Explore the Thomas Jefferson Building and step into history!

For kids and adults

• First public building in Washington
• 2.655 windows
• 15 types of marble

$6.345,000
600,000 sq.ft

1888-1897

Construction Time

Incluedes

1800-1815

The Library of Congress opens in the new Capitol Building with 740 books and 3 maps.

1815

Thomas Jefferson sells his personal library to the nation after the original library was destroyed during the War of 1812.

1870

The Library of Congress becomes the home of the U.S. Copyright Office.

1897

The library building opens with more than 40 American sculptors and artists contributing to the interior decoration.

The Young Readers Center has books and activities for children. Learn about veterans’ experiences at the Veterans History Project Information Center. Be sure to visit with an adult!

Want to do more? Ask at an information desk or go to loc.gov.

For kids and adults
See collections in exhibitions and display cases throughout the building!

**FIRST FLOOR**

- **Main Entry**
- **Ceremonial Office**
- **Gutenberg Bible**
- **Mapping a Growing Nation**

**Second Floor**

- **Main Reading Room Overlook**
- **Thomas Jefferson’s Library**
- **Waldseemüller Map**
- **Exploring the Early Americas**

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**The Great Hall**
The decorations, art, and architecture celebrate learning, creativity, and achievement. Names of important writers and thinkers surround the stained-glass ceiling and top the columns.

On the marble staircases, children illustrate occupations and hobbies of the 1890s. The larger children holding globes represent Africa, America, Europe, and Asia. One old and one young man on each side of the central arch represent life-long learning.

**The Gutenberg Bible**
Made in Germany in the 1450s, it is the first book made in Europe on a printing press using moveable metal type. The semi-circular paintings on the walls show how knowledge was passed on through the ages. The last panel shows Johannes Gutenberg holding a page from his printing press.

**The Ceremonial Office**
The Librarian of Congress uses this office for special meetings. Decorations include owls representing wisdom and Latin quotations celebrating learning.

**Mapping a Growing Nation**
Abel Buell’s New and Correct Map of the United States of North America is the first map of the newly independent United States compiled, printed, and published in America by an American.

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**The Main Reading Room**
Open to researchers 16 and older, the Main Reading Room is the largest of 20 reading rooms. 125 feet above the floor, a circular mural depicts 12 countries, cultures, or time periods and their contributions to Western civilization. Between the stained-glass windows, 8 plaster female figures represent different areas of study or achievement. The bronze statues below them portray men famous for their work in these fields, such as Beethoven and Michelangelo for Art and Homer and Shakespeare for Poetry.

**Thomas Jefferson’s Library**
In 1815, Thomas Jefferson owned the largest personal library in the United States. He sold his 6,487 books to the nation to replace the congressional library destroyed during the War of 1812.

**The Waldseemüller Map**
One of the Library’s greatest treasures. The 1507 map was the first to use the name America, to show America as a separate continent and to depict the Pacific Ocean. This original is the only surviving copy.

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**Exploring the Early Americas**
This exhibition provides insights into Mesoamerica and the many changes that came from the meeting of the American and European worlds.

**DON’T MISS**
- **Thomas Jefferson’s Library**
- **Waldseemüller Map**
- **Exploring the Early Americas**

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Suggested itineraries:
- 15 to 30 mins.
- 30-60 mins.
- > 1 hour

Information:
- Ground floor map on reverse

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**Interactive Stations**
- Film and interactive stations
- Interactive Stations

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**DON’T MISS**
- The section on pirates and privateers!