

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT DC, FROM A LOCAL'S PERSPECTIVE **GENERAL**

### **PARKING**

A special note needs to be made about parking in Washington, DC, which can be difficult at best. DC is notorious for its plentiful and prolific ticket writers, who patrol the streets from Monday - Saturday. Sunday is the only day when one doesn't have to "feed the meter" or pay for on-street parking.

Parking in the downtown area, if you can find a space, is generally a quarter for 6 - 8 minutes. If a meter or street kiosk is broken, you are not necessarily absolved from paying for parking. Some meters don't take cash, only credit cards. Some areas don't have meters, so you have to look for a street kiosk, download and use the ParkMobile app, or call ParkMobile (1 877 727 5758) to register and pay by phone. Regardless of what you use, just pay. Tickets are expensive and not worth the hassle.

Garage parking is plentiful, and can cost upwards of \$12.00/hour; a daily fee can easily be upwards of \$25/day.

The speed limit in the city, when not otherwise noted, is 20 mph. Additionally, MANY traffic lights and intersections have cameras. Be cautious, moving violations are expensive.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Crystal City, VA and Transportation Options**

The Hyatt is a 0.9-mile, flat walk to the Crystal City Metro subway station. Alternatively, there may be a free Hyatt shuttle to the National Airport metro stop (Check with the hotel prior to the Convention). The Metro will take you to the main sites in DC (where you can walk or pick up the Circulator bus), Alexandria (where you can get the free trolley) and beyond. The Metro map is here: <http://www.dctransitguide.com/m/MetroMap/>

#### **Uber, Lyft etc.**

Ubers are plentiful and easy to get, as are taxis.

#### **Other options**

For the more adventurous, there are scooters and electric bikes a-plenty for rent by the hour.

#### **Old Town Alexandria Trolley**

Free, runs up and down King Street in Alexandria, once you are there.

[visitalexandria.com/plan/king-street-trolley](http://visitalexandria.com/plan/king-street-trolley)

#### **DC Water Taxi**

There is a paid water taxi that connects Georgetown (historic DC neighborhood with shops, restaurants, Georgetown University), The Wharf in DC (shops, restaurants, The Anthem for live music), Old Town Alexandria (historic neighborhood with shops and dining), and National Harbor (shopping outlets, dining, MGM Casino).

<https://www.cityexperiences.com/washington-dc/city-cruises/water-taxi/washington-dc-water-taxi/>

#### **DC Circulator**

Once you are on the National Mall, there is a very inexpensive bus (\$1.00 or less), the DC Circulator, that circles around the tourist areas. Information is here:

[dccirculator.com/explore/where-we-go/national-mall](http://dccirculator.com/explore/where-we-go/national-mall)

#### **THINGS TO DO CLOSE TO THE HYATT**

##### **Pentagon 9/11 Memorial**

On the grounds of the US Pentagon, it's open 24 hours. Downloadable tour available.

[pentagonmemorial.org](http://pentagonmemorial.org)

#### **Pentagon City Mall**

[simon.com/mall/fashion-centre-at-pentagon-city](http://simon.com/mall/fashion-centre-at-pentagon-city)

#### **Crystal City shops and underground**

There are a variety of shops and restaurants near the hotel, including an underground mall. All are within walking distance.

[thecrystalcityshops.com](http://thecrystalcityshops.com)

#### **Target**

1.2 miles south of the Hyatt, in Potomac Yard.

#### **Old Town Alexandria**

Lovely, waterfront, historic community about 15 minutes from the Hyatt, with lots of beautiful architecture, shops, restaurants, and some historic sites open for viewing.

[visitalexandria.com/old-town](http://visitalexandria.com/old-town)

#### **Del Ray neighborhood**

Cute, small neighborhood about a 15-minute drive from the Hyatt (next to Alexandria), with shops, restaurants, and a few junk stores.

If you have to choose between Alexandria and Del Ray, choose the first one unless you find a show at the Birchmere that you want to see ([birchmere.com](http://birchmere.com)).

