



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



terren in Virginia

2 Day Museums Tour

Washington DC, 2 Days

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Guide Description










AUTHOR NOTE: This trip is designed to pack your day full of some of DC's best and most memorable museums. Most of the trip can be done on foot in nice weather or easily via public transportation. In addition, this trip can easily be combined with the monuments and memorials trip to allow for a comprehensive visit of DC. Please note, a number of the restaurants and some of the museums require tickets, depending on the time of day and year of your visit. Please make sure to inquire about advanced ticketing at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the International Spy Museum, and Newseum prior to your arrival. Also, please note that while most museums in DC are free, not all of the museums on this list are free to the public and some, such as the Corcoran and the International Spy Museum, charge between \$5-20 for admission.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Washington DC

DAY NOTE: If it is a nice day, start off with a walk down to the National Mall from your hotel (about 12-15 blocks) stopping for coffee and breakfast along the way. Once you get to the Mall, begin with a tour of the Sculpture Gardens and the Hirshhorn, a museum focused on modern art. After you finish, walk north toward Chinatown (north on 7th street or get on the Yellow Line Metro) and to visit the International Spy Museum (for best results, make reservations in advance). Poste, for lunch, is just up the street from the Spy Museum. After lunch at Poste, head back down towards the Mall and spend the afternoon at the Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. Be sure, however, not to miss the Holocaust Memorial Museum. All three of these museums are located on or around the Mall, and can be done in any order. Once you have seen enough, head back north to the Chinatown area. If you are ready for dinner head straight to the wine-focused Proof (reservations required). Be sure not to miss the delicious cheese and charcuterie offerings. Alternatively, if you are not ready for dinner, stop by RFD or any number of the other bars located right around the Verizon center before heading to dinner.

	Renaissance Washington DC Hotel Large convention hotel
	Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden Modern Gallery with 19th- and 20th-century artworks
	International Spy Museum In Penn Quarter, a compelling look at the history of espionage.
	Poste Kobe beef steak tartare and more
	National Air and Space Museum High flying exploration fun with your feet on the ground
	National Gallery of Art The premier art museum in the Nation's Capital, the National Gallery houses an extensive art collection from the world's most famous artists
	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum This must-see museum provides a sobering exploration of the Holocaust, and a testimonial to its victims.









Proof

A wine-centric restaurant

Day 2 - Washington DC

DAY NOTE: Begin day 2 at the Museum of American History, again located on the mall. After that, head over to the beautiful Museum of the American Indian. This museum not only offers some of the most impressive museum architecture, but also it is home to one of the best museum cafeterias in DC. After you are done exploring the museum, visit the cafeteria before heading out for the afternoon. After lunch, head to the northeastern part of the mall, towards Pennsylvania avenue, and visit the newly relocated Newseum. Then follow Pennsylvania northwest toward the White House or hop in a taxi to visit the Corcoran Gallery, before heading back to Chinatown to visit one of the local's favorite museums, the Portrait Gallery. You will be right back in the neighborhood for dinner at Zola, in the same building as the International Spy Museum you visited yesterday (reservations recommended). After dinner, if you are feeling up for it, hop on the Red Line to DuPont Circle (exit at the DuPont North exit) and walk north on Connecticut Avenue about 2 blocks. On your left will be the Russia House, a great place for vodka or Russian beer. Alternatively, stay in Chinatown and explore any of the numerous bars in that area including Rocket Bar, Fado, and others, before calling it a night.

	National Museum of American History Two centuries of Americana
	National Museum of the American Indian Explore Native American history and culture at this museum on the Mall.
	Newseum This innovative museum shines a spotlight on newsmaking.
	Corcoran Gallery of Art Washington's first art museum boasts an impressive collection of works by established and up-and-coming artists.
	National Portrait Gallery In praise of famous Americans
	Zola A DC must visit

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife



Russia House Restaurant and Lounge (The)

This is more than a restaurant and bar - it's an experience. Sip vodka martinis and enjoy the buzzy, multicultural atmosphere.

