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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Welcome to BBR! |  | |  |  | |
| Large segments of this information were gratefully copied from the University of California, San Diego, Washington (UCDC) Intern Program pdf. |

# Arrival



## By Plane

[National Airport](https://www.flyreagan.com/dca/reagan-national-airport) (aka Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, DCA) is the closest airport to the city center, just four miles south of downtown DC. There is a metro stop at the airport, but it is recommended to take a taxi for convenience. It is approximately 9 miles and 30 minutes from DTM. It is the only airport directly serviced by the Metro (Yellow and Blue lines).

[Dulles International Airport](https://flydulles.com/iad/dulles-international-airport) (IAD), in Virginia, is approximately 25 miles and 40 minutes from DTM. A Super Shuttle boarding area on the lower level of the Dulles Airport ([www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)) is available. Another option is the Washington Flyer Express bus. You may also choose to flag down one of the many taxis waiting outside the airport, but be aware that a trip from Dulles will be costly.

[Baltimore-Washington International Airport](https://www.bwiairport.com/) (BWI) is approximately 36 miles and 50 minutes away from DTM, about an hour drive from downtown DC. Taxis cost $50-80. There are Super Shuttle buses into Washington every 30 minutes, daily from 6:00am-11:30pm for approximately $45 one-way. It’s cheaper to take the train from BWI Airport, either the frequent peak hour departures of the MARC commuter line (check the website for schedules and fares: www.mtamaryland.com) or check the daily Amtrak trains (www.amtrak.com) These services take 35-40 minutes and terminate at Washington’s Union Stations where taxis are plentiful.

## By Train

Arrive at [Union Station](https://www.unionstationdc.com/). Step out of the station and get a glimpse of the Capitol Building through the fountains of Capitol Plaza. Cabs are always waiting to take you to your destination, or you can take the Metro Subway (take the Red Line to Van Ness or Friendship Heights) or the Metro Bus.



## Campus Directions

The Broad Branch Road Campus is the headquarters of the Carnegie Institution for Science and the historic home to the Earth and Planets Laboratory. It is located in Northwest Washington, D.C., just west of Rock Creek Park. Major nearby streets include Military Road and Connecticut Avenue. To reach the campus from Military Road, turn South on 32nd street or Nevada. From Connecticut, take Military or Nebraska to Nevada. Connecticut Avenue connects to the Capital Beltway (I-495) to the north of DTM and runs to K St. in downtown Washington to the south.

**Earth and Planets Laboratory**   
Carnegie Institution of Washington   
**5241/**5251 Broad Branch Road, N.W.   
Washington, DC 20015   
Tel: (202) 478-8820; Fax: (202) 478-8821

From the Beltway (I-495), merge onto MD-185/Connecticut Ave. via Exit 33, to Connecticut Avenue southbound (toward Chevy Chase). Drive 2.7 miles to the Chevy Chase Circle. Continue around the circle southward on Connecticut for 0.5 miles to Military Road (fourth stoplight).

At Military Road, turn left, heading east for 0.5 miles to 32nd St. (third stoplight). Turn right (south) on 32nd St. for one block to the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Turn left at the driveway hill; park at the top.

From K St., head northwest on Connecticut Ave., approximately 5 miles. Turn right on 36th St., just before reaching Nebraska Ave. At the bottom of the hill, turn right onto Nevada Ave. Nevada Ave. becomes Broad Branch Road at the intersection of Nevada Ave., Jocelyn St., 32nd St., and Linnean Ave.

Turn left onto 32nd St. at this 5-way-stop intersection. Drive a few feet and turn right into the campus' main driveway. Park in front of the Abelson Building.

Additional parking can be found in the lot on the other side of the campus, just off Jocelyn St. Parking is also permitted throughout the residential neighborhood on Jocelyn St. or 32nd St.

## Additional Info

EPL is approximately 1.5 miles from three Metro stations on the Red Line: Van Ness-UDC (at the intersection of Connecticut Ave. and Van Ness), Tenleytown-AU (at the intersection of Wisconsin Ave. and Albemarle), and Friendship Heights (at the intersection of Wisconsin Ave. and Western Ave.). Taxis are usually available on Connecticut Ave. Scooters and bikeshares are normally available for rent near the metro.

Buses are accessible from any of these Metro stations. From the Van Ness-UDC Metro, exit toward the "northbound buses" and take any "L" bus from the stop right outside the escalator. Exit the bus at Nebraska Ave. in front of Marvelous Market. Walk south to 36th St. and proceed down the hill. Turn right onto Nevada Ave. and left onto 32nd Street. Turn right at Carnegie's driveway.

If arriving at the Friendship Heights Metro, exit at the Military Road/Western Ave. Exit and board the E4 (Military Road-Crosstown line) bus on Western Ave. Take the bus to the intersection of 30th St. and Military Rd. Walk west on Military to 32nd St., and then south one block to campus.

Alternatively, take the Metro to Tenleytown and exit at the 40th Street (West) exit. Walk straight ahead and then turn left onto Albemarle St. in front of Whole Foods. Cross the street and proceed to the M4 bus stop near Wilson High School. Exit the bus at Military Road and 32nd St. Walk down the 32nd St. hill to campus.

Schedules, fares, and additional information can be found at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's [website](http://www.wmata.com/).