[visitalexandria.com/plan/neighborhoods/del-ray](http://visitalexandria.com/plan/neighborhoods/del-ray)

#### **POINTS OF INTEREST IN DC**

##### **Washington, DC**

Below are some of the main attractions in Washington DC. There are many historic neighborhoods and areas (Capitol Hill, Georgetown, Rock Creek National Park, Roosevelt Island, etc.) that can also be explored, as well as other historic sites that are beyond the National Mall (Lincoln's Cottage, Frederick Douglass House (should reopen in 2023).

Send questions via email to [2023Arlington@GoldenGlow.org](mailto:2023Arlington@GoldenGlow.org).

For all other convention-related details, please see the 2023 Arlington Convention page at:

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### **The National Mall, Monuments, Smithsonian Museums (and the National Zoo)**

Walking the National Mall, with the U.S. Capitol on one end and the Washington Monument on the other, seeing the outdoor monuments (Vietnam Memorial, WWII Memorial, FDR Memorial, etc.) that sprawl beyond the main mall, and visiting the free Federal museums, can take days. Pick one or a few here:

[nps.gov/nama/index.htm](https://nps.gov/nama/index.htm)

[si.edu/museums](https://si.edu/museums)

### **Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House where Lincoln died**

Located a few blocks north of the mall area, these are profoundly moving and must-see sites. The theatre and the house are across from each other. The tour should take only an hour or two.

[fords.org/visit/historic-site/petersen-house/](https://fords.org/visit/historic-site/petersen-house/)

### **Willard Hotel**

If you go to Ford's Theatre, take a detour to walk through the historic Willard Hotel, or even better, get a drink at the Round Robin Bar or tea on the weekends (if you have the budget).

[washington.intercontinental.com](https://washington.intercontinental.com)

### **Hotel Washington/Vue Bar**

If you don't want to detour as far as the Willard, get a drink at the rooftop bar of the Hotel Washington, but note the dress code and hours before you go.

[vuerooftopdc.com](https://vuerooftopdc.com)

### **The International Spy**

This is a private, pay-to-enter museum that is worth the price. There is a lot here, with a lot of reading, but also lots of exhibits. A visit to the Spy Museum can be combined with dinner or a walk along The Wharf.

[spymuseum.org](https://spymuseum.org)

### **Hillwood Museum**

In Northwest Washington, set in a neighborhood bounded by Rock Creek National Park, this is a great way to get out of the tourist area. It's the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. The house and gardens are lovely, and her collection of Russian antiques, including Faberge eggs, is second to none. There is a cafe on-site. This is near the National Zoo, so for those who have boundless energy and good feet, the zoo and Hillwood can be done in the same, very long, day. If you just go to Hillwood, it's easy to spend the better part of the day here. You can bring your own lunch and sit in the gardens if you choose. This is a paid admission site.

[hillwoodmuseum.org](https://hillwoodmuseum.org)

### **OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NATURE LOVER / GARDENER / PLANT LOVER / BIRDER**

#### **U.S. Botanic Garden**

Take a break from the museums and go sightseeing along the National Mall, and duck into the botanic garden, near the Capital, for a respite.

[usbg.gov](https://usbg.gov)

#### **Tidal Basin**

See the cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, which is very near the Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument.

### **Roosevelt Island, C & O Canal, Rock Creek Park, US Arboretum**

All are outdoor areas that provide opportunities for walks, bike rides, and birding.

### **LARGE SHOPPING, DINING, ENTERTAINMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **The Wharf**

Along the DC Potomac River waterfront with shops, restaurants, The Anthem for live shows.

[wharfdc.com](https://wharfdc.com)

#### **National Harbor**

Large complex of restaurants, shops, national shopping outlets, outdoor space. In Md, across the Potomac River. You can get the water taxi from Alexandria and see "The Awakening" as you cross the Potomac River.