Day 1 - Washington DC

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: If it is a nice day, start off with a walk down to the National Mall from your hotel (about 12-15 blocks) stopping for coffee and breakfast along the way. Once you get to the Mall, begin with a tour of the Sculpture Gardens and the Hirshhorn, a museum focused on modern art. After you finish, walk north toward Chinatown (north on 7th street or get on the Yellow Line Metro) and to visit the International Spy Museum (for best results, make reservations in advance). Poste, for lunch, is just up the street from the Spy Museum. After lunch at Poste, head back down towards the Mall and spend the afternoon at the Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. Be sure, however, not to miss the Holocaust Memorial Museum. All three of these museums are located on or around the Mall, and can be done in any order. Once you have seen enough, head back north to the Chinatown area. If you are ready for dinner head straight to the wine-focused Proof (reservations required). Be sure not to miss the delicious cheese and charcuterie offerings. Alternatively, if you are not ready for dinner, stop by RFD or any number of the other bars located right around the Verizon center before heading to dinner.

contact:

tel: +1 202 898 9000
fax: +1 202 289 0947
<http://www.tkqlhce.com/click-2005797-10406976>

location:

999 9th St Nw
Washington DC 20001

1 Renaissance Washington DC Hotel

DESCRIPTION: Near Chinatown and across from the Washington Convention Center, this modern hotel has all the conveniences for the business traveler. Government and business offices are not far away by taxi or Metro. For those who have some free time, the museums of the Smithsonian Institute are easily accessible. Stylish and plush rooms, well equipped meeting spaces and facilities like a heated swimming pool, fitness center, on-site restaurant and bar and much more is on offer here. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 202 633 1000 / +1 202 357 1729
fax: +1 202 786 2682
<http://www.hirshhorn.si.edu/>

location:

Independence Avenue and
7th Street South West
Washington DC 20576

hours:

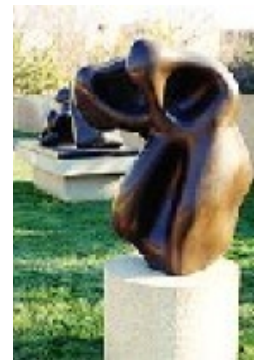
Museum: 10:30a, noon & 1p
M-F, noon, 1p & 2p Sa-Su

2 Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The Sculpture Garden provides a quiet refuge from the hustle of museum-going.

DESCRIPTION: The Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden invites everyone in to explore modern and contemporary art. Gordon Bunshaft designed the Hirshhorn building itself as a "functional sculpture." Elevated above manicured sculpture grounds, the four-story hollow cylinder encircles a 60-foot fountain visible from every interior window. Since each floor is a large ring, navigating the museum is very intuitive; you progress through the curved galleries and end up exactly where you began then proceed to the next floor. The Hirshhorn continuously seeks and acquires important works by current artists, hosts traveling exhibits, and features installations with the artists on hand for discussion. Meet at the information desk on Fridays at 12:30 pm for gallery talks by visiting curators, professors and artists. Thursdays offer a mix of contemporary films and meet-the-artist events in the Ring Auditorium. Every few months brings the Hirshhorn After Hours where art and nightlife come together with DJs, artists, cocktails and dancing. Check website or visit the information desk for current schedule. After Hours events are \$10 advance, \$12 at the door, but most other events are



free, including films. Guides are available at anytime for a 30-minute tour so ask at front desk. Forget about parking. L'Enfant Plaza is the closest Metro station (blue/gree/orange/red lines). This station is large and can be confusing – take the Maryland Ave & 7th St SW exit, follow 7th street away from the station to Independence Ave and you'll see the Hirshhorn. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: +1 202 393 7798 (+1 202 EYE SPY U)
<http://www.spymuseum.org>

location:

800 F St, NW
Washington DC 20073

hours:

M-Su 10a-6p

3 International Spy Museum

DESCRIPTION: James Bond wannabes will love this museum; it provides a fascinating look at the world of espionage and how it's affected our past and present. Check out artifacts and learn stories about spies from all over the globe as they perform their covert duties in various eras. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: 1 202 783 6060
fax: 1 202 783 4222
www.postebrasserie.com

location:

555 8th Street NW
Washington DC 20073

hours:

Breakfast: 7a-10a M-F,
Brunch: 9a-2p Sa-Su, Lunch:
11:30a-2:30p M-F, noon-4p
Sa-Su, Dinner: 5p-10p M-Th,
5p-10:30p F-Sa, 5p-9p Su,
Bar:11:30a onwards M-Su

