

# What's Your Budget

## WASHINGTON, DC

Kate Bettles

IF THE WORDS “Washington, DC” instantly bring up the more, ahem, back-stabbing scenes from *House of Cards*, you’re not alone. It can be hard to disengage the city that houses the US state apparatus from political drama. But this town’s not all motorcades and senate scandals. *The New York Times* named it as No.1 in its 52 Places to Go in 2020 at the end of last year, and it’s not hard to see why.

There’s the obvious sites – such as the Smithsonian natural history museum, the US Capitol and the White House – but also the great international cuisine you’d expect in an embassy-rich city, a strong arts scene and new generation of museums, such as the National Museum of African American History and Culture. “It celebrates the richness and the diversity of the African American experience,” explains Bettina Stern, co-founder of the DC local fine-food taco chain, Chaia.

Her not-so obvious picks also include grabbing some wheels. “Hop on a Capital Bikeshare and see how diverse the city is.”

At night, Bettina recommends heading to Woolly Mammoth Theatre. “It’s an intimate, communal experience,” she says. “An edgy, thought-provoking theatre company.”

So stars and stripes at the ready. It’s time for Washington, DC to make its mark on you.

[washington.org](http://washington.org)



*Budget*

### GENERATOR

**PRIVATE ROOM FROM \$US125 (\$186)/NIGHT**  
With roots in the London hostel scene, Generator’s Washington, DC branch is hostel-meets-hotel. The hotel is just north of Dupont Circle, a downtown historic district of embassies, museums and galleries. Facilities include a rooftop bar and event space, terrace bar and lounge, swimming pool, private and shared rooms. Plus, a win for digital nomads who can’t keep their mitts off the laptop, there’s a new co-working space coming when renovations are completed in March 2020. [staygenerator.com/hostels/washington-dc](http://staygenerator.com/hostels/washington-dc)



*Mid-range*

### KIMPTON HOTEL PALOMAR

**ROOMS FROM \$US159 (\$237)**  
This four-star hotel has the kind of on-site amenities to tempt one into skipping the Lincoln Memorial. Besides the guest rooms and suites, there’s a heated pool with sundeck and cabanas, in-room spa services and 24-hour fitness centre. Its Italian Urbana restaurant is pasta heaven with delicacies such as lamb agnolotti, a happy hour with \$1 oysters and bottomless brunch with Bloody Marys and more. Sounds good but, even better, this four-star Dupont Circle stay is pet-friendly. [hotelpalomar-dc.com](http://hotelpalomar-dc.com)



*Luxe*

### THOMPSON WASHINGTON D.C.

**ROOMS FROM \$US359 (\$535)**  
Stay in this new hotel in the up-and-coming Navy Yard district, about 1.5km from the US Capitol. Capitalising on its waterfront neighbourhood, the hotel hosts New York restaurateur Danny Meyer’s Maialino Mare, offering seafood pastas, whole-roasted fish, and the Anchovy Social rooftop bar. Rooms and suites feature hardwood floors and large windows, with balconies and ballpark and river views available. If you have the energy, there’s also a fitness centre. [hyatt.com](http://hyatt.com)



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