## Neighborhood Necessities

* Whole Foods Market, 4530 40th Street, N.W., Tenley Circle, Tenleytown
* Safeway, 5545 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Chevy Chase
* Rodman’s Discount Food and Drug, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Friendship Heights
* Magruder’s Supermarket, 5626 Connecticut Avenue
* Giant Food, 4303 Connecticut Avenue, NW.

Stores and restaurants in DC charge $0.05 per plastic or paper bag used. This may not sound like much, but it can add up over the course of a term. Most grocery stores sell reusable shopping bags for $1, which is not only inexpensive but is also good for the environment.

Closest shopping area: Friendship Heights: Features a Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdale’s, Sephora, and J. Crew, as well as a number of excellent restaurants, another Whole Foods grocery store, and shopping chains such as DSW shoes, H&M, T.J. Maxx, etc.

Closest bank: [SunTrust Bank](https://www.suntrust.com/branch/dc/washington/20008/connecticut-and-nebraska), 5000 Connecticut Avenue, NW., corner of Fessenden and Connecticut Ave., across from Politics & Prose bookstore.

[Local Chevy Chase/Bethesda restaurants](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g41060-Chevy_Chase_Montgomery_County_Maryland.html).

## Medical Care

The nearest fire station is located at 4930 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008 and can be reached at (202) 673-3231.

The nearest hospital is [Sibley Hospital](http://www.sibley.org/general_info/about_sibley_memorial_hospital.aspx) located at 5255 Loughboro Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, and can be reached at (202) 537-4000  Other hospitals in the area include, [Georgetown University Hospital](http://www.georgetownuniversityhospital.org/), 3800 Reservoir Road, NW, [George Washington University Hospital](http://www.gwhospital.com/Home), 900 23rd Street, NW, and [Suburban](http://www.suburbanhospital.org/), to name a few.

Because we are located near Rock Creek Park, calling the  [U.S. Park Police](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/uspp/index.htm)might result in a quicker response during an emergency.  Their 24-hour emergency number is **(202) 610-7500**.  Otherwise, call **911**with the 5241 Broad Branch Road NW address. Up-to-date emergency status information for the campus can be found by dialing **(202) 478-8486**.

Closest pharmacy to our campus is [CVS pharmacy](https://www.cvs.com/store-locator/cvs-pharmacy-address/5013+Connecticut+Avenue-Washington-DC-20008/storeid=2104?WT.mc_id=LS_GOOGLE_FS_2104) at 5013 Connecticut Avenue, NW. It is right next door to our local bookstore Politics & Prose.

## Know your city

Washington is divided into four quadrants - northeast (NE), northwest (NW), southeast (SE), and southwest (SW) - whose axis center on the US Capitol. Separating the quadrants, a central cross is formed by North Capitol Street (stretching north of the Capitol), East Capitol Street, South Capitol Street and - in the first of many exceptions - the grassy expanse of the Mall. The few sights in the NE, SE and SW quadrants cluster around the Capitol and south of the Mall. Almost all other sights and neighborhoods of note are in the NW quadrant.

Within the city, there is a simple right-angled grid plan in which, progressing away from the Capitol, north-south streets are numbered (in numerical order from 1), east-west streets are lettered (in alphabetical order, from A). After W (there are no X, Y, or Z streets), two-syllable names, still in alphabetical order, are used for east-west streets (Adams, Bryant, College, etc.), changing to three syllable names further out. In addition, broad avenues, all named for states, run diagonally across the grid of streets, meeting up at monumental traffic circles like DuPont Circle and Washington Circle. The system only breaks down in Georgetown, which predates the city - here quite a few streets maintain their original names. Other oddities to note are that the Mall has swallowed up A and B streets NW and SW (what would be B St. NW is now Constitution Ave NW, and so forth); I street is often written Eye Street; and there’s no J Street in any quadrant.

It’s crucial to note the relevant two-letter quadrant code (NW, SW, NE, SE) in any address or direction. Each grid address (say 1200 G St.) could be in one of four quadrants and is impossible to find without the code; 1200 G St. NW is a long way from 1200 G St. SE. As in other grid plans, addresses of avenues and lettered streets relate to the numbered cross streets - thus the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, is at 16th St, while 1220 E St NW is between 12th and 13th. On numbered streets, the address is keyed to the numeric equivalent of the letter of the street at the intersection, so 800 9th St NW is at H St (H being the eighth letter of the alphabet); remember that there’s no J St, so 1000 9th St is at K St, and so on.

Like most cities, certain areas of Washington have informal names. Downtown is the area northeast of the White House. The Mall is the large stretch of lawn lined by the government buildings and extends from the Capitol Building to the Washington Monument. Foggy Bottom (which was once swampland) is the area west of the White House, and south of H Street. North of the Capitol Building is Capitol Plaza and east of the Capitol Building is Capitol Hill. Trendy Georgetown, famous for its row houses, is the area around the intersection of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue and home of the university. As Georgetown has gotten expensive, DuPont Circle to the west is slowly becoming more popular. Adams Morgan, with its diverse flavor of a mix of different restaurants and nightlife, is located north of DuPont Circle and is a lot less expensive than Georgetown. In addition, the Latino neighborhoods of Mount Pleasant and Columbia Heights have a great selection of authentic food, music, and parks. Finally, the H Street Corridor and Eastern Market have become great places to explore.

## Getting around

D.C. is a mecca of internships, nightclubs, bars, restaurants, museums, theaters, memorials, and road trip opportunities. Fast, affordable transportation adds to the enjoyment of each spot you attend. Public transportation in DC must be paid for at the time of service. The most convenient way to do so is to use a SmarTrip card, which is accepted on both Metro and bus services.

