

# White House tour Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Q: How soon in advance do I need to book a tour?**

**A:** *The White House will accept requests for tours up to 6 months in advance of the actual tour date. Due to the high demand for White House tours, it is recommended that you submit your tour request as early as possible within a 6 month window.*

**Q: What is the process for White House tour requests?**

**A:** *Once we receive your available dates and security information for a White House tour, a member of my staff will submit your tour request to the White House Visitors Office. The White House Visitors Office schedules tours on a first come, first serve basis, and only offers a limited number of tickets. Our office is notified one to two weeks in advance of the requested tour as to whether or not they can accommodate your request.*

**Q: How will I know if my White House tour request has been approved?**

**A:** *My office will notify you as to whether or not the requested White House tour is possible. White House notification usually arrives one to two weeks before the tour date.*

**Q: What forms of identification do I need to bring with me for my tour?**

**A:** *All guests 16 years of age or older will be required to present a valid, government-issued photo identification (detailed below). All foreign nationals must present their passport. All other forms of foreign identification will not be accepted.*

*All information submitted (e.g. name, date of birth, city, etc.) must exactly match the government-issued photo ID you will present when arriving at the White House.*

*The following forms of photo ID are acceptable for presentation upon entry to the White House complex:*

*Valid government-issued United States identification card (e.g. drivers license, military ID, etc.)*

*Valid United States or other official government-issued passports*

*No other forms of identification will be accepted; photocopies, expired IDs, or other transmissions of these documents are NOT valid.*

**Q: What items are I prohibited from bringing on my White House tour?**

**A:** *Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- *Cameras or Video Recorders*
- *Handbags, book bags, backpacks or purses*
- *Food or beverages, tobacco products, personal grooming items (i.e. makeup, lotion, etc.)*
- *Strollers*
- *Any pointed objects*
- *Aerosol containers*
- *Guns, ammunition, fireworks, electric stun guns, mace, martial arts weapons/devices, or knives*

*The U.S. Secret Service reserves the right to prohibit any other personal items. Umbrellas, wallets, car keys, and cell phones (including those with cameras) are permitted. However, guests will not be allowed to use cell phones inside the White House. Phones used inside the White House may be confiscated by US Secret Service.*

*Please note that no storage facilities are available on or around the complex. Individuals who arrive with prohibited items will not be permitted to enter the White House.*

**Q: What is the best way to travel to the White House?**

**A:** *The closest Metrorail stations to the White House are Federal Triangle (blue and orange lines), Metro Center (blue, orange, and red lines) and McPherson Square (blue and orange lines). On-street parking is not available near the White House, and use of public transportation is strongly encouraged.*

**Q: How do I request a wheelchair for my tour?**

**A:** *Visitors scheduled for tours who require the loan of a wheelchair should notify the officer at the Visitors Entrance upon arrival. Unfortunately, reservations are not possible. Visitors in wheelchairs, or with other mobility disabilities, use the same Visitors Entrance and are escorted by ramp from the entrance level to the Ground floor, and by elevator from the Ground floor to the State floor.*

**Q: Are there accommodations for the hearing and visually-impaired?**

**A:** *When requesting a tour, please specify, if you have a hearing or visual impairment and require assistance during your White House tour. Guide animals are permitted in the White House.*

**Q: Does the White House have a Visitor Center?**

**A:** *All tours are significantly enhanced if visitors stop by the White House Visitor Center located at the southeast corner of 15th and E Streets, before or after their tour. The Center is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and features many aspects of the White House, including its architecture, furnishings, first families, social events, and relations with the press and world leaders, as well as a thirty-minute video. Allow between 20 minutes and one hour to explore the exhibits. The White House Historical Association also sponsors a gift shop. Please note that restrooms are available, but food service is not.*

**Q: How can I contact the White House to be notified of any last minute changes to my tour?**

**A:** *All visitors should call the 24-hour Visitors Office information line at 202-456-7041 to determine if any last minute changes or cancellations have been made in the tour schedule.*