



Since its founding in 1729, Baltimore has played a key role in creating the American identity. Explore its inspiring history shaped by centuries of innovation, extraordinary sights, and a truly diverse culture. Discover the people and places that make Baltimore an unforgettable American city.

DEFINING AMERICA'S IDENTITY

UPHOLDING LIBERTY

For America, becoming an independent nation was not a matter of one war but two. Only 30 years after the end of the Revolutionary War, the United States once again found itself in open conflict with Great Britain. The War of 1812 not only tested America's status as a sovereign nation, but also its self-confidence as a new democracy. By the war's end in 1815, everyone on both sides knew clearly what it meant to be an American.

No place was the fight for America's freedom more dramatic than in Baltimore. The turning point of the war occurred at the Battle of Baltimore in September 1814. British land and naval forces, fresh from burning Washington, D.C., turned their sights north to the commercial center of Baltimore. The city's residents —white and black, slave and free, immigrant and native-born—joined together to build a mile-long line of

earthworks to protect the city from a land attack. Defensive forts in the harbor and along the Patapsco River were strengthened in preparation for an assault by British warships.

The British forces were successfully repelled by defenders at North Point in Baltimore County and at today's Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. During the British bombardment of the fort, Francis Scott Key was able to see that the fort's large flag—sewn by local seamstress Mary Pickersgill—still flew, inspiring him to write the National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." In 1815, the city began construction on the Baltimore Battle Monument, erected in memory of the 39 Baltimoreans who died in the attack. The monument was the first substantial war memorial built in the country and today serves as a beloved symbol of the city.

SEEKING PROSPERITY ON THE CHESAPEAKE

After the War of 1812, Baltimore grew rapidly in population and in economic strength. As a strategically placed Mid-Atlantic port connected to America's farmlands, the city experienced a boom in international trade that in turn stimulated an entrepreneurial drive for new innovations in manufacturing and industry.

To open up new trade links to the western frontier states, a group of Baltimore merchants and bankers founded America's first commercial railroad—the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. New industries attracted immigrants from Ireland, Germany, and Eastern Europe who arrived in waves at Baltimore's Fell's Point and Locust Point. These new Americans brought with them their own rich traditions and faiths that were woven into Baltimore's diverse culture and reflected in the churches, synagogues, and community centers in Fell's Point, historic Jonestown, and

Little Italy. In particular, Irish workers were drawn to the railroad industry, creating a close-knit neighborhood around the B&O's Mount Clare Station and remembered today at the Irish Shrine and Railroad Workers Museum.

At the same time, work of another kind was afoot to ensure that Baltimoreans would get the formal education they needed. Opening its doors in 1821, the McKim Free School was the city's first free school and one of the first in America. The school was open to youth of both sexes regardless of religion, educating the children of Jewish, Italian, and Polish immigrants. The city's active religious institutions opened additional schools, including the first private school for African American girls. In the 1880s, Henrietta Szold established the city's first adult education program to help new immigrants learn English and civics.



SHAPING A MONUMENTAL CITY



PURSUING FREEDOM FOR ALL



As Baltimore flourished during the 19th century, the city's prosperity was reflected in its architecture, public monuments, parks, centers of higher learning, and cultural institutions. Together, these civic treasures showcase Baltimore's distinction as a place where the arts play an important, ongoing role in the life of the city and its residents.

Baltimore earned its nickname as "The Monumental City" in 1827, thanks to President John Quincy Adams. He was referring to Baltimore's Battle Monument and Washington Monument, as no other American city had such structures at the time. The Washington Monument, located in the City's Mount Vernon

Place, is remarkable even today. Completed in 1829, the 178-foot marble column and statue is the first major monument in the nation honoring the first president. The city also is home to other architectural gems, such as the Mount Clare Museum House, the oldest Colonial-era structure in Baltimore.

With its wealth of fine museums, such as the Walters Art Museum and the Baltimore Museum of Art, and other artistic venues, Baltimore has always attracted well-known artists and writers to live and work here. Among the most famous is poet and writer Edgar Allen Poe, author of "The Raven," whose Baltimore home on Amity Street and grave in the Westminster Hall Burying Grounds are open to the public.

