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South Florida's Guide

to 4th of July in

DC

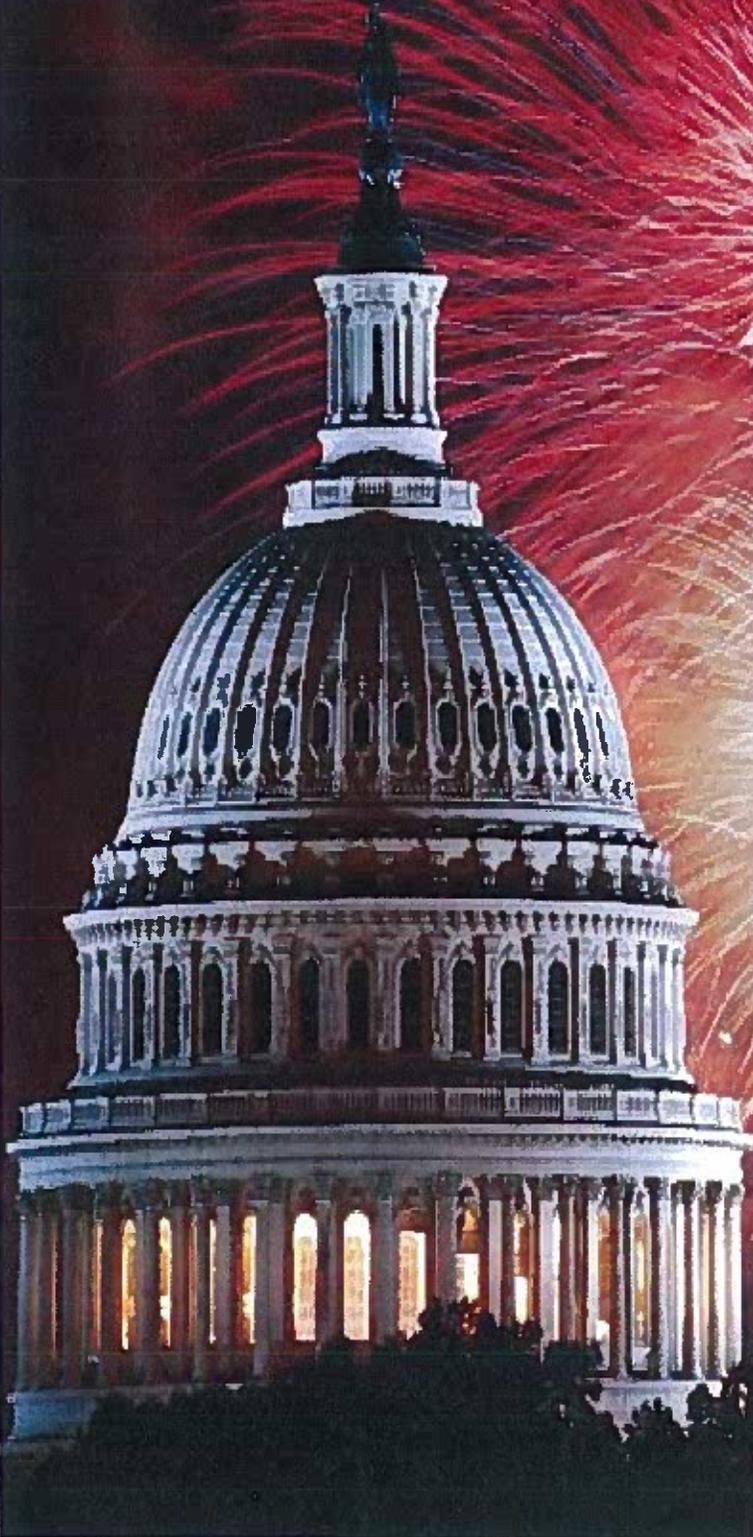




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4th of July Introduction By: Congressman Allen West



Greetings Patriot!

On behalf of my entire Congressional staff, I would like to welcome you to Washington D.C. to celebrate America's birthday.

I have put together a guide full of information for you to ensure your stay here during this holiday weekend will be unforgettable.

I encourage you to read through this guide and learn about some of the best places to eat, my favorite museums, and of course, the best places to watch the spectacular 4th of July fireworks show.

There is no other greater country in the world than the United States and no other greater place to celebrate the birthday of this great nation, than right here in America's capital city!

