

DC Itinerary: 3 Days in the Nation's Capital

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour the museums of the National Mall to see everything from dinosaurs to flight simulators
- Visit the U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress and Supreme Court in Capitol Hill
- Dive into neighborhood attractions like the Anacostia Community Museum

Day 1

Morning

[The National Mall](#), home to many of the museums of the [Smithsonian Institution](#), is a great place to start your day. See the magnificent jewels, dinosaurs and mammals on display at the [National Museum of Natural History](#); the airplanes and interactive flight simulators at the [National Air and Space Museum](#); and the stories, arts and crafts at the [National Museum of the American Indian](#). And it's all free of charge. The

museums also offer free tours to groups who reserve in advance.

Afternoon

[The National Mall](#) is home to a host of other museums, including the [National Gallery of Art](#), where the U.S.'s only Leonardo Da Vinci painting hangs, while the [National Archives](#), which houses the original Constitution and Declaration of Independence, is a must for any American history buff.

Evening

Start your evening with dinner at [Union Station](#), where there are a number of sit-down and quick-service restaurants to sample. Plus, the glorious beaux-arts train station is the departure point for tours of the monuments at moonlight offered by [Old Town Trolley](#).

Day 2

Morning

Head to the [Arts District/U Street/Shaw](#) neighborhood for breakfast at a DC institution, [Ben's Chili Bowl](#). Or, if you're visiting on a weekend, visit the colorful farmer's markets at [Dupont Circle](#) or Eastern Market on [Capitol Hill](#). The blueberry buckwheat pancakes at Eastern Market are a local favorite.

After breakfast, tour the [Capitol Hill](#) neighborhood and explore the [U.S. Capitol](#), [Library of Congress](#) and [Supreme Court](#). The neighborhood is also home to the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#), which houses the largest collection of Shakespeare memorabilia outside of England.

For lunch, take Metro to the [Downtown/Penn Quarter/Chinatown](#) neighborhood, where you'll find an array of options on 7th Street, near the [Verizon Center](#). Or feast on fresh noodles and flavorful soups in Chinatown. And don't forget to snap a photo of the ornate Friendship Arch that looms over H Street.

Afternoon

Go undercover at the [International Spy Museum](#), where you can crack codes, take on covers and even lead a covert operation. Or stop by the [National Portrait Gallery](#) and [Smithsonian American Art Museum](#) to see portraits of some of the country's most famous historical figures. For a panoramic view of the city, head to the Old Post Office Pavilion. Free tours are given during the day, and you can peep the official bells of Washington, DC. Animal lovers may also wish to pay a visit to the [National Zoo](#), home to our famous giant pandas, cheetahs, tigers and other exotic species.

Evening

Discover DC's theater scene. [The Kennedy Center](#)'s Millennium Stage offers free performances at 6:30 p.m. nightly, along with a host of ticketed performances from opera to musicals to jazz. Other theaters, such as the [Shakespeare Theatre Company](#), [Arena Stage](#), [Warner Theatre](#) and [National Theatre](#), regularly present familiar classics. For something a bit more contemporary, catch a show at [Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company](#) or [Studio Theatre](#).

Day 3

Morning

Start your morning in one of DC's prized neighborhood attractions, like the [Anacostia Community Museum](#), [The Phillips Collection](#), [Washington National Cathedral](#), [Tudor Place](#) or [Hillwood Museum and Gardens](#), then head to [Georgetown](#) for fantastic shopping and sightseeing in a charming historic setting.

Afternoon

Sports fans can watch the [Washington Nationals](#), [Washington Wizards](#), [Washington Mystics](#), Washington Capitals or [D.C. United](#) in action at various venues around town. You can also get in on the action yourself with miles of trails in [Rock Creek Park](#). In addition to trails, the public park has a planetarium, horseback riding and lovely spots for a picnic.

Evening

If your group is looking for nightlife, head to the [Arts District/U Street/Shaw](#) neighborhood for live jazz music or [Adams Morgan](#) to experience DC's eclectic, international scene. DC's up-and-coming nightlife area, the Atlas District, features a number of funky clubs and restaurants like The H Street Country Club and The Red Palace. For something slightly more low-key, DC boasts a number of wine bars, such as Proof and Cork.

- See more at:

<http://washington.org/dc-itinerary/dc-itinerary-3-days-nations-capital#sthash.kcHW6Czj.dpuf>