



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



terren in Virginia

# Neighborhood and Culinary Destinations

## **Washington DC, Alexandria, 2 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** This trip is designed to be a relaxing, yet comprehensive, view of some of the best neighborhoods in Washington, DC. There are few tourist-focused items on the itinerary, so this is not designed for individuals that have never seen the Washington monument. This trip also involves a lot of walking, sometimes up to a mile or more between stops, but traveling by foot will give you the best feeling for the flavor of DC that many of us see on a daily basis.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Washington DC

**DAY NOTE:** Day 1 of this trip is designed to expose you to three of DC's best neighborhoods, DuPont Circle, Georgetown, and Adams Morgan. Start your day in DuPont Circle. If it is Sunday, head to the farmers market just northwest of the circle. If not, relax at Kramer Books and do some shopping on Connecticut Avenue. After that, visit the Phillips collection, a smaller gallery located just off the circle. Then head to one of DC venerable institutions, Ben's Chili Bowl. You can get there by simply walking up New Hampshire from the DuPont Circle and making a right once you hit U street. It will be about 4 blocks down. After lunch, hop in a Cab and head to Georgetown. If you like gardens, visit Dumbarton Oaks, otherwise spend some time walking off of M street (north) and check out some of Washington's oldest homes. Then walk up and down M street, shopping and stopping for a drink, as needed, at any of the local watering holes. After that, enjoy a dinner at Hook (reservations needed), a Georgetown seafood restaurant. Then head back up to Adams Morgan. If it is Thursday-Saturday night, there should be huge crowd, lots of live music options, and many places to relax over a drink or two. One great place if you like live music is Madam's Organ, or for a more relaxed evening try the Reef across the street. You can walk back to your hotel from Adams Morgan, just head down 18th until you hit New Hampshire and take that to the DuPont Circle.



### Topaz Hotel

New Age hotel in Dupont Circle



### Dupont Circle

Lively, artsy neighborhood



### Ben's Chili Bowl

A pure DC institution, this chili lover's paradise merits a special visit.



### Phillips Collection

Art collection in an historic mansion



### Georgetown

Washington's oldest neighborhood



### Dumbarton Oaks

This Georgetown mansion is home to an impressive art museum and lovely gardens.



### Georgetown House Tour

A peek inside history



### Washington Harbour

Riverside festivity in the heart of Georgetown.



### Hook

Sustainably farmed, seasonal ingredients



### Adams-Morgan

Explore this vibrant neighborhood with great food, boutiques, nightlife



### Madam's Organ

Pool, live music and fun

## Day 2 - Alexandria, Washington DC

**DAY NOTE:** Day 2 is designed to exposure you to the neighborhood of Alexandria, and specifically Old Town, just on the other side of the Potomac. Take the yellow line over the bridge to the King Street station and start heading toward the water. Along the way, be sure and stop at the upscale stores along King Street, en route to the unique Torpedo Factory Art Center. In addition, stop by one of Alexandria's best stores, Grape and Bean (<http://www.grapeandbean.com/>). It is located at 118 South Royal Street, just off of King Street as you make your way to the water. They have the best coffee in town, not to mention delicious cheeses and an amazing and inexpensive wine selection. After spending the day in Alexandria, head back to visit Michel Richard's restaurant Central (reservations required), located in the Penn Quarter (Yellow Line, Archives/ Navy Memorial). It was recently named one of the top 10 restaurants that opened in the US in 2007.



### Torpedo Factory Art Center

Art galleries, studios and event space on the Alexandria waterfront.



### Central Michel Richard

American cuisine with a French accent, from the genius behind Georgetown's Citronelle.

# Day 1 - Washington DC

## QUICK NOTE

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### contact:

tel: +1 202 393 3000 / +1 800 775 1202

fax: +1 202 785 9581

<http://www.topazhotel.com/>

### location:

1733 N St NW  
Washington DC 20036

## 1 Topaz Hotel

**DESCRIPTION:** Formerly the Canterbury Hotel, this fancy boutique hotel is a little bit Tao, a little bit Zen and a whole lot of New Age. How many other hotels offer packages with physic readings, have room service attendants in tunics, offer patrons a daily horoscope and set the whole place up Feng Shui style to promote good karma. The rooms are a feast for the senses. Each is styled with exotic colors and shapes and makes you feel like you are definitely somewhere different, someplace far away from the suit culture of DC. Dupont Circle is two blocks away. © wcities.com

Hotels.com

### contact:

tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist Information)

fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist Information)

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc50.htm>

### location:

Connecticut Avenue  
Washington DC 20036

### hours:

Call for details

## 2 Dupont Circle

**DESCRIPTION:** DuPont circle is one of Washington's hubs of nightlife, shopping, and dining. The circle itself is filled with Washingtonians day and night, relaxing on the benches, snacking, or playing music or a game of chess. Around the circle, the neighborhood is filled with interesting museums, shops, restaurants and bars. DuPont, and more specifically 17th street off of DuPont, is considered the center of Washington DC's gay and lesbian community. The Brickseller, home of the world largest beer list, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, is located in DuPont. DuPont is also home to a large number of embassies, and one can easily access Embassy Row by simply walking north-west on Massachusetts Avenue, which intersects the circle. DuPont is also home to some of the most important think-tanks in the country, including the Brookings Institution and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). © NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: 1 202 667 0909  
<http://www.benschilibowl.com/>

**location:**

1213 U Street NW  
Washington DC 20009

**hours:**

Breakfast: 6a-11a M-Sa,  
Lunch/Dinner: 11a-2a M-Th,  
11a-4a F & Sa, midday-8p Su

