

Destination Guide: Baltimore



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AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks

AAA Destination Guide: Baltimore includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

A relaxed vibe permeates Baltimore, attracting millions of travelers each year to this charming city overflowing with culture, crabs and historical treasures—from waterfront communities to harbors to a myriad of attractions, inviting hotels and delectable dining destinations.

While exploring Baltimore, stroll through the different neighborhoods including the Inner Harbor district—a scenic waterfront that's home to dozens of retail shops, restaurants and museums. Other jaunts include Little Italy, where you'll smell aromas enticing your palate and senses in this restaurant enclave.

The Westside's African-American culture flourishes with shops and entertainment. Cab Calloway, Louis Armstrong and Nat King Cole performed in Westside nightclubs during jazz music's heyday. Experience an eclectic atmosphere of urban hipsters and trendy boutiques in the old mill town of Hampden, made famous by filmmaker and neighborhood native John Waters.

Discover Baltimore's British ancestry in Fells Point. The area is named after English Quaker William Fell who founded a ship building company here in 1726. Cobblestone streets lead the way to 18th- and 19th-century homes, antique stores, pubs and Chesapeake Bay cuisine. Fells Point also has a bohemian ambience comparable to Greenwich Village in New York or Georgetown in Washington, D.C. The history-haven path continues as you travel through Federal Hill, Mount Vernon and Canton.

Essentials

Baltimore features new to old-school area attractions for a variety of tastes. Whatever you decide, don't forget to add these destinations to your sightseeing itinerary.

Peregrinate through pop culture history at Geppi's Entertainment Museum in the Inner Harbor area where you can view toys, characters and icons from yesteryear to the present, ranging from Howdy Doody and Batman to a Lost in Space lunchbox.

Watch flicks on the largest U.S. movie theater screen at Bengies Drive-In Theatre; a historic landmark that has been serving film buffs for more than 50 years.

Visit the reliquary of the famous New York Yankees slugger Babe Ruth



who was one of the first players to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and is known for revitalizing the sport during the Roaring 20s at the <u>Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum.</u>

Smell the aromas of popcorn and cotton candy and see all of the brightly lit rides as they go rushing by or up and down as you stroll down the boardwalk at Trimper's Rides and Amusements in <u>Ocean City.</u>

Experience jumping joints, rows of restaurants and sizzling shows at Power Plant Live!—an entertainment complex located in the Inner Harbor district, which is considered one of the top tourist attractions in the Baltimore area.

Encounter the whimsical world of body art on display or sit back and let the experts create a piece of art on your natural canvas at The Baltimore Tattoo Museum in Fells Point.

Listen to spooky tales and find out which ghosts haunt and keep the businesses along the harbor company at night in this once boisterous seaport during the Fells Point Ghost Tours.

Essentials Map ederick Bombay Hook Edgewood National Wildlife Refuge Baltimore Maryland Dover Research Refuge Deldwore Bay 301 Deläwäre Annapolis Grasonville Milford Washington BELTWAT Georgetown St/6 Charles (2)Cambridge DE MD 2 ericksburg OMorgantown SalisburyO OLexington Park Assate ague Islar River Chesapeake National Seasho © 2010 AAA, NAVTEQ

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Essentials Details - Get additional information on AAA.com

- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum 216 Emory St Baltimore, MD 21230 Phone: (410) 727-1539

2. Ocean City

3. Annapolis

Blast off into space at the sci-fi restaurant Rocket to Venus in the Hampden area where diners can chow down on healthy edibles including Sloppy Joes made with tofu in a kitschy 1950s motif.

Set your course for the National Sailing Hall of Fame & Museum in <u>Annapolis</u>, where the sport's unsung heroes are honored with artifacts, photographs, video presentations and other memorabilia.

Restaurants

A short walk from the Inner Harbor, the <u>Charleston</u> presents an upscale culinary experience, top-notch service and a menu filled with American cuisine prepared from modern and traditional Southern Lowcountry recipes. Start your meal with the shrimp and grits appetizer—a combination of seafood and Southern nuances that's simply extraordinary.

