

## The Watergate Hotel, Washington, DC

2650 Virginia Ave NW  
Washington, DC

Rates: \$1,500 (USD)

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Year Renovated: 2016  
Check in Time: 3:00 PM  
Check out Time: 12:00 PM  
Number of Floors: 14  
Total Number of Rooms: 336  
General Manager: Mark Briskin

STAR Rating: ★★★★★

Amenity Rating: ✓✓✓✓✓



Located within a 10-acre office and residential complex on the banks of the Potomac River, adjacent to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, is the East Coast's most hotly anticipated hotel revival.

Those of a certain age will remember the Watergate scandal—a burglary of the 6th floor office housing the Democratic National Committee in 1972 that eventually led to the resignation of U.S. President Richard Nixon. Design purists will take delight in knowing that architect Luigi Moretti's original shell-shaped exterior ("antipasto on the Potomac," as one critic called it) was left untouched. But the interior has enjoyed a \$200 million overhaul, with no expense spared from a sleek retro-modern rehab that places this property more in line with Las Vegas showpieces than the traditional (and dare we say stodgy?) aesthetic of its Beltway peers, the Four Seasons, Ritz-Carltons, and Hay-Adams.

Entering the hotel through an arid interior courtyard does little to belie the fabulousness within. Valets are quick and attentive, whisking guests and luggage indoors. The lobby, clothed in brass tubing and imported Austrian white oak paneling, gives way to expansive views of the Potomac. Stainless steel columns amplify the river's reflections while black granite flooring grounds the scene. A wide reception desk allows for VIP-levels of privacy, and hotel attendants are outfitted in checkered A-line dresses created by Janie Bryant, the costume designer for TV's "Mad Men." (Bryant also designed the throwback looks worn by the hotel's valets, housekeeping and restaurant staff.) Across from the lobby is another visual delight: 2,500 bottles of the hotel's whisky artfully shelved in a nautilus pattern— follow the golden-tinted trail around to The Next Whisky Bar, which opens daily at noon. The red kidney bean-shaped chairs, designed by Ron Arad (a student of Moretti), are surprisingly comfortable. Lyrics from the 1960s-era band The Doors are hand-sewn onto the carpet, adding to the whimsy.

Ask a bellman to show you how to call one of the seven mirrored elevators—they are a Sputnik-era delight and move nearly as fast. Just beyond is the library, outfitted with colorful seating and modular bookshelves. Modernist whirligig sculptures hang from the ceiling.

A black marble staircase that was original to the building winds down to the mezzanine level to Kingbird, the hotel restaurant, which is open daily for all meals. Chef Michael Santoro provides an homage to the restaurant's namesake with a delectable entree of chicken and waffles; other standouts include a tempura battered soft shell crab. Nixon's final speeches are piped in between Motown hits on soundspeakers in the bathroom. The Top of the Gate rooftop lounge will provide prime, 360-degree views of D.C.'s monuments and is set to open in September.

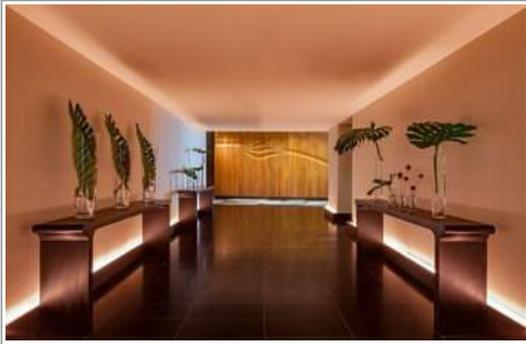
Also opening in September are the fitness center, complete with indoor saltwater pool, cardio and pilates machines, and the Argenta spa.

The eleven meeting rooms are bedecked with luxurious touches such as Gucci marble walls and LED ceiling lights, which can twinkle like the nighttime stars. The Moretti Ballroom and its breakout foyer can host up to 900 people. Amenities include wireless sound systems and



HD video screens. Public spaces offer natural light and views of the Georgetown waterfront.

Comfort is king in each of the 336 guest rooms, designed in masculine shades of camel, white and gray. Beds are topped with 300-thread-count sheets and goose-down comforters. Handsome wooden furniture, sculptural lighting, leather seating, 47-inch flat screen TVs, complimentary Wi-Fi, individual climate control and a Nespresso machine are standard. Half of the rooms have a private balcony. The choicest rooms have river views.



The spa-inspired baths feature Zebrano marble soaking tubs and separate showers, black granite vanities with lighted makeup mirrors, custom bathrobes and La Bottega bath products.