**3 Ben's Chili Bowl**

**DESCRIPTION:** As much a destination as a place to eat, Ben's Chili Bowl remains one of the few (non-governmental) things in DC that remains unchanged since the 1950s. The food is good – standard diner breakfast items in the mornings plus home-made chili, chili-cheese fries, burgers, coleslaw, veggie burgers, shakes and half-smokes (the fantastic DC and Baltimore local food that lives somewhere between sausage and hotdog). The place oozes history. Ben's opened on U Street in 1958 and fed luminaries such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis and Martin Luther King Jr. Ten years later riots raged through DC after the assassination of King, closing much of the city. U Street was particularly hard hit. Like a beacon on rocky shores, Ben's was able to stay open past curfew and feed the community leaders, firefighters and police who worked to save the neighborhood. Since that time Ben's Chili Bowl has served a community gathering place as the city contracted and then grew again. Ben's Chili Bowl is still Ben's after fifty years. The stools, long counter, and bright booths are all original, and so is the experience. Parking during the weekdays is not too bad (two hour limit for non-neighborhood residents), but weekends and evenings are difficult. Ben's is directly across the street from the U Street/African American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo station (Green/Yellow lines). Exit via 13th street. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Ben's Chili Bowl

**contact:**

tel: +1 202 387 2151  
fax: +1 202 387 2436  
<http://www.phillipscollection.org/>

**location:**

1600 21st St. NW  
Washington DC 20440

**hours:**

Tu-W, F-Sa 10a-5p, Th  
10p-8:30p, Su noon-5p

**4 Phillips Collection**

**DESCRIPTION: Phillips Collection** [STST] -- This charming museum is even more alluring now that its expansion is complete. Its elegant 1890s Georgian Revival mansion anchors the Phillips, as it has since the gallery opened in 1921 (America's first museum of modern art). Founders Duncan and Marjorie Phillips, avid collectors and proselytizers of modernism, once lived here; now Impressionist, modernist, and American master gems from the 2,500-work permanent collection reside here. Intimate galleries retain homey features: leaded- and stained-glass windows, oak paneling, plush chairs and sofas, and individually designed fireplaces. The new wing houses the main entrance, as well as galleries devoted to special exhibits; a cafe run by a local favorite, Firehook Bakery; a sculpture garden in the courtyard; and, most wonderfully, the Rothko Room, the small room devoted to four large, color-intense paintings by abstract expressionist Mark Rothko. Best known for its Renoir masterpiece, Luncheon of the Boating Party, the Phillips boasts works by Daumier, Bonnard, Vuillard, van Gogh, Cézanne, Picasso, Degas, Klee, and Matisse. Ingres, Delacroix, Manet, El Greco, Goya, Corot, Constable, Courbet, Giorgione, and Chardin are among the premodernists represented. American notables, besides Rothko, include Dove, Hopper, Marin, Eakins, Homer, Lawrence, and O'Keeffe. You'll enjoy viewing the collection for an hour or so. A full schedule of events includes temporary shows with loans from other museums and private collections, gallery talks, and concerts in the ornate music room. Concerts take place October to May on Sunday at 4pm; arrive early. On Thursday, the museum stays open until 8:30pm for **Artful Evenings**, usually a lecture or film screening. **Note:** You may tour the permanent collection for free on weekdays. Weekends, admission is



\$10 per adult, \$8 for seniors and students 18 and older. Special-exhibit admission prices vary, but are in effect weekdays; on weekends the regular admission price covers entry to both the permanent and special collections. The Phillips almost always has a special exhibition on view. You may order tickets in advance at the Phillips, or through Ticketmaster, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), or by phone at tel. **800/551-SEAT** (7328). © Frommer's

**contact:**

tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist Information)  
fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist Information)  
<http://www.georgetowndc.com/>

**location:**

M Street and Wisconsin Avenue  
Washington DC 20007

**hours:**

Call for details

**5 Georgetown**

**DESCRIPTION:** Georgetown is one of the most historically significant areas of DC. It is a great place to spend the afternoon shopping or just strolling along the tree-lined streets, looking at the expansive homes and mansions. "M" street in Georgetown is the main upscale shopping area in DC. There are numerous historical sights mixed throughout the area, including the Old Stone House on M street, the oldest building in DC, and Dumbarton Oaks, where the United Nations was outlined in 1944. Georgetown is also one of DC's best places for eating, drinking, and nightlife. Local favorites include such places as Mr. Smith's, a piano bar, J. Pauls, and Old Glory Bar-B-Que. The Georgetown Waterfront is also a popular place to spend the afternoon. The restaurants that line the Potomac make for a great venue for drinks, although the food is better a couple of blocks north on M street. Recently, there has also been a proliferation of new, upscale restaurants in Georgetown including Hook and Mendocino Grille & Wine Bar. © NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: +1 202 342 3200  
<http://www.doaks.org/>

**location:**

3101 R Street Northwest  
Washington DC 20007

**hours:**

Museum: 2p-5p Tu-Su,  
Gardens: 2p-5p M-Su Nov-Mar, 2p-6p M-Su Apr-Oct

**6 Dumbarton Oaks**

**DESCRIPTION:** From El Greco's "The Visitation" to Byzantine and pre-Columbian artworks, jewelry and mosaics, this restored mansion is filled with elegant treasures. Built in 1801, the estate achieved its height of glory in the wealthy 1920s when it served as the high-society showpiece of Robert Bliss and his heiress wife, Mildred. The gardens occupy 10 acres above Georgetown and include terraced lawns, winding footpaths and elaborate fountains. © wcities.com



**contact:**

tel: +1 202 338 2287  
fax: +1 202 338 3921  
<http://www.georgetownhouse.tour.com/>

**location:**

3240 O Street Northwest  
Washington DC 20007

**hours:**

**7 Georgetown House Tour**

**DESCRIPTION:** Take a rare opportunity to see the interiors of stately old Georgetown homes, which are opened to the public just once a year during a late April weekend. Admission includes afternoon tea with homemade sandwiches and cookies at the parish hall at St. John's Church. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of [georgetownhousetour](http://georgetownhousetour.com)

Sa-Su 11a-5p

**contact:**

tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist Information)

fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist Information)

<http://washingtonharbour.net/>

**location:**

3000 K Street Northwest  
Washington DC 20007

**hours:**

Call for details

**8 Washington Harbour**

**DESCRIPTION:** This scenic setting combines the social pleasures and style of Georgetown with the natural beauty of the Potomac riverfront. The wide promenade is enjoyed by office workers, shoppers, strollers and diners at several restaurants offering outdoor seating. This is a perfect place to stroll at midday, before a sunset dinner, or after dark when the terraces are lit up. © wcities.com



