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— ACCESSIBLE TOURISM —

Washington, D.C. Accessible City Guide

5-day itinerary



for people with
reduced mobility

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Destination: Washington, D.C.

Washington D.C., where the **Americans with Disabilities Act** was signed into law, has become one of the most accessible cities in the world. Its public transportation stands out for its excellent services for people with **reduced mobility**, and its many **accessible hotels** attract many international travelers who are interested in the country's history.

The capital of the United States is an excellent destination to live and visit. In this guide we

propose you make a 5-day **accessible itinerary**. However, you can always select the information that interests you and plan your trip in the time you have.

You will discover...

- Tourist attractions that you can visit as a person with **reduced mobility** and description of their **accessibility**.
- **Accessible transportation** options.
- Recommended hotels from our catalog.
- Multiple links of interest.



Airport accessibility

The Washington D.C. area is served by three major airports: **Ronald Reagan National Airport** (DCA), **Washington-Dulles International Airport** (IAD), and **Baltimore-Washington International Airport** (BWI).

DCA and **IAD** are operated by the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority. Both have **accessible services and facilities** for people with **disabilities**, such as accessible public restrooms, large elevators with buttons in Braille, reserved parking spaces and **accessible screening processes**.

The buses that connect with the airports have ramps or elevators. There are also

accessible taxis to accommodate a wheelchair user and three other passengers.

BWI provides additional assistance during the security check. It also has accessible parking lots, buses with lifts, accessible unisex restrooms, changing rooms for adults, and rest areas for service animals.

As usual, passengers who require assistance should notify their airline or travel agent at least 48 hours prior to flight departure.

Accessible hotels



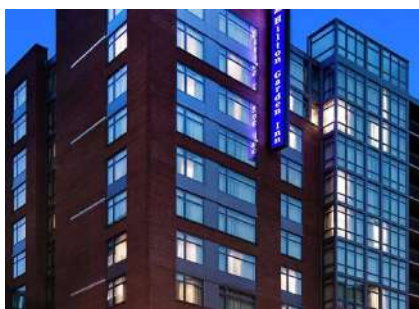
Hampton Inn & Suites Washington D.C

The Hampton Inn & Suites Washington DC-Navy Yard is located in southeastern Washington, next to the Nationals Park baseball stadium and next to the Navy Yard subway station, which covers downtown Washington DC. The accessible hotel is a great place to make the most of a sensational adapted trip. [...]


[Learn more](#)


Homewood Suites By Hilton Washington Dc Capitol-Na

The Homewood Suites by Hilton Washington DC Capitol-Navy Yard, is an accessible hotel located next to the popular DC monuments, museums and restaurants. The spacious accessible rooms are ideal for much-deserved rest and relaxation throughout your fascinating vacation. [...]


[Learn more](#)


Hilton Garden Inn Washington Dc/Us Capitol

The Hilton Garden Inn Washington DC / U.S Capitol is located near New York Avenue, approximately 1.5 km from the Union Station and the National Portrait Gallery, an accessible hotel with facilities adapted for people with reduced mobility (PRM), ideal for living an unforgettable adapted trip. [...]


[Learn more](#)


Homewood Suites By Hilton Washington Dc/Noma Union

Located in New York Avenue in the Northeast quadrant of the town, a few meters from the Union Market gourmet food stalls and the Metro Red Line, is the accessible hotel for people with reduced mobility, the Homewood Suites by Hilton Washington DC NoMa Union Station. [...]


[Learn more](#)


Hilton Garden Inn Washington Dc Downtown

The Hilton Garden Inn Washington DC Downtown, located within walking distance to the White House, the United States Capitol, the Smithsonian Institute Museums or the Washington DC Convention Center, is an adapted hotel that meets the guidelines of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act 1990). [...]


[Learn more](#)



Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square

The Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square is 300 meters from Lafayette Square, so guests can stroll alongside the White House without having to stray too far from the property. You can also visit other tourist attractions such as the Washington Monument, among others. [...]



[Learn more](#)



Homewood Suites Washington Dc Convention Center

From the accessible suite, you are seven minutes from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, and only 15 minutes from the Capital One Arena, where you can enjoy a game. Walk three blocks to the Metrorail station to go anywhere in DC. [...]



[Learn more](#)



Canopy by Hilton Washington DC The Wharf

Canopy by Hilton Washington DC The Wharf, is an accessible hotel located on the dock in the Washington District, overlooking the Potomac River and the canal. The property is within walking distance of the Arena Stage Theater and next to the National Mall, encompassing the Washington Monument and the White House. [...]



[Learn more](#)



Embassy Suites Washington, Dc - Convention Center

Embassy Suites By Hilton Washington D.C. - Convention Center, located in the heart of Washington DC, is an adapted hotel for people with reduced mobility looking forward to spending a sensational accessible vacation. The spacious accessible rooms are ideal for recharging energies during an unforgettable adapted trip. [...]



