



# White House Tour Guide for Embassies

Spring 2025

# INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to offer visitors to the United States the opportunity to experience our Nation's history and learn about the U.S. Presidency by touring the White House. White House tours are free of charge and available to the public. White House tours for foreign nationals may be facilitated by embassies through the Office of the Chief of Protocol. We thank you for your partnership in assisting your citizens in experiencing a visit to the White House.

Tours of the White House include the public rooms in the East Wing and the Residence, which include the Vermeil Room, the Library, the China Room, the Blue Room, Red Room, Green Room, the State Dining Room, and a view of the White House Kennedy Garden. Secret Service Officers are stationed along the tour route and are available to answer questions about each room's history, art, furnishings, current uses, and beyond.

There are two types of White House tours available to Embassies:

- 1) **VIP Tour:** Ambassadors, Ambassador Spouses, Chargé d'Affaires, Chargé d'Affaires Spouses, Deputy Chiefs of Mission, and Deputy Chief of Mission Spouses are granted the privilege to reserve a special guided tour for up to 6 per day on a first-come, first-served basis. One of the four individuals noted above must escort the group during their tour or check in with the White House office at their tour time in order to drop the group off at the gate.

VIP tours typically take place at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday-Saturday, except Federal holidays.

- 2) **Public White House Tour for Foreign Nationals:** Foreign nationals may participate in self-guided tours of the White House with a maximum capacity of 6 people per request. A reservation is required, and availability is limited.

Public tours are typically available from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, except Federal holidays.

Embassies should submit all tour requests to the Office of the Chief of Protocol through the eGov system. Tour requests should not be submitted via email. The Protocol office will review your request and provide an update regarding tour availability and scheduling.

Tour schedules may change at any time, with little notice, due to inclement weather or scheduling conflicts, even after your tour is confirmed. You can find public information on White House Tours [here](#) and common FAQs about public tours [here](#).

# BOOKING WHITE HOUSE TOURS

## VIP Tour Reservations

VIP Tours are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and are extended as a courtesy to Ambassadors, Chargé d’Affaires, and Deputy Chiefs of Mission. VIP Tours occur at 8:00 a.m. on active tour days and are not available any other time during the day. The Ambassadors, Ambassador Spouse, Chargé d’Affaires, Chargé d’Affaires Spouse, Deputy Chief of Mission, or Deputy Chief of Mission Spouse must be present to escort and the group must have a Diplomatic ID stating their title.

### Booking a VIP Tour

- VIP Tours must be booked via eGov.
- VIP Tour dates open 30 days in advance and reservations must be submitted at least 7 days before the desired tour.
- Slots are limited and cannot be booked if a given day is at capacity at the time of booking.
- VIP Tours are limited to 6 guests, including the tour host.
- A Protocol representative will review your request and check White House tour availability.
- Once booked by the Protocol representative, the group point-of-contact will receive a reservation email prompting each guest to RSVP by the specified deadline. This email does not serve as final confirmation of the tour.
  - This email prompts the point of contact (POC) to ensure all guests included in the tour request complete the RSVP by the designated deadline.
- All attendees must RSVP for the tour.
  - Security information must match exactly what appears on their government-issued ID.
  - If the information does not match, guests will be subject to delayed or denied entry.
- Special reminders for VIP Tours:
  - All confirmed VIP Tour groups must be escorted by a VIP Host and present Diplomatic ID with title indicated.
  - No group will be permitted on the tour without their VIP Host. If the group does not have a VIP Host with Diplomatic ID they will be denied entry.

## Public Tour Reservations

Foreign nationals may request a White House tour by working with their country’s embassy in the United States. All public White House tours are self-guided; however, U.S. Secret Service officers, multi-sensory reader rails, and additional educational content is positioned throughout the White House to answer questions and share facts and historical information.

### Booking a Public Tour

- Citizens of your country may contact your embassy to request a White House tour.
- You may request public tours on your constituents’ behalf via eGov.
- Public tour dates open 90 days in advance and reservations must be submitted at least 7 days before the desired tour.
- Public tour slots are limited and cannot be booked if a given day is at capacity at the time of booking.
- A Protocol representative will review your request and check White House tour availability.
- Once booked by the Protocol representative, the group point-of-contact will receive a reservation email prompting each guest to RSVP by the specified deadline. This email does not serve as final confirmation of the tour.
  - This email prompts the point of contact (POC) to ensure all guests included in the tour request complete the RSVP by the designated deadline.
- All attendees must RSVP for the tour.
  - Security information must match exactly what appears on their government-issued ID.
  - If the information does not match, guests will be subject to delayed or denied entry.

