

Washington, D.C.

4-DAY SAMPLE ITINERARY



DAY 1

ARRIVAL

Meet your WorldStrides Course Leader and prepare for an action-packed adventure in our nation's capital. As you feel the excitement of the city, envision the influential men and women who have walked these very streets and the powerful decisions they've made that have shaped the history of our country.

LUNCH

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

With over 600 acres dedicated to the hundreds of thousands who sacrificed their lives for our country, it is hard not to feel the utmost admiration and respect for these brave men and women. This respect is perhaps no better displayed than at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This structure, built to honor unknown soldiers from wars past, is guarded at all times by special Marines, who facilitate special wreath-laying ceremonies on a daily basis. Consider the true meaning of sacrifice as members of an on-looking crowd place their hands over their hearts and fall silent while a soldier plays *Taps* to honor the fallen soldiers.

IWO JIMA MEMORIAL

A news photographer captured a moment on film which later inspired this memorial dedicated to the Marines who gave their lives for our country. Reading from the massive base of these 32-foot-high figures, be sure to ponder the famous inscription, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

PENTAGON MEMORIAL

Many remember exactly what they were doing on that fateful day in September of 2001. The Pentagon Memorial immortalizes an event that had a tremendous impact on many lives. Walking among the 184 benches meant to symbolize each victim ensures you will never forget those who lost their lives at the Pentagon.

DINNER

WHITE HOUSE (PICTURE STOP)

This six-level, 132-room mansion seems modest compared to some of the other historical buildings in Washington, D.C., but its presence is far from small. The White House is a long-standing symbol of the presidency, our government, and the American people. Be sure to look for a strategically placed Marine outside the West Wing; it means someone very important is inside!

HOTEL CHECK-IN

DAY 2

BREAKFAST

ALEXANDRIA

You can walk the beautiful streets of Old Town Alexandria knowing that many of our founding fathers and historical icons have walked the same streets. Take an eerie ghost tour to learn of some of the town's oldest ghost tales, dating back to colonial times.

MOUNT VERNON

Perhaps no other man did more to shape our country's principles and beliefs than George Washington. Washington could have chosen to lead our country as a dictator but instead saw the value in true democracy, checks and balances, and government by and for the people. View an interactive video of Washington's strategic role in the Revolutionary War, and explore Washington's 500 acres of expansive land and his mansion with several fully restored rooms. Washington and his beloved wife, Martha, are also buried on the grounds.

LUNCH

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The wonders of this collection of 19 museums will make a person of any age feel like a kid again. The enormous dinosaur skeletons at the Natural History Museum bring prehistoric animals to life. Venture over to the Air and Space Museum, where you'll see the Wright brothers' flyer. Go back in time at the American History Museum by standing in Julia Child's kitchen or taking a peek at inaugural gowns from our nation's first ladies.

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DINNER

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

Imagine the talent this man must have had. Thomas Jefferson was not only our nation's third president but also a farmer, lawyer, architect, musician, writer, scientist, inventor, and philosopher. Read some of Jefferson's famous writings on the walls of this great memorial and gain a new respect for the foresight he had while writing the Declaration of Independence.

KENNEDY CENTER

At 60-feet high and 630-feet long, the sheer size of the grand foyer of this living memorial to John F. Kennedy will make you feel tiny. This memorial inspires you with the music and arts that give our country personality.

RETURN TO HOTEL

DAY 3

BREAKFAST

FORD'S THEATRE AND THE PETERSEN HOUSE (APPOINTMENT REQUIRED)

You probably know Abraham Lincoln was assassinated while attending this famous theatre on April 14, 1865, but you may not be familiar with the controversy behind the murder of this great president. Follow this mystery in the newly built museum, and visit the room in the Petersen House where Lincoln passed away the morning after he was shot.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

This museum and memorial serves to honor the nearly 11 million lives lost during the Holocaust. Imagine the experience of the Holocaust through the eyes of a child in *Daniel's Story*. Empathize with a small German Jewish boy as he tried to comprehend the growing discrimination and acts of random violence against Jews. This museum will leave you with a newfound respect and understanding of one of history's most tragic events.

