



## **The PILD Guide to Visiting Washington, D.C.**

Whether you are visiting Washington DC for the first time or making a return trip, you quickly learn to appreciate the history, beauty and excitement of our Nation's Capital. This guide is intended to assist you in making your PILD Conference experience an enjoyable one.

Please note that the information listed for each site is offered only as an introduction. You are advised to check the corresponding web site or phone for the most up-to-date information, times, admission fees, etc. This is especially important since many sites in Washington are on varying schedules or access due to increased security.

The most important means of travel is the Metro, the area's rapid transit system. For information and maps, click on the Metro's website at [www.wmata.com/metrorail](http://www.wmata.com/metrorail).

### **Arlington National Cemetery**

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

(703) 692-0931

Arlington, VA, Arlington Cemetery Metro Stop

Arlington National Cemetery is open to the public at 8 AM 365 days a year. From April 1 to Sept. 30 the cemetery closes at 7 PM. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Amphitheatre, the Custis-Lee Mansion and the graves of Presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft. Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every hour on the hour during the winter months and every half-hour during the summer months.

### **Botanic Gardens**

[www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov)

(202) 225-8333

Maryland Avenue SW, Federal Center SW Metro Stop

The grounds of the U.S. Botanic Garden are located on the National Mall across from the U.S. Capitol along First Street, SW, between Maryland Avenue and C Street. Admission to all public areas of the U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) is free. The Conservatory is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM and Bartholdi Park daily from dawn to dusk.

### **Bureau of Engraving and Printing**

[www.bep.treas.gov](http://www.bep.treas.gov)

(202) 874-3019

14<sup>th</sup> and C Street SW, Smithsonian Metro Stop

As the U.S. Government's security printer, the BEP is responsible for the design, engraving and printing of all U.S. paper currency. A world leader in printing technology, the Bureau also produces postage stamps, White House invitations, Treasury obligations and other U.S. securities. Tours Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM You'll see millions of dollars being printed during a tour of the BEP. The tour features the various steps of currency production, beginning with large, blank sheets of paper, and ending with wallet-ready bills! Closed weekends.

### **Corcoran Gallery of Art**

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

(202) 638-3211

17<sup>th</sup> Street and New York Avenue NW, Farragut West Metro Stop

The largest non-federal art museum in the nation's capital, the Corcoran was founded in 1869 as an institution to be "dedicated to art, and used solely for the purpose of encouraging the American genius." It was Washington's first art museum and ranks with Boston's Museum of Fine Arts and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art as one of the three oldest museums in the United States. Only a block from the White House and just a short walk from the nation's historic Mall, the Corcoran stands as a major center of American art. The Corcoran is open from 10 AM to 5 PM daily. Closed every Tuesday. Admission to the Corcoran is: \$5 for individuals; \$3 for senior citizens and students; \$1 for students ages 13-18; and \$8 for family groups of one or two parents and children under 18. Members and Children under 12 are free. Admission is free on Mondays, and on Thursdays after 5 PM. There is sometimes an additional fee charged for Special Exhibitions.

### **Department of State**

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

(202) 647-3241

2201 C Street NW, Foggy Bottom Metro Stop

The Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State, which are used for official functions hosted by the Secretary of State and other high level government officials, are open for pre-arranged tours at no charge. These rooms hold a premier collection of 18th Century American Furniture, paintings and decorative arts. Guided tours are conducted Monday through Friday at 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 2:45 PM Tours are 45 minutes in duration. Reservations are required and should be made approximately four weeks in advance, due to the large volume of requests. Reservations for tours may be requested by calling: (202)-647-3241

### **Dumbarton Oaks**

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

(202) 342-3212

1703 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Georgetown Metro Connection serves all Metrobus stops in Georgetown, and operates express service between Georgetown and Foggy Bottom-GWU, Rosslyn and Dupont Circle Metro stations.

