

Washington, D.C. and Its Must-sees

Jacy Meyer (USA)
Zdeňka Kosková (CR)

Washington, D.C. is one of America's most visited cities. It is not just the seat of the federal government, Supreme Court and the President of the United States; there are also memorials to important figures and events in American history, superb museums and many other things to see. Most of the sites are located on the National Mall, simply called the Mall, a boulevard between the Capitol and the Washington Monument.

The White House

is the symbol of the American presidency and the official residence and workplace of the President of the United States. It was built between 1792 and 1800 and was not always white. After the British burned the building in the War of 1812, it was restored and painted its present color.



The Lincoln Memorial

honors America's 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, who was president during the American Civil War, opposed slavery and was assassinated while watching a play. The memorial has the form of a Greek temple, recalling classical period that gave humankind its first democracy. It has been the site of many famous speeches, including Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

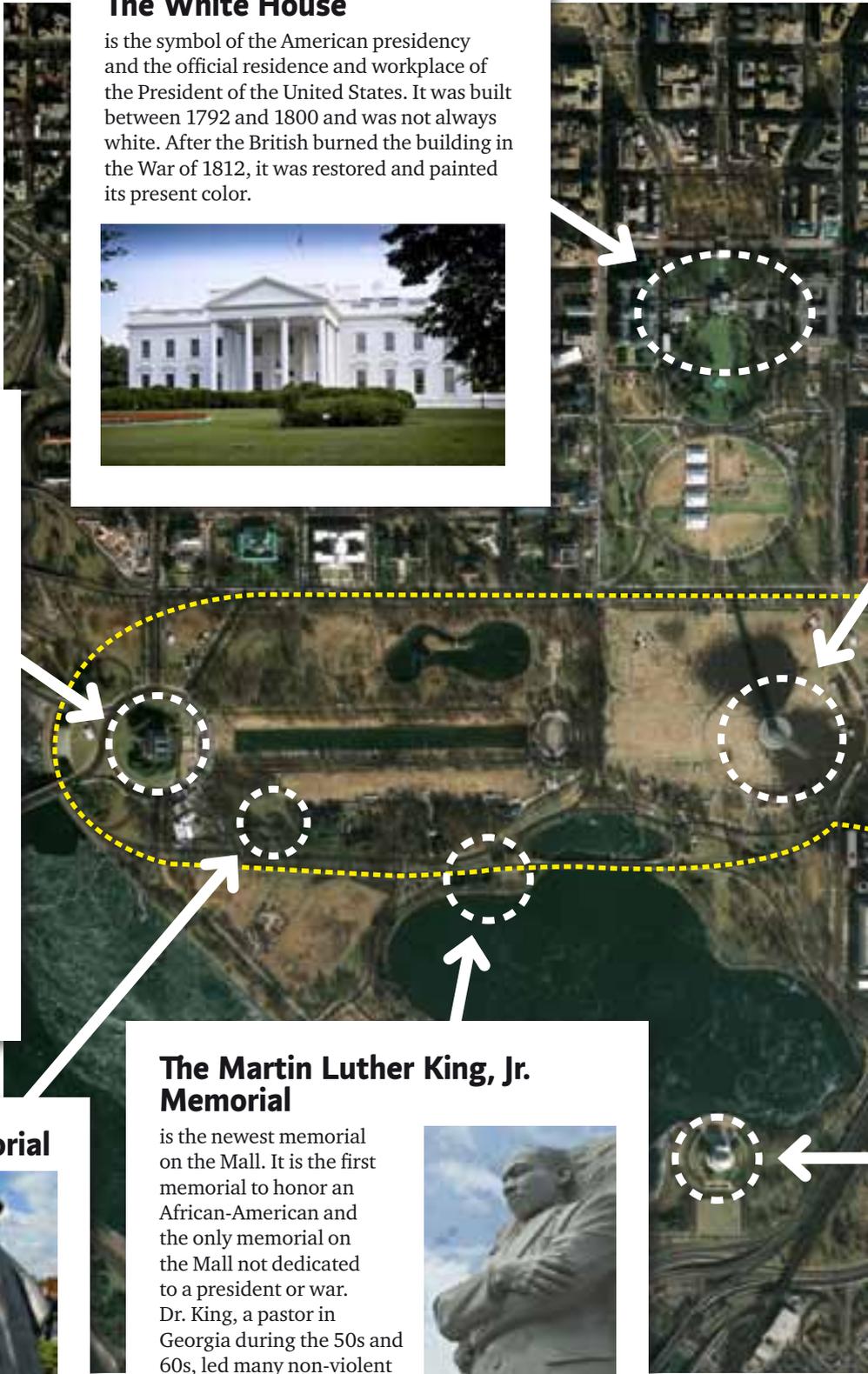
The Korean War Veterans Memorial

is located on the southeast side of the National Mall, remembering those who served in the Korean War (1950–1953). The memorial is in the form of a large triangle made from black stone on which there are archive images from the war. Inside the triangle there are 19 steel statues of soldiers on patrol, dressed in full combat gear. The statues are spread among the bushes representing the terrain of Korea.



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

is the newest memorial on the Mall. It is the first memorial to honor an African-American and the only memorial on the Mall not dedicated to a president or war. Dr. King, a pastor in Georgia during the 50s and 60s, led many non-violent protests against segregation and racial inequality. At the age of 35, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. King was assassinated after giving a speech in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968.



The Washington Monument

was built to honor the country's first president, George Washington. This 170 m tall obelisk is the world's tallest stone structure. The monument is constructed from 36,000 blocks of stones (marble and granite). It is visible from almost all over the city and has become one of America's symbols.



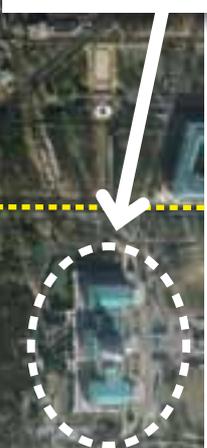
International Spy Museum

is the one and only museum in the world dedicated to espionage. Here you can, for example, see the pigeon camera designed by the US during WW I. Pigeons, equipped with tiny cameras, were released over military sites. As the birds flew, the cameras continuously took pictures to be developed and studied when the pigeons got to their destination.



The Capitol

is the political center of the US government, where the Senate and House of Representatives meet to make the country's laws. It sits on the top of Capitol Hill overlooking the Mall. Its dome is topped by the bronze Statue of Freedom.



The Jefferson Memorial

is dedicated to the third president, Thomas Jefferson, who is known for his contributions to the Declaration of Independence. The memorial is situated by the Potomac River and the place became a popular bathing area for the locals in the late 19th century.



The Smithsonian Institution

operates 19 museums and a zoo. The majority of these museums are located on the Mall. One of the museums is the National Museum of the American Indian which is shown in the photo and on the map.



The Washington National Cathedral

is another must-see in Washington, D.C. It is truly a magnificent and breathtaking building, built in a neogothic style which makes it look like it is from somewhere in Europe during the Middle Ages. Construction started in 1907 and was only completed in 1990, taking 83 years to finish. This limestone cathedral, where several past presidents' funerals have been held, is the sixth largest cathedral in the world.

