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America's capital city is a destination full of history and culture, a city with its own unique vibe. There are plenty of things to see and activities to do. From high street shopping and restaurants to monuments and attractions, this is a popular tourist destination for a reason. Whether you have a weekend or a week, here are a few top attractions in Washington, D.C.

Houses of Government

No trip to Washington, D.C. is complete without a tour of its three famous houses of Government – the U.S. Capitol Building, the U.S. Supreme Court and the most famous of all, located at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., the White House. Not only are these three buildings impressive structures from the outside, the daily tours will give you a greater understanding of how the most powerful nation on earth is run. Make sure to plan ahead and check the tour schedules before making your way there.

Georgetown

If shopping and dining out are more your style, consider visiting the historic Georgetown neighbourhood. Set along the bank of the Potomac River and full of historic 200-year-old buildings, Georgetown is a vibrant area full of high street shopping and restaurants. In the heart of the neighbourhood is the famous Georgetown University, with its more than 12,000 students adding to the hustle and bustle of the area. Make sure to plan your mode of transport in advance, as this area is not serviced from downtown by the Metrorail: buses are the best way to get there.

Smithsonian Museums

The Smithsonian Museums have something for everyone. Their exhibits range from the world's smallest insects to the largest spacecraft ever built: the best thing about these museums is that admission is free. With 19 museums and an estimated 137 million objects, it's impossible to see everything. So make sure to plan ahead and research which museums you'd like to visit. If you're heading to the capital for the Christmas holiday, make sure to visit the museum on another day, as its closed December 25.

National monuments and memorials

Along with being the centre of politics, Washington is also home to America's most treasured monuments. These monuments and memorials remember the country's most-beloved generals, poets and presidents along with remembering those who have fallen throughout America's history. Some of the most worthwhile destinations are Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln's Memorial and the African American Civil War memorial and Museum.

If you are looking for flights to Washington make sure to book online well in advance for the best deals. If you do decide to visit America's capital you won't regret it, as the city has many, many attractions to see.

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