4 Poste

DESCRIPTION: This lovely brasserie lies within one of Washington's coolest hotels, the Monaco. You find its separate entrance via an arched carriageway that leads to a stone-paved courtyard, where the restaurant sets up tables in warm weather. Inside, past a small bar-lounge, is the dining area, which includes an exhibition kitchen, banquettes, and a quieter back room. Poste chef Robert Weland has established himself well, settling into a pleasant culinary groove that wins praise from local critics and diners. Weland uses seasonal local ingredients to create modern American fare heavily influenced by traditional French cuisine. At lunch that means a croque-monsieur is made with Virginia ham and Gruyère on brioche; at dinner, your selections may include French onion soup, herbed fresh ricotta ravioli, red wine-braised rabbit, steak frites, and cassoulet. Desserts, too, blend French and American tastes; try the chocolate pot de crème (custard), which lists chili (!) as an ingredient. A wine list of 100 California and French bottles offers nearly 30 wines by the glass. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +1 202 633 1000
<http://www.nasm.si.edu/museum/>

location:

6th Street and Independence
Avenue Southwest
Washington DC 20576

hours:

Daily 10a-5:30p

5 National Air and Space Museum

DESCRIPTION: Located on the National Mall a few blocks from the Capitol Building, the National Air and Space Museum appeals to all ages. See the Wright 1903 Flyer, the Apollo 11 command module Columbia, and a lunar rock sample which visitors can touch. Children delight in the many hands-on demonstrations while IMAX Theater presentations and flight simulators engage the whole family. Fascinated with space? Explore the universe at the Albert Einstein Planetarium! Whether you visit for one hour or five, the large solarium-style food court makes this a convenient mid-day museum stop. Free admission. There is no museum parking, but public lots are within a few blocks (rates vary). Metro stations nearby: L'Enfant



Plaza (blue/orange and yellow/green lines) and Smithsonian (blue/orange lines). © NileGuide

contact:

tel: +1 202 737 4215
fax: +1 202 842 6948
<http://www.nga.gov/>

location:

Constitution Avenue
Northwest
Washington DC 20565

hours:

M-Sa 10a-5p, Su 11a-6p

6 National Gallery of Art

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The National Gallery's two gift shops are ideal for finding unique mementos, books, jewelry, and toys.

DESCRIPTION: The National Gallery of Art guides Washingtonians and visitors through the world of art all day, every day (except Christmas and New Year's Day). The National Gallery consists of the West Building (opened in 1941), the East Building (1978) and the 6.1-acre Sculpture Garden adjacent to the West Building (1999). Don't be daunted by the size, the National Gallery has prepared "Highlights" guides for half-hour and one-hour visits. Scores of guided tours are scheduled throughout each day (too many to list here), gallery talks and lectures are held throughout the month. Free Sunday concerts take place in the West Building, usually starting at 6:30 but check ahead. The East Building Auditorium hosts original format film screenings every Saturday and Sunday (plus a few weekdays) free of charge (first come first served) with doors opening thirty minutes before each show. To the delight of locals and visitors, the Sculpture Garden ice rink is open mid-November through mid-March! It's about the only activity that is not free, but at \$7 for adults and \$6 for seniors, students and kids (skate rental \$3), it's a lot of fun for a little money. Aside from all this, visitors can still walk in off the street and look at art the old fashioned way, by wandering through the galleries at leisure. Located on the National Mall, forget about parking. The Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter (Green/Yellow lines) Metrorail station is only a block away. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +1 202 488 0400 / +1 202 488 0406
<http://www.ushmm.org/>

location:

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place
SW
Washington DC 20250

hours:

Daily 10a-5:30p

7 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

This powerful, emotionally intense memorial should not be missed.

