

Watch the Washington Monument renovated - in 80 seconds

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Visitors could once again set foot inside the Washington Monument on Monday, nearly three years after a magnitude-5.8 earthquake closed it for repairs. Couldn't stick around to see the repairs being made? Don't worry — we've got a super-speedy time-lapse video that shows those 33 months in 80 seconds.

OPEN AGAIN: Public can now see best views in Washington

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YOUR TAKE: Have photos of the monument?

Here are some facts about the iconic District of Columbia obelisk, construction of which started in 1848.

- The epicenter of the Aug. 23, 2011, earthquake that damaged the monument, situated on the National Mall, was about 90 miles southwest of Washington but caused more than 150 cracks in the monument's marble cladding.
- Visitors often notice how the marble changes slightly in color about a third of the way up the monument. This is due to a construction hiatus between 1854 to 1877, when a lack of funds and the Civil War halted work. It was completed in 1884 and dedicated in February 1885.
- The renovation included the installation of new attractions on the top floor of the 555-foot structure, including an exhibit telling the story of Gen. George Washington, the United States' first president.



The Washington Monument has finally reopened after it was closed because of damage from an earthquake. This time-lapse video courtesy of [EarthCam](http://www.earthcam.net) shows the three years of repairs in about 80 seconds. Check out www.earthcam.net for more cool videos.