

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Washington, D.C. this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION

TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. "I suggest **layers**. Be prepared to add or subtract items of clothing to stay comfortable so you can enjoy all the wonderful sights in D.C."—TripAdvisor Member, Dallas, Texas
2. "Bring comfortable **walking shoes**."—TripAdvisor Member, Arlington, Va.
3. "Be prepared for lots of people and for waiting to go through museum security lines. Bring **games** to play during the wait."—TripAdvisor Member

Inside WASHINGTON, D.C.

The capital of the United States is also the nation's heart, full of iconic structures, historic neighborhoods, free museums and moving monuments, such as the Vietnam War Memorial. Washington is also the country's muscle, in the form of the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the Pentagon. And the city serves as the country's funny bone, with scandal tours, Duck tours and an international spy-gear tour.

Within the city limits, you'll find eclectic restaurants and hotels, amazing shopping, notable architecture and youthful energy in fashionable neighborhoods like Georgetown. Take in the frenetic pace of politics (as suit-clad citizens carrying briefcases dash about the city) and take a moment to find a quiet place to relax and reflect.

Washington is hot and humid in the summers, but the rest of the year is fairly mild: Cold but with little snow in the winters; falls and springs that are gentle transitions.

Top VIEWS



WASHINGTON, D.C.'S BEST VIEWS



At the **Old Post Office Pavilion**, a historic building with a clock tower that's open to the public, "we got the best view of D.C. ever!" —TripAdvisor Member, Columbus, Ohio

Old Post Office Pavilion, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 202 289 4225

The area around the **U.S. Marine Corps Memorial**—popularly known as the Iwo Jima Memorial—offers "nice views of the Potomac and monuments across the river." —TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, Arlington Boulevard and Meade Street, Arlington, Va.

"The **Washington Monument** is located at the 90-degree juncture of the National Mall and the White House ellipse. A perfect N-S-E-W orientation offers SPECTACULAR views of the city, the Potomac and surrounding countryside." —TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco

Washington Monument, 15th St. and Constitution Ave. N.W., 202 426 6841

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Korean War Veterans Memorial, Independence Avenue, National Mall, 202 426 6841
2. Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 888 639 7386
3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Off West Basin Drive
4. National Gallery of Art, National Mall at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W., 202 737 4215
5. Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave. N.E., 202 526 8300
6. Lincoln Memorial, 23rd Street N.W., 202 426 6841
7. Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues N.W., 202 537 6200
8. Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., 202 707 8000
9. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Between 21st & 22nd streets N.W., 202 426 6841
10. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Plaza S.W., 202 488 0400

FAMILIES



"There are plenty of hands on displays and video screens well suited to younger children at the **Air & Space Museum**. Our 6 and 8-year-old girls were running from exhibit to exhibit having a great time." —TripAdvisor Member, Fairfield, Conn.

National Air and Space Museum, Independence Ave at 6th Street, 202 633 1000

"On a nice day, take the kids to the **Sculpture Garden**. They will have fun playing around the entertaining art and dipping in the fountain. During the winter, the family can enjoy skating on the ice rink here." —TripAdvisor Member

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Independence Avenue S.W., 202 633 1000

Make a trip to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and try to meet Bo, the president's dog, at the **White House**. "We had a great time and learned a lot of history on our trip." —TripAdvisor Member, Fullerton, Calif.

White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., 202 456 1111

ROMANCE



"There is something about the **National Gallery of Art** that can just totally relax you and make you believe that there is nothing more important in this world than art." —TripAdvisor Member, Boise, Idaho

Sculpture Garden, National Gallery of Art, National Mall at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., 202 737 4215

The **U.S. National Arboretum** "is perhaps one of the most difficult attractions to find in D.C., however, it's worth the trip as it is also one of the most beautiful. Romanesque columns, water gardens, shark-sized koi, beautiful azaleas and the National Bonsai Collection are just a few things that can be found there." —TripAdvisor Member, College Station, Texas

U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave. N.E., 202 245 2726

Enjoy a waterfall view in **Great Falls National Park**: "The surrounding park provides lots of opportunities for picnicking." —TripAdvisor Member, Sandy, Utah