Dumbarton Oaks is a 19th-century mansion, built on the crest of a wooded valley in Georgetown. Dumbarton Oaks has important research resources in the areas of Byzantine studies, the history of landscape architecture, and Pre-Columbian studies. The grounds of Dumbarton Oaks include ten acres of gardens, known as Dumbarton Oaks Park. Especially notable here are magnolias, forsythias, cherries, herbaceous borders, and plantings of bulbs in the spring and chrysanthemums in autumn. Gardens open daily from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM Museum is open Tuesday – Sunday from 2:-- PM to 5:00 PM Tours are on Tuesdays,

Wednesday, Thursday and Saturdays (AM only). Reservations are required. Appointments are necessary for tours of 10 or more, (202) 342-3212. Museum (202) 338-8278

### **Federal Bureau of Investigation**

[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

At this time, public tours of the FBI are closed.

### **Ford's Theater and Lincoln Museum**

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

(202) 426-6924

10<sup>th</sup> Street between E and F Streets NW, Metro Center Metro Stop

Open daily (except Christmas) from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Talks are given in the theater at 15 minutes after the hour, every hour. The first talk is at 9:15 AM and the last at 4:15 PM. Ford Theatre National Historic Site, orchestra level only, is open for tours. The Lincoln Museum is closed for rehabilitation of many of the exhibits and exhibit cases; re-opening of the museum has not been scheduled. The Petersen House is closed for restoration work until early 2003.

### **Thomas Jefferson Memorial**

[www.nps.gov/thje](http://www.nps.gov/thje)

(202) 426-6841

South Bank of the Tidal Basin, East Basin Drive, SW, Smithsonian Metro Stop

Monument honoring Thomas Jefferson-political philosopher, architect, musician, book collector, scientist, horticulturist, diplomat, inventor, and third President of the United States. Thomas Jefferson struck a chord for human liberty 200 years ago that resounds through the decades. But in the end, Jefferson's own appraisal of his life, and the one that he wrote for use on his own tombstone, suffices: "Author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia. Hours: Open Daily, 8 AM to midnight. At the Swan Boathouse you can rent a paddleboat to cruise the basin.

### **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

[www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

(202) 416-8340

Located on the banks of the Potomac River at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue NW, and the Rock Creek Parkway, Foggy Bottom Metro Stop.

Free tours of the Kennedy Center are given by the Friends of the Kennedy Center from 10 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday and 10 AM to 1 PM, Saturday and Sunday. They depart from the parking plaza on Level A, and feature the Hall of States and Hall of Nations, the Center's main theaters, and dozens of paintings, sculptures, and other artworks given to the Center by foreign countries. Seven minute walk via New Hampshire Ave. or use the FREE Kennedy Center Show Shuttle.

### **Korean War Veterans Memorial**

[www.nps.gov/kwvm](http://www.nps.gov/kwvm)

(202) 426-6841

French Drive SW, Foggy Bottom Metro Stop

From 1950 to 1953, the United States joined with United Nations forces in Korea to take a stand against what was deemed a threat to democratic nations worldwide. The Korean War Veterans

Memorial honors those Americans who answered the call, those who worked and fought under the trying of circumstances, and those who gave their lives for the cause of freedom. Open daily, 8 AM to midnight.

### **The Library of Congress Jefferson Building**

[lcweb.loc.gov/visit](http://lcweb.loc.gov/visit)

(202) 707-5458

1<sup>st</sup> Street and Independence Avenue SE, Capitol South Metro Stop

Public tours are offered at 10:30 and 11:30 AM and 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 PM Monday - Friday in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

Saturday public tours are offered at 10:30 and 11:30 AM and 1:30 and 2:30 PM. Groups of over 10 people need to make a reservation for a tour.

### **Lincoln Memorial**

[www.nps.gov/linc](http://www.nps.gov/linc)

(202) 426-6841

West Potomac Park at the foot of 23rd Street NW, Foggy Bottom Metro Stop

The Lincoln Memorial is a tribute to President Abraham Lincoln and the nation he fought to preserve during the Civil War (1861-1865). The Lincoln Memorial was built to resemble a Greek temple. It has 36 Doric columns, one for each state at the time of Lincoln's death. A sculpture by Daniel Chester French of a seated Lincoln is in the center of the memorial chamber. Inscribed on the south wall of the monument is the Gettysburg Address. Above it is a mural painted by Jules Guerin depicting the angel of truth freeing a slave. Guerin also painted the unity of North and South mural on the north wall. Etched into the north wall below the mural is Lincoln's second inaugural speech. Open daily, 8 AM to midnight.

