

SUMMER 2011

Cheap Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students
Spending a Summer Working in the Public Interest

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Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings.

In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be

helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal. *Cheap Living* remains a work in progress.

A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Program Coordinator

**The Washington DC Guide was updated by 1L section representatives Ona Balkus, Jessica Goldberg, Jeff Johnson, Roxana Rabmani, Shelley Rosenberg, Elizabeth Stork, and Colette van der Ven.*

HOUSING

Classified Advertisements

To find summer sublets, check out the apartment classifieds in one of DC's daily newspapers.

The *Washington Post* and the *Washington Times* are both available at Widener Library and Out-of-Town News, with the largest rental sections appearing on Saturdays. Or check out their classified ads at www.washingtonpost.com/real-estate/dc-apartments-rentals.html and www.print2webcorp.com/marketplace/washingtontimes/main/.

The *City Paper*, DC's free weekly, has an extensive housing section that includes many shared housing listings and may be your best resource. Pick it up starting Thursday afternoons all over the city or just go to www.washingtoncitypaper.com/class/classifieds.html. The *Washington Post Apartment Showcase* is a free book that is published a few times a year and is available on the street throughout the city. It lists primarily larger apartment buildings, and is also available at www.apartmentshowcase.com. *The Hill* and *Roll Call*, which both cover Capitol Hill, have housing listings in the back and also are a good place to look if you want to find a roommate.

Find them on the web at thehill.com/classifieds.html and <http://www.rollcall.com/classifieds/rent.html>. *The Washington Blade*, DC's gay weekly paper, also contains an apartment classifieds section that can be found online at www.washingtonblade.com/classifieds. *Craig's List* is a great spot to check as well; keyword "summer" to narrow the search. It is updated daily at washingtondc.craigslist.org/sub. Finally, you can find a clearinghouse for DC rental websites at www.washingtondhousing.com.

Informal Postings & Locator Services

The bulletin boards in many shops, restaurants, and bakeries may be the best place to look for postings for short-term apartment vacancies and tenants seeking roommates. There are several in the Dupont Circle area: a plant store called **3rd Day** at 2001 P St., NW, (202) 785-0107; **Café Luna** at 1633 P St., NW, (202) 387-4005; and **Kramerbooks** at 1517 Connecticut Ave., NW, (202) 387-1462. On Capitol Hill, check out the bulletin board outside the cafeteria of the **Rayburn House Office Building**. In Georgetown, look over the bulletin board at **Ben & Jerry's** at 3135 M St., NW, (202) 965-2222.

Formal apartment exchanges, such as those run by local schools (see below) or the **Jewish Community Center (JCC)** at 1529 16th St., NW, (202) 518-9400, are also great resources. DC apartment locator services generally are not helpful but are free so you may want to check them out. Be warned that the apartments listed by these services tend to be on the expensive side; most will not be in the public interest price range. Several services allow you to specify your apartment preferences via an online form or over the phone. A rental consultant processes your preferences in their database, and contacts you with apartment listings. Try **Apartment Search**, 1-800-APARTMENT, www.apartmentsearch.com/.

University Housing

Many universities in the DC area rent their on-campus housing to student interns during the summer months and have listings of off campus housing (see below). Rent can be somewhat steep for these accommodations – and be aware that universities' listed rates typically do not include DC's 14.5% short-term housing tax – but most are convenient to public transportation

and have nearby amenities. The other benefit is that many of these facilities offer free internet services and your utilities (like air conditioning expenses) are covered in the cost.

George Washington University's dorms (summerhousing.gwu.edu/) are the most Metro-accessible and most conveniently located campus housing in DC, close to the White House, State Department, Watergate, and Kennedy Center (Metro: Foggy Bottom). Available housing includes residence halls, apartments, and townhouses; all are air-conditioned. Room rates range from \$238 to \$343 per person per week, with a required minimum stay of five weeks and a non-refundable "administrative fee" of \$150. All applications for housing are via an online request form available at the above web address. For more information, call (202) 994-6833, email sumhouse@gwu.edu.

Georgetown University Law Center rents apartments in Gewirz Student Center (Metro: between Union Station and Judiciary Square), conveniently located in the heart of the city. The law school is located by Capitol Hill, separate from the undergraduate campus. Housing is only available for a nine week period, and be aware that you are charged for the entire period regardless of your stay (between \$2,348-\$3,328 for ten weeks). There is also a \$50 nonrefundable application fee. All units are air-conditioned and have private bedrooms, full kitchens, and bathrooms. Gewirz residents enjoy the benefits of a fitness center, laundry facilities, 24-hour security, and a free shuttle to nearby supermarkets. For more information, contact the Office of Residence Life at (202) 662-9290, e-mail housing@law.georgetown.edu, or check the Law Center's website at www.law.georgetown.edu/reslife/summer. Housing for summer interns is also available at **Georgetown University's** main campus. For more information, call (202) 687-3001, e-mail summerhousing@georgetown.edu, or check the Georgetown University website at <http://housing.georgetown.edu/summer/index.cfm>.

American University offers housing in residence halls located in upper Northwest, DC a good distance from downtown and the Mall (Metro: Tenleytown/American University). The halls are air-conditioned, and each floor has a single-sex bathroom and a kitchenette. In addition, residents have access to AU's sports center, library, computer, and laundry facilities. There is free parking and a free shuttle service to the Tenleytown/AU metro stop throughout the day. Apartments are \$370, singles are \$344 per week, doubles are \$255 and triples are \$246 per person per week. There is also a \$200 nonrefundable deposit. For more information, call (202) 885-3370, e-mail summerhousing@american.edu, or check out www.american.edu/ocl/housing/intern-housing.cfm.

Catholic University, located in Northeast DC, close to the Maryland border (Metro: Brookland-Catholic University), offers housing with prices ranging from \$27 to \$33 per day. Single and double occupancy rooms, apartment and suite style accommodations, and detached units are available; all are air-conditioned. For more information, call (202) 319-5291, or log onto conferences.cua.edu/summer/.

Howard University, located in NW DC near the U Street area, also offers summer housing for interns. More information can be found on their website: www.howard.edu/residencelife/SummerConference/index.html. Rates for interns start at \$30/night. Housing arrangements must fall between the dates of June 1 and August 1. Contact the office at (202) 806-5661 with any questions.

Neighborhoods

The **Metropolitan DC area** includes suburbs in Maryland and Virginia, and the boundaries between the three regions often are blurred. Areas surrounding DC are: **Arlington, Alexandria, Rosslyn, and Falls Church**, Virginia to the west and south; **Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and College Park**, Maryland to the northwest, north, and northeast; and **Prince George's County**, Maryland to the east. All are accessible by Metro. All are also local phone calls, even though there are multiple area codes (DC – 202; VA – 703, 571; MD – 301, 240).

The DC **street plan** is divided into four quadrants: **Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest**. It is important to note what quadrant an address is in (NW, SE, etc. designation after a street address), because addresses are often repeated in each quadrant. Each quadrant begins at the Capitol Building and branches out, street numbers and letters rising as you move farther away from the Capitol. Much of the logic of this system vanishes, however, when one must deal with streets named after the states, which either follow diagonals or start and end abruptly with little logic.

There are many distinct neighborhoods in DC. If at all possible, check out the neighborhood where an apartment is located before you rent and talk to friends and your summer employers who have lived in different neighborhoods to get their perspectives. Be sure to consider your public transportation options when looking at apartments. Some popular neighborhoods (including Georgetown and Adams Morgan) are not Metro accessible and buses can run infrequently at night and on weekends. Buses are also extremely slow during rush hour. Biking, however, may be a good travel option for those who enjoy getting out in the summer. If you're interested in biking, talk to your employer about the feasibility of biking in to work and consider housing near Rock Creek Park, which has an excellent bike path. In any area of the city, avoid walking alone at night and take cabs if you have far to go.

Adams Morgan is located northeast of Dupont Circle, centered around Columbia Road and 18th St., NW. In recent years, Adams Morgan has become more ethnically and economically diverse. 18th Street runs through the heart of the district and is lined with clubs, restaurants, and bars. If deciding whether to live on 18th street, keep in mind that this main drag gets busy and loud at night, especially on weekends. The area is known for an abundance of ethnic restaurants, clubs, bars, and shops. If you are a music fan, the combination of clubs, record stores, and instrument shops can make this neighborhood your favorite hangout.

Adams Morgan is surrounded by various housing alternatives that can be less expensive than housing in areas closer to Metro stations. In particular, Adams Morgan is known for its group houses. Housing prices in Adams Morgan vary enormously. Difficult parking makes having a car a pain, but its proximity to downtown makes it convenient if you plan to bike. Adams Morgan is about a 15-minute walk to two Red Line stops (Dupont Circle, Woodley Park-National Zoo) and one Green Line stop (Columbia Heights). Take the 42 bus, or walk a few blocks from the S2 or S4 buses on 16th St. Rock Creek Park and the Rock Creek Parkway are nearby for runners and bikers' convenience and enjoyment.

Capitol Hill is located, as its name suggests, around the Capitol. "The Hill" encompasses areas in the Northeast and Southeast quadrants and has many reputations. On weekend mornings, as people stroll over to Eastern Market for fresh produce and arts and crafts, there is an

atmosphere of a real neighborhood. At happy hour, there is a festive, political feeling at any bar around the Hill, as Congressional staffers extol the dramas of the day. There are many restaurants that keep the evenings lively, mostly located along the main streets like Pennsylvania Ave. and Massachusetts Ave. Housing around the Hill is mainly cozy townhouses, but availability may be very limited.

Chinatown is located downtown between the White House and the Capitol. The name can be misleading, because really the area has only a handful of Chinese and other Asian restaurants.

Chinatown is the home to the recently built Verizon Center where local sports teams play and which hosts many concerts and other events. Chinatown also has a lot of hip restaurants and mainstream stores. Accessible by the Red, Green and Yellow Metro lines, Chinatown is walking distance from the Mall. Many large “luxury” apartment buildings were built in the area in the last decade, and so an apartment with lots of amenities is still relatively affordable (though rents have been going up).

