

Shopping at the Museums

With a broad range of Museum Stores, the Smithsonian Institution offers visitors a unique shopping experience. There are stores in many of the Smithsonian's 19 museums. The larger museums have more than one permanent store, and temporary stores are often created for major exhibitions.

Smithsonian Museum Store products are reflective of the treasured icons of our past, the vibrant art of the present and the scientific gems found in our museums. Offering authentic handmade crafts, pottery and jewelry by Native artists throughout the country, our newest stores at the National Museum of the American Indian continue to garner national attention.

Museum Stores are open during each museum's hours. Store hours may be confirmed at any museum information desk, by calling 202.633.1000 (voice/tape) or 202.633.5285 (TTY), or emailing info@si.edu.

Make sure on your exploration to the Smithsonian to "shop til you drop".



More Visitor Information

Try to use Public Transportation

The use of public transportation, including taxis, in Washington is recommended as on-street parking is extremely limited and traffic is often heavy.

Parking

There is no public parking facility at the Smithsonian on the National Mall; on-street parking is limited and posted times are enforced. There are commercial parking lots and garages located within several blocks of the museums. There is also a limited number of parking spaces for vehicles with the appropriate license plate or permit for visitors with disabilities.

Free Admission

Admission is free for all Smithsonian museums and the zoo in Washington, D.C., and the American Indian Museum's George Gustav Heye Center in New York. Tickets are not used for general admission. A fee is required at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York (Members and children under age 12 are admitted free).

goSmithsonian >>

Plan • Explore • Discover

Greetings From The Castle,

To help plan your trip to the Smithsonian Institution, visit www.gosmithsonian.com.

Once here, begin your Smithsonian exploration at the Smithsonian Information Center in the Institution's first building, popularly known as the Castle, which is open daily 8:30am-5:30pm. This distinctive red, sandstone building is centrally located on the National Mall, and may be entered from either Jefferson Drive on the north or through the Enid A. Haupt Garden on the south.

The Center serves as the focal point for information about the Institution's 17 museums and National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and two museums in New York City. Visitors may choose from several information options. A free 18-minute orientation video is shown throughout the day. Captioned interactive video programs on the Smithsonian Institution (in various languages) convey information at a touch. Free public wireless Internet access is available in the Information Center and in the Enid A. Haupt Garden.

You can also make a stop at the Castle Café which features an Espresso/Cappuccino bar, Argentinean gelato, panini, antipasti, organic salads, specialty sandwiches, soups and pastries. Remember, have fun and discover.



Sincerely,

G. Wayne Clough
Secretary of
the Smithsonian Institution

HOURS OF OPERATION:

SMITHSONIAN CASTLE

Open 8:30am-5:30pm

AFRICAN ART MUSEUM

Open 10am-5:30pm

AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Open 10am-5:30pm

**AMERICAN ART MUSEUM
& PORTRAIT GALLERY**

Open 11:30am-7pm

**AMERICAN HISTORY
MUSEUM**

Open 10am-5:30pm

**AMERICAN INDIAN
MUSEUM**

Open 10am-5:30pm

**ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY
MUSEUM**

Open 10am-5pm

**FREER & SACKLER
GALLERIES**

Open 10am-5:30pm

**HIRSHHORN MUSEUM
AND SCULPTURE GARDEN**

Open 10am-5:30pm

**NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM**

Open 10am-5:30pm

POSTAL MUSEUM

Open 10am-5:30pm

**RENWICK GALLERY OF
THE AMERICAN ART
MUSEUM**

Open 10am-5:30pm

**RIPLEY CENTER
INTERNATIONAL
GALLERY**

Open 10am-5:30pm

Tips for Visiting

Before you come...

Plan ahead

Use this information to assist in planning your trip. Museums are usually less crowded in the early mornings on weekdays, right after they open at 10 a.m.

Walk, walk, walk

Ten of the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C., span an area from 3rd to 14th Streets between Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue, approximately 1 mile (1.6 km). Because you will do a lot of walking between and within museums, plan to wear comfortable clothing and shoes!

After you arrive...

Ride, don't drive

Avoid the hassle of searching for a parking space—plan to use public transportation to visit the Smithsonian. For more information, visit the Metro Web site at:

<http://www.wmata.com> and D.C.

Tired of Walking? Take the Circulator Bus

The D.C. Circulator bus offers a quick and convenient service to Smithsonian museums. For more information on this inexpensive, hop-on/hop-off service, call 202-962-1423 or visit the Web site at: <http://www.dccirculator.com>.

Dining at the museums

Treat yourself to lunch, refreshments and snacks in any of the Smithsonian museum cafés, food courts and outdoor carts.



Smithsonian cafes are generally open in conjunction with museum hours. Restaurant hours may be confirmed at any museum information desk, by calling 202.633.1000 (voice/tape) or 202.633.5285 (TTY), or emailing info@si.edu.

