

## **U.S. CAPITOL**

Unreserved or “walk-up” tours of the U.S. Capitol may be possible if existing reservations are no-shows or are cancelled at the last minute. Lines can vary from very short (<10 minutes) to very long (>2 hours). Please enter the building through the Capitol Visitor’s Center, located just east of the Capitol itself. The Capitol and the Capitol Visitor’s Center are located approximately 4 blocks south of Union Station on the Metro Red Line, or two blocks north of the Capitol South Station on the Orange/Blue Lines.

No food, liquids, knives, or firearms permitted. Please see:

<http://www.aoc.gov/cc/visit/prohibited-items.cfm> for more security information.

Photographs are permitted and encouraged.

There are two attractions within the Capitol outside of the main tour, neither of which requires reservations.

Visits to the House and Senate chamber galleries are available separately from the Capitol tour. To enter the galleries, you will need Gallery Passes in addition to the tour reservation confirmation. To pick up your Gallery Passes, please report to Congressman Lipinski’s office located at 1717 Longworth House Office Building. The building is one block south of the Capitol itself. I’ll be happy to get you your Gallery Passes, then direct you over to the Capitol Visitor’s Center.

In addition, Capitol staff are offering tours of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Senate Historic Rooms and Corridors. No reservations are needed for these tours—simply sign up at one of the Information Desks in the Capitol Visitors’ Center. These tours are offered daily at 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, and 3:30 pm.

## **WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER**

Located at the southeast corner of 15th and E Streets, the Center is open seven days a week from 7:30am - 4:00pm and features many aspects of the White House, including its architecture, furnishings, first families, social events, and relations with the press and world leaders, as well as a thirty-minute video. Allow between 20 minutes to one hour to explore the exhibits. The White House Historical Association also sponsors a sales area. Please note that restrooms are available, but food service is not.

## **BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING**

Free tickets are required for all general public tours from the first Monday in March through the last Friday in August, on a first-come, first-served basis. The ticket booth is located on Raoul Wallenberg Place (formerly 15th Street). The Bureau is accessible via public transit from the Smithsonian Station on the Metro Orange/Blue Lines and offers same day tickets only. The Ticket Booth opens at 8:00am Monday through Friday, and closes when all tickets have been distributed. Lines form early (some days as early as 5:30am) and tickets go quickly. Most days (especially during the first two weeks in April

during the Cherry Blossom Festival and Spring Break), tickets are gone by 8:30am. Please plan accordingly.

## **SUPREME COURT**

Open lectures in the Courtroom are typically given every hour on the half-hour, on days that the Court is not sitting, beginning at 9:30am and concluding at 3:30pm. To obtain updated information on visiting the Court, including any schedule changes, please call (202) 479-3211 during the week of your planned visit.

Please note that as of May 2010, the front doors of the Supreme Court are no longer accessible to visitors. Please enter through the Northwest or Southwest doors located just to the sides of the stairs to the main entrance. The Supreme Court is located across from the Capitol, just four blocks south of Union Station on the Red Line, or two blocks north of the Capitol South Station on the Orange/Blue Lines.

If you are interested in observing oral argument, you can find out information about upcoming argument days at <http://www.supremecourt.gov/default.aspx>. To find out what cases are on the Court's Docket for oral argument, click on the argument days that are highlighted in red. The list of cases will appear below the calendar. All oral arguments are open to the public, but seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-seated basis. Before a session begins, visitors who would like to attend oral argument form a line on the plaza in front of the building. At approximately 9:30 a.m., police officers will begin to seat those who wish to attend an entire argument. Shortly thereafter, police officers will also begin a "three-minute line," which provides visitors the option to observe the Court in session for a brief period of time.

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

Located near 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW and accessible by Metro from the Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter Station on the Yellow/Green Lines. The National Archives Rotunda holds the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Constitution. The National Archives are open 10am - 7:00pm daily between March 15 and Labor Day, and 10am – 5:30 pm from the day after Labor Day until March 14 (**closed on Thanksgiving and December 25<sup>th</sup>**). Last admission is 30 minutes before closing. If you desire, you can make an advanced reservation through: [www.recreation.gov/tourParkDetail.doparkId=79052&contractCode=NRSO](http://www.recreation.gov/tourParkDetail.doparkId=79052&contractCode=NRSO).

Although advanced reservations are not required to visit the National Archives, they help visitors avoid the exterior portion of the public entry line to see the Charters of Freedom during the height of the tourist season (mid-March through Labor Day) and during holiday seasons such as the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. *The convenience fee for online reservations is \$1.50 per person and admission to all of the National Archives Experience exhibits is free.*

## **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, Thomas Jefferson Building**

Public Tours are available Monday through Saturday at 10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm (with no 3:30 tours on Saturdays). These free tours are open to individual visitors as well as groups of fewer than 16 participants, and require no reservations or tickets.

Enter the Library through the Jefferson Building entrance on 1st Street S.E., between Independence Avenue and East Capitol Street. Visit the ground-level Information Desk to receive a tour, or call 202-707-9779 for more information.

