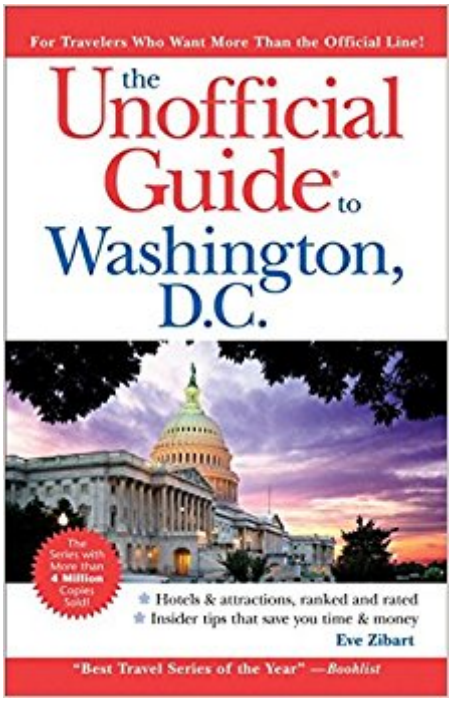
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The Unofficial Guide To Washington, D.C. (Unofficial Guides)



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Synopsis

Guides travelers to Washington’s best cultural and historic sights-and offers helpful hints on how to beat the crowds and avoid long waits More than 75 in-depth restaurant reviews explain where to find a good meal Incisive hotel ratings show how to find the best lodgings at the best prices Shows how to get around, how to see the government work, and where to find parks and outdoor activities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A Tourist’s Best Friend!" Ã¢â ¬â •Chicago Sun-Times "Indispensable" Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Five Great Features and Benefits offered ONLY by The Unofficial Guide: Details on the best guided tours on foot and by boat, bus, horse carriage, Segway, bicycle, and trolley A complete guide to Washington’s cultural and historic sightsÃ¢â ¬â •with helpful hints for making the most of your time Hotels reviewed and ranked for value and qualityÃ¢â ¬â •plus secrets for getting the lowest rate possible Proven strategies for enjoying Washington with your kids Everything you need to know to get around quickly and easilyÃ¢â ¬â •including complete details on the Metro

Eve Zibart, AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS, INCLUDING The Unofficial Guide to New Orleans, The Unofficial Guide to New York, The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World for Grown-ups, and The Ethnic Food LoverÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Companion, spent many years as a feature writer and restaurant critic for the Washington Post and now contributes to Washingtonian and other magazines. As the

PostÃ¢ ¬â„¢s former nightlife columnist, she drew on her intimate knowledge of D.C.Ã¢ ¬â„¢s diverse afterhours scene as well as the areaÃ¢ ¬â„¢s vast array of dining spots when writing the entertainment and restaurant sections for this guide. Eve also scoped out where to find the best deals for our chapter on shopping and gently reminded Joe that biking is only one form of exercise.

We bought this book to help plan our trip to DC and it was helpful with providing things to do and helps rate things that different age groups would like/not like to do.The book is somewhat outdated/not complete though. Some information was incorrect or maybe geared more towards peak travel periods as we went after labor day and a lot of the opening/closing times of buildings were incorrect. One exampe, the book suggests getting up very early to reserve tickets for the Jefferson Monument, we decided to take our chances instead of getting up very early in the morning as the book suggested. We went and got tickets for the 2:00 tour at about 1:50.If you do get this book I would recommend using it as a source to get ideas and then researching the actual attractions on-line to get actual opening/closing times.

For the most part, I found this guidebook terrific. The good parts include:-Very detailed and frank descriptions of the attractions (museums and monuments). I found the information accurate and thorough, including the info about who would best love each site, and which parts of the museums were best if you had limited time to visit them. Saying which Metro stations were closest to each attraction was a nice touch, as was the information about how to use the Metro, and the Metro maps. The map of the Mall with the locations of each museum was good, too, although it would have been much easier to use if it were at the front of the book instead of buried in the middle. Trying to flip back and forth through the book was a bit frustrating.-It's not padded with color photographs you don't really need.-The information doesn't read like advertising/PR for each site. It's clear the team of reviewers actually visited every place listed and evaluated it honestly. These evaluations and description were more than worth the price of this guide. I paged through other guidebooks, and this was the most useful and practical of them all, and the only one I bought and brought with me.The bad/mediocre:- The food and restaurant recommendations were way off the mark. We got shut out of the cafes at the National Gallery of Art and the Sculpture Garden Pavilion because the book didn't mention that they closed earlier than the museums in which they were located. The food court at the Old Post Office Pavilion was depressing and unhygienic (my friend had to tell the guy at the Middle Eastern station to use gloves, and he grumbled about it), and the food was gross. The guidebook's idea of what constituted affordable food was laughable. I would

have appreciated more listings for cheaper restaurants; its idea of a moderate price was somewhere in the $30-60 for an entree range. There was also no info about which museum/Mall area cafes and food courts would be best if you wanted to avoid swarms of children.- The phone number for the monuments at night tour was wrong. There were a few recs for hop-on-hop-off buses that included a tour guide, but no recs for the type that simply goes around the tourist sites without a guide (i.e., less time-consuming and costly, and doesn't skip a bunch of sites by rolling right past stuff you want to see en route to places you might not want to visit; we saw buses to that effect when we got there, but there was no info reviewing them in this guide).- As mentioned above, the maps included were great, but placed in inconvenient places in the guide. There was no big map of the whole city, which would have been nice, and there was no Circulator route map (this is a hop-on-hop-off service meeting the above requirements). Our hotel had Circulator maps, so we were fine, but they should have been included in the guidebook.- The neighborhood descriptions were pretty wimpy and short. The descriptions of stores and restaurants in each area were in separate sections of the book instead of listed within or right after the neighborhood descriptions.Despite those drawbacks, this is definitely way better than the other guidebooks out there, especially if your trip will focus on the attractions along the National Mall.

This book proved itself utterly invaluable on our recent American History vacation in and around Washington DC. I can say that this small investment brought at least 50 times its value back in cost and time savings. If you are planning a trip to the DC area, you owe it to yourself to pick this resource up and buy it at least six months in advance or preferably sooner. The currency of this book seems perfect and I found no errors in it whatsoever.

What I liked: the review and description of the museums and the breakdown of public and tour transportion options. Other than that I feel I was missing out on a true city experience. The restaurant reviews were all over the place (and I think it could use more selection; or perhaps a map for the walking tourist to find great places to chow). No sense/description of the neighborhoods. How about good places for music/culture? Not included here. I would have also appreciated some pictures. All in all, it helped with a trip but I was disappointed.

VERY useful information!!

The Unofficial Guide was a great resource for planning our trip to DC. The attraction and restaurant

profiles were invaluable for prioritizing and planning our limited time. There were a few errors, but every travel guide has some - things change.We took this guide and Fodor's on our trip - Fodor's came in more handy once we were at the sights, but The Unofficial Guide was a better planning tool. I recommend both.

The only complaint i have is this book does not have any picture. A picture is better than a thousand words. Adding some pictures would make it much more attractive.I did not start reading it until i was in DC. Felt bad about it because this book did provide a lot of good insides. Things like "do not drive in DC." Great idea. Should have also said "the road is totally confusing" in addition to traffic warning.

We spent 5 days in DC and every night I would read sections of this book so I could plan the next day activities. The book had so many helpful suggestions,for example, I read about the Old Post office tower having the second best view in DC. We went there because we could not get into the Washington Monument and so enjoyed the view. This book is a very helpful guide.

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