



A monumental city

WASHINGTON DC IS A METROPOLIS OF MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS, BUT IT'S NOT LIVING IN THE PAST. FINE FOOD, FUN AND FUTURISTIC ART ARE ALSO DISHED UP IN THE FEDERAL CITY

WORDS | GISELLE WHITEAKER

7am

This city rises early. A tavern is an unusual morning choice, but Tunnickliffs on 7th Street is where the Capitol Hill insiders gather for power breakfasts. Listen carefully to overhear titbits of governmental gossip. Generous portions of simple, tasty fare fortify for the day ahead. Try the eggs Chesapeake – a take on eggs Benedict using a winning combination of jumbo lump crab meat and Hollandaise sauce.

8am

Swing by Eastern Market, DC's oldest continually operated fresh food public market. Outside, farmers empty their trucks of recently-harvested produce direct from farms in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. But there's more than food. On weekends artists join the purveyors of produce, offering up handmade arts, crafts and jewellery. Freshly cut flowers, homemade candies and retro antiques add to the offering.

10am

There's no more inspiring venue for a caffeine pick-me-up than Union Station. The 1907 building had a US\$160 million facelift in the

1980s but the architectural design remains true to the original Beaux-Arts style, with allegorical sculpture adorning the central portico and a façade extending more than 600 feet. The white granite and classic lines set the mode for DC's monumental architecture.

11am

Wander through Upper and Lower Senate Park, admiring the reflecting pool and the lovely Senate Garage Fountain, deserving of a more evocative name. At the Capitol building, unless you have a fascination with US politics and enjoy jostling for tickets, admire the exterior, turning back for a photo opportunity at the reflecting pool. Another one – DC revels in reflection. At the Hirshorn Museum admire the sunken sculpture garden, housing works by emerging artists and sculptures by Rodin, Matisse, and Moore.

1pm

It's a short hop to the National Mall. No shopping extravaganza, this national park is littered with memorials. With 24 million annual visitors, expect gawkers aplenty. Food is scarce, but on weekdays DC's food trucks

cater for the worker bees. A logical route starts at the Washington Monument (don't ascend – there are better views from the Lincoln Monument), and swings by the World War II and Martin Luther King, Jr. memorials. Detour to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, then scrutinise the eerie Korean War Veterans Memorial before hitting the Lincoln Memorial, prefaced by another reflecting pool. Finish at the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial.

6pm

The White House is closed to the public, but sneak a peek at the infamous residence from Pennsylvania Avenue. You never know when the man himself may stroll around the lawns with the presidential pooch. The 360-degree view from the nearby 315-foot clock tower in the Old Post Office Pavilion is free.

7pm

Backtrack to P.O.V. Rooftop Lounge and Terrace at the W Washington DC. The food leans towards café-style, but the skyline views can't be beaten. Enjoy a sunset beverage to the beat of the DJ while you take a final look at the city's soaring historic monuments. 🍷