

The Mayflower Hotel, Autograph Collection

The Mayflower Hotel, one of D.C.'s most storied hotels with over 90 years of celebrated history. A bastion of elegance since opening in 1925, the hotel has 583 luxury rooms and 74 suites. The rooms are stylish while maintaining the 10-story hotel's historic pedigree. The Mayflower joined the Autograph Collection in 2015, Marriott International's exclusive portfolio of hotels recognized for celebrating individuality.

From Presidential inaugural speeches to occasions of intrigue and scandal, The Mayflower has set the stage for Washington's influencers through the decades. The renovation pays homage to The Mayflower's past while dressing the hotel up in grand style for the future.

The distinctive room design and finishes take inspiration from the hotel's regal past while emphasizing its present-day relevance and vitality. Listed in the Historic Hotels of America, The Mayflower Hotel is known for its sense of style and elegance. Using a crisp palette of warm grays with furnishings of refined wood, stone, glass and upholstery in jewel tones, each room has a residential feel that features sleek modern finishes and movable seating areas in order to customize for the purpose of the guest's stay.

In the guestrooms, guests are treated to a signature "wall of fame," a wall vinyl recreation of the hotel's guest book behind the bed, complete with artistic versions of signatures of famous guests including President John F. Kennedy, Amelia Earhart, Winston Churchill, Sophia Loren and J. Edgar Hoover. Additional featured artwork includes a collection of prints paying homage to the time-honored tradition of cameo silhouettes albeit with a modern flourish. The rooms also feature classic vintage-inspired black and white basket weave marble bathroom floors accented with wood tone washstand-style vanity and contrasted with a warm black on plum paisley inspired wall vinyl.

With its Connecticut Avenue location near Dupont Circle, guests of The Mayflower Hotel enjoy close proximity to the White House, monuments, Metro stops and a thriving dining and cultural scene in one of DC's trendiest neighborhoods.

For nearly a century, The Mayflower's draw has brought D.C.'s power scene and personalities to its doors, filling the hotel with a quintessentially capital spirit – and with a signature appeal as iconic as the hotel itself. From its commanding post on Connecticut Avenue, The Mayflower places guests perfectly in the city center – The National Mall, business district and fashionable Georgetown in easy striking distance. Nearby are the Shaw, Dupont Circle and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods, and the U Street Corridor with their many shops, restaurants, nightclubs, art galleries, and music venues.

The essence of The Mayflower is found in what it feels like to be at the hotel and is delivered by those who generously share what they love doing with others, the hotel's guests. A memorable dinner, a surprising gesture, a genuine smile – these are the traits that reveal you are at The Mayflower. Decades in the making, the hotel's storied service shines, the foundation for the personal and personable exchange that defines the hotel so remarkable.

Repasts and Beverages Worth Imbibing

At the helm of the hotel's food and beverage team is executive chef, Lindsey VandenToorn. Chef VandenToorn is the hotel's first female executive chef to hold this honor of Mayflower Hotel's top toque. Chef VandenToorn brings over 10 years of culinary experience with Marriott International and will lead the catering, in-room dining programs as well as Edgar Kitchen & Bar. The new team includes Christopher Reed as executive sous chef, Marc Rios as creative director of mixology and spirits and managing partner Madison Fredricks as general manager of Edgar Kitchen & Bar.

Edgar Kitchen & Bar, situated at 1125 Connecticut Avenue, NW, pays homage to Washington's great power players with offering a carefully curated experience that encompasses modern cuisine and bespoke cocktails, seen-and-be-seen atmosphere and intimate spaces. The restaurant's namesake is a tribute to ultimate Washington, DC insider and power player, J. Edgar Hoover, American law enforcement administrator and first Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States. For over 20 years, Edgar dined for lunch at The Mayflower Hotel with Clyde Tolson, top deputy at the FBI and Hoover's protégé and friend. Considered to be a power spot to dine, Edgar Kitchen and Bar is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and weekend brunch.

People Worth Meeting

By grand design, The Mayflower Hotel was built to be part of the D.C. social scene – its impressive 42,000 square feet of sweeping ballrooms and elegant conference rooms and promenades offering an inviting stage for world affairs and signature celebrations. Meetings and events at The Mayflower take on a certain sophisticated aura, awash in a history rich with credentials – from company-wide meetings to VIP roundtables, and from royal receptions to society weddings.

The hotel finished a sensitive and admirable approach to conserving the Grand and Chinese Ballroom to their former glory. [Gold Leaf Studios](#) are part of the conservation team and diligently working to preserve the existing 23-karat gilding present in these historic rooms in an effort to ensure that future generations will be able to experience The Mayflower's grandeur. What makes the restoration at the Mayflower unique is that the hotel is preserving the existing gold leaf while blending the new gold, so that the finished product is consistent, a direct reflection that shows the property's commitment to its rich history.

