

**CITY GUIDE**

**BALTIMORE**

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A view of the Sagamore Pendry Baltimore hotel in Baltimore.

**THE METROPOLIS IS EXPERIENCING A SECOND COMING, DRAWING FIRST-TIME TOURISTS AND BURGEONING CREATIVES.**

**“THE WIRE.” STEAMED CRABS.** John Waters. Yes, Baltimore has drawn the occasional tourist eager to visit Edgar Allan Poe’s gravestone and enjoy a crab cake or two. But the metropolis is working hard to break its reputation for high crime and low living standards within its city borders. What many unversed visitors may not be aware of is that Baltimore’s creative culture is an integral part of the city’s fabric, shrouded by its instability and negative headline-drawing events. And while the city does its part to clean up the streets, newcomers and familiar faces to the city will be pleased to find a bustling town brimming with new galleries, educational institutions, plenty of restaurants and a population that holds an unshakable, sometimes quirky, oftentimes kitsch pride in its culture. From its Inner Harbor five-star dining experiences to museums rich with history (old and new), Baltimore has served as a stopping-off point for Northeastern travelers looking for a quick

stop along the Amtrak line from Boston to D.C. for years. However, when given the time to explore all of its offerings, visitors will find a location deep-rooted and a population of passionate locals eager to share mom’s cream of crab soup recipe or crack a Natty Boh together. This sentiment is realized in Kevin Plank’s latest endeavors: The Sagamore Pendry Hotel and Sagamore Spirit whiskey distillery. Drenched in the city’s DNA – one of the hotel bars features a cannon dating back to the 19th century discovered during the hotel’s construction – Plank extends his reach past Under Armour in perhaps his most emotional pursuit yet. Baltimore is a city more than a spot to hang your hat for an evening. For those looking to whisk the kids away for an easy weekend away or a designer looking to tap into unfaltering inspiration, Baltimore will not disappoint. Read on to find locals’ tips on where to eat, drink and sleep and WWD Studios’ top picks for spots not to miss.

**WHAT TO DO**

📍 = Local pick



**American Visionary Art Museum**

● Don’t let the kitsch fool you, the AVM is a destination not to be missed. Adjacent to the Federal Hill neighborhood, alternative and provocative exhibits serve up a dose of energized and exuberant shows.  
📍 800 Key Highway, Baltimore, 21230 🌐 [avam.org](http://avam.org)

**Fell’s Point Farmers Market**

● Shop local at this bustling bazaar. Open every Saturday between 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., pick up unique crafts and delicious produce and delicacies from farmers and artisans from the area.  
📍 950 S. Catherine Street, Baltimore, 21231; 🌐 [fellspointfarmersmarket.com](http://fellspointfarmersmarket.com)

**Baltimore Museum of Art**

● Located in Charles Village and around the corner from Johns Hopkins University, the BMA hosts one of the most extensive permanent Henri Matisse collection. Be sure to check out its ongoing repertoire of rich round-table discussions and lecture series.  
📍 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, 21218; 🌐 [artbma.org](http://artbma.org)



The “Cosmic Galaxy Egg” by Andrew Logan welcomes guests at the American Visionary Art Museum.

**The George Peabody Library**

● Breathtaking and ornate, the library is a division of Johns Hopkins University. Brides-to-be and forever-scholars alike with mine plenty of inspiration. The library has become a hot-ticket wedding venue and haven for local and visiting bibliophiles – it contains over 300,000 titles to date.  
📍 17 E. Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, 21202; 🌐 [peabodyevents.library.jhu.edu](http://peabodyevents.library.jhu.edu)

**Fell’s Point Historic House Tour**

📍 Get an exclusive peek into exquisite renovations of some of Baltimore’s most notable homes in Fell’s Point and Federal Hill. Organized by the Preservation Society of Federal Hill and Fell’s Point, guests are invited to freely tour some of the most innovative houses of the neighborhoods.  
📍 812 S. Ann Street, Historic Fell’s Point, Baltimore, 21231; 🌐 [preservationsociety.com/tours-and-events/housetour.html](http://preservationsociety.com/tours-and-events/housetour.html)