Cleveland Park and **Van Ness** are located in the Northwest quadrant, up Connecticut Avenue and the Red Line from Dupont Circle and Woodley Park. Cleveland Park is within walking distance of the National Zoo, Rock Creek Park, a variety of restaurants, and several embassies, with Van Ness just to the north. The two areas offer a wide variety of housing opportunities. If you’re a movie buff, the Uptown (3426 Connecticut Ave., NW) has one of the largest screens in the country and provides one of the best moviegoing experiences on the East Coast. Many bus lines run on Connecticut Ave

Mount Pleasant is a diverse residential neighborhood north of Adams Morgan and bordered to the west by Rock Creek Park. The area has wonderful Hispanic grocers and restaurants and small parks are interspersed throughout the neighborhoods. Most students who find housing live in group homes or the occasional basement apartment. Depending upon your location, you may have a walk of about one mile to either the Green or Red Lines. Regular buses, particularly the 42, provide good service to the area, but run quite slowly during rush hour. Parking is also particularly difficult, as the DC police have begun to ticket those without permits and the permits are only available to DC residents. On the positive side, a student who would like to bike to work may be able to find easy access to Rock Creek Park.

Columbia Heights is adjacent to the Adams Morgan and Shaw area and convenient to the Green Line. Columbia Heights is a vibrant neighborhood with many culturally diverse dining options and a wide range of housing. In recent years it has gained popularity with hipster/young professional crowds. There are several new apartment complexes in the area and may be summer sublet options in group row houses (check Craigslist). In addition to the more authentic and diverse dining options, this area has recently been ‘suburbanized’ with a Target, Giant, Washington Sports Club, Starbucks, and Ruby Tuesday.

Dupont Circle is the entire area around lower Connecticut Avenue, bordered by Foggy Bottom to the south and Adams Morgan to the north. Located on the Red Line, Dupont is the center of DC’s gay community and a busy area full of restaurants, bars, movie theaters, and bookstores like the famed Kramerbooks (1517 Connecticut Ave., NW). The Circle also offers many types of accommodations, from older high-rises to smaller apartment buildings to shared houses.

Unfortunately, because of the great location and convenient Metro access, Dupont includes some of the most expensive housing in DC.

Foggy Bottom encompasses the area surrounding George Washington University. This

neighborhood offers a plethora of apartment buildings and townhouses. Apartment turnover is high during the summer since so many GW students live in this area. Advantages to living in this area include close proximity to the White House, Kennedy Center, museums, and government agencies. In addition, Foggy Bottom is the closest neighborhood to the National Mall, making for great walks to the monuments and easy access to pickup football and softball games on the weekends. There are quite a few restaurants and shopping as well. Foggy Bottom is located within easy walking distance of both Dupont Circle and Georgetown, but tends to be less expensive than either of those neighborhoods. The neighborhood has its own Metro stop on the Blue and Orange Lines.

Georgetown is located in Northwest along the Potomac River near the main campus of Georgetown University. The Georgetown shopping area caters to students, young adults, and the neighborhood's upscale residents with lots of shops, restaurants, and bars along M Street and Wisconsin Avenue. Housing in this area tends to be expensive and consists mostly of shared houses or basement apartments. Georgetown does not have its own Metro stop, and the buses, though frequent, do not travel throughout the city and run quite slowly during rush hour. On the other hand, depending upon one's location in Georgetown, you may be a short walk from either the Dupont or Foggy Bottom metro.

Howard University Area: The Georgia Avenue area has a great neighborhood feel. You'll see children playing in the streams from fire hydrants and riding bicycles. There are nice rowhouses and brownstones in this area, and the rents tend to be a lot lower than other sections of Northwest.

Petworth: This Georgia Avenue area is located just above the Howard University area and pretty similar in feel. In addition to new restaurants, cafes, and an organic grocery, a brand new mid-rise apartment complex recently opened just above the Petworth Avenue Metro stop (Green line, Yellow line) and you may find summer sublet options in the neighborhood row houses. Slightly further from downtown, housing may be a bit cheaper in this area.

Logan Circle/Rhode Island Ave: Logan Circle is located between Rhode Island Avenue, P, and 13th Streets, NW. The neighborhood is quaint, and has a number of elegant rowhouses and apartment buildings. One cautionary note: as you go further north and away from downtown, the housing off of Rhode Island becomes more inconvenient and often is located in more dangerous areas.

The **Northeast** quadrant is home to Catholic and Gallaudet Universities and Union Station. Primarily a residential area, Northeast also contains some government agencies and commercial areas. Housing in Northeast tends to be more affordable than in other areas of the city. Both the Yellow and Green Lines service neighborhoods in Northeast. The Catholic University/Michigan Park area is very nice and quiet. It's actually kind of secluded, but still close to the hustle and bustle.

The **Southeast** quadrant contains Capitol Hill, the Library of Congress, and many government offices. Housing options and prices in Southeast vary greatly. Southeast DC is located on the Orange, Blue, and Green Lines of the Metro. This is really the heart of the District of Columbia. Whereas Northwest is transient, many people in Southeast have been there for generations. The area – particularly Anacostia – got a really bad rap in the early 1990s but recently many of the rowhouses in the area have been renovated and new apartment complexes are being constructed.

The **Southwest** quadrant is the downtown area near Washington's waterfront. Southwest is the location of many federal buildings. Marinas and restaurants are located on the waterfront. New apartment complexes in this area have reasonable rents. The Metro runs through Southwest. **Tenleytown** and **Friendship Heights** are located in Upper Northwest, near the Maryland border. Many students from American University live in these neighborhoods, both located on the Red Line of the Metro. This area is quiet, suburban-seeming and is close to shopping and restaurants, although the Metro time into the city is longer.

U Street/Cardozo is at the base of Adams Morgan, east of Dupont Circle. For several years, U Street has been undergoing a revival and boasts a thriving night life. The area features several new bars and jazz clubs and a few good restaurants. Housing is less expensive than in the Dupont area (though rents are rising as Dupont fills up) and tends to be apartment sublets or shares in townhouses. The area is the African American historic district of Washington, home to Duke Ellington, Alain Locke (the first black Rhodes Scholar), and Charles Hamilton Houston. U Street is also home to the Lincoln Theatre (1215 U St., NW), DC's version of Harlem's Apollo. Right now the area has a large Ethiopian population, but the area overall is becoming very diverse.

Woodley Park is along Connecticut Avenue, west of Adams Morgan and just north of Dupont Circle on the Red Line. Mostly residential but with a few blocks of shops and restaurants, Woodley Park has a variety of housing opportunities including apartments, group houses, and basement apartments. Like Cleveland Park and Van Ness, Woodley Park is a stone's throw from Rock Creek Park, making it convenient for those who like to run or bike in the city's largest park. Woodley Park is also the location of the National Zoo.

Bethesda, Maryland borders Northwest DC and is accessible on the Metro red line as well as by bus. The heart of Bethesda has been called the "restaurant capital" of the DC area and includes two movie theaters. The Capital Crescent Trail is a beautiful path running from Bethesda Avenue to Georgetown and is great for cycling and rollerblading. Housing in Bethesda ranges from relatively new apartment buildings to rooms in shared houses.

Prince George's County, Maryland: P.G. County has nice apartment complexes in College Park, Hyattsville, and Adelphi, accessible by bus from green line Metro stops and the red line Silver Spring stop. Also, a lot of students from Catholic, Howard, and the U of MD live in these areas and are often looking to sublet.

Silver Spring, Maryland: Although it is more suburban, Silver Spring has an eclectic population. It also has a number of newer apartment complexes, and several shopping centers, like Montgomery Mall and City Place, are nearby. Downtown Silver Spring has a new glut of restaurants and housing convenient to the Metro red line.

Arlington, Virginia includes a number of distinct neighborhoods. North Arlington (**Rosslyn**, **Courthouse**, **Clarendon**, and **Ballston**) is located on the Orange Line; housing options here include townhouses, garden apartments, high-rises, and individual homes. South Arlington (**Crystal City** and **Pentagon City**) is located on the Blue and Yellow Lines. Most housing in South Arlington is located in high-rises. The area has little residential housing and lots of car traffic. There are several convenient malls and numerous restaurants and bars, mostly located on or near Wilson Boulevard.

Alexandria, Virginia, is a historic city offering a wide variety of housing options. A key attraction of Alexandria is Old Town, a restored colonial area with shops, restaurants, and bars. Housing in Old Town is very expensive, but other areas of Alexandria are affordable. The famous Torpedo Factory (105 North Union Street, (703) 838-4565), where artists throw pots, paint, and design jewelry while tourists and shoppers watch, is a great place to check out on the weekend. While the Yellow Line has several stops in Alexandria, most are far apart and make it difficult to commute. Those who work in DC and live in Alexandria often travel by bus to the Metro, then take the Metro into town.

TRANSPORTATION

Driving

If you want to go to concerts at Wolf Trap, the nation's largest outdoor theater, or head off to the beach (the Maryland and Delaware beaches are 2 hours away) or mountains on the weekends, having a car in DC is great. But keep in mind the streets, with many traffic circles, one-way restrictions, and bizarre intersections, provide a challenge for drivers unfamiliar with the City's layout. (Some streets, like Rock Creek Parkway, entirely reverse direction during rush hours.) Also, in certain neighborhoods like Dupont Circle, Georgetown, and Capitol Hill, parking can be extremely difficult. Garage and lot spots go for the high rates you'd expect to pay in a city (at least \$150 per month for a lot), most of the parking meters operate with digital mechanisms that don't let you get away with anything, and non-metered spots are good for only two hours at a time. Also, the parking police in DC are fiercely effective, so expect to gather your share of tickets (standard is \$20). In areas like Cleveland Park, Van Ness, Friendship Heights, Tenleytown, and Bethesda, however, parking is easily accessible.

If you live in Northern Virginia and decide to drive, beware of the hassles of HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes and restrictions (seriously enforced) for what times you can drive on certain major highways. If you do decide to commute, car pooling is highly recommended.

Many commuters are known to swing by their nearest Metro stop, pick up a few folks, and cruise in to town taking advantage of their HOV status. For information on carpooling arrangements, contact Ride Finders ((800) 693-7433, www.ridefinders.com).

Virginia will also impose its car tax on you, even if you only bring your car there for a few weeks or months. You must notify the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue for your county of your arrival and departure dates. They will calculate your tax based on the value of your car and the amount of time you spend in Virginia. This will entitle you to a zone sticker for your car, without which you will be a cop-magnet for frequent \$40 tickets. Info for Arlington can be found at

www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CommissionerOfRevenue/CommissionerOfRevenueVTOveview.aspx or by calling (703) 228-3135.