### **Mount Vernon**

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

(703) 780-2000

Mount Vernon is located eight miles south of Alexandria, VA. There is no Metro Service.

Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, is open April through August from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM General Admission: Adults \$11.00, Senior Citizens \$10.50, Children 6 through 11 \$5.00, and Children age 5 and under FREE.

### **National Aquarium**

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

(202) 482-2825

14<sup>th</sup> Street, between Constitution Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Federal Triangle Metro Stop

Tanks of fish, frogs, alligators, and sharks. Open seven days a week, from 9-5pm, last admission at 4:30 PM. Fees: General (ages 11 and up) \$3.50, Children (ages 2-10) \$1.00, Seniors and Military Personnel \$3.00, Children under 2 years of age are free.

### **National Mall**

[www.nps.gov/nama](http://www.nps.gov/nama)

The National Mall's origins are as old as the capital city itself. The open space and parklands envisioned by Pierre L'Enfant's plan, which was commissioned by George Washington, created

an ideal stage for national expressions of remembrance, observance and protest. The National Mall resources include the 2,000 American elms that line the Mall and the 3,000 internationally renowned Japanese cherry trees that grace the Tidal Basin. Gardens that are botanical showplaces display thousands of tulips, pansies and annuals in over 170 flower beds, and 35 ornamental pools and fountains range from the simple to the sublime. This impressive mingling of natural and cultural resources has made our Nation's Capital one of the most heavily visited and photographed places in the world. Sites on the National Mall include the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

### **National Zoological Park**

[www.nat zoo.si.edu](http://www.nat zoo.si.edu)

(202) 673-4800

3000 Connecticut Avenue NW, Woodley Park Metro Stop

Part of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Zoological Park is located on 163 naturally picturesque acres along Washington's Rock Creek.

Grounds open daily. The National Zoo is open every day of the year except Christmas, May 1 to September 15: Grounds are open: 6:00am - 8:00pm, Buildings are open: 10:00am - 6:00pm. Free admission.

### **Octagon House**

[www.archfoundation.org/octagon](http://www.archfoundation.org/octagon)

(202) 638-3105

18<sup>th</sup> Street and New York Avenue NW, Farragut West or Farragut North Metro Stops

Architectural exhibits. Served as James Madison's White House following the destruction of the real White House by the British in 1814. The Treaty of Ghent was signed here, ending the War of 1812. Open Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4:00 PM; closed Monday.

### **Old Executive Office Building**

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

(202) 395-5895

17<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Farragut North or Farragut West Metro Stop

The Old Executive Office Building, a National Historic Landmark, was built between 1871 and 1888. Designed by Alfred B. Mullet in the Second Empire Style, the building housed the Departments of State, War, and Navy. Much of the interior was designed by Richard Von Ezdorf using fireproof cast-iron structural and decorative elements. The building continues to house various agencies that comprise the Executive Office of the President, such as the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget and the National Security Council. Public tours are available on Saturday mornings by advance reservation only. To make a reservation, please call the Preservation Office between the hours of 9:00 am and noon, Tuesdays or Wednesdays at (202) 395-5895, and have available legal name, date of birth, country of citizenship, and Social Security number for each visitor.

### **The Old Stone House**

[www.nps.gov/olst/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/olst/index.htm)

(202) 426-6851

3501 M Street in Georgetown, Foggy Bottom Metro Stop.

This house was built in 1765, making it the oldest standing building in Washington, DC. Located in Rock Creek Park and near shopping, boutiques and restaurants in the old colonial section of Georgetown. It is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Ranger lead talks are available upon request and group tours may be reserved between 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM, by calling (202) 426-6851. Come and learn how the people of Georgetown lived when it was a major tobacco seaport. Admission is free.

