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NATIONAL MALL & MEMORIAL PARKS

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WELCOME

Welcome to our nation's capital, Washington, District of Columbia!

Washington, D.C., is rich in culture and history and, with so many sites to see, there are countless ways to experience this special place. As with all American Park Network editions, this guide to National Mall and Memorial Parks provides information to make your visit more fun, memorable, safe and educational. This guide outlines the forces—and figures—that helped forge our nation, leaving guests with a greater understanding of and appreciation for our country's trials, tribulations and accomplishments.

DURING YOUR VISIT

Please keep this personal tour guide with you as you make your way around the area. We hope it becomes well-used and dog-eared during your visit to Washington, D.C., and stimulates many

return trips for you and your family. Save it as a memento or pass it along to friends.

The National Park Service, along with Eastern National, the Trust for National Mall and Guest Services, work together to provide the best experience possible for visitors to National Mall and Memorial Parks.

WHAT'S INSIDE

This *American Park Network* guide is divided into two sections. The first provides highlights of all attractions comprising *National Mall and Memorial Parks*. The second provides information on other attractions **Beyond the Mall**. Please know that this guide has been made possible by the generous support of the sponsors whose messages appear inside.

Whether you are here for a few hours or for days, let this guide bring you nearer to the heart of Washington, D.C.



FAST FACTS

National Mall and Memorial Parks highlight and memorialize some of the most important events and icons in American history. Rich in the foundations of our nation, downtown Washington, D.C., pays homage to the brave souls who contributed to our country's evolution.

Popular Activities: To fully appreciate the historical significance of monuments in the mall, take a tour! Walking tours, bike tours and interpretive programs are ranger-led and leave from various points.

In late March to early April, the city plays host to **National Cherry Blossom Festival**.

Throughout the National Mall, witness more than 3,700 cherry trees reach their peak, enhancing the already stunning beauty of D.C.

Within close proximity to National Mall lies the Smithsonian Institution National Museums of Natural History, American History, Air and Space, and African American History and Culture, as well as other great attractions.

National Mall attracts an average of 30 million visitors from around the world each year.

There is no cost to visit any of the sites in National Mall or Memorial Parks.



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WHAT'S NEW!

HAVE FUN, STAY SAFE

"Good manners are free, so spread them around!"

—Your Favorite Aunt

We live in an age when it's getting harder and harder to define "normal." If there's one constant that makes life a little easier, it's time spent outdoors. America's diverse system of parks are a great source of comfort for millions of visitors. Now more than ever, we need to regain our balance in the sanctuary that nature provides. In addition to respecting the irreplaceable natural, cultural and historic resources of our parks, let's all please be especially aware of the need to be well-mannered and respectful of one another.

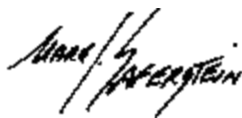
Recreate Responsibly. The CDC encourages physical activity to keep our minds sharp and our bodies healthy. As a yoga instructor (a side passion) whose dad was a gym teacher, I couldn't agree more! Having led socially-safe yoga classes in Central Park throughout the pandemic, I know that added precautions take a little extra effort, but the payoff is totally worth it! Let's all work together to keep our parks safe, both for friends and families, as well the tens of thousands who rely on them for their livelihoods and who we rely on to make the visitor experience so memorable.

Park and healthcare professionals are working hard to continually monitor and update us

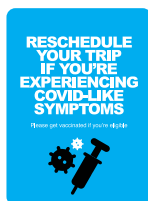
on the latest learning, which, as of this printing, include the following recommendations:

- Wear a mask when indoors or in crowded outdoor spaces. (Note, mask regulations are changing and may vary on local, state and federal levels, so please check official government websites to see current rules.)
- Stay six feet apart from people who aren't in your household. (It's easy when you go for a hike!)
- Check on evolving CDC updates and local conditions *before* you leave home, as well as with park officials on changing services, schedules and regulations.
- Consider postponing risky activities that challenge your limits, so first responders are available for pandemic-related emergencies.
- Reschedule your trip if you're experiencing COVID-like symptoms and please get vaccinated if you're eligible.

There's tons of fun to be had in the new normal, especially in our parks. We just need to be a little more conscious of our surroundings, especially when our favorite aunt (or uncle) isn't around to remind us to wash our hands! Be well and stay safe...



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PLAN YOUR VISIT

With so many sights to visit, a trip to National Mall and Memorial Parks only gets better the more you learn about their heritage, history and purpose.

HISTORY

The National Mall's origins are as old as the capital city itself. The open space and parklands—envisioned by architect **Pierre L'Enfant** and commissioned by George Washington—have created a dignified yet accessible backdrop for national expressions of remembrance, observance and demonstration.

CREATION OF THE NATIONAL MALL

The history and culture associated with the National Mall, the **Washington Monument** grounds and **West Potomac Park** parallel the ongoing saga of American history itself.

These three national park locations provide the setting for four major presidential memorials—the **Washington Monument**, **Lincoln Memorial**, **Thomas Jefferson Memorial** and **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**—and three veterans memorials—the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**, **World War II Memorial** and **Korean War Veterans Memorial**. In every real sense, the National Mall symbolizes many elements of our ever-thriving democracy.

Along with the White House grounds, officially known as **President's Park**, and the **U.S. Capitol Building grounds**, the park's memorials continue to serve as noteworthy national settings—places where our nation's citizens continue to exercise their right to freedom of expression.

TWO CENTURIES OF EVOLUTION

The creation and historical development of the National Mall and surrounding areas has evolved in fits and starts over two centuries. In 1791, Pierre L'Enfant first conceived of the Mall as a grand, open promenade; however, it took until 1902, when the **McMillan Commission** officially presented its plan, to make L'Enfant's vision a reality. Until then, the National Mall was comprised of *many* separate individual parks and grounds.

In fact, the development of the National Mall may be divided into five major milestones: **The L'Enfant Plan** of 1791, the **Andrew Jackson Downing Plan** of 1851, the **McMillan Commission Plan** of 1901-02, the acquisition by the National Park Service in 1933 and the **Mall Master Plan** of 1966.

Throughout the 19th century, plans kept deviating from L'Enfant's original vision for the city's monumental core. The one significant development that did remain intact was the building and completion of the Washington Monument. The Andrew Jackson Downing Plan of 1851 filled the unified formality of the L'Enfant Plan with elaborate gardens.

THE MCMILLAN COMMISSION

The McMillan Plan, initiated in 1902, actually represents the first effort at comprehensive urban planning for a major city. The McMillan Commission consisted of a number of renowned classical-style architects and landscape architects to execute their talent: **Daniel H. Burnham**, **Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.**, **Augustus Saint-Gaudens** and **Charles Follen McKim**.

These commissioners traveled to numerous European cities for inspiration on the original ideas and conceptions of L'Enfant's Plan. Upon returning to the United States, they made an official proposal that mapped out a specific vision for the National Mall.

In the decades that followed, all subsequent developments and park master plans, as well as general management plans under the National Park Service, have successfully adhered to the general principles of the McMillan Commission Plan of 1901-1902.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

ENTRANCE FEES

The public may visit the National Mall 24 hours a day; rangers are on duty to answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The mall itself has no fees.

For more information, call **Visitor Information** at **(202) 426-6841** or **Park Headquarters** at **(202) 485-9880**; or visit nps.gov/nama.

GETTING THERE

Plane: Three major airports link Washington, D.C., with the rest of the country. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport all have limousine, cab or metro services available that connect with the National Mall.

Car: The National Mall can be accessed from Interstate 395 and George Washington Memorial Parkway from the south. New York Avenue, Rock Creek Parkway, and the Cabin John Parkway provide access from the north. Interstate 66 and Routes 50 and 29 provide access from the west. Routes 50, 1 and 4 provide access

from the east.

Parking: There is limited accessible parking at all memorials; parking is extremely scarce in Washington, D.C. Parking meters around the National Mall cost \$2 per hour (for a maximum of three hours), 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including weekends and holidays. Stations will accept credit and debit cards. Payment can also be made via the Parkmobile app or website, **parkmobile.io**.

Meters: Constitution Avenue NW between 15th and 22nd streets NW, Jefferson Drive SW, Madison Drive NW, Ohio Drive SW between 23rd Street SW and Inlet Bridge, Parkway Drive NW and West Basin Drive SW. Lots: the Tidal Basin (off of Maine Avenue SW); on Buckeye Drive SW (next to tennis courts in East Potomac Park); and Lots A, B and C on Ohio Drive SW in East Potomac Park.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

It is highly recommended that you make use of the public transit system (both rail and bus). Metro information and schedules can be found at Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's websites, **wmata.com** and **dccirculator.com** (free).

BICYCLING

Bicycles are welcome in National Mall and Memorial Parks, and there is bicycle parking at each of the major memorials and along the National Mall.

Bicycle riding is not permitted within any of the memorials themselves. Please walk bicycles through the World War II and FDR memorials or lock before entering.

Bicycle rentals are available from Unlimited Biking's two locations: in Washington, D.C. at 955 L'Enfant Plaza SW; and at 106 N Lee St, Alexandria, Va. For more

information, call **(202) 842-2453** or visit **unlimitedbiking.com**.

Capital Bikeshare rents bicycles for a minimum of 24 hours, as well as for three days, 30 days or a year. Register online at **capitalbikeshare.com** to activate a month or year-long membership. Members are granted access to bikes 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at any of the more than 500 bike stations throughout Washington, DC; Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County, Virginia; and Montgomery County, Maryland.

Other rental options include Bike and Roll (**www.bikeandrolldc.com**) or Spin scooter (**www.spin.app**) rentals.

KIDS

Junior Ranger booklets enable children and their parents to embark on a self-guided tour of the National Mall area. Pick up an activity booklet at any memorial on the National Mall. There are also short interpretive programs offered by park rangers. For more information, see the “Just for Kids” chapter.

ACCESSIBILITY

All the National Mall sites are wheelchair accessible. There are a limited number of loaner wheelchairs available at some of the memorials. All major memorials have braille brochures available and some have accessible parking nearby.

BEYOND THE MALL

The National Mall encompasses the entire area between the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol, and features many significant and

interesting places to visit. Just beyond the mall, there is a wealth of National Park Service memorials, buildings and places, such as the Smithsonian Institution and the National Zoo. The newest edition to must-see places is the National Museum of African American History & Culture located on Constitution Avenue. The building houses more than 36,000 artifacts that capture this important piece of the American story. Other popular Washington, D.C., attractions are found in the “Beyond the Mall” section of this guide.