## **WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL**

Congressional tours can be arranged only on Monday and Wednesday at 9:00am. Guided public tours of the Cathedral are offered Monday – Friday, 10am - 11:15am and 12:45pm - 4pm; Saturday 10am – 11:15am and 12:45pm – 3:15pm; and Sunday 1:00pm - 2:30pm. The tours last approximately 30 minutes and are offered on an ongoing basis during the hours above. No reservations are needed for individuals, couples, or family-sized groups. The Cathedral asks for a donation of \$5 per person (\$15/family) for guided tours. Tours meet at the docent station at the west end of the nave, main level, just inside the main doors.

## **HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**

Located at 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW (directly next to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving). Open daily from 10:00am - 5:30pm. Timed passes are required in order to enter the Permanent Exhibition portion of the Museum from March until August. Passes are available on a first-come first-serve basis on the day of the tour. Please keep in mind that you will need at least two hours to view the museum. You may also call (800) 400-9373 or visit <https://tix.cnptix.com/tix/ushmm?eventid=21322> to reserve advance tickets for a small service fee.

## **ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**

Arlington National Cemetery is open to the public at 8:00am, 365 days a year. From April 1 to September 30, the cemetery closes at 7:00pm; the other six months it closes at 5:00 pm.

Ample paid parking is available to visitors, accessible from Memorial Drive. The cost is \$1.75/hour for the first three hours, and \$3.50/hour thereafter. During all hours the cemetery is open, it is regularly served by public transit via the Arlington Cemetery Station (Metro Blue Line). The cemetery is also a stop on most tour guides' itineraries, and is serviced by [Tourmobile](#), the popular tour buses that allow patrons unlimited re-boarding for a single daily rate.

## **FORD'S THEATRE and LINCOLN MUSEUM**

Located on 10<sup>th</sup> St between E and F Streets, NW. Free tickets are distributed the day of admission, with the Box Office opening at 8:30am. Advance reservations may be made

for a small charge by calling (202) 397-7328 or at <http://www.ticketmaster.com/Fords-Theatre-Tours-tickets/artist/1271957>. The site is open from 9 am until 5:00 pm (final entry into the theatre is 4:30 p.m) every day except Christmas Day. Tours at the theatre are self guided, but 30-minute historical talks are available throughout the day. Because Ford's Theatre also functions as an active stage with live performances, there are times when the theatre will be closed to the public. Matinees usually take place on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, although rehearsals can take place at any time of day. The closest metro stations are Metro Center (Orange/Blue/Red Lines) or Gallery Place-Chinatown (Red/Yellow/Green Lines).

## **GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON ESTATE & GARDENS**

Mount Vernon is located 16 miles south of Washington, D.C. and 8 miles south of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia at the southern terminus of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Parking is free and convenient. The street address is 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22309

Mount Vernon is open seven days a week, every day of the year, including holidays and Christmas. Mount Vernon welcomes visitors on the following schedule:

- April - August, 8:00am - 5:00pm.
- March, September, and October, 9:00am - 5:00pm.
- November - February, 9:00am - 4:00pm.

*The Historic Area of Mount Vernon is cleared one-half hour after closing. The Donald W. Reynolds Museum & Education Center is cleared one hour after closing.*

### **Admission Tickets to Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens**

- Adults - \$15.00
- Senior Citizens, age 62 and above (with identification) - \$14.00
- Youth ages 6 through 11 (accompanied by an adult) - \$7.00
- Children ages 5 and under (accompanied by an adult) – FREE
- Annual Pass (unlimited daytime admission for one year) - \$25.00
- Add a Youth to Annual Pass, each - \$10.00

## **SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS**

The Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C. are **open every day** of the year **except** December 25. Unless noted otherwise, museums are open from **10am - 5:30pm**. The Smithsonian Information Center, located in the Castle, is open 8:30am - 5:30pm. The Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture is open daily from 11:30am - 7pm. The Anacostia Community Museum is open 10am - 5pm daily. Summer hours are determined annually. Please visit <http://www.si.edu/> for more specific museum information.

## **VOICE OF AMERICA**

The Voice of America Studio Tour gives you an opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes look at live broadcasting in radio, television, and Internet. First coming on air in 1942, the Voice of America is a multimedia international broadcasting service operating under the independent federal agency, the Broadcasting Board of Governors. VOA broadcasts approximately 1,500 hours of news, information, educational, and cultural programming every week to an estimated worldwide audience of 125 million people.

Tours are available Monday through Friday, between 12:00pm and 3:00pm. Free reservations can be made online at <http://voatour.com/> or by calling (202) 203-4990. VOA studios are located at 330 Independence Ave, SW, just two and a half blocks west of the U.S. Capitol complex.

## **WASHINGTON MONUMENT**

Tickets can be reserved a number of ways. About 50% of reservations are made on the web or over the phone, for a small fee. Please visit [www.recreation.gov/tourParkDetail.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=77811](http://www.recreation.gov/tourParkDetail.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=77811) to reserve advance tickets, or call 1.877.444.6777 for individual tickets/1.877.559.6777 for group reservations. Free tickets are distributed for that day's visit from the kiosk on the Washington Monument grounds at 15th Street and Jefferson Drive on a first-come first-served basis. Hours for the ticket kiosk are 8:00am - 4:30pm, but tickets run out early. Hours for the Washington Monument are from 9:00am – 10:00pm from May 31 – September 6, and from 9:00am to 5:00pm during the rest of the year.

## **MEMORIALS**

The public may visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the FDR Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the WWII Memorial 24 hours a day. However Rangers are on duty to answer questions from 9:30am - 11:30 pm daily.