



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



David Davies

# Baltimore Family Fun

## **Baltimore, Towson, 3 Days**

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# Guide Description



# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Baltimore, Towson



**Staybridge Suites Baltimore Bwi Airport**



**National Aquarium in Baltimore**

Amazing Underwater Experience



**La Tasca - Baltimore**

Little Plates, Big Atmosphere



**U.S.S. Constellation**

Historic Sailing Vessel



**Rainforest Cafe**

It's a Jungle in There

## Day 2 - Baltimore



**Top of the World Observation Level and Museum**

Panoramic views, Local History



**Arundel Mills**

Shopping Mall

## Day 3 - Baltimore



**Baltimore Water Taxis**

17 Waterfront Stops



**Maryland Science Center**

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

**contact:**  
tel: (800) 718-8466

**location:**  
1301 Winterson Road  
Linthicum Heights MD 21090

## 1 Staybridge Suites Baltimore Bwi Airport

### **DESCRIPTION: Location.**

Staybridge Suites BWI Airport is located in Linthicum Heights and near the airport. Maryland Live Casino, Arundel Mills Mall, and Timbers at Troy Golf Course are local attractions. Regional points of interest also include National Aquarium in Baltimore and M and T Bank Stadium. **Hotel Features.**

Staybridge Suites BWI Airport features a snack bar/deli. The hotel serves a complimentary buffet breakfast each morning in the breakfast area. Guests can enjoy a complimentary evening social available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Recreational amenities include a fitness facility. This 3-star property has a 24-hour business center and offers a meeting/conference room, audiovisual equipment, and business services. Complimentary wireless and wired high-speed Internet access is available in public areas and the hotel has a computer station. The property has a complimentary airport shuttle during limited hours. Self parking is complimentary. Additional property amenities include barbecue grills, multilingual staff, and laundry facilities. The property has designated areas for smoking. **Guestrooms.** 104 air-conditioned guestrooms at Staybridge Suites BWI Airport feature MP3 docking stations and CD players. Furnishings include desks and ergonomic chairs. Kitchens include full-sized refrigerators/freezers, stovetops, microwaves, and dishwashers. Bathrooms feature shower/tub combinations and hair dryers. Wired high-speed and wireless Internet access is complimentary. In addition to complimentary newspapers and safes, guestrooms offer multi-line phones with voice mail, as well as free local calls (restrictions may apply). High-definition televisions have premium cable channels, DVD players, and DVD/VCRs. Rooms also include coffee/tea makers and windows that open. Housekeeping is offered daily and guests may request wake-up calls.

### **Notifications and Fees:**

This property offers transfers from the airport. Guests must contact the property with arrival details before travel, using the contact information on the booking confirmation.

The following fees and deposits are charged by the property at time of service, check-in, or check-out. Pet fee: USD 100 per pet, per stay

The above list may not be comprehensive. Fees and deposits may not include tax and are subject to change.



Hotels.com

**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

**2 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 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



editor

**contact:**

tel: 4102092563x  
www.latascausa.com

**location:**

201 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore MD 21202

**hours:**

Su to Th from 11:30 AM to  
11:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 11:30  
AM to 12:00 AM

**3 La Tasca - Baltimore**

**DESCRIPTION:** Tapas and sangria by the waterfront - no wonder La Tasca was an opentable.com Diners Choice in 2010. With winning views of Inner Harbor, and a vast upstairs space for private parties and functions, this has been - and continues to be - a firm favorite with the locals. If you're dining with a group, consider trying out one of their many tasting menus - all of which are more than ample for two. There is an excellent selection of vegetarian tapas as well as charcuterie options and salads. The sangria is legendary - it's not a visit to La Tasca unless you get a pitcher.&nbsp;© wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 410 539 1797  
fax: +1 410 539 6238  
<http://www.constellation.org>

**location:**

301 E. Pratt St  
Baltimore MD 21202

**hours:**

Apr-Oct daily 10am-5:30pm  
(extended hours June-Aug);  
Nov-Mar daily 10am-4:30pm