Arlington House, located within the Arlington National Cemetery, was for 30 years the home of Robert E. Lee and his family. It is associated with the Washington and Custis families as well.

Ford’s Theatre is the historic site of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination on April 14, 1865. After being shot, the wounded Lincoln was taken to the **Petersen House**, where he later died.

The **Frederick Douglass National Historic Site** preserves the legacy of this famous 19th century African-American figure. The site educates visitors on Douglass’ efforts to abolish slavery and his struggle for rights for the oppressed.

The **Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument, which is temporarily closed**, has been home to the National Woman’s Party for nearly 90 years. This was the epicenter of the struggle for women’s rights.

The **White House** is the official home and workplace of the president of the United States. Rich with history, it was constructed from 1792 to 1800 and has been the home of every president of the United States since John Adams.

WHO'S WHO AT THE PARK

The following entities are dedicated to preserving the parks and ensuring visitors enjoy them.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

The NPS is the steward of National Mall and Memorial Parks, as well as all of sites presented in this guide's "*Beyond the Mall*" chapter. As a bureau of the Department of the Interior, the NPS is responsible for preserving and protecting the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and providing for their public use and enjoyment.

For more information, contact Park Headquarters: write National Mall and Memorial Parks, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; call **(202) 485-9880**; or visit nps.gov/nama.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1948, Eastern National is a nonprofit cooperating association that promotes the historical, scientific and educational activities of the NPS. **For more information**, write 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034; call **(215) 283-6900**; or visit easternnational.org.

TRUST FOR THE NATIONAL MALL

The Trust for the National Mall is the authorized nonprofit partner of the National Mall. Dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall, this partnership was established to raise funds for capital improvements, establish an endowment for park maintenance, and develop new educational and volunteer opportunities for the public.

For more information, write 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 370, Washington, D.C. 20004; call **(202) 407-9408**; or visit nationalmall.org.

BIG BUS TOURS

Big Bus Tours provides open-top, double decker, hop-on hop-off bus sightseeing services throughout National Mall and Memorial Parks. Tickets are available for various tour types and times, and all vehicles are ADA compliant. For more information, to purchase tickets and to view and download the most up to date routes, call **(877) 332-8689**, email infodc@bigbustours.com or visit bigbustours.com. *Note: Tickets are also available for sale on buses, from a uniformed member of Big Bus Washington D.C.'s staff and at most area hotels.*

GUEST SERVICES, INC.

Established in 1917, Guest Services, Inc. was originally founded to provide dining services to government agencies in Washington, D.C. Guest Services operates food concessions on some of America's most cherished public lands, including the National Mall. Refreshment kiosks serving traditional food and beverage fare can be found throughout the D.C. area. Some notable locations are at the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Tidal Basin. For more information, call **(703) 849-9300** or visit guestservices.com.



For answers to all your questions,
go to **OhRanger.com**

CONSTITUTION GARDENS

Constitution Gardens is a living legacy to the founding of the republic, as well as a pastoral oasis in the midst of a bustling city landscape. Believe it or not, these 50 acres of pristine parkland—now situated on the National Mall—originally lay *beneath* the Potomac River! A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging project at the turn of the century created the land that later became **Potomac Park**.

AN UNUSUAL HISTORY

Beginning in World War I, the U.S. Navy maintained temporary office buildings on what is now the Constitution Gardens site. These structures, nicknamed “**tempo**s,”

remained in place until the 1970s, when President Richard M. Nixon ordered their removal. After the Navy finally vacated the buildings, they were eventually demolished in 1971. President Nixon mandated that a park be built on the land, leading to the creation of Constitution Gardens.

The Gardens were officially designated in May of 1976, designed to be both a living legacy to America’s Constitution and a way of commemorating the nation’s bicentennial. In July of 1982, the **56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial** was dedicated on the small island that sits upon the park lake.

On September 17, 1986, in honor of the





56 SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE MEMORIAL

The memorial to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence is a semi-circular granite sculpture, a few feet from the ground, featuring the names and signatures of each signer as they appeared on the original document.. Contrary to widespread misconception, the 56 signers did not sign as a group and not on July 4, 1776. The official event occurred on August 2. Later that year, five more signed separately and one added his name in a subsequent year. Despite this, signer Benjamin Franklin is said to have stated, “We must all hang together or assuredly we shall all hang separately.” Artist Joseph Brown was commissioned to create the memorial as a gift from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in 1976.



Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation making Constitution Gardens a living legacy tribute to the Constitution.

Whether you stroll along tree-lined paths, enjoy the bucolic splendor of the gardens or visit statues that memorialize America’s founding fathers, Constitution Gardens is a pleasant place to enjoy a bit of nature amid the lively Washington, D.C. downtown area.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Visitors will find Constitution Gardens open from dawn to dusk year-round. The gardens are located on the National Mall, south of Constitution Avenue between 17th Street and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial grounds. The gardens in-

clude a concession stand along with a restroom kiosk.

Getting there: If you’re traveling to Constitution Gardens by car, Interstates 66 and 395 provide access to the National Mall from the south. Interstate 495, New York Avenue, Rock Creek Parkway, and the Cabin John Parkway offer access from the north. Interstate 66 and Routes 50 and 29 provide access from the west. Routes 50, 1 and Pennsylvania Avenue provide access from the east. Metro riders can access the National Mall from the Smithsonian Metro station. Limited parking is available on Constitution Avenue. **For more information, contact the Visitor Information Center:** write National Mall and Memorial Parks, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20242; call **(202) 426-6841**; or visit **nps.gov/coga**.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Memorial, located among the famous **cherry trees** near the Tidal Basin along the National Mall, is a tribute to the 32nd president and the era he represents. The memorial traces 12 years of American history through a sequence of four outdoor rooms featuring sculptures of Roosevelt in various historical circumstances.

Throughout his presidency, spanning 1933 to 1945, FDR addressed America by radio in what came to be known as **fireside chats**. Each idea and phrase was underscored by courage and optimism that served to inspire Americans. More than 70 years after President Roosevelt's death, his words call out from the walls of his memorial, recalling great and catastrophic events, personal struggles and national triumphs.

THE NATION'S ONLY FOUR-TERM PRESIDENT

The FDR Memorial is one of the more expansive memorials in the nation, yet its shade trees, waterfalls, statuary and quiet alcoves create the feeling of a secluded garden rather than an imposing structure. The memorial is divided into **four outdoor galleries**—one for each of FDR's terms in office.

ROOM ONE

In 1933, Roosevelt took office in the midst of the **Great Depression**—and the first room offers visitors a glimpse of what life was like during that troubled era. Approximately 30 percent of Americans

were unemployed and thousands of people lost their jobs each day. Severe droughts in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and the Great Plains—which became known as the **"dust bowl"**—made farming impossible. Bank insurance did not yet exist, so Americans worried about money they had deposited. People were withdrawing their funds in panic, worried they would lose their savings along with their income.

ROOM TWO

The second room features **George Segal's sculpture** of a man listening intently to one of FDR's fireside chats. In Roosevelt's second inaugural address he stated, "I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished." These fireside chats, although relatively few in number (between 27 and 31, depending on the source), are remembered fondly by many in FDR's generation. Like the term **"New Deal,"** the phrase "fireside chats" was first coined by a member of the press, then adopted for wide usage—and finally immortalized.

ROOM THREE

Upon entering the third room of the memorial, visitors leave the symbols of hope laid out in previous rooms and confront the uncertainty of wartime. The stone walkway—marked **"Third Term 1941-1945"**—highlights the years of the **Second World War**. For FDR, this entire term involved preventing world destruction and working toward peace. Visitors are greeted with a destructive presence, as giant granite blocks are strewn across their path. A statue depicting FDR, strong

and purposeful as he faced the war, is reminiscent of his poses in numerous newsreels and photographs of the time.

ROOM FOUR

By 1945, Roosevelt had been president for 12 years. In April 1945, a few months after he was inaugurated, FDR traveled to Warm Springs, Georgia, for a physical and mental retreat. During this trip, he suffered a stroke and died at the age of 63.

THE ARCHITECT

In 1974, **Lawrence Halprin** was selected by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Commission to design the memorial.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial is near West Basin Drive on the National Mall. The main part of the memorial re-

mains open 24 hours a day and members of the interpretive ranger staff are on site from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except Christmas Day. The bookstore operates from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, cherry blossom season to Labor Day; and until 6 p.m. from Labor Day to cherry blossom season. Restroom facilities close by 10 p.m. All areas of the National Mall are wheelchair accessible and each site has one wheelchair, which is available on a first come, first-served basis. For wheelchairs at the FDR Memorial, contact a park ranger or bookstore staff member.

The FDR Memorial can be accessed via the Smithsonian Metro station. For more information, please write: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; call **Visitor Information** at **(202) 426-6841** or **Park Headquarters** at **(202) 485-9880**; or visit **nps.gov/frde**.



KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

From 1950 to 1953, the United States joined with United Nations forces in Korea. Their mission was to take a stand against the spread of communism, deemed a threat to democratic nations worldwide.

June 25, 1950, marked the beginning of a war like no other. Many years have passed since the end of the **Chosin Reservoir Campaign** in North Korea, and the American public has all but forgotten the violence and valor that took place there at the enlisted man's level. But, to the men and women who served, the Korean War could never be forgotten.

The time had come, in the eyes of the nation, to set aside a place of remembrance for the people who served in this hard-fought war more than half a century ago and half a world away. The **Korean War Veterans Memorial** honors those Americans who answered the call, those who fought with bravery and skill against our communist foes, and those who gave their lives for the cause of freedom.

KOREA: THE "FORGOTTEN WAR"

The Korean War has often been referred to as the "forgotten war" because it came on the heels of World War II and was later overshadowed by the contentious Vietnam conflict.

Like Vietnam, Korea was part of the **Cold War** to stop the advancement of communism in Southeast Asia. When the communist troops of North Korea invaded the Republic of South Korea, the United States became involved through a promise of support given to the president of South Korea. It was feared that this tiny

peninsula would be the setting for the eruption of World War III.

When the United Nations joined forces with the United States and the Republic of South Korea to stop the invasion, this fear was justified. North Korea not only had the backing of the Soviet Union government, but also the military support of China. The stage was set for a bloody three years.

