



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



David Davies

My Fun Educational Baltimore Guide for Kids

Baltimore, Columbia, 3 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: This 3 day guide designed for kids provides a full and diverse itinerary of fun and educational activities for children. It will keep them busy and entertained with several opportunities for independent exploration and play.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Baltimore



National Aquarium in Baltimore

Amazing Underwater Experience



Maryland Science Center

Not your ordinary science museum; very interactive for the children.

Day 2 - Baltimore



Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

Inspiration for the National Anthem



U.S.S. Constellation

Historic Sailing Vessel

Day 3 - Baltimore



Baltimore American Indian Center

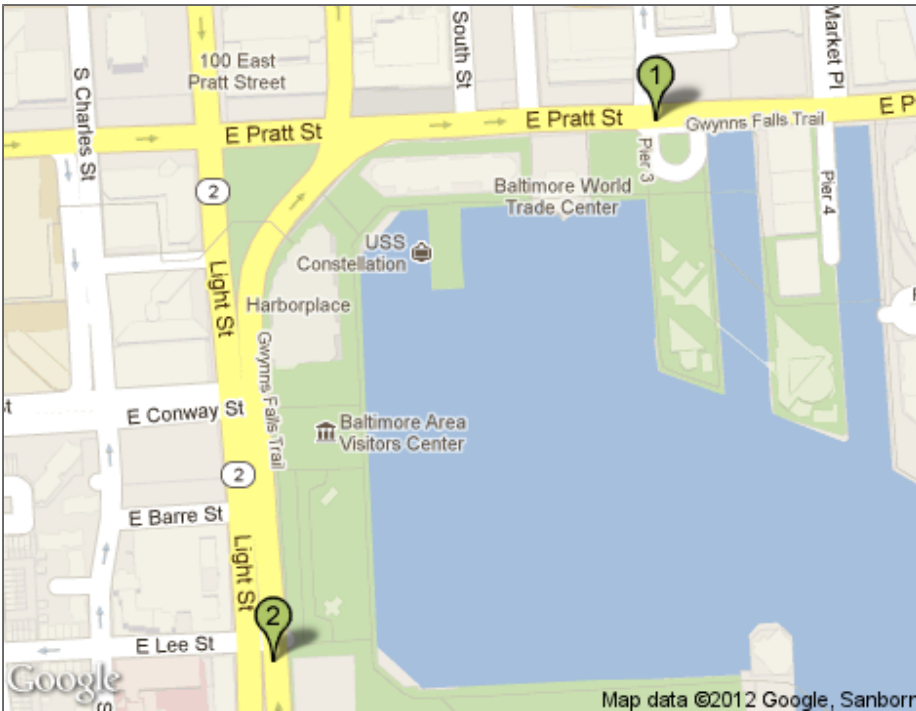
Learn About Native Americans



Walters Art Museum

Western & Asian Art

Day 1 - Baltimore



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: +1 410 576 3800
<http://www.aqua.org>

location:
501 E. Pratt St
Baltimore MD 21202

hours:
Mar-June and Sept-Oct daily
9am-5pm; Nov-Feb daily
10am-5pm; July-Aug daily
9am-5pm; year-round Fri
until 8pm. Hours subject to
change; call ahead. Exhibits
are open 2 hours after last
ticket is sold

1 National Aquarium in Baltimore

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

If you're coming with a baby, you will have to check your stroller as they're not allowed through the aquarium. They do give you baby carrier's to use in exchange but they can be bulky so you may want to bring your own.

DESCRIPTION: Walk into a room surrounded by patrolling sharks, stroll among coral reefs, and visit a rainforest on the roof of one of the best aquariums in the country. **Animal Planet Australia: Wild Extremes**, set in a 120-foot-tall glass cube at the front of the aquarium, takes visitors to the floor of an Australian river gorge. In this immersion exhibit, wander past tanks filled with death adders, pythons, archer fish, and barramundi, while kookaburras, parrots, and lorikeets fly overhead -- there are 1,800 animals in all, as well as plants native to Australia. On a cold day, skip right to the top of the aquarium and bask in the tropical heat that envelops the brightly colored birds, the shy iguana, and the sloth who reside on this level. (Best to come straight here when the aquarium opens, as that's when the animals are most active.) Although you simply walk in front of most of the exhibits, you get to actually walk inside the doughnut-shaped coral reef and the shark tanks, getting up close to these exotic creatures. At feeding time in the coral reef, the divers always draw a crowd. The **Marine Mammal Pavilion**, connected by covered bridge to the main hall, is where you'll find the dolphins. Don't