**contact:**

tel: 1 202 625 4488

[www.hookdc.com](http://www.hookdc.com)

**location:**

3241 M Street NW  
Washington DC 20418

**hours:**

Dinner: Monday – Thursday  
5pm to 10pm Friday –  
Sunday 5pm to 11 pm Lunch:  
Thursday - Friday 11:30am to  
2:30pm Brunch: Saturday &  
Sunday 10am to 3:30pm

**9 Hook**

**DESCRIPTION:** Georgetown can always use another good restaurant (as opposed to another busy bar or boutique store), so the fairly new Hook (opened mid-2007) is a welcome addition, as is its even newer sibling, Tackle Box, which opened in April 2008. Situated near the intersection of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, the restaurant's bar lies at the front, the spare, all-white dining room beyond that, with the semi-open kitchen pulling up the rear. Hook is committed to the "sustainable" movement, which means that the chef shops for locally farmed produce and that the menus are printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, to give just two examples. But Hook's real "hook" is sustainable, in-season seafood, so you can expect the blackfin tuna that arrives with the crème fraîche and potato purée on your plate to have been pulled from the water sometime within the preceding 24 hours. Get this: The chef receives a daily text message from Tobago island fishermen telling him of that day's catch, and the fish arrive within 18 to 24 hours. Be sure to order one of pastry chef Heather Chittum's lovely desserts, from warm madeleine cookies to an inventive carrot cake. © Frommer's



<http://www.hookdc.com/images/home/04.jpg>

**contact:**

tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist Information)

fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist Information)

<http://www.adasmorgan.net/>

**location:**

18th Street Northwest &  
Columbia Road Northwest  
Washington DC 20009

**hours:**

Call for details

**A Adams-Morgan**

**DESCRIPTION:** A true melting pot of DC culture, Adams Morgan offers a little bit of something for everyone. Centered at 18th street and Columbia Road, by day, it is the one of city's most interesting neighborhoods, with a large variety of unusual stores. By night, the true character of Adams Morgan emerges. Traffic comes to a near standstill as 18th street turns into one of the hubs of DC's nightlife scene. Adams Morgan has a wide variety of restaurants serving food from a variety of countries such as Ethiopia, Turkey, Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, Italy, Vietnam, and Ghana. Almost every restaurant transforms into a bar or nightclub come sundown. At 3 AM, partiers flood the



street again, looking for late night food including falafel and DC's famous "Jumbo Slice" pizza. Adams Morgan is a must-visit for those that want to experience one of the most diverse dining and nightlife areas of DC. © NileGuide

**contact:**

tel: +1 202 667 5370  
<http://www.madamsorgan.com/>

**location:**

2461 18th Street Northwest  
Washington DC 20009

**hours:**

Su-Th 5p-2a, F-Sa 5p-3a

**B Madam's Organ**

**DESCRIPTION:** This Adams-Morgan landmark, is a popular hangout. It is a place that clearly does not take itself too seriously, which is a relief in a neighborhood always hot with trendy schemes. Here, there is pool and live music every night from 9:30pm, usually blues or bluegrass. The place is bound to be jumping well before midnight. © wcities.com

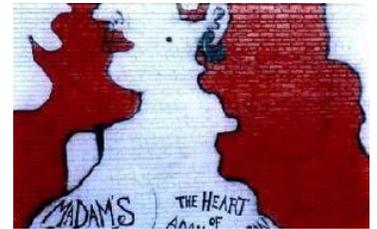


Photo courtesy of madam

# Day 2 - Alexandria, Washington DC

QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Day 2 is designed to exposure you to the neighborhood of Alexandria, and specifically Old Town, just on the other side of the Potomac. Take the yellow line over the bridge to the King Street station and start heading toward the water. Along the way, be sure and stop at the upscale stores along King Street, en route to the unique Torpedo Factory Art Center. In addition, stop by one of Alexandria's best stores, Grape and Bean (<http://www.grapeandbean.com/>). It is located at 118 South Royal Street, just off of King Street as you make your way to the water. They have the best coffee in town, not to mention delicious cheeses and an amazing and inexpensive wine selection. After spending the day in Alexandria, head back to visit Michel Richard's restaurant Central (reservations required), located in the Penn Quarter (Yellow Line, Archives/Navy Memorial). It was recently named one of the top 10 restaurants that opened in the US in 2007.

**contact:**

tel: +1 703 838 4565  
<http://www.torpedofactory.org/>

**location:**

105 North Union St  
Alexandria VA 22320

**hours:**

Daily 10a-5p

## 1 Torpedo Factory Art Center

**DESCRIPTION:** This impressive, several-story building is home to close to 100 artists' studios, and also displays the works of many talented craftspeople. Every type of artistic material, from paintings to textiles, are available to view and often to purchase. Private events here are quite special, owing to the building's interesting architecture and to its location on the river.

© NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: 1 202 626 0015  
[www.centralmichelrichard.com](http://www.centralmichelrichard.com)

**location:**

1001 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington DC 20535

**hours:**

Lunch: Monday - Friday:  
11:30am - 2:30pm Dinner:  
Monday - Thursday: 5:00pm -  
10:30pm Friday: 5:00-11:00pm  
- Saturday: 5:00pm - 11:00pm  
Sunday -CLOSED

## 2 Central Michel Richard

**DESCRIPTION:** This modern American brasserie, is located on Penn. Ave NW between the White House and the Capitol. It offers great American cuisine, both modern and classic, with a French accent. A vibrant bar scene with boutique beer and wines, and modern and classic cocktails.



Zagat

# 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 Height's 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.

© NileGuide

## History

Native American settlements existed in current-day Washington DC for thousands of years before the area was first explored by Europeans in the early 1600s; the Potomac River, on which the city is located,

derived its name from an Algonquin tribe.

While the Native Americans were initially accommodating to the arriving Colonists, relations became strained due to land ownership disputes, and most members of the DC-area tribes eventually sought refuge further afield.