In 1945 the United Nations established the **38th parallel** as the boundary dividing North and South Korea. The North Koreans crossed this boundary to invade, and attempt to unite, South Korea under a communist government. The United States entered the conflict under an assumption that military efforts would be similar to a police action to drive the North Koreans back across the 38th parallel. The two armies crisscrossed the dividing line several times. When the Chinese feared their own borders were threatened, they became involved on the side of the North Koreans. The conflict then escalated to war.

Because the Korean War lasted **three years (1950-1953)**, it is not always thought of as significant; however, if one compares the more than 38,000 American fatalities of the Korean War with those of the 16-year long Vietnam War, the ratio indicates the Korean War was quite a deadly conflict.

THE MEMORIAL

Dedicated on July 27, 1995, the Korean War Veterans Memorial honors the teamwork that saved the Republic of Korea. The mural wall of sandblasted images of the war pays tribute to the solidarity between the

support and combat branches of the U.S. military. The brightly polished granite surface reflects the poncho-clad riflemen as they climb up another of Korea's endless hills toward their objective: an independent South Korea.

The memorial features statues of fighting men on patrol—which represent the **Army, Navy, Marine Corps** and **Air Force**—working together for the common goal of victory. Countries that provided troops, medical support or supplies to help South Korea are listed on the **United Nations Wall**: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

All of this points to the **Pool of Remembrances**, where the sacrifice of American lives can be considered. An inscription summarizes the meaning of the memorial:

"Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

DIMENSIONS

- **Walls:** 164 feet long; 8 inches thick; more than 100 tons of highly polished "Academy Black" granite from California; more than 2,500 photographic, archival images representing the land, sea and air troops and supporting branches who fought in the war are sandblasted onto the wall
- **Statues:** 19 stainless steel statues, 7'3" to 7'6" tall, each weighs nearly 1,000 pounds; 14 Army, 3 Marines, 1 Navy Medic, 1 Air Force Observer; sculptor Frank Gaylord; LED lighting
- **Pool:** 30 feet in diameter; black granite

from Canada; 223 piles driven into bedrock, 30 to 60 feet deep, supporting the statues and the wall

- **Land area:** 2.2 acres
- **Curb:** Raised granite curb lists the 22 nations that contributed to this first U.N. effort.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Korean War Veterans Memorial, located on Daniel Chester French Drive SW, is open daily. It is accessible from the Foggy Bottom station on the Metro. Souvenirs and food are available on site. Restrooms and a bookstore are located nearby at the Lincoln Memorial. Like all other sites on the National Mall, the Korean War Veterans Memorial is wheelchair accessible. Each site on the Mall has one wheelchair that can be used by visitors. **For more information, write:** Korean War Veterans Memorial, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; call **Visitor Information** at **(202) 426-6841** or **Park Headquarters** at **(202) 485-9880**; or visit **nps.gov/kowa**.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL

The Lincoln Memorial is a tribute to President **Abraham Lincoln** and the nation he fought so valiantly to preserve during America's Civil War. Built to resemble a Greek temple, it remains one of the more revered symbols to grace the Washington, D.C., skyline. The Lincoln Memorial boasts 36 Doric columns, one for each state at the time of Lincoln's death. A sculpture by **Daniel Chester French** featuring a seated Lincoln is situated in the center of the memorial chamber and stands as a dramatic visual highlight.

Inscribed on the south wall of the monument are the words of Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address. Above it is a mural painted by **Jules Guerin**, depicting the angel of truth freeing slaves. Guerin also painted the Unity of North and South mural on the north wall, which bears the words of Lincoln's second inaugural address that concludes:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all...let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: HIS LIFE & LEGACY

For many Americans, the Lincoln Memorial stands as a kind of sacred secular space or temple commemorating the nation's savior and first assassinated president. Having led the country through the long night of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln would not live to see the dawn of "a new birth of freedom," which he had passionately spoken of during

his presidency.

Lincoln endured a life of early hardship—a childhood of poverty, a lack of formal education and the death of his mother, brother and sister before he reached the age of 21. Yet he overcame adversity and became recognized as one of our great champions of freedom, summoning the strength to lead this nation through its greatest crisis. While young Abe Lincoln was growing up, his family often moved, and in 1816, they relocated from Kentucky to Indiana to live in a state that did not condone slavery. Lincoln's mother—a rare frontier woman who could read—provided his early education, most of which was acquired by absorbing the written words of great thinkers. Despite having little formal education, Lincoln ultimately developed a striking talent for expression. His Gettysburg Address is considered one of the most succinct and



eloquently written speeches delivered by an American politician.

A LIFE OF POLITICS

Lincoln's political career began in the mid-1830s, at age 25, with his election to the Illinois State Legislature. He was known for idolizing the founding fathers and their grand experiment in popular government and liberty. Lincoln felt that, thanks to the rights bestowed by the Declaration of Independence, *"in this country, one can scarcely be so poor, but that, if he will, he can acquire sufficient education to get through the world respectably."* Lincoln exemplified that firsthand by teaching himself enough about law to gain admission to the Illinois Bar in 1837.

By the 1850s, after his marriage to Mary Todd and the birth of four sons, Lincoln was one of the more respected attorneys in Illinois. Most of his work centered in that state's Supreme Court, where he participated in more than 240 cases and won most of them. Yet his life was still plagued by hardship: Lincoln faced regular bouts of depression, the loss of one son and two failed attempts at the U.S. Senate. Undaunted, he again found a way to forge ahead. His consequential debates with Stephen Douglas set the stage for his eventual presidential nomination by the Republican Party in 1860. His trademark ambition, as well as his principled beliefs of equal rights and a united republic, led to victory.

SAVING REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Though Lincoln would come to be known as an emancipator and savior of democracy, the price he and this nation would pay for those ideals could never be imagined on



that election day of November 6, 1860. Between 1861 and 1865, more than 750,000 Americans, Union and Confederate, would lay down their lives for their respective definitions of freedom. The end of the war produced a restored federal government and an end to slavery. As a potent symbol of American democracy, the Lincoln Memorial continues to inspire the world with its simple and dignified message of freedom. People come to the memorial to be moved by the spirit of President Lincoln's fierce determination to save the Union and his extraordinary compassion toward those denied freedom. This sentiment is fittingly expressed in the memorial's inscription: *"In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever."*

THE MEMORIAL

From an architectural standpoint, the Lincoln Memorial takes its inspiration from **classical architecture**. It's modeled after the Parthenon in Athens and pays tribute to the tremendous accomplishments of ancient Greece—the first modern culture to practice democratic government.

Talk of a memorial began soon after Lincoln's death, but it was years before

construction actually began. While an early design was made, there was no financial support behind it; the project stopped temporarily, but the idea was kept alive. By February 1911, a bill establishing the Lincoln Memorial Commission was passed in Congress. The individuals selected to design the memorial were architect **Henry Bacon**, sculptor **Daniel Chester French** and artist **Jules Guerin**.

The next critical issue facing the committee was the memorial's location. One suggestion was Potomac Park, newly created as a result of filling in the marshy area along the Potomac River. Although it was hard to imagine this as an ideal setting for a new memorial, some saw the potential. The Lincoln Memorial would be the perfect addition to Pierre L'Enfant's plan for the capital city—serving as the west end of the National Mall, while facing the Washington Monument and the Capitol.

Ground was broken on February 12, 1914, the 105th birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Work would continue for eight years until the memorial's completion. The design called for a Greek temple-like structure, with a marble staircase leading up to its entrance, and columns surrounding the outside. Carvings of two of Lincoln's famous speeches and murals depicting reunion and emancipation would accompany the statue of Lincoln inside the memorial. The **Piccirilli brothers** did the stone carving for the Lincoln statue. Jules Guerin painted the murals and Ernest C. Baird carved the speeches into the walls.

MEMORIAL DAY DEDICATION

The memorial was completed and ready for its dedication on **Memorial Day 1922**. Thousands of people gathered in the relatively new West Potomac Park; among them was Lincoln's only surviving son, Robert.

Chief Justice William Howard Taft—a former president himself—spoke at the ceremony:

"Here on the banks of the Potomac, the boundary between the two sections, whose conflict made the burden, passion and triumph of his life, it is particularly appropriate that it should stand."

The Lincoln Memorial has matured with age into a symbol of freedom.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Lincoln Memorial is located at 23rd Street NW. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Rangers are on duty and available to answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and the lower lobby is open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day, until 8 p.m. Labor Day to Memorial Day. Metro riders can access it by way of the Foggy Bottom station. The memorial chamber is wheelchair accessible via an elevator in the lower lobby. Visitors can borrow wheelchairs on a first come, first-served basis at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial kiosks. Park rangers present several interpretive talks at the memorial daily upon request.

Facilities at the The Lincoln Memorial include exhibits, a bookstore and restrooms. **For more information**, write: Lincoln Memorial, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; call **visitor information** at **(202) 426-6841** or **headquarters** at **(202) 485-9880**; or visit nps.gov/linc.



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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL

Known for his courage, eloquent speeches and uplifting words, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., became an icon for the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

King grew up in Georgia and excelled in school, attending Morehouse College at the age of 15. In 1948, he became an ordained minister at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. By 1955, King received his doctorate from Boston University. Leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, which lasted 381 days, King became an important figure in Alabama and eventually on the national stage. King advocated for social change through nonviolence and peaceful protests. The March on Washington brought hundreds of thousands to the nation's capital to fight for civil rights.

In Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, shots rang out at the Lorraine Motel. James Earl Ray assassinated the preacher and left a hole in the hearts of millions across the United States and the globe.

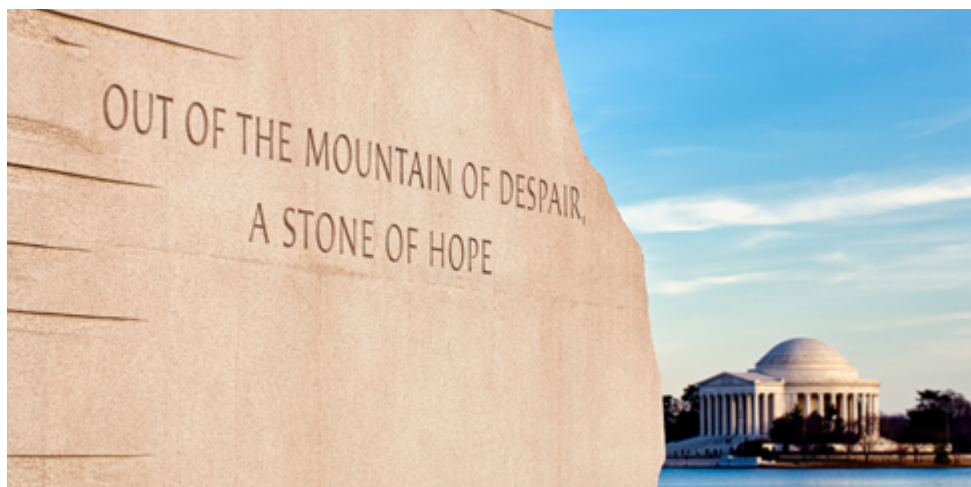
I HAVE A DREAM SPEECH

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today!" – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered his famous speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The speech is hailed as one of the best pieces of rhetoric in history.

