

Modeled after Rome's Pantheon, the Jefferson Memorial features a 129-foot-tall dome.



# Smithsonian

STUDENT TRAVEL

## WASHINGTON, D.C., & GETTYSBURG

### Options

- Round-trip transportation
- Air-conditioned motorcoach on tour
- 3 nights hotel accommodations (4 or 6 nights on our 5- or 7-day tour)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director throughout your stay
- Sightseeing tours led by licensed guides
- Visits to special attractions per itinerary
- Evening activities
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Medical and accident coverage
- Travel ID Badges and student backpacks
- Smithsonian Membership
- Gratuities
- Downtown hotel (private groups only)
- Extended stay
- Lunches
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

### DAY 1: WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Welcome to Washington, D.C.** • Travel by airplane or motorcoach to Washington, D.C. 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 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 160 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, the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

### DAY 2: GETTYSBURG ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Transfer to Gettysburg** • Travel to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This tiny town came to woeful notoriety as the site of the most cataclysmic battle in the Civil War. In turn, this sanguinary site provided the occasion for one of the most powerful presidential orations in American history.

**The Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park** • Stroll through this historical burial ground, America's first national cemetery. Located on the southern edge of Gettysburg, this scenic spot was the site of the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg, a Union victory considered the "high water mark of the Confederacy." The battle was the most brutal of the Civil War, with 51,000 casualties. The Soldiers National Cemetery serves as the final resting place for 3,512 Union soldiers interred here after the battle.

**Guided sightseeing of Gettysburg** • A licensed guide leads today's tour of Gettysburg National Military Park, where 170,000 fought and 51,000 died during the Civil War's bloodiest battle in July 1863. Four months later, President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. Lincoln exhorted Americans to remember the principles of the equality supported by the Declaration of Independence in the name of the slain soldiers. And while the speech remains one of the most famous in American history, Lincoln remarked after giving the address that it was a "flat failure." Learn more about the battle through the extensive collection of Civil War artifacts and archives at the Museum and Visitor Center.

**Cyclorama Experience** • Immerse yourself in the Battle of Gettysburg at the Cyclorama Experience. Start by seeing *A New Birth of Freedom*, a film that looks at the life and work of President Abraham Lincoln, particularly as he struggled to abolish slavery during the Civil War. Calling for "a new birth of freedom" during his famous Gettysburg Address, Lincoln redefined the course of the United States. Move on to the three-dimensional circular painting depicting the dramatic charge of the Confederate infantry led by General George Pickett. Originally created from 1883 to 1884, the giant canvas had become damaged by decades of neglect before a major \$15-million restoration project returned the masterpiece to the way it was intended to be viewed. The conservation project was the largest of its kind ever undertaken in North America.

**Transfer to Washington, D.C.** • Return to the nation's capital.

### DAY 3: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ MOUNT VERNON

**Guided sightseeing of Washington, D.C.** • A licensed 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 Washington Monument. Visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the newly dedicated Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. 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 4: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ DEPARTURE

Today is your best opportunity to arrange special visits such as the Library of Congress or a tour of the White House. Please note that these appointments may affect the day's schedule.

**U.S. Capitol and Visitor Center** • Visit 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. This underground facility features an exhibition gallery, orientation theaters, a 550-seat cafeteria and gift shops.

*(Please note: Smithsonian Student Travel will make group appointments for guided tours of the Capitol subject to availability.)*

**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 visits.)*

**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.

**Departure** • Head home today, or extend your tour.

#### ★5-DAY TOUR★

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

**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.

**The Smithsonian's museums (time permitting)** • This morning is free to visit your choice of the Smithsonian's museums. Revisit your favorite or explore one you haven't yet seen.

**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 5: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ DEPARTURE

**Newseum** • Test your news judgment in a game that challenges you to create your own front page or experience an interactive film in one of 15 theaters as you explore the history and significance of journalism. The 250,000-square-foot Newseum is one of the world's most technologically advanced museums, offering a hands-on experience that lets you explore five centuries of news history and go behind the scenes to see how news is made. The modern facility features an interactive newsroom and seven levels of galleries, theaters, retail spaces and visitor services. You'll also participate in an educational program that will help you better understand how and why the news is reported.

**Departure** • Head home today, or extend your tour.

#### ★7-DAY TOUR★

##### DAY 5: WASHINGTON, D.C. (CONTINUED) ★ WILLIAMSBURG

**Welcome to Williamsburg** • Travel south to Williamsburg, part of Virginia's historic triangle. In 1699, a year after mosquito-ridden Jamestown burned down, the colonial capital moved to a small village known as Middle Kingdom, which the English settlers soon re-named Williamsburg (after King William III). Once the largest city in Virginia—then the most prosperous colony—Williamsburg remained the seat of colonial government and an important center of revolutionary thought for nearly 80 years. Gain a greater appreciation of life in early America and a better understanding of your own heritage.

**Evening activity** • Join us for a special evening activity tonight. Depending on the season, possibilities include a lantern stroll or special evening program in Colonial Williamsburg.

##### DAY 6: WILLIAMSBURG ★ JAMESTOWN

**Guided sightseeing of Williamsburg** • A licensed guide leads today's tour of Colonial Williamsburg. After steadily fading from American historical memory following the Revolutionary War, Williamsburg received its first major face-lift in the 1920s, when oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller answered the pleas of a local priest to bankroll Williamsburg's restoration. In 1934, Colonial Williamsburg opened as the first U.S. park to use American revolutionary history for entertainment. Touring this working colonial village, you'll visit the Capitol, where Virginia legislators like Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry cut their political teeth; Market Square's Courthouse; and the Public Gaol (jail). Offenders seldom returned here after being found guilty, since the colonials were less than forgiving. More likely than not, sentences involved flogging, hanging or, at the very least, public ridicule! You might also visit either of two 18th-century taverns: the Raleigh, where colonial upstarts like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson toasted the Revolution; or Wetherburn's, which was also the raucous site of auctions, lectures, balls and gambling. As you stroll through the town, you'll see tradespeople performing colonial vocations, including construction, blacksmithing, bookbinding, shoemaking and foundry work.

**Guided visit to the Jamestown Settlement** • Even older than Williamsburg, Jamestown—sponsored by King James I, but owned by the Virginia Company—was the first successful English colony in the New World. The settlement was constantly troubled by territorial disputes with the Powhatan Confederacy, who were indigenous to that region. But it was the colonists themselves who sealed the fate of Jamestown when, in 1675, they burned their fort to the ground to protest the lack of protection offered to them by the crown. On your guided visit to Jamestown Settlement, join Captain John Smith and other costumed interpreters that take you

back to 1607, when these Englishmen first landed on the banks of the James River. Explore reproductions of the three boats that originally carried the men over to Virginia, wander through a re-creation of a Powhatan village or marvel at a 17th-century colonial fort.

**Optional excursion to Busch Gardens (mid-May to August)** • Opt for an exciting excursion to Busch Gardens Williamsburg theme park. More than 100 attractions showcase the cultures of 17th-century France, Ireland, England, Germany and Italy. Highlights include a vaudeville show, the German Festhaus, the Globe Theater and dozens of thrilling rides!

## DAY 7: WASHINGTON, D.C.

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**Transfer to Washington, D.C.** • Return to our nation's capital.

**Free time in D.C. (time permitting)** • Depending upon your return flight schedule, you might enjoy free time to further explore D.C. on your own.

**Departure** • Your tour director assists with your departure.

**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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