It was not until 1790, with the signing of the Residence Act, that the states of Maryland and Virginia officially ceded the 10-mile square of land (including Alexandria, Virginia) on which DC was to be built. Pierre L'Enfant, a French-born architect, was commissioned to develop a plan for the new city; though L'Enfant was eventually de-commissioned and his plans superseded by the updated engravings of Andrew Ellicott, his is the name most commonly associated with the original planning of Washington.

The 19th century was one of great change in Washington- from the burning of the city by the British during the War of 1812, to Alexandria's "retrocession" from the District and return to Virginia in the mid-century, to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Slavery was abolished in Washington almost a full year before President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. This paved the way for the growth of a vibrant African-American community in Washington, the benefits of which have played an integral part in shaping the city's cultural and political history.

The last hundred years have witnessed DC's establishment as one of the most powerful cities in the world. It was also one of the foremost cities in the American Civil Rights movement. Washington public schools were the first to integrate in the mid-1950s; the National Mall was the site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic 1963 "I have a dream" speech. When King was assassinated in 1968, riots erupted in Washington, among other places; the U Street Corridor in particular was a scene of massive unrest. Forty years later, crowds gathered in this same neighborhood- near U and 14th Streets, NW- in a spontaneous, peaceful celebration of the election of America's first African-American President.

Considering the amount of attention that DC receives every four years during election time, it's quite surprising that Washingtonians themselves were only granted the right to vote in Presidential

elections in the mid-1960s. Washington is not a state, nor is it part of a state; it's a free-standing federal territory, under complete jurisdiction of Congress.

Unsurprisingly, this perceived lack of governing control is cause for much controversy. District residents still lament the lack of Senatorial representation, and the argument for "Home Rule" and distancing from Congressional control has been debated for years.

© NileGuide

## Hotel Insights

There are hundreds of hotels, inns, B&Bs, and other types of accommodation in and around Washington. Any number of these places will suit just about any traveler's needs; since Washington is a thoroughly manageable city (many of the main neighborhoods are walkable and/or accessible by bus or Metro), staying in the most central location isn't too big of a concern. Instead, you can focus on finding a hotel that suits your personal style.

**Hip and trendy** Visitors who like being in the middle of the action have several different hotel options at their disposal. There are lots of funky boutique hotels in Dupont Circle, like Hotel Rouge or the Topaz Hotel; if Georgetown is more your scene, try Hotel Monticello.

**Family-friendly** Convenience is probably at the top of the list of hotel criteria for families traveling with children. In this instance, it might make more sense to choose a location that's a little less chaotic; hotels in nearby Arlington, Virginia or Bethesda, Maryland offer easy access to the center of Washington while also allowing for a slightly quieter (and likely less expensive) home base.

**Old School** The big-name hotels downtown, like the St. Regis or the Renaissance Mayflower, are the best bet for a classic, glamorous hotel experience.

A few blocks north, the stately Watergate Hotel benefits from a super-central location in addition to its famous historical connotations. Smaller inns like the Latham Hotel in Georgetown, the Henley Park Hotel near the Verizon Center, or the Hay-Adams near the White House provide more intimate (but equally sophisticated) settings.

## Washington DC Snapshot continued

**Star spotting** Those hoping to see a famous face will have the most luck at The Ritz Carlton in Georgetown. Hollywood types often bunk there when they're in town for special events. On a more local note, politicians can often be seen in and around the Omni Shoreham in Woodley Park- notable also because of its proximity to Adams Morgan.

**On the Cheap** For many, vacation accommodations don't need to be more than a nice, clean place to crash after a long day of sightseeing and exploring.

Thankfully, it's not too difficult to find perfectly adequate, cheap lodging in Washington. The Quincy is centrally located in Foggy Bottom, and its prices are tough to beat. If you don't mind sharing your room with other travelers, check out some of DC's hostels, such as the Gallery Inn.

© NileGuide

### Restaurants Insights

Washington has always had a lively dining scene, but a recent, steady influx of exciting new restaurants has forced some of the old standbys to take notice and stop resting on their laurels. As specific neighborhoods change and grow, so do their culinary offerings. As a result, areas that were virtually bereft of dining options as little as ten years ago are now crammed with restaurants and cafes catering to all tastes and budgets.

Many of DC's traditionally fancy restaurants are located downtown, presumably because they cater to the lawyers, politicians, and various other movers and shakers who work around there. Stalwarts like Old Ebbitt Grill and The Prime Rib are still solid establishments; they've been joined by stylish newer spots like Cafe Atlantico and The Source, Wolfgang Puck's gorgeous bistro in the Newseum building. Rasika is consistently included among the top Indian restaurants in the city. And Obelisk has been known to host a political dignitary or two, given its closeness to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Adams Morgan offers wide-ranging and eclectic food choices befitting its funky atmosphere. Among the many options are Ethiopian, South American, and even Cajun restaurants. You can dine on the cheap at Mixtec, gorge on delicious vegetarian food at Amsterdam Falafelshop (bonus:

they're open late on weekends!), or sip whiskey at Bourbon. The neighborhood's main thoroughfare provides lots of lazy Sunday brunch options as well.

The revitalized U Street Corridor is constantly adding new culinary feathers in its cap. And patrons benefit from the neighborhood's dense concentration of outstanding restaurants- with so many choices, everyone is bound to find something to satisfy his or her appetite.

Eatonville serves funky Southern cooking; Cork has a great wine list and tasty small plates to balance it.

Dupont Circle is a perennial dining favorite, and nearby Logan Circle is fast becoming a go-to restaurant destination as well. Dupont is host to Komi, arguably one of the most spectacular restaurants in the city; appealing and less expensive options like Circa, Zorba's and Pizzeria Paradiso abound as well. In Logan, stop by Posto for traditional Florentine fare in a modern atmosphere. Just down the road, Rice serves up Asian-inspired food that both vegetarians and meat-eaters can enjoy.

Georgetown's moneyed streets are home to posh restaurants like the venerable 1789 and chic Citronelle. Newer restaurants like Agraria, which specializes in organic and locally grown food, are a nice addition to the Waterfront.