THE INSCRIPTION WALL

Fourteen of Dr. King's most notable quotes are engraved on a 450-foot granite wall for visitors to read and reflect upon, ensuring the powerful words will never be forgotten. Surrounded by cherry trees on the Tidal Basin's edge, the monument is imbued with a feeling of peace.



THE MOUNTAIN OF DESPAIR & STONE OF HOPE

Visitors enter the memorial through the Mountain of Despair, a passage that symbolizes the historic struggles of African-Americans. Thrust forward from the mountain is the image of Dr. King, looking toward the future. Upon passing through, visitors are released into the open freedom of the plaza. A carving in one side of the stone passage reads, "Out of the Mountain of Despair, A Stone of Hope." It is this stone from which Dr. King's 30-foot tall granite image emerges. From here, visitors get unparalleled views of the Jefferson Memorial. Dr. King's gaze symbolizes seeing a future of justice and equality for which he encouraged all citizens to strive.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Visitors can pay tribute at the memorial from dawn to dusk year-round. It is located

on the northwest corner of the Tidal Basin, adjacent to the FDR Memorial, and falls along the "Line of Leadership," directly between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial. The address is 1964 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., 20024. The 1964 in the address is a tribute to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Getting there: If traveling to Constitution Gardens by car, Interstates 66 and 395 provide access from the south. Interstate 495, New York Avenue, Rock Creek Parkway, George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Cabin John Parkway offer access from the north. Interstate 66 and Routes 50 and 29 provide access from the west. Routes 50, 1 and 4 provide access from the east. Metro riders can access the National Mall from the Smithsonian Metro station. **For more information,** write National Mall and Memorial Parks, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20242; call **(202) 426-6841** or visit **nps.gov/mlkm**.

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AMERICA'S BELOVED
LANDMARKS.



THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

Thomas Jefferson—political philosopher, architect, musician, book collector, scientist, horticulturist, diplomat, inventor and third president of the United States—certainly figures prominently in any discussion of noteworthy Americans. Jefferson left to the future not only a wealth of ideas, but also a great body of achievements. He articulated strong beliefs about the rights of a free people, separation of church and state, and the availability of education to all.

A NATURAL SETTING

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is located in an outdoor setting, surrounded by plants and trees that grow natively in his home state of Virginia, which would undoubtedly have delighted him. The capital's treasured natural specimens—the flowering Japanese cherry trees—decorate its pathways. Jefferson, a man of so many accomplishments, offered a relatively simple appraisal of his own life, in words he chose for his tombstone: *"Author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia."*

FROM REBEL TO PRESIDENT

Thomas Jefferson's part in the nation's early history cannot be overemphasized. He played a pivotal role in the American Revolution, the formation of a new government and the continuation of America's expansion. Jefferson is famously known as the author of the stirring words, *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,"* which begin the Declaration of Independence. He also served in

President Washington's cabinet as the first secretary of state, led the new nation as its third president and oversaw the country's expansion westward.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In late June of 1776, in a small house on the corner of Seventh and Market streets in Philadelphia, Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson, then 33, was a graduate of the College of William & Mary, had started a law practice and had become a representative from Albemarle County to the Virginia legislature. In 1775, he arrived in Philadelphia as a representative to the Second Continental Congress. Delegates from the 13 colonies had decided that it might no longer be possible to remain a part of the British Empire. Jefferson—along with such men as **John Adams** and **Benjamin Franklin**—was assigned the duty of writing a document that explained why the colonists' independence was necessary. The Declaration of Independence was both a listing of King George III's actions that violated the fundamental rights of the colonists and a philosophical statement on the rights of free people.

OUR NATION'S THIRD PRESIDENT

Years later, as the third president of the United States, Jefferson was responsible for one of the larger land transactions in America's history. In 1803, Jefferson purchased 828,000 square miles, then known as the **Louisiana Territory**, from France in exchange for \$15 million. The acquisition was met with joy and opposition. Some saw

the Louisiana Territory as a vast region with unlimited natural resources and promise; others viewed it as nothing but a burden and waste of money. He saw the potential for endless economic opportunities and new trade routes and believed that out West there was "land enough for our descendants to the thousandth and thousandth generation."

AN UNUSUAL HISTORY

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial, designed to honor one of America's noteworthy founding fathers, has quite an intriguing (and tumultuous) history of its own. People chained themselves to the Japanese cherry trees in protest of their removal, and the permanent bronze statue of Jefferson himself was conspicuously absent until four years after the memorial was dedicated.

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt came to Washington, D.C., in 1913 as the assistant secretary of the Navy, he was disappointed that there was not a memorial dedicated to Thomas Jefferson. Roosevelt believed Jefferson's impact was as monumental as Washington's or Lincoln's. Accordingly, during Roosevelt's presidency, he encouraged Congress to pass a joint resolution to establish a **Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission**. The commission was given the authority to plan, design and construct a memorial that would be a tribute to Jefferson.

THE DESIGN CONTROVERSY

The commission asked architect **John Russell Pope** to submit a design, which drew considerable objections because no nationwide design competition was held. The National Competitions Committee for Architecture felt this was a violation of the democratic ideals Jefferson represented.

Pope decided the most fitting style would be the design Jefferson had favored at his Virginia home, Monticello, and at the University of Virginia. It would be based on the Pantheon in Rome, which Jefferson believed to be a perfect model of a circular building. In 1936, Pope submitted his grandiose design to the commission. After significant consideration, it was accepted.

But the problems and controversies surrounding construction of the memorial did not end there. The Memorial Commission selected a revised, scaled-down design by Pope, which was then further modified by Otto R. Eggers and Daniel P. Higgins after Pope's death. This infuriated the Commission of Fine Arts and others who opposed the design and the continued involvement of Pope's former associates. The Memorial Commission bypassed this opposition by going to President Roosevelt. He authorized the altered Pantheon design, giving his full support.

Today, the Jefferson Memorial stands in tribute to the man who inspired this country to expand westward, not only to gain new territory, but also to create a platform on which to spread the ideals of freedom and democracy.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is on East Basin Drive SW. The public may visit 24 hours a day; rangers are on duty to answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. It is accessible from the Smithsonian station on the Metro. Facilities at the memorial include exhibits, concessions, a bookstore and restrooms. The lower level store is open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; the chamber store is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., There is an elevator that offers access to the memorial chamber, museum, bookstore and restrooms. **For more information**, call **visitor information** at **(202) 426-6841** or **visit nps.gov/thje**.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the men and women who served in one of the nation's more divisive wars. It grew out of a need to heal the country's wounds as Americans struggled to reconcile different moral and political points of view and was conceived and designed to pave the way toward reconciliation and healing. Four components comprise the memorial: the **Wall of Names**, the **Three Servicemen statue and flagpole**, the **Vietnam Women's Memorial** and the **In Memory Plaque**.

CREATION OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Though Jan Scruggs survived the Vietnam War—a tour of duty in which he was wounded and decorated for bravery—many of his comrades did not. He once said of his service in Vietnam:

"The bitterness I feel when I remember carrying the lifeless bodies of close friends through the mire of Vietnam will probably never subside. I still wonder if anything can be found to bring any purpose to all the suffering and death."

Upon his return home, Scruggs found himself committed to a different struggle: to enshrine the memory of those who fought and died in the war.

Jan Scruggs and a group of fellow veterans formed the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF)**. Their objective was to create a tangible tribute to those Americans who served in the conflict. Scruggs wrote, "Our memorial had to be paid for by private contributions in a largely volunteer effort organized by people whose principal reward would be

knowing they had honored those whom the nation managed to ignore."

A GRASSROOTS EFFECT

The VVMF discovered that many people, for many different reasons, would take a personal stake in this cause by sending \$5, \$10 or \$15. Senator John Warner of Virginia donated \$5,000 and helped raise another \$50,000. Donations exceeded \$8.4 million. Private donations were received from more than 275,000 individuals.

The site at the base of the Lincoln Memorial seemed perfect; the VVMF had to appeal to Congress to procure that locale on the National Mall. A bill—which granted the VVMF two acres at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial—passed the Senate in just seven minutes on April 30, 1980; on July 1, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the bill into law. The VVMF would then complete the remaining tasks of selecting a design for the memorial—which included holding a design competition, setting contractual agreements and overseeing the memorial's construction. On **November 13, 1982**, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated.

Today, the VVMF collaborates with the NPS to conduct ceremonies at the memorial on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They also add those names of military personnel who are determined to have died as a result of their service in Southeast Asia, keep records of those listed on the Wall, and maintain residual funds for the maintenance and repair of the memorial itself.



THE WALL

Set in the grassy park of **Constitution Gardens**, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall is neither prominent, nor grand nor imposing. Quite simply, the wall contains the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who were killed in the Vietnam War or remain missing. These names are etched on black granite panels—arranged into two arms—extending from a central point to form a wide angle. The arms point to the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial in the distance, bringing a sense of historical context to the Vietnam Memorial's spot on the National Mall.

The Wall is built into the earth, below ground level. The names appear in an almost never-ending account; it is a listing that may at first appear chaotic, but the names are listed in the order in which the

men and women died or were declared missing. The first name is located in the center of the memorial, at the top of the Wall, under the date "1959," the year of the first Vietnam fatality. Names continue line by line down each panel toward the right end of the memorial. They then resume at the left end of the memorial and continue toward the center. At the bottom of the wall the last death is recorded next to "1975."

NAMELESS HEROES

Other than the names, there is nothing on the wall to describe who the men and women were. No name is more meaningful or important than any other. The names are distinguished by how the men and women were lost: A diamond next to a name indicates a person was killed; a plus sign shows a person is missing in action.