D.C.’s subway - the Metrorail or simply the Metro - is quick, cheap, and easy to use. It currently runs on six lines which cover most of the downtown areas and suburbs (with the notable exception of Georgetown), while a number of new stations are due to open over the next few years. Each line is color-coded and studded with various interchange stations: Metro Center, L’Enfant Plaza and Gallery Place-Chinatown are the most important downtown. Stations are identifiable outside by the letter “M” on top of a brown pylon; inside, the well-lit, uncluttered, vaulted halls make the Washington Metro one of the safest in the world, though you should take the usual precautions. The closest metro stations to our campus are Friendship Heights, Van Ness, and Tenleytown.

Metrorail service hours begin at 5am Monday through Friday and close at midnight from Sunday -

Thursday. Stations open at 7am Saturday and Sunday, and close at 3am on Friday and Saturday. During rush hour, services run every five-six minutes on most lines, and every 10-12 minutes at other times. Each passenger needs a SmarTrip fare card before passing through the turnstiles. Fares are based on when and how far you travel; maps and ticket prices are posted by the machines. Tap your card at the turnstile before passing through; when you do the same thing at the end of the journey, the total fare, based on how far you traveled, is deducted from the value of your card. If you don’t have enough money remaining on the card for the journey, insert it into one of the special exit-fare machines, deposit more money and try the turnstile again. You don’t need to remove your card from your wallet because the machine will sense your card in your wallet. More information, including maps, fare schedules, and trip planners are available at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s website at [wmata.com](https://www.wmata.com/).

## Bus

Metro bus is perhaps the most often used mode of transportation. At some major Metro subway stations, information on major lines serving that particular station is available at the attendant booth. Maps of bus routes are available. To get to Georgetown from the Hill you can take any even numbered 30 line (30, 32, 34, etc.). If you are working in DuPont Circle, the G2 bus is your ticket to Georgetown. The bus costs $1.75 and that includes up to two transfers within a two-hour period.

As a supplement to its normal bus lines, DC also offers a bus service called the Circulator that offers cheap and frequent trips between popular locations in the city. Each trip costs $1 and buses are scheduled every ten minutes throughout the day. More information about Circulator routes and schedules is available on its website at [http://www.dccirculator.com/](https://www.dccirculator.com/).

These two systems work together. If you take the circulator ($1.00) and then transfer to a bus, your bus fare will only be $0.75. If you take a bus ($1.75) and transfer to a circulator, you will not be charged an additional fare. If you transfer from Metrorail to a bus, your bus fare will be $1.25. If you transfer from bus to Metrorail, there is no discount on your Metrorail ride.

## Cab

Cabs in Washington, D.C. are readily available and metered. The base fare starts at $3.25 and there are additional charges per person ($1.50 per person).

To save money, try to share a cab with someone. Also, be sure that the cab is a registered cab and not a “fake;” you can tell by making sure that they've posted their identification cards on their sun visors.

You can call for a pick-up, but there is a $2 increase in prices. The top three tax companies are the following: Yellow Cab Company of D.C. 202-546-7900, Taxi Transportation Service 202-398-0500, and V.I.P. Cab Company 202-269-9000. At DTM, we occasionally use Diamond Cab 202-387-6200

In recent years, an alternative to “traditional”w cab services have grown in popularity in the DC area. Uber and Lyft, and particularly the UberPOOL service, provides a cheaper and in many ways more pleasant car service experience. Uber is notable in that you can generally arrange (and schedule) a pickup and drop-off anywhere in DC (DC cab drivers sometimes refuse to drive to certain neighborhoods) and that all payment is handled through the app, so you don’t have to worry about having enough cash. Riders should be aware that Uber practices “surge pricing,” meaning that the cost of a ride increases when rider demand is high in an area. More information can be found on Uber’s website at [www.uber.com](https://www.uber.com/).

## Car

A car is convenient for weekend road trips and occasionally for evening activities. But during the day, traffic is horrible, and inexpensive parking spaces are scarce. Especially during the summer and holiday seasons, the streets of Washington become jammed with tourists and impatient locals. If you want to rent a car, shop around. Terms of most rentals vary: you have to be 21 to 25 years old (25 is usually the standard). Prices will vary but are usually quite expensive during vacation season. Most rent-a-car agencies are at the airport, but there are a few downtown. Make reservations in advance (usually you need a credit card -- check to see if your credit card company guarantees damage expenses when you use their card to reserve a car). They will rent to you with a government I.D. even if you are not 25.

If you plan to take frequent trips or can split the cost between several people, consider investing in a Zipcar membership or car2go. Several campuses have partnerships with Zipcar and reduced or discounted membership fees may be available. Zipcar and car2go spots are common throughout the city, including several directly across the street from the UC Washington Center. More information about Zipcar student rates is available at [http://www.zipcar.com](https://www.zipcar.com/getting-started) and car2go at [https://www.car2go.com/US/en/.](https://www.car2go.com/US/en/)

## Bicycle

Capital Bikeshare (<https://www.capitalbikeshare.com/>) provides DC with an extensive bike-sharing network that includes over 2,500 bicycles and 300 stations (one of which is located adjacent to the UC Washington Center). When the weather is good, bicycling to work can be much faster than taking a train or bus and is better for you! While Capital Bikeshare offers monthly memberships, you may also rent a bike from one of the many stations throughout the city using only a credit card.