Renting a car for excursions may be a better option than bringing your own four-wheeled friend to DC. However, some companies will not rent to people under 25, or will charge them extra per day. Shop around between these companies: Alamo ((800) 462-5266 or www.alamo.com), Avis ((800) 331-1212 or www.avis.com), Dollar ((800) 800-3665 or www.dollar.com), Hertz ((800) 654-3131 or www.hertz.com), and Thrifty ((800) 847-4389 or www.thrifty.com). Most have a branch at Reagan National Airport; some are scattered around town in Georgetown, at Union Station and in Dupont Circle.

Zipcar, which got its start here in Cambridge, MA, is also available in DC. By becoming a member, you can reserve a car online, then walk or take public transportation to the nearest Zipcar parking space, open the car with your Zipcar membership card, drive around for a scheduled amount of time, and then return the car to its spot. Zipcar has a great website, www.zipcar.com/, that can help you find out how it can work for you. You can get a great deal through Harvard where the total cost to sign up is \$50. Just mention that you are affiliated with Harvard when you call. The entire application can be done online and takes a few days before you can hit the road (mandatory driving background check, etc). You can also call (866) 4ZIPCAR.

Subway

The Metrorail (commonly known as the Metro) is the best way to get around, if it is going where you want to go. Getting to some parts of town, including Georgetown, Adams Morgan, Glover Park, Mount Pleasant, and vast areas of Northeast DC, will require adding a bus ride or a walk to your Metro trip. Keep in mind that food and drink are prohibited on all public transportation in DC, and the Metro passengers themselves will enforce this rule with mean looks and snappy comments, so finish up your morning latte before your commute. Also, Metro passengers tend to be eerily quiet, even during rush hour, so bring reading material unless you want to fall asleep. A major plus in the summer: Metro is air-conditioned!

The system consists of five lines (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, and Blue) that all pass through downtown and run pretty far out into the Virginia and Maryland suburbs. If you need help plotting your trip (or want any other information), log onto the Transit Authority's website at www.wmata.com. Metro fares are based on the time of day (peak hours or non-peak hours) and distance; the cheapest one-way fare is \$1.35 off-peak, and the highest is \$4.50 peak (to go as far as the line will take you). You can purchase a 7-Day Short Trip Pass (which has some restrictions) for \$26.40. During peak hours on the weekdays, trains will run about every 3-6 minutes; late in the evening, expect to wait up to 25 minutes for the next train. Metrorail opens at 5:00 a.m. on weekdays, 7:00 a.m. on weekends. It runs until 3:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday night, and midnight every other night. Even though the Metro has been acclaimed as one of the safest urban subway systems in the world, a long wait in an empty station is never ideal, so plan accordingly.

To use the Metro, purchase a farecard from the machines in every station. (You cannot purchase a card from the guard in the booth, who is just there to help with problems or directions.) Or consider buying a SmarTrip card for \$5; it's a permanent, rechargeable farecard that also can be used for Metrobus fares and can be replaced if it's lost or stolen. Make sure to hold onto your farecard during your trip; you have to insert it through the turnstile at the beginning and end of your trip, or else you will pay the maximum fare to exit. Also, you'll win new friends (or at least avoid making new enemies) if you stand on the right side of the escalators and walk on the left.

Buses

The Metrorail system is supplemented by the Metrobus system and other bus services run by the Virginia and Maryland suburbs. If you start your journey on Metrorail, you can pick up a transfer from a dispenser in the station where you *started* your trip (not where you ended it). These transfers are valid for the Metrobus that stops at the Metro station where you exit (not

for any other bus, and not on any other day). Transfers save you most of the base bus fare, which is \$1.35. (\$1.25 if you use a SmarTrip card!) You can pick up explanatory fliers and some route maps at Metro stations. You can also call (202) 637-7000 for more information, or get online at www.wmata.com for all bus routes and other information. A weekly bus pass is \$11 (unlimited riding on DC and suburban buses, but you'll still have to pay a reduced fare if you happen upon an express bus) and can be purchased at online at the WMATA site, at grocery stores and at Metro stations; avoid buying them at small convenience-type stores which may have a surcharge.

The Circulator is also a great option for fast commuting from downtown to various neighborhoods around DC. It stops less often and only costs \$1, and during rush hour there is a Circulator bus every 10 minutes, depending on traffic. To see if the Circulator is a good option for your commute, visit www.dccirculator.com.

For out-of-town bus travel, the Greyhound and Peter Pan stations are located several blocks from Union Station (for more information on Union Station, see section on train travel, below) at 1005 1st St. (at K St.), NE. The walk from Union Station can be pretty hairy after dark.

Buses run frequently to New York and other locations, usually at an affordable price. There are also other emerging discount bus lines that run to Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. They pick up and drop off in more convenient locations such as Metro Center and Dupont Circle.

They include Bolt Bus (www.boltbus.com), Megabus (us.megabus.com), DC2NY (www.dc2ny.com) and The Know It Express (www.theknowitexpress.com).

Taxis

Taxis in DC now run on a metered system. While this new system may appear more simple, beware of additional charges that add up quickly. The first 1/6 of a mile will cost you \$3.00, and every additional 1/6 mile costs \$0.25. The maximum fare within the DC area is \$19.00, excluding additional surcharges. These surcharges include: \$1.50 for each additional passenger; \$2.00 for each large piece of luggage, \$0.50 for each piece of luggage handled by the driver; \$2.00 for a telephone dispatch; and \$1.00 for animals. Other surcharges for fuel, travel to airports, etc. may apply. The fare increases to 125% its normal rate during snow days. The full regulations can be found at dctaxi.dc.gov.

Also, DC cabs are allowed to pick up new passengers while they already have passengers in the car, though not all of them do this. You will also notice that a lighted sign on top of the cab does not necessarily mean it is available, so be patient when hailing. Finally, DC cabs can only pick up passengers in DC (except at Reagan National Airport), and if a DC cab drops you off in Virginia, he may charge you by the mile once you leave the district (some DC cabs may refuse to take you to Virginia since they cannot pick up fares there).

Some companies to call in DC include Capitol (202) 546-2400, Diamond (202) 387-2221, Liberty (202) 398-0505, and Yellow (202) 544-1212. In Virginia, try Red Top Cab: (703) 522-3333. In Maryland, Barwood Cabs is the best: (301) 984-1900.

Airports

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport ((703) 417-8000 or www.metwashairports.com/reagan) is by far the most convenient airport in town, and as a result it is often the most expensive to fly in or out of as well. As the name implies, it focuses on

national flights. The Metro's Blue and Yellow Lines take you right to the terminal. A taxi to the airport from downtown DC will cost about \$15.

Dulles International Airport ((703) 572-2700 or www.metwashairports.com/dulles/) is bigger than National, but it is about 45 minutes out of town, and even longer at rush hour. However, special lanes reserved just for Dulles traffic mitigate the effect somewhat. A cab will cost you a small fortune to get to Dulles. Instead, you can take the Orange Line to West Falls Church and then a shuttle bus to the airport. The shuttle runs every 30 minutes and costs \$9 one-way, \$16 round-trip. To view schedules go to www.washfly.com. You can also take a Super Shuttle, which is a door-to-door shared ride van. The cost is about \$22 from most DC points. Reservations can be made at www.supershuttle.com or (800) BLUE-VAN. In addition to cheaper flights, Dulles also houses JetBlue, which frequently offers sale prices to other major US cities.

Baltimore-Washington Airport ((800) 435-9294 or www.bwiairport.com/) can be a cheaper alternative if you have the time to get there; it is about a 45 minute drive from downtown DC if there's no serious traffic. Another option is the BWI Express/B30 Metrobus, which costs \$3.10 and runs between BWI and the Greenbelt Metro station every 40 minutes, 7 days a week.

During the week, the MARC commuter train will take you between Union Station and BWI for \$6; on weekends, the only train option is Amtrak (from \$12 one-way). See below for MARC info. The trains both take about 30-45 minutes. Super Shuttle also goes to BWI for about \$22.

Trains

Trains arrive at Union Station (50 Massachusetts Ave., NE at 1st St., (202) 371-9441, www.unionstationdc.com), which also features a Red Line stop, small shopping mall, movie theater, and food court. Amtrak trains run frequently, as do commuter rails. For trains to Maryland on the MARC, call (866) 743-3682 or log on to www.mtmaryland.com/services/marc/. It's generally fine to get your tickets when you arrive, but get them online to be safe. For Virginia Railway Express call 800-743-3873, www.vre.org; for Amtrak, www.amtrak.com.

FOOD

Groceries

Safeway and **Giant** (under the same ownership as Stop and Shop in MA) are the largest chain supermarkets in the region, and there should be one near you. Check out the enormous Giant in Columbia Heights (about three blocks from the Columbia Heights station, just off 14th Street) for the variety of international foods and gigantic produce section. If you want to prove you belong in DC, learn all the nicknames of the various Safeways (Secret Safeway, Socialist Safeway, Sandinista Safeway, Senior Safeway, etc.). **Whole Foods Market**, with stores in Courthouse, Tenleytown, Georgetown, and Logan Circle (near Dupont Circle), is more expensive but features great fruit, vegetables and other natural foods. **Trader Joes** also has a branch in Foggy Bottom, at 2425 L St NW, and there's one located in Bethesda as well. Checkout locations for **Yes! Organic Market** as well for natural and organic foods. Slightly cheaper than Whole Foods, but with many of the same specialty items. If you enjoy buying in bulk, you can take advantage of discount prices at warehouse stores such as **Shoppers Food Warehouse**, which has no

membership fee and has locations in Virginia and Maryland (see www.shoppersfood.com/). DC has the second largest number of farmer's markets per capita among U.S. states, only second to Hawaii. Almost every neighborhood in DC has its own market and you can find a farmer's market every day during the summer months. Here is a quick run down of the DC Fresh Farm markets: http://www.freshfarmmarkets.org/pdfs/2010_market_calendar.pdf
In addition to those, there are also great, reasonably priced markets in Mount Pleasant (Saturdays), Columbia Heights (Saturdays), Petworth, Takoma Park (Sunday), Silver Spring (Sunday), and Bethesda.

