



2.5 Days in Washington, DC: A Suggested Itinerary

Welcome to Washington, DC!

The U.S. capital is brimming with monuments, museums, historic neighbourhoods, and green spaces. This itinerary blends **classic must-sees** with **memorable walks** and **unique local experiences**, making the most of your short stay. For updated travel information, visit [washington.org](https://www.washington.org).

Day 1 – Arrival & Evening Highlights

Afternoon Arrival

- Check in to your hotel (stay near the **National Mall** or **Downtown** for convenience).
- Grab a quick bite—try **Old Ebbitt Grill** (historic DC favorite) or **District Taco** for casual eats.

Afternoon Free Time

- Head to the **National Gallery of Art** or **National Portrait Gallery** or **Smithsonian American Art Museum** (free entry).
- Don't miss the famous **America's Presidents** exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery.

Evening – Illuminated Monuments Tour

- Take the **Big Bus Night Tour** (or a guided walking/bike tour) to see the **U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial** glowing at night.
- Dinner: choose a **rooftop spot** like POV Rooftop at the W Hotel with views over the White House. For Indian cuisines you can choose **Rasika** at 633 D St. NW, Washington, 20004



Day 2 – National Mall Walk & Georgetown Charm

Morning – Walk the National Mall

- Start at the **Lincoln Memorial**. From there, stroll the Mall eastward:
 - **Korean War Veterans Memorial**
 - **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**
 - **World War II Memorial** (with reflecting pool views)
 - **Washington Monument** (optional elevator ride to the top for panoramic views)

- Continue past the **Smithsonian Castle** toward the **U.S. Capitol**.
- Along the way, pop into **free Smithsonian museums**:
 - **National Museum of American History** (Star-Spangled Banner, pop culture)
 - **National Museum of Natural History** (dinosaurs, Hope Diamond).

Lunch

- Relax at **Pavilion Café** in the **National Gallery Sculpture Garden**. For Indian cuisines you can choose **Rasika** at 633 D St. NW, Washington, 20004.

Afternoon – Tidal Basin & Georgetown

- Rent a **pedal boat on the Tidal Basin**, circling past the **Jefferson Memorial**, **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial**, and **FDR Memorial**.
- Head to **Georgetown**:
 - Stroll along the **C&O Canal Towpath**
 - Explore **M Street** boutiques and cafes
 - Visit the **Old Stone House** (oldest building in DC)
 - Wander through **Georgetown University's historic campus**

Ford's Theatre: This is a theater located in Washington, D.C., which opened in 1863. The theater is best known for being the site of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Evening – Dining by the Water

- Dine at the **Georgetown Waterfront** with Potomac River views.
- Optional: enjoy rooftop cocktails at **Top of the Gate** (Watergate Hotel).

Day 3 – Morning Reflections & Departure

Morning

- Visit the **White House** and the **Black Lives Matter Plaza** near the White House.

- Stop at the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** (timed entry recommended) or the **National Museum of American History** if you missed it earlier.

Lunch

- Try a local favourite near Penn Quarter or downtown before departure.

Afternoon Departure

- Head to the airport with your DC highlights checked off.

DC vibes for tourists: Art, culture, food:

While visitors explore the world-class Smithsonian museums—ranging from the National Museum of African American History and Culture to the Air and Space Museum—most of which are free to enter, the Kennedy Center hosts music, theatre, and dance performances, while neighbourhoods like U Street and Adams Morgan pulse with live jazz, global cuisines, and vibrant nightlife. A stroll through historic Georgetown offers cobblestone streets, galleries, and riverside cafés, while the Eastern Market showcases local art, food, and crafts. Seasonal events such as the National Cherry Blossom Festival and free outdoor concerts on the National Mall further highlight the city's blend of history, arts, and community spirit.



Here's a list of the **Top 10 Attractions in Washington, DC** for tourists:

1. **National Mall** – The iconic stretch lined with monuments, memorials, and museums, perfect for walking tours.
2. **Lincoln Memorial** – A must-see monument honoring President Abraham Lincoln, especially beautiful at night.
3. **U.S. Capitol & Capitol Hill** – The seat of the U.S. Congress with historic architecture and guided tours.
4. **Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum** – Home to the Wright brothers' plane, Apollo 11 artifacts, and space exhibits.
5. **Smithsonian National Museum of American History** – Explore the Star-Spangled Banner, First Ladies' gowns, and pop culture treasures.
6. **National Gallery of Art** – A world-class art museum with works from Da Vinci to Van Gogh, plus a stunning sculpture garden.
7. **White House (Exterior & Visitor Center)** – The President's residence and a symbol of American democracy.
8. **Jefferson Memorial & Tidal Basin** – A scenic memorial best visited during cherry blossom season.
9. **Washington Monument** – The 555-foot obelisk offering panoramic views of the city (ticketed entry).
10. **Georgetown** – A historic neighborhood with cobblestone streets, shopping, dining, and a riverside waterfront.

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