## Staying Safe

While certain neighborhoods are “safer” than others, crime can occur anywhere and so common sense and caution should be exercised at all times. Here are some simple rules that should apply to everyone, regardless of gender:

1) Try to travel in groups after dark.

2) Take taxis at night.

3) Carry a small pocket map (or charged phone).

4) If you leave with five people to go somewhere, return with five people.

5) If you listen to music while jogging or walking, be extra cautious.

6) If you’ve been drinking, do not drive. Take a cab home.

7) Don’t carry lots of cash or flaunt expensive jewelry/watches.

8) Keep your wallet in a safe place.

9) Carry your bags across your body, and not just over a shoulder.

10) Stay in well-lit areas.

11) If you’re going somewhere unfamiliar, pay attention to the quadrant.

12) Always look as though you know where you’re going; look confident, not scared.

13) Most importantly, be aware of your surroundings. Trust your instincts if someone or something doesn’t feel “right” and get away!

## Coffee

[Politics & Prose](https://www.politics-prose.com/) on Connecticut Avenue is walking distance from the Carnegie campus, 5015 Connecticut Avenue, NW. It hosts daily book readings and has a coffeehouse and wine bar called “The Den.” Its other branches are at The Wharf and Union Market.

[Little Red Fox](https://www.littleredfoxdc.com/) , 5035 Connecticut Avenue NW is an American cafe and a locally sourced market. Walking distance from the campus, very near to Politics & Prose.

A terrific pastry shop is [Bread Furst](https://www.yelp.com/biz/bread-furst-washington) on 4434 Connecticut Avenue near Van Ness metro.

[Kramerbooks](https://kramers.com/) & Afterwords is located further downtown at 1517 Connecticut Ave. NW. There is a nice café, which is small and kind of expensive in the back of the book store where one can get some of the best espressos in town. An outdoor patio is open when weather permits; at night there is usually quiet entertainment. Be forewarned that on weekends it gets very crowded, and there is usually a minimum charge in the evening. During its quieter moments it can be a good place to read. Kramer’s also has good desserts. It’s open all night on Friday and Saturday. The locals know this place as a pick-up joint. This is a great place to browse and listen to music for free.

## Smithsonian Museums

The Smithsonian Institute offers free and fascinating museums (<http://www.si.edu/Museums>). • African American History and Culture Museum • African Art Museum • Air and Space Museum • Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center • American Art Museum • American History Museum • American Indian Museum • Anacostia Community Museum • Arthur M. Sackler Gallery • Freer Gallery of Art • Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden • National Zoo • Natural History Museum • Portrait Gallery • Postal Museum • Renwick Gallery • Smithsonian Institution Building, The Castle • Arts and Industries Building

## Non-Smithsonian Museums

* Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, founded by Marjorie Post <https://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/>
* The International Spy Museum: the only public museum in the U.S. dedicated to espionage. <http://www.spymuseum.org/>
* The Newseum: a large and well-polished exposition of news coverage of notable events. <http://www.newseum.org/>
* The National Archives: tours are given weekdays by appointment only. <http://www.archives.gov/>
* National Firearms Museum: This museum illustrates the history and development of firearms through exhibits of antique and modern guns from around the world. <http://www.nramuseum.org/>
* National Geographic's Explorers Hall: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com>
* National Museum of Women in the Arts: <http://www.nmwa.org/>
* Phillips Collection: place has an incredible collection of Impressionism. Especially notable is an original Renoir. <http://www.phillipscollection.org/>

[Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/visit/hours-of-operation/) is one of the largest libraries in the world, and its collections are divided between three buildings. It is a closed-stack library, so it can take up to an hour for a book to be retrieved. Users of the Library’s research areas are required to display a Reader Identification Card. You can register for a card online to be picked up at the Library at [https://wwws.loc.gov/readerreg/remote/.](https://wwws.loc.gov/readerreg/remote/)  It is closed on Mondays. Visiting the Great Hall is a must. Nearest metro is Capitol south.

[Shakespeare Theatre](http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/events/the-tempest-16-17-ffa/) Company’s Free for All is located at Shakespeare Theatre Company’s Sidney Harman Hall. Plays vary from year to year and are accessible by metro and metro bus. You must enter the Online Lottery or stand in line beginning two hours prior to curtain.

## Memorials and Historical Sites

[Arlington National Cemetery](https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/#/): The easiest way to see it is on a tour, either by buying a ticket on the Mall and doing a complete sightseeing tour, or by buying the Cemetery tour at Arlington. Here you'll see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with the changing of the guard every half hour. Arlington House open daily, was once the residence of General Robert E. Lee until it was confiscated by the United States government during the Civil War. There are many famous people buried here including Pierre Charles L'Enfant (original architect of Washington, D.C.), General John J. Pershing, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, President William Howard Taft, and General Phil Sheridan. The most famous resting sights, and most visited, are those of the Kennedy brothers, John F. and Robert F. Kennedy. By arriving as close to 8am as possible, you can experience the mood of quiet contemplation the site of JFK's eternal flame evokes when not mobbed by tourists. Nearest Metro: Arlington Cemetery.

Mary Mcleod Bethune Memorial: In Lincoln Park on the east slope of Capitol Hill. This memorial is to the ground-breaking educator of young African-American women who served in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's informal Depression-era "black cabinet"; she was also the first black woman to head a federal office as director of 'Negro Affairs' in 1936. This is DC's first statue in a public park honoring an African American as well as the first one honoring a woman.

