

Going Out Guide

Seeing and experiencing DC during The National Conference

The Classics



“Mr. Lincoln, you are so much taller in person...”

DC Monuments

The Lincoln Memorial (site of Martin Luther King’s famed “I Have a Dream” speech), Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Korean War Memorial, and World War II Memorial are just some of the amazing sights you can see. For an easy and memorable way to catch the highlights, sign up for the Night Tour of the Monuments when you register. (Hurry though—this tour sells out quickly!

<https://www.esopassociation.org/meetings/national-conference#events>

National Archives

See the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution housed in special glass cases. If you see these documents anywhere else, they are fakes!

www.archives.gov/museum/visit/

Smithsonian Museums

These museums would cost an arm and a leg to visit in most cities, but in D.C. they are all free! Want to see the original Star Spangled Banner? Visit the Museum of American History. Want to see the allegedly cursed Hope Diamond, or watch a stunning 3D IMAX movie? Visit the Museum of Natural History. Want to see the Wright Brothers plane, Spirit of St. Louis, or the Apollo 11 command module? Visit the Air and Space Museum. There are 19 museums total, with more attractions than we can list here.

www.si.edu/Museums

National Zoo

If you want to see a Panda bear in the flesh and don’t want to leave the country, you’ve got only four options, and D.C. is one of them. Want to get a glimpse online first? Check out the Panda cam. Note: Entry is free but if you park your car, you’ll pay.

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/giant-panda>

Arlington National Cemetery

See the graves of John F. Kennedy, marked by an eternal flame, or William Howard Taft, the only President of the United States to also serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Also see the stirring changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. www.arlingtoncemetery.mil



Come fly away, at the National Air and Space Museum. Or visit dozens of other museums!



Mmmmm. Bamboo, anyone?



Come visit the house that you pay for, but can't live in.



If you visit the Capitol, leave your Swiss Army knife in your hotel! No joking—we've seen it happen before...

White House Tours

Did you know that the famed Oval Office was installed during William Howard Taft's presidency? And it covered up the courts where his predecessor, Theodore Roosevelt, used to swat tennis balls? Note: To get a tour, submit a request through your member of Congress at least 21 days ahead of time.

www.whitehouse.gov/participate/tours-and-events

Capitol Tour

See the Crypt, Rotunda, and National Statuary Hall. As with the White House, book ahead of time.

www.visitthecapitol.gov/plan-visit/book-tour-capitol

United States Botanic Garden

When you are done visiting the Capitol, you are only a stone's throw from the United States Botanic Garden. Come inside and see an incredible collection of plants from all over the globe. If you are "lucky" enough you might even get to sniff the corpse flower, so named because its scent is reminiscent of (we are not making this up) a rotting corpse. (The plant's first bloom took 10 years to develop and graced our nasal passages in 2013, so we may be safe for a while yet.) www.usbg.gov

Night Life

Within a short walk of the conference hotel are a wide variety of great night time activities. Here are just a few.

The National Theater. See what's playing at this terrific theater located right next door to the conference hotel. www.thenationaldc.org

Warner Theater. This venue has it all—music, comedy, plays, ballet. If it's live, it's at the Warner. www.warner.theater

Ford's Theater. Yes, the venue where John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Lincoln is still standing and offers historic tours during the day and theatrical performances at night. Tours can be booked ahead of time and include a visit to the Petersen House across the street, where the stricken president spent his last night. www.fords.org

Old Ebbitt Grill. This Washington tradition has been serving food since before the Civil War. After dinner, walk around the corner and take in the view of the White House at night. www.ebbitt.com

The Hamilton. A relatively new addition to the city, this venue offers the chance to eat, drink, and listen to live music all under the same roof. the-hamiltondc.com

Occidental. A classic power steak and seafood establishment. www.occidentaldc.com

The Willard Intercontinental Hotel. Not staying here? Who cares! Grab a seat at the historical Round Robin bar and order their signature mint julep. <http://washington.intercontinental.com/>

Buffalo Billiards. Just a few blocks from the hotel this classic DC bar is filled with fun games and live sports. <http://www.buffalobilliardsdc.com/>

China Town. About seven blocks from the conference hotel, this area offers numerous bars and restaurants serving a wide variety of cuisines.

Staff Picks (an insiders guide)

Paul Pflieger

See a concert at one of the MANY music venues throughout the city. Chromatics is playing at 9:30 club on the night of May 22 if you arrive early. Some other popular venues are The Anthem, Echostage, and Soundcheck. Check this website for all DC shows in one place: www.nextweeksplylist.com/dc

Insider Tip: A great way to get around DC is to grab a bike or scooter! www.capitalbikeshare.com

Patrick Mirza

Relax and grab a drink on one of DC's famous rooftops! If you're ready to see and be seen, ascend to POV, W DC's iconic rooftop lounge. Ensure you are dressed to impress, as your fashion statement is just as meaningful as your political one. Break through the red tape of DC with views of the White House normally reserved for those elected to office. www.povrooftop.com

Jennifer Edwards

If you would prefer to stay near the hotel I highly suggest the Renwick Gallery next to the White House and more specifically the famous Ghost Clock. If you'd prefer to venture out and see something less "DC" come to my neck of the woods and take a Trolley tour of Old Towne Alexandria or A Ghost Tour at night. Old Town is just a short Water Taxi or Uber ride from DC.

Sharon Spencer

Check out DC's new Wharf area. A short uber from the JW Marriott this waterfront area has tons of eating, drinking, and entertainment options. I recommend starting with a drink at Hank's Oyster Bar and perhaps follow it up with some live music at Union Stage. www.unionstage.com

Jim Bonham

Friday, May 24 at 6:00 PM join in on one of DC's best kept secrets, Jazz in the Gardens at the National Gallery of Art. Come listen to live music and take in one of the most beautiful spots on the National Mall. Entry is free and beer and wine can be purchased once inside. www.pavilioncafe.com/jazz/jazz-schedule/

Insider Tip: Try to arrive early because this amazing event can get crowded!

Yvonne Brown

I often consider myself to be the funniest person in the office and as such it's only fitting that I suggest the amazing DC Improv Comedy Club as your must visit stop this year. Check out the lineup here: <https://www.dcimprov.com/>

Gwenn Rosenthal

The Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, and it serves as the research arm of Congress. It is also the largest library in the world and you can (and should) visit it - especially if you're already on Capitol Hill for Congressional visits. www.loc.gov/

Rosemary Clements

You can't visit DC without visiting The Yards. Grab a drink or do a tasting at the District Winery and check out Nationals Stadium and the wide variety of critically acclaimed restaurants in the area. www.theyardsdc.com/