



THE 2009 AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

A Guide for Foreign Media from the Washington Foreign Press Center

THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE -- Updated 01/15/2009

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WELCOME TO WASHINGTON, DC

The 2009 inauguration of the 44th President of the United States is a historic moment for our country, and we are honored that so many journalists from around the world are interested in covering this special and unique event.

The below information is culled from several official sources and ***is subject to change***. The best way to stay informed is to sign up for press releases and announcements from the official inauguration team: the Presidential Inauguration Committee (PIC). You can do that at their Web site at www.pic2009.org; check the site frequently for updates and changes. We have also listed several other Internet resources in this guide to answer questions about security, logistics, travel, road closures, and other important details.

THE REAL DEAL – WHAT WILL THIS BE LIKE?

There are two main public events in the American president's inauguration: the swearing-in ceremony and parade, both held this year on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Other official but smaller events include the inaugural balls. There are also many non-official events surrounding the inauguration.

Due to the historic nature of this inauguration, the Washington, DC metropolitan area is expecting an unparalleled influx of visitors – from the general public to official dignitaries to media – to the area in the days surrounding the January 20 inauguration.

Media visiting Washington, DC to cover the inauguration should expect giant crowds and standing-room only at all events; lines for public transportation and security inspections that last for hours; massive streets closures that prevent driving; delays in public transportation; strict security guidelines on what equipment and supplies can be taken into inauguration event areas; and little or no access to public officials from either the incoming or outgoing federal administration.

While we don't want to discourage you from visiting our capital for this event, we believe that having realistic expectations will help you craft the best stories for your audience. We strongly encourage you to rely heavily on various wire services for photos, video, and stories about official events and to concentrate your reporting on the myriad other non-official events and scenes in the area.

It is easy to travel in the Washington, DC metropolitan area to cities like Annapolis – the capital of Maryland – or Baltimore, a historic city and the largest in Maryland. You can visit Virginia's capital city of Richmond, and many other towns and cities that have their own important ties to presidential history and, more importantly, will host their own inauguration-watching events and activities that you can cover much more easily. The intense interest of Americans who live in the region and who traveled thousands of miles to witness the inauguration will make an incredible story for you to share with your audiences. We also suggest that you talk to your country's embassy in Washington, DC to see what events they might be holding or if they can put you in touch with fellow citizens who can give their viewpoints on living in the United States during this historic election.

If you do plan to be in Washington, DC on inauguration day, please read the below information carefully to help you plan a successful and less stressful visit.

IMPORTANT MEDIA CONTACTS

President-Elect Obama's Transition Office

Phone: 202-540-3483

E-mail: press@ptt.gov

Web site: www.change.gov

The Presidential Inauguration Committee (PIC)

Phone: 202-203-1700

Web site: www.pic2009.org

The Washington Foreign Press Center (FPC)

Phone: 202-504-6300

Web site: <http://fpc.state.gov>

THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY – JANUARY 20, 2009

The Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony is on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol building at 11:30 am on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. The musical program begins at 10:00 am.

Media must have a special credential to attend the ceremony and sit in the media pen. The deadline to apply has passed and they are no longer accepting applications. The Senate Press Galleries are in the process of alerting media whether or not they have been granted a credential to the swearing-in ceremony. If you applied but have not received an answer yet, please wait until the week of January 12 to contact the appropriate U.S. Senate press gallery below:

Radio/TV:	Phone 202-224-6421
Print/Daily Press:	Phone 202-224-0241
Periodical:	E-mail periodicals@saa.senate.gov
General Web site:	www.senate.gov/galleries

If you are receiving a media credential for the Swearing-In Ceremony, please read the below information about security and other measures:

- The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies will NOT provide internet or wireless connections at seating provided for press.
- There will be HUGE demand on wireless connections so DO NOT COUNT on filing stories from the ceremony area.
- Press writing space is VERY LIMITED so you should plan to file elsewhere.
- Security checkpoints will open for ticketed guests at 8:00 am. You should arrive no later than 9:00 am to ensure that you are through the checkpoints by the time the program begins. Screening will end when the program begins at 11:30 am and late arrivals will not be able to enter the grounds. *A preliminary map of security entry and checkpoints is on page 7.*
- Food, beverages, and other amenities are not available within the ceremony perimeter. Do not bring any food item larger than a small snack. Thermoses are prohibited.