If there is anything my staff can help you with during your stay here, including a tour of the Capitol, don't hesitate to ask. We are so happy to have you here.

Steadfast and Loyal,

Allen B. West

Member of Congress



4th of July's History



"Taxation without representation!" That was the battle cry of the 13 colonies in America that were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III with no representation in Parliament. As dissatisfaction grew, British troops were sent in to quell any signs of rebellion, and repeated attempts by the colonists to resolve the crisis without war proved fruitless.

On June 11, 1776, the colonies' Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia formed a committee with the express purpose of drafting a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. The document was crafted by Jefferson, who was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer. (Nevertheless, a total of 86 changes were made to his draft.) The final version was officially adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4.

The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed and, on July 6, *The Pennsylvania Evening Post* became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document. The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.

Bonfires and Illuminations

On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks. The custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, oratory, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.

On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote. In it, Jefferson says of the document:

"May it be to the world, what I believe it will be ... the signal of arousing men to burst the chains ... and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. That form, which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. ... For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them."

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870, and in 1938 Congress reaffirmed it as a holiday, but with full pay for federal employees. Today, communities across the nation mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, firework displays, picnics and the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" and marches by John Philip Sousa.

Information Provided By: <http://www.pbs.org/capitolfourth/history.htm>

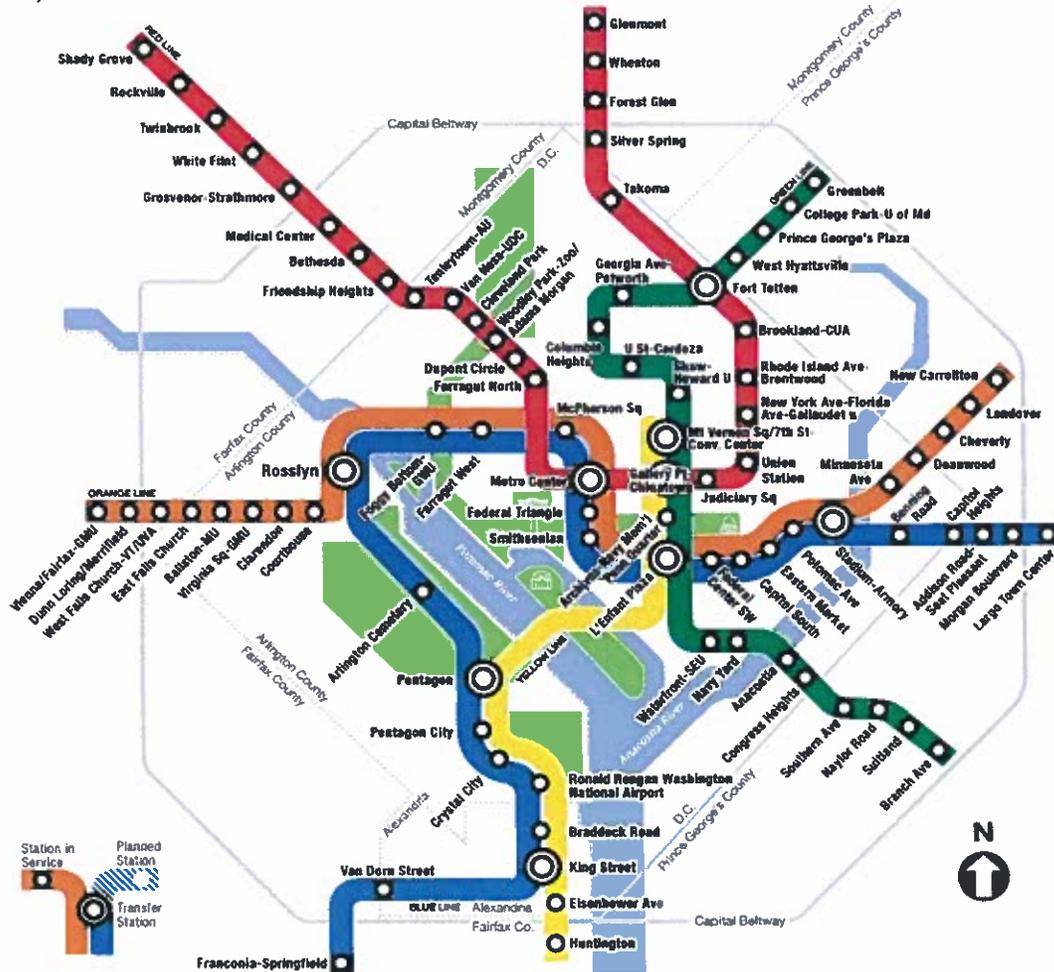


Transportation

Washington, D.C. is the best place to be to celebrate the July 4th Weekend. Honoring the United States of America's independence at our nation's Capital is a one of kind experience. D.C. traffic can be a nightmare so here are a few tips to effectively navigate through your Capital....