[The Bureau of Engraving and Printing](http://bep.gov/): Weekdays only; closed legal holidays. Twenty- five minute self-guided tours, preceded by a short introductory film about the Bureau, depart continuously during these hours. Free $100 bill souvenirs for the first 100 visitors (Yeah, right). Nearest Metro: Smithsonian.

[C & O Canal Boat Trips](https://www.canaltrust.org/2017/07/experience-history-with-a-ride-on-the-charles-f-mercer/?gclid=CjwKCAjwndvlBRANEiwABrR32KpfWRMN7TUr9pzGtqgacA-pexJllzokzHUyUvf6vbbrkOzuCELRYRoCEAwQAvD_BwE): Depart from Thomas Jefferson St. NW in Georgetown. The boat, a mule-drawn replica of a 19th century canal boat, travels through the Georgetown section of the canal. Tickets are sold at the information minimum. It's a slow trip, but that's whole idea.

[The Capitol Building](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/): With entrance on East Capitol Street and 1st Street NW. Once again, it is best to get tour tickets from your congressperson or senator for the VIP tour. Only on the longer VIP tours do you visit the House and Senate chambers. There are free 35-minute guided tours that leave the Rotunda every 15 minutes. Nearest Metro: Capitol South.

Frederick Douglass Home National Historic Site (Cedar Hill): 1411 W Street SE, open daily. This was the last home of the former slave, statesman, and abolitionist. He lived in this house from 1877, when he was 60, until his death in 1895. Many of the house's 19th century Victorian furnishings are original. Congress has also designated it the first Black National Historic Site. The visitor center has interpretive exhibits and film documenting Douglas' life. Walk-in tours are given on the half hour.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation: Open weekdays only, closed weekends and federal holidays. Be aware that tickets can only be obtained through a member of Congress. Nearest Metro - Metro Center, or Federal Triangle.

[Ford's Theater](https://www.fords.org/): 511 10th Street NW, between E and F Streets. Open daily. This is the theater which President Abraham Lincoln was attending a production of Our American Cousin when he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. Except when rehearsals or matinees are in progress (call before you go), visitors can see the theater and trace Booth's movements on that fatal night. Free 15 minute talks are given at 10 and 35 minutes after the hour. Be sure and visit the Lincoln Museum in the basement. Nearest Metro - Metro Center.

[Peterson House](https://www.fords.org/visit/historic-site/petersen-house/) (House Where Lincoln died): Right across the street from Ford's Theater at 516 10th Street NW.

[The Jefferson Memorial](http://www.nps.gov/thje/index.htm): open daily from 8am to midnight.

[The Lincoln Memorial](https://www.nps.gov/linc/index.htm): open 24 hours daily with park staff on duty 8am to midnight. Nearest Metro - Foggy Bottom.

[Franklin D. Roosevelt Monument](https://www.nps.gov/frde/index.htm): The modest block of Vermont marble commemorates the nation's 32nd President. Nearest Metro - National Archives.

[Teddy Roosevelt Island](https://www.nps.gov/this/index.htm): lies in the Potomac River opposite the mouth of Rock Creek. Open daily. Nearest Metro - Rosslyn.

[State Department](https://www.state.gov/) Tour: 22nd and C Streets. Free one-hour tours of the eight floor diplomatic reception rooms are offered weekdays. Reservations are required. Nearest Metro - Foggy Bottom-GWU.

[The Supreme Court](https://www.supremecourt.gov/): If you can, you should try and see the court in action. The Court meets Monday through Wednesday from 10am to 3pm (with an hour for lunch from noon to 1pm). Line up early! When the Court is not in session, there is still a free lecture in the courtroom about Court procedure and the building's architecture. Nearest Metro - Capitol South or Union Station.

[The Vietnam Veterans Memorial](https://washington.org/dc-guide-to/vietnam-veterans-memorial): Open 24 hours with park staff on duty from 8am to midnight. This memorial honors the men and women who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam War - the longest in our nation's history. It includes two long black-granite walls inscribed with the names of those who died or whose remains are missing as a result of the conflict. This monument is very moving when seen at night. Nearest Metro - Foggy Bottom.

[The Washington Monument](https://www.nps.gov/wamo/index.htm): (**is closed until August 2019**). There is an elevator that takes you to the top of this 555-foot monument in about 70 seconds. There is another tour called "Down the Steps" Tours which are given based on staff availability. On this tour, you'll learn more about the building of the monument and get to see the 193 carved stones inserted into the interior walls. They range from a piece of stone form the Parthenon to plaques presented by city fire departments. Call before you go or ask a ranger on duty for more details. Timed tickets can be obtained at online http://www.nps.gov/wamo/index.htm; there is a small administrative fee, but it beats waking up early and standing in line. Nearest Metro - Smithsonian.

[The Washington National Cathedral](https://cathedral.org/): The Cathedral has been the setting for every kind of religious observance. It is the final resting place of Woodrow Wilson and his wife, as well as Helen Keller, and Anne Sullivan. This was the church in which Martin Luther King, Jr. preached his last Sunday sermon before he was assassinated. Nearest Metro – Cleveland Park

[The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov/): The best bet is to get tickets from your Congressperson or Senator for the VIP tours at 8:15, 8:30, and 8:45am. This ensures your entrance and entitles you to a more extensive -- and guided -- tour. You need to request them from you Congressperson very early, 8-10 weeks in most cases. The other option is getting public tour tickets for scheduled tours Tues. through Sat. Tickets can be obtained at the White House Visitor’s Center, located on the corner of 15th and E St. NW (look for blue awnings) on the morning you would like to tour the White House. Doors open at 7:30 am, but people start lining up even earlier. Nearest Metro - Federal Triangle.

