

US Monuments

There are five major monuments in the US; the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, and the Gateway Arch.

Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial is a monument in Washington DC built to honor Abraham Lincoln, America's 16th president. It is known for its towering marble columns that remind many people of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, and was designed by Henry Bacon. Lincoln's statue itself is located inside the marble building, and was designed by Daniel Chester French and carved by the Piccirilli brothers. Built in 1922, the Lincoln Memorial was the 2nd monument built to recognize the importance of an American president.

In front of the Lincoln Memorial lies the Reflecting Pool, a long waterbody. It is named this way because the statue of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial appears to be gazing the pool, reflecting on some deep thought. Also, the Washington Monument, which we will get to momentarily, is reflected on the Reflecting Pool.

Washington Monument

The Washington Monument is located directly across the Reflecting Pool from the Lincoln Memorial. The Washington Monument is an obelisk-shaped tower and was built to honor George Washington, the first president of the United States. It is just over 555 feet tall, but it may be surprising to some that from the top of the Washington Monument, no skyscrapers are visible. This is because of a Washington DC law placing restrictions on building height. However, the view from the top of a 555 foot tower is sure to be picturesque. The Potomac River, which got its name from a Native American place name, is visible from the top of the tower, as is the Smithsonian Institution, the White House, and the Capitol Building.

Mount Rushmore

Carved into a South Dakota mountain, there's an unlikely sight; the faces of 4 American presidents stare out from the face of the mountain. This is Mount Rushmore, where the faces of Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt are carved into the mountain. Lincoln is honored for his efforts to preserve the US during the Civil War,

Washington for becoming the 1st president, Jefferson for allowing the Louisiana Purchase, and Roosevelt for his efforts toward building the Panama Canal.

The Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island off the coast of New York, welcoming immigrants who have arrived in New York since 1886. The statue has long stood for the democratic values of the United States, and was gifted to the US by France to celebrate the alliance of the two countries during the American Revolution. From Liberty Island, the New York skyline is visible. Freedom Tower, built in the place of the World Trade Center that collapsed on 9/11, was erected in 2013 and is 1776 feet tall, a reference to the year the United States gained independence.

The Gateway Arch

The Gateway Arch is located in St Louis, Missouri, and is a symbolic gateway between the eastern and western regions of the United States. It is also a monument to the Louisiana Purchase orchestrated by Thomas Jefferson in 1803, when he bought a vast amount of land stretching west from the Mississippi River. The Arch is 630 feet tall and 630 feet wide, even though it looks like it is taller than it is wide.