Metrorail and Metrobus:

The Metro provides simple and quick transportation to all of Washington's hot spots- just look for the giant "M" symbol. It is the most affordable, reliable, and convenient ways to navigate the city.



Taxi:

D.C. has plenty of cabs for hire. To get a list of taxi services call 1-800-TAXI-CAB (1-800-829-4222)

D.C. Circulator Bus:

The bus frequents all of D.C.'s neighborhoods and landmarks for a fare of \$1.

D.C. Zipcar:

If you prefer to drive, D.C. Zipcar is a great option. Unlike the average car-rental service, you can reserve a car to travel D.C. weeks before your trip or at a spur-the-moment. Just call 1-866-4ZIPCAR to find a Zipcar branch closest to where you are staying.

Capital Bikeshare:

Bikeshare is an adventurous and active transportation alternative. You can see the city on wheels and at your own pace. Once you pick up a bike, you can ride it for as long as you ride and return it to any station you choose.



An All Day Affair:

July 4th Events

In Washington D.C. the 4th of July is an all day affair! It is a spectacular adventure of events that start from sunrise to sunset. Patriotism fills the air as the monuments and the Capitol create a beautiful atmosphere. Family friendly events range from parades on Constitution Ave. to fireworks at the National Mall.

Washington, DC's Independence Day Parade

Parade Start Time: 11:45 a.m.

Parade Route: Constitution Avenue and 7th to 17th Sts.

Washington, DC's 4th of July Parade features marching bands, military and specialty units, floats, and VIP's. The parade draws a large crowd, so plan to arrive early to stake out a good viewing spot

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The annual event includes daily and evening music and dance performances, crafts and cooking demonstrations, storytelling and discussions of cultural issues. The themes of the 2011 program will be: Colombia, Peace Corps and Rhythm and Blues. The hours on the 4th of July are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

4th of July at the National Archives

The National Archives celebrates the 4th of July with special family programming celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Visit the National Archives Building for this special birthday party from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

White House Visitor Center Family Events

Between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., stop at the White House Visitor Center and enjoy games, crafts and other activities celebrating America's Birthday. National Park Service rangers and volunteers will give you the opportunity to sample the sights, sounds, activities and personages that helped finalize the Declaration of Independence and create the United States of America on July 4, 1776.

Concert on the Washington Monument Grounds

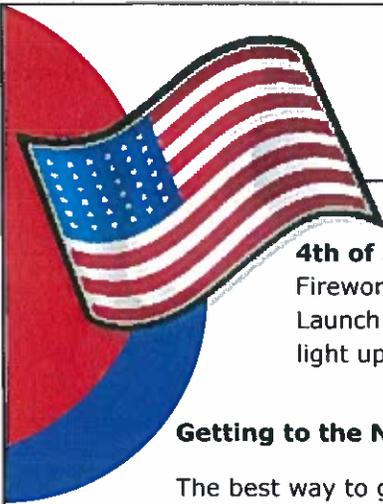
Beginning at 6:00 p.m. the U.S. Navy Band performs on the Southwest corner of the grounds of the Washington Monument. The concert includes the talents of the U.S. Navy Concert Band, the Sea Chanters chorus, and the Cruisers, their rock and top-40 ensemble. That portion ends at 7:30 p.m., to be followed by a vignette by the National Park Service. At 8:00 p.m., the Navy Band Commodores Jazz ensemble will perform. This portion promptly concludes at 9:10 p.m. for the fireworks display.

A Capitol Fourth Concert

Time: 8 - 9:30 p.m. (Admittance begins at 3 p.m.)

Location: West Lawn of the U. S. Capitol

A 4th of July tradition in the nation's capital includes a live concert by the National Symphony Orchestra and several pop artists performing patriotic music on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building. The concert and show is followed by a spectacular display of fireworks over the Washington Monument. The concert is free and open to the public. No tickets are necessary. The annual event will be broadcast live on WETA TV 26 with a repeat airing at 10:00 p.m.



