

Is This Your First Trip To Washington D.C.?

Don't panic. This is very exciting! You are visiting our Nation's Capital! And, Washington D.C. is one of the easiest cities to travel in. So let's get started with your options.

There are three airports that serve the Washington D.C. area: For information log on to: <http://www.mwaa.com> and select the airport of your choice.

- Reagan National Airport (DCA) – located in the heart of metropolitan D.C. and the closest airport to the conference facilities;
- Dulles International Airport (IAD) – about 30 miles from the hotel;
- Baltimore Washington International (BWI) – about 40 miles from the hotel. There is rail transportation from this airport to DC, as well as bus transportation, check out their website for more info: <http://www.bwiairport.com/en/travel/ground-transportation> Both AMTRAK and MARC provide connections.

From Reagan National Airport (DCA) your best travel option to the conference hotel is the courtesy Hyatt Airport Shuttle. The shuttle picks up at A Terminal (2nd Curb by the marked Hotel Shuttle stop location) and B & C Terminal Arrivals, Door 5 and Door 9 (1st Curb by the marked Hotel Shuttle stop location). The shuttle departs the hotel for the DCA every 20 minutes on the hour from 4:40am – 12:00am. (Times subject to change.)

A second option is the Metro Subway Blue and Yellow lines. The Hyatt Regency Crystal City is located about a 10 minute walk from the Crystal City Metro Station.

The Washington D.C. Metro system is very clean, safe and easy to ride. Log on to <http://www.wmata.com> . From there you can download information on maps and stations, schedules and fares, how to travel etc. Follow the maps as you read the directions below so that you can see where you need to go.

Metro Travelers from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport: After you get your baggage look for the ground transportation signs and find one that leads you to the Metro Station. You will come to an area where metro cards are sold.

Go to one of these machines and follow the instructions for putting your money in to receive a pass. How much you enter depends on how much traveling in the area you think you will be doing. You can always add to the ticket later on. There is a minimum fare. After the machine takes your money an amount will flash on the screen. You can opt for less money than you put in at this time by pushing the down keys until you get to the right amount. Then push the button to receive the paper fare card and change, if needed. If you choose to use this paper ticket system you will be charged an extra amount (usually \$1.00 per trip) so take that into account when purchasing your fare card. As you go through the gates you will put your fare card into a slot. It will pop back out and you will remove it from the slot. The gate will open and you may go on through to the train platform.

If you plan to use the Metro multiple times consider buying a permanent rechargeable metro pass called a SmarTrip® Card. It's plastic, like a credit card, and is embedded with a special computer chip that keeps track of the value on the card. Using a SmarTrip® card is fast and easy. Instead of inserting a fare card through the Metrorail fare gate slot, you simply touch the SmarTrip® card to the circular targets on top of or inside station fare gates. Likewise, you can tap the SmarTrip® fare box on Metrobus to pay your fare with SmarTrip®. The gate will open and you may go on through to the train platform. To purchase a SmarTrip Card on-line go to:

<http://www.wmata.com/fares/smartrip/>

Once you go through the gate there will be a platform on both sides. A large brown pole will have a name on it which will indicate the end station on the line that serves the station you are in. Both the Blue and Yellow lines go to and from the airport. You must take the Blue line traveling toward Franconia OR the Yellow line toward Huntington to get to the Crystal City Metro Station. Find the pole that says Franconia or Huntington. Get on that side of the platform. The trains will have a colored light on the engine over the window that will indicate the color of the line.

Dulles International Airport is about 30 miles from the hotel. A taxi will cost more than \$50. The Super Shuttle can also take you to the hotel for about \$30 one way. Check the cost on the web site.

You can also fly into Baltimore-Washington International (BWI). It is also about 40 miles from Washington D.C. Taxi will cost about \$70 one way. Both Amtrak and the Marc train go into Union Station. Union Station is on the Red line. To get to the hotel, go toward Shady Grove and change to the Blue line at Metro Center going toward Franconia.

Look on the www.icep.org web site and find the PILD Guide to Visiting Washington D.C. for places to go and things to see.

Edited 1/19/17