

FORT McHENRY

Baltimore, Maryland

Birthplace of
The Star-Spangled Banner



Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine is world-famous as the birthplace of the American national anthem.

It was the successful defense of this star-shaped fort by American forces during a British attack on September 13-14, 1814, that inspired Frances Scott Key to write the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Following the Battle of Baltimore the fort never again came under attack. However, it remained an active military base for many years. During the Civil War the fort was a Union camp used for the detention of Confederate soldiers and sympathizers to the Confederate cause. During World War I it was the site of a 3,000 bed Army hospital. In 1925, it became a national park.

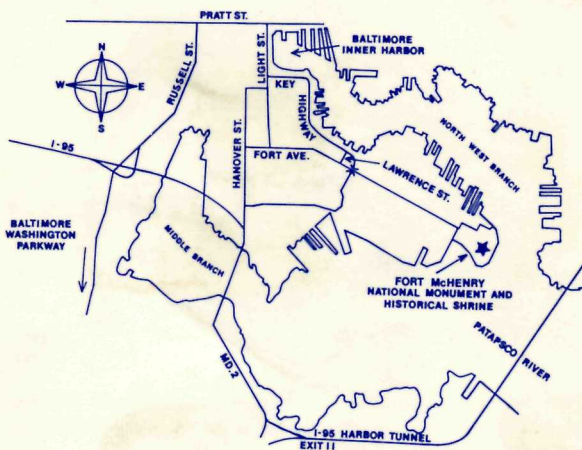
ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Today, exhibits of historical and military memorabilia interpreting the fort's long history are displayed in the fort buildings. A 15-minute film, shown every half-hour in the Visitor Center, tells the story of the Battle of Baltimore and the events surrounding the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Park folders containing self-guiding tour maps are available at the Center's Information Desk. Guided tours are presented throughout the year to groups with advanced reservations. During the summer months, guided tours and other interpretive activities are regularly scheduled.

The park is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. From Memorial Day to Labor Day the hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The park is closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

HOW TO GET TO FORT McHENRY

Traveling South on I-95, take the first exit (Downtown Exit 11) after the tunnel to MD 2. Continue on MD 2 to Fort Avenue. Turn right and follow to the end of Fort Avenue. Traveling north on I-95, take the Downtown (Russell St.) exit and follow Russell St. to Pratt St. Turn right on Pratt to Light St. Turn right on Light St. and follow to Key Highway. Left on Key Highway one (1) mile to Lawrence St. and turn right to Fort Ave. Turn left and continue to the end of Fort Ave.



The Mass Transit Administration (MTA) provides daily bus service throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan area. From Baltimore-Washington International Airport, bus and train stations and terminals, ask bus driver for connections to Fort McHenry, which is located at the end of MTA Route #1.

ACCESSIBILITY

We are working to make Fort McHenry accessible and enjoyable for all visitors. Wheelchair users will find curbcuts, ramps and accessible water fountains and telephones. A taped tour is available for the sight impaired and the orientation film is captioned for hearing impaired visitors.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Make your visit safe and enjoyable by observing safety rules. Do not climb on cannons, monuments, and trees; venture too close to the edge of fort walls; or walk on the seawall.

ADMINISTRATION

Fort McHenry is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Baltimore, Maryland 21230, is in immediate charge. Call (301) 539-FORT for information.

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