

# **Washington DC Attractions and Highlights**

## **HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is America's national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history, and serves as this country's memorial to the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims – six million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

The Museum's primary mission is to advance and disseminate knowledge about this unprecedented tragedy; to preserve the memory of those who suffered; and to encourage its visitors to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the events of the Holocaust as well as their own responsibilities as citizens of a democracy.

## **INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM**

Discover the world of espionage and spies and go back through the centuries and learn how espionage has changed over time and how modern espionage helped win the Cold war. This amazing espionage museum opened in July 2002 and is extremely popular. The \$40 million dollar high-tech espionage museum occupies five buildings - new and old - and is a short walk from Ford's Theater.

## **15 Best Places to Go With Kids in the Washington DC Area**

- 1) **National Zoo**: One of the most child-friendly places to visit in Washington DC is the National Zoo where you can see 435 different species of animals.
- 2) **National Museum of Natural History**: Examine a wide variety of artifacts including an 80-foot dinosaur skeleton, a life size model of a blue whale, an enormous prehistoric white shark, and a 45-and-a-half carat jewel known as the Hope Diamond. The Discovery Room is a great hands-on display for young children. Feel the skin of a crocodile, examine the jaws and teeth of different animals.
- 3) **National Museum of American History**: Explore the diversity of American history, from "First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image" to "Information Age: People, Information, and Technology." The Hands-on History Room and the Hands-on Science Center are great for kids and adults too. Learn about the conservation of the Star-Spangled Banner, unravel some of the mysteries of DNA, use lasers to transmit your voice, and much more around the globe.
- 4) **National Air & Space Museum**: NASM displays the largest collection of air and spacecraft in the world. Visit here and learn about the history, science, and technology of aviation and space flight. There are IMAX films and planetarium shows several times a day. Children marvel at the life size exhibits.
- 5) **Discovery Theatre**: The Smithsonian's Discovery Theater is a live theater geared towards children. Classic stories and folktales are told through puppet shows, storytellers, dancers, actors, musicians, and mimes.
- 6) **Bureau of Engraving & Printing**: Watch real money being printed! Tours are every 15 minutes.
- 7) **Washington Monument**: Take the elevator to the top of the memorial to George Washington, our nation's first president, and see a wonderful view of Washington DC. Kids love to see the city from a bird's eye view.
- 8) **Wolf Trap Farm Park**: Wolf Trap Foundation and the National Park Service present 70 performances from late June through early August at the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods in Vienna, Virginia. Family-friendly performances, including music, dance, storytelling, puppetry, and theater are held at 10 am and 11:15 am, Tuesdays through Saturdays.
- 9) **Glen Echo Park**: This wonderful park in Bethesda, Maryland offers year-round activities in dance, theater, and the arts for the adults and children. There are concerts, demonstrations, workshops, and festivals. The antique Dentzel carousel delights children May through September. Enjoy a puppet show at the Puppet Co. or a children's theatrical performance at Adventure Theatre. At Discovery Creek Children's Museum, explore nature, history, and the arts through innovative educational programs and exhibits.
- 10) **Six Flags America** Six Flags America offers a full day of fun just 40 minutes from the Hotel. This theme park features more than 100 rides, shows and the area's largest water park.
- 11) **Strathmore Hall Arts Center**: Music center with special children's events including afternoon teas, art exhibits, chamber music concerts, outdoor concerts and more.

12) **Catoctin Wildlife Preserve & Zoo**: This 30-acre zoo in Thurmont, Maryland is great for small children. Main exhibits include a Golden Tiger, African Lion family, Grizzly Bear, Parrot Aviary, and Venomous Animal exhibit. You can hand-feed goats, sheep, donkeys, and ducks in the petting area.

13) **Montgomery County's Nature Centers**: Provide kids with lots of hands-on opportunities to explore our environment. Naturalist guided programs will give you insight into the Capital Region's natural habitat.

14) **Reston Zoo**: Thirty-acre zoo in Fairfax, VA, is great for small children. Get "up close and personal" with the animals and feed them too! See alligators, camels, reptiles, zebras, antelope, bison, ostrich, and lots more.

15) **National Postal Museum**: Explore the history of the postage stamp. Marvel over thousands of stamps/postal artifacts.

## **Top 10 Things to do in the DC/Capital Region**

There is so much to see and do in Washington, DC that you can't see it all in just one visit. A well-rounded trip should include exploring the [National Mall](#) and some other activities too

1. **Smithsonian Institute**: Start at the Smithsonian Institute Building where you can pick up a map and information on all of the museums. These national treasures cover a wide range of subjects from art to space exploration. Plan to explore those you are most interested in, but don't try to see everything at once. Be sure to save time to see an IMAX movie at the Natural History Museum or the National Air and Space Museum.

