



FREE (AND ALMOST FREE) THINGS TO DO

It's actually hard to spend money on activities in D.C. All of the Smithsonian museums and national memorials are free, as are many other museums and attractions. Summertime is heaven for budget travelers when free outdoor concerts and festivals occur every week.

Museums

- Anacostia Museum for African American History
- Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
- Bureau of Engraving & Printing
- Corcoran Gallery of Art (free Thursday after 9 PM)
- DAR Museum
- Folger Shakespeare Library
- Freer Gallery of Art
- Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden
- Library of Congress
- National Air and Space Museum
- National Building Museum
- National Gallery of Art
- National Geographic Society
- National Museum of African Art
- National Museum of American History
- National Museum of the American Indian
- National Museum of Health and Medicine
- National Museum of Natural History
- National Portrait Gallery
- National Postal Museum
- National Zoological Park
- Navy Museum
- Phillips Collection (free weekdays)
- Renwick Gallery
- Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Textile Museum
- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Monuments & Memorials

- African American Civil War Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- Jefferson Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
- National World War II Memorial
- U.S. Navy Memorial & Naval Heritage Center
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Vietnam Women's Memorial
- Washington Monument



Attractions

- Anderson House
- Dumbarton Oaks (free from November 1 to March 14)
- Ford's Theatre
- Franciscan Monastery
- Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
- Kennedy Center tours
- National Arboretum
- National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
- Old Post Office Pavilion
- Old Stone House
- Rock Creek Park
- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Capitol
- U.S. Botanic Garden
- Washington National Cathedral
- White House

Performances

- The Kennedy Center hosts free performances every day at 6 PM on the Millennium Stage.
- Summertime is the season for free concerts. Folk, pop, and rock bands perform gratis on Monday and Thursday nights atop Fort Reno park.
- You can also hear free jazz in the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden Fridays in summer.
- The Carter Barron Amphitheatre in Rock Creek Park hosts free performances by the Shakespeare Theatre Company and free concerts throughout the spring and summer.
- Performances of military music take place around the city. From June through August, the U.S. Navy Band, U.S. Air Force Band, U.S. Marine Band, and U.S. Army Band take turns playing free concerts on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol weekdays at 8 PM. You can also see the U.S. Marine Band every Friday night from May through August during the Evening Parade at the Marine Barracks. The event features music and precision marching.
- Washington is a city of festivals, many of which are free to the public (food and souvenirs cost extra). When the weather turns warm, check the National Mall lawn and Pennsylvania Avenue for music and dance performances, concerts, talks, cooking demonstrations, parades, and more. For a complete list of annual events, visit the Washington, D.C. Convention and Tourism Corporation at www.washington.org.
- TICKETPLACE sells half-price tickets to Washington's theater and music events. If you're visiting in late October, reserve your seats early for D.C.'s Free Night of Theater.
- Almost every day of the year, the Politics and Prose independent bookstore on Connecticut Avenue invites fiction and nonfiction authors to the store for book readings, talks, and Q&A sessions. It's a great chance to meet the faces behind the names on the *New York Times* Bestsellers' List.
- Finally, if it's free flicks you're after, the Screen on the Green film festival shows movie classics for free on a giant screen on the National Mall. Screenings take place Monday nights in July and August.