



Georgetown has been home to many notable politicians down the years, including Thomas Jefferson, Henry Kissinger and Nancy Pelosi



CHAPTER CITY GUIDE

Two-Minute Washington

DC's Georgetown district welcomes a new RCC chapter and Clubhouse later this year. Known for its leafy streets, grand row houses and a longstanding university, there's a lot more to this pretty place, says Kate Armstrong. It offers diverse cuisine, historic architecture, great watersports and fantastic cycling along the waterfront and out into the Maryland countryside

1. VISIT DUMBARTON HOUSE & GARDENS

The spectacular gardens of Dumbarton House are due to reopen in March this year after a major revamp. Designed by landscape architect Beatrix Farrand in the 1920s, the lawns, flower beds and cherry blossoms are especially lovely in Spring. The house displays El Greco's *The Visitation*, Byzantine and pre-Columbian art, plus rare books.

2. SEE GEORGETOWN WATERFRONT PARK

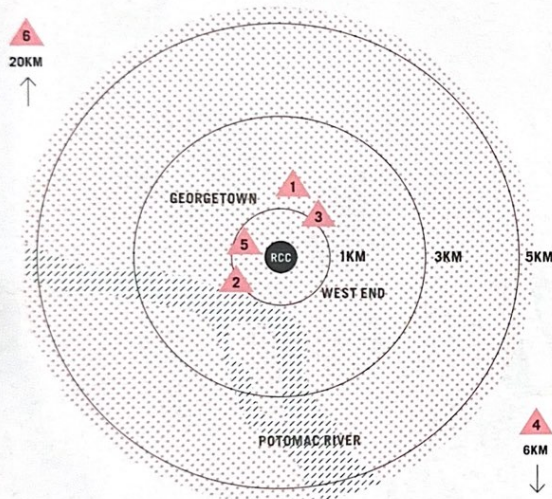
Tourists sometimes get caught up in the M Street shopping strip, unaware the Potomac river and Georgetown waterfront park are a few blocks south. From here, there's a great view of the Kennedy Center, the monolithic-style performing-arts building. DC's famous mall is an easy 2km stroll or ride along the bike path that winds along the riverbank.

3. STAY THE AVERY

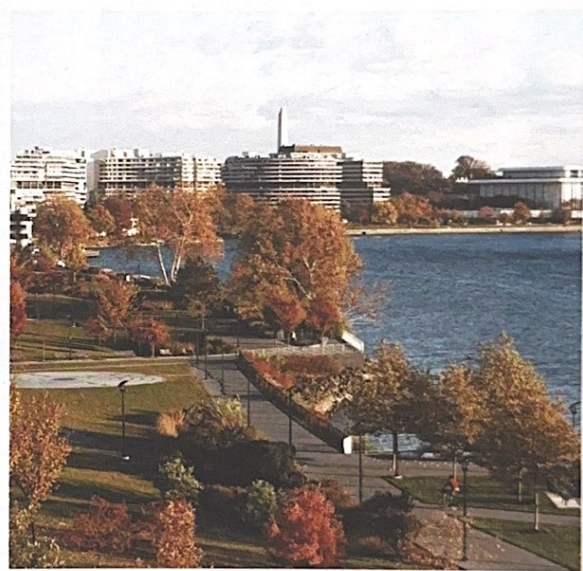
Nestled in leafy P St, The Avery is a stunning boutique hotel comprising two historic houses. Its rooms are contemporary and comfortable with stylish bathrooms. Each evening, you can kick back with a beverage, courtesy of the hotel, which is perfectly located, in the heart of Georgetown between the fashion-focused M Street and Dupont Circle.

4. DISCOVER POTOMAC RIVER

The Potomac river – Georgetown's southern 'border' – is the place to get physical. Here, outside the colder winter months, you can rent a canoe, paddle board and kayak with views of the DC skyline. Water taxis from the riverfront take you to the recently opened District Wharf (a restaurant and entertainment complex), or to Old Town Alexandria.



Rapha Washington, 3210 Grace Street, DC 20007



5. EAT CAFÉ MILANO, FIOLA MARE AND BAKED & WIRED

Rub shoulders with political hoi polloi and social glitterati at Café Milano, where excellent pasta is among the northern Italian delights. Fiola Mare, on the waterfront, is one of DC's top restaurants and is famed for its fabulous seafood. For a cycle break, try a monster cupcake (with 100% natural ingredients) at Baked & Wired.

6. RIDE BRICKYARD ROAD

Several good circuits begin in Georgetown. West along MacArthur Boulevard is initially flat but beyond the Palisades are many uphill detours that head inland; the most aggressive is Brickyard Road. Alternatively, drop down into the Maryland countryside. The undulating terrain gives you a chance to shift up from the small ring.

The 10-acre Georgetown Waterfront Park (above) runs from the Washington Harbour complex to Key Bridge

Need to know

Whatever you do, don't ask a local: 'Where's the Smithsonian?' While you may have heard of DC's Smithsonian Institution, many wrongly assume it is one museum. It is in fact a network of 19 museums and galleries, plus a zoo. One of the most accessible to Georgetown (an enjoyable 3km ride away) is the National Museum of African American History and Culture that opened in 2016. Two words: don't miss.