



# LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Visitor's Guide

### Entrances

The Library occupies three buildings on Capitol Hill. The Library of Congress Experience is located in the Jefferson Building, which is directly east of the U.S. Capitol Building. The visitors' entrance is through the Main Doors at the top of the Grand Staircase facing First Street, SE between Independence Avenue and East Capitol Street.

### Accessibility

The Library buildings are fully accessible and we provide wheelchairs during your visit. The ADA entrance for visitors to the Jefferson Building is at the Driveway level below the Grand Staircase.

### Visit us

Thomas Jefferson Building  
10 First Street S.E.  
Washington, DC 20540

1<sup>st</sup> street SE, between Independence Avenue and East Capital Street

### Hours

Thomas Jefferson Building – The Library of Congress Experience  
Monday – Saturday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

James Madison Memorial Building  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

John Adams Building  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Friday, Saturday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

All buildings are closed to the public on Sundays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Madison and Adams buildings are closed all other federal holidays.

Hours for researchers may vary. Please visit <http://www.loc.gov/rr/hours.html>.

### Upon arrival

Begin a visit to the Library of Congress is the Thomas Jefferson Building. You will enter the building through the main doors at the top of the grand staircase, facing 1st street S.E. Upon arrival, visitors can request information on the new Library of Congress Experience, tours and exhibitions, pick up a passport to knowledge; as well as the many public programs that the Library sponsors.

### Security (entry and exit procedures)

All visitors entering any Library building must pass through airport-like security. All belongings will be screened by an x-ray machine and each individual will pass through a metal detector. All those exiting any Library building must pass through an electronic theft detection system and open all bags, etc., for inspection.

### Metro

The closest Metro Stations are Capitol South (Blue/Orange line - a 2 block walk) or Union Station (Red line - a half mile walk).

### Parking

The Library does not provide parking. Limited metered and 2-hour zoned parking is available in the surrounding neighborhoods. Public Parking lots are also available, with the largest being at Union Station.

### Admissions and Ticketing

Admission to the Library is free and no tickets are required for admission.

### Tours

The Library of Congress offers hour-long, fully accessible docent-led tours of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building. During your tour you will learn about the Building's symbolic art and architecture and view the grandeur of the Main Reading Room. Check in is at the ground floor information desk. Guided tours are not required to visit the Library. You are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the Great Hall and Exhibitions.

Tour Schedule: Monday – Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.\*

\*no 3:30 p.m. tour on Saturdays and first tour is at 9:30 a.m. on Federal Holidays. Please check at Ground Floor tour desk for tour availability.

### Shop

The Library of Congress Shop offers unique items from the Library's wide collection, which includes exhibit related items, facsimiles, souvenirs, prints and photographs, and books for the whole family. Come share the gift of knowledge and support the Library's mission of preservation and education!

The Library of Congress Shop  
Location: Thomas Jefferson Building, Ground Floor  
Hours: Monday–Saturday 9:30a.m. – 5:00p.m.; 8:30a.m. – 4:00p.m. on holidays. (202) 707-3895

### Cloakroom

The Library has three cloakrooms throughout the campus. The Cloakroom designated for visitors is located on the Ground Floor of the Jefferson Building. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Visitor Guidelines

Visitors to the Library of Congress are asked to follow some general guidelines

- Please dispose of all food, drink, and chewing gum, and turn off cell phones and other electronic devices before touring the Library.
- Be prepared to pass through airport-like security as you enter the Library and to present all packages, purses, backpacks, etc., for inspection as you exit.
- Please do not block doorways, stairwells, or corridors or sit on stairs or floors. Seating is provided throughout the building.
- Please watch your step. Always use handrails when ascending and descending stairs.
- Please respect any areas that may be roped off.
- Please observe restrictions on photography.
- Only researchers may enter the Library's Reading Rooms.
- In the event of an emergency, please move towards the nearest exit and follow police and emergency staff directions.
- Chaperones must remain with student groups at all times. The Library asks that one adult accompany every eight students.

### Questions? Contact us...

Visitor Information:  
(202) 707-8000 or [vso@loc.gov](mailto:vso@loc.gov)