Baltimore is noted for its heritage of religious and racial tolerance. While there were notable setbacks and ugly incidents of prejudice along the way, the city has had a continuing history of being a true "melting pot," which has become a recipe for civic pride over time. In the aftermath of the Civil War and into the 20th century, Baltimoreans of all races, backgrounds, and beliefs worked together to ensure the same civil rights for all.

Prior to the Civil War, Baltimore was home to one of the nation's largest black urban communities. By 1830, free blacks made up one-quarter of the city's population. With community came the formation of autonomous black churches, such as the Orchard Street, Bethel A.M.E., and Union Baptist churches.

As the Civil War approached, Baltimore seemed caught in the middle. The city's diverse population, which lived in close proximity and mingled regularly, was an exception rather than the norm. Tension lay just underneath the surface. While the first shots of the Civil War took place at South Carolina's Fort Sumter, the first bloodshed occurred on Baltimore's Pratt Street in April 1861 when Southern sympathizers attacked Union troops.

The pursuit of equality for all continued after the war. Baltimore stood at the forefront of local and national struggle for civil rights, led by the strength and determination of individuals such as Lillie Carroll Jackson and Thurgood Marshall. Baltimoreans redefined freedom to include access to economic and educational opportunities and set the pace for the Civil Rights Movement of the twentieth century.

BALTIMORE HISTORY AT-A-GLANCE



1608: Captain John Smith explores the Patapsco River and what is now Baltimore's Inner Harbor. He notes that the area seemed to be of good farmland, but absent of Native Americans.

1729: Baltimore Town is founded and named after the first colonial governor.

1730: The town of Fell's Point is founded and quickly becomes a major port and shipbuilding center.

1732: Jones Town, a rival to Baltimore Town, is laid out on the east bank of the Jones Falls. Both the town and the falls are named after the region's first European settler, David Jones.

1745: Baltimore Town and Jones Town merge.

1782: The city's legendary Lexington Market, labeled the "gastronomic capital of the world" by Ralph Waldo Emerson, opens on land donated by American Revolutionary War hero John Eager Howard.

1797: With an increasing population and needs, citizens decide to incorporate as a city.

1809: Saint Elizabeth Seton takes her vows as a nun in the Saint Mary's Seminary Chapel. She was canonized in 1975, a first for a native-born United States citizen.

1813: Construction begins on artist Rembrandt Peale's "Museum and Gallery of Fine Arts." The structure, still standing and today known as the Peale Museum, was the first in the Western hemisphere to be designed and built as a museum.

1814: In a defining point in the War of 1812, British forces attack Baltimore, approaching by land and by water. After the battle, Francis Scott Key is moved by the sight of the U.S. flag waving triumphantly over Fort McHenry and pens the National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

1821: The Baltimore Basilica, designed by architect John Russell Pope, is consecrated. It is the first Roman Catholic cathedral built in the United States.

1827: The nation's first commercial railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio, is chartered by the State of Maryland.

1829: Construction of Baltimore's Washington Monument is complete, making it the first significant monument to the nation's first president.

1845: Lloyd Street Synagogue is erected. The synagogue was the first for Maryland and today is the third-oldest standing synagogue in the United States.

1861: The first blood of the Civil War is shed on the streets of Baltimore in what is called the Pratt Street Riots. Union troops moving through the city are attacked by Southern sympathizers. The city is held under martial law for the remainder of the Civil War.

1868: Near Fort McHenry, an immigration station opens at Locust Point welcoming thousands of immigrants from Europe. Baltimore is the third largest port-of-entry on the East Coast until the station's closure at the beginning of World War I.

1873: Industrialist Johns Hopkins dies, bequeathing his fortune to the establishment of a university and hospital that both bear his name today.