## For more things to do in DC, check out [this site](https://washington.org/find-dc-listings/all-things-to-do), or [The Top Things to Do in Washington DC](https://www.viator.com/Washington-DC/d657) 2019. To learn how best to get around the city, click [here](https://www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/gettingaround.htm).

## Roadtrips

Since many of you will be visiting the East Coast for the first time, there are numerous cities and attractions that are relatively nearby if one owns or can rent a car. Train and bus services are also available, but if there is a group of you, a rental car may be the cheapest way.

There are two types of weekend excursions -- those that take only a day and those that involve at least two days, if not three. Before giving a description of some of the places that you can travel, here is some general advice about road trips. Make sure that you have chosen a congenial group with which to travel. If you are going with a large group, try to ensure that you have enough people with similar interests, so that when you break into smaller groups no one is left alone.

Try to do some planning before you leave. This is more important the farther you go and the longer your trip will be. Always get directions to where you are going. It is strongly recommended to call AAA since they give excellent directions to where you are going. It is also suggested that if you are staying overnight, you make hotel reservations before you leave. Finally, although you don’t need an itinerary, you should have some idea of what you’d like to do when you get to your destination. Ask friends, interns, and people with whom you work for suggestions about what to do, where to go, and where to eat.

Make sure that you have enough money. Although you don’t have to spend a fortune, it is a drag to run out of money on the second day of a three-day trip. If you need to rent a car, make care reservations at least a week in advance. The best way to get a cheap car is to call around and do a little price comparison. If you’re a government employee, your ID could get you a discount. If you are driving further than five hours, it is well worth your time to try and get a half day off. Most offices are understanding and if you make arrangements in advance, they would probably be very happy to let you take either Friday or Monday off.

Try to pack lightly. When road tripping, the clothes are far less important than being comfortable. Make sure you have good walking shoes because even bar hopping usually necessitates some walking. Now, onward to more specific destinations and suggestions

## **One-day Excursions**

Mount Vernon, Virginia. Home and final resting place of George and Martha Washington, Mount Vernon is a great site for all visitors to DC. There is a charge for admission of $17 per person. (780-2000). The ticket to Mt. Vernon includes a tour of the house and a chance to walk around the grounds for as long as you like. Mt. Vernon can be reached by car or bus and can easily be seen in a few hours. METRO will take you most of the way here, and with a transfer bus, you will arrive in about an hour. There is also a riverboat called The Spirit of Mount Vernon that travels up the Potomac from Pier 4 at 6th and Water Streets SW (554-8000) twice a day. Fare for round trip (about 1 and a half hours each way) is $44.95 but also includes admission to Mt. Vernon. Some people who are more adventurous can bike there from Georgetown. It is about 12 miles away.

Alexandria, Virginia. On the way back from Mt. Vernon, try visiting Alexandria. Or take the Metro to King Street and walk into Old Town along King St. This town is located about 5 miles from DC. While in Alexandria you can sightsee, shop, drink, and eat. This is a delightful little town and is lots of fun for a day visit. If you are interested in visiting historical sights, pick up a brief guide to Alexandria at the Visitor’s Center. Note: many of the attractions at Alexandria are closed on Mondays, so it’s not the best day to come.

Annapolis, Maryland. This city is full of historical sights, but the main attraction at Annapolis is the Naval Academy. If you visit Annapolis during July, you’ll see the newest group of cadets being trained -- a far cry from UC students in blue jeans and backpacks. It is suggested to take a tour of the facilities since the guides can tell you some very intriguing facts about the Academy.

Baltimore and the Inner Harbor, Maryland. A short drive from Annapolis, the Inner Harbor is a huge shopping mall and eating establishment. One of the buildings has more places to eat and types of food than any one has seen under one roof. The Harbor also houses the National Aquarium which was relocated outside of DC just a few years ago. Also, for entertainment, Hammerjack’s on South Howard Street is known as the “largest nightclub on the entire East Coast.” Finally, in Baltimore itself, the Baltimore Orioles play at Camden Yards, 1300 East 33rd Street in the heart of Baltimore. It is about a one-hour trip from Washington. The MARC commuter train goes from Union Station to Baltimore during the week.

Charlottesville, Virginia. Although this can be a two-day trip, with only eight to ten weeks in DC, it is recommended doing this in one day, or combining it with a trip to Fredericksburg for a weekend away. The two biggest attractions in Charlottesville are the University of Virginia and Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. Both places highlight Jefferson’s architectural creativity and scientific genius. Moreover, the setting is quite beautiful -- a lovely place for a picnic lunch. It’s about a 2½ to 3- hour drive.

Fredericksburg, Virginia. This town is filled with Revolutionary and Civil War history. Battlefields surround the town. (It is highly recommended only visiting one or two as they all begin to look the same after a while). The city itself has lots of homes and shops that were built during the 1740’s. Visiting all of these sights can be quite expensive. It is suggested skipping places like the apothecary shop. Don’t miss Kenmore (the house of George Washington’s sister). For one admission price you can get afternoon (or morning) tea and tour around the house which is said to include two of the most beautiful rooms in America. The town of Fredericksburg is quite charming and is like walking back into the 18th Century.