Great Falls National Park, 9200 Old Dominion Dr., McLean, Va., 703 285 2965

"It's worth the trip"

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

“Entrance to the **Smithsonian**, which comprises over 15 museums, is free. So you really can’t miss. You must visit the National Museum of the American Indian, Natural History Museum and American History Museum—heck, just visit them all. They’re great!”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

Smithsonian Institution, 1100 Jefferson Dr. S.W., 202 633 1000

“I absolutely loved sitting on the steps of the **Lincoln Memorial** just before dusk, looking back down the Mall towards the Washington Monument as the sun goes down and the monuments light up. It truly is magnificent!!”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

Lincoln Memorial, in Potomac Park directly west of the Mall, at 23rd St. N.W., between Constitution and Independence Aves., 202 426 6841

Toledo Lounge is the “coolest bar in D.C.! Home of the most friendly bartenders you’ll find anywhere in D.C. and a host of great regulars from the neighborhood. Fabulous juke box, great dive bar, reasonably priced drinks (unusual for the Adams Morgan neighborhood) and an eclectic mix of folks for people watching.”—TripAdvisor Member

Toledo Lounge, 2435 18th St. N.W., 202 986 5416



ADVENTURE

Don your hiking boots for adventures in **Tidal Basin**. “The tidal basin area is beautiful. I can only imagine how lovely it is when the cherry blossoms are in bloom.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Tidal Basin at Ohio Drive N.W.

Live vicariously through Pulitzer Prize winning photos at the **Newseum**. There are also “interactive newsrooms where you can get in front of a camera like a real reporter, as well as sections of the Berlin Wall and an East German lookout tower.”—TripAdvisor Member, Arlington, Va.

Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 888 639 7386

Need an adrenaline fix? Head to the **Potomac River** for kayaking, canoeing, motorbiking, biking and more.

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“My husband wanted to go to the **Library of Congress**. I was kinda like, ‘Yeah, whatever,’ but boy, was I surprised. The interior of this building will take your breath away. We saw the reading room from the balcony, and it made me want to cry, it was so pretty.”—TripAdvisor Member

Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., 202 707 8000

“If you’re at all interested in the documents that have shaped history, this is simply a fantastic place to visit. And, of course, the price is right too. (It’s free.) You can see the **Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence**,” plus “plenty of more recent documents, including personal correspondence from presidents.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lexington, Ky.

National Archives, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., 202 357 5000

“To think that I almost passed on the **Vietnam Memorial**. I thought it was just a black wall with names on it. How foolish was I to think that? The Vietnam Memorial was, by far, the most heartbreaking, enlightening memorial in all of Washington.”—TripAdvisor Member, Miami, Fla.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Across from the Lincoln Memorial, east of Henry Bacon Drive, between 21st and 22nd streets N.W., 202 426 6841

“I was kinda like, ‘Yeah, whatever,’ but boy, was I surprised.”

“I thought it was just a black wall with names on it. How foolish was I..”



RELAXATION

“Nestled on the banks of the Potomac river” is **East Potomac Golf Course**. “They have a par-3 9-hole, an executive 9-hole and a full 18-hole course.”—TripAdvisor Member, Arlington, Va.

East Potomac Golf Course, 972 Ohio Dr. S.W., 202 554 7660

This urban park serves also as an outdoor museum, host to Civil War forts, a cemetery and a 19th-century mill. “On weekends, the roads are closed to automobile traffic, making **Rock Creek Park** a good spot for biking or in-line skating.”—TripAdvisor Member, Phoenix, Arizona

Rock Creek Park, 5001 Military Road N.W., 202 895 6070

Relax at **Bliss**, located on the lower level of the W Hotel. “My treatment was amazing! On my way out, I contemplated booking a room just to deepen my relaxation!”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Bliss Spa, W Hotel, 515 15th St. N.W., 202 661 2400

What's the TOUR

How to Get Around



"The tour guides at **City Segway** are very knowledgeable. The Segways are easy to ride. You'll remember the experience forever!"—TripAdvisor Member, Bristol, Conn.