Situated on the edge of Little Italy, <u>Della Notte Ristorante</u> prepares a blend of innovative and traditional Mediterranean-inspired Italian chicken, pasta, seafood and veal dishes. Patrons are treated to the views of the Inner Harbor and the city skyline. Diners also savor the in-house-baked breads.

In the heart of Fells Point, the <u>Louisiana Restaurant</u> features menu selections that fuse French and Creole tastes in a two-level, elegant dining establishment that portrays a European-style and romantic ambience. Enticing edibles include seafood concoctions, various salads and delectable desserts.

Another Fells Point destination, <u>The Black Olive</u>, is a family-owned Greek restaurant located down an old, cobblestone road, Manouri cheese is served in grape leaves. Try the Village Pie and exotic fresh fish choices filleted tableside in a renovated row house that's more than 200 years old.

If you want to experience a nostalgic, 1940s-style evening with live jazz music while eating generous portions of Chicago aged-beef or

Chesapeake Bay seafood complemented by a martini or two then you can't beat <u>The Prime Rib</u> in the Horizon Hotel Building.

Based on Polynesian flavors, <u>Roy's</u> provides diners with a taste of Hawaii without leaving the mainland in an upscale yet relaxing setting. Chef Roy Yamaguchi's Hawaiian fusion cuisine blends local ingredients and seafood with European sauces and Asian spices.

Within a half-hour drive from Baltimore and located in the historic district not far from the <u>U.S. Naval Academy</u>, <u>Breeze</u> restaurant in the <u>Loews</u> <u>Annapolis Hotel</u> serves mouthwatering steaks and distinctive Chesapeake Bay specialties in a contemporary setting.

Restaurants Map



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Nestled in the center of Annapolis' naval community, <u>Buddy's Crabs &</u> <u>Ribs</u> has a raw bar with choices of clams, mussels, crawfish and a variety

of crab specialties in a casual dining atmosphere on the second floor overlooking merchant activity.

Down the street from <u>St. Anne's Church,</u> the <u>Aqua Terra of Annapolis</u> is owned by a talented husband-and-wife team who operate a stylish little restaurant offering European



and Asian-inspired dishes with fresh ingredients from both land and sea.

Restaurants Details - Get additional information on <u>AAA.com</u>; AAA Diamond Rating information available on <u>AAA.com/Diamonds</u>

1. Charleston 1000 Lancaster St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 332-7373

2. Della Notte Ristorante 801 Eastern Ave Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 837-5500

3. Louisiana Restaurant

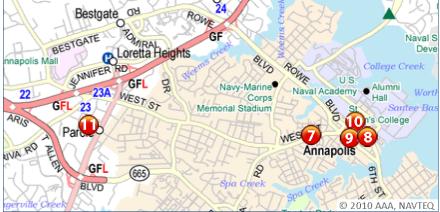
1708 Aliceanna St Baltimore, MD 21231 Phone: (410) 327-2610 **4. The Black Olive 14** S Bond St Baltimore, MD 21231 Phone: (410) 276-7141

5. The Prime Rib 1101 N Calvert St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 539-1804

6. Roy's 720 B Aliceanna St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 659-0099

After visiting the <u>Maryland State House</u>, grab a bite to eat at <u>Harry</u> <u>Browne's</u>, a favorite of locals and statesmen since 1979. Menu options include Continental fare such as Maryland crab cakes served with sautéed spinach, roasted red pepper coulis and sweet onion marmalade.

Restaurants Map



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Restaurants Details - Get additional information on <u>AAA.com</u>; AAA Diamond Rating information available on <u>AAA.com/Diamonds</u>

7. Breeze 💖🖤

126 West St Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 295-3232 **10. Harry Browne's WW** 66 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 263-4332

8. Buddy's Crabs & Ribs 100 Main St Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 626-1100

9. Aqua Terra of Annapolis 164 Main St

Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 263-1985 **11. Jalapenos Restaurant W** 85 Forest Dr Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 266-7580 Located in a nondescript shopping center in Annapolis, <u>Jalapenos</u> <u>Restaurant</u> presents both Mexican and Spanish dishes including rack of lamb rubbed with rosemary and served with black mole and large shrimp wrapped in Serrano ham with chipotle sauce and served on a skewer.

