



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How can I tour the White House?

Tours of the White House are available by advance arrangement through your member of congress or senator. Tours are arranged for groups of ten or more, but smaller groups and families should not be discouraged from requesting to join a tour. You should submit a request through your congressperson's office at least one month and up to six months in advance. Visitors who are not US citizens should contact their embassy in DC about tours for international visitors, which are arranged through the Protocol Desk at the State Department. The tours are self-guided and will run from 7:30 am until 12:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call the White House Visitors Center at (202) 456-7041 or visit [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov). You can locate your congressperson's office by visiting [house.gov](http://house.gov). For your senator's office, visit [senate.gov](http://senate.gov).

### How can I tour the Capitol?/ see Congress in session?


The US Capitol is open to the public for tours Monday through Saturday. Tickets are also required to tour the US Capitol. To guarantee availability, you should reserve your tour in advance online at [visitthecapitol.gov](http://visitthecapitol.gov) or through your congressional representative or senator. A limited number of same-day tour tickets may also be available at the Capitol Visitor Center. Tickets are not required to tour the Capitol Visitor Center, which is open 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday through Saturday. Visit [aoc.gov](http://aoc.gov) for more information.

To obtain passes to see the House and Senate in session, call your representative or one of your senators at (202) 224-3121. International visitors are always welcome to view a session of the Senate or House, and should enter through the House of Representatives Gallery line on the South side of the Capitol complex. Capitol Guide Service personnel issue international gallery passes inside the South Screening Facility.

Information about tours for visitors with special needs is available from the Congressional Special Services Office at (202) 224-4048 or (202) 224-4049 (TDD).

### Which attractions require tickets?

Many of Washington, DC's major attractions are open for the public and do not require tickets, including the museums of the Smithsonian system and the National Zoo, the National Gallery of

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Art and the national monuments and memorials. Washington, DC's most popular ticketed attractions, the Newseum, Madame Tussauds, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Washington Monument and International Spy Museum, allow visitors to avoid waiting in line by pre-reserving their tour tickets for a small fee.

Visitors can pre-reserve individual tickets for the Washington Monument for a fee of \$1.50 per ticket by calling 1-877-444-6777 or visiting [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). For groups, call 1-877-559-6777. If you do not pre-reserve your tickets to the Washington Monument, plan to arrive early in the morning for ticket distribution. Tickets are distributed at the 15th Street kiosk (east of the Monument) beginning at 8:30 am. Lines may form much earlier in the morning.

Timed passes are needed for the permanent exhibition at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Passes are free and are distributed daily beginning at 10 am on a first-come, first served basis. You can pre-reserve tickets for a small service charge of \$1.75. (for groups of 21 or smaller). Groups of 21 or more qualify to make a scheduled visit to the Museum for the Permanent Exhibition: The Holocaust or the current Special Exhibitions. Group reservations are free and must be submitted using the Museum's online reservation system. Requests are processed on a first-come, first served basis, and may be submitted from 24 hours to 12 months in advance of the visit date. It is highly recommended that groups who wish to visit during the spring and summer months complete their reservations well in advance of their visit date due to high demand during that period. Visit [ushmm.org](http://ushmm.org) or call (202) 488-0400 for additional information.

The Bureau of Printing and Engraving requires tickets for its tours from March through August only; these are only distributed on the day of your visit, beginning at 8 am. Lines form early and, during peak season, tickets are often distributed by 9 am. Reservations are required for Group Tours which take place 11:00 am - 12:15 am. 50 people max per tour). Complete a Group Reservation Request Form and fax it to 202-874-6331. The Bureau is closed on weekends, federal holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

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Tours of the White House are only available by advance arrangement through your member of congress or senator. You can contact your representative or senator's office up to six months in advance to request a tour. More information is available at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

While the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, Ford's Theatre, the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian museums do not require tickets, you may want to check schedules in advance to take advantage of guided interpretive tours, lectures, IMAX movies and other programs.

**Can we tour the FBI building?**

At this time, the FBI tour at the J. Edgar Hoover Building is closed for renovations. Please call (202) 324-3447 or visit [fbi.gov](http://fbi.gov) for more information.

**Can we tour the Pentagon?**

Members of the general public must contact their state representative's office to request a tour. You can find your senator's contact information at [senate.gov](http://senate.gov) and your representative's information at [house.gov](http://house.gov). All tour requests must be made at least two weeks in advance and no earlier than three months prior to the requested tour date.

Military personnel assigned to the Pentagon with escort privileges may request to accompany their friends and family on tours of the facility. If you are assigned to the Pentagon or if you are visiting a Pentagon staff member, contact the Pentagon Force Protection Agency @ 703-697-1001 to determine escort status.

The Pentagon tour office will accept and process group tours from educational institutions (schools/colleges/Academies), churches, government agencies, or military organizations consisting of 5 or more visitors. Please review the Group Tour Guidelines before making a Group Tour request. Call (703) 697-1776 or visit <http://pentagon.afis.osd.mil> for more information.

**Where can I find public restrooms on the National Mall?**

There are public restrooms, all with handicapped accessibility, located at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial and World War II Memorial on the National Mall. All of the museums on the National Mall also have ample public restrooms. However, there are no restrooms near the Washington Monument. Most downtown businesses restrict use of their restrooms to patrons.