



Fact Sheet

Overview

The International Spy Museum is the only public museum in the United States solely dedicated to the tradecraft, history, and contemporary role of espionage. Open since July 2002 and in development since 1996, the museum features the largest collection of international espionage artifacts ever placed on public display – many have never been seen by the public. These artifacts – from a 1777 letter by George Washington authorizing a New York spy network to a 1980s coat with a camera concealed in a button – bring to life the people and techniques behind some of the most influential espionage actions in world history.

Permanent Collection

The International Spy Museum's permanent exhibition presents the tradecraft of espionage through the stories of individuals and their missions, tools and techniques. Artifacts created by or for intelligence services around the world are supported with historic photographs, interactive displays, film, and video. Exhibits include:

School for Spies: This section provides an introduction to the world of espionage and describes many of the skills and tools essential to a spy. It explores the different motivations that lead people into the clandestine world, how they are recruited and trained, and how they operate.

The Secret History of History: This series of galleries chronicles the history of spying from biblical times to the early 20th century. It explores such phenomena as the institutionalization of spying in the early years of the Soviet Union and traces the rise of espionage technology, such as spy photography. It also examines the role that women have played in espionage and reveals well-known historical figures who were also spymasters, including George Washington and author Daniel Defoe.

Spies Among Us: These exhibits, films, and videos examine espionage through World War II, showcasing real-life spy stories. They explore the role of code-making and code-breaking operations and teach various ways to create, break and hide coded messages through interactive exhibits. An exhibit on celebrities includes singer Josephine Baker, chef Julia Child, movie director John Ford, and actress Marlene Dietrich.

War of the Spies: This section explores the Cold War, using Post-war Berlin as the backdrop for engaging exhibits detailing the Berlin Tunnel; the Stasi, the internal security force for East Germany's Ministry for State Security; and the fall of the Soviet Union; as well as the impact of espionage on popular culture and the myth and mystique of the spy that it engendered.



The 21st Century: The challenges facing intelligence professionals world-wide in the 21st Century are addressed in the Museum's final film, Ground Truth. At various times, temporary exhibits on current espionage-related issues will also be displayed.

Educational Programs

The International Spy Museum offers a wide range of educational and cultural programs for students, adults, and families including scholarly lectures; films; book signings; hands-on workshops; student, adult and senior group tour packages; temporary exhibits; and other special events throughout the year.

Museum Store

The International Spy Museum's 5000 sq. ft. store features a diverse selection of merchandise that mirrors the Museum's presentation of the tradecraft and history of espionage as well as the popular interpretations of that profession. Visitors to the store have the opportunity to buy over 500 books, maps and prints; a wide range of spy-related toys and educational products; pop culture merchandise; disguise kits and paraphernalia; spycraft items; exhibit-related products; one-of-a-kind spy collectibles; spy logo and souvenir items; and much more.

Spy City Cafe and Zola Restaurant

Created and operated by Star Restaurant Group, LLC, Zola is an elegant, modern American restaurant. This 6000 sq. ft. restaurant and bar is located at the corner of 8th and F Streets, NW. The Spy City Cafe provides guests the chance to enjoy a quick bite while continuing their museum experience amidst photographs that illustrate spy-related sites throughout Washington, DC. The Café and Zola are open seven days a week, excluding Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Location

The International Spy Museum is located at 800 F Street, NW in Washington, DC's historic Penn Quarter, within 4 blocks of the National Mall, directly across the street from the National Portrait Gallery, steps away from the Verizon Center, and within one block of FBI headquarters. The Museum is conveniently located near the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station serviced by the red, yellow, and green lines.



2008 Museum Hours

Jan 2 – Feb 29 10am – 6pm
Mar 1 – Mar 14 10am – 6pm*
Mar 15 – Apr 12 9am – 8pm
Apr 13 – Aug 10 9am – 7pm
Aug 11 – Aug 30 10am – 7pm
Aug 31 – Dec 31 10am – 6pm**

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day

*Except Saturday's 10am – 8pm

** Except Saturday's in Sept and Oct 10am – 7pm

Hours are subject to change and are often extended for holidays. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. For the most up to date information visit spymuseum.org or call 292.393.7798

2008 Admission

Admission fees to the Museum:

\$18, Adults (ages 12-65)

\$17, Seniors, Active Duty Military, and the Intelligence Community

\$15, Children (ages 5-11)

Free, Children age 4 and under

Admission fee to Operation Spy:

\$14, ages 12+

Combined Admission fee:

\$25, ages 12+

Advance Tickets recommended.

Media Contact

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