

M Street in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood.



Capital Cool

Past and present mingle in modern Washington, D.C.

It's Monday morning. The sun is rising over the Jefferson Memorial, illuminating the words of our forefathers. To the northeast, the leaders of today ascend the steps of the white-domed U.S. Capitol, ready to create history.

Up to 18 million people visit Washington, D.C., each year, drawn to its storied past and news-making

present. Steeped in history, the district also thrives as a contemporary capital, with vibrant new offerings that reflect our changing times.

One of the newest attractions is Newseum. Located on Pennsylvania Avenue, Newseum is a high-tech museum filled with interactive galleries and 15

theaters. Among the current exhibits is "One Nation With News for All," telling the story of how immigrants and minorities used the power of the press to fight for their rights and change American history (through January 2015). And, running through Labor Day, the "Pictures of the Year" photography exhibit showcases dramatic images of the people, events and issues that shaped the world in 2013.

A block away, the National Mall—the city's green, glorious heart—teems with visitors vying for a peek at Abraham Lincoln's marble visage, or gazing heavenward at the Washington Monument. Meanwhile, the Smithsonian Institution's 19 museums and galleries beckon the curious. Wide-eyed wanderers can see everything from Dorothy's ruby slippers in the National Museum of American History (celebrating

its 50th birthday) to the *Apollo 11* command module at the National Air and Space Museum.

Beyond the monuments and museums (most of them free), Washington boasts an eclectic collection of neighborhoods to explore—from the chic boutiques of Georgetown to the jazzy nightlife of U Street. Near the historic Capitol Hill neighborhood, the 136-year-old Eastern Market serves up farm-fresh produce, seafood and more. Meanwhile, the city's sit-down dining scene tantalizes with creative offerings, celebrity chefs and more than 100 restaurants in downtown alone. And with more than 230,000 acres of parks and gardens, there's plenty of room for a stroll.

As the sun sets, you realize you still haven't taken it all in. But that's OK. In this city that's home to more than 200 years of history, there's always tomorrow.



Eastern Market

GEORGETOWN: PHILIP SCALIA/ALAMY; PANDA: CHARLES DHARAPAK/CORBIS

CASSATT: NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART; MARKET; PARKER/PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY; PROOF; DAROKO ZAGAR; Q?RIUS; SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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Penn Quarter hot spot Proof.

DIG IN

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NEIGHBORHOOD SPOT: Proof (◆◆◆◆)

In Penn Quarter, this cozy oasis offers house-made charcuterie and inventive small plates like tuna tartare with crispy nori, alongside an impressive wine list.

FINE DINING: Restaurant Eve (◆◆◆◆◆)

Don't miss the impressive five-course tasting menu at James Beard nominee Cathal Armstrong's Alexandria hot spot—the butter poached Maine lobster with northern beans and pistou is a must-try.

INTERNATIONAL: The Bombay Club (◆◆◆◆◆)

Evocative of India's old clubs, this eatery has been a mainstay for more than two decades. No surprise when you consider the uber-attentive service from regally outfitted waiters serving plates of flash-fried arugula smothered in creamy date-tamarind chutney and aromatic lamb vindaloo.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY: 2 Amys (◆◆◆)

Head to this Cleveland Park neighborhood pizzeria before 8 p.m., and you'll find dozens of families noshing on Neapolitan-style pizzas. Or, come later and settle in at the back bar for nibbles like fried prosciutto croquettes and roasted cauliflower and anchovy salad.

FREE FOR ALL
Four capital experiences that won't cost you a dime:

NATIONAL ZOO > Morning is the best time to visit the David M. Rubenstein Family Giant Panda Habitat to see one of the United States' only baby giant pandas, Bao Bao (pictured). Her first birthday is Aug. 23.



UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM A moving memorial to the millions of people who died during the Holocaust, the museum houses nearly 18,000 artifacts, nearly 89,000 photos and more than 13,000 oral histories.



< NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART This summer, art lovers won't want to miss the gallery's major show, "Degas/Cassatt," which illuminates the relationship between impressionists Edgar Degas and Mary Cassatt. Seventy works will be on display through Oct. 5.



< Q?RIUS AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY This hands-on-exhibit-meets-natural-science-laboratory displays more than 6,000 objects (think fish skeletons, preserved hummingbirds and arrow points) and features an electronic scavenger hunt.