DESCRIPTION: Twenty-five million people from 100 different countries have visited this museum since it opened in 1993, and the museum continues to be a top draw. In the busiest months, April through July, if you arrive without a reserved ticket specifying an admission time, you'll have to wait in line to get one of the 2,000 day-of-sale tickets the museum makes available each day. Before you visit the museum, you might want to access its website, www.ushmm.org, and download copies of the Visitors Guide and the Permanent Exhibition Guide. These are also available at the museum, of course. As you enter the museum, you may find the noise and bustle of so many visitors disconcerting, or at odds with the experience you expect is coming. But things settle down as you start the tour. When you enter, you will be issued an identity card of an actual victim of the Holocaust; at several points in the tour, you can find out the location and status of the person on your



card -- by 1945, 66% of those whose lives are documented on these cards were dead. From its collection of more than 12,435 artifacts, the museum has organized some 900 items and 70 video monitors to reveal the Jewish experience in three parts: Nazi Assault, Final Solution, and Last Chapter. The tour begins on the fourth floor, where exhibits portray the events of 1933 to 1939, the years of the Nazi rise to power. On the third floor (documenting 1940-44), exhibits illustrate the narrowing choices of people caught up in the Nazi machine. You board a Polish freight car of the type used to transport Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka and hear recordings of survivors telling what life in the camps was like. The second floor recounts a more heartening story: It depicts how non-Jews throughout Europe, by exercising individual action and responsibility, saved Jews at great personal risk. Denmark -- led by a king who swore that if any of his subjects wore a yellow star, so would he -- managed to hide and save 90% of its Jews. Exhibits follow on the liberation of the camps, life in Displaced Persons camps, emigration to Israel and America, and the Nuremberg trials. At the end of the permanent exhibition is a most compelling and heartbreaking hour-long film called Testimony, in which Holocaust survivors tell their stories. The tour concludes in the hexagonal Hall of Remembrance, where you can meditate and light a candle for the victims. The museum notes that most people take 2 to 3 hours on their first visit; many people take longer. In addition to its permanent and temporary exhibitions, the museum has a Resource Center for educators, which provides materials and services to Holocaust educators and students; an interactive computer learning center; and a registry of Holocaust survivors, a library, and archives, which researchers may use to retrieve historical documents, photographs, oral histories, films, and videos. The museum recommends not bringing children 11 and under; for older children, it's advisable to prepare them for what they'll see. You can see some parts of the museum without tickets, including two special areas on the first floor and concourse: **Daniel's Story: Remember the Children** and the **Wall of Remembrance** (Children's Tile Wall), which commemorates the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust, and the **Wexner Learning Center**. There's a cafeteria and museum shop on the premises. **Holocaust Museum Touring Tips** -- Because so many people want to visit the museum (it has hosted as many as 10,000 visitors in a single day), tickets specifying a visit time (in 15-min. intervals) are required. Reserve as many as 40 tickets in advance via Tickets.com (tel. **800/400-9373**; www.tickets.com) for a small fee. If you order well in advance, you can have tickets mailed to you at home. You can also get as many as 20 same-day tickets (if available) at the museum beginning at 10am daily (lines form earlier, usually around 8am). © Frommer's

contact:
tel: 1 202 737 7663
www.proofdc.com

location:
775 G Street, NW

8 Proof

DESCRIPTION: Proof is a wine-centric restaurant featuring modern American cuisine. Expect a lengthy charcuterie board, huge cheese bar, fish and meats, root vegetables, and mushrooms. Ask your server for help with the large wine list. © NileGuide

Day 1 - continued...

Washington DC 30505

hours:

11a-11p Su-Th, 11a-midnight

F-Sa

Day 2 - Washington DC

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Begin day 2 at the Museum of American History, again located on the mall. After that, head over to the beautiful Museum of the American Indian. This museum not only offers some of the most impressive museum architecture, but also it is home to one of the best museum cafeterias in DC. After you are done exploring the museum, visit the cafeteria before heading out for the afternoon. After lunch, head to the northeastern part of the mall, towards Pennsylvania avenue, and visit the newly relocated Newseum. Then follow Pennsylvania northwest toward the White House or hop in a taxi to visit the Corcoran Gallery, before heading back to Chinatown to visit one of the local's favorite museums, the Portrait Gallery. You will be right back in the neighborhood for dinner at Zola, in the same building as the International Spy Museum you visited yesterday (reservations recommended). After dinner, if you are feeling up for it, hop on the Red Line to DuPont Circle (exit at the DuPont North exit) and walk north on Connecticut Avenue about 2 blocks. On your left will be the Russia House, a great place for vodka or Russian beer. Alternatively, stay in Chinatown and explore any of the numerous bars in that area including Rocket Bar, Fado, and others, before calling it a night.

