



A Capital Time in the
**CAPITAL
CITY**

**Boundless Options Await
Attendees of AALL's Annual
Conference in Washington, D.C.**

By Karen Silber

There's always something to discover in Washington, D.C. From museums to monuments, parades to parks, the site of AALL's 2009 Annual Meeting has something for everyone.



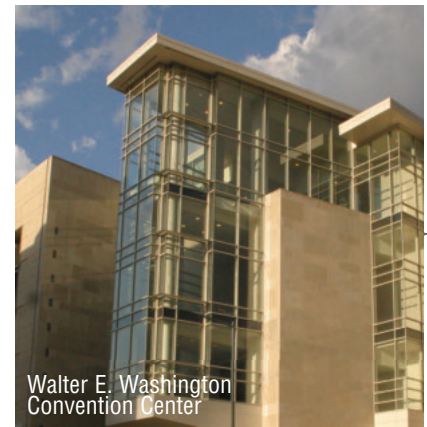
Tidal Basin

photo credit: Destination D.C.



Indebieu Restaurant

photo credit: Destination D.C.



Walter E. Washington Convention Center

photo credit: Destination D.C.



Ben's Chili Bowl

photo credit: Destination D.C.



photo credit: Carol Pratt

Museums

- International Spy Museum** www.spymuseum.org
- National Air and Space Museum** www.nasm.si.edu
- National Geographic** www.nationalgeographic.com
- National Museum of Natural History** www.mnh.si.edu
- National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian)** www.nmai.si.edu
- National Postal Museum** www.postalmuseum.si.edu
- National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum** www.dar.org
- Newseum** www.newseum.org
- Smithsonian Museums** www.si.edu/Museums
- Textile Museum** www.textilemuseum.org

Landmarks

- Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** www.nationalshrine.com
- Bureau of Engraving and Printing** www.moneyfactory.gov
- Ford Theatre** www.fordstheatre.org
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site** www.nps.gov/frdo
- Guided Tours of the U.S. Capitol** www.visitthecapitol.gov
- Korean War Veterans Memorial** www.nps.gov/kowa
- Library of Congress** www.loc.gov/index.html
- Lincoln Memorial** www.nps.gov/wamo
- Lincoln Theatre** www.thelincolntheatre.org
- National Archives** www.archives.gov
- National Mall** www.nps.gov/nama
- Supreme Court** www.supremecourtus.gov/visiting/visiting.html
- Tours of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State** <https://receptiontours.state.gov>
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial** www.nps.gov/vive
- Washington Monument** www.nps.gov/wamo
- Washington National Cathedral** www.nationalcathedral.org
- White House Tours** www.whitehouse.gov/history/tours
- Woodrow Wilson House** www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org
- World War II Memorial** www.nps.gov/nwwm



photo credit: Destination D.C.

The Metro

Getting Here

You have not one but three airports from which to choose when arriving by air to our nation's capital: Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), or Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD).

By train, it's Union Station. Located within walking distance to the Capitol, Union Station has welcomed people to one of the most important cities in the world for the past 100 years. For locals, it serves as a start to each day for commuters who disembark from Metro or MARC (Maryland Transit) trains and is the destination and departure point of Amtrak trains carrying distant commuters. With its impressive marble floors, Union Station is a place to shop, dine, or dawdle.

Getting Around

D.C.'s public transit system, or Metro, has a comprehensive system of trains and buses throughout the greater metropolitan area. There is even a Metro stop within the Washington Convention Center. To explore attractions via Metro, check out www.wmata.com/rail/maps/map.cfm.

Note that Washington, D.C., is broken up into four quadrants: NW, NE, SW, and SE, with the center at the Capitol. This is an important part of every Washington, D.C., address.

The Mall

There is so much to see, do, and experience in D.C. A good starting point is the National Mall. Not to be confused with a shopping center, the mall is an open-area national park located between Constitution and Independence Avenues NW that runs from the U.S. Capitol to the Potomac River. Designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791, the mall honors our country's most hallowed heroes in memorials and monuments, including one of the newest memorials, the World War II Memorial. The mall also hosts the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial, to name just a few. It's also from the mall that one can access the National Museum of Natural History, the National Air and Space Museum, and many Smithsonian museums, including the newest Smithsonian, the National Museum of the American Indian. In addition to the Smithsonians, the mall also hosts the National Gallery of Art, the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the U.S. Botanical Gardens, and much more. You could spend days just exploring the mall, but D.C. offers even more.

Interested in learning or seeing our government in action (or government inaction)? Guided tours of the U.S. Capitol are available, or check out the newly opened Capitol Visitor Center. It features films, exhibits, and tours showing how Congress works and also how this magnificent building was built. Don't stop there! Be sure to visit the White House, too. (You'll need to plan in advance for these tours.)

The Neighborhoods

D.C. has many eclectic neighborhoods to explore. **Capitol Hill**, or "the Hill" (east of the Capitol dome; Metro stops at Capitol South, Eastern Market, and Union Station), boasts a variety of places to visit. Take a stroll on the tree-lined streets past the Victorian row houses, the Supreme Court, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the National Postal Museum. If you are in town on Friday evening, the Marine Barracks Washington, also known as "8th and I," hosts an impressive parade by The President's Own United States Marine Band. The parade, held every Friday evening during the summer, has become a universal symbol of the professionalism, discipline, and esprit de corps of the U.S. Marines. Locals stock up on fresh veggies and unique crafts at D.C.'s oldest continually operated fresh food public market called Eastern Market.

A good spot to people watch or pick up a game of chess is **Dupont Circle/Kalorama** (Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire Avenues at P and 19th Streets; Metro stop is Dupont Circle). The area has the largest concentration of embassies just northwest of the circle. Arts and entertainment collide with restaurants, shops, hotels, galleries, and museums, including the Phillips Collection, the Textile Museum, Woodrow Wilson House, and National Geographic, to name a few.

North of Dupont Circle is **Adams Morgan** (Columbia Road NW between 16th and 18th Streets; Metro stop is Woodley Park/Zoo/Adams Morgan). Home to immigrant communities from Africa, Asia, and South and Central America, this friendly, global neighborhood boasts restaurants serving cuisine from around the world.

Foggy Bottom (between the White House and Georgetown, south of Dupont circle; Metro stop is Foggy Bottom) got its name from the fog that used to rise up from the Potomac and is home to the IMF, World Bank, the Kennedy Center, and the Department of State. The Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State, used for official functions hosted by the secretary of state and other high-level government

Arts and Entertainment

Bus Tour to Movie and TV show filming sites
www.screentours.com/tour.php/dc

Corcoran Gallery of Art
www.corcoran.org/index.asp

Dumbarton Oaks
www.doaks.org/gardens

Folger Shakespeare Library
www.folger.edu

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
www.asia.si.edu

Jazz Club Blues Alley
www.bluesalley.com

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
www.kennedy-center.org

National Gallery of Art
www.nga.gov

National Museum of Women in the Arts
www.nmwa.org

National Portrait Gallery
www.npg.si.edu

Phillips Collection
www.phillipscollection.org

Smithsonian National Zoo
nationalzoo.si.edu

The Hirshhorn
www.hirshhorn.si.edu

The Kreeger Museum
www.kreegermuseum.org

The National Museum of African Art
www.nmafa.si.edu/index2.html

The National Theatre
www.nationaltheatre.org

The President's Own United States Marine Band Parade
www.mbw.usmc.mil/parade_eveningdefault.asp

The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum
www.americanart.si.edu

The Studio Theatre
www.studiotheatre.org

Warner Theatre
www.warnertheatre.com

Washington Nationals
washington.nationals.mlb.com

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
www.woollymammoth.net

officials, are open for pre-arranged tours at no charge. These rooms hold the premier collection of 18th century American furniture, paintings, and decorative arts. Take in a great view of the city from the Kennedy Center's Roof Terrace located next the infamous Watergate complex.