LUNCH

CAPITOL HILL (TOUR BY APPOINTMENT)

As you explore this group of powerful structures, imagine the important decisions that are made here every day. No other building better symbolizes the American way than the U.S. Capitol. Walk the underground tunnels where lawmakers and representatives of Congress meet. Browse through the Visitors Center, and take in the miles of books and other important documents in the Library of Congress. Take a seat on the steps of the highest court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Walk through the home of some of our nation's most important documents. Read the preamble to the Constitution in its original ink. Envision Jefferson's thoughts as he wrote the Declaration of Independence. Think of how writings like the Bill of Rights impact our lives still today and ensure our basic freedoms as Americans.

DINNER

VIETNAM MEMORIAL

Looking at the Vietnam Memorial, it's hard to fathom the personal significance of the rows and rows of names. However, when you see flowers and poems left by loved ones, and children searching for a relative's name, you realize each name on that wall represents someone's son, daughter, mother, father, brother, or sister. Each of these brave souls fought during one of the deadliest wars in our history to protect freedoms around the globe.

KOREAN MEMORIAL

The expressive eyes of the 19 statues of the Korean Memorial will stay etched in your memory. These figures are heavily detailed with ponchos, jungle boots, and helmets to portray actual soldier garb worn during the Korean War. Imagine the cold winter wind blowing their ponchos and the rough terrain the soldiers tackled while in Korea.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL

As one of the most recognizable memorials, the Lincoln Memorial is a student favorite. Contemplate this president's achievements from a unique vantage point, at the foot of the massive 19-foot-tall seated statue of Abraham Lincoln. Stand in the spot where Martin Luther King, Jr., stood and imagine what it was like for him to deliver his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 to 250,000 people.

RETURN TO HOTEL

DAY 4

BREAKFAST

HOTEL CHECK-OUT

WWII MEMORIAL

Many of us have relatives who served proudly during the Second World War. This memorial honors all those who served during the war and the more than 400,000 who lost their lives in battle. The experience will deepen your appreciation for those who fought to protect our basic rights and freedoms.

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4-DAY SAMPLE ITINERARY

FDR MEMORIAL

This memorial honors a great president who helped Americans overcome the toughest financial period in history, the Great Depression. Gain a deeper appreciation for the way Franklin D. Roosevelt reached out to the American people on a personal level through his fireside chats. The words of FDR line the walls of the four rooms of this memorial and help you imagine the comfort they brought to Americans during extremely difficult times.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Be one of the first to experience D.C.'s newest memorial dedicated to the famous civil rights activist. Commemorate King's work by reading some of his most famous sayings on the 450-foot Inscription Wall. Feel the power of his words, "out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope," while standing in the shadow of the Stone of Hope, which includes a larger-than-life carving of Dr. King.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT (PICTURE STOP)

It's a quick elevator ride up more than 555 feet to the top of this famous structure, but the memories created here will certainly be long-lasting. Snap some photos in front of the world's tallest stone monument.

LUNCH

EMBASSY ROW

Embassy row is an unofficial title for an area where diplomats and other embassies exist. Washington D.C.'s Embassy Row is one of the most impressive. You'll be amazed at the luxury of these estates that house some of the most influential people in the world.

NATIONAL ZOO

Who wouldn't be excited to see giant pandas, elephants, apes, cheetahs, crocodiles, and lions? Try not to be overwhelmed by the more than 3,500 animals that call the National Zoo home.

Three-day and five-day Washington, D.C., itineraries are also available. Your Educational Travel Specialist can put together the perfect program based on your needs. On a five-day program, enjoy additional time to explore and learn in Washington, D.C., at sites such as the Naval Museum, National Postal Museum, and National Portrait Gallery. Also consider adding a side trip to Gettysburg, Williamsburg, or New York!

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