Attractions

In a city with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."

The <u>Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed</u> <u>Virgin Mary</u>, a AAA GEM attraction, was built in 1821 as America's first cathedral. The church's white, colonial-style columns and bells invite guests daily to peruse the sanctuary located in the Mount Vernon cultural district.

About 30 minutes away in <u>Annapolis</u>, visitors can pay homage to the Episcopal <u>St. Anne's Church</u>, named after the mother of the Virgin Mary. The church was rebuilt after a furnace fire on Valentine's Day of 1858 and perseveres to this day.

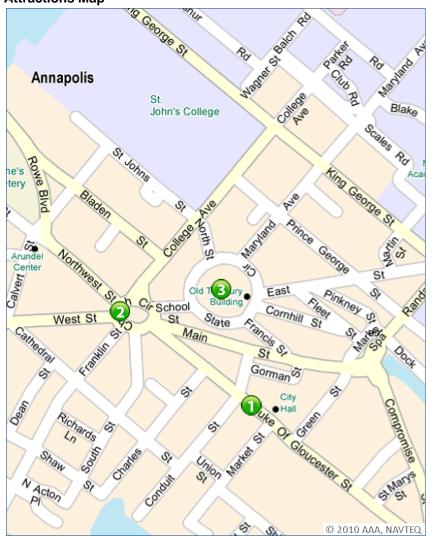
Another Annapolis landmark, the <u>Maryland State House</u>, a AAA GEM attraction, is where the state's legislature meets while in session.

For those that love the sea and anything nautical, embark at the <u>USS</u> <u>Constellation Historic Ships Museum</u>. The museum features four national historical landmarks on the premises, including the *Constellation*, a U.S. Navy Civil War-era ship built in 1797 that was named after the "new constellation of stars" on the American flag. Artifacts are displayed, and exhibitions and tours are offered.

The <u>National Aquarium in Baltimore</u>, a AAA GEM attraction, features sea life, hundreds of exhibits and tours.

And don't forget the kids! Tots and tykes can participate in their own adventures as well as let their imaginations go wild at <u>Port Discovery</u>, <u>Children's Museum</u> in the Inner Harbor.

Attractions Map



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Down the road, children can continue to immerse themselves in interactivity and learning at the <u>Maryland Science Center</u>, <u>IMAX Theater</u> and <u>Davis Planetarium</u>, which is a AAA GEM attraction. An additional AAA GEM attraction, <u>The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore</u>, is the third-largest zoo in the country and includes a variety of animals and displays.

The <u>Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History &</u> <u>Culture</u> provides visitors with an opportunity to experience the heritage of African-American Marylanders through photographs and other memorabilia as well as information about how these people overcame slavery to later become an industrious society.

Another facility honoring African-American history is <u>The National Great</u> <u>Blacks in Wax Museum.</u> The 30,000 square-foot time capsule emulates black leaders and legacies of our past through wax replicas, chronological records of events, education, exhibits and tours.

The whistle blows at your next stop, the <u>Baltimore & Ohio Railroad</u> <u>Museum</u>, a AAA GEM attraction known as the birthplace of American railroading.

Further down the display trail, <u>The Baltimore Museum of Art</u>, a AAA GEM attraction, showcases an array of artwork for just about anyone's fancy. Exhibits continue to thrive at <u>The Walters Art Museum</u>, a AAA GEM attraction featuring artwork from the William and Henry Walters collection.