Stories Worth Telling

In 1983, the hotel was awarded a place on the National Register of Historic Places. Shortly thereafter, in 1989, the Mayflower was added to the National Trust's Historic Hotels of America.

Several books about the hotel's history have been written including "The Mayflower: Washington's Second-Best Address" by Diana L Bailey, "Images of America Washington DC's Mayflower Hotel" by Keith McClinsey. The hotel was also featured in the children's book, "President Amanda's Whistle-Stop Trip" by Sue Pyatt. These books are available for sale in the hotel's gift shop. The Mayflower's moments in American History:

- The Mayflower Hotel was a popular choice for visiting foreign dignitaries and Hollywood royalty: such as Charles de Gaulle, Winston Churchill, Queen Elizabeth, John Wayne, Jean Harlow, Bob Hope and Sofia Loren.
- FDR wrote his infamous "the only thing we have to fear, is fear itself" speech at the hotel
- President Harry Truman coined The Mayflower's the nickname "Washington's Second-Best Address" (he stayed here when the White House was remodeled)
- J. Edgar Hoover dined at The Mayflower's old "Rib Room" restaurant, every day for over 20 years. Hoover always ordered the same thing: half grapefruit, white toast, cottage cheese, and Bibb lettuce. Today, the hotel's restaurant, Edgar Kitchen + Bar, is named after J. Edgar Hoover. Hoover was also rumored to be lovers with one of his frequent Mayflower lunch dates, associate FBI director Clyde Tolson.

Secrets worth Sharing

Shhhh.... The Mayflower Hotel's storied past is sprinkled with scandals, spies and covert affairs:

- In 1942, German Nazi spy, George Dasch, turned himself in to the FBI over the phone from Room 351 at the Mayflower while Hoover was sipping his soup downstairs sounds straight out of a WWII spy novel. Dasch's subsequent two-day interrogation by FBI agents in his hotel room ultimately led to the arrest of eight other German spies.
- During a state dinner in 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill leaned towards his neighbor to tell a risqué joke. Because of the unusual acoustics of the Chinese Room, however, his joke traveled into the dome and was magnified to the distinguished guests in the room, including President Roosevelt himself.
- Mayflower was the reported second home of alleged President John F. Kennedy's mistress, Mafia liaison Judith Exner.
- The former mayor of the District of Columbia, Marion S. Barry Jr., was found guilty of possessing cocaine at the Mayflower in the fall of 1989. A year later, a federal sting operation famously caught him smoking crack with a former model Rasheeda Moore at the Vista, a different hotel in the city now known as the Westin City Center.
- Monica Lewinsky stayed at the hotel while the scandal unfolded and stayed in the presidential suite while she filmed a deposition there.
- New York Governor, Eliot Spitzer, aka "Client 9," met with Ashley Dupre of a high-profile prostitution ring in The Mayflower's room 871

- The real estate mogul, Donald Trump, gave a major speech on his vision for U.S. foreign policy during the 2016 presidential campaign at the hotel. Which led to the infamous photo of then Attorney General Jeff Sessions allegedly shaking hands with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

DC Originals

In addition to providing exceptional service, one of The Mayflower Hotel's missions is to provide guests unique and exclusive local experiences. The hotel has partnered with local companies and purveyors to bring the DC experience in the hotel.

- **Local Hotel Amenities-** The Mayflower Hotel recently announced an exciting collaboration with the Washington, DC-based Grooming Lounge. For the first time, [Grooming Lounge](#) has created an exclusive new line of special scented in-room hotel amenities catering to both men and women, for all guest rooms. Long known for its premier line of men's skin care, shaving & hair care products, Grooming Lounge will offer a selection from its original product line with scents created for use by men and women. The new scents are fresh and clean, with main notes varying from peppermint and eucalyptus to lavender and black pepper.
- **Signature Scents-** In the effort to create a new signature hotel scent, the hotel has partnered with Washington, DC based family run candle company, [Freres Branchiaux](#). The local company was created by three young brothers who like to create good smelling candles. The candles are all hand-poured and made of 100% natural organic soy. The hotel features the candles in public spaces and gives them as gifts to VIPS.
- **Picnic in the Park-** During the summer months, The Mayflower Hotel sponsors the neighborhood business improvement district, Golden Triangle's summer movie series, [Golden Cinema](#). Friday evenings during the summer, guests can watch free movies in the Farragut park which is just steps away. The hotel offers guests a "Pick you Picnic" menu which comes with an easy to carry roll-up picnic blanket. Guest can nosh and relax while watching the movie in the park.
- **Checking in with Local Art -** The Mayflower Hotel has partnered with celebrated local artist, [Cris Clapp Logan](#), to create caricatures of celebrities, like Sophia Loren, Amelia Earhart and Walt Disney, who have stayed at the hotel over the years. These exclusive caricatures are on the room keys and each celebrity ties into the signatures in the guest rooms.