1877: Workers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad strike against salary cuts, shutting down operations across the railroad network. At Baltimore's Camden Station, violent clashes occur between the workers and the state militia before President Rutherford B. Hayes sends in federal troops to restore order.

1886: The Enoch Pratt Free Library opens. It is one of the first free public library systems in the United States.

1904: Within 36 hours, the Great Fire of Baltimore consumes more than 1,400 buildings in the city's downtown. Reconstruction quickly commences.

1913: During a particularly virulent time in the city's race relations, the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP is founded. The branch would later grow to be the nation's second largest and one of the most influential in the Civil Rights Movement.

1960: The Jewish Museum of Maryland is founded. Today it is the largest regional Jewish museum in the United States.

1969: Threatened by an ambitious highway plan, Fell's Point residents and preservationists succeed in listing the colonial neighborhood in the National Register of Historic Places.

1980: HarborPlace opens, establishing the Inner Harbor as a tourist destination and crown jewel for the city.

1981: The National Aquarium opens and quickly becomes a beloved attraction for visitors and residents.

1992: Oriole Park at Camden Yards opens, heralding in a new generation of "retro" major league ball parks.

2005: The Reginald Lewis Museum for African American History and Culture opens its doors, preserving and sharing the historic contribution of African American Marylanders.

2012: Baltimore begins its three-year commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812.



About the Heritage Area

Promoting, preserving, and enhancing Baltimore's cultural and historic legacy and natural resources for current and future generations.

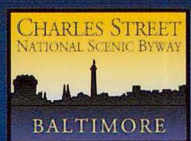
Designated by the U.S. Congress in 2009, the Baltimore National Heritage Area covers roughly 22 square miles of the city's most vibrant and historic neighborhoods. With Baltimore's famed Inner Harbor at its heart, the heritage area's boundary reaches out to include a wealth of historic, cultural, and natural resources.

National heritage areas are places where these resources combine to tell a unique and important story of the American experience. Baltimore's story is as broad as it is deep, reaching back to its founding in Colonial times and the crucial role that it played in the defense of the nation during the War of 1812. The story remembers the experience of those who came here—some against their will—to forge a new life. The story continues as Baltimore grew to be a center of industry and philanthropy, and later as a touchstone for the fight for equality for all Americans.

As the management entity of the heritage area, the non-profit Baltimore Heritage Area Association brings together multiple voices to foster awareness, stewardship and inspiration in Baltimore's historic, cultural, and natural resources. The association promotes a community-driven approach for historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational programming.



The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to support the heritage area's mission and the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to support economic development through heritage tourism and historic preservation initiatives.