Attractions Details - Get additional information on <u>AAA.com</u> · GEM Attraction offers a Great Experience for Members

1. Annapolis

2. St. Anne's Church 199 Duke of Gloucester St Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 267-9333 3. Maryland State House 91 State Cir Annapolis, MD 21401 Phone: (410) 974-3400

Attractions Details - Get additional information on AAA.com

Section offers a Great Experience for Members

S - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

4. Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral St & Mulberry St Baltimore, MD 21201 Phone: (410) 727-3565

5. USS Constellation Historic Ships Museum 301 E Pratt St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 539-1797

6. National Aquarium in Baltimore 501 E Pratt St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 576-3800

7. Port Discovery, Children's Museum 35 Market Pl Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 727-8120

8. Maryland Science Center, IMAX Theater and Davis Planetarium 601 Light St Baltimore, MD 21230

Phone: (410) 685-5225

9. Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Baltimore, MD 21217 Phone: (410) 366-5466

10. Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture 830 E Pratt St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (443) 263-1800 **11. National Great Blacks in Wax Museum** 1601 E North Ave Baltimore, MD 21213 Phone: (410) 563-3404

12. Baltimore & Ohio

Railroad Museum 901 W Pratt St Baltimore, MD 21223 Phone: (410) 752-2490

13. Baltimore Museum of Art

10 Art Museum Dr Baltimore, MD 21218 Phone: (443) 573-1700

14. Walters Art Museum

600 N Charles St Baltimore, MD 21201 Phone: (410) 547-9000

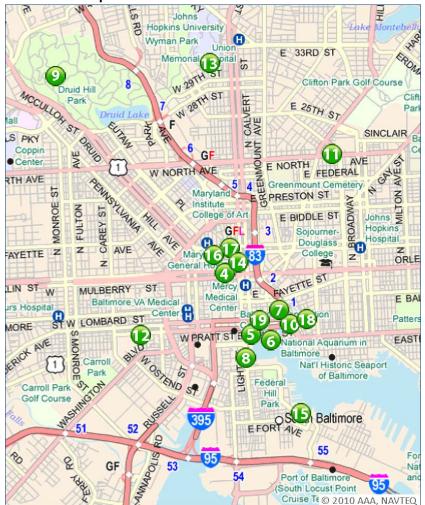
15. Baltimore Museum of Industry 1415 Key Hwy Baltimore, MD 21230 Phone: (410) 727-4808

16. Maryland Historical Society 201 W Monument St Baltimore, MD 21201 Phone: (410) 685-3750

17. Washington Monument

699 N Charles St Baltimore, MD 21201 Phone: (410) 396-0929

Attractions Map



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18. Star-Spangled Banner Flag House 844 E Pratt St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 837-1793 **19. Top of the World Observational Level** 401 E Pratt St Baltimore, MD 21202 Phone: (410) 837-8439

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The <u>Baltimore Museum of Industry</u> will tell you about area technologies that shaped the Industrial Revolution and how the city was one of the busiest ports in America. Other highlights include the world's first disposable bottle cap and a typesetting machine.

More diachronic items can be found at the <u>Maryland Historical Society</u>, a AAA GEM attraction that is the state's oldest cultural foundation.

The <u>Washington Monument</u> pays homage to the first U.S. president. The 178-foot structure was designed by Robert Mills and was built in 1829. The building features a museum with information about George Washington as well as the construction of the monument.

The historic heritage continues with <u>The Star-Spangled Banner Flag</u> <u>House</u>, which is the birthplace of America's flag and the home of seamstress Mary Young Pickersgill. The 30- by 42-foot flag containing 15 stars and stripes inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Be prepared to become awe-struck while viewing the <u>Top of the World</u> <u>Observational Level</u> in the world's tallest, pentagonal building, located in the Inner Harbor district and showcasing an astonishing, 360-degree panoramic view of the Baltimore area.

Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of outstanding festivals and events that may coincide with your visit.

The <u>Maryland RV Show</u> is geared toward the outdoor community and features motor homes, trailers, tent campers, recreational vehicle accessories and travel destination exhibits and campground displays at the state fairgrounds in Timonium every February.

The <u>Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage</u> preserves and restores the state's architecturally significant properties. April to mid-May each year the organization schedules home and garden tours to raise funds for each participating county's designated projects.

