

Must See Museums:

Explore the world's largest museum complex, including:

- African Art Museum
 - Air & Space Museum
 - American Art Museum (8th & F Streets NW)
 - American History Museum
 - American Indian Museum
 - National Gallery of Art
 - National Zoo (3001 Connecticut Ave NW)
 - Natural History Museum
 - Portrait Gallery (800 F Street NW)
 - Postal Museum (2 Massachusetts Ave NE)
 - Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle)
- [www.si.edu/museums]

For the History Buffs:

America's most famous residence, the White House – free tours are available, though requests must be submitted through one's Member of Congress and are accepted up to six months in advance. [www.whitehouse.gov/about/tours-and-events]

Explore the home of Congress at the United States Capitol Building - check out the Exhibition Hall or book a free tour of the Capitol either online, or by contacting your Representative or one of your Senators in advance for a staff-led tour. [www.visitthecapitol.gov]

Check out the Library of Congress, known as the research arm of Congress, featuring new and interactive elements. [www.loc.gov]

To view some of America's most important documents go to the National Archives Building – on display include the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Louisiana Purchase, and the Emancipation Proclamation. [www.archives.gov]

For history in the making, visit the Supreme Court of the United States – all sessions are open to the public. [www.supremecourtus.gov/visiting/visiting.html]

Take a tour of Ford's Theater, where President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 by John Wilkes Booth. Daytime visits are free, but do require a ticket in advance. [www.fordstheatre.org]

Bureau of Engraving and Printing – go view US currency production firsthand! [www.moneyfactory.gov/tours/washingtondctours.html]

Visit the Arlington National Cemetery to honor the nation's war heroes and witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. [www.arlingtoncemetery.org]

DC Outdoors:

- Walk along the National Mall and throughout the Memorial Parks – Memorials include:
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial / (SW of the Tidal Basin)
 - Korean War Veterans Memorial
 - Lincoln Memorial
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial / (NW of the Tidal Basin)
 - Thomas Jefferson Memorial / (SE of the Tidal Basin)
 - Washington Monument
 - World War II Memorial
 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Take a free walking tour! DC by Foot offers a free, tip based tour of Washington. Explore the monuments on their "More Than Just Monuments Tour" or take the "Arlington National Cemetery Tour." Additional tours offered can be found online. [www.dcbfoot.com]

Stroll the streets of Georgetown – window shop along M Street NW, or walk amongst the beautiful older mansions & town homes. Don't miss the Old Stone House at 3051 M Street NW, built in 1765, and known as the oldest private home in DC.

Take in the view of the amazing architecture at Union Station. Once inside, you'll find plenty of places to eat and shops to browse.

Walk along Massachusetts Avenue to get an up-close look at the beautiful architecture of the embassies from around the world.

Explore the National Arboretum, where you can walk around 400 acres of land - including the pillars from the original U.S. Capitol building that was burned during the War of 1812, and a unique Bonsai collection. [www.usna.usda.gov]

Other Points of Interest:

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - admission is free, but passes are required for visiting the Permanent Exhibition "The Holocaust," showing March through August, available on a first-come, first-serve basis. [www.ushmm.org/visit]

Home to the US Department of Defense, check out the Pentagon Building – be sure to book a tour in advance, either online or through your Representative or one of your Senators. [<http://pentagon.afis.osd.mil>]

Stop by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts - join a guided tour to see the performance halls and artwork that have been donated over the years. Also, enjoy a free performance at 6pm daily on the Millennium Stage. [www.kennedy-center.org/visitor]