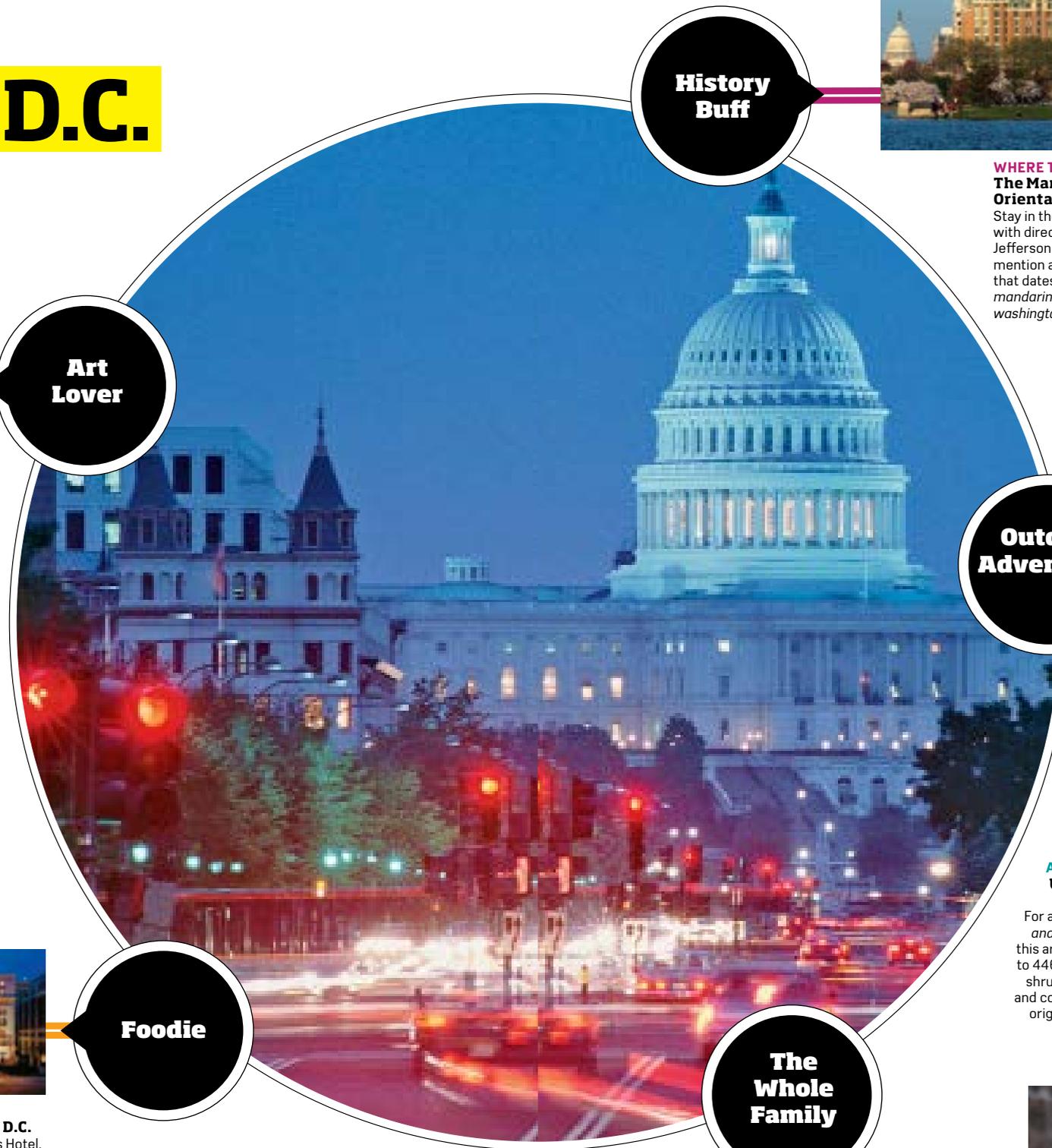


# Washington, D.C.

There's more than one way to discover a destination.