Depending on where you are in Capitol Hill, there are some great restaurant choices worth exploring. In Southeast, check out Montmartre or Park Cafe for a romantic meal or Good Stuff Eatery for heavenly burgers. On the Southwest Waterfront, the Mandarin Oriental Hotel offers both swanky CityZen and laid-back Sou'Wester. In Northeast, head to Union Pub to watch college football or sip a beer on the outdoor patio.

DC's top restaurants aren't limited to within the city limits. In the Maryland and Virginia suburbs, there's a huge array of great eateries from which to choose. The area's diverse demographics are reflected in its vast array of cuisines (everything from Vietnamese to Afghan to Austrian).

Try Vermilion in Old Town Alexandria, or Cafe Asia in the Rosslyn section of Arlington. Further afield, restaurants like L'Auberge Chez Francois and The Inn at Little Washington are great "special event" locations (though your wallet will feel a lot lighter after dining there).

© NileGuide

### Nightlife Insights

Everyone has an opinion when it comes to the "perfect night out". A few quiet drinks somewhere off the beaten track, perhaps? Clubbing until the daylight hours? Getting a dose of culture at the theater? All of these things are on offer in Washington- you just need to know where to look.

New York might be known as "the city that never sleeps", but clubbers can indulge their inner insomniacs in DC as well, at one-named clubs like Policy, Ultra, Fur and Glow- all of which offer R&B, house, hip hop, salsa, trance and other dance-worthy music. Patrons need to "dress to impress", and call in advance to reserve a table with bottle service (in order to people-watch in style).

For those craving something a little more low-key, there are many bars, pubs and lounges to suit their mood. Swanky hotels like The Ritz Carlton in Georgetown offer appropriately chic cocktail lounges. Or stop by Russia House near Dupont Circle to drink (strong) vodka martinis and chat with the eclectic clientele. RFD, in Chinatown, has one of the largest beer selections in the city; Dr. Granville Moore's, in the Atlas District, offers great Belgian ales.

There's an active theater and dance community here; depending on the show, it's not too difficult to secure a ticket to see a performance at Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth, the Shakespeare Theatre, or the Kennedy Center (to name a very few).

Washington has dozens of live music venues, ranging from intimate nightclubs to large stadiums. Nightclub 9:30 is a DC institution, as is the Black Cat; both places skew a bit more heavily toward indie, punk and alternative music, although pop acts have been known to play there as well. Bigger-name acts tend to play at Verizon Center, Nissan Pavilion, or Wolf Trap. In the summertime, visitors bring a picnic to some of these places and camp out on the lawn while listening to the music.

For a family-friendly evening alternative, the Kennedy Center's Family Theater always has great performances geared for kids of all ages. If the weather is nice, book a family walk through Washington Walks; kids will learn cool facts about the

## Washington DC Snapshot continued

city (and get a little exercise as well). Or catch a movie at one of the several IMAX movie theaters in the area, including one on Independence Avenue on the Mall.

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### Things to Do Insights

As befitting a diverse place, Washington offers different activities for different tastes.

And while seasonally varied, DC weather is not overly extreme; it gets very hot in the summer and quite cold in the winter, but neither end of the weather spectrum is so severe that it forces people inside for extended periods.

You probably already know that DC is full of tourist-worthy attractions. Those planning to do the whole sightseeing shebang won't run out of things on their itinerary.

Indeed, many of the world's iconic statues, monuments and museums reside in the Nation's Capital and its surrounding areas.

Spend a few hours in quiet reflection at Arlington Cemetery or the various war memorials (Korea, Vietnam, World War II and more) on the Mall. Catch a glimpse of the building that inspired the Watergate scandal.

Take your pick of one of the Smithsonian Institution's many different galleries, or visit some of the lesser-known museums (why not check out the Octagon Museum, for example?). And of course, no first-time visit to Washington is complete without a photo or two of the White House; seeing more of the President's residence, however, requires a fair bit of planning in advance.

People who like the great outdoors love Washington - it's loaded with parks, trails, and gardens, most of which are open to the public. Walking along the quiet, tree-lined paths of Rock Creek Park, you might just forget that you're in the middle of a vibrant city. Wander down from Georgetown's crowded streets to the C&O Canal, which is perfect for jogging, cycling, or strolling with the family. The National Zoo is easily accessible by metro, and always a crowd-pleaser (check the zoo's website to find out about special events, which take place fairly frequently throughout the year). If you have a car, drive out to Glen Echo Park in Maryland and enjoy family-friendly entertainment like puppet shows and story telling, or head down to the United States Arboretum to truly immerse yourself in nature.

Foodies have an ever-increasing array of cafes, restaurants and bistros from which to choose, from critical darlings like Central Michel Richard to up-and-comers like Founding Farmers. The Kennedy Center is perhaps the best known performing arts center in the city, but it's by no means the only one; depending on what you're interested in seeing or hearing, there is always a theater, club or concert hall to fit the bill. Balance steamy days in July with cool performances at the city's annual Capital Fringe Festival, or watch the holiday favorite Nutcracker at The Washington Ballet.

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### Travel Tips

#### Getting Here

Situated more or less in the middle of the east coast, Washington is accessible by pretty much any mode of transport.

For visitors traveling to DC from within the US, Canada, or Mexico, Ronald Reagan National Airport (or "National Airport", as the locals who remember its original name still call it) is the most convenient option. In addition to the standard airport transportation services (cab, Super Shuttle, rental car facilities and bus), Reagan also boasts a Metro station, making it imminently easy (and inexpensive) to travel to and from there.

International flights (and certain airline carriers like JetBlue) come through Washington Dulles International Airport. It's farther away from the center of town, and there is no direct Metro service, but the aforementioned Super Shuttle runs to and from here, and there are several bus services from which to choose, including one operated by the Washington Flyer that travels to Dulles from West Falls Church Metro station.

Baltimore-Washington International Airport is the farthest of the three airports from the center of town; travelers willing to deal with the 30+ mile commute (via a number of options, including buses, trains, cabs, and car services) might get a slightly cheaper fare here than at the other two airports.

All three airports have the prerequisite coffee chains, souvenir stores and news agents; more substantial shopping or

dining options, aside from Duty-Free, are pretty limited.

