

MEANDERING MAP TOURS

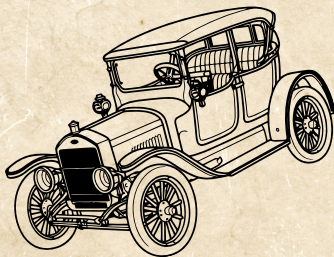
DMV TRAVEL TIPS

NAVIGATING THE DMV

- METRO: Register for a Smart Trip Metro Card [here](#) and add it to your virtual cell-phone wallet before you arrive. You can map out the bus and train directions [here](#). When you are on the escalators stand on the right, and let other pass on the left. When getting on a Metro car, make sure to let passengers disembark first before getting on. Lastly, and importantly, always look down at the seat before you sit down...



- TIME: Always build in extra time during your DMV travel due to traffic and unexpected delays (Hello motorcade!). Become BFFs with WAZE and Google.



- BIKING: Be like [Belva Lockwood](#) and bike. You can bring your own or rent one (even an e-bike). There are bike rentals throughout the city. Don't forget your helmet!



- RIDE SHARE: Ride share is available throughout the DMV; however, if you are staying out in the 'burbs you may want to book rides in advance if you worry about delays.
- DRIVING: Driving in D.C. is an.... adventure. If you choose to drive, always have a game plan. Most street parking has a two-hour limit, or is reserved for residents. Check out local parking garages or parking spot apps in advance. Many places have early bird parking, so if you get in by 8:30am, you may be able to get a discounted rate! Rush hour is between 6-9:30am in the morning and typically from 3:30-6:30pm in the evening. Always be aware of all traffic signs because of flex lanes (changing directions during rush hour), HOV lanes, and traffic cameras.

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FOOD & RESTAURANT TIPS



- Many of the less casual restaurants in DC require reservations. Make sure you book reservations as far in advance as possible to have the best chance at snagging a reservation. If you don't snag a res, you can always aim to get a bar seat (the earlier, and later, the better the chance!). Always check reservation sites the day before, and day of, for last minute cancellations!
- Carry a water bottle with you to save on having to constantly stop and buy water. Make sure it is empty before visiting spots with food/drink limitations. Collapsible water bottle, anyone?
- Some restaurants already include tips or have a separate service charge. Always double check your bill for these items.

SECURITY & SAFETY TIPS

- Always check the security and rules for each location you are visiting to see what you can bring. For the Capitol look [here](#). Each Smithsonian has a page, like [this one](#). Every concert/sporting venue also has regulations about bags, like Nat's Stadium, [here](#).
- Be aware of your surroundings and belongings when walking around.
- When biking around, use bike lanes when you can and bring a helmet with you!
- Do not assume D.C. drivers will always stop for pedestrians when walking around the city.



WEATHER



- D.C weather is unpredictable. Consider carrying an umbrella, just in case.
- During the summer, it is HOT. Make sure you are hydrated and build in air conditioning breaks!
- During the winter, make sure you have shoes with good traction and be aware of black ice!
- Consider some hand/foot warmers if you plan on being outside in the winter!