4th of July Fireworks on the National Mall

Fireworks Time: At dark, usually around 9:15 p.m. Rain Date: July 5th

Launch Location: The fireworks are launched from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and light up the sky over the Washington Monument.

Getting to the National Mall

The best way to get to the National Mall is to take the Metro. Stations nearby include Metro Center, Gallery Place-Chinatown, Judiciary Square, Federal Triangle and L'Enfant Plaza. **The Smithsonian Metro station will be closed for most of the day** for security reasons. The station will reopen for entry-only shortly after the fireworks show has concluded to help get people home. It typically takes 1 ½ to 2 hours to clear the Mall after the fireworks.

Public access to the National Mall begins at 10:00 a.m., with all visitors required to enter via a security checkpoint.

Places to View the National Mall Fireworks

- U.S. Capitol
- Lincoln Memorial
- Jefferson Memorial
- FDR Memorial
- East Potomac Park
- Rooftop Bars in Washington DC
- Rooftop of the W Hotel (tickets required)
- Anywhere along the National Mall between 14th Street and the Capitol
- Aboard a cruise along the Potomac River (tickets required)



Spectacular views of the fireworks can also be seen from the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima) in Arlington, Virginia near the Rosslyn Metro station and areas along the Virginia side of the Potomac River that can be reached from George Washington Memorial Parkway. You may park at the Gravelly Point parking lot, which is about a quarter mile from the 14th Street Bridge. Another great place to watch the fireworks is from the Air Force Memorial on Columbia Pike.

Information Provided By: <http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/4thofJuly.htm>



D.C. Neighborhoods You Must Visit



Capitol Hill

The neighborhood surrounding the U.S. Capitol Building is the largest residential historic district in Washington, DC with many 19th and 20th century row houses that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Capitol Hill is the most prestigious address in Washington, DC and the political center of the nation's capital.

Metro Stations: Union Station, Capitol South, Eastern Market

Must Visit: U.S. Botanic Gardens, Navy Museum, Folgers Shakespeare Theatre

Adams Morgan

Adams Morgan is the center of Washington DC's liveliest nightlife and is popular with young professionals. The neighborhood has a wide variety of restaurants, nightclubs, coffee houses, bars, bookstores, art galleries and unique specialty shops.

Metro Stations: Woodley-Park Zoo/ Adams Morgan, U Street-Cardozo

Must Visit: Jumbo Slice Pizza, Ben's Chili Bowl, and D.C. Arts Center.



DuPont Circle

This cosmopolitan neighborhood boasts some of Washington, DC's finest museums, historic homes and foreign embassies as well as a variety of ethnic restaurants, bookstores, and private art galleries. It is also one of the most popular destinations for nightlife and the center of gay life in Washington, DC.

Metro Stations: DuPont Circle

Must Visit: Kramerbrooks & Afterwords Café, Phillips Collection, Textile Museum

Penn Quarter & Chinatown

Over the past decade (since the building of the Verizon Center) the neighborhood just north of Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington, DC has been revitalized with world class museums, trendy restaurants, upscale hotels and nightclubs, contemporary art galleries and theaters.

Metro Station: Gallery Place/China Town, Metro Center, Archives-Navy Memorial

Must Visit: International Spy Museum, National Archives, National Portrait Gallery



Georgetown

Georgetown served as a major port and commercial center during colonial times because of its prime location on the Potomac River. The neighborhood of restored row houses is a popular tourist destination because of its upscale shops, bars and restaurants. Georgetown University is located on the western edge of the neighborhood. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal begins in Georgetown and runs 184 miles to Cumberland, Maryland.

Not Accessible by Metro: Walk-able from Foggy Bottom Metro stop

Must Visit: C&O Canal, The Shops at Georgetown Park, Georgetown Waterfront

Foggy Bottom

Foggy Bottom is an historic Washington, DC neighborhood with many single-family homes that date back to the late 1800's. Today, the historic neighborhood is preserved and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Foggy Bottom is most known for the Kennedy Center, the Watergate Hotel and George Washington University.

Metro Station: Foggy Bottom

Must Visit: Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Watergate Hotel, Federal Reserve





Taste of Washington, D.C.