THE THREE SERVICEMEN STATUE: CONTROVERSY & COMPROMISE

Maya Ying Lin's design of a long, black granite wall etched with names immediately drew controversy. One veteran assailed the design as the "black gash of shame." Other detractors criticized it as a "black, flagless pit," "death-oriented," and "intentionally not meaningful." Supporters felt that personal, political or ethical reservations about the war could be set aside in order to remember and honor those who served.

As debate raged over Lin's design, opponents suggested throwing it out and starting over again, while members of Congress registered their disapproval. Secretary of the Interior James Watt, in the Reagan Administration, refused to issue a building permit for the memorial. Under the threat of losing their memorial, the veterans met to find a compromise. They decided to add a statue and a flagpole, a more traditional symbol of patriotism and heroism that some veterans and opponents thought was lacking in Lin's design. In the end, the compromise of the **Three Servicemen statue and flagpole** fulfilled a purpose of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—to help heal the nation's wounds.

THE 1982 DEDICATION

The 1982 memorial dedication heralded a homecoming for many veterans. With a memorial in place, it was an obvious sign of recognition and honor. Jan Scruggs, the man who started the movement, stated, *"I think it will make people feel the price of war...it will make them understand that the price has to be paid in human lives."*

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located at Bacon Drive and Constitution Avenue, is open 24 hours a day and rangers are on duty to answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Metro riders can access the memorial from the Foggy Bottom station. All areas on the National Mall are wheelchair accessible and each site has one wheelchair for visitor use.

For more information, write: Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; call **visitor information** at **(202) 426-6841** or **park headquarters** at **(202) 485-9880**; or visit **nps.gov/vive**.



WASHINGTON MONUMENT

The **Washington Monument** is one of the more readily recognized of all buildings in the nation's capital. It rises tall, brilliant and imposing, emphasized by the green grass and colorful flags that surround it. It stands in the heart of the city, near the center of cross axes stretching between four of America's famous buildings: the **U.S. Capitol**, the **Lincoln Memorial**, the **White House** and the **Thomas Jefferson Memorial**.

To protect park staff and visitors from the spread of COVID-19, the Washington Monument is closed until further notice .

GEORGE WASHINGTON: FOUNDING FATHER

Certainly George Washington is best known for being America's first president. Yet, he held many other titles in his lifetime and earned the title **"Father of Our Country"** in recognition of the formative role he played on behalf of American freedom.

The story of George Washington begins with a man who climbed social and military ladders fueled by his own initiative. On July 3, 1775, he took on what was thought to be an impossible task: commanding of an army of rag-tag volunteers who were so determined to throw off the British yoke that they were willing to wage war against the mightiest empire of the 1700s. It was Washington's leadership that shaped these volunteers into fighting men. In battle after battle, the Continental Army followed their commander and eventually triumphed over their British adversaries. With the surrender of British General Cornwallis in 1781, a new nation was born. Washington became the most popular and powerful man in America.

OUR NATION'S FIRST PRESIDENT

In 1787, as president of the Constitutional Convention, Washington helped guide the deliberations that were instrumental in forming a government that has now lasted more than 200 years. Two years later, Washington was unanimously elected to be the first president of the United States.

At that time, the federal government did not have a permanent home, but it did have temporary quarters in New York City. Accordingly, Washington traveled there to begin his first term of office. After the government moved to Philadelphia, there were plans in the making for a permanent federal capital along the Potomac River. During Washington's presidency, the city construction went forward.

Although the Continental Congress had the good intention to build a monument in the new city, George Washington passed from public office and into retirement without a tribute. Yet history would show that Washington was a man of unparalleled accomplishments: Revolutionary War hero, he defined the presidency, helped develop the relationships among the three branches of government and established precedents that successfully launched the new government on its course. It seemed fitting that the citizens of the United States devise a landmark to show their enduring gratitude and respect.

THE BUILDING OF A MONUMENT: ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Efforts to commemorate George Washington's legacy began during his lifetime and covered many venues: the naming of the

federal capital, and later, universities, streets, counties and even a state! But none have captured the imagination of people worldwide like the **Washington Monument**.

In December 1799, eight days after the death of Washington, U.S. Representative John Marshall proposed that *“a marble monument be erected by the United States in the Capitol at the City of Washington,”* as a burial site for the deceased first president. For decades, however, political wrangling delayed the project.

In 1833, the **Washington National Monument Society** was organized to redeem, through private efforts, the congressional pledge to erect a memorial in the nation’s capital. To assure that the enterprise would be popular and national in scope, contributions were initially limited to \$1 per year per person (Eventually this limitation was removed). By 1847 a total of \$78,000 had been collected, a sum

considered by the society to be sufficient to begin construction of the memorial.

THE “NATIONAL PANTHEON”

Many sketches were submitted and the design of **Robert Mills** was ultimately chosen. His plan for a memorial to Washington was a blend of Greek, Babylonian and Egyptian architecture. Its enormous circular base was a temple-like building 200 feet in diameter and 100 feet tall. Thirty massive columns were to surround the rotunda. Statues of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War heroes and Washington were to be placed at the outer ring. Mills called the design a **“National Pantheon.”** A four-sided obelisk, or shaft, was to rise 600 feet from the center of the rotunda. A “rail-way” was to transport visitors to an observatory to be located atop the circular base.

In 1848, Congress granted a 37-acre site

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for the Washington National Monument. Soil tests, however, showed the intended spot due south of the White House and due west of the Capitol to be too marshy, so an alternate spot about 100 yards to the southeast was chosen (thus, slightly altering the monument's north-south alignment with the White House).

BREAKING GROUND

Sunday, July 4, 1848, marked the laying of the cornerstone, which was made of pure white Symington marble weighing 24,500 pounds. The marble had been dragged through the streets of Washington by workmen and anyone else who could seize a line, transporting the unwieldy load from the Washington Navy Yard to the site.

As the Washington National Monument Society reached the end of its resources, appeals went out for contributions to continue the project. In lieu of money, the state of Alabama offered the society a decorative stone to be used in the monument. This idea caught on and other states,

municipalities and associations joined in to contribute a "block of marble or other durable stone." Later, this invitation to contribute memorial blocks of stone was extended to foreign governments.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the monument stood at 176 feet. Construction was halted in 1854 when the shaft was barely one-third completed. It would not be taken up again until 1878, after the centennial celebration of the nation's founding. At this time, stones from a different quarry were used, and that is why the top two-thirds of the monument are a different color from the bottom. The dedication of the completed Washington Monument took place on February 21, 1885. It marked the end of construction on the memorial, aside from final details, and was the last official act of President Chester A. Arthur.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

To protect park staff and visitors from the spread of COVID-19, the Washington Monument is closed until further notice.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The World War II Memorial, located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., commemorates the sacrifice—and celebrates the victory—of the World War II generation. This memorial, completed in 2004, honors the 16 million men and women who served in the U.S. armed forces during the war. More than 400,000 died and millions supported the war effort from the home front. It illuminates the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms, and was designed to inspire future generations of Americans, deepening their appreciation for what the World War II generation accomplished in securing freedom and democracy.

HONORING A GENERATION

When Congress authorized the World War II Memorial in 1993, it placed the project under the direction of the **American Battle Monuments Commission**, an independent agency of the federal government. The first step in establishing the memorial was the selection of an appropriate site. The National Park Service, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission approved selection of the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. President Bill Clinton dedicated the memorial site during a formal ceremony on Veterans Day 1995.

The design was submitted by **Friedrich St. Florian**, an architect based in Providence, Rhode Island. He was one of six semi-finalists selected in an open national competition. Leo A. Daly, an international

architecture firm, assembled the winning team with St. Florian as the design architect. The team also included George E. Hartman of Hartman-Cox Architects, Oehme van Sweden & Associates and sculptor Ray Kaskey. The commission approved the preliminary design in 1999, the final architectural plans in 2000, granite selections in 2001, and sculpture and inscriptions between 2002 and 2003.

PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS

The World War II Memorial has been funded primarily by private contributions. The fundraising campaign was led by National Chairman Senator Bob Dole, a World War II veteran seriously wounded on the battlefield and decorated with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith. The memorial received more than \$193 million in cash and pledges; this total includes \$16 million provided by the federal government. Nearly 59 years after the end of World War II, the World War II Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 29, 2004, Memorial Day weekend.

THE MEMORIAL'S DESIGN

The memorial is constructed of bronze and granite. The latter was chosen for its water resistance, smooth aesthetic appeal, superior strength and durability. The two principal stones are "Kershaw" for the vertical elements and "Green County" for the main plaza paving stone. Two green stones—"Rio Verde" and "Moss Green"—are used for accent paving on the plaza.



Sculptures at the memorial include four bronze columns, four bronze eagles and one bronze laurel wreath within each arch; 24 bronze *bas relief* sculptures along the ceremonial entrance (12 on each side); 4,048 sculpted gold stars on the Freedom Wall; and 112 bronze wreaths with armatures (two wreaths on each pillar, one on each side).

THE WORLD WAR II REGISTRY OF NAMES

The memory of America's World War II generation will be preserved not just within the physical memorial, but also through the **World War II Registry of Names**, an individual listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort. Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, veteran or civilian, is eligible for the registry. People

listed on the World War II Registry of Names will be forever linked to the memorial's bronze and granite representations of their sacrifice and achievement.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The World War II Memorial has no fees or reservations associated with a visit. For planned events dependent upon the activity and number of participants, a permit may be required. The public may visit the World War II Memorial 24 hours a day and rangers are on duty to answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

For more information, write: National World War II Memorial, 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; call **visitor information** at **(202) 426-6841**; or visit **nps.gov/nwwm**.

ARLINGTON HOUSE

Arlington House is closed while undergoing a multi-million dollar restoration. It was the home of **Robert E. Lee** and his family for 30 years. As you take a closer look at his residence, you'll find that the house weaves a unique and fascinating story with associations to prominent figures, issues and events in American history. Three of Virginia's influential families are associated with the house, the **Washingtons, Custises** and **Lees**. The grounds served as a plantation estate and home to 63 slaves, a monument honoring George Washington, a military headquarters, a community for emancipated slaves and a national cemetery.

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

George Washington Parke Custis, the step-grandson of President George Washington, had the mansion designed and constructed in honor of our nation's first president. One of the early examples of Greek revival structures, it boasts massive columns that span the two stories of the house. The design is attributed to the young English architect **George Hadfield**, who had previously worked on the U.S. Capitol Building. Most likely, Hadfield also designed the slave quarters in the back of the house.