Georgetown (Wisconsin Avenue and M Street NW; Metro stop is Foggy Bottom) was founded in 1751 and is known for its boutiques, fabulous architecture, and wonderful restaurants. Garden lovers will enjoy strolling along the streets and also Dumbarton Oaks. Movie enthusiasts might catch a glimpse of scenes from *St. Elmo's Fire* at Third Edition and *The Exorcist* steps across from the Key Bridge. Bus tours are also available for a guided tour of the sites of movies and TV shows shot in Washington, D.C.

Outdoor Activities and Wildlife

Bike and Roll Tour Company
www.bikethesites.com

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal
www.nps.gov/choh

Eastern Market
www.easternmarketdc.com

National Arboretum
www.usna.usda.gov

Rock Creek Park
dc.about.com/od/nationalparks/a/RockCreekPark.htm

Sightseeing Cruises on the Potomac
www.spiritofwashington.com/dc/index.jsp

The Mount Vernon Trial
www.nps.gov/archive/gwmp/mvtmap.html

Theodore Roosevelt Island
www.nps.gov/this

U.S. Botanical Gardens
www.usbg.gov

Washington Walks Guided Walking Tours
washingtonwalks.com

The waterside neighborhood of **Southwest and Waterfront** (southwest of the mall; Metro stop is Southwest/Waterfront Station) bears the name of its quadrant, the smallest in D.C. It is a launching point for sightseeing cruises on the Potomac that provide incredible views of the monuments.

Woodley Park/Cleveland Park (Connecticut Avenue north of Dupont Circle; Metro stops are Woodley Park/Zoo/Adams Morgan or Cleveland Park), is home to the Smithsonian's National Zoo and the Washington National Cathedral. The cathedral also offers gargoyle tours for visitors ages 10 and over.

U Street/Shaw and Logan Circle (north of downtown and east of Dupont Circle; Metro stop is U Street/African-Amer Civil War Memorial/Cardozo) is the birthplace of Duke Ellington and home to Lincoln Theatre, Howard University, and Ben's Chili Bowl (famous even before Barack Obama visited it in January 2009). This area is named for Civil War Colonel Robert Gould Shaw who commanded the all-black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry featured in the movie *Glory*. Logan Circle is named for Civil War General and Illinois Senator John Logan.

The **Downtown** area (north of the mall, between the White House and the Capitol; Metro stops are Gallery Pl-Chinatown, Metro Center, Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter) contains districts such as Penn Quarter (named for its proximity to Pennsylvania Avenue), Gallery Place, Chinatown, McPherson Square, Lafayette Square, Federal Triangle, and Franklin Square. Here you'll find plenty of museums, theatres, galleries, and restaurants, not to mention many law firms. Attractions of note in this area include the White House, the Spy Museum, the National Museum of Women in the Arts (dedicated exclusively to recognizing the contributions of women artists), Corcoran Gallery of Art, and Ford's Theatre (the historic theater in which Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, not to be confused with the Lincoln Theatre noted above). The Newseum is also located downtown. Billed as the world's most interactive museum, it houses 14 major galleries and 15 theaters where five centuries of news history meet up-to the-second technology on America's Main Street.

Brookland/Northeast (northeast of the Capitol; Metro stop is Brookland/CUA) has been dubbed "Little Rome" because of its collection of more than 60 Catholic sites. In this area you'll find the Catholic University of America—home to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This Roman Catholic Church is the largest in the United States and North America, and is one of the 10 largest churches in the world. This area is also home to the 446-acre National Arboretum, a living museum where trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes.

The Metro stop for the National Arboretum is Stadium Armory Station.

Anacostia and Southeast Waterfront (Southeast D.C. across the 11th Street bridge; Metro stop is Anacostia) is home to D.C.'s baseball team, the Washington Nationals, as well as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site honoring Frederick Douglass' life and accomplishments. Douglass freed himself from slavery and helped to free many others. After the Civil War, he moved to Washington, D.C., to serve in the government. The home he purchased in 1877 and named Cedar Hill features a breathtaking view of the capital.