editor

miss the presentations -- reserve a seat (at no additional fee) when you pay your admission. If one has been born recently, the presentations are canceled, but go in anyway and watch the dolphins play. You can stay as long as you want. **4-D Immersion Theatre**, which opened in late 2007, shows 3-D movies, with the added sensations of movement, mist, and wind, throughout the day. **Tip:** The aquarium draws huge crowds in summer. Beat the crush by purchasing timed tickets in advance, either in person or through the aquarium's website. Nonpeak visiting hours are weekday mornings, Friday evenings, and any day after 3pm. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: +1 410 685 5225
<http://www.mdsci.org>

location:
601 Light St
Baltimore MD 21202

hours:
Labor Day to Memorial Day
Tues-Thurs 10am-5pm, Fri
10am-8pm, Sat 10am-6pm,
Sun 11am-5pm; Memorial
Day to Labor Day Thurs-
Sat 10am-8pm, Sun-Wed
10am-6pm. Call ahead, as
hours change with some
exhibits

2 Maryland Science Center

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

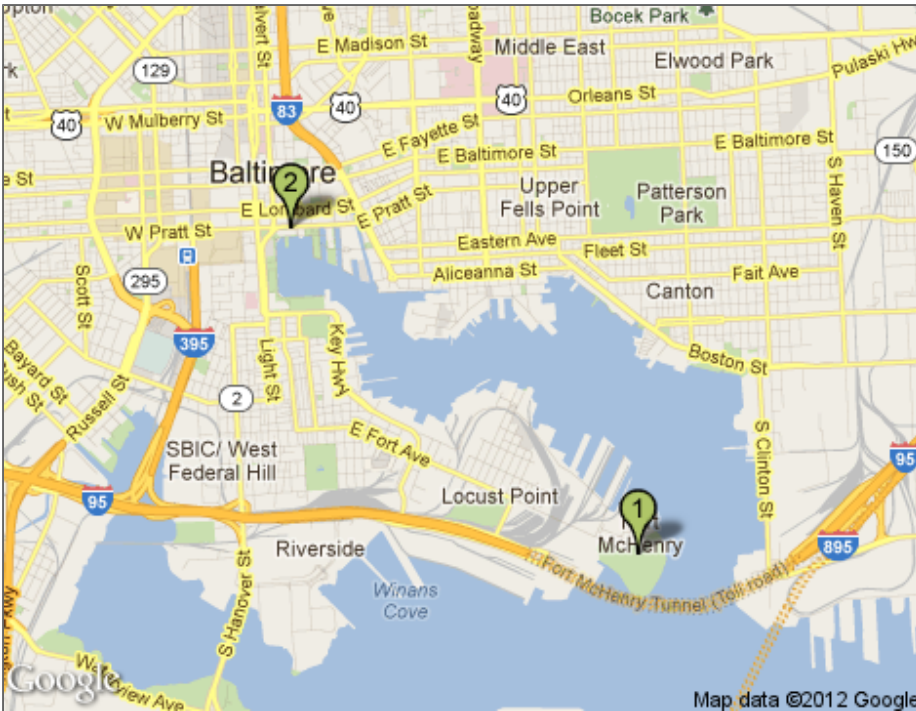
Wear comfortable shoes because you'll be stopping and going throughout the center.

DESCRIPTION: Three floors of exhibits include the popular Outer Space Place -- home of the Hubble Space Telescope National Visitor Center and Space Link, which offers a live connection to NASA -- and the towering dinosaurs of DinoQuest. Sometimes the exhibits are too crowded or of limited interest, but the IMAX theater and planetarium are always worth a visit. The IMAX movies, which range from *Beauty and the Beast* to *Space Station 3D*, are so popular that extra screenings are held Friday and Saturday evenings, for \$8 per ticket. The stars are on display at the Davis Planetarium and the Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory; the observatory is free to the public on Friday nights, weather permitting (call for hours). Admission to exhibits, the planetarium, and IMAX is \$8 on Fridays 5 to 8pm. © Frommer's



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Day 2 - Baltimore



QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: +1 410 962 4290

fax: +1 410 962 2500

<http://www.nps.gov/fomc/>

location:

2400 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore MD 21230

1 Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

DESCRIPTION: The sight of the American flag flying over Fort McHenry during the War Of 1812 inspired Francis Scott Key to pen the national anthem, the 'Star Spangled Banner'. A replica of that flag waves over the harbor-side port, now a tranquil National Park. The restored barracks hold exhibits of military and historical artifacts and a well-kept trail runs along the water's edge, affording spectacular views of ships entering and leaving the busy harbor. National Park passes are welcome. © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: +1 410 539 1797

fax: +1 410 539 6238

<http://www.constellation.org>

location:

301 E. Pratt St
Baltimore MD 21202

2 U.S.S. Constellation

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Book tickets to see the fireworks from the Constellation if you're in town for the 4th of July - includes admission, appetizers, and best seats in the house for the celebration.



