

2011 Bike Tour FAQs

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, District of Columbia

Frequently Asked Questions

- What time do the tours begin?* All tours begin at 1 p.m. except for the Family Tours.
- What time do the Family Tours begin?* Family Tours begin at 10:00 a.m.
- Where do the tours begin?* All tours (including Family Tours) begin at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
- How long do the tours last?* All tours last for *three hours* except for the Family Tours.
- How long do the Family Tours last?* Family Tours last for *two hours*.
- When are tours given? 2011 tour dates have changed from prior years;* please see the Schedule of Events Calendar or newspaper for dates and topics.
- When are the Family Tours given?* 2011 tour dates have changed from prior years; please see the Schedule of Events Calendar or newspaper for dates and topics.
- Is there a charge for the tours?* NO. All tours are FREE.
- If the tours are free, there must be a catch...?* A slight one... you must provide your own bike and helmet.
- Are helmets required?* YES. Everyone who participates on our tours MUST wear a helmet.
- What should I bring with me?* You MUST bring your own bike and your own helmet. Water and snacks are good options; maybe a camera?
- I want to participate on your tours but I don't have a bike. Can I rent one locally?* Yes. Visit www.bikewashington.org/rentals for a full list of bike rental shops in the Washington, D.C. area.
- Do I have to be an excellent rider to participate?* No. Our tours are a fun and easy way to learn about the history of Washington, D.C. from our experienced National Park Service staff. Anyone who can ride a bike can join our tours.
- How far do we travel during your tours?* Every tour is different (as our schedule indicates) to allow every ranger the full opportunity to provide the most in-depth tour possible. So, depending on the tour topic and the rangers giving the tour, mileage varies from about 5-10 miles.
- Do I need to make reservations for your tours?* No. Reservations are not required for most tours/programs. Some special tours may require reservations, however. Check schedule for details.
- I'm concerned about bicycle safety in an urban setting. What training have your National Park Service Rangers completed?* Great question! We use a nationally recognized bicycle training program through the *League of American Bicyclists*. Two of our rangers are *League Certified Instructors* (LCI's) while all other members of our staff have completed the *Road II* course. For more information on the *League of American Bicyclists*, check out their webpage on our Links section. Relax, enjoy the ride, and leave the rest to us!
- Are your Rangers Red Cross certified as well?* Yes! All members of our Ranger-Bike Tour staff have completed the **Red Cross Basic First Aid and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer**.
- What is the nearest Metro Station to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial?* The *Smithsonian Station* is the closest. The station is located near the intersection of Independence Avenue and 12th Street SW.
- Can I take my bike on Metro?* Yes. Please visit: <http://www.wmata.com/metrorail/bikeonrails.cfm> for more information.
- I'm driving to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. How do I get there and where do I park?*

- *From I-395 North* – Cross the 14th Street Bridge over the Potomac River and take the first exit for East Potomac Park. Turn Right at the first stop sign (onto Buckeye Drive) then turn Right at the second stop sign (onto Ohio Drive). The Potomac River will be on your left. You will approach three small parking lots on your right. Park in any of these and ride to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
- *From I-395 South* – Take the first exit after the Maine Avenue split – East Potomac Park. Turn Right at the first stop sign. Turn Right at the second stop sign (onto Buckeye Drive) then turn Right at the third stop sign (onto Ohio Drive). The Potomac River will be on your left. You will approach three small parking lots on your right. Park in any of these and ride to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
- *From I-66* – Cross the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge over the Potomac River and take the Independence Avenue exit. Off the exit continue straight to the stop sign. Once through the stop sign get into the right lane. You will bear off to the right after you pass under the overpasses, keeping the Potomac River on your right. You are now on Ohio Drive driving toward the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Continue over the small bridge keeping the river on your right. You will pass under the 14th Street Bridges. The three small parking lots will be on your left. Park in any of these and ride to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
- *From 15th Street NW* – Pass the Washington Monument going south. Stay in the right lane as you approach the Tidal Basin and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Continue around the Tidal Basin and drive *past* the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to the stop sign. (*Disregard any cars parked in front of the Memorial. They are illegally parked!*) Turn left, pass under the 14th Street Bridges, the three small parking lots will be on your left. Park in any of these and ride to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

More Questions?

***Contact Information:**

Visit the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) website for up to date information on upcoming programs: walking, jogging, and bike tours: www.nps.gov/nama - **Plan Your Visit**

(For some visitors the newspaper listings are easier reading, so try the following:

<http://www.nps.gov/nama/parknews/newspaper.htm> (see “**Click Here**” for current issue)

Newspapers may also be picked up in the park at memorial sites and Survey Lodge.

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Thank You and Great Riding