**4 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.

**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



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 410 321 0300  
fax: +1 410 321 4609  
<http://www.rainforestcafe.com>

**location:**

825 Dulaney Valley Road  
Towson MD 21204

**hours:**

Mo to Fr from 11:00 AM to  
09:30 PM, Sa from 11:00 AM  
to 10:00 PM, Su from 11:00  
AM to 07:00 PM

**5 Rainforest Cafe**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Rainforest Cafe is not only a restaurant but a jungle as well. The atmosphere is embellished with cascading waterfalls, a fiber-optic starscape, and once in a while the sound of thunderstorms. The cuisine is a medley of Italian, Cajun, Mexican and Caribbean flavors. With pastas, burgers, seafood, steaks and chicken on the menu, this is one place you and your kids won't want to miss. © wcities.com

# Day 2 - Baltimore

QUICK NOTE

**contact:**

tel: +1 410 837 8439  
fax: +1 410 837 0845

**location:**

401 E. Pratt St  
Baltimore MD 21202

**hours:**

Sept-May Wed-Sun  
10am-6pm; June-Aug Sun-Fri  
10am-6pm, Sat 10am-8pm.  
Tickets sold in the lobby up to  
a half-hour before closing

## 1 Top of the World Observation Level and Museum

**DESCRIPTION:** For a 360-degree view of the city, head to the 27th floor of the World Trade Center, the world's tallest pentagonal building, next to Harborplace. In addition to the fine view, you can acquire a bit of background about Baltimore from the exhibits, hands-on displays, and multimedia presentations. The area is accessible to visitors with disabilities. © Frommer's



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 410 540 5100  
<http://www.arundelmillsmall.com>

**location:**

7000 Arundel Mills Circle  
Baltimore MD 21076

## 2 Arundel Mills

**DESCRIPTION:** Located south of Baltimore, this theme-park-like mall is worth the trek for shopaholics. It's huge, with some 200 shops. Larger retailers, such as Off 5th Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet, Neiman Marcus Last Call, and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, are joined by smaller shops, a 24-screen movie theater, and lots of restaurants. The combination of games and food at Dave & Buster's is an afternoon's diversion all by itself, and Medieval Times offers dinner and a show. Open daily. © Frommer's



wcities

# Day 3 - Baltimore

## QUICK NOTE

**contact:**  
tel: +1 410 563 3901  
<http://www.thewater-taxi.com/>

**location:**  
1735 Lancaster Street  
Baltimore MD 21202

## 1 Baltimore Water Taxis

**DESCRIPTION:** This unique water transportation system allows visitors and residents to avoid long walks from point to point, but also the traffic congestion along Pratt Street and the roads hugging the harbor. The Baltimore Water Taxi has 17 stops scattered along the waterfront, from Little Italy to Fell's Point. See their website for further information. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Baltimore Water Taxis

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

**location:**  
601 Light St  
Baltimore MD 21202

## 2 Maryland Science Center

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**  
Wear comfortable shoes because you'll be stopping and going throughout the center.

**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

**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



editor

# 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 Hipperdrome 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.

© NileGuide

## History

The most blue collar of American cities started as the most blue blooded. Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore, hoped to reproduce

England as perfectly as possible. But by the end of the 19th century, the city built as a seat for landed gentry had become a collection of fiercely solid working class neighborhoods.

Cecil appointed his brother Leo as the first governor, and, on November 22, 1632, the Ark and the Dove set sail from England with about 140 settlers, a mix of Protestants and Catholics. By March 25, 1633, the Feast of the Annunciation, they had established their first Maryland landing on the island of St. Clement's.

Maryland's early years were a rich time for landed gentry, with rolling estates, rich hunting and fishing, and a good port. Black slaves and indentured whites were doing the work and it was very much like Lord Baltimore's vision of an idyllic England, except that Catholics and Protestants were trying to live in harmony. This religious mix was highly unusual at the time--within a few years the religious tensions back in England would lead to civil war. During this period, in 1689, Anne Arundell Town was named Maryland's capital, but was renamed Annapolis in 1695.