The **great portico**, which was intended by Custis to be as visible from the city as possible, is 60 feet wide, 25 feet deep and boasts eight massive 23-foot Doric columns. The slaves of the plantation built the house out of handmade brick covered with hydraulic cement, a popular practice in the 19th century. The surface

was then scored and painted to resemble marble and sandstone. This faux finish method is still popular today.

The **North Wing** was originally constructed in 1802 with a large single chimney and a hip roof, which was later changed to include gables and windows. The exterior was also decorated to match that of the South Wing, which was constructed in 1804 with a temporary wall, most likely made of wood. The **"Middle House,"** already containing the impressive portico, was planned at that time and added in 1818. The Custis family lived in the North Wing of the house and entertained guests in the South Wing, where they kept their collection of George Washington memorabilia they nicknamed "Washington Treasures."

SLAVE QUARTERS

The slave quarters were built in the back of the main house and set at right angles to the house to form a small service court. The **North Slave Quarters** housed the carriage driver, Daniel and his son, along with the long-time plantation cook, George Clark, and his assistant. The **South Slave Quarters** were home to Mrs. Custis' trusted housekeeper, Selina Gray, along with her husband and their eight children, who lived in one of the bedrooms with a small loft. The middle room in the building was used as a smoke house and the third room housed other slaves who worked for the Custis-Lee household.

MILITARY

Custis built his home as a memorial to General Washington and it stands as an example of how military traditions played an

important role at Arlington House. Custis admired the veterans of the Revolution, featured them in his epic paintings, and often hosted them at his home.

Custis was a veteran himself, serving in the Federal Army in 1799 prior to the anticipated war with France that never materialized. Custis also served in the militia at the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812. His experiences during this war led him to advocate for a better army and he allowed his estate to be used for military training.

ROBERT E. LEE

Robert E. Lee, celebrated for gaining the respect of Americans in both the North and the South, joined the Arlington household when in 1831 he married Mary, Custis' only surviving

daughter. Lee's military service took him all over the country. While serving in the Mexican-American War, Lee was away from his family for nearly two years. He distinguished himself during this conflict, earning the rank of brevet colonel, and went on to become the superintendent of West Point from 1852 to 1855. Lee also commanded military forces sent to subdue John Brown and his raiders at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Lee died in 1870, two weeks after suffering a stroke.

THE CIVIL WAR

It was during the Civil War that General Lee made the difficult decision to resign from the U.S. Army, after more than 30 years of service, and assume command of Virginia's military forces. On May 24, 1861, thousands of U.S. Army troops



marched across the Potomac River to form a defensive perimeter around Washington, D.C., and fortify the abandoned Arlington House and plantation.

In 1862, slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia. The next year, 17 acres of the Arlington estate were made into Freedman's Village, a village for freed slaves. In 1864, Mrs. Lee failed to pay her property taxes in person and lost Arlington. The federal government then purchased the estate and Arlington was used as a national cemetery for Union soldiers killed in the war.

Arlington House served as the headquarters of Arlington National Cemetery for many years. In 1925, Congressman Louis Conyers Cramton, son of a Union veteran who fought against Lee, wanted to recognize Lee's efforts to heal and reunite the nation after the war. Cramton sponsored legislation to restore the house to its pre-Civil War appearance.

SLAVERY

When Custis took possession of the property in 1802, he brought slaves from Mount Vernon with him, who shared memories of George and Martha Washington. This generation of slaves helped to build the Arlington House and other buildings on the plantation, and then worked on the estate.

Molly Custis formed the tradition of educating slaves that worked on the plantation when she assumed the responsibility of teacher at the school. Three times a week, Molly gave basic lessons to the enslaved people. She went on to convince her husband to provide for the emancipation of the slaves in his will and provided religious education, such as Sunday school and Bible studies for the slaves.

When the War Department began restoration of Arlington House in the 1920s, former slaves provided memories rich with historical and architectural details of the house and plantation. They also donated original furnishings that had come from the mansion.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Arlington House is located inside Arlington National Cemetery and **is closed** while undergoing a multi-million dollar restoration. The house, which can be reached by a 10-minute walk from the cemetery visitor center and parking area, is expected to reopen July 2021. It is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. October through February, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March through May, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. June through August and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in September. The memorial is closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Check with the ranger at the door to see if free, guided tours will be offered during your visit. In addition, self-guided tours and audio (cell phone) tours are available. Center Hall, White Parlor and Morning Room, the North Wing, museums and exhibits may be visited without a guide.

Entry to Arlington House and the Robert E. Lee Museum is free. **For more information**, write: Arlington House, Robert E. Lee Memorial, George Washington Memorial Parkway, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101; call **visitor information** at **(703) 235-1530**; or visit **nps.gov/arho**.



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ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Arlington National Cemetery was first designated as a military cemetery in 1864 by Secretary of War **Edwin Stanton**. Today it stands as a solemn reminder of all those who have served and defended the U.S. throughout history.

Located in Arlington, Virginia, the cemetery encompasses 200 acres and is the final resting place of more than 300,000 soldiers, diplomats and politicians. The cemetery holds the remains of veterans from all the nation's wars—from the American Revolution through Iraq and Afghanistan.

The **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** inscribed with, "Here Rests In Honored Glory An American Soldier Known But To God," is one of the most visited sites here. Located near the center of the cemetery, the tomb holds the remains of unknown soldiers from World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The tomb is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by members of 3rd United States Infantry (The Old Guard). The changing of the

guard ceremony occurs every 30 minutes in summer; hourly in winter and every two hours when the cemetery is closed.

The eternal flame at the gravesite of **President John F. Kennedy** is another frequent stop on any tour of the cemetery. Jacqueline Kennedy lit the flame at President Kennedy's funeral following his assassination on November 22, 1963. The flame still burns brightly today.

Arlington National Cemetery is open 365 days a year, at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are limited to 150 at a time on the plaza stairs in order to facilitate social distancing. Parking at the cemetery is \$2 per hour. For additional information, call **(877) 907-8585** or visit **arlingtoncemetery.mil**.

Arlington National Cemetery is managed by the U.S. Army. Arlington House, located inside Arlington National Cemetery, is managed by the National Park Service.

FORD'S THEATRE AND PETERSEN HOUSE

In the mid-19th century, America's transfer from war to peace was made even more difficult on April 14, 1865, when Abraham Lincoln was shot just five days after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. The site of the assassination was **Ford's Theatre**. He was later carried to the **Petersen House**, where he died early the next morning, and became the first American president to be assassinated. Explore Ford's Theatre National Historic Site and discover some of the motivations behind this tragic act and its impact on a nation trying to heal.

AN ASSASSIN'S DEADLY INTENTIONS

John Wilkes Booth, a popular actor of the day, ended his full-time stage career in May 1864. The Maryland native wanted to spend most of his time on his primary interest: supporting the **Confederate States of America**. Within months, Booth was working actively with southern sympathizers. A plan to capture President Lincoln and exchange him for Confederate prisoners of war brought Booth into contact with Dr. Samuel Mudd, John Surratt, his mother Mary, Lewis Powell, David Herold, George Atzerodt and others with similar sympathies. This plan failed when President Lincoln changed his plans and did not travel where conspirators were waiting.

This March 17, 1865, failure was quickly followed by two major Confederate defeats. Richmond, the Confederacy's capital, was abandoned to Union troops—and then on Palm Sunday, April 9, Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to General Grant.

Soon after these defeats, other conspiracies took shape. Booth had intentions to assassinate President Lincoln, while Powell was to kill Secretary of State William Seward and Atzerodt was assigned to kill Vice President Andrew Johnson. Booth hoped to throw the country into political chaos.

A TRAGIC NIGHT

Booth carried out his plan on **April 14, 1865**. President Lincoln and his wife Mary were on hand to see a production of "Our American Cousin." During the performance, Booth stepped into the president's box with a gun. His decision to pull the trigger not only ended Lincoln's life, but also altered the nation's post-war reconstruction process. Booth escaped into the night as Abraham Lincoln was carried to the Petersen House.

THE PETERSEN HOUSE

After the fatal shots were fired, an entourage carrying the mortally wounded president proceeded slowly down the staircase in Ford's Theatre and exited to a home at 453 10th Street (now 516 10th Street). This random home, built in 1849 by a tailor named William Petersen, reluctantly found its way into history. Now known as the **Petersen House**, it's the place where America's 16th president died.

Dr. Charles Leale, age 23, who was attending to Lincoln, described the events that followed:

"I asked (a guard) to clear a passage to the nearest house opposite. He had on side arms and drew his sword. With the sword

and word of command he cleared the way. We slowly crossed the street. It was necessary to stop several times to give me the opportunity to remove the clot of blood from the opening to the wound. A barrier of men had been formed to keep back the crowds on each side of an open space leading to the house. Those who went ahead reported that the house directly opposite the theatre was closed. I saw a man standing at the door of Mr. Petersen's house, diagonally opposite, holding a lighted candle in his hand and beckoning us to enter."

Major Rathbone, who had been in the box with the first couple and was stabbed trying to defend the president, escorted Mary Todd Lincoln across the street. Rathbone, bleeding severely from the knife wound in his arm, collapsed from a loss of blood after arriving at the Petersen House.

Outside, guards patrolled the premises all night to prevent onlookers from entering. A parade of government officials and physicians were granted access to pay respects to the unconscious president. One official, Secretary of the Navy **Gideon Welles**, recorded in his diary: *"The giant sufferer lay extended diagonally across the bed, which was not long enough for him. His slow, full respiration lifted the clothes with each breath that he took. His features were calm and striking. I had never seen them appear to better advantage than for the first hour, perhaps, that I was there. After that, his right eye began to swell and that part of his face became discolored."*

For medical treatment, the physicians continually removed blood clots that formed over the wound where the bullet entered Lincoln's head. This process relieved pressure on his brain and maintained breathing. However, the external and internal hemorrhaging continued throughout the night. The next



day, April 15, 1865, at 7:22 a.m., a doctor leaned over the president and felt his final breath. Lincoln was 56 years old.

AN ATTEMPTED ESCAPE

Within minutes of Lincoln's shooting, Booth fled Washington on horseback and met Herold on the road. Both men rode into southern Maryland. The pain from the fractured small bone in Booth's left leg (broken in the escape) led Booth and Herold to stop at Dr. Mudd's home for medical aid.

On April 26, 12 days after having killed the president, Booth and Herold were surrounded while hiding in a tobacco shed in Port Royal, Virginia. Herold surrendered to the Union troops, but Booth held out and was shot while the shed burned down around him.

