

International Conference of Secular Alcoholics Anonymous 2020 (ICSAA 2020)

By Gregg O.

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When: Friday, Oct. 30 – Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020

Where: Hyatt Regency Bethesda

One Bethesda Metro Center (7400 Wisconsin Ave)

Bethesda, Maryland 20814 United States

Register for Conference and Book Hotel at www.secularaa.com

To Register Click “ICSAA 2020” Tab

To Book Hotel: Click “Hotel” Tab

About Bethesda, Maryland: Bethesda is an inclusive and open-minded town and one of the most popular living and shopping areas around Washington, DC. In 2014 it placed first on both *Forbes'* list of America's most educated small towns and *Time's* list of top earning towns. The National Institutes of Health main campus and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center are in Bethesda, as are several corporate headquarters and government offices. Bethesda is home to two farmer's markets (the Montgomery Farm Woman's Cooperative Market and the Bethesda Central Farmer's Market), as well as a vibrant shopping district that includes an Apple Store, Barnes & Noble, and scores of shops, restaurants and cinemas. On Thursday evenings, there is a 7:30 p.m. We Agnostics (Secular) AA meeting at The Church in Bethesda, within walking distance of the hotel.

The National Gallery of Art, the National Zoological Park and all of the Smithsonian Museums are free. The Holocaust Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture are free. For those who want to arrive early or stay after the conference to include some vacation time, there are hundreds of museums, memorials, exhibits, theatres, and history in and around Washington, most within a ten-minute ride on the Metro (subway) from the hotel.

Bus tours, bike rentals, segue rentals and tours and boat rides and tours are all available, as is one of the nation's premier running and biking trails, the Capital Crescent Trail, a seven-mile trail between Bethesda and the Georgetown area of Washington, DC.

If attendees want to venture outside of Washington for more beautiful nature, historical structures, and educational experiences, the region around Washington is rich in Revolutionary War and Civil War sites. For example, the Gettysburg, PA, battlefield and historic center is under 75 miles north and Colonial Williamsburg, VA is under 165 miles south (historic Yorktown is a little farther south). Bus tours to both destinations can be arranged from the hotel, or you may drive.

Because of the great cultural diversity of Washington and the large population from the worldwide diplomatic corps, Bethesda and Washington have a wide variety of cuisines, buildings, and art. The Chesapeake Bay nearby supplies excellent seafood, crabs and oysters.

Getting There: Washington has three airports.

1. From Reagan National Airport (DCA) to the hotel is 11 miles (about 40 minutes by car) (about \$45 by taxi, plus tip);
2. From Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to the hotel is 26 miles (about 1 hour 20 minutes) (about \$55 by taxi, plus tip);
3. From Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) to the hotel is 36 miles (46 minutes) (about \$80 by taxi, plus tip).

The times and distances are from www.mapquest.com. All three airports have shuttle buses (the “Blue Van” or SuperShuttle: <https://www.supershuttle.com/>) and Reagan National has a Metro (subway) stop. Taxis, Uber, Lyft and other car services are plentiful at all three airports.

Washington, DC, also offers train service in and out of Union Station, where one can take the Metro to Bethesda.

Metro fares vary with distance during rush hour, but can be found at the Washington Area Metropolitan Area Transport Authority website:

<https://www.wmata.com/schedules/index.cfm>

List of Smithsonian Museums: <https://washington.org/smithsonian-institution-museums>

The following links will show more information about each attraction:

[National Air and Space Museum](#),
[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
[National Museum of Natural History](#)
[International Spy Museum](#)
[National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)
[United States Capitol](#)
[National Gallery of Art East Building](#)
[The Phillips Collection](#)
[Smithsonian American Art Museum](#)
[Renwick Gallery](#)
[Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden](#)
[Arthur M. Sackler Gallery](#)
[National Portrait Gallery](#)
[National Museum of African Art](#)
[National Museum of Women in the Arts](#)
[White House](#)
[Dumbarton Oaks](#)
[National Building Museum](#)
[Corcoran Gallery of Art](#)
[Newseum](#)
[Textile Museum](#)
[National Museum of the American Indian](#)
[Art Museum of the Americas](#)
[Arts and Industries Building](#)

[George Washington University Art Galleries](#)
[Madame Tussauds Washington D.C.](#)
[Smithsonian Institution Building](#)
[National Postal Museum](#)
[Ford's Theatre](#)
[National Museum of American History](#)
[Old Patent Office Building](#)
[United States National Arboretum](#)
[Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](#)

And a favorite of many local secular AA members, the National Academy of Sciences, with its fabulous statue of Albert Einstein:

<http://www.nasonline.org/about-nas/visiting-nas/nas-building/the-einstein-memorial.html>



(Note: The specks and points on the ground around his feet show the position of the stars at the time of the dedication of the statue. From Wikipedia: "Embedded in the dais are more than 2,700 metal studs representing the location of astronomical objects, including the sun, moon, planets, 4 asteroids, 5 galaxies, 10 quasars, and many stars at noon on April 22, 1979, when the memorial was dedicated. The studs are different sizes to denote the apparent magnitude of the relevant object, and different studs denote binary stars, spectroscopic binaries, pulsars, globular clusters, open clusters, and quasars. The celestial objects were accurately positioned by astronomers at the U.S. Naval Observatory. Familiar constellations are marked on the map for easy identification.")

List of "8 Must-See Monuments & memorials on the National Mall: <https://washington.org/visit-dc/must-see-memorials-monuments-national-mall>

Art Galleries in DC: <https://washington.org/visit-dc/must-see-memorials-monuments-national-mall>

Washington's Theatre scene includes The Kennedy Center, The National Theatre, Ford's Theatre, The Warner Theatre, The Studio Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, The Folger Theatre, The Wooley Mammoth Theatre, The Keegan Theatre, The Atlas Theatre and many more:

<https://dctheatrescene.com/>