[Learn more](#)



Conrad Washington, DC

The Conrad Washington DC is a contemporary oasis in the center of the District of Columbia, and within the city's financial district. It is a luxurious 5-star accessible accommodation. The property is located near emblematic places to visit, such as the White House and the Smithsonian Museum. [...]



[Learn more](#)



5-day accessible travel itinerary

Day 1

Our itinerary begins at the **National Mall**, where many of Washington DC's iconic monuments are located. As it is the first day, we can tour this area without stopping at the museums. Tomorrow we will have time to explore them calmly.

All places of interest in the park are accessible to people with **reduced mobility**. As the [National Park Service](#) website points out, **wheelchairs** are provided on a first-come, first-served basis at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the World War II Monument.

The [DC Circulator](#) is a recommended option to see the tourist attractions more comfortably and quickly. The bus fleet is accessible and can accommodate wheelchairs or scooters.

Stop at the **U.S. Capitol**, the heart of the country's democracy. You should know that the Congressional Office of Accessibility Services offers tours designed for tourists with **disabilities**. Make sure you book in advance. It is also possible to request a shuttle service that takes you from the west side of the Capitol to the entrance of the Visitor Center.



Service animals are welcome, and wheelchairs are available in the building. There are also other services for people who are blind or deaf, such as audio description and sign language interpretation. You can find more information about **accessibility** on the [official website of the Capitol Visitors Center](#).

A short distance away, you'll see the Navy Officers, Civilian General Ulysses S. Grant, and James A. Garfield Memorials.

Then surround yourself with the beautiful plants of the **[United States Botanical Garden](#)**, “one of the oldest botanical gardens

in North America.” Admission is free and a ticket is not required. In addition, the site has **accessible routes**. Ask the staff at the information desk.

Approach the **White House** and spend some time photographing this emblematic building. If you are especially interested in seeing its interior, you should know that visit requests must be sent at least 21 days before. The route is accessible and you have more information on its [official website](#).

If you are not a US citizen, go to the Washington DC embassy for help in applying.



Next, go up the **Washington Monument** for spectacular views. The historic obelisk has an elevator that leads to the observation deck. Admission is free, but a ticket is required. We advise you to [buy tickets online](#), preferably one month in advance. It closes at five in the afternoon.

Before you leave the National Mall, don't miss the **Abraham Lincoln Memorial** and Reflecting Pool. Also worth stopping at are the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**, the **Korean War Veterans Memorial**, the **Martin Luther King Memorial** and the **Thomas Jefferson Memorial**.



Don't worry if you don't have time to see and photograph everything. Tomorrow you can dedicate more time to it.

Finally, enjoy dinner in a nearby neighborhood like **Chinatown**, which is home to many good restaurants.







Day 2

Washington DC has a variety of **free and accessible museums** on the National Mall. Here we mention some of them and we provide you with the link to the [accessibility map](#) created by the Visitor Service Office. We leave it at your leisure which one or which ones to discover this day:

- **Freer Gallery of Art**. This museum is focused on Asian art. It keeps a valuable collection of 45,000 objects that come from the Neolithic period up to now. It also houses the largest collection of works by James McNeill Whistler.
- **National Gallery of Art**. Comprising two buildings connected by an underground walkway, this art museum is accessible to people with reduced mobility. Among its more than 150,000 works are Portrait of a Woman by Leonardo da Vinci or Germanic and Agripina by Pedro Pablo Rubens.
- **National Archives Museum**. The place keeps important historical documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
- **Holocaust Memorial Museum**. This institution chronologically shows the history of the Holocaust.



- **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.** This museum dedicated to modern and contemporary art has one of the most relevant post-war art collections.
- **National Museum of African Art.** The site has the largest public collection of African art in the country.
- **National Museum of American History.** Here are real gems that will help you understand American history. Locomotives, first ladies' dresses, objects related to popular culture, articles from the Armed Forces...
- **National Museum of Natural History.** Millions of artifacts accompany you on this exciting discovery of Earth's history.
- **National Museum of African American History and Culture.** This museum exclusively addresses African American history and culture.
- **National Art and Space Museum.** The 1903 Wright Flyer, Neil Armstrong's space suit on the Apollo 11 mission or the Spirit of St. Louis piloted by Charles Lindbergh are some of the famous artifacts housed in the world's largest aviation and space museum.
- **National Museum of the American Indian.** It has a presence in New York and Washington D.C. The entire collection is dedicated to the indigenous peoples of America.



As you can see on the official web pages of these museums, all of them have ramps, elevators, wheelchairs, and accessible restrooms. Also, they allow service animals.

If you couldn't visit the Capitol and see some monuments on the **National Mall** yesterday, now is the time to do so.

To end the day, tour the **banks of the Potomac River** and dine at one of **The Wharf DC's** restaurants. The entire pier is accessible to people with reduced mobility. The cobbled paths have adjacent smooth walkways, to make it easier for wheelchair users to navigate. In addition, the premises have ramps and elevators.



Day 3

Today you will visit **Arlington National Cemetery**, the largest military cemetery in the United States. It is the final resting place for thousands of soldiers who fought in different wars, as well as other important personalities.