In the colony's early years, 80 percent of the land was controlled by about 10 percent of the population. The town of Baltimore was chartered on August 8, 1729 as a place to put the colony's new customs house; eventually it became the chief port, and today it is the fifth busiest port in the United States.

By the 1750s, the main export crops were cereal grains and flour, ground in the new mills of Baltimore. Indentured servitude came to an end, and these new freemen opened a series of small farms across the state. Trade with the other colonies and with Europe was the principle industry of this seaport town, and the forces that propelled America into the Revolutionary War were keenly felt here. Baltimoreans raided British merchant frigates under officially sanctioned "privateering" laws.

Despite frequent skirmishes, progress continued. In 1808, Mother Elizabeth Seton opened a school for girls on Paca Street

and in 1812 the University of Maryland was founded. Mother Seton was later canonized as the first American saint, in 1975.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Baltimore ships proved adept at skirting British blockades to supply France. Eager to take another crack at the ex-colonies, Britain declared war. During the War of 1812, the British burned Washington D.C. and General Andrew Jackson made a name for himself defeating the British in the Battle of New Orleans. Then, in 1814, British troops advanced on Baltimore, planning to burn the town and destroy the core of the American merchant fleet in the harbor. On Sunday, September 11, 1814, they attacked the harbor defenses at Ft. McHenry.

The battle raged for 12 hours. Eight miles away, aboard a British vessel, an American watched the bombardment. Francis Scott Key was a lawyer negotiating the release of a client when a British officer detained him for the duration of the battle. As evening fell, Key could plainly see the American flag, 80 feet long and 40 feet high, above the fort. The sight inspired Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner," which was later declared the official national anthem of the United States. Though the lyrics are Key's, the tune comes from an old British drinking song.

By the end of the Civil War, Baltimore started to resemble the city it is today. The landed gentry of Lord Baltimore's time were long gone. The rising cities of New York and Boston and Philadelphia had become the new centers of culture, and many of the rich had moved on.

The end of the 19th century marks the beginning of baseball. The Baltimore Orioles was among the first teams. Babe Ruth was born here in 1895 and his father ran a pub on a spot in what is now Camden Yards. The Orioles' Cal Ripken, Jr., is a legend here, and everywhere that baseball is followed.

Modern Baltimore began at the end of World War II. As the new suburbs developed, downtown fell on hard times. By the 1960s, Baltimore faced the same

## Baltimore Snapshot continued

sort of abandonment and blight as most American cities. This changed in the 1980s with the development of the Inner Harbor and Camden Yards, the new home of the Orioles.

©

### Hotel Insights

Depending on your budget, the purpose of your trip, the makeup of your travel party, or your pension for adventure, Baltimore has a variety of hotels to choose from. If convenience outweighs frugality in your travels, you'll have over 50 establishments to choose from in Baltimore city- whether you're interested in being right on the waterfront or you prefer to be further inland adjacent to a performance house, a religious edifice or an historic neighborhood. If your goal is to conquer your sight-seeing To-Do-List in one day, hotels in the Inner Harbor are your best bet. These hotels are right off the water and within walking distance to a collection of attractions, eateries, and nightlife. Understand though that you will be in tourist-central and will pay for lodging and souvenirs accordingly. The plus side to lodging in this centralized location is that you'll avoid driving into city traffic and scouring for a parking space.

Traffic and tourism is at its highest in Baltimore when the weather is warm and kids are out of school (late May-late August). Many of the downtown hotels do charge you for daily parking. If you're looking to save a few bucks on your accommodations, particularly if you're a family traveling with multiple children, you can stay outside the city in neighboring Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Howard counties. You'll still have plenty to see and do and you'll only be 10-20 minutes away from the Harbor.

© NileGuide

### Restaurants Insights

The Chesapeake Bay takes its name from a Native American phrase for "Great Shellfish Bay." So it's no wonder that Baltimore, nestled along the bay's north shore, developed a hometown cuisine dominated by crustaceans. The blue crab, in particular, has become a city staple. In Baltimore,

you'll find moist crab meat stuffed inside Chinese dumplings, sprinkled over linguine and wrapped in fajitas. Perhaps the ultimate crab meat dish, and certainly the one Baltimore is most famous for, is the crab cake. You'll find these delightful crab meat patties served in scores of bars and restaurants all over the city.