## RSVP Policies (All Visitors)

- Guests are responsible for submitting their security information online via the secure White House RSVP security link generated by the White House Tour Portal System.\*
- Security information cannot be edited by the White House Visitors Office once submitted.
- All guests regardless of age (to include infants, toddlers, and minors) must RSVP before each tour request RSVP deadline. The deadline is auto-generated to be exactly 72 hours to the minute after the tour request was submitted from the Protocol Representative to the White House.
- If guests do not RSVP by the deadline, the link will close and cannot be re-opened.
- The guest number will automatically adjust after the RSVP deadline based on the number of RSVPs received (i.e., if you request a tour for 5 and only 4 guests RSVP by the deadline, the tour will auto-adjust to 4 guests). Any slots not used will be returned back to the portal for other guests to claim.
- If the RSVP link closes without the guest's submission, the guest cannot attend the tour.

\*Important: All guests (**regardless of age, and including the group POC**) must register the following security information for a tour request to be considered complete.

Constituents will be prompted to enter the following information exactly as it appears on their government- issued ID.

- Legal first name
- Legal middle name
- Legal last name
- Social Security number OR Foreign National Identification number (Passport number, etc.)
- Sex
- Place of residency
- Date of birth

If there are any discrepancies between the information provided and the ID presented, guests may be subject to delayed or denied entry.

## RSVPs for Non-U.S. Citizens

Non-U.S. citizens must register using the same link as U.S. citizens. The guest should select “no” when answering the “Are you a U.S. citizen?” field. Non-U.S. citizens should not complete the Social Security number field. Nothing other than a Social Security number should be entered into the Social Security number field (i.e., do not enter a passport number in this field). Instead of completing the Social Security number field, non-U.S. citizens should complete the “Identification Type” and “Identification Number” fields.

For the city and state fields, they should enter “Washington” as the city and “District of Columbia” as the state, as that is where they will be visiting.

Non-U.S. citizens who plan to tour the White House must arrive in the United States at least 48 hours prior to their requested tour dates. We cannot guarantee timely clearance to non-U.S. citizens who arrive in the country fewer than 48 hours prior to their tour.

*Note: Non-U.S. Citizens should not enter any information in the SSN field.*

## No White House Tours Available?

Due to the high interest in touring the White House, tours may not always be available. If no tours are available on the date or time indicated by the constituent, you submit a new request in eGov for another date. Tours are added on a frequent basis.

# DAY-OF TOUR INFORMATION

Please note that the following guidelines apply to all tour participants, including VIP tours and public tours.

## Arrival Information

- The White House tour entrance is located in Sherman Park at 15th Street NW and Alexander Hamilton Place NW.
- If arriving by rideshare, guests are advised to use the White House Visitor Center (WHVC) as the drop-off address (1450 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20230), which is one block from the White House.
- Uniformed National Park Service Rangers are posted on the corner to assist groups as they arrive.
- Groups should arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled tour time. Late arrivals will not be accommodated.
- Guests MAY NOT swap tour times, dates, or attempt to enter earlier or later than their designated tour time. If individuals arrive at a time other than their pre-assigned time, they will be denied entry.
- All guests and items entering the White House will be screened by U.S. Secret Service.
  - Individuals may be requested to consent to additional security questions or additional security procedures before they are admitted to the White House complex.
- Tour Coordinators should familiarize themselves with and advise guests on the prohibited items listed on the tour pass.
- Each group must present a copy of their Tour Pass for entry.
  - The Tour Pass may be printed or shown virtually on a mobile device. The Tour Pass can be found in the confirmation email sent to the group POC.

## Identification Requirements

All U.S. citizens ages 18 and older, and non-U.S. citizens of all ages (including children), must present a valid, government-issued photo ID upon arrival for their tour. Acceptable forms of identification are below:

U.S. Citizens:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License
- Valid U.S. Passport
- Valid U.S. Military ID

Non-U.S. Citizens:

- Valid Passport
- Valid Alien Registration Card
- Valid Permanent Resident Card
- Valid U.S. State Department Issued Diplomatic ID Card

A U.S. driver's license is not an acceptable form of identification for non-U.S. citizens. No foreign-issued state IDs, foreign-issued driver's licenses, expired passports, photocopies, other transmissions of these documents, or other forms of identification will be accepted. Individuals without acceptable identification, or whose identification does not exactly match the information previously registered, will be denied entry.

## Permitted Items

Baby carriers worn on the body, baby wipes, breast pumps, baby formulas and bottles, diaper bags, cell phones, compact cameras with lenses less than 3 inches long, diapers, umbrellas without metal tips, wallets, service animals, and all items needed for medical purposes (i.e., wheelchairs, EpiPens, medication, etc.).