Get to the cemetery via the Blue Line of the Washington DC Metropolitan Area Metrorail. If you are traveling by car, there are also accessible parking lots.

To better orient yourself during the visit, download the **accessibility map** provided by

the official website. We advise you to tour the cemetery on a **tourist bus**. If you document the disability, you can travel free of charge with a companion. Get more information at **Arlington Tours**.

You cannot miss the **Grave of the Unknown Soldier**, the **grave of President John F. Kennedy**, the **grave of President William Howard Taft**, the **Memorial Amphitheatre**, **Arlington House** or the **Pentagon Memorial**, among other highlights. Also, it is interesting to witness the changing of the guard.



Travel back to Washington DC and visit the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**. Many events of interest are held here. Plan everything in advance and have fun. The facilities are fully accessible for people with reduced mobility.

Lastly, explore the charming **Georgetown** neighborhood. There are a variety of shops and restaurants in this area. Take the opportunity to buy a souvenir for your loved ones.



Day 4

After a leisurely breakfast, pay a visit to the imposing **Washington National Cathedral**. As always, we suggest you book in advance. It is the second largest cathedral in the country, and presents a neo-Gothic style dating from the 20th century.

As specified on its [official website](#), **wheelchair users** can enter through a **ramp** located to the northwest of the building. Look at the [map of the cathedral with its accessible areas](#).

Another building of religious relevance worth visiting is the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**. For this reason, it receives almost a million visitors each year.

Visitors have the option of borrowing **wheelchairs**. The number is limited, so they are given in order of arrival. There is also accessible parking for those traveling by car.



Next, move on to **Ford's Theatre**, the historic site where President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. You will be able to learn more about what happened on April 14, 1865. To do this, you must book the tickets in advance.

The theater has elevators, wheelchair rentals, and accessible seating. It also offers real-time subtitles, performances with sign language interpretation, assisted listening devices, among other services for people with disabilities.

If you have any questions about accessibility, call or write to the contact information indicated on the [web](#).

Finally, taste the exquisite dishes of Ethiopian cuisine in the **Shaw neighborhood**.



Day 5

Step inside the **Library of Congress**. The building is equipped with accessible entrances, accessible restrooms and emergency evacuation chairs. Reserve your tickets in advance and take your time to explore the corners of one of the largest libraries in the world.

Next we recommend you go to the **Adams Morgan** neighborhood. Its colorful houses and vintage shops will catch your eye.

Before leaving, visit again those places that you liked the most or that you could not discover due to lack of time. In the "**More accessible attractions**" section we present you other ideas.



More accessible attractions

1. Tourist buses are an excellent choice when you have little time to see the city. **Big Bus Tours** offers day and night tours that you will find interesting.

The company has accessible vehicles for people with reduced mobility. You must contact them at least 48 hours before so that they are available when you need it.

2. Are you drawn to mysteries and the subject of espionage? The **International Spy Museum** will satisfy your curiosity. It is completely accessible, as it has elevators, accessible restrooms, wheelchairs to borrow, and reserved seats in theaters.

3. If you like craft beer, you should know that there is a **tour of the best breweries in Washington DC**. City Brew Tours stops at many locations accessible to wheelchair users. Bear in mind, though, vans only accommodate folding wheelchairs on private tours.

4. We don't yet have much data on the accessibility of the **US National Arboretum**. At the moment, certain accessible points are simply marked on the map of the official website.



5. Theodore Roosevelt Island, a monument to the 26th president, enchants nature lovers. At the moment, the [National Park Service website](#) does not provide information on accessible trails. However, you can get advice from a ranger.

6. Catch a play at the [Shakespeare Theater Company](#). The site has accessible seating that allows for comfortable transfer from a wheelchair, assistive listening systems, audio description, and other services for people with disabilities.



Transportation around the city

It is essential that during your trip you can move around properly. Therefore, do not forget to take a look at this list with information on transportation and rental of mobility equipment:

- **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**. The subway in the US capital boasts of being one of the most accessible public transport. All stations and wagons are suitable for people with reduced mobility.
- **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Guide**. This document lists all accessible transportation options in the region.
- **Orthopedic Mobility Rentals**. Rental, sale and repair of orthopedic mobility.
- **Scootaround**. Wheelchair and scooter rental.



Medical attention

Remember that if a **serious medical emergency** arises during your trip, you can call **911**. If it is a minor problem, consult the hotel itself or go to the nearest pharmacy.

Thanks to [DC Health Search](#), you can also **easily locate the various hospitals and primary care centers** throughout the District of Columbia. Address, opening hours, telephone number are also shown on the map



Other useful information

Concierge Service

Travegali.com provides a **free Concierge service** to all its customers. It is responsible for finding the best accessible room. It also helps with the reservation of mobility equipment, accessible activities, airport assistance and accessible transportation.

Best time to go visit Washington DC

Weather Spark points out that the month of June is the best time to visit the city. It is also recommended from mid-August to early September. However, check the detailed weather on **AccuWeather** and travel when you think the time is right.

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