For amazing cakes, check out **Cakelove**, a bakery founded by an ex-lawyer in the up-and-coming U Street neighborhood (1506 U St., NW, (202) 588-7100, www.cakelove.com/). **Sticky Fingers Bakery** serves delicious and creative vegan treats (1370 Park Rd NW, (202) 299-9700, www.stickyfingersbakery.com/).

Coffee

For a quiet, peaceful place to read or relax, get off at the Courthouse Metro and check out the **Java Shack** (2507 N. Franklin Rd., Arlington, (703) 527-9556, www.javashack.com/). In Adams Morgan, chill out with a hot cup o' joe on the comfy couches of the coffee bar/lounge **Tryst** (2459 18th St., NW at Columbia Rd., (202) 232-5500, www.trystdc.com/) or join the students and artsy types at **Jolt 'N Bolt** (1918 18th St., NW, (202) 232-0077). In Dupont Circle, stop at **Soho**, a coffeehouse with an open mic night on Mondays and late hours most days (2150 P St., NW, (202) 463-7646, <http://sohoteaandcoffee.com/about>). **Sparky's**, a few blocks east of the Circle, is a good place to learn about political happenings while you enjoy coffee, cookies, or sandwiches (1720 14th St., NW, (202) 332-9334). On U St., the founder of Cakelove also opened **Love Cafe**, a trendy place to sample their signature cupcakes (1501 U St., NW, (202) 265-9800, www.cakelove.com/). For great coffee, sandwiches, and pastries off the beaten path, try **Big Bear Cafe** in the up-and-coming Eckington neighborhood (1700 1st St., NW, bigbearcafe-dc.com/blog/). Check their cork board for information about musical events as well. For a unique, homey and left-leaning combination coffee shop, restaurant, bar and performance space with free WiFi, check out **Busboys and Poets** (2021 14th St., NW, (202) 387-7638, busboysandpoets.com). If you're looking for a crowd, try **Teaism** (2009 R St., NW, (202) 667-3827; other locations may be found at 800 Connecticut Ave., NW and 400 8th St., NW, www.teaism.com), which boasts around 40 different kinds of teas, and delicious, offbeat treats like coconut rice pudding and ginger scones. **Tynan** (<http://tynancoffeeandtea.com/>) a local hip coffee shop has locations sprouting up around the DC area; they recently opened in Columbia Heights and offer free Wifi. **Caribou Coffee** (www.cariboucoffee.com/) offers free wifi at locations all over the city. **Firehook** (<http://www.firehook.com/locations.html>), another DC chain also has multiple locations throughout the city and offers excellent pastries. If you've had enough caffeine but you want a place to read, try the **Provisions Library**, a library/gallery where you can check your email and read the latest leftist magazines (1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1100, open Wednesdays - Fridays, (202) 299-0460, www.provisionslibrary.org/). For coffee roasted on site and local baked goods, pastries, and chocolate in Petworth try **Qualia**, a small and little known cafe in a renovated row house (3917 Georgia Ave., NW, www.freshofftheroast.com/qualia.html).

Restaurants

Here are some of our favorite places to eat, listed by location. For more vegetarian ideas, check out www.vegdc.com. Keep in mind that “cheap” is a relative term—while there is little truly “cheap” food in DC, here are some budget-friendly bites:

Adams Morgan

18th Street is not only a nightlife hot bed, but a great place to find tasty food at decent prices. **Meskerem**, (2434 18th St., NW at Columbia Rd., (202) 462-4100) serves above average Ethiopian fare. The **Black Squirrel** offers a selection of burgers, vegetarian-friendly sandwiches, and a unique, wide variety of microbrew beer. **Himalayan Heritage** and **Jyoti** both offer high quality Indian food. **Perry's** (1811 Columbia Rd., NW, (202) 234-6218, www.perrysadamsmorgan.com) offers sushi and rooftop dining. Try **Julia's Empanadas** (2452 18th St., NW in Adams Morgan; also on 1221 Connecticut Ave., NW, just south of Dupont Circle) – it's a tiny little place with very cheap food; a delicious meal-size empanada pastry runs about \$3. **The Amsterdam Falafel Shop** (2425 18th Street NW, (202) 234-1969) sells affordable and tasty falafel with a huge and colorful variety of add-ins. Also try **El Tamarindo** (1785 Florida Ave., NW, (202) 328-3660) for great Mexican food in a less packed setting than **Lauriol Plaza** down the street. A previous editor developed what she referred to as “a deeply passionate love affair with this Salvadorean spot, with its reasonably priced menu, including stuffed-pancake-like papusas and top-notch salsa. Sadly, the affair ended after a few too many burritos con pollo.” For one more Salvadoran option, go across 16th St. into Columbia Heights, where **Gloria's Pupuseria** (3411 14th St., NW, (202) 884-0105) will serve you a sit-down lunch for two for \$6—may even be free if the regulars decide to pay for you (it's happened).

Bethesda

Bethesda has a more suburban feel and a wide variety of ethnic and more traditional American options. For great “old fashioned” Italian food, particularly the white pizza with fontaine cheese, try **Pines of Rome** (4709 Hampton Lane, (301) 657-8775). Other notable favorites include the Turkish **Levante's** (7262 Woodmont Ave., (301) 657-2441 – also on 1320 19th St. in Dupont Circle, www.levantes.com), Cajun **Louisiana Express** (4921 Bethesda Ave., (301) 652-6945, www.louisianaexpresscompany.com), **Tara Thai** (4828 Bethesda Ave., (301) 657-0488, www.thaifarmrestaurant.com), and the **Tastee Diner** (7732 Woodlawn Ave., (301) 652-3970, www.tasteediner.com). **California Tortilla** (4862 Cordell Ave, (301)654-8226, www.californiatortilla.com) has very generous burritos, tacos, and salads, and has expanded into Cleveland Park, Chinatown, and Virginia, in addition to its original location by the courthouse in Rockville. For great chocolate chip pancakes, waffles and apple creations, be sure not to miss **The Original Pancake House** (7700 Wisconsin Ave., (301) 986-0285), (not be confused with **The Copycat Pancake House**, which is so bad we won't even tell you where it is). **The Vegetable Garden** is a vegan Chinese restaurant that vegetarians shouldn't miss (11618 Rockville Pike, (301) 468-9301, www.thevegetablegarden.com). Finally, though not exactly cheap, Bethesda Crab House is a great way to experience the famous Maryland crab season. Order large crabs in advance and don't miss their jumbo lump crabcakes. (4958 Bethesda Ave Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-652-3382).

Clarendon/Arlington

The Clarendon/Arlington area has a great variety of ethnic restaurants at easily affordable prices. It includes five Vietnamese restaurants—the best being **Café Saigon** (520 S. Larrimore St., (703) 276-7110. For slightly more expensive fare, try the gourmet **Faccia Luna Trattoria** (2909 Wilson Blvd., (703) 276-3099, www.faccialuna.com). **Kabob Bazaar** has great takeout (3133 Wilson Blvd., (703) 522-8999). There's also the **Hard Times Cafe**, which offers three kinds of chili (including vegetarian) and is a local favorite (3028 Wilson Blvd., (703) 528-2233). All of the restaurants are accessible by Metro—take the Orange Line to Clarendon. There's a surrounding rectangle of shops and places to eat. Clarendon also has a couple of summer events, including a Taste of Clarendon fair.

The Courthouse metro stop also offers some great options. For breakfast, try Brooklyn Bagels but be prepared to wait in line on the weekends. (2055 Wilson Blvd; (703) 243-4442). For the best burgers in the state head to Five Guys, a VA chain with multiple locations in the DC area. (2300 Wilson Blvd; (703) 812-8440; www.fiveguys.com). For a great sports bar with cheap beer, great happy hour specials and fantastic wings, go to Summer's Restaurant. This place gets especially rowdy during major soccer events. (1520 N Court House Rd; (703) 528-8278; www.summers-restaurant.com/). Finally, Ri Ra and Ireland Four Courts are a reasonably priced Irish Pubs with trivia nights and live music, respectively. (www.rira.com; www.irelandsfourcourts.com)

Cleveland Park/Woodley Park

If you're looking for something a little nicer . . . well, first of all, you picked up the wrong guide. But here are two suggestions: **Lebanese Taverna** (2641 Connecticut Ave., NW, (202) 265-8681, www.lebanesetaverna.com) has absolutely fantastic food and is a great date place, while **Spices** (3333 Connecticut Ave., NW, (202) 686-3833) has great Asian food and sushi. **Mama Ayeshah's** (1967 Calvert St., NW, at Connecticut Ave., (202) 232-5431) is an affordable Arabic restaurant with delicious options for meat-eaters and vegetarians. **The Afghan Grille** (2309 Calvert Street, NW (202) 234-5095) is a great medium-priced alternative. In case you didn't know, Afghan food is *really* good. Be sure to try their kabobs and the appetizer with the pumpkin in it. **2 Amys** serves the same incredible gourmet pizza as its founders' first restaurant, Pizzeria Paradiso in Dupont Circle (3115 Macomb St., NW, (202) 885-5700). **Indique** is a bit pricey but the restaurant serves some of the best Indian food in town (3512 Connecticut Ave., NW, (202) 244-6600, www.indique.com). **Dino** serves some of the best high end Italian in the city with a focus on seasonal, organic ingredients.

Downtown

If you've never enjoyed a meal of tapas – they're Spanish appetizer-sized dishes – then you should be sure to spend an evening at **Jaleo** (480 7th St., NW at E St., (202) 628-7949, www.jaleo.com). When the line at Jaleo is too long, try **Oyamel**, a creative Mexican restaurant down the street, owned by the same chef as Jaleo, Jose Andres (401 7th St., NW, (202) 783-3133). **Zaytinya** (701 9th Street NW) serves high end, amazingly delicious middle-eastern tapas. Avoid most Chinese food in Chinatown, with the notable exception **Chinatown Express** (746

6th Street NW) which has delicious, cheap noodle dishes that are priced around \$7—you'll know the place by the man making noodles in the window almost every day. **Emma's** and **Matchbox** (both in the Gallery place neighborhood) are both good for wood-oven pizzas and happy hours before the movie. **Bread Line** (1751 Pennsylvania Ave. at 18th St., (202) 822-8900) is great for lunchtime sandwiches and soups. In the Farragut area, the logically-named **Greek Deli** offers delicious over-stuffed platters and salads to go (1120 19th St., NW, (202) 296-2111). Check out the vegetarian Asian offerings at **Java Green** (1020 19th St., NW, (202) 775-8899, www.javagreen.net), a casual lunch spot that also serves a wide variety of coffees, smoothies, and cookies from Sticky Fingers Bakery.