## Prohibited Items

Aerosols, ammunition, bags of any kind (including fanny packs, clutches, backpacks, purses, luggage, and tote bags), cameras with detachable lenses, e-cigarettes and smoking paraphernalia of any kind, electric stun guns, fireworks, flags, food, guns,

knives of any kind, lighters, liquids, mace, martial arts weapons, metal water bottles, monopods, polaroid cameras, range finders, signs, strollers, tablets (iPads), tripods, tobacco products, toy weapons, video cameras, weapons/devices, any pointed object, and any other item determined to be a potential safety hazard.

Please note that storage facilities are not provided during your visit. Individuals who arrive with bags or prohibited items will not be permitted to enter the White House.

### **Accessibility**

The White House tour route is wheelchair accessible. A limited number of wheelchairs are available upon request to a U.S. Secret Service Officer the day of your tour.

All visitors use the East Wing Entrance to access the White House. Visitors who use a wheelchair or other mobility aid are escorted by ramp from the entrance level through the Ground Floor and then by elevator to the State Floor, and to the North Portico for departure. Registered service animals are permitted on the White House tour upon USSS Screening.

### **Getting to the White House**

Use of public transportation is strongly encouraged, as there is no parking available on the White House complex and street parking is limited. The closest Metrorail stations to the White House tour entrance (15th Street NW and Alexander Hamilton Place NW) are Federal Triangle (blue and orange lines), Metro Center (blue, orange, silver, and red lines), and McPherson Square (blue, orange, and silver lines).

### **Restrooms**

There are no public restrooms available inside the White House. Public restrooms are located at the White House Visitor Center, located at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230.

### **White House Visitor Center**

The White House Visitor Center, managed by the National Park Service, includes interactive multimedia, improved accessibility, and over 90 artifacts to discover. A visit to the White House Visitor Center can greatly enhance your constituents' White House Tour experience. The White House Visitor Center operates 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day. The White House Visitor Center is located at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (the corner of 15th St. NW and E Street NW) and is free to the public. The White House Visitor Center is free to the public and there is no ticket required.

### **What if a Foreign National does not Pass the U.S. Secret Service Background Check?**

The United States Secret Service conducts appropriate security checks on all visitors who plan to enter the White House Complex. At times, the results of these checks may lead the Secret Service to deny entry to a visitor. The reason for that denial is not accessible to White House Visitors Office Staff and cannot be shared publicly. If, after consideration of a guest's background, they are unable to determine why they were denied entry, they may file a Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act request. If an individual has been denied entry to the White House and would like to file a FOIA request, please visit: [www.secretservice.gov/foia/request](http://www.secretservice.gov/foia/request).

If an individual from a White House Tour group does not pass the U.S. Secret Service background check, the Protocol Representative and the group POC email will receive notification from the Visitors Office. Should the non-cleared guest arrive at the entry gate, they will be immediately turned away by U.S. Secret Service. If an individual from a tour request does not pass a background check, the remaining cleared guests in the tour group will be permitted entry for the White House Tour.

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## All guests must bring:

### **Tour Pass**

Once a tour is confirmed, the Congressional Tour Coordinator and Group POC will receive an email with their Tour Pass attached. All guests are required to present the Tour Pass on the day of their tour, either printed or on their phone. Only one pass is needed per group.

### **ID (U.S. Citizens)**

All U.S. citizens ages 18 and over must present a physical copy of a valid, government- issued photo ID. Driver's licenses, military IDs, and passports are all valid forms of identification. **All security information submitted to the White House using the RSVP link must match the valid, government-issued photo ID** presented to U.S. Secret Service on the day of their tour.

### **ID (non-U.S. Citizens)**

All non-U.S. citizens, regardless of age, must present a passport, green card (permanent resident card), or Diplomatic State ID. **All security information submitted to the White House using the RSVP link must match the valid, government-issued photo ID** presented to U.S. Secret Service on the day of their tour.

## Reminders:

- All guests, regardless of age, must submit their security information via the RSVP link prior to arrival.
- Minors (age 17 and younger) who are not accompanied by an adult guardian will be denied entry.
- Tours are self-guided and last approximately 45- 60 minutes.
- No food or drinks are allowed inside the White House. Please have a snack and hydrate before you arrive.
- Part of this tour is outdoors. Please dress and prepare appropriately for all weather conditions.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled tour time. Late arrivals may not be admitted.
- Please silence your cell phone and refrain from phone calls during the tour.
- Flash photography and video recording are not permitted during the tour.
- Furnishings and art in the White House are important pieces of our nation's history. Please refrain from touching, leaning on, or placing objects on any furnishings, art, or wall coverings.



# ARRIVAL MAP

