

# ROADTRIP | Superlative Sites

**WHERE:** College Park, Md.

**WHY:** Pizza paradise, Latin-music overload and a seasoned aviation landmark.

**HOW FAR:** About 30 miles and 45 minutes, or as long as it takes in D.C. traffic.

Hidden in the heart of College Park is a tiny, tranquil airport. Not such a big deal? It is to author Melissa Jones, who made sure the aviation station landed in her new book "Superlatives USA: The Largest, Smallest, Longest, Shortest and Wackiest Sites in America" (Capital Books, \$16.95). Turns out, this secluded corner is the "Oldest Continuously Operating Airport" in the world — it was established as a flight training facility by those famous Wright brothers in 1909. Today, private planes and police helicopters sporadically arrive and depart on the airfield's solitary 2,600-foot runway. For some aeronautical background, the College Park Aviation Museum is just a few yards away. Here, you can actually sit in the shaky Wright brothers' 1911 flight simulator. Dramamine not provided!

Like the Jones's book, this trip to the airport pays homage to some of the region's primo record-setting locales, like the National Air and Space Museum ("Most Popular Museum") and the Library of Congress ("Largest Library"). On your saunter, stop at

the Brickskeller in Dupont, where you can dig into a buffalo burger (named for the meat, not the New York city) to fuel up for some heavy reading — the eight-page, tiny-print "lengthiest" beer list boasts libations from more than 50 countries, including Sri Lanka. Other places on this drive may not be the biggest or widest or mostest, but they're worth a stop. At Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens, spot water lilies (estimated blooming date: May) and lotus flowers (EBD: July) or pitch in with the cleanup of the Anacostia River. Then, salsa down to Bladensburg's House of Music, which is filled wall-to-wall with Spanish sounds. Here, you can locate hard-to-otherwise-find CDs by artists like Tejano sensation Bobby Pulido. In Hyattsville, check out the arts scene at John Nelson Gallery. The D.C. native shows his delicately-rendered pencil landscapes and portraits. Note the photos of the artist presenting his work to the late legends Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie — two of the world's best jazzmen. — **Tony Sclafani**

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