ALL OTHER OFFICIAL INAUGURATION EVENTS

The Presidential Inaugural Committee oversees the credentialing process for the coverage of all other official inaugural events taking place January 18 to January 21 in Washington, DC (not including the swearing-in ceremony); and on January 17 in Philadelphia, Pa.; Wilmington, Del.; and Baltimore, Md.

The deadline to apply for credentials has passed and they are no longer accepting media applications. The PIC has begun contacting media to let them know if they are being given credentials to any of the official events for which they applied.

These events include the Inauguration Day Parade, the 10 official balls, the President's train travel from Philadelphia, Pa. to Washington, DC on January 17, and more. The full list of official events is on the PIC's Web site at www.pic2009.org and appears below. Remember that **media credentials are given out for each event individually** – one credential will not get you into all of the events.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF OFFICIAL INAUGURAL EVENTS

Please see the PIC Web site at www.pic2009.org for details about the below events; all locations, times and access rules are subject to change.

Saturday, January 17

Whistle Stop Train Tour

In the final leg of the President-elect's journey to Washington, D.C., he'll be doing a Whistle Stop Train Tour starting in Philadelphia.

10:05 a.m. - Philadelphia, PA

The President-elect will hold an event in Philadelphia, PA before boarding a train headed toward Washington, D.C. Tickets are required for the event and have been distributed to the public.

1:00 p.m. - Wilmington, DE

The President-elect will stop for a public event with the Vice President-elect in the back of the Wilmington Train Station, 100 South French Street. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

4:15 p.m. - Baltimore, MD

The President-elect and Vice President-elect will make their last stop in Baltimore for another public event at the War Memorial Plaza, 101 N. Gay St., Baltimore, MD. Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 18

We Are One: Opening Inaugural Celebration

2:30 p.m. - The Lincoln Memorial

President-elect Barack Obama, with the help of an all-star line-up of talent, will kick off the inaugural celebration in Washington, D.C. with a free and open event at the Lincoln Memorial between Constitution Avenue NW and Independence Avenue SW on 23rd Street. The Reflecting Pool area, JFK Hockey Fields and Constitution Gardens are open to the public and space will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Musical performers scheduled for the event include Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, Bono, Garth Brooks, Sheryl Crow, Renee Fleming, Josh Groban, Herbie Hancock, Heather Headley, John Legend, Jennifer Nettles, John Mellencamp, Usher Raymond IV, Shakira, Bruce Springsteen, James Taylor, will.i.am, and Stevie Wonder.

Among those reading historical passages will be Jamie Foxx, Martin Luther King III, Queen Latifah and Denzel Washington. The Rt. Reverend V. Gene Robinson will give the invocation. Rob Mathes will be the music director and arranger for the backing band, which will support all of the artists. Additional performers will be announced as they are confirmed.

Monday, January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Renew America Together: A Call to Service

To honor Dr. King's legacy, the President-elect and the Vice President-elect will be participating in service projects in Washington D.C., as thousands of Americans follow their example in communities across the country. Find or host a service event in your community.

Community Service Day Lunch

This event is by invitation only. Please check back for more information about this event.

Kids' Inaugural: We Are The Future Concert

7:00 p.m. - The Verizon Center

Michelle Obama, Dr. Jill Biden and their families will be attending the concert honoring military families.

The concert will be broadcast from 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. ET/PT on The Disney Channel, be simulcast on Radio Disney and streamed on Disney.com immediately following the telecast.

Bipartisan Dinners

President-elect Obama will host a series of bipartisan dinners honoring Senator John McCain, General Colin Powell, and Vice President-elect Joe Biden. The dinners will take place at the National Building Museum, Union Station and the Hilton Washington. The dinners are by invitation only.