By Kate Parham



## History Buff



**DINNER // The Oval Room**  
Rub elbows with congressmen, senators and maybe even the president at one of the city's best—and most politically charged—restaurants: The Oval Room. [ovalroom.com](http://ovalroom.com)



## WHERE TO STAY // The Mandarin Oriental

Stay in the only hotel with direct access to the Jefferson Memorial, not to mention a wine collection that dates back to 1834. [mandarinoriental.com/washington](http://mandarinoriental.com/washington)

## MORNING // Smithsonian National Museum of American History

With nearly 300,000 square feet of exhibit space, there's always something new to discover here. [americanhistory.si.edu](http://americanhistory.si.edu)



## AFTERNOON // Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

With Inauguration Day falling on MLK Day this year, there's no better place to witness history being made. [nps.gov/mlkm](http://nps.gov/mlkm)

## Outdoor Adventurer

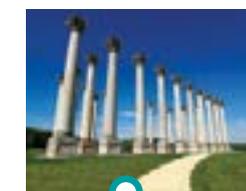


## WHERE TO STAY // W Washington, D.C.

Start your stay at the W with a drink on the rooftop at P.O.V., followed by dinner on the patio. The Bliss Spa will soothe your tired muscles after a bike ride. [whotels.com/washingtondc](http://whotels.com/washingtondc)

## MORNING // C&O Canal Towpath

Runners and bikers will love this nearly 185-mile path, a dirt trail running along the Potomac River. [bikewashington.org/canal](http://bikewashington.org/canal)



## AFTERNOON // U.S. National Arboretum

For a dose of history and nature, head to this arboretum, home to 446 acres of trees, shrubs and plants—and columns from the original U.S. Capitol. [usna.usda.gov](http://usna.usda.gov)

## DINNER // Birch & Barley

After a long day, nothing is better than a cold beer. Here you'll find a collection of 500+ artisanal beers, perfect alongside house-made charcuterie and truffled mac & cheese. [birchandbarley.com](http://birchandbarley.com)



## The Whole Family



**AFTERNOON // Washington Harbour**  
The District welcomes two new ice-skating rinks this season, including a 11,800-square-foot waterfront rink at Washington Harbour.



Get here via Reagan National Airport (DCA).

## DINNER // Firefly

At the newly renovated Firefly, kids decorate their own cookies before a dinner of kid-friendly food. For dessert? Their own freshly baked cookie. [firefly-dc.com](http://firefly-dc.com)



## MORNING // The National Zoo

Check out the new American Trail exhibit at the Smithsonian zoo, which features current and past endangered North American animals. [nationalzoo.si.edu](http://nationalzoo.si.edu)



## WHERE TO STAY // The Hay-Adams

Book your stay at the first family's temporary residence before they moved into the White House. There are plenty of connecting rooms, plus fresh cookies upon arrival. [hayadams.com](http://hayadams.com)

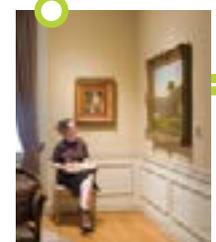
## Art Lover



**WHERE TO STAY // Dupont Circle Hotel**  
In the heart of Washington sits the gorgeous Dupont Circle Hotel, a Doyle Collection boutique property within walking distance of the nation's best galleries. [doylecollection.com](http://doylecollection.com)

## MORNING // The Phillips Collection

Head down the block to The Phillips Collection, one of the best collections of modern and impressionist art in the country (think O'Keeffe, Renoir and van Gogh). [phillipscollection.org](http://phillipscollection.org)



## AFTERNOON // Bourbon Steak

Make lunch reservations at this steak and seafood spot inside The Four Seasons, home to an impressive collection of more than 1,650 pieces of American art. [bourbonsteakdc.com](http://bourbonsteakdc.com)

## EVENING // The Kennedy Center

The center offers everything from dance to opera and, next month, a Nordic festival during which the northern lights will be projected onto the building. [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org)



## Foodie



**WHERE TO STAY // St. Regis Washington, D.C.**  
Check into the luxe St. Regis Hotel, home to Alain Ducasse's Adour, a nightly Champagne sabering ritual and the best room service in town. [stregis.com/washingtondc](http://stregis.com/washingtondc)

For weekend brunch, make your way to nearby Arlington, Virginia, and the meat-centric Green Pig Bistro. [greenpigbistro.com](http://greenpigbistro.com)

## LUNCH // Society Fair

Head to Alexandria, Virginia, and this market and wine bar from Cathal Armstrong, one of the area's most beloved chefs. [societyfair.net](http://societyfair.net)



## DINNER // Estadio

Small plates (think chorizo skewers and foie gras sandwiches) and house-made gin and tonics rule at one of D.C.'s most authentic Spanish tapas spots. [estadio-dc.com](http://estadio-dc.com)



## EVENING // The Columbia Room

Don't miss the drink tasting menu at The Columbia Room, a 10-seat bar renowned for its craft cocktails and personalized service, not to mention the hand-carved ice. [passengerdc.com/columbia](http://passengerdc.com/columbia)



FOR PHOTO CREDITS, SEE PAGE 79.