Theatres

If you're looking to enjoy a few hours of entertainment and culture, D.C. has many avenues of nightlife, performing arts, and theatre and stage productions. For example, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Foggy Bottom) will host performances of both *Spring Awakening* (Eisenhower Theater from July 7-August 2) and *The Color Purple* (Opera House from July 1-August 2).

Other venues in close proximity to the convention center are the National Theatre, Ford's Theatre, the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and the Warner Theatre (Penn Quarter). The Studio Theatre in the Shaw neighborhood is yet another of the many live theater offerings available. Summer performance schedules will be expanding greatly as the AALL Annual Conference approaches, so check theater Web sites (see "Arts and Entertainment" on page 25) or the AALL Hospitality Booth in Washington, D.C., for more information.

D.C. is for Museum Lovers

In addition to the Smithsonians and museums listed above, D.C. has many other excellent museums and collections. The National Portrait Gallery (Penn Quarter) gives visitors a chance to meet fascinating Americans from more than 225 years of history in its halls. Located on the mall, the Hirshhorn features modern and contemporary art, and the National Museum of African Art is devoted to the collection, exhibition, conservation, and study of the arts of Africa. In a historic building near the White House, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum hosts a permanent collection and exhibitions of American crafts from the 19th century to the present.

Outstanding collections of Asian art can be found at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. This gallery also hosts works by 19th- and 20th-century American artists. In Georgetown, the Kreeger Museum is

a private, non-profit art museum showcasing the Kreegers' permanent collection of 19th and 20th century paintings and sculptures from artists including Monet, van Gogh, Picasso, Renoir, Cezanne, Chagall, Rodin, Miro, Moore, and Kandinsky, as well as Washington artists Gene Davis, Sam Gilliam, William Christenberry, and Kendall Buster. The Kreeger Museum also houses examples of traditional African and Asian Art. (Reservations are required for weekday visits but not on Saturday.)

Not too far from the White House is the museum of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, featuring 31 period rooms with a superb collection of pre-1840s furnishings and two galleries with changing exhibits. Interested in your family tree? The DAR Library is open to the public for a small fee and is the premier genealogical library in the country.

Home to the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the Folger Shakespeare Library is a major international center for scholarly research and a lively venue for exhibitions, literary programs, and the performing arts. Or take part in Spy City Tours and Scavenger Hunt at the International Spy Museum, which chronicles the history of

spying throughout the ages, across the globe, and today.

Outdoor Activities

For those who want a bit of the outdoors, enjoy a walk in D.C.! (Be mindful, however, that D.C. summers are often hot and humid.) The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal (C&O) is 184.5 miles long and located along the north bank of the Potomac River, starting in Washington, D.C., ending in Cumberland, Maryland. The canal's towpath remains a favorite of hikers, joggers, and bicyclists. Visitors of Rock Creek Park's 1,754 acres can picnic, hike, bike, rollerblade, play tennis, fish, horseback ride, listen to a concert, or attend programs with a park ranger.

Theodore Roosevelt Island is a 91-acre wilderness preserve that serves as a memorial honoring the president's contributions to conservation of public lands for forests, national parks, wildlife and bird refuges, and monuments. The island is easily accessible by bike and is located right along the Mount Vernon Trail, an 18.5-mile trail winding along the Virginia side of the Potomac River between Theodore Roosevelt Island and George Washington's home at Mount Vernon.

You can also bike the sites with Washington, D.C.'s Bike and Roll. Started in 1996, the bike tour company gives a unique and fun tour on and around the National Mall. Pick from several tours for a unique perspective of D.C.'s history and culture by bike. The Washington Walks tour company, however, claims the best way to tour the Capital City is by foot. Their guided tours include Georgetown, Memorials by Moonlight, Embassy Row, I've Got a Secret, The Most Haunted Houses, and more.

D.C. is rich in museums and art, theaters, politics, shopping, restaurants, outdoor activities, and much more! There is truly something for everyone, and this brief article cannot possibly touch upon everything there is to do should you plan to visit us this summer. Stay tuned for restaurant information to be listed on the conference Web site; in addition, Leslie Campbell's article about activities around the D.C. area will appear in next month's *Spectrum*. Enjoy your visit! ■

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