Dupont Circle

Lauriol Plaza (1835 18th St., NW, (202) 387-0035, www.lauriolplaza.com) has great Tex-Mex and Cuban food, plus the best margaritas in DC and spectacular entrée salads, choice outdoor seating, and a roof deck. Be prepared to get drinks while you wait. Better yet, send a friend over early to put your name on the list. **Kramerbooks & Afterwords** (1517 Connecticut Ave.), a combination restaurant and bookstore, has an eclectic menu and is a great place to go for Sunday brunch (complete with free muffins and delicious mimosas). For the best lunch in town—seriously—head down 19th St. to the **Greek Deli** (110 19th St. NW). The falafel is just ok, but the lunch platters are fantastic and enormous. Plus, the chef, who serves lunch himself on most days, is a DC institution in and of himself. For Greek north of the Circle, check on **Zorba's** (1612 20th Street NW), with great shawarmas, lunch specials, and soups. **Café Luna** (1633 P St., NW, (202) 387-4005, www.skewers-cafeluna.com) and **Luna Grill** (1301 Connecticut Ave., NW at N St., (202) 835-2280) both have great pizza, salads, sandwiches, pasta, and brunch food at affordable prices. Sunday nights at Café Luna feature half price pizza. **Pizzeria Paradiso** (2029 P St., NW, between 20th & 21st, (202) 223-1245) has gourmet, brick-oven pizza option with fun painted ceilings. For the best Chinese in the city, try **City Lights of China** (1731 Connecticut Ave., NW, between R & S Sts., (202) 265-6688, www.citylightsofchina.com). If you want something more pan-Asian (sushi, Chinese, etc), try **Raku-An Asian Diner** (1900 Q St., NW, just past Connecticut Ave., (202) 265-7258). It is delicious and cheap. Two of a kind: **Wrap Works** (1601 Connecticut Ave., NW, at Q St., (202) 265-4200) is the trendiest, but is slightly more expensive than **Burrito Brothers** (1718 Connecticut Ave., NW, between R & S Sts., (202) 332-2308). Both are great for a quick lunch. For straight sushi, head a block west of the Circle on P Street, and you'll find **Sakana** (2026 P St., NW, (202) 887-0900) and **Uni** (2122 P St., NW, (202) 833-8038). **Malaysia Kopitiam** (1827 M St., NW, (202) 833-6232) is a terrific, yes, Malaysian restaurant (a mix of East Asian and Indian influences).

Georgetown/Tenleytown

A star among the host of restaurants surrounding the intersection of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue is **Old Glory**, an All-American BBQ place with phenomenal burgers, ribs, and sides (3139 M St., NW, (202) 337-3406, www.oldglorybbq.com). **Bangkok Bistro** has good Thai food, in a pretty upscale setting given the very reasonable prices. (3251 Prospect Street, NW, just off of Wisconsin). **Zed's Ethiopian Cuisine** (1201 28th St., NW, at M St., (202) 333-4710, www.zeds.net) offers good food, while Clyde's, a DC institution, offers a good variety of American cuisine at mostly reasonable prices. (3236 M Street, NW, (202) 333-9180) Most of the other delicious Georgetown restaurants, like most of the Georgetown shopping, are too expensive to be allowed in this guide. If you get a bonus, go explore! North of Georgetown and

just south of Tenleytown is a perennial favorite for Tex-Mex and margaritas, **Cactus Cantina** (3300 Wisconsin Ave., NW, at Macomb St., (202) 686-7222, www.cactuscantina.com).

Rockland's BBQ (now with an Arlington location!) (2418 Wisconsin Ave., NW, (202) 333-2558, www.rocklands.com) serves great barbeque in a low-key setting. It's great for aficionados of hot sauce, too, though that's by no means a prerequisite. Try the pulled chicken sandwich.

Krupin's (4620 Wisconsin Ave., NW, at Chesapeake St., (202) 686-1989) is one of the best delis in town. The pickles are delish, as are the black and white cookies. Right off of the Georgetown campus is a University institution - **The Tombs** (1226 36th St., NW, at Prospect St., (202) 337-6668, www.tombs.com), serving excellent food for cheap. Right down the street is a hidden classic, **Wisemillers Grocery and Deli** (a.k.a. Wisey's) (1236 36th St., NW, at N St., (202) 333-8254). Order the Chicken Madness. Another good option if you're in that area (closer to Wisconsin at 3265 Prospect St. NW) is **Booeymongers** Sandwich Shop. **Amma Vegetarian Kitchen** serves all-vegetarian Indian food, mostly under \$8 (3291 M St., NW, (202) 625-6225).

U Street

The U Street area, between 8th and 16th Streets, is a trendy food neighborhood, where you can find everything from Russian to Spanish cuisine. **Coppi's Organic** (1414 U St., NW, at 14th St., (202) 319-7773) has good Italian and is a cheaper version of the more expensive Cleveland Park location. **Polly's Café** (1342 U St., NW, (202) 265-8385; <http://pollyscafe.com/index.html>) is an eclectic restaurant-bar. **Rice** is expanding the trendy neighborhood south on 14th Street with its innovative (and vegetarian-friendly) Thai menu (1604 14th St., NW, (202) 234-2400, www.riceresrestaurant.com). Most importantly, before you leave DC, be sure to pay a visit to **Ben's Chili Bowl** (1213 U St., NW, (202) 667-0909, www.benschilibowl.com), a cult late-night spot and cultural landmark. **Dukem** (1114 U St., NW; www.dukemrestaurant.com/news_.htm) has some of the best Ethiopian in the city, and features some pretty crazy cultural dance and music on Saturday nights. Just don't go on Saturday night if you actually want to talk. **Chix** (2019 11th Street NW) is a personal favorite—organic Peruvian chicken with 3 sides goes for \$8, and you can get a bottle of wine in the teens.

ENTERTAINMENT

If perusing the *Washington Post* and following C-SPAN aren't enough entertainment for you, we've got a few suggestions for your precious free time. DC is a great city and easy to get to know once you take the plunge.

General Resources

Washington Post. The Weekend Section in the *Post*, available on Fridays, has a comprehensive and accessible listing of activities for the week ahead, with music, theater, museums and more.

While we're on the subject, do take a look at other sections of the *Post* when you can. Of course, most people have strong feelings about the rankings of dailies, but you may find yourself pleasantly surprised by the *Post*. The *Style* section is particularly recommended. It's a daily section of magazine-like stories with an impressively consistent level of quality. Online:

www.washingtonpost.com.

Washington Post Going Out Guide: This online guide to entertainment in the Metro area includes listings of restaurants, bars, events, and performances. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/index.html>.

Express: A free daily paper distributed at metro stations that is published by the Washington Post. Every Thursday there is an extensive weekend section. <http://www.expressnightout.com/>

Washington City Paper. One of the free weeklies de rigueur for major (and minor) U.S. cities. Online: www.washingtoncitypaper.com. Look here for everything you need!

DCist.com: Blog with daily updates on all things DC, including local politics, entertainment, festivals, and great photos too.

Princeofpetworth.com: Blog with latest updates on new local business openings including restaurants, coffee shops, clothing stores, etc.

MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

The area around the **Capitol** is accessible from the Union Station (Red Line) and Capitol South (Blue Line) Metro stops, and is a nice area just to walk around. The three best sites are the **US Botanic Gardens** (245 First Street, SW, at Independence Ave., (202) 225-8333, www.usbg.gov) the **Library of Congress** (101 Independence Ave., SE, at 1st St., www.loc.gov, (202) 707-5000), and the **Supreme Court** (1 1st St., NE, at E. Capitol St., (202) 479-3000, www.supremecourtus.gov). In May and June, the Court will convene at 10am on Mondays to deliver opinions. When the Court is not in session, you can view the courtroom and listen to a brief lecture delivered every hour on the half hour (call (202) 479-3211 for updated visitor information).

Lining the **National Mall** are several museums, which are free and generally open daily 10am-5:30pm. The **National Gallery** ((202) 737-4215, www.nga.gov) is on the north side, stretching from 3rd St. to 7th St. at Constitution Ave. The East Wing, designed by I.M. Pei, holds modern art. You need to walk through it, and around it, at least once, if only to appreciate the architecture. Pei wanted the Calder mobile, designed for the main hall, to be low enough to touch along the second floor walkway, but the idea was nixed for fear of you know what (rhymes with “maw toots”). The West Wing holds everything else but modern art. Finally, be sure to check out the outdoor sculpture gallery, which even turns into a skating rink in the winter. It is adjacent to the West Wing at 7th and Constitution Aves., NW (in past summers a jazz concert series has graced the sculpture garden on Friday afternoons). Nearby Metro stops include Navy/Archives (Yellow and Green Lines).

The Mall is also home to museums run by the Smithsonian Institution. On the mall, you can visit the **Natural History Museum**, which has regular concerts ((202) 357-2700, www.mnh.si.edu/); the **American History Museum** ((202) 633-1000, <http://americanhistory.si.edu/>); the **Air and Space Museum** ((202) 633-1000, www.nasm.si.edu/); the **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden** (202-633-1000 <http://hirshhorn.si.edu/>), home to another collection of modern art, including sculpture; the **Freer Gallery** ((202) 633-1000, www.asia.si.edu/) for Asian Art; the **National Museum of African Art** ((202) 633-4600, <http://africa.si.edu/index2.html>), and the new **National Museum of the American Indian** ((202) 633-1000, www.nmai.si.edu/).

The **National Archives** (<http://www.archives.gov/nae/>) is home to copies of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. The entrance is adjacent to the north side of the Mall on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets. You can view the nation’s

founding documents as part of the rechristened “National Archives Experience” daily from 10am-7pm during the summer.

The **Holocaust Memorial Museum** ((202) 488-0400, www.ushmm.org/) located at the end of the Mall away from the Capitol (100 Raoul Wallenberg Place at 15th St., SW) is open daily 10am-5:30pm. The easiest way to get tickets is in advance through www.tickets.com (for those without Internet access call (800) 400-9373) for a \$1.75 per ticket service fee. Alternatively, same-day free tickets for specific entry times are given out starting at 10am each day. Since only 1,500 same-day tickets are distributed each day, it may behoove you to arrive prior to the opening time to get in line for tickets. Note: The museum gives out tickets with entry times running up to near closing; most people find that they need at least three hours to go through the exhibit.

