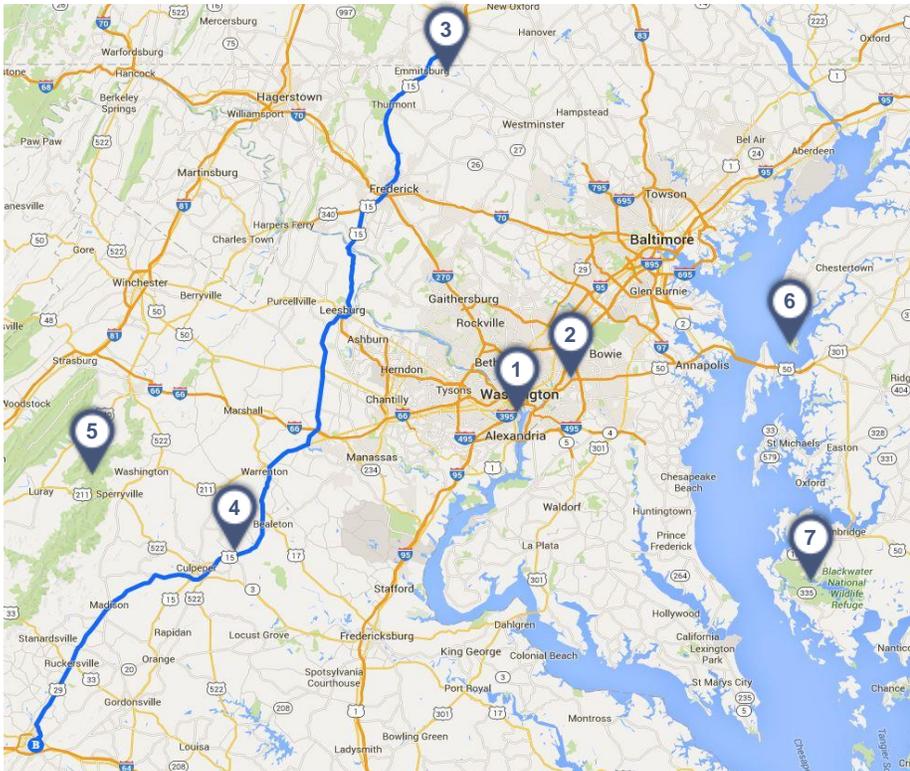




Washington, DC – National Capital Region

Heritage, history – and nature closer than expected



HIGHLIGHTS

You already know about the famous monuments and museums. You may not have heard about the cultural heritage, the sprawling urban parks, and the many options for outdoor recreation.

KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- Cultural museums that tell the complex story of America
- Urban parks, for an easy escape from the crowds
- Historic sites where critical moments in the American story occurred, from colonial times through the Civil War
- Scenic views from the Blue Ridge Mountains
- Fishing, bird-watching, and easy access to the waters of the Chesapeake Bay

Build a Trip by Recreation.gov

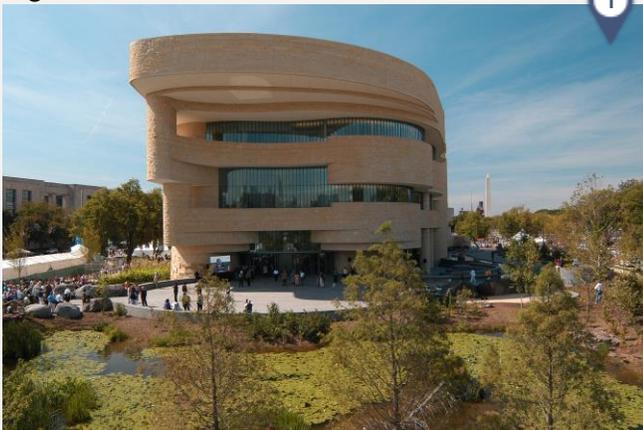


Build a Trip
Create your adventure now

We've created road trip itineraries to show you how you can discover iconic landmarks, great camping and amazing landscapes anywhere you want to go within the U.S.A. Build your own adventure here: [Build a Trip](#).

Culture, heritage, and urban escapes

The highly anticipated [Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) opens in 2016 on the National Mall, joining the acclaimed [National Museum of the American Indian](#) in telling the complex story of the history of the United States. Escape the museum crowds with a bike ride in [Rock Creek Park](#), an urban green space larger than New York City's Central Park, or with a stroll through the [National Arboretum](#). Looking for some history with your hotel? The [Morrison-Clark Inn](#), built in 1864, is a Victorian mansion-turned-inn and former home to two Congressmen.



National Museum of the American Indian
(Smithsonian)



National Arboretum
(U.S. Department of Agriculture)

Monumental Moments in American History

A short drive north from Washington, DC lays the landscape of [Gettysburg National Military Park](#). The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point of the U.S. Civil War, the bloodiest battle of the conflict and the inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's immortal "Gettysburg Address." From Gettysburg, drive south to visit the [Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area](#), a scenic and historically rich region that includes Native American settlements; sites from the Revolutionary War; homes and birthplaces of nine Presidents; and more important scenes from U.S. history.



Gettysburg National Military Park
(Bill Dowling)



Journey Through Hallowed Ground

Mountains, Waterfalls, and Scenic Vistas

Just 75 miles from the crowds of Washington, D.C., [Shenandoah National Park](#) is the perfect escape for relaxation and recreation. The park's 105-mile long Skyline Drive meanders under picturesque trees, especially colorful in the fall. Head off road via hundreds of miles of hiking trails, where you'll share the forest with deer, waterfalls, songbirds, a stunning night sky, and maybe even a brown bear or two!

Shenandoah National Park
(National Park Service)



Escape to the waters and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay

Less than an hour from Washington, DC, the Chesapeake Bay and nearby wildlife refuges are easy places to get close to nature. [Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge](#) is a bird sanctuary home to over 250 species and offers opportunities to kayak and hike. Visitors to [Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge](#) are treated to gorgeous views of the Chesapeake Bay.



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
(US Fish and Wildlife Service)



Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge
(US Fish and Wildlife Service)