Wherever you decide to go for crab cakes, there are a few terms you should be familiar with. The first is Market Price. Crabs are both seasonal and in short supply, and thus the price varies even during the prime crabbing months of June through September. You should also know the terms Special, Backfin, and Jumbo Lump. These are the three grades of crabmeat, and rank the size of the pieces from smallest to largest. All three grades have the same flavor, and crab cakes made with Special or Backfin are usually much less expensive than those made with Jumbo Lump.

#### Inner Harbor

Once you've sampled the local delicacy, you'll want to take on the rest of the city's culinary treats. A great place to start is the Inner Harbor, which is in many ways Baltimore's showpiece. This dockside expanse is home to numerous educational and tourist attractions, hotels, stores, and enough restaurants to allow you to dine-out happily for weeks. For fine dining, Fleming's is a Steakhouse and wine bar with plenty of labels, as well as seafood options, to choose from. Little Havana serves seafood as well but with a Spanish and Cuban touch. They also have space for parties and can provide catering. By far the best seafood restaurant in Inner Harbor is the famous McCormick & Schmick's.

#### Mount Vernon

Heading uptown from the Inner Harbor on North Charles Street, you'll soon come to the lovely neighborhood of Mount Vernon. Here, in the shadow of a 178-foot monument to George Washington, you'll find a number of great places to dine. Two more of the city's absolute best, The Brass Elephant and Tio Pepe are located here. Relative newcomers like Brewer's Art,

which serves creative German-styled fare, also thrive here. Finally, it's also home to an array of fine ethnic restaurants such as Akbar, which serves Indian dishes.

#### Federal Hill

Just south of the Inner Harbor is Federal Hill. A touch funkier than Mount Vernon, it's also host to a wide range of places to eat and drink. Foremost among them are Matsuri, one of the city's many fine Japanese restaurants, and the One World Café, a bohemian-flavored coffeehouse that serves great food and offers lots of vegetarian and vegan choices. Finally, over on the bay side of the neighborhood, you'll find Joy America Café, a four-star restaurant atop the American Visionary Art Museum.

#### Little Italy

Just to the east of the Inner Harbor lies Little Italy, one of Baltimore's culinary treasures. At last count, this 12-block expanse was home to over 20 fine Italian restaurants. It's really not fair to name just a few, but Sabatino's, Aldo's and Della Notte provide fine examples of what the area offers.

#### Fells Point

On weekends, this maritime district is swarmed with college students and young professionals looking for fun in the area's many nightclubs, such as The Latin Place. The neighborhood is also a favorite haunt of Baltimore's bohemian folk, who frequent the area's coffee houses, like Ze Mean Bean, which serves Eastern European dishes and coffees amidst an atmosphere of books and music. Then there are those places like Bertha's, an illustrious seafood restaurant. There are also plenty of places to hear live music, including The Full Moon Saloon, which features blues music, and The Cat's Eye Pub, which features Irish music. And finally, it's also home to two of the town's best new four-star restaurants, The Black Olive and Kali's Court.

#### Canton

To the northeast of Fells Point is Canton, one of Baltimore's recently refurbished

## Baltimore Snapshot continued

neighborhoods. Formerly an industrial area, it's now home to a number of upscale cocktail bars, such as The Gin Mill and The Cosmopolitan Bar & Grill. There are also several cozy, friendly neighborhood eateries, like Nacho Mama's and the Cosmopolitan Bar & Grill.

Many other great restaurants are scattered throughout the rest of Baltimore's many neighborhoods. The East Baltimore neighborhood of Greek Town is, as its name implies, host to many excellent Greek restaurants, Ikaros foremost among them. In the midtown neighborhood of Charles Village you'll find Niwana, a great Korean and Chinese eatery. Just to the north, in the Govans neighborhood, lies the marvelous Café Zen. To the west, Hampden is home to Café Hon. Up in the quiet neighborhood of Mount Washington, located in northwest Baltimore, you'll find several charming eateries including The Desert Café.

Indeed, you can count on always being able to find something good to eat, no matter where you go in Baltimore. And remember, when in doubt: order the crab cakes.

©

### Nightlife Insights

Baltimore offers endless entertainment options, from live music and museums to stage, screen and sports events. Visitors often begin their stay in "Charm City" with a trip to the Inner Harbor, which offers a wonderful preview of all that Baltimore has to offer. The area is home to many restaurants, shops and museums, as well as the waterfront Pier Six Concert Pavilion.

### Music

For classical music, of course, there is always the Baltimore Symphony and recitals, opera, and new work at the Peabody Institute. In the summer, the Symphony performs at Oregon Ridge Park in suburban Cockeysville (Baltimore County). The outdoor venue offers visitors a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great music in a serene atmosphere. Visitors who enjoy opera will love the historic Lyric

Opera House, home of the Baltimore Opera Company.

Live music on a smaller scale is easy to find in bars and restaurants around town, or on summer nights by the Harbor. For classic rock-n-roll, the most famous room around is Fletcher's, in the historic waterfront neighborhood of Fells Point. This outdoor club plays booming music and attracts a mostly college-age crowd. If Fletcher's is too crowded, or you don't like the music, just walk through Fells Point until you find what you want; it's there somewhere, in one of the many bars along the cobblestones. At Bertha's, in the heart of Fells Point, you're likely to find a live jazz or folk band playing. There's also plenty of Irish music performed at other restaurants in the neighborhood, if you want something lively but not as loud.

### Sports

For sports, the city offers everything from biking and hiking to baseball, football and golf. The Baltimore metropolitan area also has horse racing at Pimlico Race Course on the city's northwestern border, indoor volleyball courts at Volleyball House in nearby Columbia and swimming at Arundel Olympic Swim Center in Annapolis.

There's major league baseball at the downtown Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles. At nearby PSINet Stadium, fans of the National Football League can watch the Ravens play. Both stadiums are within easy walking distance of the Inner Harbor and downtown business district.

If biking or skating is more your style, be sure to take advantage of the Baltimore & Annapolis Trail in beautiful Anne Arundel County, about 20 minutes south of Baltimore by car. The 13-mile paved trail stretches from suburban Glen Burnie to Annapolis, affording bicyclists, skaters and walkers a respite from the hustle and bustle of Baltimore's encroaching suburbs.

Hikers will enjoy spending a day at the Earth Treks Climbing Center in Columbia (Howard County). It is the East Coast's largest indoor climbing center,

featuring a state-of-the-art, 13,250-square-foot climbing surface that resembles a southwestern canyon with 44-foot high cliffs.

If you prefer to spend time outdoors, try golfing. You'll find a range of courses, from the city's Carroll Park Municipal Golf Course, a 12-hole, par 40 course, to the more challenging Diamond Ridge 18-hole, par 71 course owned and operated by Baltimore County.

### Theater and Cinema

Film buffs will relish Baltimore's landmark theaters: The Charles Theater and the Senator Theater. The former has been a fixture of the city's cinema scene since 1939; the latter has been named one of the top four theaters in the country.

If stage performances are more to your liking, try to catch a performance at Center Stage in downtown Baltimore. This respected regional theater consistently offers high-quality productions on its two stages, the Head Theater and the Pearlstone Theater.

### Museums and Galleries

The Baltimore region is home to many museums and art galleries. No matter what your interests—sports, western, Asian or African art, the Civil War or even dentistry—you're likely to find a museum in or near Charm City that's dedicated to it.

No trip to Baltimore would be complete without a visit to the Walters Art Gallery. This downtown gallery boasts a collection that spans nearly the entire history of Western art. The Walters also houses one of the largest collections of traditional Asian art in the United States. Fans of modern American artists will delight in the nearby Baltimore Museum of Art.

If African art peaks your interest, you won't want to miss the African Art Museum of Maryland in Columbia, a 20-minute drive from downtown Baltimore.

Civil War buffs will enjoy spending an afternoon at the Baltimore Civil War Museum. It chronicles the story of the

## Baltimore Snapshot continued

first casualties of the Civil War, as well as Baltimore's role in the underground railroad.

Sports fans will love the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum. It features Babe's boyhood bat, the score card from his first professional game and Orioles team memorabilia.

Visitors with more eclectic interests might enjoy visiting the National Museum of Dentistry, Mud and Metal, which sells alternative art objects, or the smaller art galleries in Baltimore. Many, including the Watermark Gallery and the Art Gallery of Fells Point display the work of local artists. The Baltimore Streetcar Museum and B&O Railroad Museum are also worth visiting.

### Children's Attractions

Charm City is a wonderful place to bring the kids for a day of fun. Be sure to visit Port Discovery, where children can climb, crawl and slide through a treehouse or learn to make their own jewelry. A trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore is also sure to be a hit with the young and young at heart. Entertainment at this Inner Harbor attraction includes a simulated rainforest and regularly scheduled dolphin shows. The nearby Maryland Science Center will inspire curious children with interactive exhibits that focus on physics, marine biology and astronomy.

©

### Things to Do Insights

About 14 million people visit "Charm City" each year, lured by Baltimore's warm hospitality, modern conveniences and long list of interesting and unique attractions.

**Harborplace** Harborplace is a festive market with shops, eateries and plenty of activities. Nearby, concerts under the stars can be enjoyed at the Harborplace Amphitheatre, and at Pier One, you'll find the U.S.S. Constellation, the only surviving Civil War-era naval vessel and all-sail warship built by the Navy. Dine at Phillips Harborplace. Next, stop into the National Aquarium.

**National Science Center** The National Science Center is located not far from many other attractions. Just around the bend of Key Highway, beyond Federal Hill Park, is the American Visionary Art Museum. Have a meal at Regi's American Bistro. Jump on the Key Highway to see Fort McHenry, though it may be worth a day trip of its own.

**Camden Yards** Camden Yards, where the Baltimore Orioles play, is located in the downtown district. An interesting museum to visit here, while it is a bit of an oddity, is the Dental Museum, just 2 blocks away from the Yards. Dine at the nearby Prime Rib. The Babe Ruth Museum and the B&O Railroad Museum are also not far from here.

### Mount Vernon and Charles Village

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption, the first Roman Catholic cathedral in the U.S., is located a short ride northeast of Camden Yards, near Mount Vernon. Here you'll also find the Walters Art Gallery, where admission to the permanent collection is always free. One block away, you can see the world-renowned Peabody Institute, which is attended by world-famous vocalists, pianists, and composers. Dine at the City Cafe.

**Baltimore Museum of Art** Located on the Johns Hopkins University campus is the John Russell Pope-designed Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA). The BMA has the second-largest private collection of Andy Warhol pieces in the country. Also on the University's grounds is the Lacrosse Museum and National Hall of Fame, next to Homewood Field. If the lacrosse team is playing, you can catch a game, or just tour the Hall of Fame. After that, walk over to the Baltimore Zoo, which offers a children's area where they can walk on lily pads and climb inside a tree. The Ambassador Dining Room restaurant is a great place to grab a quick bite.

Baltimore offers many different touring options to help you organize your schedule. Hop on a boat and enjoy the views of the Inner Harbor, or check out the main city attractions by bus. You can also get a fun,

historical perspective through one of the many ghost tours available.

**Bus Tours** Baltimore Party Shuttle Tours (+1 202 286 9661/<http://www.baltimorepartyshuttle.com/>) Baltimore Suttle (+1 410 254 8687) Greenspring Tours (+1 410 561 1119) Presenting Baltimore (+1 410 539 9994)

**Boat Tours** Project Liberty Ship (+1 410 558 0646/<http://www.liberty-ship.com/>) Ride The Ducks (+1 410 727 3825/<http://www.baltimoreducks.com/>) The Bay Lady (+1 410 727 3113/<http://www.harborcruises.com/baylady.htm/>)

**Sports Tours** Big League Tours (+1 866 619 1748/+1 317 534 2475/<http://www.bigleaguestours.com/>)

**Historical Tours** Preservation Society Tours (+1 410 675 6750)

**Ghost Tours** Mysterious Maryland Tours (+1 443 817 0967/<http://www.ghostscience.net/tours/>) Preservation Society Tours (+1 410 675 6750)

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## Travel Tips

### Getting There

#### Air

Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) +1 410 859 7111 <http://www.bwiairport.com>

The BWI is located 10 miles south of Baltimore and houses the following airlines:

Aer Lingus (+1 800 474 7424/<http://www.aerlingus.com>) Air Canada (+1 888 247 2262/<http://www.aircanada.com>) American Airlines (+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com>) American West Airlines (+1 800-235-9292/<http://www.americawest.com>) British Airways (+1 800 247 9297/<http://www.britishairways.com>) Continental (+1 800 525 0280/<http://www.continental.com>) Delta (+1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com>) Icelandair (+1 800 223 5500/<http://www.icelandair.com>) Northwest (+1 800 225 2525/<http://www.nwa.com>) Southwest (+1 800 434 9792/<http://www.southwest.com>) United (+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com>)

## Baltimore Snapshot continued

US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/http://www.usairways.com)

### From the Airport

Parking: Preflight Parking(Park'N Fly)( +1 800 763 6895/http://www.pnfnetwork.com)

Shuttle: Super Shuttle(1 800 258 3826/http://www.bwiairport.com/ground\_transportation/supershuttle)

Car Rental: Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/http://www.alamo.com) Avis(+1 800 831 2847/http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/http://www.budget.com) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/http://www.hertz.com)

Light Rail: For convenient transportation between the Baltimore and BWI, there is a light rail system. For information on schedules visit<http://www.mtmaryland.com> or call+1 410 539 5000.

Taxi: BWI taxis(+1 410 859 1100/http://www.BWIAirportTaxi.com)

Bus: MTA Bus 17 provides low price transportation to locations throughout the city.

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/http://www.amtrak.com) offers frequent services from Baltimore to destinations throughout the Northeast and beyond.

### Bus

Baltimore is serviced by Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/http://www.greyhound.com) bus lines that provide transportation to destinations throughout America as well as a number of local providers.

### Highway

Baltimore is easily accessible from I-95, I-83 and I-70.

### Getting Around

#### Public Transportation

Baltimore is serviced by a wide variety of public transportation services. Some of the many methods of local transportation include bus, Metro, Light Rail, MARC trains, and Downtown Area Shuttle(DASH). Ed Kane's Water Taxis are also available to take you around the harbor.

#### Traffic Information

For up-to-date traffic information, go to:[http://www.traffic.com/Baltimore-Traffic/Baltimore-Traffic-Reports.html?ct=ma\\_map](http://www.traffic.com/Baltimore-Traffic/Baltimore-Traffic-Reports.html?ct=ma_map)

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at<https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out<http://travel.state.gov/>

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## Fun Facts

One interesting fact about Baltimore is that it has the 1st African American Wax Museum.Fun fact: Baltimore's nickname is Charm City.Random fact: Edgar Allen Poe once lived in Baltimore. The very first monument in his honor was erected in Baltimore.The American National Anthem was written in Baltimore by Francis Scott Key during his imprisonment.Oscar award-winning actress and comedian Monique is from Baltimore.Thurgood Marshall, the 1st African American Supreme Court Justice was born in Baltimore.Actors Jada Pinkett Smith, Edward Norton, and Tupac Shakur all attended the Baltimore School for the Arts.Interesting fact: Baltimore is the birthplace of Babe Ruth.James Brown once owned the number one radio station in town. Kwesi Mfume worked for him there while attended Baltimore Community College.Several popular t.v. series were filmed and based in Baltimore including: Homicide, The Wire, and The Corner.Jazz great Billie Holiday was born in Baltimore. A monument of this female jazz singer stands on the corner of Lafayette and Pennsylvania avenues.America's first Catholic Cathedral is located in Baltimore.  
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