In Washington, food is the number two contact sport, right behind politics. Just as D.C. is diverse so is its food. Eateries range from fine dining, district legends, ethnic selection, popular hang-outs and much more. You will be exposed to dining that will leave a lasting impression. One thing for sure, whether you are in a mood to taste something exotic or something legendary or even something sweet, D.C. will never disappoint.

Below are a few eatery suggestions:



District Legends

Clyde's
Ben's Chili Bowl
Old Ebbit Grill
Filomena's Ristorante
Kinkead's

Ethnic Selections

Dukem Ethiopian
Jaleo
Oyamel
Rasika
Bistro Bis



All the Rage

Equinox
Good Stuff Eatery
Tosca
Café Atlantico
Kushi Izikaya & Sushi

Upscale

Komi
Citronelle
CityZen
Minibar
The Source



Sweet Tooth

Georgetown Cupcakes
Baked & Wired
FroZen Yo
Sauca

To get a comprehensive list of Restaurants and eateries in Washington, D.C. that is organized by type of food, price and location check out:

<http://washingtondc.menupages.com/>



Navigating the Smithsonian

On a hot summer day, there is nothing like walking into one of the Smithsonian museums, full of treasures and secrets to be discovered. Often referred to as the "Smithsonian", the Smithsonian Institution is a collection of several Museums, situated along the National Mall. Established by Congress in 1846 as a research institute it is the largest institution of its kind. The best part: it's all FREE!

So Many Choices!

Below is a quick breakdown of all of the Smithsonian Museums. There is so much diversity that there is one for each family member to enjoy! Visit one; visit all...no matter what, you are sure to have a great time!

1. **African American History and Culture Museum:** A yet to be completed museum celebrating African American individuals and their contributions to our national culture.
2. **African Art Museum:** A collection of artwork from all over Africa, primarily known for its variety of sculptures, masks, furniture and musical instruments
3. **Air & Space:** The world's largest collection of aircraft and spacecraft, with such marvel as the *Spirit of St. Louis*, the Wright Brothers' plane and the *Apollo 11* craft.
4. **American Art Museum:** Dedicated solely to America's greatest artists, namely David Hockney, Georgia O'Keefe, John Singer Sargent, and Edward Hopper, among others.
5. **American History Museum:** One of the most impressive collections of Americana, commemorating our nation from the Revolution to the present day.
6. **American Indian Museum:** Honors the arts, culture, history and heritage of America's Indians and recognizes their contributions to the United States.
7. **Arts & Industries Building:** A centerpiece and national landmark that helps to organize proper museum curation and exhibition display.
8. **Freer Gallery of Art:** A collection of Mediterranean and Asian artwork, exhibiting artifact that range in dates from the Neolithic Era to modern times.
9. **Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden:** An art gallery that concentrates on post-WWII pieces and artists, such as those of Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Mary Cassat and others.
10. **Natural History Museum:** The most visited of the museums, with the one of the largest ever collection of plants, animals, fossils, gems and manmade artifacts.
11. **National Portrait Gallery:** The third oldest building in the city, which houses prestigious portrait collections such as the faces of America's presidents.
12. **National Postal Museum:** An interactive museum on the history of the US Postal Service.
13. **Renwick Gallery:** A cozy gallery displaying 19th and 21st century American arts and crafts.
14. **Sackler Gallery:** The premier gallery for Asian artwork, offering presentations of ancient and contemporary worked from all over the continents
15. **Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle):** House of the Smithsonian Administrative and Information center.



Other Washington Must Do's

There is so much to do here in D.C.! You will never be bored in our nation's capital! Between the Smithsonian, Monuments, great Restaurants and 4th of July activities...check out these places as well!

Paddleboat Rides at the Tidal Basin

www.tidalbasinpeddleboats.com

International Spy Museum

www.spymuseum.org

U.S. Holocaust Memorial

www.ushmm.org

Hotel Washington's rooftop

www.hotelwashington.com

Washington National Cathedral

www.cathedral.org

Ford's Theatre/Petersen House

www.fordstheatre.org

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

Arlington National Cemetery

www.arlingtoncemetery.org

National Archives Houses

www.archives.gov

National Zoo

www.nationalzoo.si.edu

Pentagon

www.pentagon.afis.osd.mil

Information Provided By: <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/city-guides/washington-dc-must-dos/>

