



# Washington, D.C.

## A Traveler's Recollection

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# Day 1: Takeoff

*April 10, 2022*

The first day was a tiring adventure. We woke up at early hours and sleepily boarded the plane that would take us to D.C.

Once we landed, we took the Metro into the central part of the city. We received cards for our nice hotel.

Soon after, we walked to the White House. I was impressed by the giant structures in the city. I also noticed many people protesting. It was clear that the area was politically active.



# Expectations

## *And Reality*

Going into D.C., I had high hopes for the city. Being the nation's capital, I expected grand structures, clean roads and sidewalks, and beautiful buildings. The reality was, while the structures were definitely grand, not all the roads were clean, and the buildings were not all beautiful. There was plenty of litter, malodorous sections, and stained shops. Additionally, there was a lot of construction in the area, which was an eyesore in some places.

It was not all bad, however. Our first meal took place at the Hard Rock Cafe, at which I ate a burger that was quite delicious. I was starving, so perhaps that made it taste better.

Overall, the first day was good. It was a far-cry from what I was expecting, but that wasn't necessarily a bad thing. The places that were taken care of were certainly beautiful, and the Hard Rock Cafe was great.

# Day 2: Zoo Crew

*April 11, 2022*

It was strange to wake up on the second day in a hotel. My roommate and I overslept a bit and we were 5 minutes late.

Once we left the hotel, took the Metro and then walked to the National Zoo. It was very cool. They even had pandas.

Later, we walked to the National Archives which held important original documents such as the Constitution. I am grateful to have seen something so important.



# Thoughts

## *And Opinions*

My roommate's alarm was set for 5am. Therefore, we woke up at 5am. Unfortunately, we almost immediately fell back asleep and did not awake until it was too late. We rushed down to breakfast as fast as we could, and our teacher filmed us being late.

I thought the Zoo was pretty cool. There were a lot of amazing animals and it was really fun to go explore with my friends. We tried doing a magic trick for an orangutan, but it wasn't impressed.

We got some snacks and then made our way to the National Archives. There was a bit of a line to see the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights, but it was pretty cool once we got through the line. The writing was faded and very fancy, I couldn't read most of it.

# Day 3: Cemetery

*April 12, 2022*

On the third day, we were on time for breakfast. Breakfast was good, I had potatoes, eggs, and fruit.

We walked to Arlington Cemetery. This cemetery is one of the hardest to get into. It is mainly for soldiers who fought in wars.

We also later went to the Library of Congress. There was a lot of art and a lot of books. We saw the original Gutenberg Bible in there.



# Thoughts

## *And Opinions*

I'm glad we made it down on time for breakfast. Our teacher was late on this day so in my eyes I'd say we're even.

Arlington cemetery is huge. Everywhere you look there are graves and graves. At the cemetery we were able to watch a changing-of-the-guard ceremony. The timing was perfect and there were so many procedures that must've taken forever to memorize. The whole area near the Tomb of the Unknown was really impressive.

We went to the Ronald Reagan food court after that and I had some teriyaki chicken. It was pretty good. After that, we walked to the Library of Congress which was also very impressive. We saw original maps made hundreds of years ago and I was so surprised by how detailed they were.

# Day 4: Mt. Vernon

*April 13, 2022*

On the third day we went to Mount Vernon, the old home of George Washington.

We walked through his mansion and saw all the rooms. He had a lot of art.

After the house tour, we walked around the mountain and saw his tomb.



# Thoughts

## *And Opinions*

Mount Vernon was pretty cool. It was interesting to learn more about one of the founding fathers of our country. He had a very nice view looking into the river at the back of his house.

Later in the day, we went to a few museums such as the Smithsonian National Museum of history. Nathan was very interesting in the section about coins and currency. At the bottom of the building they had flight simulators for spaceships and stuff, but it was too expensive so we didn't go on.

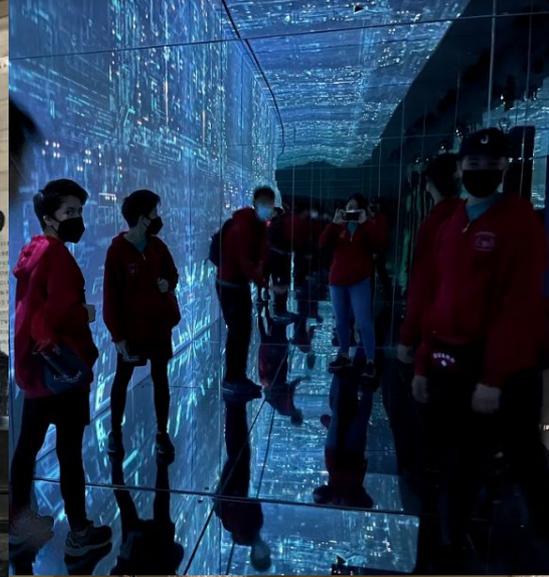
# Day 5: Agent 007

*April 14, 2022*

On the fourth day we went to the International Spy Museum. It was a very interactive museum which was really cool.

I learned a lot in that museum, I was actually really interested in everything that was going on.

Later, we went to the Capitol, the Holocaust Museum, and the Jefferson Memorial to sum up the trip.



# Thoughts

## *And Opinions*

The International Spy Museum was great. There were so many little games that we were able to do. We watched a bunch of documentary episodes as well which were great. When we entered the museum, we each got a badge and our own codename and codeword. At the end of the museum, you turn in your badge to see your spy capabilities. I lost my badge though, so I couldn't do that.

The Capitol Building was majestic. The statues they had inside of influential people were also really cool. I'm glad I was able to enter such an important building. The Jefferson Memorial was also really elegant, but it started pouring hard not long after we got there. We took cover in the little book store they had.

# Reflection

Overall, the trip was amazing and I had a great time. I'm sad it went by so fast. I'm really grateful for my parents who were able to send me on the trip, it was an experience unlike most I've had.

The buildings and monuments were amazing. I left some of them out because there was simply too much, but I hope that one day I can look back on this memory book and remember the great time I had.