**The Walters Art Museum**

● One of the only museums to feature pieces dating back to the third millennium B.C. to the early 20th century, the Walters accommodates rare books, manuscripts, ancient mummies and more in its permanent collection.  
📍 600 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, 21201; 🌐 [thewalters.org](http://thewalters.org)

**HOME GROWN**

● This Baltimore native traveled the globe, but returned to her roots to open the now legendary American Visionary Art Museum. Here, the museum’s founder, director and principal curator Rebecca Alban Hoffberger discusses Baltimore’s art scene and the city’s resurgence.

**How would you characterize the arts landscape in Baltimore?**

Baltimore’s historic creative DNA is molten lava – from Edgar Allan Poe marrying his muse to Billie Holiday who channeled her pain into haunting blues. Literary giants like H.L. Menchen, Taylor Branch and Anne Tyle, or filmmakers like John Waters and Barry Levinson are both smitten with the Baltimore “Hey Hon” patois.

Baltimore has always been a neighborhood of contrasts: extreme poverty amidst the wealthiest state in America; the spiritual home for rogues and saints – like America’s first Catholic Saint, Mother Elizabeth Seaton to infamous Atheist Madlyn Murray O’Hair to our feuding Fuld brothers [William and Isaac] who first patented the Ouija board.

Baltimore is a cauldron of opposition, a microcosm of all that is sublime alongside

that which sucks – a walk on the wild side from stripper Blaze Star, art-collecting Cone sisters [Claribel and Etta], Gertrude Stein and Frank Zappa.

**As one of the pinnacle art institutions in Baltimore, what has been the role of the museum throughout the decades?**

AVAM is founded on the power of intuition and trumpets one-off, self-reliant genius in all creative forms

wrapped in compassion for how hard it is to be human. We serve up fun and an enlightening overarching exhibition theme full of astonishment.

**What have been some of the milestones for the museum?**

We opened Thanksgiving 1995 as a congressionally designated national museum and education center, won the coveted National Award for Excellence from the Urban Land Institute for

amazing architecture.

We have two sculpture gardens, an annual east coast version of Hobart Brown’s Kinetic Sculpture Race and a summer outdoor movie theater that accommodates 2,000 under the stars. The bling mosaic walls constitute America’s largest youth at risk apprenticeship program.

**What does Baltimore provide for artists and creatives?**

Relatively inexpensive ▶

## WHAT TO DO

## HarborSail

Take the road less travelled and get a glimpse of Baltimore's renowned Inner Harbor from a new perspective. Enjoy a sunset cruise as you take in the sights of the U.S.S. Constellation, the National Aquarium and historic Fort McHenry.

1001 Fell Street, Baltimore, 21231; [harborsail.com](http://harborsail.com)

## Baltimore Orioles Game

Go O's! Visit Camden Yards and land in bird country – or, take a ballpark tour to get VIP access to the Oriole's dugout, club suites and more.

33 W. Camden Street, Baltimore, 21201; [mlb.com/orioles](http://mlb.com/orioles)

## Retro Fitness

Looking for an all-star workout? Be sure to swing by one of the three gym locations opened by Super Bowl champ and former Baltimore Ravens linebacker, Jameel McClain.

6516 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, 21228; [retrofitness.com/location/catonsvillemd](http://retrofitness.com/location/catonsvillemd)

## The Spa at the Ivy

Carve out a little "me" time or prep for a big weekend at this hidden gem. Conveniently located in Mt. Vernon, swing by the Walters Art Museum or the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall after a day full of relaxation.

205 E. Biddle Street, Baltimore, 21202; [theivybaltimore.com/gallery/ivy-spa/](http://theivybaltimore.com/gallery/ivy-spa/)

## Daily Grind

Directly on the waterfront in Fell's Point, guests at the Sagamore Pendry will be pleased to find this coffee house right across the street from the hotel.

1720 Thames Street, Baltimore, 21231; [fellsgrind.com/index.aspx](http://fellsgrind.com/index.aspx)

A view of the Sagamore Pendry Baltimore, which is nestled on the waterfront in the Fell's Point neighborhood.



## Brightside Boutique

This quirky cool boutique embodies Hampden's kitsch, unique personality. Be sure to check out their ultra Instagrammable accessories.

915 W. 36th Street, Baltimore, 21211; [shopbrightside.com](http://shopbrightside.com)

## Baltimore Coffee and Tea

Roasted on-site, this coffee shop does it all and is definitely worth a quick jaunt to the burbs. Be sure to test the Fireside blend! Like what you taste? You can refill your bean order online.

9 West Aylesbury Road, Timonium, 21093; [baltcoffee.com](http://baltcoffee.com)

## WHERE TO STAY

## Sagamore Pendry Hotel

Newly opened, the hotel embodies comfortable luxury. Conveniently located in the center of Fell's Point, the hotel is not only in the center of the bustling neighborhood, it's directly across from Under Armour's headquarters for those travelling on business. This is a must-visit for those looking for an exquisite stay or delicious meal – its Rec Pier Chop House won't disappoint (make a reservation to avoid the lines).

1715 Thames Street, Baltimore, 21231; [pendryhotels.com/baltimore](http://pendryhotels.com/baltimore)

## Hotel Monaco

Stationed in the historic B&O Railroad Headquarters, this grand hotel features Beau-Art décor. Enjoy exploring the city on a complimentary PUBLIC bike – with its Inner Harbor zip code, you'll have plenty to discover.

2 North Charles Street, Baltimore, 21201; [monaco-baltimore.com](http://monaco-baltimore.com)

## The Four Seasons

This location lives up to the Four Seasons reputation. Based on the edge of the Inner Harbor, guests will enjoy waterfront views of marinas and city lights – consider visiting Patterson Park, which is a short jog or drive away.

200 International Drive, Baltimore, 21202; [fourseasons.com/baltimore](http://fourseasons.com/baltimore)

## WHERE TO EAT

## Charleston

With a two-time James Beard finalist serving up the dishes, Charleston is easily a must-try while in town. Helmed by executive chef Cindy Wolf and co-owner and wine director Tony Foreman, diners can enjoy a menu steeped in French foundation that celebrates traditional low-country cooking of South Carolina.

1000 Lancaster Street, Baltimore, 21202; [charlestonrestaurant.com](http://charlestonrestaurant.com)

## Bar Clavel

This family-owned taqueria and mezcaleria emphasize locally sourced produce and artisanal mezcal. Featuring tortillas from a five-generation recipe and naturally raised, hormone and antibiotic-free meats, this Remington restaurant boasts good food and even better vibes.

225 W. 23rd Street, Baltimore, 21211; [barclavel.com](http://barclavel.com)

## Café Hon

Looking for the purest Baltimore vibe? This spot might be the place. Based in the kitsch-cool neighborhood of Hampden, Williamsburg visitors will feel right at home. Leave room for dessert – they're legendary.

1002 W. 36th Street, Baltimore, 21211; [cafehonor.com](http://cafehonor.com)

## Cask &amp; Grain

A farm-to-table restaurant in Canton, Chef Paul Hajewski crafts meals inspired by the Delmarva region and the Eastern seaboard with produce and protein delivered daily from local farmers and fishermen.

2823 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore, 21224; [caskandgrainkitchen.com](http://caskandgrainkitchen.com)

## Pen &amp; Quill

Located in the Station North Arts District, Pen & Quill is a stomping ground for locals looking to grab a post-work drink or bite before a gallery opening.

1701 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, 21202; [penandquill.net](http://penandquill.net)

## Locust Point Steamers

A trip to Baltimore wouldn't be complete without enjoying steamed crabs. Check out what all the fuss is about at this no-frills, local haunt and enjoy the taste of Balmer. Local tip: Avoid wearing white to skip the stains.

1100 E. Fort Avenue, Baltimore, 21230; [locustpointsteamers.com/home.html](http://locustpointsteamers.com/home.html)

## Gunther &amp; Co.

Once the boiler room for the Gunther Brewing Co, the restaurant is ushering in a second coming for the space – now housing a living wall and a menu peppered with reinterpreted classics and cocktails worth trying.

3650 Toone Street, Brewers Hill, Baltimore, 21224; [eatatgunther.com](http://eatatgunther.com)

## WHERE TO DRINK

## The Cannon Room

Tucked away in Sagamore Pendry Hotel's lobby and restaurant area, the Cannon Room is arguably the crown jewel of the property. The whiskey bar embodies the regaled history of the area – it even boasts an 18th-century cannon uncovered during the property renovation. Limited in space, get here early to avoid extensive lines.

1715 Thames Street, Baltimore, 21231; [pendry-hotels.com/baltimore/dining/the-cannon-room](http://pendry-hotels.com/baltimore/dining/the-cannon-room)



The Rec Pier Chop House restaurant presented by chef Andrew Carmellini, Josh Pickard and Luke Ostrom.

## National Bohemian

This local brew has been endearingly referred to as Natty Boh for generations. Ultra affordable and perfect to pair with a steamed crab, slurp down one of these cold ones to toast the town.

[nationalbohemian.com](http://nationalbohemian.com)

## Bookmakers Cocktail Club

In the heart of Federal Hill, this supper club and cocktail lounge offers delicious bites and a cocktail menu with a drink to wet anyone's whistle.

31 E. Cross Street, Baltimore, 21230; [bookmakersbaltimore.com](http://bookmakersbaltimore.com)

## WC Harlan

This Belle Epoque styled speakeasy transports its patrons from its Remington neighborhood to turn-of-the-century Paris.

400 W. 23rd Street, Baltimore, 21211; [facebook.com/wcharlan](http://facebook.com/wcharlan)

## Mount Royal Tavern

A dive bar among dive bars, this haunt has garnered national attention for its local charm – and cuss bucket that supports non-profits in the area. Check out the remake of the Sistine Chapel on the ceiling to have a religious – and boozy – experience.

1204 W. Mount Royal Avenue, Baltimore, 21217

## The Crown

A late-night dance party and traditional Korean fare – what else does one need? Fair warning, the atmosphere hints at a throwback to seventies Max's Kansas City meets early aughts Don Hills.

1910 North Charles Street, Second Floor, Baltimore, 21218; [thecrownbaltimore.tumblr.com](http://thecrownbaltimore.tumblr.com)



Tick-Tock the Croc races down Baltimore streets as part of the annual Kinetic Sculpture Race.

studio space, great cheap eats, easy access to gorgeous parks and nearby countryside. Great theater and music scene. Amazing sculptural cemeteries. Too many drugs if you're in to that. The Creative Alliance I adore for warm entry arts community, an extraordinary historic library, symphony and somewhat scary club scene. Hot steamed crabs and coleslaw 27 different ways.

## What are a few of your favorite spots in the city?

Federal Hill Park for orientation, the new Parkway Theatre, our museum's top-floor Encantada café and Whirligig balcony, Cocina restaurant. Try America's oldest deli, Attman's. Visit the tons of Tiffany churches, the Lexington market (George Washington shopped there), the Enoch Pratt with historic flashers and The Peabody music library. Enjoy a walking tour of our

authentic painted screens documented by Elaine Eff. Visit metal artist David Hess.

## How did the current exhibit, "Yummm! The History, Fantasy and Future of Food" come to fruition?

I have picked every theme by begging what subject is most needed then listening within. I am astounded by population projections that in three decades we will be a human family of three million more than ever – at a time of

farmland becoming desert and water tables drained.

I wanted to call for creative visionary solutions to keep us from increased abuse and manipulation of food. The trend to shift to vegetable protein can save lives and food as a subject that unites and delights was a natural for "Yummm! The History, Fantasy and Future of FOOD!" Now I am working with NASA on "THE GREAT MYSTERY SHOW," opening this fall. ■