

## Post Congress Fun

Join us for a fun filled 2 days of Post Congress Fun!

The Post Congress Tour will take place on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. We will be heading to Washington DC to spend Monday at the National Mall (Smithsonian Museums) and Tuesday at the National Zoo. The great thing about this year's tour is admissions are **FREE!** Other than your Metrorail ticket ride to and from the hotel each day, and the food you wish to eat you can enjoy it all for not one penny. The hardest part will be to pick just a museum or two to visit!

**We are asking that you please sign up to get on the list to attend the Post Congress Tour.**

Please email Debbie at [dprevratil@ivas.org](mailto:dprevratil@ivas.org) to sign up for the Post Congress fun. The last day to sign up to join the group will be August 1, 2023.

We ask that you sign up in advance, so we can ensure that if there is a large group that wants to visit a particular museum, IVAS can reserve group tickets in advance. The National Zoo also known as the Smithsonian Zoo, is part of the Smithsonian Institution. The zoo is free, but groups are required to reserve tickets in advance for a timed ticket to enter the zoo, IVAS will be reserving group tickets for the Zoo.

Please email Debbie the following information:

- Your name, email, and cell phone number while at the Congress.
- Which day do you wish to attend? Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> or both days.
  - For Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> – please indicate which museum you would prefer to see first, for group ticketing reservations (see the list below)
- Once all Post Congress Fun attendees have registered Debbie will send out all the information in advance via email on what time we will meet each day at the Congress Hotel to take the Metrorail and return meeting times if you want to return with the group.
- Please note – there will be lots of walking involved!
  - If you are not able to walk to the locations to pick up the Metrorail with the group, you may still join the Post Congress Fun, but you will need to arrange your own Uber/Ride and meet at the designated spot at the designated time.

There is so much to do in the Alexandria, VA, and Washington DC area, that it just can't be done in a few days, so we encourage you to explore before the Congress if you are arriving early, and after on your own, if you want to see more than one or two museums.

Collectively called the Smithsonian Institution, this world renowned museum complex consists of 17 museums, galleries, and the zoo. At the center is known as “The Castle” which is the Smithsonian Institute Building which holds a sneak peek at the types of artifacts displayed at many of the museums. When you are there you can visit the crypt of English scientist James Smithson who upon his death, gave every penny he had to establish the Smithsonian Institution.

Probably the most popular museum to visit is the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History which opened in 1910. You can see its green dome and immense size which is comparable to 18 football fields. It contains over 140 million natural science specimens and cultural artifacts. Some highlights include dinosaurs, and after a five year renovation the Hall of Fossils is open with a theme of “Deep Time” illustrating earth’s history has played out over billions of years. Not to be forgotten are the Ocean Hall, Mammals Hall, Hall of Human Origins, and the Hall of Geology Gems and Minerals displaying the 45.5-carat supposedly cursed Hope Diamond.

Not every Smithsonian Museum is located at the National Mall.

Here is a partial list and links:

- Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History <https://washington.org/node/18538>
- National Air and Space Museum <https://washington.org/node/18670>
  - With its bigger sister facility the Udvar-Hazy Center located in Chantilly, VA <https://washington.org/node/18683>
- National Museum of American History <https://washington.org/node/18669>
- National Museum of the American Indian <https://washington.org/node/18676>
- National Gallery of Art [Visiting the National Gallery of Art in DC | Washington DC](#)
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum <https://washington.org/find-dc-listings/united-states-holocaust-memorial-museum>
- Smithsonian American Art Museum & Renwick Gallery <https://washington.org/node/18539>
- Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture <https://washington.org/visit-dc/guide-to-smithsonian-national-museum-african-american-history-culture>
- Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum [Visiting the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum | washington.org](#)
- Smithsonian National Museum of African Art <https://washington.org/node/18511>
- Smithsonian National Postal Museum <https://washington.org/node/18537>
- Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery <https://washington.org/node/18667>
- National Zoo <https://washington.org/node/18672>

In addition to all the wonderful museums you can also visit the Washington Monument, US Capital Building and the Lincoln Memorial. It is easy and inexpensive to get around you can check out the Metrorail to see the routes at <https://washington.org/node/18664>

Metro fares are calculated by how many stops you travel and vary during peak or off peak hours. Most fares during peak times run between US\$2.25-\$6.00 per trip. Off peak hours fares typically run between US\$1.85-3.85. Metro riders must pay/purchase a SmarTrip Card [About SmarTrip® | WMATA](#) or pay via the SmarTrip app on iPhones or Apple Watches. [Mobile Pay | WMATA](#) SmarTrip cards are plastic rechargeable cards that can be purchased at any Metro station or in advance at [About SmarTrip® | WMATA](#). You can calculate your trip fares and plan your routes using the Metro's Trip planner at [Trip Planner | WMATA](#).

The Weston Alexandria Old Town (Congress Host Hotel) is located at 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA 22314, you can walk to the King Street Metro Station and pick up the Metrorail route of your choice.