[nationalharbor.com/things-to-do](https://nationalharbor.com/things-to-do)

[Take a self-guided cellphone tour of National Harbor art](https://nationalharbor.com/things-to-do)

#### **Nationals Park and the surrounding Capitol Riverfront**

See a baseball game! The Nationals are playing the Phillies and the Red Sox during the week of the convention. The area around the park is chock full of more restaurants.

[mlb.com/nationals/ballpark](https://mlb.com/nationals/ballpark)

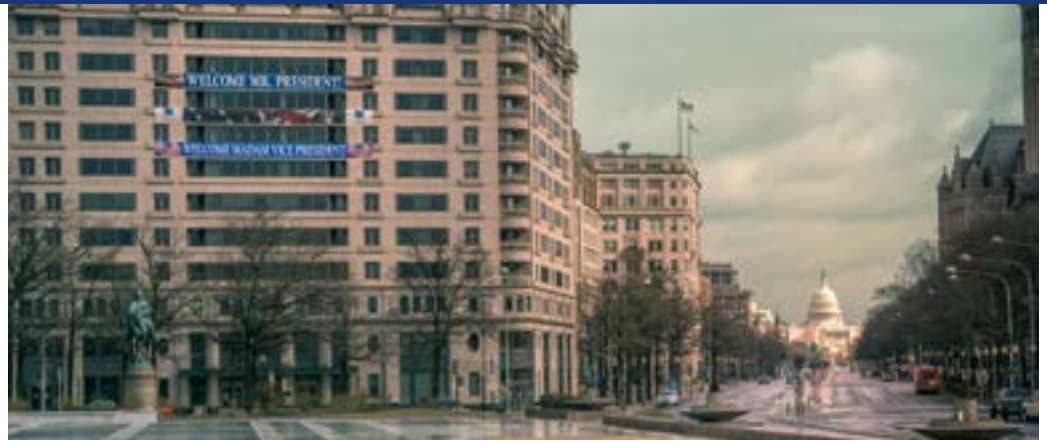
[capitolriverfront.org/go/nationals-ballpark](https://capitolriverfront.org/go/nationals-ballpark)

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### ANTIQUING CLOSE TO THE CITY

#### Georgetown

There are some shops to be found along Book Hill, along central and lower Wisconsin Ave, and on or near M St. in Georgetown. A visit to Georgetown can be combined with Dumbarton Oaks, a paid site, and lunch or dinner along the Georgetown waterfront (where you can look across at the Watergate complex, site of the historic break-in). The C & O Canal runs through Georgetown, and tours are offered in the summer.

There is a Sunday flea market in Georgetown.

[georgetowndc.com/neighborhood/book-hill/](https://georgetowndc.com/neighborhood/book-hill/)

[georgetowndc.com/business/frank-milwee-antiques/](https://georgetowndc.com/business/frank-milwee-antiques/)

[christchilddc.org/opportunity-shop](https://christchilddc.org/opportunity-shop)

[doaks.org](https://doaks.org)

[georgetownfleamarket.com](https://georgetownfleamarket.com)

#### Miss Pixie's, 14th Street Corridor

One man's junk is another man's antique? Miss Pixie's has an assortment of "old stuff." If you venture into this part of the city, you can get a meal at Ted's Bulletin or Colada Shop. If you have a larger budget, go to Le Diplomate, where you are likely to see politicians who you recognize. Reservations are necessary at this French bistro.

[misspixies.com](https://misspixies.com)

[tedsbulletin.com/location/14th-street/](https://tedsbulletin.com/location/14th-street/)

[lediplomatedc.com](https://lediplomatedc.com)

[coladashop.com/14th-street](https://coladashop.com/14th-street)

#### Kensington Row

Located in Kensington, Md, about 30 - 40 minutes by car. This is a row of antique shops with a variety of mostly smaller antiques.

[kensingtonantiquerow.com/shops/](https://kensingtonantiquerow.com/shops/)

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