contact:
tel: +1 202 633 1000
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/>

location:
14th Street and Constitution
Avenue North West
Washington DC 20560

hours:
Call for details

1 National Museum of American History

DESCRIPTION: This eclectic museum is sometimes referred to as "The Nation's Attic." It houses numerous memorabilia and artifacts collected throughout American history. The American Presidency section exhibits the many facets of the nation's highest office and the impact it has had in those who have held it. Another section contains objects that highlight the cultural history of the country including Mohammed Ali's boxing gloves and the inaugural ball gowns of many of the First Ladies. Exhibits on science and technology, military history and much more can be found on the three floors of this fascinating museum. Stop by the old-fashioned ice cream parlor before you leave. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: +1 202 633 1000
<http://www.nmai.si.edu>

location:
4th & Independence
Washington DC 20024

hours:
10a-5:30p

2 National Museum of the American Indian

DESCRIPTION: The National Museum of the American Indian officially opened on September 21, 2004, having taken 5 years and \$219 million to construct. Outside and in, this museum is strikingly handsome. Its burnt-sand-colored exterior of Kasota limestone wraps around the undulating walls of the museum, making the five-story building a standout among the many white-stone structures on the National Mall. Its interior design incorporates themes of nature and astronomy. For instance, the Potomac (a Piscataway word meaning "where the goods are brought in") is a rotunda that serves as the museum's main gathering place; it is also "the heart of the museum, the sun of its universe" (as noted in the museum's literature). Measuring 120 feet in diameter, with an atrium rising 120 feet to the top of the dome overhead, the Potomac is the central entryway into the museum, a venue for performances, and a hall filled with celestial references, from the equinoxes and solstices mapped on the floor beneath your feet to the sights of sky visible through the oculus in the dome above your head. A



gift shop, a theater, and the museum's excellent restaurant, Mitsitam, occupy most of the remaining space on the first floor. A second shop and the museum's main galleries lie upstairs on the second and third levels. Three permanent exhibits, "Our Universes: Traditional Knowledge Shapes Our World," "Our Peoples: Giving Voice to Our Histories," and "Our Lives: Contemporary Life and Identities," use videos, interactive technology, and displays of artifacts to help you learn about Native cosmologies, history, and contemporary cultural identity, both of Native Americans as a group and within certain individual tribes. An exhibit called "Window on the Collections: Many Hands, Many Voices" displays 3,500 objects behind glass; a computer kiosk in front of each case allows the museumgoer to zoom in and learn more about a particular item on view. These precious wood and stone carvings, masks, pottery, feather bonnets, and so on are a fraction of the 800,000 objets d'art amassed by a wealthy New Yorker named George Gustav Heye (1874-1957). Heye founded the New York Museum of the American Indian, this museum's predecessor. The National Museum of the American Indian does not provide much direction to self-guided touring, which tends to leave visitors at a loss as to how to proceed through the museum. Faced with the vast display of objects and with galleries that have no obvious beginning or end, tourists wander around, adopting a scattershot approach to the information, emerging eventually with more of an impression than with a coherent understanding of the Indian experience, and overwhelmed by the variety and number of artifacts and details. Perhaps that's intentional. Best advice? Stop at the Welcome Desk when you enter to sign up for a highlights tour. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +1 888 639 7386
<http://www.newseum.org/>

location:

555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20565

hours:

Call for details

3 Newseum

DESCRIPTION: Open since April 11, 2008, the Newseum is as much a fun house of participatory experiences and special-effects exhibits as it is a museum. In fact, the Newseum's tag line, "World's Most Interactive Museum," conveys its purpose in allowing the visitor to step into the picture: to play the reporter, TV journalist, researcher, or editor. The museum boasts 125 interactive game stations, 2 state-of-the-art broadcast studios, 14 galleries, and 15 theaters. At this particular time in history, with the business of journalism undergoing a world of change, the six-story Newseum manages to capture the magic of past, current, and future ways of covering the news. First, take a look at the exterior, best viewed from across Pennsylvania Avenue. Covering the left side of the facade is a 75-foot-high tablet inscribed with words from the First Amendment ("Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech or of the press . . ."). Through its glass front, one can see (though much better at night) the huge high-definition screen hanging inside the atrium, spinning news story images. When you cross the street to enter the museum, you walk by a display of the day's front pages electronically obtained from newspapers across the country and around the world. Once inside, staff direct you first to the orientation film on the lower level (personally, I'd say skip this), then to the glass elevators that shoot you to the sixth floor. The outdoor promenade on its own is worth the



