

- Round-trip transportation
- Air-conditioned motorcoach while on tour
- 3 overnight stays in hotels (4 with extension)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director
- Sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide
- Visits to special attractions as per itinerary
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Medical and accident coverage
- Travel ID Badges
- Smithsonian Membership

Options

- Downtown hotel
- Extended stay
- Lunches
- Gratuities
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

HISTORY AT THE SMITHSONIAN

DAY 1: WASHINGTON, D.C.

Welcome to Washington, D.C. • Travel by airplane or motorcoach to Washington, D.C. The world's first planned capital city, Washington has served as the seat of Congress since 1800. Upon arrival, you are greeted by your Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director, who will accompany you throughout your stay.

Introduction to the Smithsonian • The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum and research complex, endowed by James Smithson and created by an act of Congress in 1846, dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge. The Smithsonian Institution houses more than 136.5 million objects and comprises 17 museums and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., two museums in New York City and nine research centers around the world. It extends its global outreach through more than 150 Smithsonian Affiliate museums. The Smithsonian is an institution dedicated to discovery, exploration and learning.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery • Visit the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, which houses both the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. Both museums use art to explore America's history, combining aesthetic and historical learning. In the Smithsonian American Art Museum, you will peruse the world's largest collection of American art, spanning more than three centuries. The National Portrait Gallery has nearly 20,000 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings and photographs depicting Americans who have made significant contributions to their country.

Washington, D.C. by night • Experience the magic of seeing Washington's most impressive sights illuminated during your evening scenic tour downtown. Thanks to the foresight of D.C.'s urban planners (who placed strict limits on the height of downtown buildings), you're assured a view of the Washington Monument from nearly every part of the city. Other points of interest on our tour include the Lincoln Memorial, the WWII Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

DAY 2: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ MOUNT VERNON

Guided sightseeing of Washington, D.C. • A local guide introduces you to the sites where national policies and political reputations are formed and re-formed daily. Observe the quiet dignity of Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place of more than 200,000 veterans and their families. At JFK's gravesite, you'll see the eternal flame that was originally lit by Jacqueline Kennedy at her husband's funeral. Here you'll also witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Next, visit the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, which depicts U.S. Marines raising an American flag at Iwo Jima. On the grassy National Mall, which extends

from the Capitol to the Potomac River, view the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Washington Monument. Visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial nearby and finish your sightseeing with a photo stop at the White House, home of every U.S. president except George Washington.

Excursion to Mount Vernon • Travel through the Virginia countryside to Mount Vernon, the lovely retreat overlooking the Potomac where George and Martha Washington lived from 1754 to 1799. As you tour the restored Georgian mansion, you'll see many symbols of the owner's eminence, including Washington's presidential chair. You'll also see the reconstructed slave quarters and Washington's tomb, as well as the elegant estate's 500 acres of grounds and gardens. Be sure to explore the comprehensive Ford Orientation Center and Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. The interactive displays, short films and high-tech immersive experiences featured in the center depict Washington at three significant stages in his life.

Evening activity • Join us for a special activity tonight. You may take a one-hour Legends of Alexandria tour in Old Town, where an 18th-century costumed guide shows you the way through the streets by lantern and shares ghost stories, legends and folklore about the area!

DAY 3: WASHINGTON, D.C.

Today is your best opportunity to arrange special visits such as meeting your representative in Congress or touring the White House. Please note that these appointments may affect the day's schedule.

U.S. Capitol and Visitor Center • See the U.S. Capitol, the city's epicenter and the heart of the American legislature. George Washington laid the first cornerstone for the building in 1793, but the edifice was set on fire in 1814 when British troops marched through the city. Much of the structure was salvaged, thanks to heavy rains that quelled the flames, and the Capitol remains the symbol of American government today. You'll also explore the Visitor Center, a new 580,000-square-foot extension to the Capitol Building. The underground facility features an exhibition gallery, orientation theaters, a 550-seat cafeteria and gift shops. The addition is the largest project in the Capitol's 215-year history. (Please note: Smithsonian Student Travel is unable to make group appointments at the Capitol. Groups are responsible for arranging their own visit.)

U.S. Supreme Court • Behold the imposing white-marble Supreme Court building, where the nine justices of the nation's highest court convene to hear oral arguments and rule on cases that affect the course of law in the United States.

Library of Congress • Marvel at the green-domed Library of Congress, whose collection of 113 million items includes a Gutenberg Bible. (Please note: Smithsonian Student Travel is unable to make group appointments at the Library of Congress. Groups are responsible for arranging their own visit.)

