

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS AND MALL ATTRACTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

By Elizabeth Clark

The following are located within walking distance (some a long walk for the hardy) from the Smithsonian Metro station – blue line. All are FREE unless otherwise noted. Listed in order from Lincoln Monument to the Capitol. Alternate Metro stations are noted if you wish to go directly from the hotel to that attraction. The Crown Plaza is a block from the Crystal City Metro station which serves the blue and yellow lines. The Smithsonian Metro station is on the blue line. **See the “Metro Pocket Guide.”**

NOTE: If you want to start a walk at the Lincoln Memorial take the blue line from Crystal City to Foggy Bottom/GWU go to Lincoln Memorial and walk toward Washington Monument - you will be on the north side of the Reflecting Pool – seeing along the way:

- **Einstein Statue** – corner of 23rd and Constitution Ave – enter from 23rd St - stop here - rest
- **Lincoln Memorial** – long walk from the Smithsonian metro station blue line
- **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** - north side of Reflecting Pool
- **Korean War Veterans Memorial** – south side of Reflecting Pool

(if you wish to go directly to any of the above 4 sights it is a shorter walk to get off at the Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro stop rather than to walk directly from the Smithsonian stop)

- **WWII Memorial** – opposite end of Reflecting Pool from Lincoln Memorial
- **Washington Monument** – you can’t miss it – timed entry tickets available/recommended from kiosk on grounds
- **White House /White House Visitor’s Center** - 2-3 blocks off the Mall at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Tours of the White House are not open to the public but the Visitor’s Center is open -Federal Triangle Metro blue
- **Holocaust Museum** - 1 block off the Mall at 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place/15th St – from Crystal City. Metro blue get off at Smithsonian Metro blue – Independence Ave exit
- **The Mall** – Smithsonian Metro blue – Mall exit – (or as noted below if you want to go first and directly to ...) includes the following museums:
- Get off Metro at Federal Triangle blue for Museum of American History --- Freer Gallery (Asian) --- Arthur M. Sackler Gallery (Asian) --- get off at Smithsonian blue for Museum of African Art --- Museum of Natural History --- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (modern art) --- get off at L’Enfant Plaza Metro yellow/blue MD Ave exit for Air and Space Museum --- National Gallery of Art (West/ traditional and East/contemporary) --- Museum of the American Indian
- **National Archives** - Constitution Ave and 9th St – Archives/Navy Memorial Metro yellow
- **The Capitol** -Capitol South Metro blue - tours may be limited or not available without a“ticket” from your congressman
- **The U.S. Botanical Garden** – 1st St and Maryland Ave – Federal Center SW Metro blue
- **IMAX** movies are located in Museum of Natural History (nature) and Air and Space (space travel)
- **Planetarium** – Air and Space Museum

See the enclosed “WASHINGTON, THE NATION’S CAPITAL” or “WASHINGTON, DC MAP AND GUIDE” to locate all the above !

ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS NEARBY

- **Union Station** – Massachusetts Ave and 1st St – Union Station Metro – red - see below (this is the AMTRAK train station for Washington, contains many interesting shops/boutiques and is a grand building architecturally)
- **Postal Museum** – 2 Massachusetts Ave - Union Station Metro red – 1st St exit take yellow from Crystal City to Gallery Place/Chinatown and change to red toward Glenmont – get off at Union Station Metro
- **International Spy Museum** – 800 F Street, NW- Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro yellow MCI exit, admission fee \$13 (plus or minus depending on age)
- **Koshland Science Museum** – 6th and E Streets, NW - GalleryPlace/Chinatown Metro yellow MCI exit – admission fee \$5
- **Chinatown** – Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro yellow Gallery Place/Chinatown exit
- **Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** – Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro blue
- **National Zoo** – 15 minute walk from the Woodley Park/Zoo Metro red - take yellow from Crystal City to Gallery Place/Chinatown and change to red toward Shady Grove get off at Woodley Park-Zoo
- **Arlington Cemetery** – Arlington Cemetery Metro blue

The following are not easily accessible from a Metro stop so require long walk for the hardy, taxi, car, or are on the TOURMOBILLE trams:

- **Thomas Jefferson Memorial** – south bank of Tidal Basin
- **Franklin Roosevelt Memorial** – on Tidal Basin left/west after crossing Kutz Bridge
- **Mount Vernon – George Washington’s house** – requires a car – 30 minute drive – admission fee

SHOPPING

- **Crystal City Underground** – Crystal City Metro blue (shopping guide enclosed)
- **Shops at Union Station** – Union Station Metro blue (more unique/unusual shops – Appalachian Spring – excellent selection of American made crafts)
- **Fashion Center** – Pentagon City Metro blue
- **Smithsonian Shops** – Museum of Natural History is largest, Air and Space (space exploration memorabilia), and all other museums have smaller shops

GETTING BACK TO THE HOTEL

- Get on a blue line toward Franconia – get off at Crystal City
- or -
- Get on a yellow line toward Huntington - get off at Crystal City

OTHER HINTS

- Buy a one day Metro Pass for unlimited rides all day on weekends and after 9:30 AM on weekdays. The price **\$6.50 and is a savings if you enter the Metro more than twice in the day.** **METRO escalator etiquette – stand to the right and walk to the left on the escalators – the locals are usually in a hurry and can “move like a speeding bullet” when riding the escalators**
- The narrated TOURMOBILE trams make continuous trips – stops around all the attractions. You can get on and off at your convenience and you can buy a ticket the first time you board. See route in “Welcome to Washington” pamphlet – ticket fee – approximately \$15 - \$20- subject to change????
- If you want to see an IMAX movie suggest you buy your timed tickets as soon as you enter museum and then you can wander until show time.
- Travel LIGHT – pocketbooks, backpacks, totes, and parcels will be checked – there are no lockers in the Museums for stashing “stuff.”

Don’t hesitate to ask locals for directions anywhere – especially for which exits to take out of Metro stations so you are headed in the right direction for your destination – we love to be helpful. Taking the “other” exit out of a station, for example, can increase your walk by several blocks!

Some typical walking distances:

Foggy Bottom Metro to Einstein statue	5/10 mile
Foggy Bottom Metro to Lincoln Memorial	7/10 mile
Lincoln Memorial to Washington Monument	8/10 mile (not counting any side trips)
Washington Monument to Capitol	1 1/2 miles
American History Mus. to Air and Space Mus.	5/10 mile

FOR MORE DETAILS ON SOME OF THE ABOVE ITEMS REFER TO :

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/symposium/2004/index.html>