

Thanks for choosing as one of your fall OLLI courses "Off the Beaten Path in the DC Area." The course is intended to be a fun look, mainly through lots of illustrated slides, at an eclectic collection of lesser-known landmarks and sites—and the fascinating stories behind some of them—in the greater DC metro area and, in some cases, a bit beyond.

There is no reading for the course, although occasionally I email short articles after a class session just to provide more information on particular spots for those interested. There also is no formal syllabus, but I've grouped the spots we'll "visit" into broad categories; I hope to cover one category per session (though some always spill over into the next session). The categories (mostly historical since that's the main subject focus of the course) are:

1. Presidents in unexpected places
2. Reminders of World War II in the DC area (and other wars)
3. The Gilded Age (represented by surviving mansions in the Dupont Circle area)
4. Local African American historical landmarks
5. Famous architects and their buildings
6. Cemeteries and famous people buried there
7. Mills that still work and unusual things connected to the Potomac River and other waterways
8. Gorgeous nature spots truly "off the beaten path" and other interesting sites "further afield"

After we've finished up each topic, I'll email a summary sheet listing the main spots and website addresses to save you from taking notes and refresh your memory -- I know it all can sometimes become a blur!

--Ralph Buglass