

Guide to Dupont Circle

Like many DC neighborhoods, Dupont Circle has had several lives. Located in the “Old City”—the area planned by Pierre Charles L’Enfant, its grand 19th century mansions and embassies attracted newspaper barons, heiresses, and senators. After the 1968 race riots Dupont Circle transformed into a bohemian, gay-friendly district, the vestiges of which still endure. Now a residential neighborhood interspersed with vibrant commercial blocks, Dupont is a great place to see how Washingtonians live (or would like to live). Home to the bustling Sunday farmer’s market, the Phillips Collection, and many galleries, getting to Dupont takes just a few minutes on Metro’s red line. Dupont Circle Park, located between the north and south entrances of Metro’s red line stop, is a beautiful place for people watching around the fountain.

—Compiled by Sarah Osborne Bender, Phillips Collection

Neighborhood Attractions

FreshFarm market (north exit of Dupont Circle metro station at 20th and Q Sts NW; 8:30am-1pm on Sunday)

Vibrant, crowded, excellent market with fresh produce, bakery items, and more. Pair with a visit to The Phillips Collection for a true Dupont Circle Sunday.

Dupont Circle Park and fountain (intersection of 19th St. NW and New Hampshire and Massachusetts Avenues)

Spanish Steps (connecting 22nd Street between Decatur NW (to the south) and S St. NW (to the north))

A beautiful hidden spot, constructed in 1911. From the top, an interesting perspective on city streets.

Massachusetts Avenue’s Embassy Row: A general area around Massachusetts Avenue with a high concentration of embassies and diplomatic headquarters. Walk NW from Dupont Circle toward Sheridan Circle for a small sampling.

Museums and Galleries

The Phillips Collection (21st and Q Streets NW, one block west of the Dupont Circle red line metro stop, north exit; Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-6pm, open until 8pm Thursdays)

For conference visitors: Buy one, get one free entrance with conference badge, May 1-5, 2014
America’s first museum of Modern Art. Home to Renoir’s *The Luncheon of the Boating Party*, the Rothko Room, and Wolfgang Laib’s Wax Room. May 1 will be the museum’s monthly [Phillips After 5](#) event, 5pm-8pm. Special programming typically includes music, drinks, and gallery talks. Advanced tickets recommended.

Hillyer Art Space (9 Hillyer Court, NW, in the alley behind The Phillips Collection; closed Sunday)

Small gallery nearly always showing inspiring contemporary work from both local and international artists. Late hours on First Fridays with wine and a fun crowd.

Marsha Mateyka Gallery (2012 R Street NW; Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm)
Gallery in a Dupont Circle row house representing many important D.C. artists and showing contemporary painting, sculpture, and photography.

Foundry Gallery (1314 18th Street NW; Wednesday-Sunday, 12-6pm)
Artist-run gallery founded by students of Gene Davis, one of the three principles of the “Washington Color Painters.” Foundry focuses on local artists.

Shopping

Second Story Books (2000 P St. NW; 10am-10pm)
Excellent used book store. Also sells prints and broadsides as well as music.

Kramerbooks & Afterwords Cafe (1517 Connecticut Avenue NW; 7am-1am daily, 24 hours
Friday and Saturday)
Classic, hip bookstore with a popular attached bar and restaurant.

Books for America (1417 22nd St. NW; Mon, Fri & Sat 10-6; Tue-Thu 10-9; Sun 11-5)
Needle-in-a-haystack style used bookstore with great prices.

Tabletop (1608 20th St. NW; Monday-Saturday 12-8, Sunday 10-6)
Great, friendly boutique for mod housewares, gifts, jewelry, and handbags.

Secondi (1702 Connecticut Ave NW—above Starbucks; Monday-Saturday 11-6, Sunday 1-5)
Consignment fashion.

Proper Topper (1350 Connecticut Ave. NW; Mon-Fri 10am - 8pm, Saturday 10am-7pm, Sunday noon-6pm)
Local boutique specializing in hats for men and women as well as a small selection of beautiful women’s clothes, jewelry, and gifts.

Coffee and Tea:

Dolcezza (1560 Wisconsin Ave. NW)
Excellent coffee and espresso from distinct roasters, also gelato. Combine both espresso with gelato for affogato!

Filter (1726 20th Street, NW)
Specialty coffee and espresso as well as teas. Coconut vanilla infused black iced tea is recommended.

Teaism (2009 R Street NW)

Specializing in teas and tisanes, famous for chai. Also sells loose tea, which you know you need for back in your hotel room.

Tryst at the Phillips (1600 21st Street NW, inside The Phillips Collection)
Delicious brewed coffee and expert espresso drinks—in an amazing museum!

Dining:

Pizzeria Paradiso (2003 P Street NW)

Pizza good enough to write home about. Be sure to consider the “special pizza”, often a concoction of unusual ingredients with a fantastic result. Fantastic beer list and outdoor seating.

Teaism (2009 R Street NW)

Pan-asian influenced dishes good for any meal. Excellent for vegetarians.

Little Serrow and **Komi** (1500 block of 17th street NW)

For foodies looking to really treat themselves, try these Washington favorites from chef Johnny Monis. Both prix fix, set menu. Little Serrow is \$45 per person and features exquisite Thai food. Komi is \$135 per person and has a mind-blowing tasting menu. Little Serrow distributes seating for the night beginning at 5:30 each day (line up 5:00 or earlier.) Reservations highly recommended for Komi.

Zorba’s Cafe (1612 20th St NW)

Inexpensive, casual Greek. Good for large groups. Outdoor seating.

Bistro du Coin (1738 Connecticut Avenue, NW)

Casual, boisterous French restaurant with bistro fare. Good for large groups and any meal, especially one that includes mussels and wine.

Moby Dick House of Kabob (1300 Connecticut Ave. NW)

A casual, local favorite featuring meat and fish kabobs, the best rice you’ll ever eat, fresh baked pita, hummus, salads, and falafel.

Tabard Inn (1739 N Street NW)

Located in a row house inn, a beautiful place for a refined breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner. Also features a cozy wood paneled lounge for drinks.

Nightlife:

Big Hunt (1345 Connecticut Ave NW)

Big, old dive-y beer bar with great jukeboxes, pool tables, and rooftop.

Bar Dupont (in the Dupont Circle Hotel between New Hampshire and 19th Streets NW)

Hotel bar, but excellent happy hour specials if you are in the neighborhood.

Russia House (1800 Connecticut Ave NW)

Definitely unique—kind of like a Victorian funeral parlor, in a good way. Specializes in vodka, of course.

Veritas Wine Bar (2031 Florida Ave NW)

Small, dark, intimate wine bar. Perfect for talking libraries.

Nearby:

From Dupont Circle, it is a pleasant, less-than two mile walk to the neighborhoods of: Adams Morgan, Georgetown, Logan Circle, and Woodley Park. You can also walk to Dumbarton Oaks or along Embassy Row on Massachusetts Avenue.