



National *Independence Day* Parade

July 4th

Historic Constitution Avenue *in* Washington, DC





HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

Nowhere is there greater excitement on America's birthday than in the nation's capital. The 2025 NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE in Washington, D.C., celebrating AMERICA'S 249TH BIRTHDAY, will take place at 11:45am on July 4th, on Historic Constitution Avenue – along the National Mall - from 7th to 17th Street before an enthusiastic audience of many thousands. The Parade consists of invited bands, military and specialty units, and floats - a patriotic, flag waving, red white and blue celebration of America's birthday.



This parade is hosted by the National Park Service and produced by Diversified Events, which is under contract to the National Park Service. Also involved is Music Celebrations International, which is proud to have selected and provided arrangements for bands marching in the National Independence Parade for several decades.

REPRESENTATION FROM ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE GOAL OF THE NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE. Bands must submit a recording, photos, and biographical information detailing experience, honors, past adjudication results, festival ratings, etc. Marching bands are selected on the basis of overall quality and geographical, ethnic and stylistic diversity.

The parade is a substantial part of the excitement of being in the nation's capital on July 4th. A National Folklife Festival on the National Mall features different cultures in the Americas and a variety of ethnic groups. That

evening, parade participants are part of the audience of "A CAPITOL FOURTH" - the PBS Concert at the Capitol Building, featuring the National Symphony Orchestra and one of the country's largest fireworks displays.

Nowhere else is there such a grand display of American patriotism than in Washington, D.C. on July 4th. Every participating band has enjoyed seeing the streets lined with thousands of people in red, white, and blue. The "Capitol Fourth" celebration is a great treat, the fireworks show is tops, and the atmosphere is inspiring. At this place and time, we put aside our differences and unite in celebrating the birth of this country and the freedoms it preserves.



SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day One: July 2

- Arrival in Washington, D.C.
- Meet your Tour Manager, who will escort you through the duration of your activities
- Sightseeing may include a panoramic motorcoach tour of Historic Washington, D.C., including a visit to Lafayette Square for a photo opportunity of the White House
- Check-in to the hotel
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Evening walking tour of the Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King and Vietnam Memorials
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Two: July 3

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial prior to a tour of Arlington National Cemetery and participate in a special wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (School/Government Issued ID required for entry for 16 years and older)*
- Tour the National Archives Building, home to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Evening walking tour of the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial
- *Optional: Dinner/Dance Cruise on the historic Potomac River (cost additional)*
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Three: July 4

- Early morning breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to parade staging area on the National Mall
- **Participate in the National Independence Day Parade on historic Constitution Avenue**
- Following the parade, bands are escorted to waiting motorcoaches where boxed lunch is provided
- Transfer to the hotel to change and relax (optional)
- Afternoon, depending on schedule, sightseeing continues and may include one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Attend "A Capitol Fourth" celebration on the Capitol Lawn, featuring the National Symphony concert and invited guest artists (seating is not reserved but on a first-come, first-served basis), followed by grand finale fireworks
- Return to the hotel for overnight

Day Four: July 5

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning check-out and board motorcoach
- Sightseeing to include Ford's Theater and the Peterson House
- Afternoon departure for home





WHY DC?

From its celebrated symbols of patriotism to its undiscovered neighborhoods, the sights and sounds of the nation’s capital inspire millions of visitors every year. Packed with famous sights, free attractions, and an endless calendar of special events, Washington, D.C. offers inspiring experiences.

Washington, D.C. is a town of much renown: it is a government town, a company town, a scandalous town and the political capital of the world. But Washington also has another significant distinction – it is a musical town. In a city that claims Duke Ellington, Pearl Bailey, Jelly Roll Morton and Shirley Horn, it is expected that jazz not only be appreciated, but showcased. John Philip Sousa, “The March King,” was a native of D.C. and conducted the U.S. Marine Band for a number of years.



YOUR INVITATION

Participating bands are invited based on recommendations from each state’s Governor’s office. Other times these recommendations come from a state’s music educators office or other music education organizations at the governor’s request.

Representation from all parts of the United States is the goal of the Parade National Selection Committee. Bands must submit a video recording, photos, and biographical information detailing experience, honors, past adjudication results, festival ratings, etc. The deadline for band applications is January 15th of the year of the parade the band is applying to participate in, and bands are notified of their acceptance no later than February 15th of the same year. Marching bands are selected on the basis of overall quality, as well as geographical, ethnic and stylistic diversity. It is the annual goal of the parade organizers to have at least one band or unit represent each of the 50 states of the union.

The Nation’s Capital offers unlimited excitement on July 4th in addition to the parade. A National Folklife Festival on the Mall features different cultures in the Americas and a variety of ethnic groups. That evening, parade participants are all part of the audience of the PBS Concert at the Capitol Building featuring the National Symphony Orchestra and one of the country’s largest fireworks displays. There is no greater location displaying greater excitement on America’s birthday than in our nation’s capital!



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