Amtrak and MARC trains run directly into Union Station, near the Capitol; Greyhound and Peter Pan share a bus terminal close by. Offshoots of these and other large bus companies (like Bolt Bus or Megabus) are generally cheap, clean and reliable; they pick up and drop off their passengers in or near the center of the city.

Finally, anyone up to the challenge of navigating the Capital Beltway (the Washington area's interstate highway, which intersects in the north and the south with I-95) will find several modes of entry into the city via car.

#### Once You've Arrived

Washington is surprisingly navigable.

Divided into four quadrants (NW, NE, SW and SE), the city is planned on a grid (though perhaps not quite as straightforward as, say, New York's). For the most part, lettered streets run east to west, and numbered streets run north to south. The streets are crisscrossed by avenues, named after the country's 50 states. That said, you should certainly invest in a map to get your bearings and prepare yourself for some of the odd streets, alleys and parks that prove exceptions to the grid rule.

The Metro is a fantastic way to get to all of the city's major neighborhoods without the hassle of driving, parking, or spending too much money. WMATA (the overarching transit authority that includes Metrorail and Metrobuses) are generally very reliable.

Cabs are plentiful, and meter-based (a recent change from the zoned system that caused many tourist confusion and frustration).

If driving is a necessity, it's easy to rent a car in DC from any of the major rental agencies - check their individual websites for more information about rates and location. Bear in mind, though, that parking in central Washington can be pricey.

#### Helpful links:

WMATA - <http://www.wmata.com>  
Amtrak - 1-800-872-7245, <http://www.amtrak.com>  
MARC - 1-800-325-7245, <http://www.mtmaryland.com>  
Greyhound - 1-800-231-2222, <http://www.greyhound.com>  
Peter

## Washington DC Snapshot continued

Pan- 1-800-343-9999, <http://www.peterpanbus.com>

Ronald Reagan National Airport- 703-417-8600, <http://www.mwaa.com/national>  
Dulles International Airport- 703-417-8600, <http://www.metwashairports.com/dulles>  
Baltimore-Washington International Airport- 1-800-435-9294, <http://www.bwiairport.com>

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### Fun Facts

#### Washington Stats:

Coordinates: 38°53'42.4"N 77°02'12.0"W

Population: 591,833

Size: 68.3 sq miles

Time Zone: EST(UTC-5)

Temperature averages: 35° F winter, 80° F summer

Rainiest month(on average): May

Did You Know?

The Washington Monument is DC's largest building- it's roughly a tenth of a mile high.

The "DC" in Washington DC stands for "District of Columbia". The phrase "taxation without representation", often heard here, is based on the fact that DC, not being a state, doesn't have any representation in Congress.

Washington was ranked the #1 Most Walkable City in the U.S. by The Brookings Institution in 2007.

DC's area code is 202, but you're also likely to see area codes like 301 and 240 (for nearby Maryland suburbs) and 703 (for Northern Virginia).

L'Enfant Plaza, in the SW quadrant of the city, is named after Pierre L'Enfant, who is credited with creating Washington's first planned street layout in the late 18th century.

DC's current Mayor, Adrian Fenty, was the youngest person ever to assume the post (at age 36). He is also an avid runner who competes regularly in local road races.

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# Alexandria Snapshot

## Local Info

### Introduction

5 miles S of Washington, D.C.; 95 miles N of Richmond

Founded by a group of Scottish tobacco merchants, the riverfront town of Alexandria came into being in July 1749, when a 60-acre tract of land was auctioned off in 1/2-acre lots. As you stroll the brick sidewalks and cobblestone streets of highly gentrified **Old Town**, the city's official historic district, you'll see more than 2,000 buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.

George Washington stood in the door of Gadsby's Tavern and reviewed his troops for the last time. Robert E. Lee spent his boyhood here. Both worshiped from the pews of Christ Church. Indeed, if they weren't instantly shocked back to death by the cars jockeying for prized parking spaces, Washington and Lee would still recognize their old haunts.

There's more than history here to explore. With its abundance of shops, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, and tourists (not to mention hordes of older teens hanging out on Fri and Sat nights), Old Town Alexandria serves as our hip version of Georgetown over in D.C. Once you get here, you will find plenty to see, do, and eat in Old Town. Give yourself 2 days to poke around the historic district and a third to see Mount Vernon and the other Potomac plantations a short drive to the south.

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## Hotel Insights

### Hotels

The area around the King Street Metrorail station is home to several hotels, including the Hilton Alexandria Old Town and the Hampton Inn-King Street Metro. Another good bet if you want a kitchen is **Embassy Suites Hotel Old Town**, 1900 Diagonal Rd. (tel. **800/362-2779** or 703/684-5900; [www.embassysuites.com](http://www.embassysuites.com)).

In the less convenient northern end of Old Town are the **Best Western Old Colony Inn**, 1101 N. Washington St.

(tel. **800/528-1234** or 730/739-2222; [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)); **Holiday Inn Hotel& Suites**, 625 First St. (tel. **800/465-4329** or 703/548-6300; [www.holiday-inn.com](http://www.holiday-inn.com)); and the **Executive Club Suites** at 610 Bashford Lane (tel. **800/535-2582** or 703/739-2582; [www.alexandria-executive-suites.com](http://www.alexandria-executive-suites.com)), where every unit is an apartment. Nearby, **Sheraton Suites Alexandria**, 801 N. St. Asaph St. (tel. **800/325-3535** or 703/836-4700; [www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)), provides nothing but suites, while the high-rise **Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria**, 901 N. Fairfax St., at Montgomery Street (tel. **800/972-3159** or 703/683-6000; [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com)), stands near the river, giving some of its 258 rooms water views.

### Bed& Breakfasts

Several private Old Town homes, many of them historic properties, offer B&B accommodations under the aegis of **Alexandria& Arlington Bed& Breakfast Network**, P.O. Box 25319, Arlington, VA 22202 (tel. **888/549-3415** or 703/549-3415; [www.aabbn.com](http://www.aabbn.com)), which also represents properties in adjoining Arlington and as far away as the Hunt Country. Check the website for a complete list and rates.

