

The Washington Monument was built between 1848 and 1884 as a memorial to George Washington.



Smithsonian

STUDENT TRAVEL

- Round-trip transportation
- 5 nights hotel accommodations
- Air-conditioned motorcoach on tour
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director
- Sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide
- Visits to special attractions per itinerary
- Evening activity
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Medical and accident coverage
- Travel ID Badges and student backpacks

Options

- Downtown hotel (private groups only)
- Extended stay
- Lunches
- Gratuities
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

WASHINGTON, D.C. & NEW YORK

DAY 1: WASHINGTON, D.C.

Welcome to Washington, D.C. • Travel by airplane or motorcoach to the world's first planned capital city, where you will walk in the footsteps of our American presidents. Originally named simply the District of Columbia, the 10-square-mile stretch of land on the Potomac was renamed Washington, D.C., after the president's death in 1799. It has served as the seat of Congress since 1800 when the federal government took up residence here years before designer Pierre-Charles L'Enfant's plan was fully realized. Upon your arrival in this elegant, European-influenced capital, 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 almost 150 Smithsonian Affiliate museums. The Smithsonian is an institution dedicated to discovery, exploration and learning.

The Smithsonian's museums • Explore all that the Smithsonian's museums have to offer. On display at the National Air and Space Museum is the *1903 Wright Flyer*. You can also see the Apollo 11 command module, *Columbia*, which orbited the moon while Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin first walked on the surface in 1969. A stroll through the National Museum of Natural History will reveal objects as varied as the 45.52-carat Hope Diamond and dinosaur skeletons. To satisfy your artistic side, duck into the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, where masterpieces by Andy Warhol, Willem de Kooning and Pablo Picasso decorate the halls. (Please note: The museum(s) you visit may vary.)

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. You'll 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 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! Or visit the Jefferson Memorial, the Kennedy Center, or ESPN Zone.

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 • See 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 Native American treaties to presidential websites.

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.

DAY 4: SHENANDOAH VALLEY ★ CHARLOTTESVILLE

Transfer to the Shenandoah Valley • Continue to Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, home to Civil War battlefields, cozy country inns, historic homes, national parks and quaint 1700s town squares. The 200-mile valley, nicknamed the "Daughter of the Stars," is surrounded by the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains.

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library • Discover the 28th president as you explore the library built in his honor, one of only 12 presidential libraries in the country. You'll see what life was like in the Shenandoah Valley before the Civil War by wandering through Wilson's birthplace, which features original household items from the Wilson family. Explore the Woodrow Wilson Museum, which holds objects that include the typewriter Wilson used while obtaining his Ph.D. — he's the only president to have earned this degree — or buttons from his 1916 presidential campaign.

Transfer to Charlottesville • Travel to the college town of Charlottesville. The University of Virginia, founded here in 1819 by Thomas Jefferson, is the economic, geographic and cultural heart of the city.

University of Virginia • Enjoy time to wander the picturesque grounds of the University of Virginia campus. Marvel at the Rotunda, designed by Jefferson using Rome's Pantheon as a model. Stroll The Lawn, site of the school's annual graduation ceremonies, and peek at the 61,500-seat football stadium. Don't miss the restored Pavilion Gardens, intended by Jefferson to be a place for thought and study.

DAY 5: CHARLOTTESVILLE ★ MONTICELLO

Monticello • Begun in 1770 and completely designed by Thomas Jefferson, the estate of Monticello was completed in 1809. The 35-room house was his home for 56 years and is now a national shrine. The brick mansion has a Greek portico and a Roman-style dome and is filled with innovations like a dumbwaiter to the wine cellar, an all-weather passage linking the kitchen and dining room and an indoor compass to register wind direction via a rooftop weathervane. The president is buried in the family plot on the grounds.

Ash Lawn-Highland • Today, you'll also visit the magnificent 500-acre plantation home of James Monroe, good friend of Thomas Jefferson. The museum on the site interprets the life of the fifth U.S. president.

DAY 6: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ DEPARTURE

Transfer to Washington, D.C. • From Charlottesville, return to Washington, D.C., for departure.

Return home • Your tour director assists with your departure by flight or motor-coach.

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

**Smithsonian Affiliates are institutional partners that showcase the Smithsonian's vast collection and resources in local communities across the country.*



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