5:00 p.m. - Dinner Honoring General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.)
National Building Museum

5:00 p.m. - Dinner Honoring Senator John McCain
Hilton Washington

6:30 p.m. - Dinner Honoring Vice President-elect Joe Biden
Union Station

Tuesday, January 20 - Inauguration Day

Swearing-in Ceremony

11:30 a.m. - West front of the U.S. Capitol

The President-elect and Vice President-elect and their families will participate in the traditional inaugural ceremonies and events. For the first time ever, the length of the National Mall will be open to those wishing to attend the swearing-in ceremony. No tickets are required to view the Inaugural Ceremony on the National Mall west of 4th Street. Festivities will include:

- Musical Selections: The United States Marine Band, followed by The San Francisco Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus
- Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks: Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Invocation: Dr. Rick Warren
- Musical Selection: Aretha Franklin
- Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will be sworn into office by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable John Paul Stevens
- Musical Selection: John Williams, composer/arranger with Itzhak Perlman, (violin), Yo-Yo Ma (cello), Gabriela Montero (piano) and Anthony McGill (clarinet)
- President-elect Barack H. Obama will take the Oath of Office, using President Lincoln's Inaugural Bible, administered by the Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr.
- Inaugural Address
- Poem: Elizabeth Alexander
- Benediction: The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery
- The National Anthem: The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters"

After President Obama gives his Inaugural Address, he will escort outgoing President George W. Bush to a departure ceremony.

Inaugural Luncheon

Following the swearing-in ceremony, President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, and members of their families will attend an inaugural luncheon hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

Inaugural Parade

The 56th Inaugural Parade will make its way down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House with groups traveling from all over the country to participate. Find out more information about the parade. While there is no official start time for the parade, it traditionally begins around 2:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Ball

7:00 p.m. - Walter E. Washington Convention Center

President-elect Barack Obama will host the first-ever Neighborhood Inaugural Ball, the premier event of the night, with musical performances by: Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, Mariah Carey, Faith Hill, Jay-Z, Alicia Keys, Shakira, Stevie Wonder and Nick Cannon (as DJ). To help bring this unique event to neighborhoods across the nation, ABC will air the event live from 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET.

Wednesday, January 21

National Prayer Service

8:30 a.m. - National Cathedral

The newly inaugurated President and Vice President of the United States will join with dignitaries and Americans of diverse faiths to celebrate the previous day's events through prayer, readings, and musical performances. Reverend Dr. Sharon Watkins will be the first woman to deliver the sermon at this traditional Inaugural event. This event is by invitation only.

THE INAUGURAL PARADE – JANUARY 20, 2009

The parade route is the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 4th Street NW to the White House along Pennsylvania Avenue; the end point is 17th Street NW. There are media bleachers set up along the parade route; you need a PIC-issued media credential to access these seats. There is an excellent map of the parade route at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2008/12/04/GR2008120402930.html>.

If you are receiving a media credential for the parade, please read the below information about security and other measures:

- The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) will NOT provide internet or wireless connections at seating provided for press.
- There will be HUGE demand on wireless connections so DO NOT COUNT on filing stories from the ceremony area.
- Press writing space is VERY LIMITED so you should plan to file elsewhere.
- Security checkpoints will open along the parade route at 7:00 am; the parade area is closed from 4:00 am to 7:00 am for security sweeps. *A preliminary map of security entry and checkpoints is on page 7.*
- You will not be able to move from one media bleacher to another; your credentials will only allow you access to a specific media bleacher.

FOREIGN PRESS CENTER SERVICES

The Washington Foreign Press Center (FPC) will be open on January 19 and 20 during the following hours:

Monday, January 19 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday, January 20 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

On January 19 and 20, the FPC will have its offices set up as a press filing center. We have a very small number of computers set up for media; you should bring your own laptop and power cord. The FPC will have hard-line Internet connections only (no wireless) and power strips. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis with a time limit of one hour if there is a line.

We are located at 529 14th Street NW, which is at the corner of 14th and F streets. The nearest Metro stops are Metro Center or McPherson Square. Our office is on the 8th floor of the National Press Building. The only entrance to the building that will be open on Tuesday is from F Street; you will need to check in at the lobby in order to access the elevators to the 8th floor since the building is closed to the public on these two days.

You will need to show media identification to enter the FPC; a media photo identification card from your country or news outlet will suffice, as will your passport with a valid category "I" visa.

Our office is one block from a parade-viewing area on Pennsylvania Avenue, and there will likely be a security checkpoint directly outside the building's lobby – so keep in mind it may take longer than usual to access the building.