The other conspirators were soon arrested. Atzerodt, Herold, Powell and Mrs. Surratt were all found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. Dr. Mudd and two others involved in the original capture attempt were sentenced to life in prison.

Edman Spangler, who held Booth's horse during the assassination, and others were sentenced to six years hard labor. In 1869, President Andrew Johnson pardoned the surviving conspirators.

THE AFTERMATH

After William and Anna Petersen died—both in 1871 and without a will—their furniture was sold at auction. William H. Boyd recognized the historical significance of the furniture and purchased much of it. His purchase included the six-foot spool bed upon which Lincoln had died, for which he paid \$80. In 1889, his son, Andrew, who inherited this collection, sold it to Charles F. Gunther of Illinois for the relatively modest sum of \$5,000. In 1920, the Chicago Historical Society obtained the collection from Gunther's widow; the society has two affidavits by William H. Boyd, which verify the authenticity of these items from the Petersen House.

Today, **Ford's Theatre** is not just witness to an infamous act, but also a working theatre in downtown Washington, D.C. The establishment—designated as a national historic site and seen as a tribute to President Lincoln—regularly produces musicals and plays, serving to illuminate both the performing arts and the diverse, richly nuanced character of America's heritage.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Ford's Theatre and the museum are open for self-guided tours, and a 360 virtual tour of Petersen House is available at fords.org. Visitors can trace the story of Abraham Lincoln's presidency, assassination and legacy. The campus (which includes the museum, theatre, Petersen House and Center for Education and

Leadership) is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Tickets: There is no admission fee for Ford's Theatre, but tickets are necessary for entry. A limited number of same-day tickets—capped at six per person—are available at the box office daily beginning at 8:30 a.m. Advance tickets, recommended March through July, have a \$3 reservation fee. Reserve by calling **(202) 347-4833**, visiting the box office or **fords.org**.

The Petersen House and Aftermath Exhibits are closed. For more information, visit nps.gov/foth. Matinees usually take place on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, though rehearsals can take place any time or day. Visitors are urged to check the daily schedule on **fords.org** to confirm the theatre will be open for touring. Visitors may also see performances. Performances are not free.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

"I am not only an American slave, but a man, and as such, am bound to use my powers for the welfare of the whole human brotherhood."

Letter to William Lloyd Garrison
February 26, 1846

FATHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site was established to preserve the home and memory of the revered 19th century African-American, **Frederick Douglass**. The site offers the inspiring history of Douglass and his efforts to abolish slavery and fight for the rights of the oppressed. His life is a testament to the courage and persistence of those who struggled, and continued to struggle, in pursuit of liberty and justice.

Often referred to as the father of the Civil Rights Movement, Douglass dedicated his life to attaining justice for all, particularly African-Americans, women and minority groups. An abolitionist, human rights and women's rights activist, orator, author, journalist, publisher and social reformer, Douglass was a visionary dedicated to strengthening diversity and freedom from discrimination.

Douglass was born into slavery in 1818, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He escaped from the confines of slavery, fought for liberty and served the national government. He served as an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln, as a U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia during Rutherford B. Hayes' administration and secretary of the commission of Santo Domingo under President Benjamin Harrison. Douglass served with the hope of bringing more freedoms to African-Americans.

A VOICE FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS

William Lloyd Garrison hired Douglass, a powerful orator, to speak for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. As a major stationmaster on the Underground Railroad, Garrison helped hundreds find their way to freedom. After slavery was abolished at the close of the Civil War, Douglass began his work on integrating African-Americans into the political and economic life of the United States.

Douglass created the **North Star**, a weekly abolitionist newspaper that became a voice for African-Americans. He also went on to establish a periodical called the *Douglass Monthly* and used it to recruit black Union soldiers for the **African-American 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment**. His sons, Lewis and Charles, both served in this regiment, which was made up entirely of African-American volunteers and was dramatically portrayed in the film *Glory*. A painting of this event hangs in the front hall at Cedar Hill.

Douglass spent the later years of life trying to maintain the advances of African-Americans that he had worked so hard to win. He worked for the remainder of his life to oppose lynching and support the rights of women.

THE HOME OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Douglass moved to Washington, D.C., from Rochester, New York, in 1872. He lived on Capitol Hill for a period before moving to Cedar Hill in 1878, where he lived until his death in 1895. Today, the house is furnished

to look like it did during Douglass' lifetime.

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site preserves his belongings and highlights his achievements. There are archival collections and a museum at Cedar Hill.

Items from his public life, personal belongings, treasured books and gifts tell stories of Douglass' active political and warm family life. Paintings of friends of the family, places Douglass visited and significant events in African-American history are displayed throughout the house.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, located in Washington, D.C., at 14th Street and W Street SE, is closed to protect the health and safety of visitors.

It is normally open from April through October, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From November through March, the site is open

from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The site is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Visitors can tour the home and grounds and explore the park visitor center during these hours.

Reservations: Visitors may not enter the home unless part of a ranger-led tour. It is strongly recommended that individuals and families make a reservation to guarantee their place on a tour. Reservations may be made by calling **(877) 444-6777** or visiting **recreation.gov**. There is a \$1 per person fee for reservations and space is limited to 10 people per standard tour.

Standard tour times: 9 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. (only April through October); Groups of 10 or more, reservations required: 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 2 p.m.

To learn more, write c/o Ka'mal McClarin, 1411 W Street SE, Washington, D.C. **20020-4813**; call **visitor information at (202) 426-6841**; or visit **nps.gov/frdo**.



GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL

"All men are created equally free and independent, and have certain inherent natural rights ... among which are the enjoyment of life, liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety."

– George Mason

GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL

The George Mason Memorial, located in West Potomac Park near the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, commemorates the contributions of an important Founding Father. **George Mason** was the author of the **Virginia Declaration of Rights**, which served as an inspiration to Thomas Jefferson when he drafted the Declaration of Independence. Mason later served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. Perhaps Mason's most noteworthy act was withholding his signature from the United States Constitution—because the new document did not abolish the slave trade nor offer assurance Mason deemed essential to protect the individual from the federal government.

A FORGOTTEN VISIONARY

As the Revolutionary War intensified, George Mason was elected to represent Fairfax County at the Virginia Convention held in May of 1776. Patrick Henry informed the delegates that Congress was instructing each colony to draft its own constitution and declaration of rights—and it was Mason, part of a 30-man com-

mittee, who drafted the declaration for Virginia. The declaration was presented to Congress in mid-June, making it the first Bill of Rights in the country. Just a few weeks later, Thomas Jefferson would liberally quote from the Virginia Declaration of Rights while writing the **Declaration of Independence**.

In 1787, at the age of 62 and suffering from a severe case of gout, George Mason embarked on the greatest intellectual journey of his life. The destination was Philadelphia and the occasion one of the pivotal assemblies in history. Here, early national leaders and intellectuals set out to create a framework for the struggling young nation at the **Constitutional Convention**.

As the convention concluded, George Mason refused to sign the Constitution, in part because it failed to protect the rights of the individual citizen. In 1789, three years before Mason's death, Congress amended the Constitution. The first 10 amendments were a revised version of the Virginia Declaration of Rights—the same document drafted by Mason more than a decade earlier.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The public may visit the George Mason Memorial, located on East Basin Drive SW, 24 hours a day. Rangers are on duty to answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily at the nearby Thomas Jefferson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorials. Visitors can access the memorial from the Smithsonian Metro stop. For more information, visit **nps.gov/gemm**.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House was designed by James Hoban, an Irish-born architect who won a competition organized by President George Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson in 1792. It was constructed from 1792 to 1800. Its interior was rebuilt after British soldiers burned it 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-style architecture, as a symbol of the presidency and for the important decisions made within its walls over the years.

The White House is a gigantic build-

ing, with 55,000 square feet of space and six floors. In total, there are 132 rooms with 35 bathrooms, including multiple kitchens, spread throughout the building.

The White House has played host to countless important historical events over the years, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt's speech announcing the United States' involvement in World War II.

WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

The **White House Visitor Center** is temporarily closed.

The center offers exhibits, an information and sales area, restrooms, telephones, water fountains and a first aid area—all accessible. The visitor center offers special



programs, such as park ranger talks and traveling exhibits, which focus on the rich history of the White House. Ask a park ranger for the most current information on these programs.

To learn more about the stories behind the iconic building, visitors can view a 30-minute video “Within These Walls” (closed-captioned for the hearing impaired). The visitor center is located at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230, inside the north end of the Department of Commerce building.

The visitor center is open daily; 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

WHITE HOUSE TOURS

Tours have been temporarily suspended. It is unclear when the White House will resume normal tour operations. White House tours normally run Tuesday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required and must be made at least 21 days, but not more than six months, in advance. Requests must be submitted through one’s member of Congress. All visitors 18 and older must have a government-issued photo ID to be admitted; foreign nationals must present a passport. Visitors cannot bring in strollers, food or drinks, videocameras, pointy objects, aerosol cans, weapons or bags of any kind, including backpacks, fanny packs and purses. No lockers are available. Call the **White House Visitors Office 24-Hour Hotline at (202) 456-7041** for more information. All visitors should call this number in advance of their trip to determine if last-minute changes have been made to the tour schedule. Visit [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov) for more information.

THE ELLIPSE

The Ellipse, sometimes known as President’s Park South, is a 52-acre park located just south of the White House. In 1791, **Pierre L’Enfant** drew up the first plan for the park. The Ellipse was known as “the White Lot” due to the whitewashed wooden fence that enclosed the park.

During the Civil War, the grounds of the Ellipse and incomplete Washington Monument were used to corral horses, mules and cattle, and as campsites for Union Troops.

The Army Corps of Engineers began work on the Ellipse in 1867. They landscaped the park in 1879 and planted American Elms around the existing portion of roadway. In 1880, the corps created the Ellipse from what had been a common dump. In 1894, they lit the Ellipse roadway with electric lamps.

In the 1890s, Congress authorized use of the Ellipse grounds by special groups, including military encampments and religious meetings. As late as 1990, baseball diamonds and tennis courts existed here. Today, sporting events and demonstrations continue to take place. President’s Park—which includes the White House, Lafayette Park and the Ellipse—came under National Park Service jurisdiction in 1933.

In 1942, during World War II, the National Park Service gave permission to construct temporary barracks as a special emergency wartime measure. They were erected on the First Division Monument grounds and on the south side of the Old Executive Office Building. The “**White House Barracks**” were demolished in 1954.

