

Lincoln Bicentennial 2009 Tour
In honor of the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809
Lincoln in Washington, DC

Meet your Group Tour Company escort/guide and motorcoach at your hotel or meeting place; while the focus of this tour will be Lincoln in Washington it can be adapted for length and other sites groups want to visit.

Suggested Lincoln Sites to view or visit include:

- **Willard Hotel** – Central to Washington’s political life this hotel is famous for its guests and its Lobbyists. In February 1861, President-Elect Lincoln and his family were smuggled into the hotel on the eve of his inauguration avoiding public exposure and possible assassination attempts.
- **United States Capitol** – Lincoln was a congressman before president, elected to the United States House of Representatives from Illinois, August 3, 1846. He lived in a nearby boarding house. As president he pushed for completion of the Capitol’s cast-iron dome admonishing his critics that it would be “a sign we intend the Union shall go on.” *(Groups could either do an exterior tour or enjoy the informative and interactive exhibits in the new Capitol Visitors Center. Timed-entry tickets are required for tours of the Capitol building and are also available in advance).*
- **Lunch at own expense** – suggest the variety of restaurants along the vibrant 7th Street Corridor. Known by many names this area is the home of Washington’s very own Chinatown and the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery and American Art Museum. Historically this was Washington’s first paved street and the heart of business and commerce. Today, many different cuisines tempt appetites.
- **White House** – You may not get a chance to sleep in the Lincoln bedroom or even to meet Lincoln’s ghosts but request from your congressional delegation a tour of the “public rooms” of the executive residence. Both happy and sad times were with the Lincolns here, but certainly the best were when sons, Willie and Tad, played soldiers on the grounds. Next door, at the site of what is now the Old Executive Office Building, stood in Lincoln’s day the War Department where the president could often be found at its telegraph office awaiting news from the front.
- **Lincoln Cottage at the Old Soldiers’ Home** – A rare treat is in store for your group if time permits by a visit to the Camp David of Lincoln’s day. This was the Lincoln family’s summer retreat and getaway from June to November in 1862, 1863 and 1864. The president would commute to the White House for his day job but be back in the evenings.

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- **Ford's Theatre** – Lincoln loved the theatre and he was enjoying a comedy, “Our American Cousin,” at Ford’s on the night of April 14, 1865, with Mary Todd beside him. John Wilkes Booth shot the president that evening during the performance. Lincoln’s dying body was carried across the street to the **Petersen House** where he died at 7:22 am the next day. (*Timed entry tickets are now required for tours and National Park Service presentations; a museum is expected to be open in June 2009 further illustrating the events of the assassination*).
- **Lincoln Statue** – Washingtonians were greatly affected by the assassination and within days of the president’s death started raising funds to erect a statue in his honor. This first statue in Washington was dedicated three years after Lincoln’s death in front of City Hall, now a United States Courthouse.
- **Emancipation Monument** – In a quiet Capitol Hill neighborhood this monument to the January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation stands. Funds for the project came solely from emancipated slaves. Dedicated on April 14, 1876, this statue of Lincoln and a freed slave compliments the more modern Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial also in Lincoln Park.
- **Lincoln Memorial** – This memorial to Abraham Lincoln contains the colossal seated statue of the 16th president by Daniel Chester French between the inspirational words of the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address. Since its completion in 1922, the memorial has become a symbol of the dialogue and celebration of America’s diversity.
- **Museum Exhibits** – There are many current exhibits on Lincoln and his times. Most notable are exhibits at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the National Museum of American History and the National Portrait Gallery. These can be incorporated in your tour or recommended for self-guided tours.

Itinerary & Pricing Notes:

- This tour can be customized for your group’s time and interest and can be expanded to include other sites and memorials.
- Pricing depends on length of tour, as well as date and times. The Group Tour Company can give you a price per person, or a price for an entire motorcoach depending on your needs. We do not, however, take individual participant checks.