On your way down to the **Jefferson Memorial** and **Tidal Basin**, where you can rent paddleboats for a reasonable price, you can stop in for what is reputed to be a fun tour at the **Bureau of Engraving & Printing** (<http://www.moneyfactory.gov/>, (202) 874-8888, 14th & C Sts., SW). During the summer, free tickets are required. The ticket booth is located on Raoul Wallenberg Place (formerly 15th Street); tickets are good only for that day. The booth opens at 8:00am Monday through Friday, and closes when all tickets have been distributed. Lines form early and tickets go quickly. Most days they are gone by 8:30 am, according to the Bureau website.

The west end of the Mall, from the **Washington Monument** to the **Lincoln Memorial**, is more like a park than the east end and is nice for walks and picnics. Adjacent to the Washington Monument and in the central axis of the Mall (the symbolic indication of a monument’s extraordinary significance), the **National World War II Memorial** opened to a grand dedication in 2004. The **Korean Memorial** opened a few years ago, and a statue honoring nurses was recently added to the Vietnam Memorial grounds. The **Vietnam Memorial** is a stunning tribute and architectural achievement. Two nice places that people often miss are **Founders’ Island**, on the lake roughly where 19th Street meets the Mall, and the **Albert Einstein Memorial**, on the northeast corner of 22nd Street at Constitution Avenue, NW. Also not to be missed is the relatively new and quite moving **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial** located between the Tidal Basin and the Potomac just to the southeast of the Lincoln Memorial. The **Women in Military Service for America Memorial**, just across Memorial Bridge from the Lincoln Memorial and situated at the base of Arlington National Cemetery, is a must-see for anyone whose mother, grandmother, etc. served as WAVES, WACS, nurses, spies, etc. in the history of this country.

A nighttime walk through the monuments is a must. On a clear night, stroll around the Tidal Basin to see the Jefferson and FDR Memorials, and then stop and see the Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials. Of course, use your judgment and don’t leave the well-lit and populated areas. For a look at where they hold the inaugural ball and a hidden treasure of a museum, visit the **National Building Museum** (Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, 401 F St., NW, adjacent to the Judiciary Square Metro stop, (202) 272-2448, www.nbm.org/).

For those looking for a less heavy/academic way to spend a day, the **International Spy Museum**, at 800 F St., NW near the Gallery Place-Chinatown metro stop (202) EYE-SPY-U, www.spymuseum.org/) may fit the bill. Hours are 9am-7pm during the summer, with last admission at 5pm. Often has looong lines. Advanced ticket purchase is available at the museum or through Ticketmaster. Admission is \$18. Another great stop in the area is the **National**

Portrait Gallery, open from 11:30 am to 7:00 pm daily (Eighth and F Streets, NW, (202) 633 1000 www.npg.si.edu). It's free to the public and usually has fascinating temporary exhibits. The **White House** (1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Metro: McPherson Square) public tours are only available through requests made through one's Member of Congress (and must be for a group of 10 or more). Requests can be made up to 6 months in advance, and you aren't likely to get a tour during the summer without a request just about then. Tours are available from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and are scheduled about one month in advance of the requested date. No other methods are currently available for getting a public tour (unless of course you are somebody really important or have good friends who are really important). For more information, call 202-456-7041.

In other parts of DC, there are more Smithsonian museums and several small, private and specialty museums worth visiting. The **National Zoo** (during summer grounds open daily 6am-8pm and buildings open 10am-6pm, entrances at 3001 Connecticut Ave., NW and at Beach Dr. and Harvard St., NW, (202) 633-4800, <http://nationalzoo.si.edu>, Metro: Woodley Park-Zoo or Cleveland Park) is an oasis in the middle of the city. Be sure to go and ogle the pandas; if you are lucky they will do a roll.

The **Corcoran Gallery of Art** admits students for only \$3 (open Wed.-Mon. 10am-5pm, Thurs. 10am-9pm, closed Tues., 500 17th St., NW, (202) 639-1700, www.corcoran.org/, Metro: Farragut West or Farragut North). Also check out the **National Museum of Women in the Arts** (\$8 for students; open Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. noon-5pm, 1250 New York Ave., NW, (202) 783-5000, (800) 222-7270, www.nmwa.org/, Metro: Metro Center). The **Phillips Collection**, America's first museum of modern art, is highly recommended; it has an impressive collection of Impressionist works in a thoughtful setting. On weekdays, admission to the permanent collection is free, but the requested student donation of \$8 is mandatory on weekends. (Tue.-Sat. 10am-5pm with extended evening hours on Thurs. until 8:30pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, 1600 21st St., NW, (202) 387-2151, www.phillipscollection.org/, Metro: Dupont Circle).

For an oasis hidden in the city, visit the gardens of (Harvard-owned) **Dumbarton Oaks** (1703 32nd St., NW, (202) 339-6401, www.doaks.org/). Admission is \$5 for students and free with a Harvard ID. The gardens are open daily except Monday from 2-6 pm, while the museum is open daily except Mondays from 2-5 pm. Also, the grounds of the **National Cathedral** (intersection of Massachusetts Ave. and Wisconsin Ave., NW) are worth a visit. The suggested student donation is \$3.

Outside the city, don't miss **Arlington National Cemetery**, a wonderful—if somber—place to spend a beautiful Saturday afternoon (Hours 8am-7pm, (703) 607-8000, www.arlingtoncemetery.org/). Also in Virginia, Mt. Vernon is approximately 40 minutes down the George Washington Pkwy, and can be a fun way to spend a sunny day. (www.mountvernon.org).

Movies

A few movie theaters deserve special mention. The **Uptown** at 3426 Connecticut Ave. in Cleveland Park is a beautiful old theater with a huge screen and great balcony (202-966-5400). **AFI Silver Theater** in Silver Spring, MD (8633 Colesville Rd. at Georgia Ave., (301) 495-6720) offers an eclectic mix of arthouse movies, festivals, and documentaries. Landmark's **E Street Cinema** offers a side variety of independent films and is conveniently located near Chinatown

(555 11th St. NW, (202) 452-7672, www.landmarktheatres.com/market/washingtondc/estreetcinema.htm). Also check out **Arlington Cinema and Draffhouse** (2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington, (703) 486-2345), where you can enjoy the latest hit over a beer and nachos, and the **Lincoln Theater** (1215 U St., NW, (202) 328-6000 www.thelincolntheatre.org).

If you are looking for a new-release multiplex experience, you have three choices within the District—the 9-screen theater in the basement of **Union Station** ((202) 842-4455), which will be going out of business soon, the 14-screen **Loews Georgetown** (3111 K St., NW, (202) 342-6033), or the new **Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14** (707 7th St., NW, (202) 393-2121).

Performances

One of the best deals of the summer is the FREE outdoor play by the **Shakespeare Theatre**, at the Carter Barron amphitheater in Rock Creek Park (north on 16th St., NW, where it meets Colorado Ave. and Hamilton St., accessible by car or bus). Pick up tickets on the day of the performance at the troupe's regular home at 450 7th St., NW or the Washington Post building on 15th St. Call (202) 547-1122 for information on these performances and on the regular shows. Be forewarned! Lines form early for the show, so plan ahead to guarantee you'll get seats. The **Dance Place** puts on very cheap weekly performances (generally \$14 for students) of widely varying quality and also offers low-priced classes in modern dance (3225 8th St., NE, Metro: Brookland/CUA, 202-269-1600). Note: this is not the safest area, but walking to and from the Metro is usually fine alone in the daytime or with a few people after dark). Relatively low-priced theater performances can be found at the **Studio Theater**, 1501 14th St., NW, (202) 332-3300 (Metro: Dupont Circle, McPherson Square, or U St./Cardozo). Every summer, the Studio Theater also opens its doors for a yard sale of sorts, selling its props at bargain prices. Check the papers for the annual event.

The **Capitol Steps** is a hilarious singing group composed of current and former Congressional staffers performing political satire. They regularly perform on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 at the Ronald Reagan Building (1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Metro: Federal Triangle, tickets available through Ticketmaster, call (202) 312-1555 for more info).

Ford's Theater, where Lincoln was shot, is a functioning theater at 511 10th St., NW (Metro: Metro Center; (202) 347-4833). There's a small museum below, and tours are available of the theater and of the house across the street where Lincoln died.

Classical music and dance generally appear at the **Kennedy Center** (New Hampshire Ave. & Rock Creek Parkway, NW, (202) 467-4600, Metro: Foggy Bottom), the **Warner** (513 13th St., NW, (202) 783-4000, Metro: Metro Center), the **National Theatre** (1321 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, (202) 628-6161, Metro: Metro Center), or, at somewhat lower prices, GW's **Lisner Auditorium** (730 21st St., NW, (202) 994-6800, Metro: Foggy Bottom). The Kennedy Center offers student discounts for advance tickets to select shows available in person from the box office (not sold online) and also 50% off same-day tickets (go on sale starting at noon for matinees and at 6 p.m. for evening shows). But the hands-down best deal at the Kennedy Center is the free show every night at 6pm on the Millennium Stage (see www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/schedule.html for the schedule; no tickets are required). The **Arena Stage** (1101 6th St., SW, (202)554-9066, Metro: Waterfront-SEU) is one of Washington's most well-known theaters. Students get a 35% discount. The Arena also offers a limited number of \$15 tickets for people 30-and-under which go on sale Mondays. You can also

catch plays in Spanish, with simultaneous translation, at the *Gala Hispanic Theater* at 3333 14th St., NW (Metro: Columbia Heights, (202) 234-7174).

For half-price advance and day-of-show theater tickets, visit *TICKETplace* (similar to New York's TKTS) online at www.ticketplace.org or in person at 407 7th St., NW (Metro: Gallery Place-Chinatown, (202) TICKETS).

For outdoor summer concerts, *Wolf Trap Park* in Vienna, Virginia ((703) 218-6500) has a great selection of music. Sit on the lawn for cheap tickets and picnic with friends. Take the Dulles Toll Road or the Metro (Metro: West Falls Church-VT/UVA) and a Shuttle bus (Wolf Trap Shuttle Bus Express).