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hours:

Apr-Oct daily 10am-5:30pm

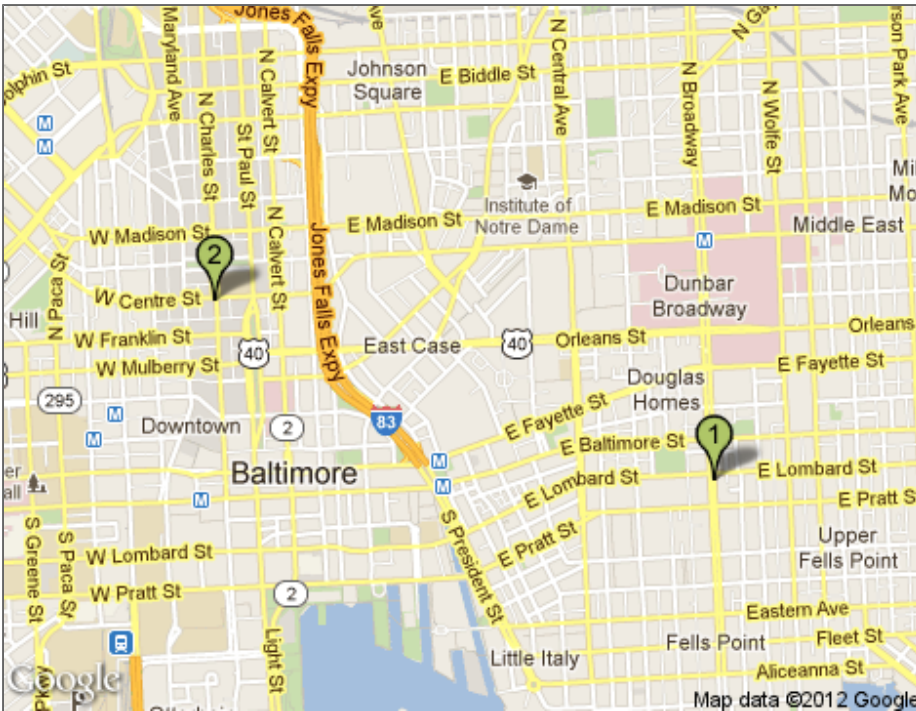
(extended hours June-Aug);

Nov-Mar daily 10am-4:30pm

DESCRIPTION: You can't miss the Constellation, docked for years at the Inner Harbor (predating Harborplace). A triple-masted sloop-of-war launched in 1854, the Constellation is the last Civil War-era vessel afloat. Tour her gun decks, visit the wardrooms, see a cannon fired, and learn about the life of a sailor. Demonstrations begin with the raising of the colors at

10:30am and continue on the hour. The Fourth of July picnic and a New Year's Eve reception both end with fireworks (tickets are required). Downtown visitors should note that the ship's cannon is fired daily at noon. "Powder Monkey" tours are directed at children 6 and over. © Frommer's

Day 3 - Baltimore



QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: +1 410 675 3535
fax: +1 410 675 6909
<http://www.baic.org/>

location:

113 South Broadway
Baltimore MD 21231

1 Baltimore American Indian Center

DESCRIPTION: The Baltimore American Indian Center provides educational opportunities for youths who would like to learn about Native American culture. View Native American art and learn to make moccasins and jewelry, or take classes in Native American dancing and drumming. The center is housed in a three-story building and also offers social services for the city's large Native American population, which includes about 6,000 Lumbee. Each year, thousands of people attend the center's three-day powwow, which is usually held on a local college campus. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Baltimore American Indian Center

contact:

tel: +1 410 547 9000
<http://www.thewalters.org>

location:

600 N. Charles St
Baltimore MD 21201

hours:

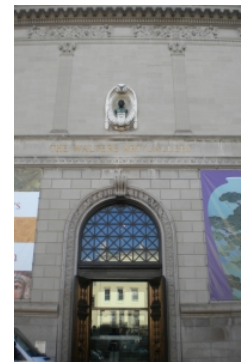
Wed-Sun 11am-5pm

2 Walters Art Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be sure to eat before you go as you'll want to keep touring for hours.