The coffee shop and other restaurants in the building will be open; there are no vending machines.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DON'T HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ANY OFFICIAL EVENTS

Swearing-In Ceremony

The ceremony is on the steps of the Capitol Building, which looks out over our National Mall (basically a long, narrow park where monuments such as the Washington Monument and Lincoln Monument sit, along with many of the Smithsonian Museums). The city is opening the Mall to the public and will have flat-screen TVs up all over so people can gather in the Mall and watch the swearing-in ceremony on the TVs. Anyone can go there, including media with equipment – but remember it will be crowded and uncomfortable. Officials are estimating as many as 2 million people will be there, and it will be standing-room only. However, it's an excellent way to interview Americans who traveled for thousands of miles to attend this historic event.

There is an excellent map of the areas for ticket holders and general public at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2008/12/04/GR2008120402930.html>.

UPDATE: There will not be security checkpoints to enter the Mall and you can bring camera equipment, tripods, laptops, etc. There is a PIC-issued media credential for the National Mall that will help security identify you as media; all media who applied for any of the PIC credentials will automatically be considered for the Mall credential and notified starting the week of January 12. However, please note that a media credential is **not required** for the Mall, so if you do not have one you can still go there.

However, please remember that if you want to go from the Mall to points north of the parade route (like the FPC), you will have to go either go through security checkpoints and magnetometers, or else walk around the entire security cordon from 2nd Street to 19th Street.

Inaugural Parade

If you do not have a PIC-issued credential to access the media bleachers along the parade route, you can join the general public in standing-room only areas. However, you will be limited in the equipment you can bring into the area (see “Prohibited Items” below). Tripods and camera bags will not be allowed; there will be no place to leave your personal belongings or equipment at the entrances and security officials will not hold them for you for later pickup. *Security checkpoints will be along the parade route; a list of checkpoints is on page 7.*

Non-Official Events

If you do not receive credentials for any official events, here are some ideas for covering non-official activities in the DC area.

Inaugural Balls

Aside from the 10 official balls that the new President and Vice President will attend, there are several unofficial balls run by nonprofit groups, private individuals, companies, and other organizations. There’s a Green Ball, an MTV Ball, etc. A list of nonofficial balls can be found online at <http://www.washingtonian.com/blogarticles/artsfun/afterhours/10742.html>. Media rules for these balls will be determined by each organizer.

Swearing-in and Parade Watching Events

Many area bars and restaurants will be open on Tuesday, January 20 and have their TV sets tuned to the inauguration activities, hosting inauguration-watching events with special food and drink specials for area residents. Some of these events are free and others may have a cover charge. The best way to find out about these events is to look in local newspapers such as the dailies *Washington Post* and *Washington Times*, the free weekly *City Paper*, and monthly magazine *The Washingtonian*. All of these media have Web sites and blogs as well.

Good Sources for Event Listings and Hints

The Washington Post’s “Inauguration Central” Web site:

