

DC HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

The Washington that you see today had its birth two centuries ago in a rational yet visionary design unprecedented in its scale. Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the city and its core mall area was influenced by urban planning then current in Europe and by neoclassical landscape design exemplified by Versailles. Brilliantly adapting those ideas to Washington's terrain, L'Enfant placed the Capitol on Jenkins Hill and the President's House on a lower terrace then overlooking the Potomac River. Between them ran Pennsylvania Avenue, to symbolize the separate but connected branches of government. The spirit of that plan lives in the city still.



U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING

The Capitol building is the meeting place of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. The west front of the Capitol makes a graceful transition down to the Mall in a series of arcades, steps, and terraces. At its base are the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial and Capitol Reflecting Pool.



WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Built to honor George Washington, the United States' first president, the Washington Monument was once the tallest building in the world at just over 555 feet. The monument to America's first president still holds the title of the world's tallest stone structure and obelisk.



WHITE HOUSE

The White House is the president's home and office. It is the center of the Executive Branch of the government and the place where the president receives foreign dignitaries.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL

The Lincoln Memorial was designed in the style of a classical Greek temple. To make the Memorial a more effective terminus to the Mall, the building was rotated 90°, placing the entrance on the long side. Within, the statue of Lincoln faces the Capitol.



WWII MEMORIAL

The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million Americans who fought in the most devastating war in world history. Gold stars on the Freedom Wall revere the 400,000 Americans who died. The Memorial also celebrates the millions who supported the war effort at home.



JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

Architect Thomas Jefferson was influenced by classical models typified by the colonaded, domed Pantheon in Rome—the inspiration for his Rotunda at the University of Virginia. The design for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial echoes those structures.



VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

The Memorial includes the names of over 58,000 servicemen and women who gave their lives in service in the Vietnam Conflict. The Memorial also includes The Three Soldiers (also known as The Three Servicemen) statue and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL

Situated in downtown Washington, D.C., the Memorial honors Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy and the struggle for freedom, equality, and justice. Its official address is 1964 Independence Avenue SW, in honor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark legislation in which King played an important role.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

The Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. The Memorial consists of four parts: the statues, the mural wall, the pool of remembrance, and the United Nations' curb.



SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, with 19 museums and the National Zoo. Eleven of these museums and galleries are located on the National Mall between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol.

Note: Tour route is at the discretion of the tour guide and may vary based on weather, traffic, special assemblies, or other events beyond the control of Hello! Washington D.C.