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## Restaurants Insights

### Restaurants

One of the Washington area's most popular dining destinations, Old Town has many more restaurants than it does historical attractions. You'll find cuisines from around the world offered in every price range along King Street and on Union Street south of King Street. The restaurants described here will give you a good sampling of the many tastes offered here, but don't be afraid to stroll along and pick one of your own. They all post their menus out front, and you'll know by the number of customers which restaurants get nods from the town's affluent citizenry.

King Street has two Starbucks outlets and the local branch of Bread& Chocolate,

but my favorite joint for morning coffee, pastries, and fresh bread is **Firehouse Bakery& Coffee Shop**, 105 S. Union St. (tel. **703/519-8020**), in the block south of King Street. It's open Monday to Friday 6:30am to 7pm, Saturday 7am to 7pm, and Sunday 7am to 6pm.

### Inexpensive

Stalls sell inexpensive eats in the **Food Pavilion** between the Torpedo Factory, at King and Cameron streets, and the riverfront Chart House restaurant. It's open daily from 11am to 9:30pm.

**Bags of Burgers--** Everyone from panhandlers to Old Town's gentry can be seen hauling bags of juicy hamburgers, hot dogs, and seasoned french fries out of **Five Guys**, 107 N. Fayette St. (tel. **703/549-7991**), between King and Cameron streets. This order-at-the-counter joint harkens back to pre-McDonald's days when hamburgers weren't frozen beforehand and fresh potatoes were cut on premises. The burgers and dogs come with a choice of fixings and cost just \$2.70 to \$5.40. Open daily 11am to 10pm.

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## Nightlife Insights

### Nightlife

Alexandria falls under the aegis of Washington, D.C., when it comes to the performing arts. The free weekly **City Paper** ([www.washingtoncitypaper.com](http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com)) and the monthly magazine **Old Town Crier** ([www.oldtowncrier.com](http://www.oldtowncrier.com)) are the best sources of news about the local bar and music scene; pick up copies at the Ramsay House Visitor Center and in hotel lobbies.

King Street restaurants are the center of Alexandria's ongoing club and bar scene. Especially noteworthy are **Two-Nineteen**, 219 King St. (tel. **703/549-1141**), which features live jazz Tuesday to Saturday nights in the Basin Street Lounge; the **Fish Market**, 105 King St. (tel. **703/836-5676**), with either a pianist or a guitarist Thursday to Saturday nights; and **Murphy's**, 713 King St. (tel. **703/548-1717**), the town's best Gaelic pub with live Irish bands to

## Alexandria Snapshot continued

accompany corned beef and cabbage on weekends.

An older crowd likes to sing along on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings with the resident pianist in the cozy lounge of the **Morrison House**, 116 S. Alfred St. (tel. **703/838-8000**), between King and Prince streets. You can hear wannabe professional singers belt out some fine jazz and even an aria or two.

Built about 1914 as a vaudeville house, the restored **Old Town Theater**, 815 1/2 King St. (tel. **703/683-8888**; [www.oldtowntheater.com](http://www.oldtowntheater.com)), hosts movies, live music, comedy shows, and other entertainment. It serves hot dogs, burgers, pizzas, and a few main courses. Call or check the website for the schedule.

The **Birchmere**, 3901 Mount Vernon Ave., south of Glebe Road (tel. **703/549-5919**; [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com)), is the Washington area's prime showcase for nationally known bluegrass, country, and folk stars. Call or check the website for the schedule and reservations, which are absolutely necessary when a top performer is on stage.

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## Things to Do Insights

### Attractions

Whenever you come, you're sure to run into some activity or other-- a jazz festival, a tea garden or tavern gambol, a quilt exhibit, a wine tasting or an organ recital. But note that **many of Alexandria's main attractions are closed on Monday.**

### Tips: Save with a Discounted Attraction Pass

Alexandria's Ramsay House Visitor Center usually sells money-saving **discounted attraction passes** to some of the top sights. A Block Ticket to Gadsby's Tavern, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, Lee-Fendall House, and Carlyle House Historic Park recently cost \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 11 to 17. A Very Important Patriot Pass, including the previous four museums, a guided walking or ghost tour of Old Town, and a Potomac River cruise costs \$21 adults, \$11 for children 11 to 17. A

Potomac Pass that included two museums and a river cruise to Mount Vernon cost \$30 adults, \$15 for children 11 to 17. The passes change from year to year, but it will pay to ask the center what's being offered.

### Two Specialized Attractions

Much digging has taken place to study and preserve the past in Old Town, and some of the results are on display in the **Alexandria Archaeology Museum**, 105 N. Union St. (tel. **703/838-4399**; [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org)), on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art center. It shares space with a working laboratory. Admission is free, and it's open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm, and Sunday 1 to 5pm.

If you've ever had a clever idea for an invention you thought would revolutionize the world (and make you rich), walk into the **U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Museum**, 600 Dulany St. (tel. **703/968-4332**; [www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ahrpa/opa/museum](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ahrpa/opa/museum)), which uses high-tech displays to explain how ideas for famous products came into being. Admission is free. The museum is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, Saturday noon to 5pm. From the King Street Metro station, follow Diagonal Road south to Dulany Street.

### Shopping

Old Town has hundreds of boutiques, antiques stores, art galleries, and gift shops selling everything from souvenir T-shirts to 18th-century reproductions. Most of the best stores are interspersed among the multitude of restaurants and offices on King Street from the waterfront to the Metrorail station. Plan to spend a fair amount of time browsing between visits to historic sites. A guide to the city's 50-plus antiques and collectibles stores is available at the visitor center (you'll pay a premium for antiques here, so you may want to wait to buy if you're going to Fredericksburg).

