



## Exploring D.C.

### Intern Guide to City Events

# May

## 15-21

### 3-17

#### **Passport DC - Open Houses at Washington, D.C. Embassies**

Various locations around town

Washington, D.C.

- Admission: Most Passport DC events are free, but some do charge admission. Ticket information and pricing can be found in the individual listings at [www.PassportDC.org](http://www.PassportDC.org).

This May, Washington, D.C.'s embassies will open their doors to the public during a two week event called Passport DC, an annual celebration of international culture. Presented by Cultural Tourism DC, Passport DC showcases Washington, D.C.'s embassies and cultural organizations with a wide range of performances, talks, and exhibits. In addition to the embassy open houses and events, several Washington, D.C. museums will participate in Passport DC with special programming.

- May 11 – 16  
World Week: Embassies from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, and more present a week of cultural programming, offering a unique opportunity to take in world cultures.
- May 17  
Around the World Open House: Don't miss this rare opportunity to travel the globe without leaving the city! For one day, embassies will open their doors to the public and present programming that showcases their unique culture.

All of these events at the embassies are free, but in some cases reservations and photo ID are required. Please double-check the listing.

Cultural Tourism DC will provide free shuttles on May 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Three shuttles will leave from 1900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW (Dupont Circle) and will loop Massachusetts Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, and 16th Street:



- Green: Massachusetts Avenue to visit Embassies of Australia, Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Micronesia, Paraguay, Peru, South Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.
- Blue: Connecticut Avenue to Van Ness-UDC Metro station to visit Embassies of Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Serbia.
- Gold: New Hampshire Avenue/16th Street to visit Embassy of Angola and Mexican Cultural Institute

- May 17

The National Asian Heritage Festival: is bringing back the 3rd Annual Fiesta Asia street festival on Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd and 6th Streets, N.W.! Area residents and visitors will have an opportunity to savor the many flavors of Asian culture. From China to India, from Kazakhstan to Indonesia, there is something for everyone!

Participants of all ages will enjoy a wide array of activities, including live performances by musicians, vocalists, and performance artists; a cultural parade; Pan-Asian cuisine; martial arts demonstrations; cultural displays and interactive activities; informational services; health testing; and much more.

New additions to the fair this year include international performers and artisans - especially from Central Asia - a lion dance competition, a tasty Asia snack tent, a Middle Eastern feature stage, and a home cooking demonstration.

- May 17

Admission: \$50 (includes reception)

Passport DC Grand Finale: The Embassy Series brings beloved duo, Violinist Dmitri Berlinsky and Pianist Elena Baksht, to the Austrian Embassy at 3524 International Court, N.W. Arriving on the international scene as the youngest winner in the history of the Paganini International Violin Competition in Genoa, Italy, soloist and chamber musician Berlinsky has performed hundreds of concerts and given recitals across Europe and the United States.

Elena Baksht's career as a recitalist, orchestral soloist, and chamber musician has taken her to concert halls throughout the world as well. Ms. Baksht performs regularly with Berlinsky, including appearances at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, and during concert tours.



A reception will follow the performance.

## 14-18

### **GI Film Festival**

Carnegie Institution for Science  
1530 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

- Admission: \$10 for Individual Panel Discussions
- Information: [www.gifilmfestival.com](http://www.gifilmfestival.com)

The GI Film Festival presents both classic and premier films celebrating the heroic stories of the American Armed Forces and the worldwide struggle for freedom and liberty. The Festival includes film screenings and presentations by award-winning Hollywood actors and directors and panel discussions with soldiers, journalists, authors, and filmmakers.

## 15

### **Mind-Body Basics**

Dillon Ripley Center – Smithsonian Institution  
1100 Jefferson Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C.

- 6:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Admission: \$40
- Information: 202-633-3030

Our awareness of the connection between the mind (what we think) and the body (what we physically experience) continues to grow. This program proposes strategies that provide a greater sense of control over physical symptoms and describes an approach to achieving a better quality of life.

Instructor Ann Webster coaches participants in a variety of techniques that reduce stress by eliciting the relaxation response, including mindfulness, imagery, and contemplation. Participants learn how to observe, understand, and maximize the role of positive thinking patterns in achieving greater well-being.



Webster is a health psychologist at the Benson-Henry Institute and an instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School.

## 17

### **Sailing Lessons on the Potomac River**

Gangplank Marina (Gazebo)

600 Water Street S.W.

Washington, D.C.

- 1:15 p.m.
- Admission: \$55
- Information: 301-580-7380

No prior experience necessary! Feel gentle breezes brush past you and bring your sailboat to life as you gently glide across the Potomac River. Learn the basics of sailing and operating a boat including safety, rules of the river, rigging, maneuvering the boat, using the wind for movement, and derigging the boat when you are done.

## 18

### **Marine Chamber Ensemble**

John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks Annex

600 Virginia Avenue, S.E.

Washington, D.C.

- 2:00 p.m.
- Admission: free
- Information: 202-633-3030

The Marine Chamber Ensemble features the virtuoso musicians of “The President’s Own” performing in intimate, small-ensemble settings. Performers coordinate the programs, with players and repertoire varying from concert to concert. Marine Chamber Ensemble performances offer a generous sampling of composers and instrumental groupings, with something sure to entice every music aficionado.

## 21

### **The Most Haunted Houses**

Meet outside the Farragut West Metro station (17<sup>th</sup> St. exit)

- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Admission: \$10
- Information: 202-484-1565



"I know not how it was – but, with the first glimpse of the building, a sense of insufferable gloom pervaded my spirit," wrote Edgar Allan Poe, describing the home of Roderick Usher.

Imagine the observations Mr. Poe might have penned about the homes encountered on this walk and their various owners. Some, like the fictional house of Usher, have disappeared into the fissures of history. Others stand as reminders of the often harrowing events that transpired within. President Andrew Jackson, navy hero Stephen Decatur, man of letters Henry Adams and his wife Clover – these are only a few of the famous Washingtonians whose homes have tales to tell.

You'll end this walk at the house considered the most haunted home in the city: The Octagon House. As you hear the stories associated with each room, no doubt you'll agree, to quote Mr. Poe, that "evil things, in robes of sorrow, assailed the monarch's high estate."