The five Diplomat Suites and two Presidential Suites have lavish upgrades such as wooden flooring, custom furniture and fireplaces.

Room service operates around the clock. There is twice-daily turndown service and laundry service upon request. Solid wooden doors can seal off entire wings of the

hotel for parties with a posse and security details. Pets are welcome for a one-time fee of \$150, returnable after your stay. Valet parking is \$52.

The nearest metro is a 0.4 mile hoof, with most of that ground traversing highways; so take a cab when you can. This hotel is a welcome boon to its Foggy Bottom neighborhood as well as the straitlaced DC hotel scene in general. We predict it will quickly resume its mantle as the playground for D.C.'s powerful people. It is our current choice for the city's top hotel.

Latest Revision: August 2016

## Basic Information

**Year Renovated:** 2016  
**Number of Floors:** 14  
**Number of Rooms:** 336

## Rates & Policies

*Rates are Daily in USD*  
**Standard:** approx 350 sq ft  
**Suite:** \$1,500 - approx 600 sq ft  
**Meals:** No Meals Included  
**Deposit Policy:** Credit card guarantee  
**Cancellation Policy:** Cancel before 6pm one day of arrival & no credit card charge  
**Restrictions:** Blackout dates

Credit Cards Are Accepted  
Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

## Location

In Washington, DC, closest nearby city is Washington DC. Rock Creek Parkway. Banks of the Potomac River.

**Nearest Airports:**  
Ronald Reagan Natl- 5 mi South, 15 min drive  
Dulles Intl- 25 mi West, 45 min drive

**Nearby Points of Interest:**  
Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Performing Arts)  
White House- 2 mi to the East  
US Capitol- 3 mi to the East

## Restaurants On-Site

**Dining:** 2 restaurants and 3 bars On Site

Kingbird (Seasonally inspired dishes)  
The Next Whisky Bar (Serving the finest whiskies from around the world)  
Top of the Gate (rooftop bar with 360 degree views of Washington DC)

## Room Amenities

## Recreation

(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)

Air Conditioning  
Balcony/Terrace (some)  
Coffeemaker  
Daily Maid Service  
Fireplace (working) (some)  
Iron/Ironing Board  
Kitchen/Kitchenette (some)  
Mini-Bar  
Free Newspaper  
Rooms for Non-smokers  
Telephone  
Voicemail  
Refrigerator  
Safe (In Room)  
Cable/Satellite Television  
Television  
DVD/VCR (some)

#### NEARBY

Bicycling  
Boating/Sailing  
Fishing  
Golf Course  
Horseback Riding  
Jogging Trails  
Shopping Mall/Area  
Snorkeling  
Tennis (Indoor Tennis, Outdoor Tennis)  
Water Skiing

#### ON-SITE

Health Club  
Health Spa/Massage  
Hot Tub  
Pool (Indoor Pool)

## Hotel Facilities

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#### GENERAL SERVICES

ATM/Bank  
Complimentary Coffee  
Concierge Services  
Crib/Rollaway Bed  
Currency Exchange  
Gift Shop  
Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service  
Multi-lingual Staff  
Paid Onsite Parking  
Room Service  
Wheelchair Access to Common/Public Areas

#### BUSINESS SERVICES

A-V Equipment  
Business Center  
Copier  
Fax  
Meeting Facilities  
Administrative Services

#### PET AMENITIES

Pets Allowed  
Pet Amenities Available,  
Additional Fee for Pets  
Size Limit of 40 lbs

#### SECURITY

Electronic Key/Lock  
Smoke Alarm in Rooms  
Sprinkler in Rooms  
Valet Parking Service  
Surveillance Cameras On Site

## Meetings Facilities

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5 Meeting Rooms holding 300 people.  
17,000 sq ft of Meeting Space  
6,900 sq ft of Exhibit Space

#### Moretti Grand Ballroom

Location: B2, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet  
Capacity: Theater- 500, Classroom- 230, U-Shape- 100, Reception- 600, Banquet- 400

#### Cecchi

Location: B3, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet

Capacity: Theater- 170, Classroom- 50, U-Shape- 68, Reception- 200, Banquet- 120

**Timchenko**

Location: B3, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet  
Capacity: Theater- 100, Classroom- 32, U-Shape- 40, Reception- 100, Banquet- 60

**Elmore**

Location: Mezz, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet  
Capacity: Theater- 70, Classroom- 35, Reception- 75, Banquet- 66

**Hotel Map & Neighborhood**

