



MEJDI TOURS

The American Dual Narrative Series: Blue/Red Divide in The Nation's Capital

Inquire about upcoming dates or with requests for customized programs.

Guide Name	Number
Liberal Guide	
Conservative Guide	
MEJDI 24/7	Number
Business Hours Contact	XXX-XXX-XXXX
Off-Hours Contact	XXX-XXX-XXXX

Overview

Take an in-depth look behind the curtain of American politics in the nation's capital with two guides – one conservative, one liberal. Visit iconic sites and meet experts who will sensitively introduce conversations on hot-button issues such as religion, class, race, sexuality, and human rights. Understand the complex legacies of important national figures and the makings of key moments in history. Approach contemporary discourse and debate with respect for multiple perspectives, and gain a more intimate understanding of Washington, DC from the people who call it home.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: The US Capitol & National Mall (Friday)

Hours	Activity
12:10 pm	Arrive to the Capitol Visitor Center and look for your guides holding a MEJDI sign. Enjoy a tour of the Capitol grounds to open the program.
1:30 pm	Walk to a nearby meeting with a Capitol Hill staffer or congressional leader to discuss initiatives encouraging healthy civil discourse.
3:00 pm	Stand outside the White House lawn discussing the transfer of power every 4-8 years under a two party system. Consider executive power and public trust in the "highest office in the land."
4:00 pm	See the Washington Monument from the surrounding plaza and consider the symbolism of this obelisk rising above the National Mall. Cities and streets are named after the first US President. Who was George Washington and how should we relate to his legacy?
4:45 pm	From an estate in Monticello to a memorial rotunda beside the Potomac, Thomas Jefferson looms large over American history past and present. Consider multiple perspectives on this complicated figure and within the context of the "founders." Is it possible to both rely on their writings as the inspiration for democracy while also reflecting on their contradictions?
6:00 pm	Group dinner at the hotel (meet in the lobby)

7:00 pm	Evening workshop on political dialogue with a leading organization in the field of de-polarization.
8:00 pm	Program concludes for the evening
Hotel	<i>Central Washington DC accommodation</i>
Meals	<i>Dinner included</i>

Day 2: Washington's Neighborhoods (Saturday)

Hours	Activity
8:00 am	Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then find your way to the hotel meeting room by 9:00
9:00 am	Meet with leadership from an organization working to advance equitable economic development solutions that address the inequity of under-resourced communities in the District of Columbia.
10:00 am	Set off for Anacostia , historic DC neighborhood & one of its first suburbs. Originally known as Uniontown, Anacostia was once known as white working class neighborhood off-limits to immigrants and minorities, until the late 1800's when it became predominantly African American.
10:30 am	Make a brief stop at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site and learn how a man born to slavery spent his life fighting for justice & equality as a leading voice in the abolitionist movement.
11:00 am	Visit a local neighborhood association that provides services to families and youth in the surrounding neighborhood. Talk about the role of faith in politics, empowerment and community development
12:30 pm	Lunch at Busboys and Poets , a restaurant, bar, bookstore and community gathering place. The name refers to American poet Langston Hughes, who worked as a busboy at the Wardman Park Hotel in the 1920s, prior to gaining recognition as a poet.
2:00 pm	Head to Georgetown for a walking tour on & around iconic M Street. Learn about the history of this neighborhood, including the import/export of merchant goods & services as you sample local desert delicacies at local cafes and bakeries. Discuss the role of immigration in building the United States into a country of diverse cultures, religions and perspectives. How do different sides of the political aisle understand the impacts of global migration today?
4:00 pm	Hear the story of Fort Stevens Field , where Civil War remnants recall American strife of previous generations and point to the risks of political polarization in our time.
5:30 pm	Group dinner at or near your accommodations
7:00 pm	Enjoy group cultural activity in the evening to enjoy the unique music, arts, or performance that this world-class city can offer.
Hotel	<i>Central Washington DC accommodation</i>
Meals	<i>Breakfast and Lunch included</i>

Day 3: Leadership & Sacrifice; Arlington & Fairfax, VA (Sunday)

Hours	Activity
7:30 am	Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then meet your guides in the lobby at 8:25
8:45 am	Arrive at the Lincoln Memorial to consider the legacy of this American leader. Continue the discussion on the prevailing impact of slavery, abolition and the Civil War.
9:15 am	Pass the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials , reflecting on the loss of US service members and changing attitudes towards American intervention in foreign wars over the last several decades.
10:15 am	See the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and recall the famous March on Washington in 1963, where King gave his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech. Consider the current racial climate in America, including conservative & liberal views on the topic.
11:00 am	Visit Arlington National Cemetery to pay respects to those who made the "ultimate sacrifice" in the line of duty. Discuss the changing role of the military in American life and competing views on national defense.
12:00 pm	Lunch at <i>TBD</i> location in Northern Virginia - Ethiopian, Salvadorian or Vietnamese cuisine (Fairfax area)
1:30 pm	Head to the NRA Museum to review the history of firearms use and advocacy. Discuss the strong commitments on different sides of the national debate on the 2nd amendment and efforts to address gun violence.
2:30 pm	Wrap Up & Concluding Reflections
4:00 pm	Drop-offs at DCA National airport, central Washington or en route
Hotel	<i>N/A</i>
Meals	<i>Breakfast & Lunch included</i>