

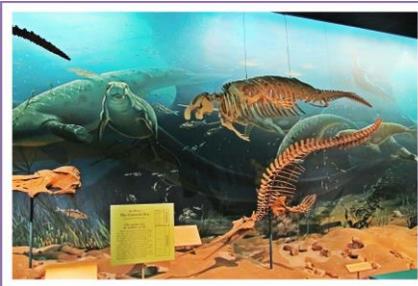
Cherry Blossom Festival In Washington, D.C.

April 8, 2013

This Sunday (4/7) my boyfriend and I decided to visit Washington, D.C. in hopes of catching all the cherry trees in bloom. We have been trying to capture the peak bloom for the last two years with no success, both years we came too late. So this year we did our research and planned our trip based on the information we found. According to the National Cherry Blossom Festival's website, the peak bloom is now, thus, we expected to see lots of cherry trees engulfed in an avalanche of little pink flowers. So on Sunday, we woke up early and embarked on a four hour journey from New Jersey to Maryland State. At first, the drive was smooth, but once we got within an hour to our destination, we hit traffic – apparently we weren't the only ones with the genius idea to visit Washington that day. Eventually, we made our way passed the traffic with road closures and arrived at the Jefferson Memorial.



We normally visit Washington, D.C. at least twice a year, so we are pretty familiar with the area and the crowds, but we have NEVER seen that many people there at one time. The park, the streets, the sidewalks were packed with people, who (I'm guessing) came out for the Cherry Blossom Festival, just like us. As our car crawled around the park, we noticed that despite the thousands of people, there weren't that many flowers on the trees and for every semi-blooming tree there was a line of people waiting to photograph their family near it or *on* it. So by the time we made a full circle around the memorial we realized that we will *never* find parking in the area and that neither of us particularly wanted to join the large crowds, plus, the trees weren't even in full bloom! Since, we also had plans to visit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, we decided to head straight there and put off the semi-blooming cherry trees until next weekend. We did stumble upon a little park on our walk to the museum, which had some blooming trees and a water fountain, so I did get some nice shots even though they weren't of cherry blossoms.



The museum was amazing and we spent 4 hours walking around the exhibit looking at dinosaurs, amphibians, homosapiens, insects, mummies and a collection of gems and jewels. Once we returned to our car, our legs were throbbing from all the walking and our tummies growled from hunger, so we stopped at the local Chili's restaurant for a quick bite and a boost of energy before our long drive home. Even though, we didn't get to see the cherry blossoms once again, we had an amazing time in Washington as always. We are planning to go next weekend again, hoping that the majority of the pink cherries will bloom by then, but if we miss it again – no biggie, as there is always something awesome to do in D.C. If you were thinking you missed the cherry blossoms this year, you haven't – go this week and you won't be disappointed. Good Luck and report back!