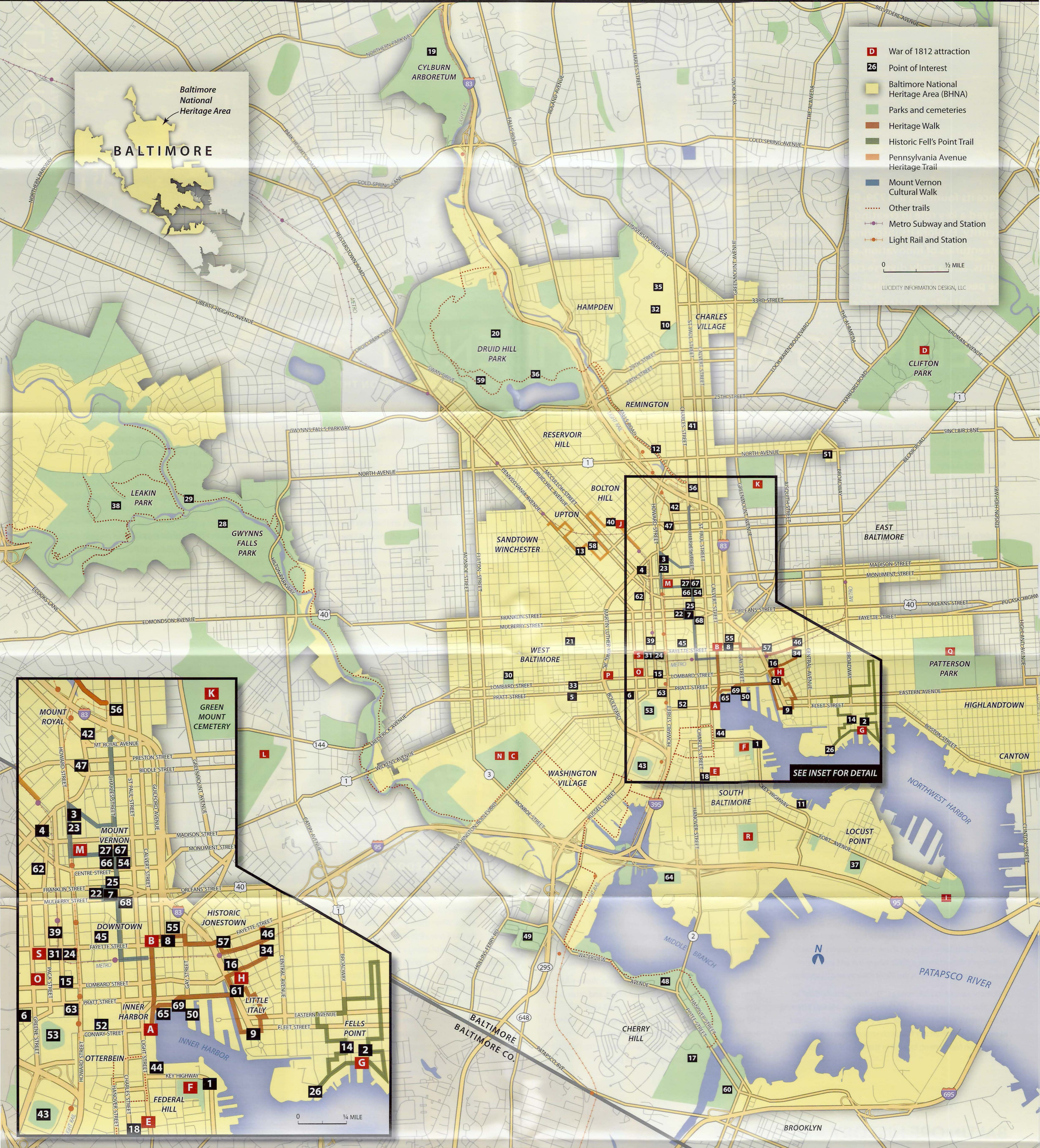
The Charles Street National Scenic Byway runs through the heart of the city and north into Baltimore County. Designated in 2009, the 12-mile route is one of only four national scenic byways located in an urban setting. The heritage area manages portions of the byway, which consists of a nearly unbroken series of local and National Register historic districts. A guide to the byway is available at the Baltimore Visitor Center and other locations throughout the city.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE HERITAGE AREA
AND ITS PROGRAMS

Call
Online

410-878-6411
www.nps.gov/balt
www.facebook.com/baltimoreheritagearea

BALTIMORE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1

American Visionary Arts Museum
- 2

Ann Fell House
- 3

Antiques Row
- 4

Arena Players
- 5

B&O Railroad Museum
- 6

Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum
- 7

Baltimore Basilica
- 8

Baltimore City Hall
- 9

Baltimore Civil War Museum
- 10

Baltimore Museum of Art
- 11

Baltimore Museum of Industry
- 12

Baltimore Streetcar Museum
- 13

Billie Holiday Plaza
- 14

Broadway Market
- 15

Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower
- 16

Carroll Mansion
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Cherry Hill Park
- 18

Cross Street Market
- 19

Cylburn Arboretum
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Druid Hill Park
- 21

Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum
- 22

Enoch Pratt Free Library
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Eubie Blake National Jazz and Cultural Center
- 24

Everyman Theatre
- 25

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Baltimore
- 26

Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park
- 27

Garrett-Jacobs Mansion
- 28

Gwynns Falls Park
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Gwynns Falls Trail
- 30

