

The Best Washington DC Breweries

No one can say Washington, DC is new to the brewery scene: Its first brewery, the Washington Brewery Company, opened in 1796.¹ Prohibition laws put an end to the local brewing industry for decades, and it didn't truly revive until the founding of DC Brau in 1991. Today, the nation's capital is brimming with local brews for every palate.

If you're looking for the best Washington DC breweries, you're in the right place.

Whether you want to hit the latest trendy hot-spot or you're more in the mood for that hidden gem the locals keep to themselves, we've uncovered them all. Grab your favorite growler and let's dive in to our list of the 5 best breweries Washington DC has to offer.

#1 DC Brau

We start our trip through DC's microbrewery scene with [DC Brau Brewing Company](#), the first local brewery to launch after the city finally legalized local brewpubs in the 1990s.²

- **What it's known for** – DC Brau offers a variety of IPAs, stouts, and porters, as well as seasonal and limited release beers. Make sure to try one of their three signature ales: The Public, The Citizen, and The Corruption.
- **Worth noting** – DC Brau Brewing Company has a taproom where you can try all of their different beers, and they also offer tours of their massive brewing facility on weekends.

#2 Bluejacket

One of the most popular microbreweries in Washington DC is [Bluejacket](#), which was founded by Greg Engert, an award-winning beer director.³

- **What it's known for** – If you're looking for a wide variety of options, you can't beat Bluejacket. The pub boasts a 15-barrel brewing system and offers a rotating selection of beers on tap, as well as a variety of bottled and canned beers. Bluejacket specializes in Belgian-style beers, with a focus on innovation and quality.
- **Worth noting** – The brewery has a beautiful taproom that overlooks the Nationals baseball stadium, so you can easily stop in for a brew before or after a game. Bluejacket also offers tours of their brewery, as well as a restaurant where you can enjoy a meal paired with beer, wine, or other cocktails.

¹ The Brewery History Society. *The Washington Brewery at Navy Yard*.
<http://www.breweryhistory.com/journal/archive/159/Washington.pdf>

² The Brewery History Society. *The Washington Brewery at Navy Yard*.
<http://www.breweryhistory.com/journal/archive/159/Washington.pdf>

#3 Port City Brewing

Located just outside DC in Alexandria, Virginia, [Port City Brewing](#) is Alexandria's first craft brewery since Prohibition. Port City boasts both award-winning beers and a commitment to sustainable brewing practices.

- **What it's known for** – Port City specializes in a regular lineup of year-round beers, as well as brewing numerous seasonal, limited release, and specialty ales and lagers. Try a spicy Tidings Ale if you're in town for the winter holidays, or a malty Monumental IPA any time of year.
- **Worth noting** – Port City Brewing Company offers tours of their facility and has a tasting room where you can sample their various beers. Port City was named Small Brewery of the Year by the Great American Beer Festival in 2015.

#4 Right Proper Brewing Company

[Right Proper Brewing Company](#) offers two locations—the Brookland Production House and Tasting Room in Northeast DC, and the Shaw Brewpub and Kitchen in DC's historic Shaw neighborhood.

- **What it's known for** – The Shaw Brewpub serves elevated pub fare 7 days a week—stop in for signature dishes like a crispy fried chicken sandwich on brioche bread or the six-cheese mac & cheese. Pair with one of Right Proper's numerous IPAs, stouts, and sours.
- **Worth noting** – Right Proper was named Washington's Best Local Brewery four years running by the Washingtonian. *And* the brewery is dog-friendly—what's not to love?⁴

#5 Hellbender Brewing Company

If you like your brew with a side of environmental consciousness, Hellbender is the place for you. [Hellbender](#) was founded by neuroscientist Ben Evans and political strategist Patrick Mullane, with the goal of being an eco-friendly brewery.

- **What it's known for** – Some of Hellbender's most popular pours include Bare Bones Kolsch, a light, mildly bitter German-style ale; the citrusy Ignite IPA; and Southern Torrent, a rich Belgian saison ale.

³ Brewing Industry Guide. *Right-Sizing Your Brewhouse*.
<https://brewingindustryguide.com/right-sizing-your-brewhouse/>