



DC **THE INSIDERS GUIDE**

Whether you're a history buff, an avid foodie or a keen adventurer, Washington, DC has it all.

From iconic monuments to vibrant festivals, endless entertainment and an enthusiastic sporting culture, DC is a diverse destination that has something to offer a variety of travellers.

Showcasing some of the best places to eat, sleep, play and explore, the guide takes agents on a journey through the beating heart of America. Covering everything from historic monuments to nightlife, entertainment, sports, culture and festivals, the 8-page curated guide has been designed especially for agents to help them create the ultimate DC getaway!

www.exciteholidays.com

FIND OUT MORE

ENTERTAINMENT & NIGHTLIFE

i ABOUT

With a bustling bar, club, music and culinary scene, Washington, DC is the place to be when the sun goes down. No matter if you're a foodie, a huge comedy fan, a music lover or just prefer to sit back and enjoy the sights with a cocktail in hand, the nation's capital has you covered.

Dine at BLT Steak, one of Barack Obama's favourites; laugh 'til you cry at DC Improv Comedy Club; enjoy a toe-tapping good time at The Howard Theatre, or enjoy a taste bud tingling meal at Rose's Luxury, the eatery everyone's buzzing about.

From day to night, DC is a melting pot of unique experiences and unforgettable entertainment, and is a must-see destination that offers something for every type of traveller and every type of trip!

📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

The Next Whiskey Bar at the Watergate Hotel

With walls filled top to bottom with 2,500 illuminated whiskey bottles, the fully stocked bar at this iconic hotel features a fine selection of bourbons and scotches.

DC Improv Comedy Club

DC's number one comedy destination, guests can watch some of the world's best comedians and even learn the art of improv, stand-up, and the written word.

POV at W Washington DC

The place to be seen, this iconic rooftop lounge features a dance floor and offers incredible views of the White House and Washington Monument.

The Howard Theatre

Watch local acts and international stars take to the stage inside this restored theatre, and see where legends Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin performed.

Blues Alley

America's oldest jazz supper club, the all-ages venue plays host to a variety of talented musicians nightly, and serves authentic Creole cuisine.

🍴 WHERE TO EAT

BLT Steak

Boasts top-notch steaks, an award-winning wine list and taste bud-tingling seasonal desserts.

Spoken English

Located inside the Line Hotel, this unique standing-room only eatery serves a variety of dishes.

Rose's Luxury

One of DC's most talked about restaurants - you can't make a reservation, so get in line early!

🏨 WHERE TO STAY

Kimpton Mason & Rook Hotel

1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest, 20005 Washington

★★★★★

Located in the heart of Washington, DC, this chic hotel boasts an on-site restaurant, 24-hour fitness centre, rooftop bar and pool, and stylish guest rooms complete with yoga mats and luxury amenities. Custom bikes are also available to ride around town!

FAMILY-FRIENDLY TIP

For something completely unique, treat the kids to a sleepover at the American History Museum, the Natural History Museum, the National Archives, Smithsonian's National Zoo or even the International Spy Museum. Each offers a fun yet educational stay, and let's face it, it's the only time the kiddies will be excited for bedtime!



SPORTS & OUTDOORS

i ABOUT

Action is the name of the game in Washington, DC! Whether you enjoy spectating or getting amongst it, DC has something to suit all travellers.

Head to Nationals Park and catch a live baseball game, jump on a bike, kayak or boat and discover the city at your own pace, or for something a little more low-key, explore the natural beauty of Rock Creek Park. For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, grab tickets to the Citi Open and see some of the world's best tennis stars battle it out on centre court.

When it comes to eating out, make a beeline for Declaration and indulge in some pre-game pizzas and carefully crafted cocktails. For those not able to make it to the game, pull up a chair at the Ventnor Sports Cafe and enjoy some quality pub classics!

📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Nationals Park

Watch a Washington Nationals Major League Baseball game during spring and summer, or treat the kids to a park tour between April and November.

Boat Tours

See DC differently and choose from a variety of tour options, including fun and affordable sightseeing tours, catered cruises and private boat charters.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Open 364 days a year, the zoo is home to 2,000 animals from 400 different species. Entry is free, making this popular attraction a must for families.

Rock Creek Park

Explore the 1,800 acres on horseback, hike the park's trails, or pack a picnic and enjoy the scenery - this urban oasis is a must for everyone!

Citi Open

A DC summer sporting tradition, grab tickets to the week-long tournament and see some of the world's top tennis stars take centre court.

🍴 WHERE TO EAT

Declaration Nats Park

Serving artisanal pizzas, this Navy Yard eatery is the perfect spot for a pre-game bite to eat.

Ventnor Sports Cafe

This Adams Morgan sports bar focuses on quality pub grub - the breakfast burger is a must!

Ice Cream Jubilee

Serves a mix of delicious ice cream flavours made from all-natural cream & milk.