2) **Monuments**: Our national monuments are truly spectacular. The best time to see them is at night when they are illuminated, less crowded and parking is easier. During daytime visits, take a tour bus. Listen to informative park ranger talks and you won't have to negotiate congested city traffic.

3) **Three Houses of Government**: Explore the U. S. Capitol Building, the White House and the U. S. Supreme Court and you will gain a fuller understanding of the division of power within our democratic government. Plan ahead and note that some tours must be scheduled in advance through your Congressional Representative.

4. **Take a walk through Georgetown**: Georgetown is the capital's historic waterfront that today is bustling with activity. The area is a shopper's paradise and the streets are lined with restaurants of every nationality. Take a tour of historic sites, do some shopping and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant. The visit world famous Georgetown University: the University that gave 5 Presidents to the nation.

5. **Ride a bike along the C & O Canal**: The Washington DC region is lucky to have wonderful bike trails. Jump on a bicycle and you'll quickly feel a relief from hectic city life.

**6. See a show or concert at the [Kennedy Center](#):** Live theatre productions at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts are entertainment at its finest.

**7. Attend a concert at [Wolftrap Farm Park](#):** Listen to all types of music at this national park dedicated to the performing arts. Outdoor concerts are featured in the summer and indoor performances are held the rest of the year.

**8. Take a hike at [Great Falls Park](#):** Take a picnic and enjoy spectacular views of the Potomac River at this 800 acre park.

**9. Explore [Mount Vernon](#):** Visit the 500-acre estate of George Washington and his family. Tour the 14-room mansion that is beautifully restored and furnished with original objects dating back to the 1740's. Tour the outbuildings, including the kitchen, slave quarters, smokehouse, coach house and stables.

**10. Take a walking tour of [Old Town, Alexandria](#):** Explore a quaint historic town just over the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. Visit colonial houses, churches, and museums and shop for antiques.

## **Monuments in Washington DC**

### **Memorial To America's Most Famous Leaders:**

Washington, DC is a city of monuments. We honor the generals, politicians, poets and statesmen who helped shape our great nation. Although the most famous monuments are on the Mall, you will find statues and plaques on many street corners around the city. Since the monuments are spread out, it is hard to visit them all on foot. At busy times, traffic and parking makes it difficult to visit the monuments by car. The best way to see all the monuments is to take a tour. Many of the monuments are open late at night and their illumination makes nighttime a memorable time to visit them.

**[The Washington Monument](#):** The memorial to George Washington, our nation's first president, took 40 years to complete its original construction due to lack of funds, but was finally dedicated in 1985. It has recently been refurbished to its original splendor. Take the elevator to the top and see a wonderful view of the city.

**[Arlington National Cemetery](#):** America's largest burial ground with the graves of President John F. Kennedy, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, world champion boxer Joe Louis and the Tomb of the Unknowns.

**[Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial](#):** This memorial is divided into four outdoor galleries, one for each of FDR's terms in office from 1933 to 1945. Several sculptures depict the 32nd President.

**[Korean War Veterans Memorial](#):** Our nation honors those who were killed, captured, wounded or remain missing in action during the Korean War (1950 -1953). Nineteen figures represent

every ethnic background. The statues are supported by a granite wall with 2,400 faces of land, sea and air support troops. A Pool of Remembrance lists the names of the lost Allied Forces.

**Lincoln Memorial**: Dedicated in 1922 to honor President Abraham Lincoln. Thirty-eight Grecian columns surround a statue of Lincoln seated on a ten-foot high marble base. This impressive statue is surrounded by engraved readings of the Gettysburg address, his Second Inaugural address and murals by French painter Jules Guerin.

The **Thomas Jefferson Memorial**: This dome-shaped rotunda honors the nation's third president. The 19-foot bronze statue of Jefferson is located on the Tidal Basin, surrounded by a grove of trees making it especially beautiful during Cherry Blossom season in the spring.

The **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**: A V-shaped granite wall is inscribed with the names of the 58,209 Americans missing or killed in the Vietnam War. Across the lawn is a life size bronze sculpture of three young servicemen.

The **World War II Memorial** is the newest memorial in Washington, DC is located at 17th Street, between Constitution and Independence Avenues. This beautiful structure serves as a peaceful place to remember those who served our country during World War II.