

# HOW TO FRESHEN UP A DC ITINERARY BEYOND THE BASIC MONUMENTS:

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## PLANET WORD

A highly interactive museum focused on words and storytelling, Planet Word uses technology and play to connect language, history, and communication.

## NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

Set inside a striking historic building, this museum brings architecture, engineering, and design to life with hands-on, student-friendly exhibits.

## FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Home to the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the Folger brings literature to life through interactive exhibits, rare artifacts, and engaging performances.



## DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) MUSEUM

This lesser-known museum highlights everyday life in early America through period rooms and artifacts, offering history beyond wars and monuments.

## SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL ZOO (HOME OF THE GIANT PANDAS)

One of the only places in the U.S. to see giant pandas for free, the National Zoo combines wildlife conservation, science education, and open-air exploration.



## MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

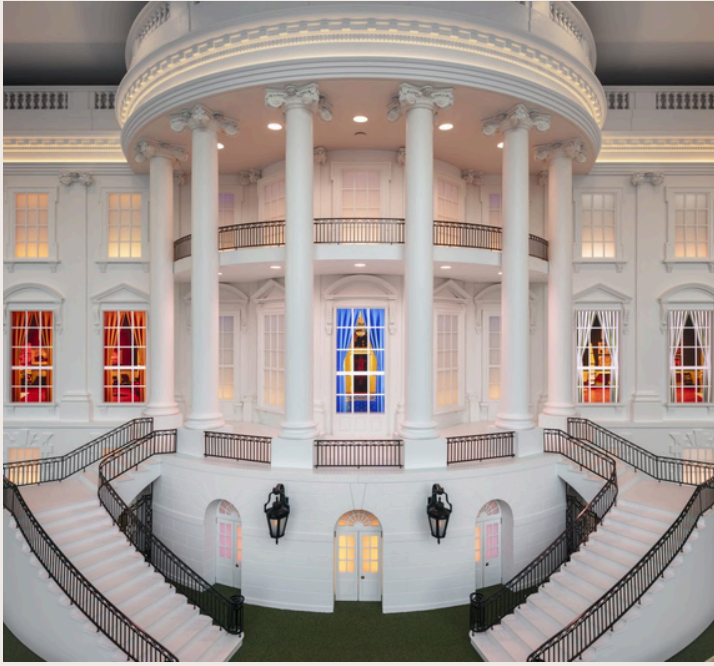
This modern, interactive museum explores the Bible's historical influence on culture, art, and government through immersive, non-denominational exhibits.

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Visit the home of Frederick Douglass to learn how his life and work shaped national conversations on freedom, justice, and equality.



# NEW ATTRACTIONS



## THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE: A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

An interactive museum that brings the story of the White House to life through hands-on exhibits, replicas, and engaging presidential history.

## MILKEN CENTER FOR ADVANCING THE AMERICAN DREAM

An interactive experience focused on entrepreneurship, civic values, and the individuals who helped shape the American Dream.

## ARTECHOUSE

An immersive digital art experience where students explore large-scale, interactive installations that blend technology, science, and creativity.

## RECENTLY RENOVATED/REOPENED:



## NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The Smithsonian's legendary aviation-and-space museum is mid-transformation with new galleries already open and additional reimagined spaces debuting through 2026 ahead of the U.S. 250th celebration.

## MOUNT VERNON

Washington's riverside estate offers students a deeper look at 18th-century life, leadership, and the legacy of America's first president.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

The world's only major museum dedicated exclusively to women artists, recently reopened after a renovation that expanded galleries, improved accessibility, and modernized visitor spaces.

## COMING SOON

## AMERICA 250 INITIATIVES

Special exhibits and programs across Washington, D.C. highlight America's history, ideals, and ongoing story as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary.

<https://america250.org/>

## NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL

A new memorial honoring service members of the Gulf War era, recently dedicated and now open as part of the National Mall's constellation of modern memorials.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

This museum honoring U.S. Colored Troops has undergone recent expansion and renovation, with updates to exhibits and space to better highlight African-American Civil War history (full reopening expected as work completes).





# WHAT TO VISIT IN DC WHEN THERE IS A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN:

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## U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

A spacious outdoor destination featuring gardens, trails, and the iconic Capitol Columns, ideal for learning even when federal buildings are closed.

## LINCOLN'S COTTAGE

Located on the historic Soldiers' Home campus, this is where Abraham Lincoln developed the Emancipation Proclamation, offering a personal look at a pivotal moment in history.

## GLENSTONE MUSEUM

A unique blend of modern art, architecture, and nature, Glenstone encourages thoughtful exploration through curated galleries and expansive outdoor spaces.



## INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM

An interactive favorite for students, this museum explores the world of espionage through hands-on exhibits, real spy artifacts, and immersive missions.

## WOODLAWN CULTURAL PARK AND MUSEUM

A former plantation turned cultural site, Woodlawn explores African American history, art, and community life through exhibits and historic structures.

## JOSIAH HENSON MUSEUM AND PARK

Learn the powerful story of Josiah Henson—whose life inspired Uncle Tom's Cabin—through preserved buildings and exhibits focused on slavery, resilience, and freedom.



## KID MUSEUM

Designed for hands-on learning, KID Museum engages students with interactive exhibits focused on creativity, technology, and problem-solving.

## SANDY SPRING SLAVE MUSEUM

A powerful, community-focused museum dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of African Americans in the region through stories, artifacts, and education.

## WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL TOUR

Explore one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in the world while learning about American history, architecture, and symbolism through guided tours.