

CONTENTS

- List of Maps x
- About the Author and Contributors xi
- Preface xii

Introduction 1

Welcome to Washington 1

About This Guide 4

- Why “Unofficial”? 4
- Creating a Guidebook 5
- How *Unofficial Guides* Are Different 5
- Special Features 6
- How This Guide Was Researched and Written 6
- Letters, Comments, and Questions from Readers 7
- How Information Is Organized:
 - By Subject and by Location 8

PART ONE Planning Your Visit to Washington 11

When to Go 11

- Going When the Weather Is Good 11
- Avoiding Crowds 12
- Trying to Reason with the Tourist Season 13

A CALENDAR OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 14

What to Pack 25

People with Special Needs 26

Getting to Washington 28

- Driving 28
- Taking the Train 29
- Flying 30

PART TWO Accommodations 33

Deciding Where to Stay 33

Some Considerations 33

Getting a Good Deal on a Room 34

Where the Hotel Discounts Are 35

Helping Your Travel Agent Help You 38

If You Make Your Own Reservation 39

How to Evaluate a Travel Package 40

Tips for Business Travelers 41

Lodging Convenient to Washington Convention Center 41

Convention Rates: How They Work and How to Do Better 41

Hotel and Motel Toll-free Numbers 42

Accommodations: Rated and Ranked 43

What's in a Room? 43

Room Ratings 47

How the Accommodations Compare 48

Good Deals and Bad Deals 52

HOTEL INFORMATION CHART 60–75

PART THREE Visiting Washington on Business 77

Not All Visitors Are Headed for the Mall 77

The Washington Convention Center 82

Lodging within Walking Distance of the Convention Center 82

Parking at the Convention Center 83

Cabs and Shuttles to the the Convention Center 83

Lunch Alternatives for Convention and Trade-show Attendees 83

A CONVENTION CALENDAR 84–85

PART FOUR Arriving and Getting Oriented 87

Coming into the City 87

By Car 87

By Plane 89

By Train 93

A Geographic Overview of Washington 94

City and Two States 94

D.C.'s Street Plan 94

Finding Your Way 95

Things the Natives Already Know 97

Where There's Smoke, There's the Feds 97

The Metro: An Introduction 97

Taxis 98

Traffic 98

The Neighborhoods 98

Customs and Protocol 101

Tips for the Disabled 103

Telephones 103

Restrooms 103

How to Avoid Crime and Keep Safe in Public Places 104

Crime in Washington 104

Having a Plan 106

Personal Attitude 108

Self-defense 108

Carjackings 109

Ripoffs and Scams 109

More Things to Avoid 109

Help May Be Closer Than You Think 109

The Homeless 110

PART FIVE Getting around Washington 113

Driving Your Car: A Really Bad Idea 113

Traffic Hot Spots 113

Parking 117

Riding the Metro: A Really Good Idea 117

A Clean, Safe Alternative 117

How to Ride the Metro 118

Metro Foibles and How to Cope 127

Discounts and Special Deals 128

Metrobus and Other Bus Systems 129

Taxis 130

PART SIX Sightseeing Tips and Tours 133

Plan Before You Leave Home 133

Thinking in Categories 134

Putting Your Congressperson to Work 138

Operating Hours 140

Rhythms of the City 140

If You Visit During Peak Tourist Season 141

Washington with Children 142

The Best Inside Tours in Town 146

Taking an Orientation Tour 148

Get on the Bus, Gus 149

Get Your Feet Wet 151

Wheeling around Washington 153

Wheels with Horsepower 154

Hoofing It Yourself 154

Get Up Close and Personal 155

Optimum Adult Touring Plan 156

VIII CONTENTS

Touring Strategies 159

- Attractions Grouped by Metro Station 159
- Seeing Washington on a Tight Schedule 162
- One-day Touring 162

Excursions beyond the Beltway 165

Helpful Hints 167

- A Worst-case Touring Scenario 167
- Travel Tips for Tourists 168

PART SEVEN Washington's Attractions 175

Where to Go 175

- Time-saving Charts 175

ATTRACTIONS BY TYPE 176–179

ATTRACTIONS BY LOCATION 180–181

Attraction Profiles 186

PART EIGHT Dining and Restaurants 261

Experiencing Washington Cuisine 261

- The New Washington Cookery 261
- Places to See Faces 270
- The New Downtown Dining 272

The Restaurants 273

- Our Favorite Washington Restaurants 273

Up and Coming at Press Time 275

The Best . . . 275

RESTAURANTS BY CUISINE, THEN BY STAR RATINGS 276–279

RESTAURANTS BY LOCATION 280–283

Restaurant Profiles 287

PART NINE Shopping in Washington 345

Mall Shopping 345

- Suburban Malls 345
- Malls in D.C. 347
- Flea Markets 347

Great Neighborhoods for Window-Shopping 348

- Georgetown 348
- Adams-Morgan, U Street, and Logan Circle 349
- Chevy Chase 351
- Dupont Circle 352
- Bethesda 353
- Capitol Hill 354
- Old Town Alexandria 354

Specialty Shops 354

PART TEN Entertainment and Nightlife 363**Washington Nightlife: More Than Lit-up Monuments 363**

- Legitimate Theater 366
- Comedy in Washington 371
- Live Pop, Rock, and Jazz 372
- Swing Your Partner 376
- Espresso and Eight-ball 377
- True Brews 378
- The Sex Thing 378
- More on the Safety Thing 381

Profiles of Clubs and Nightspots 382**PART ELEVEN Exercise and Recreation 397****Working Out 397**

- Walking 397
- Running 398
- Swimming 403
- Fitness Centers and Aerobics 403
- Tennis 404
- Rock Climbing 404

Recreational Sports: Biking, Hiking, Kayaking, and So On 405

- Bicycling 405
- Hiking 408
- Canoeing and Kayaking 409
- Ice Skating 410
- Skiing 410
- Horseback Riding 411
- Golf 411

Spectator Sports 412**Appendixes 415**

- Accommodations Index 415
- Restaurant Index 417
- Subject Index 420
- Unofficial Guide* Reader Survey 431

LIST *of* MAPS

Metro	Inside cover
Washington at a Glance	2–3
Dupont Circle Accommodations	57
Washington, D.C., Accommodations	58–59
Convention Center Concourses A, B, and C	78
Convention Center Level Two	79
Convention Center Level Three	80
Convention Center Street Level	81
Washington, D.C., and Vicinity	88
Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport	90
Washington-Dulles International Airport	91
Baltimore-Washington International Airport	92
Metro rail System	114–115
Washington Old Town Trolley	150
Washington, D.C., Attractions	182–183
Capitol Hill	184
The National Mall	185
Arlington National Cemetery	188
Old Town Alexandria	239
The White House Area	257
Washington, D.C., Dining	262–263
Dupont Circle Dining	264
Georgetown Dining	265
Rock Creek Park	399
C&O Canal Towpath Trail	400
Mount Vernon Trail	401
Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park	402
Covered Bridge Bicycle Tour	406
Sugarloaf Mountain Bicycle Tour	407