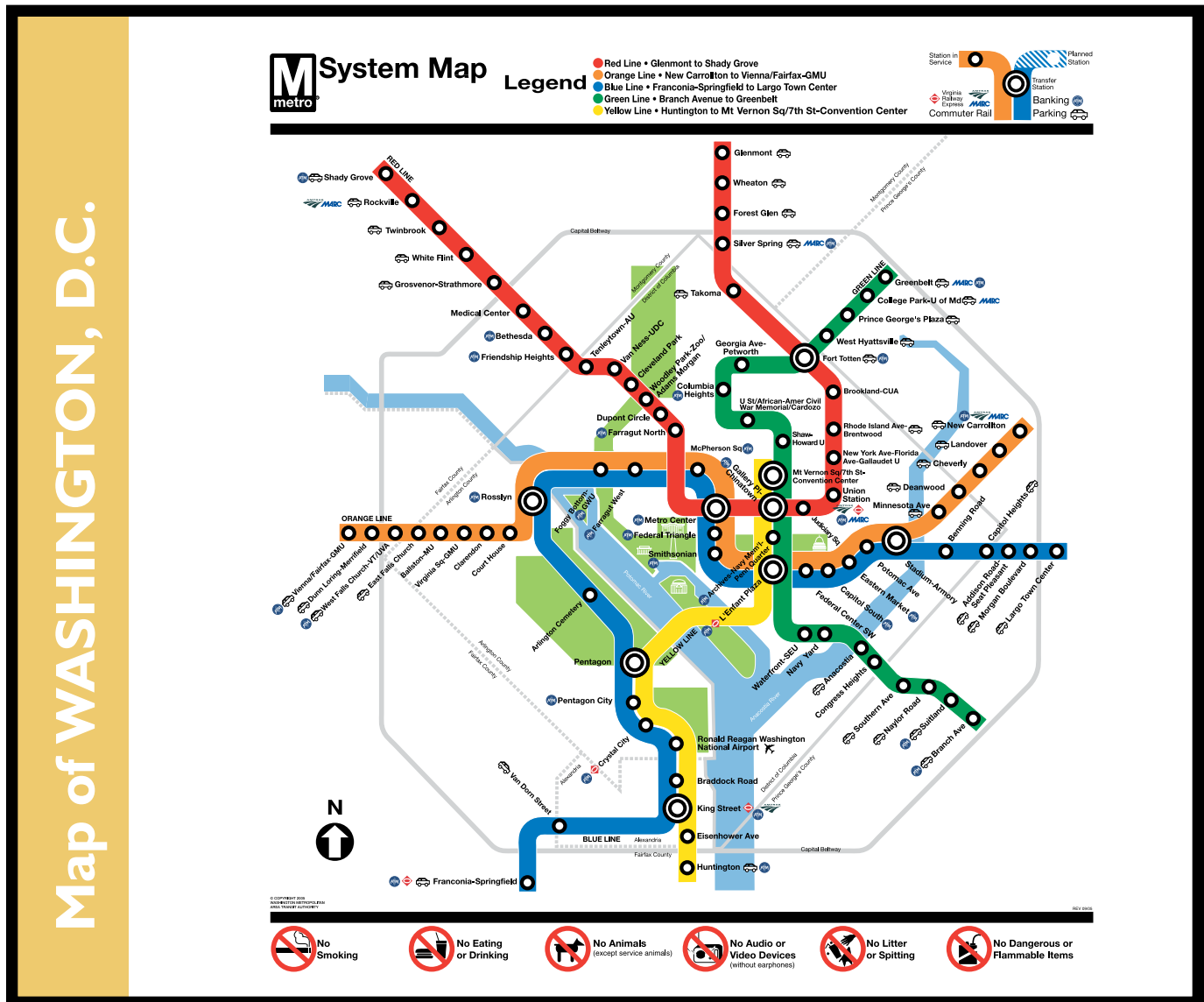
City Segway Tours of Washington, DC, 624 9th St., N.W., 202 626 0017

"The best way to get around Washington is the **DC Metro** (subway or underground). You can find a map of all the different lines at the WMATA web site."—TripAdvisor Member

DC Metro, 202 637 7000, <http://www.wmata.com>

"Just returned from D.C. and **Bike and Roll** was a highlight of the trip. It was a guided tour so you learned about the history and symbolism of the monuments and have a chance to go and view them while the guide stayed with the bikes."—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Bike and Roll Washington DC, The Old Post Office Pavilion, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 202 842 2453



