

Washington Monument's new glow (almost) makes up for scaffolding

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There's a new reason to head to the Mall after dark.

The scaffolding-encased Washington Monument turns into a glowing tower every evening, thanks to 488 lights from the National Park Service.

Hundreds of lights have been wrapped around the marble tower as it undergoes construction. Photo used under the Creative Commons license.

The lights come from a sheer blue fabric wrapped around the 500 tons of scaffolding, and officials said they hope it will draw visitors who have been turned away by the construction. The monument has been closed since it suffered damage from an earthquake in August 2011.

The National Park Service estimated that the monument will reopen next spring.

Not in D.C.? You don't have to miss the lights. [Here's a live view of the monument via an online EarthCam.](#)