DESCRIPTION: The Walters has always been one of Baltimore's great attractions. Begun with the 22,000-object collection of William and Henry Walters, this gem's ancient and medieval galleries practically sparkle. Walk through the galleries of sculpture, jewelry, mummies, and 19th-century French paintings to see the progress of fine art through 50 centuries. The Knight's Hall displays tapestries, furnishings, and suits of armor from the Middle Ages. The Egyptian collection is one of the best in the U.S. The original Palazzo building features 1,500 works from mostly



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the Renaissance and baroque periods. Hackerman House features Asian art. The Palace of Wonders is the imaginary gallery of a 17th-century Flemish nobleman with art, collections from nature, and artifacts from around the world. Docents offer free tours Saturday at 11:30am and Sunday at 2pm. The cafe serves light fare. © Frommer's

My List

contact:

tel: +1 410 752 2490
http://www.borail.org

location:

901 W. Pratt St
Baltimore MD 21223

hours:

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; Sat
10am-5pm; Sun noon-5pm

1 B & O Railroad Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Popular time that locals go to the museum is during Christmas season when Santa rides into the station and welcomes children to take pictures.

DESCRIPTION: American railroading got its start here when the B&O was chartered in 1827, and the first locomotive, the Tom Thumb, was built here. The remarkable roundhouse was restored after the roof collapsed in a 2003 snowstorm and is now more accessible for visitors with disabilities and parents with strollers. As damaged pieces are repaired, they are returned to the roundhouse (most should be back by the end of 2008), but it's still filled with an awe-inspiring collection of engines and rolling stock. A car barn has the largest locomotive ever built. Platforms enable visitors to tour trains outside, including a World War II troop sleeper, a caboose, and a refrigerated car where a train movie runs continuously. Admission includes a short ride, with trains departing daily from April through December and weekends only in January. © Frommer's



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contact:

tel: +1 410 730 7106
fax: +1 410 730 7105
http://www.africanartmuseum.org/

location:

5430 Vantage Point Road
Columbia MD 21044

2 African Art Museum of Maryland

DESCRIPTION: The African Art Museum of Maryland has been providing the Baltimore area with access to fascinating African art and history since 1980. Besides its permanent collection, the museum also offers workshops for adults, kids, and families, outreach programs to local primary schools, lectures and an annual guided trip to Africa to experience African culture first hand. A great educational resource for people of all ages, races and cultures, the African Art Museum plays a vital role in its community. Call ahead for museum hours, as they are irregular. © wcities.com



African Art Museum of Maryland

contact:

tel: +1 410 523 3443
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/baltimore/b13.htm>

location:

600 North Paca Street
Baltimore MD 21201

3 Mother Seton House

DESCRIPTION: This historic home was labeled as a historic site in 1973. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the original owner of the home, was the first American-born woman to be canonized by the Catholic Church. She founded the first order of nuns in the United States in the 19th century and was also responsible for founding one of the nation's first parochial schools in Baltimore. The house was named a historical site after nine years of renovations starting in 1963. Furniture and artifacts from the 19th century are still displayed in the home, which is open to the public on weekends and by appointment. © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: +1 410 516 5589
fax: +1 410 516 7859
<http://www.jhu.edu/~hwdhouse>

location:

3400 N. Charles St
Baltimore MD 21218

hours:

Tues-Fri 11am-4pm; Sat-Sun noon-4pm (last tour at 3:30pm)

4 Homewood House Museum

DESCRIPTION: If you have time, visit both Evergreen and Homewood (they're a mile apart) to see how differently the rich lived in different centuries. Homewood was designed and built by the son of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Built in 1801, the five-part classic Palladian home is a dazzling example of Federal architecture. Its interiors boast superb woodcarving and plaster ornamentation. It's painted in a rainbow of soothing colors and decorated in pieces of the time, some from the Carroll family. Highlights are the main hall, the family sitting room with toys and doll furniture, the music room, the long lemon-yellow hall, and the master bedroom with its high cove ceiling and bookcases tucked into the sides of the fireplace. Tours, offered on the half hour, last 45 minutes. Changing exhibits in the main hall focus on the decorative arts or architecture. © Frommer's



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contact:

tel: +1 410 837 1793
<http://www.flaghouse.org>

location:

844 East Pratt Street
Baltimore MD 21202

5 Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum (The)

