

Self-Guided Walking Tour of Washington, DC Memorials

The walking tour takes approximately 2 hours, but it can be cut short at either end.

This is not an ECS-sponsored activity.

Walk to the Woodley Park Zoo Metro Station. Take the Red line to the Metro Center Station. At the Metro Center Station, take the Orange, Blue or Silver line to the Smithsonian Station – National Mall. (See detailed instructions [here.](#)) The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is about a 15 minute [walk](#) from the Smithsonian Station.



1. Thomas Jefferson Memorial

The Jefferson Memorial is the most out-of-the-way memorial, but it is worth the extra steps for the view. You can go inside by taking the elevator or stairs down underneath the statue chamber. There you will find restrooms, a gift shop, a bookstore and a small museum with an exhibit titled 'Light and Liberty' detailing Thomas Jefferson's life, qualities, beliefs as well as a few of his inventions and innovations.

The closest Metro station is Smithsonian, located on the Orange, Blue and Silver lines. From there, it is an approximately 15-minute walk to the Jefferson Memorial.



2. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

From the Jefferson Memorial, head west along the Tidal Basin. It is a 10-minute walk to the FDR Memorial. This sprawling memorial represents FDR's four terms as president, one outside "room" for each of his terms.



3. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

Continue Northwest from the FDR Memorial to the MLK Memorial for about 5 minutes. The newest of the monuments on this tour, the MLK Memorial opened in 2011. The monument contains a sculpture of Dr. King and a wall with quotations from King's speeches and writings.



4. Korean War Veterans Memorial

Continue west along Independence Avenue for 5-minutes for the Korean War Veterans Memorial where you can see the 19 steel soldier statues, the Mural Wall, and the Pool of Remembrance on your way to the Lincoln Memorial.



5. **Abraham Lincoln Memorial**

Continue west toward the Lincoln Memorial (the one on the back of the penny) for approximately 5 minutes. There are 36 columns, each one representing one state in the U.S. at the date of President Lincoln's death. Climb the stairs to look down the mall past the reflecting pool to the Washington Monument.



6. **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Head northeast along the left side of the Reflecting Pool for about 5 minutes toward the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It's hard to spot the memorial from a distance because it is a partially sunken wall. The wall is made up of two identical walls that each stretch 246 feet and 9 inches, containing more than 58,000 names. The names are listed in chronological order based on the date of casualty, and within each day, names are shown in alphabetical order.



7. **World War II Memorial**

Walk to the east edge of the Reflecting Pool (along the scenic Constitution Gardens) for my favorite monument – the WWII Memorial. You can find a granite column for your home state around the edge of the fountain before walking toward the center. Look west to see the Lincoln Memorial and look east to see the Washington Monument and Capitol building.



8. **Washington Monument**

Although the Washington Monument is visible from many locations in DC, you can end your tour here. The Washington Monument is currently closed for renovations and will reopen in 2019. The two closest Metro stops are Federal Triangle and Smithsonian, both on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines.

