



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Information for Visiting Public

Entrances

The Library occupies three buildings on Capitol Hill. Most visitors first come to the historic Thomas Jefferson Building, located directly east of the U.S. Capitol Building. The Main Entrance is at the top of the Grand Staircase facing First Street, SE.

Accessibility

The Library buildings are fully accessible with elevators to all levels. The ADA entrance for visitors to the Jefferson Building is at the driveway level beneath the Grand Staircase. Wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis from the Jefferson Building Ground Floor Information Desk for use during your visit. Braille brochures are available.

Security (entry/exit procedures)

Visitors entering any building must pass through a metal detector and have their belongings screened by an x-ray machine staffed by U.S. Capitol Police (USCP). Certain items may not be brought into Library buildings. Weapons are prohibited items and include, but are not limited to, firearms, explosives, knives, razors, and box-cutters. Suitcases larger than 25" w x 15" h and bags that will not fit on the x-ray belts are prohibited. No provisions are made for holding prohibited items. All those exiting any building must pass through an electronic theft detection system and open bags for inspection by USCP.

Hours for Visiting Public*

Thomas Jefferson Building
10 First Street S.E.
Washington, DC 20540
Monday–Saturday
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
*1st street SE, between Independence Avenue
and East Capitol Street*

James Madison Memorial Building
101 Independence Ave SE
Monday–Saturday
8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

John Adams Building
10 Second Street S.E.
Monday–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 and all reading rooms are closed on all federal holidays.

***Researcher hours and access vary; for details, visit www.loc.gov/rr/hours.html.**

Metro/Parking

The closest Metro Stations are Capitol South (**Blue/Orange/Silver** line—a 2 block walk) or Union Station (**Red** line—a ½ mile walk).

The Library does not provide parking. Limited metered and 2-hour zoned parking is available in the surrounding neighborhoods. Limited public parking options include Union Station.

Admissions and Ticketing

Admission to the Library is free and no tickets or reservations are required for admission. Visitors are welcome to visit the Great Hall and exhibitions at their own pace using available printed materials or to participate in a guided tour (see below). Unscheduled groups of 20 or more are asked to sign in at an Information Desk and list a contact phone number in case a member of the group gets separated.

Upon arrival

Enter the historic Thomas Jefferson Building through the main doors at the top of the grand staircase, facing 1st street S.E. Upon arrival, stop at any of four information desks to pick up a brochure, which is available in several languages, or to find out what to do during a visit and what exhibitions are on view. Options include guided tours and gallery talks, as well as other on-site activities.

Guided Tours

The Library of Congress offers hour-long, fully accessible docent-led tours of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building. The tour includes discussion of the building's symbolic art and architecture and the history and work of the nation's oldest federal cultural institution.

Space on public walk-in tours is available on a first-come, first-served basis for groups of fewer than 10. To join a public walk-in tour, please check in at the **Visitor Tour** area on the Ground Floor approximately 20 minutes before the times listed below.

Tour Schedule:

Monday–Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.*, 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.*

*No 12:30 or 3:30 p.m. tours offered on Saturdays; the first tour on Federal Holidays is at 9:30 a.m.

Guided tours for groups of 10 or more may be reserved in advance by requesting a group reservation at www.loc.gov/visit.

Questions about visiting?

See www.loc.gov or contact the

Visitor Services Office

(202) 707–8000 or vso@loc.gov

Shop

The Library of Congress Shop offers unique items inspired by the Library's collections, including exhibition related items, facsimiles, souvenirs, prints and photographs, and books for the whole family. Shop is located on the Ground Floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

Hours: Monday–Saturday 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Holiday hours: 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

(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.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. [This Cloakroom closes at 4:30 p.m. on Federal Holidays.]

Dining

Cafés and other food areas are available in the Library of Congress buildings. Two dining and food service areas are located in the James Madison Memorial Building (Ground Floor and 6th Floor), one in the John Adams Building (1st Floor). A coffee bar is available at the tunnel level of the Jefferson Building, and vending machines are also available. Request information and directions at the Information Desks.

Visitor Guidelines

Visitors to the Library of Congress are asked please to follow these guidelines:

- Dispose of all open food, drink, and chewing gum before the start of a Library visit.
- Turn cell phones and other electronic devices to silent mode before touring the Library.
- Do not block doorways, stairwells, or corridors or sit on steps or floors. Benches are provided throughout the building.
- Watch your step. Use handrails on staircases as steps may be uneven.
- Observe signage and respect areas that are restricted or roped off.
- Photography is permitted throughout; please observe posted restrictions on flash photography.
- Only registered researchers may enter the Library's Reading Rooms to use the collections.
- In the event of an emergency, please move towards the nearest exit and follow police and staff directions.
- **Chaperones are responsible for their students' behavior and whereabouts.** The Library asks that one adult accompany every eight students. Chaperones must remain with students at all times.