🏨 WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Hive

2224 F Street Northwest, 20037 Washington D.C

★★★★★

Washington, DC's first micro hotel, each room features monochromatic furnishings, plus air conditioning, a flat-screen TV and a private bathroom with a shower. The White House, the Lincoln Memorial are also in easy walking distance.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY TIP

An urban oasis in the middle of DC, the U.S. National Arboretum is a great place to visit any time of the year. Spread across 446 acres, entry is free and the kids will love running around the National Capitol Columns, exploring the Washington Youth Garden, the Azalea Garden or even The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.



FESTIVALS & EVENTS

i ABOUT

From summer to autumn, winter and spring, Washington, DC is bursting at the seams with a variety of festivals and events that will get your toes tapping, your taste buds tingling and the kids squealing with excitement.

Meet celebrity chefs and taste some of the best BBQ in the USA at the National Capital BBQ Battle; enjoy a toe-tapping good time at the DC Jazz Festival; visit the picturesque National Cherry Blossom Festival with the kids, or eat the night away at Truckeroo, where DC's best food trucks congregate and battle it out for the biggest lines.

No matter what time of year you visit or who you're travelling with, DC offers an endless array of festivals and events that are sure to tick all the boxes!

Ψ WHERE TO EAT

Union Market

A foodie's dream, Buffalo & Bergen, Red Apron Butchery and Masseria are a must!

Truckeroo

Held each month at The Bullpen, it features DC's top food trucks, live music, games and more.

Eastern Market

A mix between a farmers market and food court, be sure to try Migue's Magnificent Mini Donuts!

📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

National Cherry Blossom Festival

A magical four-week long celebration that includes events, parades, performances, and over 3000 breathtaking cherry blossom trees.

H Street Festival

11-blocks long, this must-see festival is one of DC's most popular, and features a fashion show, dance performances, art exhibits and much more.

DC Jazz Festival

An annual festival that mixes heritage, history, culture and music, and showcases a selection of some of the jazz world's most acclaimed and emerging artists.

National Capital Barbecue Battle

Meet celebrity chefs and cookbook authors, and listen to live music whilst chowing down on meats meticulously prepared by the USA's best pitmasters.

Library of Congress National Book Festival

A free event where visitors can listen to discussions with leading authors, shop for books and go behind-the-scenes of the world's largest library.

🏠 WHERE TO STAY

InterContinental Washington D.C. - The Wharf

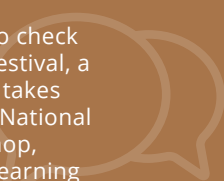
801 Wharf Street, Southwest, 20024 Washington, DC

★★★★★

This chic hotel features a variety of restaurants, bars and retail stores, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness centre and rooftop pool with views of the DC skyline. Each guest room includes a Nespresso Machine and a 50-inch Smart TV.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY TIP

The kids will love the chance to check out the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, a free family-friendly event that takes place each summer along the National Mall. Visitors can eat, drink, shop, create and explore, all whilst learning about and celebrating different cultures from around the world.





ARTS & CULTURE

i ABOUT

Whilst DC is most well known for its iconic monuments, memorials and museums, there is far more to this intriguing city than first meets the eye! With street art, murals and graffiti splashed throughout the city, the capital's vibrant colour palette and rich cultural tapestry extends way beyond the galleries and museums.

Immerse yourself in the city's art scene with a wander down Blagden Alley, which is home to a mixture of eclectic boutiques, trendy cafes and colourful works of art, with the hidden laneway offering a glimpse into the city's unique personality. For art and theatre lovers interested in an experience like no other, Dupont Underground is a must. Hosting live performances, gigs and exhibitions in a converted trolley tunnel, it's a one-of-a-kind must-see space.

📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Renwick Gallery

Built in 1972 to showcase America's budding craft movement, this grand museum now houses over 2,000 unique artifacts and exhibits.

International Spy Museum

From lipstick pistols to invisible-ink letters and interactive top-secret missions, experience the undercover life of an international spy.

John F. Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts

Hosting over 3,000 world-class dance, music and theatre performances each year, this cultural institution is a hive of non-stop entertainment.

Blind Whino

Adorned in vibrant murals, this abandoned church-turned-art-space is a true hidden gem, hosting theatre, music and art exhibitions for all ages.

Drum Circle at Meridian Hill Park

Spend a Sunday afternoon dancing, drumming or simply spectating in celebration of the city's spirit and close-knit community.

🍴 WHERE TO EAT

Ben's Chili Bowl

With a colourful graffiti-covered facade, this local institution dishes up famous spicy chili.

Dacha Beer Garden

Home to an iconic mural, this outdoor beer garden serves Belgian and German craft beers.

Busboys and Poets

An art space and cafe serving organic and vegan meals alongside weekly open-mic nights.