Every Friday night in the summer, the National Gallery of Art presents *Jazz in the Garden* in the Sculpture Garden (on the national mall at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, (202) 289-3360). Bring a picnic and enjoy great music in great surroundings (see www.nga.gov/programs/jazz/ for more information).

The first Thursday of every month, and every Thursday in August, the Phillips Collection (600 21st St., NW, (202) 387-2151, Metro: Dupont Circle) hosts Phillips after 5 with free admission (donation suggested), light snacks and live musical performances.

For a different kind of cultural experience, check out the *D.C. Improv*, which brings nationally renowned comics to Dupont Circle (1140 Connecticut Ave., (202) 296-7008).

Shopping

Downtown near Metro Center is a big shopping area, and the two major shopping malls in the city are the *Shops at National Place* (13th & F Streets, Metro: Metro Center) and *Union Station*. For more upscale shopping tastes within the District, stroll along M Street in **Georgetown**.

The ultimate suburban mall is at *Pentagon City*, where you go straight up into the mall from the Pentagon City Metro stop. The Friendship Heights metro stop is another concentrated source of shopping. The *Mazza Gallerie* (5300 Wisconsin Ave., NW) is home to several upscale stores and a few nice restaurants, and is located only a few blocks immediately north on Wisconsin Avenue. If you're looking for Williams & Sonoma, you'll be in luck. Next door to Mazza Gallerie you will find two discount shops, *TJ Maxx* and *Filene's Basement*.

It is possible to get to the suburban malls using public transportation, so if you crave shopping, brace yourself and head out of town. *Potomac Mills* in Woodbridge, Virginia is an enormous outlet mall—they actually have golf carts for people to drive from section to section. Try going the morning of July Fourth for some really great sales. Special Potomac Mills feature: IKEA (there's also an IKEA in College Park). Limited bus service is available weekdays only from the Franconia-Springfield Metro stop to Potomac Mills via the OmniRide Public Bus Service (info: (703) 730-6664). For those with cars, the mall is located off of I-95 exit 156 (approximately 15 miles south of the Beltway). *Montgomery Mall* (7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda) in Maryland is your typical upscale shopping center, and *Tyson's Corner 1* (the larger, more typical stores, including Nordstrom) and *Tyson's Corner 2* (very expensive stores, with Macy's and a few others thrown in) together are the largest mall on the East Coast (1961 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, Virginia, adjacent to exits 46A or 47A off of the Beltway). We recommend Tyson's

over Montgomery for its larger selection of stores. To get to Montgomery, take the Metro to Medical Center and then the J1, J2, or J3 bus (20 minutes). For Tyson's, take the Metro to West Falls Church, exit on the south side, and take the 28A, 28B, or 3B bus. It takes 45 minutes. For a unique assortment of stores, the best place to go is the 14th St./U St. area. Walking from Whole Foods down 14th St. to U St., you'll pass Artfully Chocolate Kingsbury Confections, Garden District (plants and flowers), Go Mama Go! (funky gifts), Home Rule (creative home supplies), and Pulp (greeting cards and gifts). On U St., try Wild Women Wear Red (1512 U St. NW, (202) 387-5700) for shoes and Legendary Beast for unique vintage jewelry (1520 U Street NW, (202) 797-1234, only open weekends and some holidays).

Sports

If the humidity doesn't kill you, Washington offers a plethora of enjoyable outdoor activities.

First and foremost, you must get yourself to **Rock Creek Park** ((202) 895-6070), which encompasses almost 1800 acres in its main section as it winds through the city. You can walk, run, bicycle, picnic, whatever; and it always feels ten degrees cooler in the Park than out.

Portions of the Park are closed to traffic on weekends, which makes cycling that much more enjoyable. The Park is accessible, among other places, near the Kennedy Center and through the National Zoo.

While we're on the subject, if you will be bringing a car to the city, get yourself a good road map and study the routes through the Park. You might get lost the first few times, but the windy roads will improve your driving time dramatically.

For soccer, Frisbee, or an afternoon picnic, try **Meridian Hill Park** (also known as Malcolm X Park) in the city's diverse Columbia Heights neighborhood.

For bike riders, bike paths run from DC through Old Town Alexandria and all the way to Mount Vernon. Pick-up football, softball, and Ultimate Frisbee games frequently spring up on the **Mall**, with some places for volleyball near the Lincoln Memorial. Your office will almost surely field a casual softball team to play against other summer interns from around the city.

Rollerbladers can practice on the ice skating rink across from the Archives or join the skateboarders on Freedom Plaza.

Professional sporting events include the **Washington Nationals** (www.nationals.com) at the Nationals Stadium at 1500 South Capitol Street, SE. You can take the green line metro to the Navy Yard stop. Tickets begin at \$5 and are usually available day of. There are also the **Baltimore Orioles** at beautiful Camden Yards, accessible by train at Union Station ((888) 848-BIRD). It's always fun to go to Orioles-Red Sox games and hear the Boston fans drown out their Baltimore counterparts. DC has the choice of three minor league baseball teams: the **Frederick Keys** in Frederick, MD (single-A affiliate of the Orioles; (301) 662-0013), the alliterative **Bowie Baysox** in Prince George's County (double-A affiliate of the Orioles, (301) 464-4865), and the **Potomac Nationals** in Woodbridge, VA (single-A affiliate of the Cubs, (703) 590-2311). The **D.C. United** of the Major League Soccer league play at RFK Stadium in the District ((202) 587-5000).

Festivals

The big festival of the summer is, of course, the **4th of July**. Outdoor concerts, some even free, abound on the 4th; just check the papers. Fireworks are shot off from behind the Washington

Monument with the National Symphony Orchestra playing a live concert before and during the display from the Mall-side of the Capitol. Stake out a place to sit for the fireworks at least an hour before they start, and probably several hours earlier (especially if you want one of the prime spots on the Mall).

Don't miss the *Smithsonian Folklife Festival*, held on the Mall June 30-July 4 and July 7-11, 2011. The festival is worth it, even in the most intolerable heat. Every year there are performances, food, and arts of each participating locale. This year, the festival will celebrate Columbia, Peace Corps and Rhythm and Blues.

Capital Pride Week is held each year in early June. This year it will be held June 2-11, 2011. Most years, the week includes a march near Dupont Circle and a street festival near the White House, as well as many parties and arts events.

On most summer weekends, there will be some kind of festival, with music, food, and entertainment, on Freedom Plaza at 14th & E Streets, NW. Watch for announcements in the *City Paper* and the *Post*.

If you're looking for entertainment any evening, try the fountain at Dupont Circle, where activists and artists are usually engaged in some kind of spoken-word activity. Keep an eye out for the D.C. Guerrilla Poetry Insurgency.

Sunday evenings, there is a huge drum circle at the south end of Meridian Hill Park (16th St just north of U St.) where people of all ages, colors, shapes, sizes and languages can play any drum they bring, share someone else's, or just dance their hearts out.

Excursions

It is possible to leave DC without a car. To see the Naval Academy, visit St. John's College, take a boat trip in harbor, or just escape to a quieter city by the sea, take the bus to *Annapolis* (if you go, be sure to try the crab cakes). On weekdays, Dillon's Bus Service (<http://www.dillonbus.com/scheduledinfo.php>) runs buses from DC and the New Carrollton Metro stop, running about a 90-minute trip from Metro Center (note that this is a commuter bus service, so the bus only operates during rush hour and only in the direction of commuter traffic). For weekend travel, Greyhound has several trips to and from Annapolis (departing from the Washington bus station located behind Union Station) for roughly \$15 each way ((800) 231-2222). You can travel around the small city easily by foot.

Baltimore also has a different feel from DC and boasts a huge waterfront of shops, museums (including the renowned National Aquarium), and eateries as its main attraction. There are also some neighborhood hangouts and restaurants worth checking out (seek out Fells Point for its bars and restaurants), not to mention the famous Camden Yards, where the Orioles play baseball. The cheapest way to get there on weekdays is the MARC, Maryland's commuter rail system, which leaves from Union Station. The Penn Line takes 55 minutes, but drops you about a mile from the harbor, while the Camden Line takes 65 minutes, but stops right at the harbor. A one-way ticket is \$7. Call (866) 743-3682 for more info and schedules. On weekends you can take an Amtrak train between Washington's Union Station and Baltimore's Penn Station for roughly \$20 each way ((800) USA-RAIL).

To get to *Mount Vernon*, take the Yellow Line to Huntington and take the #101 Fairfax

Connector bus southbound. It's a 20-minute trip, and the bus transfer from the metro costs \$1. The surrounding area is beautiful, and the tour is your typical colonial life tour. Admission costs \$15. It's fun, but don't go on a hot day—you often have to stand in line outside and the buildings are not air-conditioned (they say it's more authentic that way). You can also bike all the way to Mt. Vernon on the bike trail.

One of the most beautiful spots in the DC area is **Great Falls Park**, which sits on both the Maryland and Virginia sides of the Potomac River. It comprises 800 acres and boasts numerous trails and picnic areas filled with history, not to mention the gorgeous, and eponymous, falls. There is a \$3-5 entry fee. Call (703) 285-2966 for more information.

For day hikes and weekend camping trips, head 1½-2 hours west to the **Shenandoah Valley**, which has rolling hills, beautiful scenery and the occasional rocky peak. A favorite hike, appropriate for the moderately-in-shape, is **Old Rag Mountain**; check the web for driving directions. Be sure to get an early start if you go; on a nice weekend day the trail gets full quickly.

A great quick escape from the city is **Teddy Roosevelt Island**, a hidden treasure in the Potomac between the District and Arlington, VA. www.nps.gov/this/.

Nightlife

The *City Paper* is the best place to find out what is going on at bars and clubs. The weekly listings include concert and music listings as well as happy hour specials, etc. As a general rule, with the exception of happy hour specials, drinks aren't going to be cheap at many places. In general, the cover charge for dance clubs will be \$5-\$10.

Bars by Location

Dupont Circle

The Big Hunt, 1345 Connecticut Ave., NW (South of the Circle). Friday and Saturday nights can be a bit too crowded and something of a pick-up scene, but generally a good place to grab a beer and hang out with friends.

Next door to the Big Hunt is **Café Citron**, 1343 Connecticut Ave., NW, a pan-Latin bar and restaurant (with acceptable options for vegetarians).

The Bier Baron (formerly the Brickskeller), 1523 22nd St., NW. Literally hundreds of kinds of beer from around the globe.