H. L. Mencken House
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Hippodrome Theatre
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Homewood House Museum
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Irish Shrine and Railroad Workers Museum
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Jewish Museum of Maryland
- 35

Johns Hopkins University
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Jones Falls Trail
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Latrobe Park
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Leakin Park
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Lexington Market
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Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum
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Lovely Lane Museum and Archives
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Lyric Opera House
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M&T Bank Stadium
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Maryland Science Center
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Maryland Women's Heritage Center
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McKim Free School
- 47

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall
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Middle Branch Park
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Mount Auburn Cemetery
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National Aquarium
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National Great Blacks in Wax Museum
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Old Otterbein United Methodist Church
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Oriole Park at Camden Yards
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Peabody Institute and George Peabody Library
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Peale Museum
- 56

Pennsylvania Station
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Phoenix Shot Tower
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PS103 (Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School)
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Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens
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Reed Bird Island Park
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Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture
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Saint Mary's Spiritual Center and Historic Site

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Sports Legends Museum

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Swann Park

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USS Constellation and Historic Ships in Baltimore

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Walters Art Museum

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Washington Monument

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Woman's Industrial Exchange

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World Trade Center and Top of the World Observation Level

WAR OF 1812 ATTRACTIONS

- A

Baltimore Visitor Center
- B

Battle Monument
- C

Carroll Park
- D

Clifton Park
- E

Federal Hill Main Street Visitor Center
- F

Federal Hill Park
- G

Fell's Point Visitor Center
- H

Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum
- I

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
- J

Francis Scott Key Monument
- K

Green Mount Cemetery
- L

Loudon Park Cemetery
- M

Maryland Historical Society
- N

Mount Clare Museum House
- O

National Museum of Dentistry
- P

Old Saint Paul's Cemetery
- Q

Patterson Park
- R

Riverside Park
- S

Westminster Hall Burying Ground

BALTIMORE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA TRAILS AND TOURS



HERITAGE WALK

Discover the roots of the real Baltimore in the neighborhoods where it all began—the Inner Harbor, Little Italy and historic Jonestown—while visiting more than 20 of the city's most unforgettable landmarks and historic sites. Sites include the Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum, the Carroll Mansion, the Jewish Museum of Maryland, and the Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.



MOUNT VERNON CULTURAL WALK

From the city center to Pennsylvania Station, Baltimore's rich cultural landscape unfolds along the Mount Vernon Cultural Walk. As one of America's premier cultural districts, Charles Street and Mount Vernon offer marvelous examples of architecture, including the Beaux Arts B&O Railroad Building and modern One Charles Center. Along Charles Street were born many of the nation's foremost cultural institutions, such as the Peabody Institute and the Walters Art Museum.



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE HERITAGE TRAIL

Stroll "The Avenue" and discover Baltimore's premier historic African American neighborhood. Old West Baltimore was the heart of the city's black culture and life—imagine the cheers erupting from Pennsylvania Avenue's Royal Theater, a frequent destination along the Chitlin' Circuit. An important center of the Civil Rights Movement, this neighborhood was also home to entrepreneurs, musicians, and artisans. The buildings may be gone, but the spirit of African American pride remains in the legacies of Thurgood Marshall, Billie Holiday, and many others.



HISTORIC FELL'S POINT TRAIL

Explore this historic waterfront neighborhood, noted for maritime heritage and more than 70 buildings that witnessed the trials of the 1814 Battle of Baltimore. The trail winds through the community, once home to sea captains, merchants, sailors, slaves, and free blacks. Highlights include the city's oldest urban residence (Robert Long House, 1765) and sites of significant African American history, such as the historic shipyards owned by black entrepreneur Isaac Myers.



This publication has been financed in part by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, which supports the economic well-being of Maryland's communities by preserving and celebrating the state's history, cultural traditions, and natural resources through partnerships that promote, support, and create place-based experiences for visitors and residents alike.

For more information on Baltimore National Heritage Area trails and tours, visit www.nps.gov/balt or call 410-878-6411.