



Washington, D.C. and U.S. Capitol Visit Tips

Visiting Washington, D.C. Museums and Monuments

Because of strict security precautions in our nation's capital, the hours for opening and closing, rules or regulations can vary for Washington, D.C. buildings, museum and monuments and should always be verified in advance. For visitor updates, see the [Washington D.C. Visitors Site](#).

Reconfirm Your Congressional Visits

Make all congressional visit appointments two to four weeks in advance. Call each office the week of Sept. 8-12 to reconfirm your appointments. Allow extra time for arrival and to get through security before each appointment. Some offices may send someone to meet your group at security and escort you to the appointment. Don't overcrowd your schedule.

Screenings at the U.S. Capitol and Senate Office Buildings

Bring your photo I.D. and allow time for the screening process. All U.S. Capitol visitors are screened by a magnetometer, and personal items are screened by x-ray. Please leave any food, drinks, backpacks, large bags or bulky items on the SkillsUSA bus. Here is a [list of prohibited items](#). While you are not required to show an I.D. to enter the U.S. Capitol, an I.D. may be required to enter other federal buildings. The visitor entrances to each Senate office building are clearly marked and each building has multiple entrances. While underground tramways connect the House and Senate offices to the Capitol, these tunnels are not for public use unless you are accompanied by a staffer. For more information, go to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

Tours of the U.S. Capitol

The Capitol Visitor's Center, located beneath the East Front Plaza of the U.S. Capitol at First Street and East Capitol Street, includes an exhibit hall, gift shops and restaurant. You can request Senate or House galley passes from elected officials, as well as a Capitol tour. You can also book a free Capitol tour online: www.visitthecapitol.gov

Wheelchairs and Accessibility

If you have accessibility needs, call Congressional Accessibility Services at 202-224-4048.

U.S. Capitol, Senate and House Buildings