Lucky Bar, 1221 Connecticut Ave., NW (South of the circle). Monday night free salsa lessons (7-9pm) and dancing, other nights no dancing, just a bar, happy hour specials, TVs showing sports.

Buffalo Billiards, 1330 19th St., NW (just south of the Circle). Big enough to actually get a table to play pool without too long of a wait, very crowded on Thursday nights.

The Front Page, 1333 New Hampshire Ave., NW (south of the Circle). \$2 Coronas and free taco bar on Thursday nights brings undergrad interns out in packs.

Cobalt, 17th St. and R St., NW. A popular gay dance club featuring beautiful shirtless bartenders in tight jeans.

JR's Bar and Grill, 1519 17th St., NW. *The* gay bar to check out on the 17th St. strip.

Club Chaos, 17th St. and Q St., NW. Gay club known for Drag Queen Bingo on Tuesdays (beyond hilarious) and Ladies Night on Wednesdays.

The 18th Street Lounge, 1212 18th St., NW. If you're cool enough to find the entrance, inside you'll find one of the hippest lounge bars in town. Just don't wear sneakers, open-toed shoes (unless they're nice and you're a girl), or anything from Old Navy. (Hint on finding it: face the guitar store, look down and to your left.)

Café Japone, 2032 P St., NW. Japanese restaurant that turns into a jam-packed, wicked-fun karaoke bar on weekend nights.

Woodley/Cleveland Park

Zoo Bar, 3000 Connecticut Ave., NW (right across from National Zoo). A low-key local bar.

4 Ps (Ireland's Four Provinces), 3412 Connecticut Ave., NW (Cleveland Park). Happy hour specials on Guinness and Murphy's; live Irish music.

Nanny O'Briens, 3319 Connecticut Ave., NW (Cleveland Park). Smallish Irish bar right across the street from 4 Ps, also has live Irish music.

Adams Morgan

Tryst, 2459 18th St, NW. A great bar/coffeehouse with big tables, couches, and a free wi-fi connection. Just don't expect to get any work done on your computer on a weekend night. Great food and popular for weekend brunch.

Toledo Lounge, 2435 18th St., NW (near corner of 18th and Columbia). Theme of decor: Ohio; happy hour deals on beer and food.

Bedrock Billiards, 1841 Columbia Rd., NW (south of corner of 18th and Columbia). Pool, Darts, and Connect Four in a hip underground bar, go early if you actually want to play pool, the wait gets really long on Fri and Sat nights.

Common Share, near 18th St. and Florida, NW. Cheap beer and rail drinks: \$2 a pint for everything including Guinness. No air conditioning means kind of hot in summer, cheap beer also means often overrun by college-age crowd.

The Pharmacy Bar, 2337 18th St. NW. A relaxed dive with loud alternative music and the classic shoot-em-up video game “Buck Hunter.”

Madam’s Organ, 2461 18th St., NW. Very hip longtime Adams Morgan establishment; bluegrass on Wednesdays, and often a cover on weekends for live bands.

Felix, 2406 18th St., NW. Upscale martini bar, good jazzy music, sometimes has a cover, \$3 Absolute martinis on Wed nights.

The Reef, 2446 18th St., NW, (202) 518-3800. Fish tank décor, laid-back atmosphere (jeans acceptable). Under 30s crowd. Coolest feature is the rooftop area, where you can take your drinks and have a great view from the top of Adams Morgan all the way downtown. Short menu of organic, healthy, and extremely yummy foods. Reasonable prices, so good for a snack with your beer. Frequently a line to get in late- night.

Bukom Café, 2442 18th St., NW. Apparently a West-African restaurant (the food’s probably pretty good), but I’ve only experienced it as a very hip, ultra-fun reggae bar. The quality of the bands varies, but the crowds are always friendly. Avoid if you don’t want to dance with strangers who have the beat. Stiff drinks for the same prices as weaker ones you’ll find elsewhere in DC.

U Street

Bar Pilar, (1833 14th Street NW) little Spanish tapas restaurant with a long bar and great mojitos. Great place to grab a drink before or after a show at the Black Cat down the street.

Red Room Bar (downstairs at the Black Cat, see “music” below): You don’t need a ticket to a show at this concert venue to enjoy their downstairs bar with pool tables, plush couches, and a retro Ms. PacMan machine.

DC9 (see above in concerts): Also has a cozy downstairs bar and a hopping Liberation Dance Party every Friday night.

Stetson’s, 1610 U St., NW. Average neighborhood bar, but with a good vibe; one of the big hangouts for Democrats.

Polly’s Café, 1342 U St., NW. Drink deals after 11pm.

Café Saint Ex, 1847 14th St., NW. The cool new bar on 14th Street, a place to see and be seen. A personal favorite. Weekend dancing until late in the basement.

Bohemian Caverns, 2001 11th St., NW. Bar/jazz club. Unique cave-like décor in the basement and great live jazz shows nightly.

Downtown

The District Chophouse, 509 7th St., NW (near the MCI Center and DOJ). Restaurant downstairs, bar upstairs, couple of pool tables, good happy hour location.

Zaytinya (also a restaurant, see above): Has great happy hour specials on wine, cocktails, and middle-eastern tapas.

Capital City Brewing Company (1100 New York Ave., NW): Makes their own beer with a rotating tap. Great for large groups.

Capitol Hill

Hawk 'n' Dove. 329 Pennsylvania Ave., SE. Classic Irish bar with tasty burgers and a relaxed feel, plus a pretty kicking dance club upstairs on weekends.

Union Pub, 201 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Always crowded, pretty young crowd.

Capitol City Brewing Company (Union Station). Once again, no specials, but convenient to the Hill.

Irish Times (14 F St., NW) and *The Dubliner* (520 North Capitol St.). Two Irish bars near Union Station. Irish Times is typically younger.

My Brother's Place, 237 2nd St., NW. Cheap neighborhood pub.

Columbia Heights

Wonderland Ballroom, 1101 Kenyon Street NW. A unique neighborhood bar with great beers on tap, a hip, young crowd, decent, cheap food, an outdoor patio area (not just for smokers), and bands/DJs on the weekends. Arrive early with a group and try to sit at the booth with the removed minivan seats.

Marx Café, 3203 Mount Pleasant St., NW. Radical chic décor and eclectic music make this worth the trip to Mount Pleasant. Plus there's a monthly night for queer women.

Red Derby (3718 14th Street NW) A great neighborhood bar with great beer in cans, sweet potato fries, music and board games.

Room 11 (3234 11th Street NW) is an intimate place with an outdoor courtyard that would make a great date spot or place to catch up with a friend. They have a variety of wine, cocktails, and small plates of food.

The Raven (3125 Mount Pleasant Street NW) is really hip. But seriously, one of the best dive bars in DC. Good place to start or end an evening.

Meridian Pint (3400 11th St NW) is a new bar with a great beer selection, neighborhood feel, and friendly staff.

Georgetown/Foggy Bottom

The Tombs, 1226 36th St., NW. THE Georgetown bar ... very chill atmosphere, great place to hang out with friends and tell stories over drinks.

The Third Edition, 1218 Wisconsin Ave., NW. Pretty good bar, nothing to write home about.

Froggy Bottom, 2141 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. Happy hour deals, cheap beer and food.

Tequila Grill, 1990 K St., NW (Closer to Farragut North than Foggy Bottom, short walk from the White House). Happy hour: \$2 margaritas and \$.99 appetizers.

Mr. Smith's, 3104 M Street NW. Come for the drinks and (decent) food, stay for the sing along around the piano.

Dance clubs

Chief Ike's Mambo Room, 1725 Columbia Rd., NW (past intersection of 18th and Columbia). Kind of cheesy, but in a good way; smaller than other cheesy clubs in Adams Morgan, with a cheap cover: \$3.

Habana Village, 1834 Columbia Rd., NW. One of the best places to salsa in Washington, this Adams Morgan bar offers free lessons, good DJs and great Cuban drinks.

Five, 1214-B 18th St. NW. Typical dance club/meat market near the heart of Dupont Circle, featuring mostly house and hip-hop music. A great party every weekend.

Republic Gardens, 1355 U St., NW. DC legend. No sneakers or "athletic wear," jeans on some nights.

Apex, 1415 22nd St., NW. Gay dance club that hosts Liquid Ladies on Saturday nights.

MCCXXIII, 1223 Connecticut Ave., NW. That's "twelve twenty-three" for those of you not up on your Roman numerals. Go to happy hour on Thursday and Friday evenings for \$15 or \$20 all-you-can-drink.

There are also plenty of big, cheesy dance clubs that play mostly '70s, '80s, and '90s music: *Polly Esther's*, *Tom-Tom*, *Heaven and Hell*, and *Crush*. Fun if you go with a big group of friends.

Music/Bands (check the *City Paper* or *Washington Post* for concert schedules)

9:30 Club, 815 V St., NW. Alternative, pretty big names. ((202) 390-0930, U St./Cardozo Metro)

Black Cat, 1811 14th St., NW. Alternative, modern rock, punk. ((202) 667-7960, U St./Cardozo or Dupont Circle Metro)

Madam's Organ (see above). Blues, blue grass, and other live music almost every night of the week.

HR-57, 1610 14th St., NW. Famous jazz club. ((202) 667-3700, U St./Cardozo or Dupont Circle Metro)

Rock 'n Roll Hotel (1353 H St NE): Absolutely worth the trek out to H Street, this venue brings in great indie music and has an awesome dance floor upstairs.

DC9 (1940 9th Street NW) also brings in lesser known indie music and the Liberation Dance Party every Friday night is a hipster scene not to be missed.

Pool

Buffalo Billiards (see above, Dupont Circle)

Bedrock Billiards, (see above, Adams Morgan)

Atomic Billiards, 3427 Connecticut Ave., NW (Cleveland Park).

It should come as no surprise in this age of corporate consolidations, but Buffalo, Bedrock and Atomic are all owned by the same folks; they can be kind of pricey during prime hours.

Kokopoolies, 2305 18th St., NW (Adams Morgan). Cheaper than the three above.

OTHER RESOURCES

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/artsandliving/cityguide/

The Washington Post Entertainment Guide, your ultimate insight into DC.

www.thehoya.com/guide

Entertainment guide prepared by The Hoya, Georgetown's Newspaper of Record since 1920. While some of it is campus-centric, it offers content that could be useful, like bar and restaurant reviews.

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