

# D.C. Washington

Our four-day vacation was between Christmas and New Year's Day. Although we travelled here during the Christmas season, this plan can easily be adapted for any time of the year.

Legend: T - Expected time to drive to location. D - Distance to destination. A - Arrive by this time. S - The length of time at this location. L - Expected departure time.

## **Day 0 - The night before**

Find a hotel that is halfway between home and Washington, D.C.. This will break up the long drive and allow more time for sleeping.

## **Day 1 - Mostly in Pennsylvania**

Wake: To be determined based on distance to the first stop.

### **State Capitol Tour in Harrisburg, PA**

A free tour of this ornate state building. Book the first tour of the day online. Paid street parking is available in front of the museum that is beside the Capitol.

Be sure to check the grounds of the Capitol.

T/D: to be calculated from hotel A: 10:00 S: 1:10 L:11:15

## **Pennsylvania State Museum**

\$7 admission. Good sized museum based on Pennsylvanian history.

T/D: short walk from the Capitol. A: 11:20 S: 2:40 L: 2:00

Before leaving Harrisburg, consider visiting these other locations if time allows and if places are open:

- St Patrick Cathedral (20 min to visit)
- Doll House Museum (45 min to visit)

## **Hersey Gardens**

Admission to the Royal Botanical Garden is free with our reciprocal membership. We will only be visiting the greenhouse at this time because the gardens will not be in season during the winter. They have butterflies in the greenhouse.

T: 30 min D: 23km A: 2:30 S: 1:00 L: 3:30

## **Roy Rogers - Hamburger**

Try out this fast food restaurant that we have yet to visit.

T: 2:00 D: 190km A: 5:30 S: 30 min L: 6:00

## **Brookside Gardens - Christmas lights event**

Tickets must be pre-booked in advance. \$10/person. Will run rain or shine. Be sure to dress according to the weather. The event runs from 5:00 to 9:00.

T: 10 min D: 5km A: 6:10 S: 2:00 L: 8:10

## **Hotel**

Check in for a two night stay.

## **Day Two - Washington, D.C.**

Wake and leave the hotel based on time and distance to the first destination.

### **Smithsonian Zoo**

A free admission to the zoo, but tickets must be booked in advance. Parking is expensive (\$30) and must be reserved in advance. Plan on arriving when it opens. Because it is winter, not all animals may be outside when we arrive. Hours at this time of year are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

T/D: to be calculated based on hotel A: 8:00 S: 3:30 L: 11:30

### **Parking in Washington D.C.**

Use ParkWhiz to reserve a spot. Make sure the location is accessible into the early night. Everything that is done in D.C. today will be walking. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing. It is impossible to visit all the sights and museums in this area in one day.

T: approximately 15 minutes from Smithsonian Zoo A: 12:00 S: 9:00 L: 9:00

Places we plan on visiting:

- **Garfield Monument**
- **Ulysses S. Grant Memorial**
- **Peace Monument**
- **National Museum of the American Indian**
- **George Gordon Meade Memorial**
- **National Gallery of Art**
- **Smithsonian National Museum of African Art**
- **National Museum of Asian Art**
- **Professor Joseph Henry Statue**
- **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History**
- **Smithsonian National Museum of American History**

- **National Museum of African American History and Culture**
- **Washington Monument**
- **National Christmas Tree**
- **General William Tecumseh Sherman Monument**
- **First Infantry Division Monument**
- **The White House**
- **Lafayette Square**
- **John Paul Jones Memorial**
- **World War II Memorial**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial**
- **Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool**
- **The Three Servicemen Statue**
- **Lincoln Memorial**
- **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**
- **The Arts of Peace Sculptures**
- **The Arts of War Sculptures**
- **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**
- **Thomas Jefferson Memorial**
- **George Mason Memorial**

Focus on the building first. Most are free to enter, and most close at 5:00 PM. The area is well-lit at night, giving the monuments a more picturesque look to them.

*OPTIONAL* - If it is at all possible, add another day to this trip come back to this location and do the places that were missed. There is so much to see that one or even two days is not enough.

**Hotel** - rest those feet; you did a lot of walking today!

## **Day Three - Final Day in Washington, D.C.**

Wake and leave the hotel based on time and distance to the first destination.

### **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**

It is a free place to enter, even without a tour guide. It is best to take a tour and book one for the first one offered in the morning. A free guided tour will give insight into this magnificent building. Paid parking.

T/D: to be calculated based on hotel A: 9:00 (time of first tour) S: 2:00 L: 11:00

### **St John Paul II National Shrine**

It is free to enter. There are two chapels inside, as well as a museum on the life of Pope John Paul II. Free parking in back.

T/D: a short distance. A: 11:10 S: 50 L: 12:00

### **Dumbarton House**

Likely free to enter. A heritage home with a modest garden. Very limited street parking.

T: 21 min D: 8km A: 12:20 S: 40 L: 1:00

### **Tudor Place**

Check hours before visiting. Paid tour of the home and the history of those who lived here. Garden outside that is free to visit. Very limited street parking. Consider going here before Dumbarton House since tours are scheduled on top of the hour

T/D: short distance. A: 1:10 S: 1:00 L: 2:15

## **Dumbarton Oaks Museum.**

Walk from Tudor Place to this free museum located in a former mansion. The gardens are extensive and free to visit in the off-season. The gardens are free to visit in spring and summer with a reciprocal membership from the Royal Botanical Garden. BE MINDFUL OF THE TIME since this place may close earlier than the other two in this area.

T/D: Walking a couple of blocks. S: 45 to 90 L: 3:00 to 4:00

## **Hotel**

Find a hotel that is most of the way to Pittsburgh.

## **Day Four - Pittsburgh and then home**

Wake and leave the hotel based on time and distance to the first destination.

## **Bayerhof Museum**

It is an extended tour of an incredibly unique place to visit. \$10/person (cash only). Call to book a tour weeks in advance - they sell out quickly.

T/D: to be calculated based on hotel A: 10:00 (time of the first tour) S: 3:00 L: 1:00

## **The Andy Warhol Museum**

Paid street parking or a parking lot across from the museum. It was a pricey admission to see the works of this renowned artist - seven floors of exhibits.

T: 15 min D: 11km A: 1:15 S: 1:45 L: 3:00

**Home** - the long, depressing drive because the vacation is over. This sad feeling will go away when you begin planning another trip.