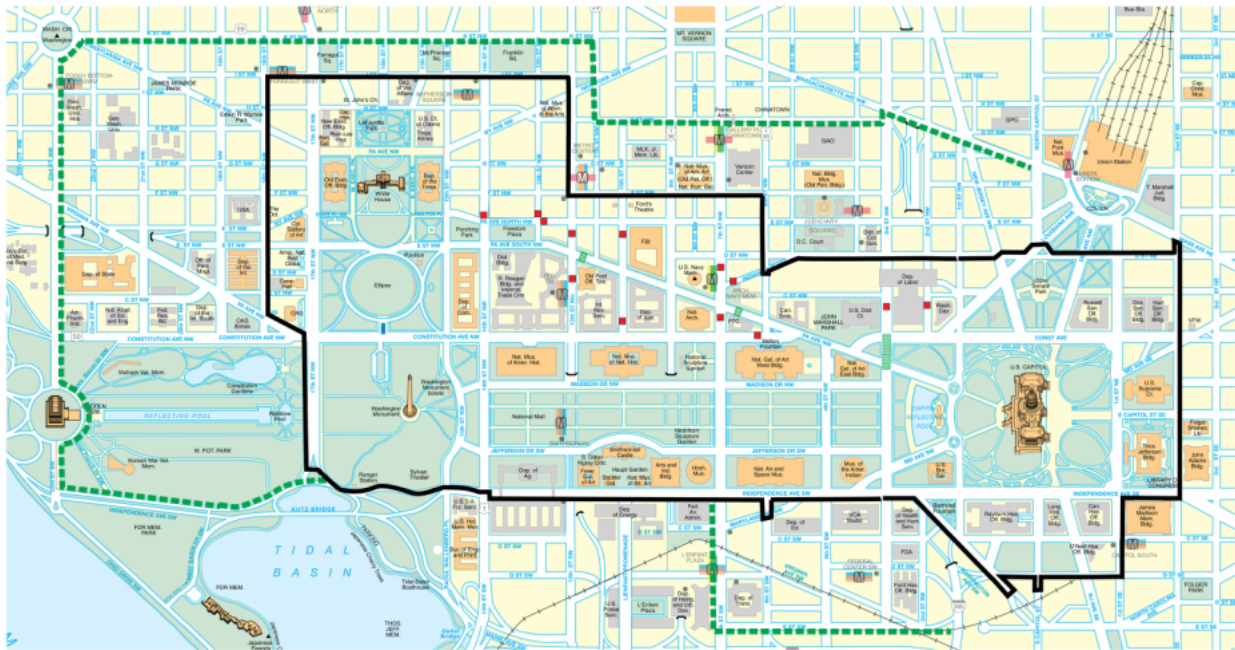
<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/inauguration-central/>

Washingtonian magazine’s “2009 Inauguration” special section, updated daily:

<http://www.washingtonian.com/sections/people/inauguration/index.html>

SECURITY ENTRY POINTS & ROAD CLOSURES

Press Release



Road Closures and General Public Entry Points for the 2009 Presidential Inaugural and Parade

Key:

Vehicular Restricted Area Vehicular Road Closures General Public Entry Points Pedestrian Crossovers

January 7, 2009

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The U.S. Secret Service, Metropolitan Police Department, U.S. Capitol Police, and other local and federal agencies are providing an unprecedented level of security for the Inauguration. All parade and event attendees are subject to a thorough security screening before entering any of the Inaugural event sites. Please allow additional time for this security screening.

As a security precaution, the **following items will be prohibited from all inaugural event sites and locations (ie the Swearing-in Ceremony, Parade, and Inaugural Balls). You will not be able to leave items for later pickup:**

- firearms (either real or simulated)
- ammunition
- explosives of any kind (including fireworks)
- knives, blades, or sharp objects (of any length)
- mace and/or pepper spray
- sticks or poles
- pocket or hand tools, such as "leatherman"
- packages, backpacks, large bags, duffel bags and suitcases
- bags exceeding size restrictions (8"x6"x4")
- weapons of any kind
- aerosols
- supports for signs and placards
- coolers, thermoses, thermal or glass containers
- strollers
- umbrellas
- laser pointers
- animals other than helper/guide dogs
- structures, signs and posters
- bicycles

- alcoholic beverages
 - other items that may pose a threat to the security of the event as determined by
- and at the discretion of the security screeners

GETTING AROUND TOWN

There are extensive road closures in the metropolitan DC area from Sunday, January 18 through Tuesday, January 20, and parking in the city will be extremely limited. **Government officials strongly recommend that all residents and visitors use public transportation to go to and from inauguration events.**

All roads and bridges from Northern Virginia into Washington, DC will be closed to private vehicles on Tuesday, January 20. More information about road closures and parking regulations can be found at http://inauguration.dc.gov/parking_areas.asp.

The city's public transportation system is called MetroRail and MetroBus. Five rail lines and an extensive bus system connect the District with the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Metro train lines are named for colors: red, yellow, blue, green, and orange. Station entrances are marked by brown pylons, capped with the letter "M" and colored stripes that indicate which lines are available.

Each train displays the name of its farthest destination. Rail farecards can be purchased at vending machines located inside the stations. Farecards are inserted into the turnstile gates to enter and exit subway platforms. The fare is automatically deducted each time you exit a station. You can also purchase a SmartTrip card, which is a permanent pass that you load money onto. You would use this instead of purchasing disposable paper farecards.

