

Congressman Tim Bishop's Guide to Washington



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United States House of Representatives
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Rep. Bishop can help you arrange tours in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Capitol

Through my office, you can gain access to the gallery of the House of Representatives. There, you can watch democracy at its finest as you see law-makers from around the country debate, discuss, and vote on the issues at hand. You can also schedule a tour of the Capitol building through my office. Tours run daily from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Feel free to contact my office for more information. www.congress.gov

Supreme Court

View the courtroom where the Supreme Court Justices hear and rule on cases. Public lectures are conducted in the courtroom from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every hour on the half hour, except when court is in session. No tours are given during August. Tours through my office are also available with 6 to 8 weeks notice. However, tours are limited. Phone: (202) 479-3000.

The White House

Catch a glimpse of the President's home with a tour of the White House. Currently, tours are limited to large school, youth, veteran, and active military groups. For more information, contact Nick Holder in my office at (202) 225-3883.

Arlington National Cemetery

View the Custis-Lee Mansion, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the graves of Presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft. Watch the changing of the guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every hour on the hour during the winter and every half-hour during the summer. Open daily October-March: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; April to September 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone: (703) 692-0931, www.mdw.army.mil/cemetery.htm

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

See where the currency of the United States is printed. Tours are limited but available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A valid photo I.D. is required. Closed weekends, Federal holidays and December 24 - January 4. Tours through my office are also available. Phone: (202) 874-3019, www.moneyfactory.com

Holocaust Memorial Museum

Open daily except Yom Kippur and December 25. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Extended hours are from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. between April 1 - June 12 on Tuesday & Thursday. The museum is located at 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW (Old 15th St., S.W., between Maine Avenue and Independence Avenue). Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. Allow two hours to visit the museum. Phone: (202) 488-0400, www.ushmm.org

Jefferson Memorial

Visit a memorial dedicated to Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States. Located at the South Bank of the Tidal Basin. Open 24 hrs. daily. Sail around the Tidal Basin in paddleboats that can be rented from the Swan Boathouse. www.nps.gov/thje/index2.htm

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performance Arts

Tours are available of the Kennedy Center through Friends of the Kennedy Center volunteers daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Free performance everyday at 6 p.m. on the Millennium Stage. Phone: for general information (202) 416-8340, for tickets to performances (202) 467-4600, www.kennedy-center.org

Library of Congress

Located on 1st Street and Independence Avenue, SE in the Jefferson Building. Tours are conducted at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed on Sundays and on all Federal holidays. Phone: (202) 707-5458, www.lcweb.loc.gov

Lincoln Memorial

Visit the memorial dedicated to Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States. Located at West Potomac Park at the foot of 23rd Street, NW. Open 24 hours daily. Phone: (202) 426-6895, www.nps.gov/linc/index.htm

Mount Vernon

Visit the historic home, plantation, and final resting place of George and Martha Washington. Located at the southern terminus of the George Washington Memorial Pkwy. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April - August; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. March, September, October; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. November-February. Phone: (703) 780-2000, www.mountvernon.org

National Archives

View our nation's important documents, The Declaration of Independence and The United States Constitution. Located at 8th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. Open daily: Mid-September to March 31, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., April 1- Labor Day 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Phone: (202) 501-5205, www.nara.gov

National Zoological Park

3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW. Hours: May 1st to September 15th: grounds open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., buildings open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; September 16 to April 30: grounds open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., buildings open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed December 25. Phone: (202) 673-4800 or 673-4717, www.si.edu/natzoo

The Pentagon

Come to the headquarters of our nation's military. Located across the 14th Street Bridge, in Virginia. Tours of the Pentagon are available to schools, educational organizations and other select groups by reservation only. Closed on federal holidays. Phone: (703) 695-1776, www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pentagon

The Smithsonian Institution

Air and Space Museum - Come and visit this popular museum displaying The Spirit of St. Louis, the Wright brother's plane, the Apollo 11 command module and other interesting exhibits. Located at 6th and Independence Avenue, SW. Phone: (202) 357-1400, www.nasm.edu

Museum of American History - Take a look at exhibits reflecting American History. Highlights of the museum include the First Ladies' gowns, The American Presidency, September 11th, and Julia Child's kitchen. Located at 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW. Phone: (202) 357-2700, www.si.edu/nmah

Museum of Natural History - Look and learn as you tour through exhibits about glaciers, the Ice Age, dinosaur skeletons, and the Hope Diamond. Located at 10th and Constitution Avenue. Phone: (202) 357-2700, www.mnh.si.edu

Smithsonian Information Center - Located at 10th and Jefferson Drive, SW. To many visitors, this building, also known as the Castle, symbolizes the rich history of the Smithsonian Institution. Today, it houses the Visitor Information Center. Phone: (202) 357-2700, www.si.edu

The Air and Space Museum, Museum of American History and, Museum of Natural History are open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Closed on December 25. Admission is free. The Smithsonian Information Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

A memorial constructed of black granite to honor all Americans who served in the Vietnam War. As a special tribute to those who did not return, the names of more than 58,000 who gave their lives or who remain missing are inscribed in the Memorial's walls in chronological order. Located near the Lincoln Memorial on Henry Bacon Drive and Constitution Avenue, NW. www.nps.gov/vive/index.htm

Washington Monument

Located on the Mall at 15th Street, NW. Open daily. April 1 - Labor Day from 8 a.m. to midnight. Mid-September - March 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone: (202) 426-6839, www.nps.gov/wamo/index2.htm

The National Art Galleries of Washington

The National Gallery of Art - Come and view all aspects of the visual arts. Located at 6th and Constitution Ave, NW. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Phone: (202) 737-4215. www.nga.gov

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden - 7th and Independence Avenue, SW. Open daily, closed December 25. Museum: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Plaza: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sculpture Garden: 7:30 a.m. to dusk. Phone: (202) 357-2700, www.si.edu/hirshhorn

The Freer Gallery - A gift of the Smithsonian Institution, this museum features Far and Near East art works, some dating back 2,000 years. Located at 12th Street, SW at Jefferson Drive. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed December 25. Phone: (202) 357-2700, www.si.edu/asia

National Portrait Gallery - Adjacent to the National Collection of Fine Arts, the Portrait Gallery features paintings of prominent Americans. Be sure to visit the President's Gallery. Located at 8th and F Street, NW. Phone: (202) 275-1738 www.npg.si.edu

The Museum of African Art - The newest of the Smithsonian museums, the Museum of African Art has in its possession the finest American collection of African art, as well as American art influenced by African styles. Located at 950 Independence Avenue, SW. Phone: (202) 357-4600, www.si.edu/nmafa