If you're a horse-lover, giddy up in May to the Pimlico Race Course for the <u>Preakness Celebration</u>—a series of events celebrating the annual Running of the Preakness Stakes, the middle leg of racing's Triple Crown. Festivities include a hot air balloon race, parade, 5K run, concerts and children's activities.

Baltimore celebrates its ethnic heritage in the Inner Harbor district with the Showcase of Nations festival. The summer-long event features unique crafts, cuisine from around the world, traditional dancing, live music and ceremonies. Highlights include the <u>St. Nicholas Greek Folk</u> <u>Festival</u> and <u>LatinoFest</u> in June, <u>Powwow and Native American Festival</u> at the state fairgrounds in July and <u>Our Holy Trinity Russian Festival</u> in October.

In late August, crowds head to the <u>Maryland State Fair</u> in nearby Timonium. The annual carnival for more than 120 years includes rides, games, exhibits, livestock, competitions, baked goods, farm products, entertainment, food and awards.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts hosts the <u>Baltimore Book</u> <u>Festival</u> in Mount Vernon Square near the Washington Monument in September and features more than 200 local and self-published authors, book signings, vendors, exhibits, seminars and speakers.

More than 700,000 attendees participate in the <u>Fells Point Fun Festival</u> every October. The event started some 40 years ago to prevent a highway construction project from occurring in the area. The highlights include arts and crafts, international vendors, a flea market, entertainment and food.

Things to Do

Shopping

In the heart of Baltimore's revitalized financial and office district, Harborplace and The Gallery, at the corner of Light and Pratt streets overlooking the Inner Harbor, features national retailers and a variety of cafes and restaurants divided among three buildings: two glass-enclosed pavilions and, connected via an overhead skywalk, the Gallery, which offers three floors of shopping. A fourth floor consists of restaurants and shops.

A visit to one of the city's indoor food markets can be a fascinating experience. These markets are well-preserved monuments of an older Baltimore and contain aisle after aisle of stalls in which vendors offer wares ranging from meats and produce to fresh seafood from the bay. Baked goods also are available. Some of these markets have served their neighborhoods since the city's earliest days.

Two of the city's markets are located in areas often visited by tourists: Broadway Market, at Broadway and Fleet sts., and Cross Street Market, on Cross St. between Light and S. Charles sts. Broadway Market was founded in the late 18th century, and Cross Street Market began in the mid-19th century. Both are open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. until early evening. The other markets, which are Lexington, Hollins, Avenue and Northeast, are in less upscale areas than the Broadway and Cross Street markets and draw mostly local residents. Lexington Market, at 400 W. Lexington St. in the Westside neighborhood, covers Lexington, Eutaw, Paca, Saratoga and Green sts. and is the largest city-operated market since 1782. It is open Monday through Saturday 8:30-6. The Arcade, a contemporary addition, offers everything from fresh produce to local seafood as well as two restaurants and a central stage area for entertainment and community use. Phone (410) 685-6169. Hollins Market is on Hollins St. between Arlington Ave. and Carrollton St., Avenue Market is at Pennsylvania and Laurens sts., and Northeast Market is at Monument and Chester sts. These began in the mid-19th century. The markets are open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. until early evening; Hollins Market is not open on Monday. Note: It is advisable to

visit the markets, particularly Lexington, Hollins, Avenue and Northeast, only during daylight hours; to leave wallets and handbags in a safe place; and to travel with a partner. A renovation and revitalization of downtown Baltimore's Westside neighborhood is currently underway.

Small shops abound in Baltimore. Galleries and restaurants now occupy the elegant houses that long distinguished Charles Street.

Those in search of the unusual may want to visit Antique Row in the 700 and 800 blocks of Howard Street. Both blocks have rows of shops and galleries specializing in antiques, art and unusual gifts and collectibles. Mount Washington Village, on Kelly and Sulgrave avenues, encompasses specialty shops and boutiques within a village setting.