National Archives • This important landmark holds priceless documents that have shaped the history and politics of the United States. Interactive components will give you an appreciation for the role records and archivists play in linking the past to the future. View all four pages of the Constitution simultaneously in the Charters of Freedom Rotunda. The Public Vaults also store important records from the earliest treaties with Native tribes to presidential websites.

DAY 3: WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ford's Theatre and Petersen House • Visit the museum at Ford's Theatre, where, on April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shocked the nation by assassinating President Lincoln during a performance of *Our American Cousin*. The stricken president was carried across the street to the home of tailor William Petersen. At the historically preserved Petersen House, you'll see the room where a 23-year-old doctor worked unsuccessfully through the night to save the mortally wounded president.

National Museum of American History • Explore the newly renovated National Museum of American History, now open after extensive architectural upgrades. The museum preserves more than 3 million artifacts representing the breadth of American History. The museum's vast collection includes items ranging from Abraham Lincoln's top hat to the Kermit the Frog puppet and Dorothy's ruby slippers. New spaces created during the renovation include collection galleries, artifact walls and vistas of the National Mall and the Washington Monument. The museum also now includes a state-of-the-art Star-Spangled Banner Gallery featuring the original flag that inspired the National Anthem.

Smithsonian's IMAX® • At one of the Smithsonian's IMAX® theaters, you won't just see a movie, you'll experience it! The unique 360-degree theater surrounds you, throwing you into the heart of the action. Past showings have included *Aliens of the Deep 3-D*, *Wild Safari* and *Apollo 13*.

Optional Potomac River Cruise (March through summer) • Depending on the season, dine and dance the evening away on an optional boat cruise down the historic Potomac River, a waterway that was explored by Captain John Smith in 1608.

DAY 4: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ DEPARTURE

Embassy Row • Drive through one of Washington's most cosmopolitan neighborhoods on Embassy Row. This area of grand houses and over 130 foreign embassies boasts a range of architecture as diverse as its international denizens.

The Smithsonian's National Zoological Park • The National Zoo is home to one of Washington's most beloved families: the giant pandas, Tian Tian and Mei Xiang, and their baby, Tai Shan. The giant pandas are rare and endangered, with as few as about 1,600 living in the wild. The zoo has successfully bred a variety of exotic species, including red pandas, golden lion tamarins and pygmy hippopotamuses. It was also the first zoo outside Indonesia to successfully breed Komodo dragons. Visit the walk-in aviary, the octopi and giant crabs of the invertebrate exhibit, the Cheetah Conservation Area, and the zoo's most ambitious addition: Amazonia, a recreated South American rainforest. Examine the zoo's feathered friends and winged mammals to see how animal adaptations allow creatures to overcome gravity and fly.

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum • The National Air and Space Museum boasts the largest collection of historic air and spacecraft in the world and is a research center for aviation technology and planetary science. Come face-to-face with the original *1903 Wright Flyer*, *the Spirit of St. Louis* (which Charles Lindbergh flew from New York to Paris) and the *Apollo 11* command module, *Columbia*. The 22 exhibit halls cover topics such as *Exploring the Planets*, *How Things Fly* and *Looking at Earth*.

Departure • Head home today, or extend your tour.

★5-DAY TOUR★

DAY 4: WASHINGTON, D.C. (CONTINUED)

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum • It is estimated that 6 million Jews were put to death as part of Hitler's "Final Solution." On your visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, pay tribute to the Holocaust victims and learn more about this horrific time in history as you explore the exhibit "Daniel's Story"—a poignant historical account of the Holocaust from the perspective of a young boy in Nazi Germany. (Please note: Timed passes are necessary for visiting the permanent exhibit, The Holocaust, and availability is limited.)

Optional Theater Performance • Enjoy a theater performance tonight.

DAY 5: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ DEPARTURE

Today you will visit the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum or the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum • The National Postal Museum is housed in the City Post Office Building, which served as Washington, D.C.'s post office from 1914 through 1986. The museum, which opened in 1993, invites people to explore the history of the U.S. postal service through its vast collections, which include postal stamps, postal equipment, archival documents and photographs.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian • Inside the first museum dedicated exclusively to the preservation and promotion of the Native American culture, you will find an array of exhibits that present the stories of daily life in the many different tribes of North America through pictures, media presentations and artifacts. See traditional canoes, costumes and totem poles, and meet some of the artists who create them. You'll also discover how Native Americans live today and how they are working to preserve their heritage. The museum supports Native cultural arts not only through its exhibitions, but also symposiums and public programs, out of the belief that art is integral to understanding American history at large.

Departure • Your tour director assists with your departure.

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

Tours operated by



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