### **Old Town Alexandria**

[ci.alexandria.va.us](http://ci.alexandria.va.us)

Take 1-395 South to U.S. Route 1 in Alexandria and follow signs to Old Town. King Street Metro Stop (then a 20+ minute walk to Old Town)

Alexandria, which is almost 50 years older than the City of Washington, is one of America's most historic communities. It has many authentic eighteenth-century buildings, and the charm of the "Old and Historic District" is carefully preserved by strict architectural and demolition control. You will find the old Presbyterian meeting house, Gadsby's Tavern and the Torpedo Factory. In addition, there are boutiques, restaurants, café and nightclubs.

### **The Pentagon**

[www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pentagon](http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pentagon)

Located across the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in Arlington, VA, Pentagon Metro Stop

There are currently no public tours of the Pentagon.

### **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**

[www.nps.gov/fdrm](http://www.nps.gov/fdrm)

(202) 426-6841

West Basin Drive, Smithsonian Metro Stop

Located along the famous Cherry Tree Walk on the Tidal Basin near the national mall, this is a memorial not only to FDR, but also to the era he represents. The monument traces twelve years of American History through a sequence of four outdoor rooms—each one devoted to one of FDR's terms of office. Sculptures inspired by photographs depict the 32nd President: A 10-foot statue shows him in a wheeled chair; a bas-relief depicts him riding in a car during his first inaugural. At the very beginning of the memorial there is a statue with FDR seated in a wheelchair much like the one he actually used. 8 AM to midnight

### **Smithsonian Institutions**

[www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum complex and research organization. Composed of sixteen museums and galleries, as well as the National Zoo, the Smithsonian's exhibitions offer visitors a glimpse into its vast collection numbering over 142 million objects. Admission is free for all Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C. Most museums are open daily, 10 am-5:30 PM, except December 25. Consider making the Smithsonian Information Center your first stop. Located in the Castle at 1000 Jefferson Drive, SW; open daily 9 AM-5:30 PM, an hour earlier than museums.

The Smithsonian Institutions facilities include the African Art Museum, Air and Space Museum, American Art Museum (closed for renovation), American History Museum, Anacostia Museum (African American History and Culture), Arts and Industries Building (changing exhibitions), Freer and Sackler Galleries (Asian art), Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (modern and

contemporary art), National Zoo, Natural History Museum, Portrait Gallery (closed for renovation), Postal Museum, Renwick Gallery (American crafts), and the Smithsonian Institution Building.

### **The Supreme Court**

[www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov)

(202) 479-3000

1<sup>st</sup> Street and Maryland Avenue NE, Capitol South Metro Stop

The Supreme Court offers a variety of educational programs. Exhibits, which are changed periodically, and a theater, where a film on the Supreme Court is shown, are located on the ground floor. Lectures in the Courtroom are typically given every hour on the half-hour, on days that the Court is not sitting, beginning at 9:30 AM and concluding at 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

### **United States Capitol**

[www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov)

(202) 225-6827

Capitol Hill at the east end of the Mall, Capitol South Metro Stop

The United States Capitol is among the most symbolically important and architecturally impressive buildings in the nation. It has housed the meeting chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate for two centuries. The Capitol, which was started in 1793, has been through many construction phases. It stands today as a monument to the American people and their government.

For recorded information regarding tours of the Capitol, call (202) 426-6851.

The following visitation policy is in effect: The Capitol is open to the public for guided tours only. Tours will be conducted from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Saturday. Visitors must obtain free tickets for tours on a first-come, first-served basis, at the Capitol Guide Service kiosk located along the curving sidewalk southwest of the Capitol (near the intersection of First Street, SW, and Independence Avenue). Ticket distribution begins at 8:15 AM daily. Ticket holders will be directed to the South Visitor Receiving Facility, which is located south of the Capitol; from there they will proceed to the Capitol to begin their tour.