price of admission, since it offers you a breathtaking view of Pennsylvania Avenue and the Capitol. Also take time to read the fascinating history of Pennsylvania Avenue and of the city, presented in an exhibit that runs the length of the terrace. Fifth-floor exhibits cover history. A display of "Great Books" presents 20 books and documents (originals, not copies) that are widely considered our "cornerstones of freedom." These include the 1475 printing of Thomas Aquinas's "Summa Theologica" and a 1215 edition of the Magna Carta. Next to the display is a touch screen; touch the image of the book you'd like to examine and the screen presents that book, allowing you to scroll through the first few pages. Nearby, the History Gallery showcases the Newseum's extensive collection of historic newspapers and magazines, tracing 500 years of news. Several theaters on this floor continuously play short documentaries in which esteemed journalists talk about ethics, sources, "getting it right," and other topics. On the fourth floor, the First Amendment Gallery explores the historical contexts of the five freedoms. The 9/11 Gallery displays items recovered at the World Trade Center, images and reporting from that day, and an 11-minute film featuring personal stories by journalists who covered the attacks. While at first glance it appears to be a modern sculpture, one artifact on display here is in fact a 360-foot piece of the antenna that had stood on top of the North Tower. On the third floor, check out the display of New Yorker cartoons joshing the news. In the World News Gallery, you can tune in to a current news broadcast from one of many countries (I listened briefly to a report from France on the Tour de France). The "Dateline: Danger" exhibit displays artifacts from hazardous missions that journalists have undertaken -- including the laptop computer used by Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl before he was killed and the bloodstained notebook of TIME magazine reporter Michael Weisskopf, who lost his hand in an explosion in Iraq. Following that exhibit is the Journalists Memorial, a sobering display of 1,843 names written in a glass tablet to mark the deaths of those journalists who have died in pursuit of the news between 1837 and 2007. Elsewhere on this floor are several studios used by news organizations -- including NPR and ABC -- to broadcast programs. Visitors can sit in the audience during broadcasts or take behind-the-scenes tours when the studios are not in use. A veritable playground for news junkies of all ages awaits on the second floor. An interactive newsroom with 48 kiosks allows you to test your skills as a photojournalist, editor, reporter, or anchor. An ethics center tests your sense of ethics. And, for a price (\$8.50), you can try your hand at news anchor, reading from a teleprompter as a staff person tapes you, then watching your performance on screen. The first floor's gallery of Pulitzer Prize photographs leaves one speechless. The gallery's database of interviews with some of the photographers, a documentary, and vignettes accompanying the photos offer fascinating context to the craft and to the stories behind the photographs. Last but not least, return to the concourse level to view the I-Witness, a 4-D film feature that makes you feel as if you're on the scene with legends Isaiah Thomas (radical printer, not basketball legend), Nellie Bly, and Edward R. Murrow. I'm not saying another word, except: Don't miss it. The Newseum's on-site restaurant, the

Source, is already a favorite of Washingtonians. The museum has several gift shops. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +1 202 639 1700
fax: +1 202 639 1785
<http://www.corcoran.org>

location:

500 17th St. NW
Washington DC 20240

hours:

10a-5p W-Su, until 9p Th

4 Corcoran Gallery of Art

DESCRIPTION: The first art museum in Washington, the Corcoran Gallery, founded by Washington philanthropist William Wilson Corcoran in 1869, focuses on American Art. The rotating main collection includes a variety of American art spanning from older pieces to modern works by Nevelson, Warhol, and Rothko. The building of the Corcoran is in itself impressive, and its convenient location between the White House, the National Mall, and many of the national monuments make it an easily accessible museum for locals and tourists alike. Also home to a school of art, the Corcoran Gallery is well-known for its wide variety of rotating exhibitions. For the most up to date information, see <http://www.corcoran.org/exhibitions/index.htm>. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +1 202 275 1738
fax: +1 202 275 1887
<http://www.npg.si.edu/>

location:

