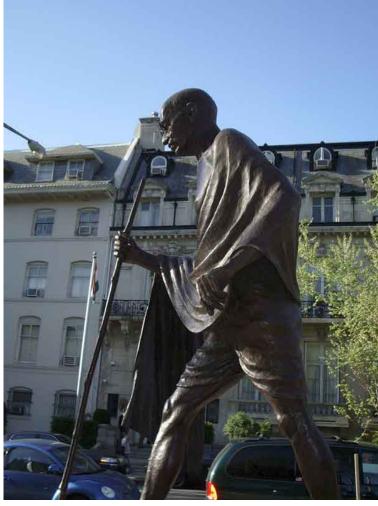




Embassy of the Soviet Republic of Kyrgyz







The Grand Tour of Washington, DC International Cuisines In Washington DC

In Washington DC, there are various international restaurants and club houses that visitors could visit and enjoy the richness of traditional dishes and drinks from their local countries. China Town and Adams Morgan are just a few of such places.





<u>China Town</u>

Location: Mount Pleasant St. NW

Washington DC, Tel: 202 332 8955



Adams Morgan

<u>Contact info</u>: 1835 18th Street, NW, Washington DC

Tel: 202 387 0035

CONCLUSION

Washington D.C. is the city of many monuments, memorial and museums. It is like an open museum. For the visitor of Washington to get the most out of the visit, visitors are encouraged to plan for their trip to Washington DC. If they are coming from around the country, they may contact their senators or representatives to get free passes to the major sites and memorial. These passes, not only will save hours every day, especially during the season of tourism in the nation's capital, Spring, Summer and Fall but also will allow access to areas in the sites not accessible during the public tour. For examples with your congressional passes to the White House you can visit over 32 rooms, but during the public tour, only about six rooms are available to see in a rush. With your congressional passes to Mount Vernon and old town Alexandria you will have a completely different tour around the home of George Washington than the normal tour of the site. For the International visitors, they may check with the visitors information offices in the area about special passes might be available for them.

In addition, it is better to take an orientation tour about the city and its vicinities. For the visitor to be familiarized with what is available to see and visit, getting an overview of the sites and memorials, and then concentrate on spending time at the places of interests. With an orientation tour, the visitor may discover something related to his/her interests.

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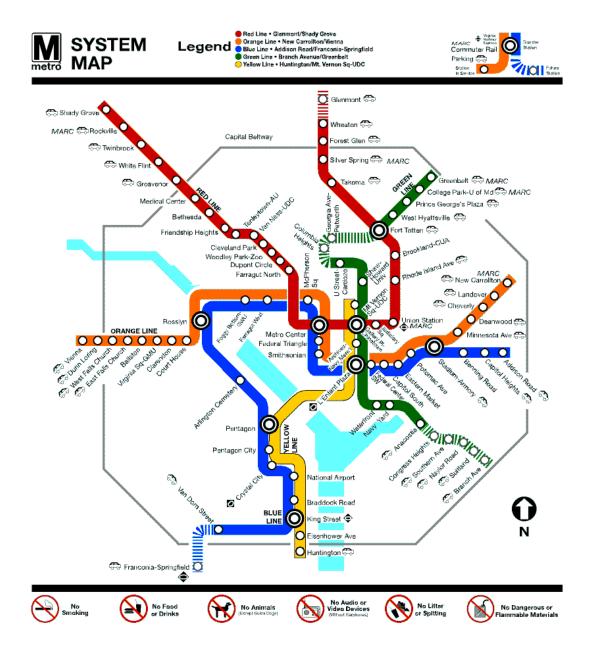
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Dr. Ali Zohery is a nationally-known expert on travel & tourism, communications, business management and Egyptology. He is founder and owner for 20 years of Zohery Tours (www.zohery.com).

In his native Cairo, Egypt he earned degrees in Archaeology and Egyptology and came to the United States in 1985. In 1998, he was awarded an MBA degree in International Management from Southeastern University in Washington, D.C. and a Ph.D. in Mass Communication in 2004 from Howard University also in Washington, D.C.

Washington,

Read. Read. Read.

With a strong desire to improve the quality of human interaction, communication and behavior, Dr. Zohery has worked tirelessly to promote world ethics, communication and peace. To that end, he founded the World Assembly for Ethics (www.worldassemblyforethics.org) in 2005. He lectures extensively in the Washington, D.C. area and is author of numerous publications, articles and research papers. He founded Zohery University (www.zohery.org) in 2006 for the purpose of "cultivating dedication to serving humankind with a global, multi-cultural and future-oriented perspective of higher learning".

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