Visit Metro's inauguration Web site at http://wmata.com/getting_around/metro_events/inauguration.cfm for up-to-date information on hours and station openings/closings. MetroRail will run trains on normal schedules from 5:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Monday, January 19 and then operate rush hour service from 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20. MetroRail will close at 2:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 21. Officials expect extremely crowded conditions on Inauguration Day and you should plan significant extra time at your train or bus stop to wait for room on packed trains and buses.

CLOSINGS: The Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter station on Metro's Green/Yellow Lines and the Smithsonian station on the Blue/Orange Lines will be closed on Tuesday, January 20 until after the parade. Judiciary Square station on the Red Line will close at 4:00 p.m. and Mt Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center station on the Green/Yellow Lines will close at 7:30 a.m. due to their proximity to locations hosting Inaugural Balls. Both stations are scheduled to reopen at 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21.

Several downtown Metrorail stations entrances will be designated as exit-only or entry-only, to move as many people as possible into and out of the Metrorail system on Inauguration Day. Visit Metro's press release for the latest information on stations that will be entry/exit only at http://wmata.com/about_metro/news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=2419.

MetroBus will be operating on a "modified" Saturday schedule from 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Inauguration Day. However, with the anticipated street closures around the Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue for the parade, all MetroBuses will be prepared for last minute changes. Bus customers are encouraged to plan significant extra time to travel through these areas.

Visit http://wmata.com/getting_around/metro_events/inauguration.cfm for maps, rail and bus schedules, and additional details. You can also go to www.stationmasters.com for larger maps of the area around rail stations.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Both Monday, January 19 and Tuesday, January 20 are holidays (Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) so schools, banks, libraries, government offices, and many businesses will be closed. Restaurants and malls will remain open.

The average midday temperature in Washington, DC in January is 35 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) and it often rains. Remember that umbrellas will not be permitted within the security perimeter. There is no official dress code for the swearing-in ceremonies.

We suggest you bring with you at all times your media identification card with photo from your country or news outlet; your business cards; or a letter from your bureau chief.

USEFUL WEB SITES

WWW.FPC.STATE.GOV

The Foreign Press Center is continuously updating the website with information on covering the 2009 Inauguration. The site also provides links to history and background information on Inaugurations. The FPC does NOT distribute credentials for the inaugural events.

WWW.PIC2009.ORG

The official Inauguration website is a key resource for those covering the Inauguration and provides a location for media to sign up for press announcements at <http://www.pic2009.org/page/s/media>. This site will provide updates on all official inaugural events.

WWW.INAUGURAL.SENATE.GOV/

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies' Web site includes key topics such as the inaugural theme background, accessibility rules, traffic, and more.

[HTTP://WWW.SECRETSERVICE.GOV/PRESIDENTIAL_INAUGURAL.SHTML/](http://WWW.SECRETSERVICE.GOV/PRESIDENTIAL_INAUGURAL.SHTML/)

The U.S. Secret Service site contains details on prohibited items, road closures, security checkpoints, etc.

WWW.WASHINGTON.ORG/INAUGURATION

DestinationDC is the key tourist site for those visiting Washington, DC for the inauguration. They will continuously update information regarding events, transportation, lodging and restaurants.

[HTTP://INAUGURATION.DC.GOV/INDEX.ASP](http://INAUGURATION.DC.GOV/INDEX.ASP)

The City of Washington, DC's inauguration Web page includes helpful information on streets closures, getting around town, and event listings.

WWW.DC.GOV/MAYOR/MEDIA_CONTACTS.ASP

Office of Communications for the Mayor of Washington, DC. Contact: Mafara Hobson (e-mail mafara.hobson@dc.gov; phone 202-722-2807).

WWW.AFIC.NORTHCOM.MIL

The Armed Forces Inaugural Committee coordinates military ceremonial support for inaugural activities.

[HTTP://USPOLITICS.AMERICA.GOV/USPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT/INAUGURATION.HTML](http://USPOLITICS.AMERICA.GOV/USPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT/INAUGURATION.HTML)

U.S. Dept. of State, International Information Programs Inauguration Page

[HTTP://NEWSDESK.SI.EDU/KITS/SI_INAGURATION/DEFAULT.HTML](http://NEWSDESK.SI.EDU/KITS/SI_INAGURATION/DEFAULT.HTML)

Smithsonian Institution – Inauguration Related Exhibits

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