

# Wall Street Journal

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## Bidens Had a Date Night in Washington Before His Trip to Ukraine

By [Annie Linskey](#)



President Biden leaving the Red Hen restaurant in Washington, D.C., on Saturday. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

WASHINGTON—President Biden's activities in Washington hours before his surprise trip to Kyiv helped to obscure his secret plans to visit a war zone.

He and his wife spent a rare public night out on the town in Washington before he left.

Around 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Mr. Biden and first lady Jill Biden left the White House via motorcade and headed to Georgetown University to attend an evening mass. As they left campus about an hour later, Mr. Biden was seen waving to people on what was an unseasonably warm February evening.

The first couple next went to the National Museum of American History, arriving at the museum around 5:30 p.m. just as it closed to the public. They took in the “The First Ladies” exhibition, which features more than two dozen gowns worn by various presidential spouses, according to the museum’s website. On view was the white dress and blue coat Dr. Biden wore for her husband’s inauguration, which she formally presented to the institution in January.

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By 6:08 p.m., the president's motorcade was rolling to Red Hen, a trendy Italian restaurant in Washington's Bloomingdale neighborhood, and arrived around 6:25 p.m. They both ordered rigatoni, according to the White House.

They were greeted by cheers by onlookers as they left the restaurant around 7:47 p.m. and loaded into their armored limousine.

The president didn't take questions on his way out of the restaurant. He and the first lady were back at the White House by about 8 p.m. Saturday.

Mr. Biden was next seen in public a little more than 24 hours later, when he appeared in Kyiv at 8 a.m. local time Monday.



Attire worn by first lady Jill Biden at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES