



Washington, DC



Washington, District of Columbia, was founded in 1791 as the United States capital from land donated by Maryland and Virginia. The District is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States Congress and is not a part of any state. Washington, DC, is home to the President and Executive Branch offices; the United States Capitol, which is the meeting place of Congress; and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Sixteen Smithsonian Institution museums and the National Zoological Park are located in Washington, DC: The Castle, African American History and Culture Museum (under construction), African Art Museum, Air and Space Museum, American Art Museum, American History Museum, American Indian Museum, Anacostia Community Museum, Arts and Industries Building (under renovation), Freer Gallery of Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Natural History Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Postal Museum, Renwick Gallery, and Sackler Gallery. Other museums in the District include the Art Museum of the Americas, Corcoran Gallery of Art, the National Museum of Crime & Punishment, the German-American Heritage Museum, International Spy Museum, Marian Koshland Science Museum, The Kreeger Museum, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, National Geographic Museum, National Guard Memorial Museum, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Newseum, The Phillips Collection, Textile Museum, U.S. Navy Museum, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The District is also home to many well-known monuments and memorials, such as the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the African American Civil War Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, National World War II Memorial, and the new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Washington has many performing arts venues for theater, dance, and musical performances. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Ford's Theatre, which was the site of President Lincoln's assassination; and the National Theatre are among the most prominent.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The District's historic downtown is located between the White House and the Capitol. The downtown neighborhood of Foggy Bottom contains many single-family homes that date back to the late 1800s as well as the infamous Watergate apartments.

Capitol Hill, the area's largest residential historic district, has many 19th- and 20th-century row houses listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Although Georgetown predates the District and contains the Old Stone House, the oldest-standing building in the District, most houses were built after the 1870s and follow late Victorian era row house designs. The Dupont Circle historic district contains some mansions and freestanding residences built in styles popular between 1895 and 1910 as well as many three- and four-story row houses built primarily before the turn of the 20th century in Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque Revival styles. Cleveland Park has a concentration of single-family, late Victorian era frame houses built between 1894 and 1930. Columbia Heights is one of Washington's most ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods and has a mixture of condominiums, townhouses, and middle-income housing.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The National Mall is an open-area national park located in Downtown Washington, DC. The Reflecting Pool at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial mirrors the image of the Washington Monument. The landscaped grounds of Constitution Gardens contains a lake and an island with a memorial to

the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence. West Potomac Park, the area between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, features the Tidal Basin and beautiful cherry trees.

The National Arboretum contains gardens, collections, a bonsai museum, an herb garden, azaleas, flowering cherry trees, and the original columns from the Capitol. The United States Botanic Garden includes the Conservatory, the National Garden, and Bartholdi Park.

Rock Creek Park consists of the historic Pierce Mill, Art Barn gallery, nature center, riding stables, tennis courts, a golf course, picnic areas, playing fields, and an extensive network of trails for walking, jogging, and cycling. Other parks include Lafayette Square, which surrounds the White House, and Lincoln Park, which celebrates the abolition of slavery in the District.

Professional sports teams include the Washington Redskins (football), Washington Capitals (ice hockey), D.C. United (soccer), Washington Wizards (basketball), Washington Nationals (baseball), and Washington Mystics (women's basketball).

EDUCATION

District of Columbia Public Schools educate 45,000 students in 65 elementary schools, 14 middle schools, 18 high schools, and 3 special education schools.

Washington offers many opportunities for higher education. American University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Catholic University of America, and Howard University are private universities that offer undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs. University of the District of Columbia is the only public university and offers associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees and workplace development services. Gallaudet University provides undergraduate liberal arts education, career development, and graduate programs for deaf and hard of hearing students. Corcoran College of Art + Design offers bachelor's and associate's degrees. Degrees in business, public administration, health fields, and information systems are available from Strayer University, Potomac College, and Trinity Washington University. The National Defense University educates military and civilian leaders at the graduate level.

Schools of Medicine are available at George Washington University, Georgetown University, and Howard University.

HEALTH CARE

Washington is served by seven acute care hospitals, including a dedicated children's hospital, with a total of almost 3,200 beds. The District also has a rehabilitation hospital and long-term acute care facilities. The Washington, DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center provides acute, general, and specialized services in medicine, surgery, neurology, and psychiatry, and a nursing home care unit.

DISTRICT STATS

2011

District Population	619,020
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	5,703,948
Per Capita Personal Income, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, MSA	\$59,345