Harper’s Ferry, Virginia. Located close to the West Virginia border is a point where Harper’s Ferry and the Shenandoah River meet. This is a wonderful place to go tubing (tube rental runs about $25). If you get a bunch of people together and rent a car, it is definitely a worthwhile activity for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The landscape is incredibly gorgeous. This list BY NO MEANS exhausts the possibilities for one-day trips. These are simply the most well-known and popular places to visit. If you would like more suggestions about where you should visit, please consult tour guidebooks and colleagues at work.

## **Weekend or three-day road trips**

Atlantic City, New Jersey. Although it is no Las Vegas, Atlantic City is a recently renovated resort and gambling spot. Book hotel reservations in advance in order to assure low rates and a good room. The city is located near the water, so if you travel during the warmer months, bring a swimsuit to do a little sunbathing and swimming. Incidentally, this city is the one Monopoly was modeled after, so be prepared to visit “Boardwalk” and “Park Place.”

Boston, Massachusetts. We strongly recommend making this a three-day trip. It’s about 9-10 hours via Route 95. Be prepared to spend $$ for tolls and road fares (They pay for their highways on the East Coast by charging you to drive on them.) Boston is definitely a college town, and if you are interested in seeing the universities in the area, you should set aside a full day to visit Harvard, MIT, Brandeis, Tufts etc. (You can even visit Yale on the way back to DC if you are interested, but watch out for blood in the streets of the town on New Haven.) When you tour Harvard, try to spend some time in Cambridge. Also, visit their student store they call the Coop (like a chicken coop), where you can purchase sweatshirts and other Harvard memorabilia. Boston is also chock-full of buildings and sights from the revolutionary war. Most of these sights can be seen on all of the “Freedom Trail.” Be sure to check out the incredible statue of Samuel Adams. There are two parts to the trail, the portion that goes near the Harbor involves lots of walking for a few sights.

If you have a limited amount of time, take the upper trail which visits Faneuil Hall, the place where JFK announced his candidacy for President. If you would like to eat somewhere with great food, but absolutely no atmosphere, go to Durgin Park. They serve huge portions and have the rudest waitresses east of Sam Woo’s. If you like fresh seafood, definitely check out the “No Name” restaurant since it is cheap and serves huge portions. Finally, for baseball fans, there is Fenway Park (baseball the way it was meant to be.) Be sure to call ahead for tickets.

Cape Cod, Massachusetts. This seaside resort is known for its summer inhabitants -- the Rockefellers, Kennedys, Mondales. Such people do not populate someplace unless it has a lot to offer as a vacation spot. The “Cape” is rumored to be filled with beautiful beaches, interesting shops, and delicious restaurants. It is a very long drive (about 10 hours) but it might be well worth your time if you are looking for a relaxing weekend on the beach.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Gettysburg can almost be seen in a day as a one-day trip, but it is here because it is best to combine it with another city so that you get your money’s worth out of your rental car. Most think that once you get there that Gettysburg is best seen by car; try to follow a map published by the Visitor’s Bureau in order to visit all of the highlights and learn about interesting trivia connected with the city and battlefields. At the National Civil War Wax Museum (297 Steinwehr Ave) you can rent an auto tape tour with an option to buy -- it may be cheaper however to just buy a book at the visitor’s center. Also at Gettysburg is the Eisenhower National Historic Site which is the only house ever owned by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie. Not far from Gettysburg is the Amish country Pennsylvania Dutch.

Hershey, Pennsylvania. In Hershey there are two points of interest. The first, and most important is Hershey’s Chocolate World (open 9am-6:45pm) Here you can take a free 11-minute automated tour ride that explains the chocolate-making process -- see how all of your favorite Hershey products are made. You can also visit their gift shop and restaurant which feature many of their chocolate products. The other attraction in Hershey is Hershey Park. This is an 84-acre theme park with eight areas including German, English and Pennsylvania Dutch themes. There are 69 rides including 11 roller coasters and 16 water-related rides. Six theaters house live entertainment daily, including a dolphin show. The park opens at 10:30am and closing hours vary. There is an admission price of up to $57.95 in the summer, but this price is all-inclusive. The park is closed in the winter.

New York, New York. The most obvious destination for a road trip is New York; but it is also one of most expensive cities to visit. You can cut costs by taking a bus. Make your reservations early to get a good deal, for example through www.dc2ny.com or www.www.washny.com. The best recommendation for visiting New York is to contact a relative, a friend, or travel with someone who knows the city and can serve as a tour guide before going to New York so you’ll know where to go. If you’d like to see a Broadway play, there are two ways. There is a discount ticket stand on Times Square. Get there early, since the line can get very long. Whatever you do, try and stay on or near Broadway, if you go far off Broadway the quality of the play reflects that distance. Tickets are based on availability and the popularity of the shows. Greenwich Village, SoHo, Wall Street, 5th Avenue, Central Park, the 9-11 Memorial, the United Nations and various boroughs are just a few of the sites to visit. If you visit the Statue of Liberty, try to catch the first ferry, or you’ll be waiting a few hours in line to climb to the top of Lady Liberty. Visiting the [Chelsea Market](http://chelseamarket.com/), walking the [High Line](https://www.nynjtc.org/park/high-line?gclid=Cj0KCQjwwODlBRDuARIsAMy_28W62TZth1Yjmpk1M10cdQ_4xosgSqD_GlUkZny0-GZlGLFKB-pGRCMaAvC-EALw_wcB), or New York’s [Botanical Gardens](https://www.nybg.org/) is also a must.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This city is great for history majors and history buffs alike, especially those interested in the early years of American history. Philadelphia, like Boston, has published maps of walking tours you can take. The route takes you past such sights as the Liberty Bell and Betsy Ross’ home. Be sure and see the Liberty Bell, and Independence Hall -- where the Constitution was signed.

Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches, Delaware. According to locals, these beaches are a better bet than Virginia Beach. They are supposedly cleaner, nicer and less congested. Call early for hotel arrangements, the summer months fill up quickly. After the hot DC weather, a trip to the beach may be just what you need.

Williamsburg, Virginia. This town is a restoration of a colonial city. While in Williamsburg, you can stay at the Comfort Inn, receive a tour of the town, shop in renovated stores, and visit the restaurants, plays, and pubs. The trip to Williamsburg is definitely a high point of the summer. You may also partake in side trips to various historical sites including Yorktown, Jamestown, and - Carter’s Grove Plantation. We have never understood why there are so many waffle houses in this town, but you may as well try one. Williamsburg is also an outlet store town! J. Crew, Calvin Klein, Bass, and Nike, to name a few, all have their discount outlets here. For those with the desire to see cheesiness in action: Eat at the Lobster Palace next door to the Comfort Inn…Moving walls, spinning mirror balls over your faux-glass table…definitely a once in a lifetime experience.

## Spectator sports

Baseball: For local pride, go out and support the Washington Nationals! They play at Nationals Park, located near the Navy Yard-Ballpark Station. Unsold tickets are frequently available for less than $10 on game days.

The Baltimore Orioles play out of Camden Yards in the heart of Baltimore. Even if you don’t like baseball, you should go just to see the ballpark, it’s very cool. The drive to Baltimore is about an hour or so. Amtrak is also very convenient from Union Station if you want to go!

[Frederick Keys](https://www.milb.com/frederick/tickets/single-game-tickets) are a minor league baseball team located at 21 Stadium Drive, Frederick, Maryland.

Soccer: The DC United MLS team plays at Robert F. Kennedy stadium

Tennis: The DC National Bank Tennis Classic draws a lot of top talent. It is held in July at the Rock Creek Tennis Stadium.

Thoroughbred Racing: Laurel Park is open late June to mid-September. Pimlico Race Course is open April through September. Rosecroft Raceway is open throughout the year.

Basketball: The Verizon Center at 601 F St. NW is home to the NBA Wizards and WNBA Mystics.

Ice hockey: NHL Capitals also play at the Verizon Center. Their season runs from October through April. Call the Verizon Center info line if you’re interested in events, because they have different events going on all the time.

## Participatory Sports

Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking, and Rafting: Fletcher’s Boat House rents canoes and rowboats by the hour and per day for use on the C&O Canal. Bicycles are also available for rent. Boats are also available at Thompson’s Boat Center at the corner of Virginia Ave. NW and Rock Creek Parkway.

Bicycling: Besides Fletcher’s and Thompson’s mentioned above, you can also rent at Big Wheel Bikes, at 33rd and M Street NW. For info on local clubs, bike routes, and commuting to work by bike call the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. Also, look into the [Capital Bikeshare](https://www.capitalbikeshare.com/) program for more information on renting bikes quickly.

Golf: DC has several public courses, including two nine-hole/ one 18 hole in East Potomac Park at Hains Point. You’ll need a car. There is another two nine-hole course in Rock Creek Park near 16th & Underwood Streets.

Running: DC is a great runners’ town, with many miles of scenic paths. Perhaps the most popular is the C&O Canal Towpath, which starts in Georgetown and runs parallel to the Potomac for a couple hundred miles. Other popular runs include the Four-Mile Run Park, between Arlington and Alexandria, the paths along the two-mile long Mall (between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial), the Mount Vernon Bike Path (beginning at the Memorial Bridge), the Parcourse at Rock Creek Park, and the path around the Tidal Basin. Also, the residential area surrounding Georgetown is a great place to explore running routes. During the summer, plan your runs in the morning or evening, unless you are training for the Death Valley Invitational!

Skating: Most ice rinks are open from November through March. Check out the Sculpture Garden Ice Rink, Washington Harbor Ice Rink, and the Canal Park Ice Rink. In Maryland, [Cabin John](https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/cabin-john-regional-park/cabin-john-ice-rink/) and the [Wheaton Ice Arena](https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/wheaton-regional-park-ice-arena/) are also available for winter ice skating.

Soccer: District Sports (http://districtsports.org/) and United Social Sports (http://unitedsocialsports.com/) host soccer leagues for players of all experience levels year- round. Pickup games are also played on the Ellipse on the National Mall as well as at several parks and schools in the DC area.

Softball: Along with happy hours and schmoozing, “softball” is the favorite pastime of both bureaucrat and intern alike in DC during the summer months. All softball games are played on the Mall. You don’t have to be Babe Ruth to swing at a softball -- so get involved! It’s a great way to get to know your co-workers on a social level, and many times famous people will play too (Many of the famous Washingtonians have been known to play for their teams).

Swimming: Indoor pools are accessible to DC residents, particularly at the Wilson High School, which features an Olympic-sized swimming pool. The facility is within walking distance of the Tenleytown metro. The YMCA (at 17th and Rhode Island Ave., NW) also has a swimming pool available to members