The **Ellipse Visitor Pavilion** is not offering services at this time.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The lighting of **christmas trees** in and around the White House is a nearly century-old tradition. From 1924 to 1953, live trees in various locations around and on the grounds were lit on Christmas Eve. In 1954, the ceremony returned to the Ellipse and expanded its focus. Local civic and business groups created the “**Christmas Pageant of Peace**.” Smaller trees representing the 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia, formed a “Pathway of Peace.” On December 17, 1954, President Eisenhower lit a cut tree donated by the people of Michigan. Cut trees continued to be used until 1973.

Central to the season’s celebration is alive National Christmas Tree, which had been a Colorado blue spruce from York, Pennsylvania planted on the Ellipse on October 20, 1978. The tree stood as a daily reminder of the holiday spirit and of the tradition each succeeding president has participated in since 1923, until it was uprooted in a wind storm in February 2011.

The **White House Easter Egg Roll** is held every April on the South Lawn. Call the **White House Visitors Office 24-Hour information line** at **(202) 456-7041** to learn about ticketing.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

GETTING THERE

Car: Interstates 66 and 395 provide access from the south. Interstate 495, New York Avenue, Rock Creek Parkway, George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Cabin John Parkway provide access from the north. Interstate 66, Route 50 and 29 provide access from the west. Routes 50, 1 and 4 provide access from the east. *Note: On-street parking is not*

available near the White House. Public transportation is strongly encouraged.

Public Transportation: The closest Metro stations to the White House are Federal Triangle, Metro Center and McPherson Square. Please refer to the map in the centerfold for Circulator routes and stops. For Metrobus and subway schedules, call **(202) 637-7000** or visit **wmata.com**.

ACCESSIBILITY

• **Mobility-Impaired/Wheelchairs:**

Visitors in wheelchairs or with other mobility disabilities use the same visitors entrance and are escorted by ramp from the entrance level to the ground floor and by the elevator from the ground floor to the state floor.

• **Hearing-Impaired:** Tours for hearing-impaired groups of 10 or more may be requested through one’s member of Congress. The Visitors Office TTY is **(202) 456-2121**.

• **Visually Impaired:** Tours for visually impaired groups of 10 or more may be requested through one’s member of Congress by letter. Guide animals are permitted in the White House for the tours.



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

In 1912, 2,000 cherry trees were donated in the name of the City of Tokyo to our nation's capital. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is an annual two-week event that celebrates springtime in Washington, D.C., and the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

The cherry trees grow in three park locations: around the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park, in East Potomac Park and on the Washington Monument grounds.

PEAK BLOOM DATE

The peak bloom date is defined as the day on which 70 percent of the blossoms of the Yoshino Cherry trees that surround the Tidal Basin are open. Peak bloom varies annually depending on weather conditions. The trees typically bloom for a period of several days, the duration depending on weather as well.

PLANNING YOUR FESTIVAL VISIT

Forecasting peak bloom is almost impossible more than 10 days in advance, so planning ahead can present challenges. Festival dates are set based on the average date of blooming, and tend to vary by year. It is strongly recommended that you check for periodic updates at **nationalcherryblossomfestival.org** prior to making arrangements. Another informative resource—which also provides an historical timeline—is the National Park Service site, **nps.gov/cherry/cherry-trees.htm**.

FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

A number of creative and diverse activities promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty and the environment, and community spirit and youth education are offered during this special two-week window, most of which are free and open to the public.

Signature events include the Opening Ceremony; Petalpalooza, a waterfront festival that includes fireworks; and the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade®.

Traditionally, there are also more than 150 daily cultural performances by local, national and international entertainers, sports competitions and much more.

To inquire about details surrounding the festival, call **(877) 442-5666**.



JUST FOR KIDS

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

By completing a list of activities described in the Junior Ranger Activity Book, kids can receive a Junior Ranger badge and get their picture taken with a ranger! Pick up an activity booklet at any memorial on the National Mall.

STOP BY THE WHITE HOUSE

You can inquire about the activities taking place in President's Park, such as interpretive presentations and walks, special events, guided tours, exhibits and films that engage the public's interest in the park's cultural history.

CHECK OUT THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Visit Washington, D.C., during late March and early April when the world-famous foliage is in full bloom. Traditionally, during the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, visitors can check out the **fireworks display** and **Prelude to the Fireworks**—a free, three-hour festival of family entertainment that includes live musical performances, kids' craft activities, cuisine from local restaurants and special guest appearances.

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE NATION

Celebrate Independence Day in patriotic fashion, in the heart of the nation's capital. Well-attended annual **Fourth of July events**, include a **concert**, a **parade** and **fireworks display**.

The best places to view the fireworks



include the U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, and the National Mall between 14th Street and the U.S. Capitol, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. For more information about Independence Day events, call **(202) 426-6841**.

PADDLE THE BASIN

Get a new perspective on the National Mall by seeing it from the water. Explore the tidal basin in a rented swan boat or pedal boat. The boathouse on the tidal basin rents two- or four-person boats beginning at \$18 per hour. Special accommodations are provided for boaters with disabilities. For more information, visit **boatingindc.com** or call **(202) 479-2426**.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Traveling light? Left your DSLR at home? Fear not, you can still take amazing photos using your cell phone. While the learning curve to using a camera phone isn't too steep, there are definitive steps that you can take to capture better images. The following tips should work with any phone, and cost nothing to make big improvements to your cell phone photography.

Before you start, **get to know your device inside and out**. Take some time to learn all your camera phone's modes; most have a variety of image formats—square, panoramic and the common 3x2 aspect ratio found in most Digital SLRs. The more accustomed you become to using the tools on your phone, the easier it will be to change your settings and take additional photos. And don't underestimate the basics—**clean your camera lens** before you take pictures; learn to **snap photos without tapping the screen to minimize camera shake**; and **invest in a tripod** to stabilize your phone.

The basic principles of taking a photograph are the irrespective of the type of camera you are using. One of the first things photo students learn is the **rule of thirds**, a basic composition principle that suggests that you break down your image into equally sized thirds, like the squares in a tic-tac-toe board. When composing your image, place the most interesting **parts of the images at the intersection of these points**, which command the attention of the viewer.

Change your position slightly to achieve even better result and take lots of pictures from many different angles and positions.

As you compose your images, **take some pictures from different perspectives**—hold your phone over your head or crouch before triggering your shutter. Anything you do to change your viewpoint will improve the diversity of your content.

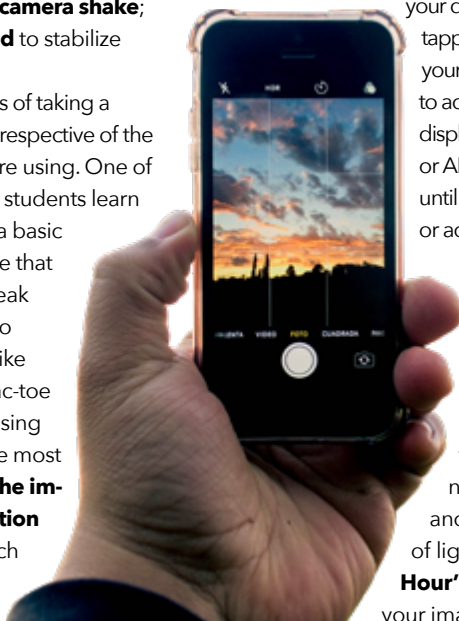
Your cell phone camera possesses a very wide-angle lens, which alters the appearance of distance in the image. While negative space can show scale or vastness, it often impacts your images.

Use negative space artistically, but try to be as reductive as possible by **leaving out anything that doesn't enhance your composition**.

Use the **Auto Exposure (AE) Lock** to help frame an image when the background is too bright or subject too dark (or vice versa). Get

your desired exposure setting by tapping and holding the area of your composition that you want to adjust until your cell phone displays a box or circle (and AE or AEL) to lock your exposure until you take a photo. Reframe or adjust the image by just sliding your finger up and down next to the AE lock to change its contrast.

And finally, timing is everything. Being in the right place is hard to control, but the right time is not. Shoot around sunrise and sunset. The low angle of light during this '**Golden Hour**' will dramatically enhance your images with little extra effort.





National parks are America's crown jewels, inspiring awe and wonder. Utah's iconic parks like Arches and Canyonlands attract visitors from all over the world, but our public lands include even more than national parks. The town of Moab is surrounded by scenic rivers, forests, a state park and thousands of square miles of ruggedly beautiful Bureau of Land Management land.

Our commitment is to respect our beautiful yet fragile environment. We strongly believe that everyone, including us, can be a powerful force in creating a sustainable future. We like that you love it here, but love it like you live here.

Get started planning your trip, and learn how to visit Moab sustainably and safely at
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IF YOU ONLY HAVE A DAY

Steeped in history, Washington, D.C., is one of the most significant and fascinating cities in the nation, if not the world. The National Mall sits at its epicenter and is flanked by an impressive array of monuments, memorials and museums that are close enough to one another that you can see many of them in a single day. The monuments almost never close, so stretch your day as long as you can.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIALS

The most prominent feature of Washington, D.C., the Washington Monument, is closed until further notice. Modeled after an Egyptian obelisk, it stands 555 feet tall and from its peak you can survey the whole city!



Not far away sits the iconic **Lincoln Memorial**, which is famously depicted on U.S. currency and became a focal point of the Civil Rights Movement.

From there, head to the **Thomas Jefferson Memorial** to read the nation-shaping words of one of the most influential founding fathers, which are set in stone. This domed memorial is stunning both in the daytime and when it's lighted at night.

Learn more about the man that led the United States through the Great Depression and World War II at the **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**. Despite contracting polio at 39 and becoming partially paralyzed from the waist down, Roosevelt became one of the most influential leaders in United States history.

WAR MEMORIALS

Bear witness to the patriotism, devotion to duty and courage of Korean War veterans at the **Korean War Memorial**, where 19 stainless steel soldiers reflect in the adjacent black granite wall engraved with the other faces of the war.

Designed to honor the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and to move beyond the conflict's political controversies, the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** is elegant in simplicity, but evokes powerful emotions for anyone who visits.

THE REST OF THE BEST

After a leisurely stroll through the **Constitution Gardens**, continue on to the most famous address in the United States, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue—the **White House**.

BREAK OUT OF YOUR SHELL



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Good life inside.



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Outfitted with the capability to help tame your biggest adventures.
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