### **United States Holocaust Museum**

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

(202) 488-0400

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW (old 15<sup>th</sup> street between Maine Avenue and Independence Avenue), Smithsonian Metro Shop

NO PASSES are necessary for entering the Museum building, special exhibitions, the interactive Wexner Learning Center, and other Museum resources. Even if you cannot get Permanent Exhibition passes for the day you want to come, visit and take advantage of the Museum's many other learning opportunities. TIMED PASSES are necessary for visiting the Permanent Exhibition — The Holocaust — and can be obtained at the Museum on the day of your visit or in advance by calling tickets.com at (800) 400-9373. Each day, the Museum distributes on a first-come first-served basis a large but limited number of timed entry passes for use that same day. Allow extra time when you first arrive at the Museum to pass through the building entry line that can form during spring and summer.

## **United States Naval Observatory**

[www.usno.navy.mil](http://www.usno.navy.mil)

(202) 762-1438

34<sup>th</sup> Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW, Accessible via MetroBus from Metro's Red line Friendship Heights, Tenleytown-AU, Dupont Circle, and Farragut North stations and the Farragut West station which is on the Orange and Blue lines. The N2, N4, and N6 MetroBus connects at these stations and travel past the Naval Observatory along Massachusetts Avenue.

The U.S. Naval Observatory is one of the oldest scientific agencies in the country. Established in 1830 as the Depot of Charts and Instruments, its primary mission was to care for the U.S. Navy's chronometers, charts and other navigational equipment. Today, the U.S. Naval Observatory is the preeminent authority in the areas of Precise Time and Astrometry, and distributes Earth Orientation parameters and other Astronomical Data required for accurate navigation and fundamental astronomy. Public tours of the USNO are now offered on alternating Monday evenings from 8:30 PM until 10:00 PM. Individual tour passes must be reserved in advance for every Monday night tour. You may use the online request form link at the bottom of this page, or call the Public Affairs Office at (202) 762-1438 to secure a reservation. Requests for reservations should be submitted at least 4 - 6 weeks before a scheduled tour.

## **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

[www.nps.gov/vive](http://www.nps.gov/vive)

(202) 426-6841

Near the Lincoln Memorial. Henry Bacon Drive and Constitution Avenue. Foggy Bottom Metro Stop

Construction of black granite to honor all Americans who served in the Vietnam War. As a special tribute to those who did not return, the names of more than 58,000 who gave their lives or who remain missing are inscribed in the Memorial's walls in chronological order. The purpose of this memorial is to separate the issue of the sacrifices of the veterans from the U.S. policy in the war, thereby creating a venue for reconciliation. Open daily, 8 AM to midnight.

## **Washington Monument**

[www.nps.gov/wash](http://www.nps.gov/wash)

(202) 426-6839

On the Mall at 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Smithsonian Metro Stop

Alone among the Founders of the United States George Washington earned the title "Father of his Country" in recognition of his leadership in the cause of American independence. With this monument the citizens of the United States show their enduring gratitude and respect. Hours of operation are from 9:00 AM to 4:45 PM, seven days a week. In order to enter the Washington Monument, tickets are required. The ticket system is administered through the National Park Reservation Service (NPRS). Reservations for the Washington Monument may be between 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM EST by calling 1-800-967-2283 or over the Internet at <http://reservations.nps.gov>. Those making advance reservations will be charged \$1.50 per ticket, plus a \$.50 service charge per order. Ticket Kiosk-free tickets are distributed for that day's visit from the kiosk on the Washington Monument grounds at 15th Street and Madison Drive on a first-come first-served basis. Hours for the ticket kiosk are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

## **The White House**

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

(202) 456-7041.

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, McPherson Square Metro Stop

The White House was originally constructed 1792-1800, the work of James Hoban. It was reconstructed in 1815 after being burned by British soldiers during the War of 1812. It has been the home of every president of the United States since John Adams. The exterior of the main structure, despite some additions and minor changes, remains much as it was in 1800. The interior has been completely renovated using the historic floor plan. It is significant for its Federal architecture, as a symbol of the presidency, and for the important decisions made within its walls over the years. Public Tours of the White House have been suspended until further notice. For the most up-to-date information, call the 24-hour Visitors Office Info Line at (202) 456-7041.