Experience the Nation's Capital

Few destinations possess the power of place conveyed by the National Mall and Memorial Parks. From the steps of the U.S. Capitol to the Reflecting Pool of West Potomac Park, visitors sense the enduring legacy of presidents and celebrate the nation’s assurance of freedom and equality. Cared for by the National Park Service, the remarkable memorials and sweeping landscapes of the nation’s capital reflect the soul of our national identity and serve as the symbolic heart of the nation.

Monumental Leadership

I was summoned by my Country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love.

—George Washington

First Inaugural Address

April 30, 1789

For the trust reposed in me I will return the courage and the devotion that befit the time. I can do no less.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

First Inaugural Address

March 4, 1933

Legacy of Liberty

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

—Abraham Lincoln

Gettysburg Address

November 19, 1863

A Home with History

The White House has served as home for the nation’s first families and as the office and residence of U.S. presidents since it was first occupied by John and Abigail Adams in 1800. Over time the White House has been the site of many family gatherings, including birthday parties, holiday dinners, and Easter Egg Rolls. The president’s family shared the second floor of the White House with the president’s staff until President Theodore Roosevelt ordered the construction of a temporary building, which allowed more space for the president and his aides as well as the six growing and lively Roosevelt children. Today that building is called the West Wing. In 1901 Theodore Roosevelt officially named the historic home the White House, now a symbol of democracy recognized worldwide.

A Home with History

The Lincoln Memorial stands as an enduring symbol of freedom and a tribute to the 16th president of the United States—the Great Emancipator and preserver of the nation during the Civil War. For decades the Lincoln Memorial has been an inspirational place for important speeches, concerts, and national celebrations such as the Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday on February 12, 2009. This commemorative ribbon was made for Abraham Lincoln’s Centennial Birthday celebration on February 12, 1909.

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes administered the oath of office to Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the east portico of the U.S. Capitol, January 20, 1941.

For the trust reposed in me I will return the courage and the devotion that befit the time. I can do no less.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

First Inaugural Address

March 4, 1933

Abigail Adams

For the trust reposed in me I will return the courage and the devotion that befit the time. I can do no less.

—Abigail Adams

First Inaugural Address

March 4, 1913

CHIEF JUSTICE CHARLES EVANS HUGHES ADMINISTRATION: April 30, 1789
Your Passport to the National Parks

National Capital Region

Where History Happens

Discoveries in Every Direction

Additional national parks throughout the area offer opportunities to experience the nation’s heritage. Visit www.nps.gov for directions, podcasts, and more information.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site

George Washington Memorial Parkway

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Monocacy National Battlefield

Monocacy National Battlefield

National Mall and Memorial Parks

• Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site
• Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
• Piscataway Park
• Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm
• Greenbelt Park
• Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens
• Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
• Fort Washington Park
• Anacostia Park
• Appenzell National Scenic Trail

Visit these websites for further information:

• Nationalparks.org — Discover the many memories you have made and the destinations you discovered. The National Park Service Passport is provided by National Geographic.

Record your national park visits here with passport cancellations. For more directions and the dates of your visit. Recording your visits to different NPS sites will help you see the many memories you have made and the destinations you discovered. The National Park Service Passport is provided by National Geographic.

Visit these websites for further information:

• www.nps.gov/learn
• www.nationalparks.org
• www.nps.gov/wasa
• www.nps.gov/woolf

• Nationalparks.org

• Educational materials

Learn how you can participate at www.nps.gov/getinvolved or contact any national park.

Your Passport to the National Parks

Explore the Heart of Our Heritage

Administrated by the National Park Service, the National Capital Region includes much more than monuments and memorials that celebrate, honor, and demonstrate the nation’s commitment to democracy. Extending beyond the National Mall are additional tributes to our heritage that range from historic homes and peaceful pathways to national scenic trails and national battlefields.

Exceptional People and Places

Clara Barton National Historic Site

Located in 1884, this property was the first house in the United States to be occupied by African American women, founded by Sarah Halle. From here, Bathsheba and the Council developed strategies and programs that advanced African American and the Black community. Bathsheba influenced Roosevelt’s New Deal program from 1933 to 1945.

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

This late 19th-century home preserves the legacy of the nation’s leading African American spokesman. Known as the father of the civil rights movement, Douglass helped shape the nation as an abolitionist, publisher, and social reformer. Douglass also served as an advisor to presidents, including Abraham Lincoln.

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House

This home was the first headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, founded by Bathsheba. From here, Bethune and the Council developed strategies and programs that advanced African American and the Black community. Bathsheba influenced Roosevelt’s New Deal program from 1933 to 1945.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

The only national memorial in the District of Columbia, this island is a centerpiece of his domestic policy. Roosevelt was the first president to make the “Great Conservationist.” Theodore Roosevelt Island is a small island in the Potomac River. An architectural memorial and the restored site.

1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Monocacy National Battlefield

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