8th & F Sts NW
Washington DC 20560

hours:

Daily 10a-5:30p

5 National Portrait Gallery

DESCRIPTION: Famous and distinguished Americans are honored here in portraits, photographs and other visual media. A wide variety of politicians, artists, scientists and social activists are represented. This gallery is a remarkable testimony to the diverse figures the United States has produced, from Grace Kelly and Boris Karloff to George Washington, Mickey Mantle and Gertrude Stein. Photographs, prints, drawings and sculptures supplement the paintings. Of particular interest is the Hall of Presidents, which features a portrait or sculpture of each chief executive. Admission is free. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: 1 202 654 0999
fax: 1 202 654 0998
www.zoladc.com

location:

800 F Street NW
Washington DC 20073

hours:

Lunch: 11:30a-midnight M-F, Dinner: 5p-midnight Sa, 5p-10p Su

6 Zola

DESCRIPTION: Zola acquired a new chef in spring 2007. Bryan Moscatello is committed to continuing his predecessor's bent for "straight ahead American" cuisine, while adding his own creative twists. Not sure how that translates exactly, but count on deliciousness: a simple mushroom crepe or grilled lamb sandwich at lunch; delicately roasted sea scallops with creamy parsnip purée, and an artichoke-and-goat-cheese tart or lobster "mac and cheese" at dinner, with such sweets as lemon chiffon pudding with raspberries for dessert. Zola is a cleverly designed restaurant, trading on its location next to the International Spy Museum for a decor that includes red-velvet booths, backlit panels of coded KGB documents, and a center-pivoted swinging wall/door that's like something straight out of the TV show Get Smart. Zola, in its superb downtown location, has become a popular place for the young and single to hang.



citysearch

Servers are friendly. A \$30 pretheater menu, available nightly 5 to 7pm, offers great value. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: 1 202 234 9433
www.russiahouselounge.com

location:

1800 Connecticut Avenue,
NW
Washington DC 20009

hours:

Dinner: 5p-10p M-Th, 5p-11p
F, 6p-11p Sa, Lounge: 5p-
midnight M-Th, 5p-2a F, 6p-2a
Sa

7 Russia House Restaurant and Lounge (The)

DESCRIPTION: This Russian restaurant is located at the meeting point of Connecticut and Florida Avenues. The menu is essentially Russian with an ambience to match. The warm and cozy environment is perfect for socializing. The inter-continental menu, having Russian influences, includes an eclectic range of salads and Russian delicacies such as Beef Stroganoff. If you are a seafood fan, choose from the caviar selection - go ahead or gorge on the Salmon Kulebyaka. Pair your meal with a pick from the House Drinks. Don't forget to end your meal with one of the sumptuous desserts on offer. © wcities.com

Washington DC Snapshot

Local Info

Politics have helped to shape Washington, but they don't define it. It's the nation's capital, and arguably one of the most powerful places in the world, yet DC is often overlooked in favor of seemingly more glamorous US cities. But scratch the ostensibly dry surface and you'll find a city far more diverse than one might think; not surprising, considering that all of the embassies and consulates are here. It's impossible to list Washington's must-see sights in a paragraph, but certain places simply cannot be missed. The Smithsonian Institution, with its myriad museums and galleries, provides something of interest

for every visitor, from the arts to aerospace engineering and everything in between. Beyond the majesty of the National Mall, plenty of lesser-known DC institutions lie a bit off the beaten track. Washington's music scene has long been lauded for its originality (everything from go-go funk to hardcore punk has heavy DC roots; Fort Reno's outdoor concerts are a summer tradition). Changing administrations make for prevalent transience (it's actually quite difficult to find many people in DC who are born-and-bred natives), yet there are certain venerable city establishments – like Ben's Chili Bowl, where Presidents have been known to dine – that stand the test of time. And Washington continues to grow

and evolve – visitors can sample exquisite Ethiopian cuisine in the city's revitalized U Street Corridor neighborhood, wander through small, privately owned art galleries in Dupont Circle, or sip ale at Columbia Heights' new Commonwealth Pub. One of the many things that DC has in its favor is that it's a very walkable town, so visitors can fill their days with activities in several different neighborhoods without traveling unreasonable distances. And Washington is imminently family-friendly, with plenty of events and activities that will please kids of all ages.

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