🏨 WHERE TO STAY

Grand Hyatt Washington

1000 H Street Nw, 20001 Washington, DC

★★★★★

Located in the heart of DC's downtown district, this sophisticated hotel boasts spacious rooms, and a signature restaurant, as well as a luxury spa. Direct subway access makes it the ultimate place to stay for comfort and convenience.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY TIP

Offering year-round activities, Glen Echo Park has something to delight all ages. Whether it be watching a fairytale puppet show or theatre production, getting crafty at a workshop, grooving at an all-ages dance lesson or attending one of the many special events, there's always something exciting happening!



HISTORY & MONUMENTS

i ABOUT

Home to some of the most iconic monuments, memorials and museums, Washington, DC is a city with a very intriguing past, and is the ultimate destination for history buffs and sightseers alike. From the awe-inspiring Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, to the powerful Vietnam Veterans Memorial, DC is the perfect place for the whole family to explore.

Visit the National Mall before making your way across to the sprawling grounds of the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the U.S Capitol Building and of course, the iconic White House. When it comes to grabbing a bite to eat, you can't go past Martin's Tavern, a local landmark famously frequented by JFK - you can even dine in the very same booth that he once proposed to Jacqueline Bouvier in!

🍴 WHERE TO EAT

Old Ebbitt Grill

Once favoured by President Roosevelt, this iconic saloon is a staple for modern Italian fare.

The Occidental Grill & Seafood

Known for its steak and seafood, this elegant, portrait-filled restaurant is a DC dining institution.

The Oval Room

Rub shoulders with the 'who's who' of Washington at this upscale Mediterranean restaurant.

📍 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Lincoln Memorial

The iconic Greek-style structure is a grand display of history and architecture, honouring the 16th president and marking the site of several historic moments.

White House

Arguably the most famous residence in history, the sprawling mansion is a treasure trove of historic artefacts from presidents past and present.

U.S. Capitol

Boasting 19th century neoclassical architecture, and the oldest botanical garden in the country, this impressive landmark is a must-see.

Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History

From Abraham Lincoln's top hat to the first artificial heart, each of the 1.8 million artifacts and objects housed here tell a story about America.

Ford's Theatre

The site of President Lincoln's assassination, this historic monument is also a working theatre, learning centre and world-class museum.

🏨 WHERE TO STAY

W Washington D.C.

515 15th Street Northwest, 20004 Washington, DC

★★★★★

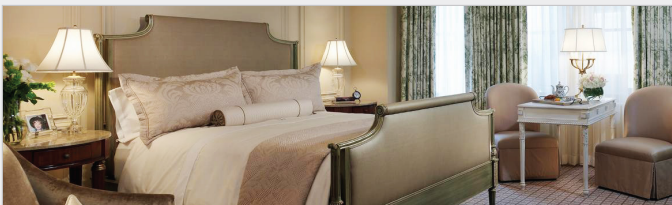
Fusing historical details and modern design, this beautifully restored hotel captures the best of DC's past and present. Boasting stylish suites, a gourmet restaurant and rooftop bar, the centrally located hotel is the perfect base.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY TIP

Break up the sightseeing with a trip to the National Museum of American History. Offering interactive activities for all ages, there's something to entertain the whole family. Little ones are invited to use their imagination at Wegmans Wonderplace, whilst kids aged 6-12 can become inventors at Spark!Lab.



ACCOMMODATION



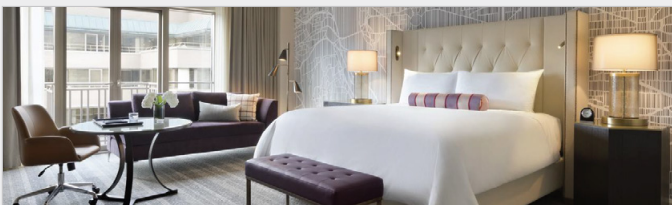
The Jefferson

★★★★★ 1200 16th St NW Washington, DC, 20036



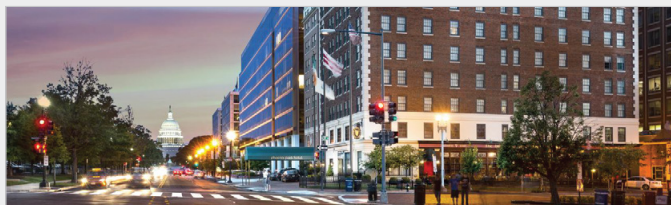
The Mayflower Hotel

★★★★★ 1127 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20036



Fairmont Washington D.C

★★★★★ 2401 M Street NW, Washington, DC, 20037



Phoenix Park

★★★★★ 520 North Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001



Kimpton Rouge Hotel

★★★★★ 1315 16th St NW, Washington, DC, 20036



The Dupont Circle Hotel

★★★★★ 1500 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20036





ACTIVITIES



2-Day Grand Tour of Washington DC [✉](#)



Best of DC Including US Capitol [✉](#)



Guided Tour of Washington DC [✉](#)



Admission to Washington DC Newseum [✉](#)



Capitol Hill and DC Monuments
Tour by Electric Cart [✉](#)



Georgetown Foodie Tour and
Neighbourhood Walk [✉](#)