Foggy Bottom

Once DC’s industrial center, Foggy Bottom is named for the fog that used to rise up from the Potomac. Neighborhood landmarks include the IMF, the World Bank, the Kennedy Center and the Department of State. Head to the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage for free nightly performances and discover a marvelous view of the city from the Roof Terrace. Take a photo of the infamous Watergate complex. Join students from The George Washington University for happy hour specials at McFadden’s or mingle with lobbyists and lawyers over raw oysters at Kinkead’s.

Getting there: Take Metro to Foggy Bottom-GWU or ride the Circulator’s east-west route.

Georgetown

Founded in 1751, historic Georgetown is known for its designer and mainstream boutiques, beautiful architecture and its seemingly endless list of cafes, restaurants and bars. History buffs, serious shoppers and garden lovers are instantly smitten with attractions like Georgetown University, the C&O Canal, the Kreeger Museum and Tudor Place. Shop your way down M Street and head north on Wisconsin Ave. to discover locally-owned boutiques. Ease into the booth where JFK proposed to Jackie at Billy Martin’s Tavern or watch for celebrities at Cafe Milano. Sit waterside and sip cocktails at Sequoia or grab a beer on the set of “St. Elmo’s Fire” at Third Edition.

Getting there: Take the Circulator’s East-West Route into the heart of Georgetown; or take Metro to Foggy Bottom and walk.

Southwest & Waterfront

Sample fresh seafood creations at the Maine Avenue Seafood Market or indulge in a multi-course tasting menu at CityZen at the Mandarin Oriental. Hop on board a sightseeing cruise for an unforgettable view of the monuments from the water. Go to a baseball game at National’s Park.

Getting there: Take Metro to the Southwest/ Waterfront station.

U Street/Shaw & Logan Circle

The birthplace of Duke Ellington and the center of Washington’s African-American nightlife for much of the 20th century is once again thriving. On weekend nights, U Street rivals Adams Morgan for crowds, though with a slightly older vibe. U Street is also equally intriguing by day, home to the African American Civil War Memorial, Lincoln Theatre and Howard University. Groove to a live jazz set at Polly’s or see for yourself why the 9:30 Club is considered the best live music venue in the country.

Getting there: Take Metro to U Street/ African-Amer Civil War Memorial/ Cardozo.

Woodley Park/ Cleveland Park

To the east sits Rock Creek Park, a vast urban green space home to the Smithsonian’s National Zoo. Get to know the stone gargoyles (including one shaped like Darth Vader!) carved into façade of the stunning Washington National Cathedral. Feast on renowned Mediterranean fare at Lebanese Taverna. Visit the Hillwood Museum and Gardens. Getting there: Take Metro to the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan or Cleveland Park stations.

Adams Morgan

Long home to immigrant communities from Africa, Asia, South and Central America, Adams Morgan is a global village in the heart of the city where restaurants serve cuisine from all around the world. You can catch live music most nights of the week throughout the neighborhood and find cheap eats and white tablecloth restaurants for all palates and pocketbooks. There are also many locally owned shopping gems with unique clothing, jewelry, art, furniture and household goods. Catch live bluegrass on Wednesday nights at Madam’s Organ or swing by Habana Village to show off your salsa moves (or take a free lesson). Join in the neighborhood’s signature events, including Adams Morgan Day (Sept.), Crafty Bastards (fall) and Festivus (winter).

Getting there: Take Metro to Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan and walk or take the Circulator Woodley Park-Adams Morgan-McPherson Square route. Parking is available at two garages – 2328 Champlain Street (access from 18th Street near Belmont Road, NW) and 1711 Florida Avenue, NW.

Eastern Market

Eastern Market is DC’s oldest continually operated public food market. Located in the historic Capitol Hill neighborhood, the market is a weekend destination for farm fresh produce, handmade arts and crafts, and other outdoor vendors.

Getting there: Take the Metro to Eastern Market Station

For more information and places to see go to http://washington.org
Anacostia

First incorporated in 1854 as Uniontown, Anacostia is named for a Native American settlement. DC’s first planned suburb is where abolitionist and statesman Frederick Douglass made his home. The neighborhood is also known for its beautiful late 19th-century architecture. See one of the best views of the city from Cedar Hill, Douglass’ estate. Learn about local African-American history at the Smithsonian Institution’s Anacostia Community Museum.

Getting there: Take Metro to the Anacostia station.

Brookland/Northeast

The neighborhood is also sometimes called “Little Rome,” thanks to its collection of more than 60 Catholic sites. The Roman Catholic Church bought up tracts of land here in the late 19th century to build the Catholic University of America, which attracted additional Catholic sites like the Franciscan Monastery and the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Picnic in the peaceful gardens of the Franciscan Monastery or pause for quiet reflection in the largest Catholic Church in the U.S. Wander through the National Arboretum’s two-acre herb garden or the National Bonsai Museum, and don’t miss its thousands of brightly-colored azaleas in full bloom each May. Getting there: Take Metro to the Brookland/ CUA station.

Capitol Hill/ Capitol Riverfront

City designer Pierre L’Enfant picked this location once known as Jenkins Hill – and now often referred to as “the Hill” – to be the seat of the legislative branch of government. The Barracks Row section of the neighborhood takes its name from the nearby Marine Barracks, home to the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. The Capitol Hill neighborhood packs powerful attractions like the Library of Congress and Supreme Court and beautiful treasures like the Folger Shakespeare Library, National Postal Museum and Union Station. Locals start their weekends by stocking up on fresh veggies and shopping for unique arts and crafts at Eastern Market. In the evening, the place to be is Barracks Row, located along 8th Street SE. The new, emerging Capitol Riverfront has been making headlines as home to the nation’s first “green” ballpark at Nationals Park and modern developments along the waterfront. Feast on blueberry buckwheat pancakes at Eastern Market then browse used books, antiques, arts, crafts and more. Catch a Shakespearean production in the Folger’s Globe-style theatre. Marvel at DC’s architectural beauty inside the magnificent Library of Congress and Union Station. Listen to the stirring notes of the U.S. Marine Band during a Friday evening parade.

Getting there: Take Metro to Capitol South, Eastern Market or Union Station for access to Capitol Hill. Take

Downtown

Museums, theatres and galleries share the streets with hot new restaurants, lounges and hotels in downtown. The neighborhood is full of must-see sights like the International Spy Museum, Newseum, Madame Tussauds, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the new National Museum of Crime and Punishment, Ford’s Theatre and more. DC’s Chinatown is nestled in the heart of the neighborhood, marked by the brightly colored “Friendship Arch” that spans H Street. It’s also home to the Verizon Center, which hosts college and professional sports action and star-studded concerts all year round. Try your hand at espionage in Operation Spy, an interactive experience at the International Spy Museum. Catch a mid-day production or lecture at the Shakespeare Theatre Company’s Harman Center for the Arts.

Getting there: Take Metro to Gallery Pl-Chinatown, Metro Center, Archives-Navy Mem’l-Penn Quarter, or take the Circulator’s east-west or north-south route.

Dupont Circle/ Kalorama

Bistros, bars and boutiques line the streets that come together at Dupont Circle. The largest concentration of international embassies sits just northwest of the circle, giving the neighborhood an extra dash of global flavor. Arts and entertainment collide with restaurants, shops, hotels, quaint B&Bs, galleries and museums (The Phillips Collection, The Textile Museum, Woodrow Wilson House and National Geographic Society’s Explorers Hall to name a few).

Getting there: Take Metro to Dupont Circle.