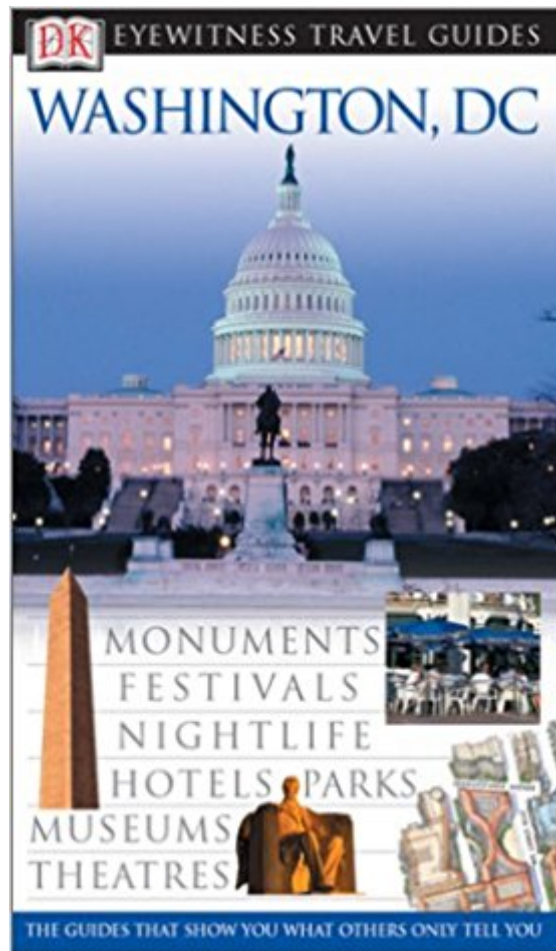




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Washington D.C. (Eyewitness Travel Guides)



Synopsis

Features: Capitol Hill, the Mall, Old Downtown, the White House, Foggy Bottom, Georgetown, and sections just beyond the city.

Book Information

Series: EYEWITNESS TRAVEL GUIDE

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: DK Travel; Revised edition (September 2003)

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

I concur with the other reviewers that this book is definitely worth it to purchase if you plan on visiting the D.C. area. I purchased the "Washington D.C" (Eyewitness Travel Guide) because I had a strong feeling that this book would help pinpoint some of the best places to visit in the D.C. area. I have been happily living in this area since May 2010, and I was inspired to make the best out of living here when I met a loving and happy couple at a concert that I recently attended. They were helpfully giving me some ideas worth pondering for going out. The close and cheerful couple that was encouraging me helped me realize that I can easily make the most out of living here, and with my schedule I can at least visit many of the sites on weekends (I am a resourceful college student). This book contains a lot of helpful information on transportation, many fun museums and other events to go to, and other accommodations that are good to know whether you are just visiting and/or you already live in the area, but you prefer to be self-reliant in discovering the exciting places to go to. The following is some of the amazing information that is contained in this book: The various museums available to visit in downtown D.C. such as the National Air and Space Museum, National Museum of Natural History, National Museum of American History, and the National Gallery of Art. Entertainment in Washington D.C. area such as: the Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing

Arts (in Vienna, Virginia), the Shakespeare Theatre, National Symphony Orchestra, and the Library of Congress. There is information on sports and outdoor activities that are listed: The couple that I mentioned about told me about how the Verizon center has sporting events (such as the basketball games) in addition to musical concerts. The Washington D.C book on pages 204 and 205 (Eyewitness Travel Guide) also lists the RFK Stadium and the Nationals Park Stadium. For men and women just visiting there are handy guides on recommended places to stay starting on page 172-195, shopping in Washington D.C. (pages 196-199), restaurants, cafes, and bars (pages 182-195), and there is a handy metro system map and street finder index for those who plan to take public transit in the D.C. area. I admit that I have only listed a sampling of what is in this useful and informative book. If there is only one guide that you have the time to look at for the Washington D.C. area, then this is definitely the one to consider.

The Eyewitness Guide to Washington, DC starts off with a brief introductory section that includes a history of the city, general information, as well as a summary of the major galleries, museums, and memorials. This section is almost reminiscent of a Frommer's guide as it includes a best of list and a sample itinerary, which are both staples of that guidebook franchise. Next, the book moves on to a section-by-section examination of the city. There are five geographical areas within the city as well as two more beyond that are broken down here. Each section offers a reasonable amount of information on major attractions. With the maps, photos, and 3-D style cutaway representations of some of the major buildings the Eyewitness Guide is far superior to others when it comes to giving you a sense of the physical reality of Washington. No amount of words can communicate as thoroughly what a place is like compared to these pictures. I found this invaluable in helping me decide which attractions were most important for me to visit in my limited time in the city. The book also contains a list of hotels and restaurants but this is the weakest part of the guide. There are only the most basic descriptions and information and no ratings are offered at all. Another guide such as *Frommer's Washington, D.C. 2007 (Frommer's Complete)* or *The Unofficial Guide to Washington, D.C. (Unofficial Guides)* will be far more helpful for this aspect of planning your trip. Overall, I found this guide very useful for deciding what to do while visiting Washington, DC. It is nowhere near as helpful for choosing restaurants and hotels and I recommend buying a second guide to get more information of that kind. No one guide will have everything you need but this one will be a great start.

In planning for a trip to D.C. I purchased the most recent Fodor's Gold travel guide. It was nice and

got me headed in the right direction, but did offer little help after the air and hotel reservations were made and I had planned a day to day itinerary. I wanted more information...and more photos of the places I was going to be visiting and the overall history behind it all. The DK eyewitness guide did not disappoint me. If you have ever seen a DK book you have an idea of what to expect, lots of valuable and interesting information along with great photos and brilliant 3-D cutaway drawings of the major buildings of Washington. This book is slightly geared towards visitors from outside the US (it describes our currency, our government, our electric plugs, how to drive here, etc.) but is still invaluable for anyone who wants good information on D.C. The guide is small enough and could be carried around easily, and it even has a large metro rail map in the back cover. I look forward to using the DK eyewitness guide in D.C.

From the Metro map on the back inside cover to all the great pictures this guide is a winner! It's small enough to go in a purse and it has quite enough information in it. I loved that it told you which Metro exit to get off on for each attraction. The organization was good and I had no problem finding places at all. This little gem covers the main points of each attraction, has a plethora of maps that are easy to follow, and is quite simple to just pull out and use. Of course one must mention the pictures as they enhance the experience by leaps and bounds. Bravo! I brought this guide and the "The Unofficial Guide to Washington, D.C. (Unofficial Guides)" and this one I used almost constantly while that one stayed at the hotel although there were useful parts to it. The only thing I was not overly impressed with was the restaurants so I turned to my fellow yelpers for help on that.

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