

Air Travel and Connections for the People of Color Retreat

Retreat Planning Committee member Kamau Kitwana shares this information about air travel and connections to the Wellspring Retreat Center

The DC region is served by 3 airports Reagan National, which is closest to downtown DC, Dulles International, serving suburban Virginia, and BWI, (Baltimore-Washington International). To give you some idea of the relative time and distance from the retreat center and each airport, Google maps calculates Sunday evening travel time to the Wellspring Retreat Center as 49 minutes from BWI, 40 minutes from Dulles, and 36 minutes from Reagan National. Friday traffic, especially Friday afternoon will be much tougher, perhaps adding up to an hour to the drive. UberX estimates the fare from BWI to Wellspring to be \$54 - \$72. Dulles to Wellspring to be \$47 - \$62, and Reagan National to Wellspring to be \$43 - \$57. Please note that Uber can be up to \$100 more for each of these estimates for premium Uber services and depending on traffic when you arrive these fares can be quite different. So all that said driving fares maybe about the same depending on traffic.

Reagan National and BWI have public transit options that won't get you all the way to Wellspring but can get you perhaps 10 miles away rather than 40 or 50 miles away. The closest Metro Subway stop is Shady Grove on the Red Line and the Uber fare from there to Wellspring is \$15 - \$20.

Getting the Metro Subway from Reagan National Airport to Shady Grove Metro Station (Red Line) will cost \$5.90, plus the additional \$15 - \$20 to Uber to Wellspring. Please note the Reagan National Metro Station is on the Blue and Yellow Lines so a transfer to the Red Line will be necessary. This transfer is easy to do and more info on it is available at any Metro station. While it usually cost more to fly into Reagan National the combined ground and public transportation option is cheapest.

Depending on when you arrive a commuter train from BWI Baltimore going to DC Union Station will cost \$12 to \$15 and from there a Metro train to Shady Grove Metro Station will cost no more than \$5.90.

Amtrak trains also run from BWI to DC Union Station but the cost is approximately \$30 rather than the \$12 - \$15 commuter train fare.

So while this is still not a complete summary of the travel options to Wellspring from area airports, it does provide info on some popular options. I will provide more in a few days, particularly involving van and shuttles. Hopefully this is helpful to you now.

Kamau