One essential stop is the **Torpedo Factory Art Center**, 105 N. Union St., between King and Cameron streets on the Potomac River (tel. **703/838-4565**; [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org)). This block-long, three-story waterfront structure was built by the U.S. Navy in 1918 and operated

as a torpedo shell-case factory until the early 1950s, then used as storage for artifacts from the Smithsonian Institution. Today, it houses 84 working studios where artists and craftspeople create and sell their works. The shops and galleries are open daily 10am to 5pm and every second Tuesday of the month from 6 to 9pm for **Art Night**. It's closed New Year's Day, Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Another highlight here is the nonprofit **Winterthur Museum Store**, 207 King St., between Lee and Fairfax streets (tel. **703/684-6092**), the only off-site venture by the renowned museum of decorative arts on the estate of horticulturist Henry Francis du Pont, in Delaware's Brandywine Valley. It's a delightful browse, including the back garden, which features all sorts of garden plants and ornaments. You'll come across fine reproductions from the Winterthur collection, including lamps, prints, ceramics, brassware, jewelry, garden furniture, and statuary. The store is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 11am to 5pm (6pm in summer).

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## Travel Tips

### Planning a Trip

### Visitor Information

The Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association's **Ramsay House Visitor Center**, 221 King St., at Fairfax Street facing Market Square (tel. **800/388-9119** or 703/838-4200; 703/838-5005 for 24-hr. Alexandria events recording; fax 703/838-4683; [www.funside.com](http://www.funside.com)), is open daily from 9am to 5pm (closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas). In this 1724 house, Alexandria's oldest, you can pick up maps and brochures, find out about special events during your visit, and get information about accommodations, restaurants, sights, shopping, and whatever else. You can also get a free 1-day parking permit here.

Be sure to pick up a free copy of **Old Town Crier** (tel. **703/836-9132**; [www.oldtowncrier.com](http://www.oldtowncrier.com)), a monthly magazine packed with information and

## Alexandria Snapshot continued

news about special events, dining, shopping, and entertainment.

### Getting There

#### By Plane-- Washington Dulles

**International Airport (IAD)** is about 30 miles west of Alexandria (tel. **703/661-2700**; [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com)). **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)** is 2 miles north of Old Town via the George Washington Memorial Parkway (tel. **703/685-8000**; [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com)).

Washington's **Metrorail** provides easy transport from Reagan National to Alexandria via its Blue and Yellow lines. Taxis are available at both airports, and **SuperShuttle** (tel. **800/BLUE-VAN**; [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)) operates frequent van service.

**By Car--** All the major **car-rental firms** are based at the airports. The scenic George Washington Memorial Parkway passes through Old Town as Washington Street, Alexandria's main north-south thoroughfare. I-95 crosses the Potomac River at Alexandria; take Exit 177 and go north on U.S. 1 into Old Town. Turn east on King Street off either route to reach the heart of Old Town.

If you drive here, the first item of business is to get a **free 1-day parking permit** at the Ramsay House Visitor Center, which allows you to park free at any 2-hour meter, except those in Metrorail lots, for up to 24 hours. They do not apply to spaces without meters, especially those reserved exclusively for Old Town residents. You'll need your car's license plate number and the state in which it's registered-- which could be other than Virginia if it's a rental.

**Tips: How to Avoid Gridlock--** Traffic in the Washington, D.C., metro is so bad that a columnist for the Washington Post writes under the pseudonym "Dr. Gridlock." Although they start earlier and run later depending on distance from D.C., weekday

rush hours generally run from 6:30 to 9:30am and from 3:30 to 6:30pm, but tie-ups can occur any time, especially in ongoing construction zones. Take the area's Metrorail or other public transportation whenever possible and try to avoid the roads altogether during rush hours. I keep my radio tuned to WTOP (103.5 FM), which gives traffic reports every 10 minutes.

**By Train--** The **Amtrak** station (tel. **800/872-7245** or 703/836-4339; [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)) is at 110 Callahan Dr., at King Street.

**By Washington Monorail--** From Arlington or Washington, take the Blue or Yellow **Metrorail** (tel. **202/637-7000**; [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)) lines to the King Street station (it's across the tracks from Amtrak's Alexandria station). Metrorail operates Monday to Thursday from 5:30am to midnight, Friday 5:30am to 2am, Saturday 8am to 3am, and Sunday 8am to midnight. Fares range from \$1.35 to \$3.90 depending on time of day and length of ride.

From the King Street Station, it's about a 15-minute walk east on King Street through Old Town's rapidly developing western section. Or you can save your shoe leather for sightseeing by boarding DASH buses numbered AT-2 or AT-5 (or the free weekend shuttle), down King Street to the corner of Fairfax Street and the door of the visitor center. Base fare is \$1.

### City Layout

Old Town Alexandria is laid out in a simple grid. The original town grew north-south along the Potomac River, but most of what you will want to see and do today is on, or a few blocks off, King Street, the main east-west drag, between the waterfront and the King Street Metrorail station. Until a few years ago, visitors to Old Town seldom wandered west of Washington Street. But the Metro has spurred development near the station, and new stores and restaurants have sprouted up all along King Street.

Going west from the Potomac River, Union to Lee Street is the 100 block; Lee to Fairfax, the 200 block; and so on. Numbers on the cross streets (more or less going north and south) are divided north and south by King Street. King to Cameron is the 100 block north, Cameron to Queen is the 200 block north, and so on; King to Prince is the 100 block south, and so on.

### Getting Around

As a glance at the walking tour map later in this chapter will indicate, Old Town's prime historic sites are contained within several blocks. Park your car for the day, don comfortable shoes, and start walking-- it's the easiest way.

Alexandria's bus system, known as **DASH** (tel. **703/370-3274**; [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com)), is primarily useful for getting from the King Street Metro station to the Ramsay House Visitor Center (take buses numbered AT-2 and AT-5). On weekends from April through December, free **Dash About** shuttles run along King Street (they bear a cartoon of Mr. and Mrs. George Washington riding in a horse-drawn carriage). The free "Lunch DASH" runs along King Street weekdays from 11:30am to 2pm. Otherwise base fare is \$1 with exact fare required. DASH provides service from 5:30am to 11pm weekdays, from 7am to 10pm on weekends. There's no service New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The visitor center gives away route maps, as does the DASH Old Town Transit Shop, 1775-C Duke St. (tel. **703/299-6227**), opposite the Embassy Suites Hotel Alexandria Old Town.

For a taxi, call **Alexandria Yellow Cab Company** (tel. **703/549-2500**) or **Alexandria White Top Cab Company** (tel. **703/683-4004**).

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