

# PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MALL

## TIME OF DAY/YEAR TO SEE THE MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

### CROWDS

- The best time to avoid crowds is during the off-season in January and February.
- Most populated times are during April (cherry blossom season), July (Independence Day), and August (when kids are out of school).



### WEATHER

- Consider museums when it's intemperate outside, but monuments when more temperate.
- In the summer, it's cooler (better) outside in the morning and later at the end of day or evening.
- In winter, the outside is warmer (more temperate) at midday when the sun is out.

### INTERESTS

- Remember that museums are open only in the daytime, but the memorials are available 24 hours.
- One strategy is to see the museums in the day, and memorials at night.
- Most memorials are lit up at night! (keep in mind some quotations may be harder to read at night)



### HERE ARE SOME SPECIFIC TIMES AND DAYS TO CONSIDER:

#### Early Morning

- A great time to see the memorials because they're less crowded and the light is good for photography.

#### Late Evening

- The memorials are also beautiful at night when they're lit up. This is a great time to come if you want to avoid the crowds and enjoy a more peaceful experience.

#### Weekdays

- The memorials are generally less crowded on weekdays than on weekends or holidays.

#### Off-season

- The off-season is the good time to avoid crowds with the possibility of getting a more peaceful experience.



# HOW TO SEE THE CAPITOL WITH PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT USING YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE

## DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE PROSPECT OF CONTACTING THEM.

- Senators and Representatives have staff whose job it is to give tours and keep constituents happy.
- They want to make sure you and your family have a good time!



## CONTACT THEIR OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT SCHEDULING A TOUR.

- Be sure to mention that you are a constituent, meaning you live and vote in the state or district your senator or representative represents.

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## THE STAFF MEMBER WILL LIKELY ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR INTERESTS.

- They will also need to know how many people are in your party and when you would like to schedule your tour.



## ONCE YOUR TOUR IS SCHEDULED, YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL

- Be sure to arrive on time for your tour and bring a valid ID.

Benefits of getting a tour from your senator or representative:

- You may get a more "insider" tour from staff familiar with the Capitol.
- You may many times "cut in line" before the regular tours.
- You may view the National Mall from the Speaker's Balcony.
- You may ride the "hidden" trams used by senators and representatives.





# MORE INFORMATION IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO VISIT THE NATIONAL MALL

## SEEING THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

- One of the most beautiful buildings (especially on the inside) on the National Mall.
- The largest library in the world, it houses a vast collection of books, manuscripts, and other materials, making it a treasure trove of knowledge.



## SEEING THE ROTUNDA AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

- Interior of the West Building is spectacularly beautiful.
- The building center is a circular rotunda with impressive colored marble columns and a domed ceiling.
- In the center of the rotunda is "Mercury" by Pompeo Coppin, and at times flowers and plants adorn it.

## NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY AND THE AMERICAN ART MUSEUM (COLOCATED TOGETHER) ARE OPEN LATE

- More viewing time! Both museums open late, until 7 pm.
- The National Portrait Gallery's definition of "portrait" is any representation of a human being.
- Presidential portraits are here!



## TOUR AT THE START OF YOUR TRIP

- Recommend taking your tour at the start of your trip so you and your family understand where things are.
- If you do a private tour at the start, you can use the clean and highly regarded "Circulator" for \$1 to get around later.

### BENEFITS OF TAKING A TOUR AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR VISIT:

- You'll get an overview of the National Mall and everything to see and do.
- You'll learn about the history of the Mall and an understanding of the memorials and museums.
- You'll get tips on the best way to get around.
- You'll have a knowledgeable guide who can answer your questions.