WHERE to eat



FAMILIES

“**Jetties** is a true gem that even many residents don’t know about. Their sandwiches are as creative as they are delicious. The secret to their success is using top notch ingredients. When you order a sandwich that has turkey on it, it is carved from a turkey that they’ve cooked, not from deli meat.”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Jetties, 1609 Foxhall Road .N.W., 202 965 3663

“**Matchbox** has one of the best pizzas I have eaten and the family agrees! We all choose a different personal pie and not one of us was disappointed. The crab appetizer was fantastic. We went back twice we liked this place so much.”—TripAdvisor Member, New Jersey

Matchbox Pizza, 713 H St. N.W., 202 289 4441

Potbelly Sandwich Works is “a nice place for a quick, inexpensive dinner and cookies and ice cream for the kids. Yummy.”—TripAdvisor Member, West Virginia

Potbelly Sandwich Works, 4300 Connecticut N.W., 202 237 2892

Want more information on Washington, D.C.? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Washington, D.C. or any other destination you choose.

TOP 10 Restaurants

1. Seventh Hill Pizza, 327 7th Street S.E., 202 544 1911
2. Zaytinya, 701 Ninth St. N.W., Edison Place, 202 638 0800
3. Fogo de Chao, 1101 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 202 347 4668
4. Nando's Peri Peri, 819 7th Street N.W., 202 898 1225
5. Blue Duck Tavern, Park Hyatt Washington, 24th & M Streets N.W., 202 789 1234
6. Old Ebbitt Grill, 675 15th Street N.W., 202 347 4800
7. ICI Urban Bistro, 806 15th Street N.W., Sofitel Lafayette Square, 202 730 8800
8. Rasika, 633 D St. N.W., 202 637 1222
9. Cava Mezze, 527 8th St. S.E., 202 543 9090
10. BlackSalt, 4883 MacArthur Blvd., 202 342 9101

ROMANCE

At “foodie Heaven” **Marcel’s**, “we were impressed with the versatility of the kitchen accommodating fresh ingredients and expressing its excitement about cooking. Well done, Marcel’s. We will be back.”—TripAdvisor Member, Virginia

Marcel’s, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave., 202 296 1166

Desserts at The **Tabard** “are outstanding. We came back after dinner out almost every night to have wine and dessert in the lounge, in front of a real wood fire with a small jazz group playing in the corner.”—TripAdvisor Member, Charlotte, N.C.

Tabard Inn Restaurant, 1739 N St. N.W., 202 331 8528

“**1789 Restaurant** is a Georgetown classic and we had an all around beautiful dinner there. The place is very distinguished and the food was of the highest quality from start to finish.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

1789 Restaurant, 1226 36th Street, N.W., 202 965 1789

BUDGET

Located “in trendy Adams-Morgan, **Amsterdam Falafel** hands you a pita generous stuffed with falafel balls, and then you load it up with a vast selection of delicious fresh fixings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lugano, Switzerland

Amsterdam Falafel Shop, 2425 18th St. N.W., 202 234 1969

“If you want fresh food, quick service and great value, follow the locals to the **Bread Line**. The menu features sandwiches, soup, pizza and salad specials as well as a variety of breads, cookies and their ‘signature water.’”—TripAdvisor Member, Phoenix, Ariz.

Bread Line, 1751 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 202 822 8900

Ben’s Chili Bowl “is truly a place not to be missed! One of the best Washington landmarks, it is a great spot for the locals. Ben’s serves up some of the best chili around.”—TripAdvisor Member, Woodbridge, Va.

Ben’s Chili Bowl, 1213 U St. N.W., 202 667 0909

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“**Harmony Cafe** is a heaven for vegetarians. Try the Vegetarian Sesame Chicken or the Vegetarian Mongolian Beef! My meat-eating friends also agree that this is the best Chinese food in Georgetown.”

—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Harmony Cafe, 3287 1/2 M St. N.W., 202 338 3881

“Heaven for vegetarians.”

“Go, go, go to the tasting menu that **Café Atlántico** offers on Saturday/Sunday afternoons. They even have a veg one!”

—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Café Atlántico, 405 8th St. N.W., 202 393 0812

“We were amazed at the selection of salads at **Chop’t**, as well as the variety of toppings, including the create-your-own. Every ingredient was fresh. The portions were large, and their menu indicated which items contained gluten, which was a big plus for me.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cleveland, Ohio

Chop’t, 730 7th Street N.W., 202 347 3225

HIDDEN GEMS

Serving French food, **Bistrot Lepic** is “a wonderful find! The food here is prepared with a creative flair and provides an extraordinary combination of flavors. The wine selection is carefully chosen and reasonably priced.”—TripAdvisor Member, York, Pa.

Bistrot Lepic, 1736 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., 202 333 0111

“The menu at **Kotobuki** is small but well-composed, striking a balance of traditional hot dishes like kamameshi and unadon, and a smallish, classical sushi selection that relies on freshness and good cuts of the fish. My highlights were the scallop and toro nigiri, which shared a fresh, fatty, pure quality that ‘melting in your mouth’ seems too pedestrian to capture.”—TripAdvisor Member

Kotobuki, 4822 MacArthur Blvd. N.W., 202 281 6679

“Hot chefs, decor, and restaurants come and go. **Old Europe** sticks with classic German food. This is the food your grandmother made (if you were lucky). And like eating at your grandmother’s house, you will leave with a full tummy. Try the Jaegerschnitzel, have a beer, and leave room for the apple strudel.”—TripAdvisor Member, Virginia

Old Europe Restaurant, 2434 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., 202 333 7600

SPECIAL EVENTS



Vampires, werewolves, and chimpanzees, oh my! Children from two to twelve are invited to put on their best monster makeup and head to **Boo at the Zoo**, three days of early evening trick or treating, with wild animals and candy galore. For the grown-ups, **Night of the Living Zoo** allows nocturnal beasts to mingle in the moonlight with fire-eaters, rock bands, and magicians. Spooktacular! (October 21 – 23)

Boo at the Zoo, Night of the Living Zoo, National Zoo, 3001 Connecticut Ave. N.W., <http://nationalzoo.si.edu>

Join the White House in a celebration of the season during the annual **National Christmas Tree Lighting**. Free nightly concerts, speedy model trains and a message of peace from the President complete the celebration. (December – January 1)

Pageant of Peace and National Christmas Tree Lighting, The Ellipse (President’s Park), 1100 Ohio Drive S.W., <http://www.thenationaltree.org>

Celebrate **Chinese New Year** with flare when Chinatown comes alive with drummers, lion and dragon dancers, live music and fireworks. (January 23)

Chinese New Year, Chinatown, 6th and H Streets NW

Cheer on the procession of musicians, floats, fire fighters, marchers and perhaps a leprechaun or two at the **St. Patrick’s Day Parade**. (March 11)
St Patrick’s Day, Constitution Ave. between 7th and 17th Streets NW, <http://www.dcstpatparade.com>

Renewable energy sources, vanishing wildlife habitats and the future of farming are just some of the subjects on display at the **20th Annual Environmental Film Festival**. (March 13 – 25)
20th Annual Environmental Film Festival, Various venues, 202 342 2564, <http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org>

Go fly a kite at the **Cherry Blossom Kite Festival!** Enter your own creation into the kite building contests or wander the grounds, admiring creations from all over the world. The Hot Tricks Showdown and the Rokkaku Kite Battle will close the afternoon’s events. (April 10)

Cherry Blossom Kite Festival, Washington Monument, 202 633 3030, <http://kitefestival.org>

Watch the capitol bloom into life during the **National Cherry Blossom Festival**. Events include a parade on Constitution Ave., a Japanese street festival and more. (March 20 – April 27)

Cherry Blossom Festival, Various venues, <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

“Upon arrival at the **Omni**, our girls each received a goodie bag with toys, a flashlight and a small plastic canteen. They brought the canteen poolside and were able to fill it for free with anything from soda, vitamin water or even smoothies. Happy kids!”—TripAdvisor Member, Portsmouth, N.H.

Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. N.W., 202 234 0700

“The **Hampton Inn** is a lovely hotel in a good location. The rooms were really nice with big beds and lovely bathrooms and it’s only a short distance from Union station, the Mall and nearby shops and restaurants.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

Hampton Inn Washington, DC-Convention Center, 901 6th Street N.W., 202 842 2500

Three blocks from Georgetown, **Embassy Suites** is an all-suite atrium hotel. “Manager’s Happy Hour was a great way to relax at the end of a busy day. Films were shown for the children, plus popcorn and soft drinks.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Embassy Suites Hotel Washington D.C., 1250 22nd St. N.W., 202 857 3388

“You feel like a guest of the White House!”



Have questions about Washington, D.C.? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

Willard InterContinental is “a marvelous hotel, one of the best I’ve ever stayed at. The staff was wonderful and helpful. And what a location! You feel like you are a guest of the White House, which is right next door!”—TripAdvisor Member, Trieste, Italy

Willard InterContinental Washington, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., 202 628 9100

“The **Rouge** was outstanding, more than we could have dreamed of. The room was huge, the bed and linens were luxurious, and the ‘extras’ made this hotel a destination, instead of just a way station while you visited the city.”—TripAdvisor Member, Texas

The Rouge, 1315 16th St. N.W., 202 232 8000

“What an amazing visit at the **Palomar**. Our room was huge, quiet and very romantic. The beds were so comfortable and the two-person tub was great. The robes were leopard and tiger prints—so unusual and so cozy!”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Hotel Palomar Washington DC, 2121 P St. N.W., 202 448 1800

“I wish we could have stayed for a week.”

BUDGET

At **Adam’s Inn**, “the ‘small touches,’ such as tissues and flowers in the rooms, art on the walls and knickknacks everywhere, had been attended to. It really felt like you were a guest in someone’s home.”—TripAdvisor Member, Christchurch, New Zealand

Adam’s Inn, 1744 Lanier Place N.W., 202 745 3600

Chester Arthur House “could not have been better! What an amazing place! Historical, luxurious, close to all the tourist sites and very affordable. Cannot be beat by any hotel. I wish we could have stayed for a week.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Chester Arthur House, 13th and P Street, 202 328 3510

The **William Lewis House** is “a charming place—an absolute beauty, decorated with antiques of excellent taste. You feel like you’re living at the end of the 19th century, but with the comforts of the 21st.”—TripAdvisor Member, Madrid, Spain

William Lewis House, 1309 R St. N.W., 202 462 7574

LUXURY

Discover “sophisticated l’art de vivre” at **Sofitel**, where rooms are “spacious, super clean and lovely, with the signature marble bathroom.” The staff is “warm, polite, sincere and service-oriented without being overbearing.”—TripAdvisor Member, France

Sofitel Washington DC, 806 15th St. N.W., 202 730 8800

“The experience of looking out your window and seeing the White House is truly one of a kind. Augment that with a lovely room with gorgeous ceiling work and comfortable, luxurious furnishings, and you have a great hotel experience at the **The Hay-Adams**.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

The Hay-Adams, 16th and H Streets N.W., One Lafayette Square, 202 638 6600

“The overall vibe of the **Park Hyatt** was perfect for a couple seeking refuge from cookie-cutter business hotels: calm, elegant and welcoming. Turned out to be the perfect grown-up paradise!”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Park Hyatt Washington, 1201 24th & M streets, N.W., 202 789 1234

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

“Pamper yourself and stay at **The Intown Uptown Inn** next time you go to D.C. I guarantee that you’ll be glad you did. Sandy—the perfect hostess—pays attention to every little detail. Therefore, everything is perfect.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Intown Uptown Inn, 4907 14th St. N.W., 202 541 9400

“Inspiring, engaging, sensual, relaxing, Afrocentric, steeped in history, soothing, serene and wonderful are just a few words that I would use to describe **Akwaaba DC**.”—TripAdvisor Member, Maryland

Akwaaba DC, 1708 16th St. N.W., 202 328 3510

The “fabulous” **American Guest House** “deserves your attention. Rooms are great, beautiful and cozy. Caring atmosphere and nice surroundings complete the picture.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brazil

American Guest House, 2005 Columbia Road N.W., 703 769 4244

About **TRIPADVISOR**

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