DESCRIPTION: Visitors to the Flag House are given a personal tour of the 18th-century home where Mary Young Pickersgill sewed the Star Spangled Banner in the summer of 1813. During the 45-minute tour, tourists will learn about the making of the Star Spangled Banner and have an opportunity to visit the adjacent 1812 Museum, which features artifacts from the War of 1812. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: +1 410 385 5188
<http://www.mdhs.org/>

location:
601 President Street
Baltimore MD 21202

6 Baltimore Civil War Museum

DESCRIPTION: The restored President Street Station, built in 1849, was first a stop on the Underground Railroad. On April 19, 1861, it became the site of the first casualties of the Civil War. The 6th Massachusetts Regiment stopped in Baltimore to switch trains and clashed with Southern sympathizers. Firing ensued. Four soldiers and 12 civilians were killed. Exhibits and walking tours chronicle the story of the 6th regiment. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Baltimore Civil War Museum

contact:
tel: +1 410 605 2964
<http://www.carrollmuseums.org/>

location:
800 East Lombard Street
Baltimore MD 21202

7 Carroll Mansion

DESCRIPTION: The Carroll Mansion is worth a visit, if you're fascinated with history. The mansion was home to Richard Caton, whose father-in-law was Charles Carroll, one of the signatories of the American Declaration of Independence. After his death, the mansion went through a series of contrasting events - from days of splendor to days of poverty. Step in to see traces of both the culturally rich days of the 18th century and its gradual decline in the 19th century. Today the mansion hosts corporate and private events, and is also available for tours. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 410 837 3262
fax: +1 410 837 0251
<http://www.mountclare.org>

location:
1500 Washington Blvd
Baltimore MD 21230

hours:
Tues-Sat 10am-4pm (tours on the hour until 3pm)

8 Mount Clare Museum House

DESCRIPTION: This 1760 summer home of barrister Charles Carroll and Margaret Tilghman Carroll is set on a hill with a sweeping view of the Baltimore skyline. Most of the furnishings belonged to the Carroll family, including a Charles Wilson Peale portrait and a fine collection of Chinese and English porcelain. Washington didn't sleep here, but Martha did -- and so did the Marquis de Lafayette. © Frommer's



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contact:
tel: +1 410 396 0929

location:
699 Washington Pl
Baltimore MD 21201

hours:
Wed-Sun 10am-5pm

9 Washington Monument

DESCRIPTION: This 178-foot-tall column, the country's first major architectural memorial to George Washington, was designed in 1815 by Robert Mills, who also designed the Washington Monument (begun in 1848) in Washington, D.C. To learn the whole story, see the exhibit inside the building. The physically fit can also climb the 228 steps to the top of the tower and see why this spot has what's often called the best view in Baltimore. The monument takes center stage on the city's seal. © Frommer's



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contact:

tel: +1 410 783 1490
fax: +1 410 783 1884
<http://www.natlhistoricseaport.org/>

location:

717 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore MD 21202

10

National Historic Seaport of Baltimore

DESCRIPTION: This historic seaport rings the Baltimore harbor and includes attractions and sailing vessels that chronicle the city's 300-year maritime past. You can explore this history by walking the streets of waterfront communities or the decks of famous ships. The seaport consists of 16 sites, including the USS Constellation, the only surviving Civil War-era vessel afloat the Seven-Foot Knoll Lighthouse, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Taney, Fort McHenry, historic Fells Point, Federal Hill and the Baltimore Museum of Industry. © wcities.com



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Baltimore Snapshot

Local Info

Baltimore has proven itself to be a city of resilience having raised itself out of the ashes of fire, politically-charged riots, crime, and deindustrialization. An hour from Washington D.C. and 90 minutes from Philadelphia, B-more as it's affectionately called by locals, is one of America's most revered cities. Initially intended by Lord Baltimore to be a replica of England, the city has undergone several identity crises ranging from playground of landed British gentry to industrial haven to revitalized metropolis by way of capital improvements and gentrification.

Baltimore, like other major port cities in America, began its population with

droves of African slaves and European immigrants, many of whose descendants still reside here and make up its present day communities. Culturally rich, Baltimore has no shortage of ethnic restaurants and entertainment. The Inner Harbor houses Maryland's most popular destination, the Baltimore Aquarium, along with historic attractions such as the U.S.S. Constellation and the Maryland Science Center.

Visitors to Baltimore have a hearty list of activities and neighborhoods to choose from. Neighborhoods such as Chinatown, Little Italy, and Greek Town are among a few worthy of a day of exploration. Some of the city's best kept secrets can be found in the less picturesque walkways

of Lexington Market where arguably the city's tastiest crab cakes can be found at Faidley's Seafood. Travelers interested in the arts have several museums to choose from including, but not limited to, the B&O Railroad Museum, the Washington Monument & Museum, the Lyric Opera House, and the Hippodrome Theater. Sports enthusiasts can take a break at ESPN Zone right in the Inner Harbor or catch a game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards or M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Orioles and the Ravens, respectively.

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