Cross Keys Village is a complex of shops and restaurants surrounding a parklike square on Falls Road between Northern Parkway and Cold Spring Lane. The Rotunda, north of downtown at 711 W. 40th St. near Johns Hopkins University, caters to college students and others with its 21 specialty shops.

For something different, the Historic Savage Mill in nearby Savage is an 1820s textile mill turned specialty marketplace where shoppers can find some 50 shops, eateries and art galleries in restored buildings.

Several regional malls are within the metropolitan area. One of the largest, White Marsh Mall, just north of the city off I-95 at exit 67, has a number of major stores, including Boscov's, JCPenney, Macy's and Sears.

Bargain hunters can find plenty of shopping territory at Arundel Mills, 10 miles south of Baltimore off I-95 exit 43 in Hanover via SR 100 E.

Other large malls include Eastpoint, I-695 exit 38W; Marley Station, via I-97 exit 14 and SR 100 exit 16 to 7900 Ritchie Hwy. (SR 2) in Glen Burnie; Owings Mills, I-795 and Owings Mills Boulevard; Security Square, I-695 exit 17 to 6901 Security Blvd.; Towson Town Center, 825 Dulaney Valley Rd. in Towson; and Westview, I-695 exit 15B.

Sports and Recreation

Baseball attracts faithful fans in Baltimore; the Baltimore Orioles regularly draw big crowds to Oriole Park at Camden Yards; phone (410) 685-9800.

Named for Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven," National Football League Super Bowl XXXV champions Baltimore Ravens compete for gridiron glory at M&T Bank Stadium; phone (410) 261-7283.

The Baltimore Blast, (410) 732-5278, play indoor soccer at 1st Mariner Arena. Some of the nation's top lacrosse players make up Baltimore's many NCAA teams, including the Johns Hopkins' Blue Jays, who compete at Homewood Field, Charles Street and University Parkway; phone (410) 235-6882.

Horse racing is popular, and Pimlico Race Course has meets in spring and summer; phone (410) 542-9400. The second race of the Triple Crown, The Preakness Stakes, is held at Pimlico the third weekend in May. The racetracks at Laurel and Timonium are an easy drive from the city.

Note: Policies concerning admittance of children to pari-mutuel betting facilities vary. Phone for information.

Golf can be played at Carroll Park, 2100 Washington Blvd., phone (410) 685-8344; Clifton Park, 2701 St. Lo Dr., phone (410) 243-3500; Forest Park Golf Course, 2900 Hillsdale Ave., phone (410) 448-4653; Mount Pleasant Golf Course, 6001 Hillen Rd., phone (410) 254-5100; and Pine Ridge Golf Course, 2101 Dulaney Valley Rd. in Lutherville, phone (410) 252-1408.

Tennis players can find public courts at Clifton, Druid Hill and Patterson parks. In the winter ice-skating takes place at Patterson Park; phone Baltimore Recreation Department (410) 396-7900.

Boating is enjoyed at the Inner Harbor, Pratt and Light streets, and fishing is permitted at Loch Raven Reservoir, the city's principal water source.

Hiking opportunities are bountiful in both the city and its environs. The Baltimore and Annapolis (B&A) Trail follows the old Baltimore and

Annapolis railroad running from Glen Burnie to Annapolis; the Gwynns Falls Trail, part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and East Coast Greenway trails, winds through a park of lush greenery.

Biking enthusiasts have their choice of bicycle trails in Clifton, Herring Run and Patterson parks.

Performing Arts

The pleasures of good music can be found in the concerts, ballets and other musical programs presented by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra performs throughout the season at Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, 1212 Cathedral St.; phone (410) 783-8100. The home of the Baltimore Opera Company is Lyric Opera House, a replica of Germany's Leipzig Music Hall, 140 W. Mount Royal Ave.; phone (410) 727-6000.

Throughout the summer and early fall, Pier 6 Concert Pavilion in the Inner Harbor presents R&B, rock and country acts featuring numerous individual artists; phone (410) 783-4189.

Hopkins Plaza offers free concerts once a month May through September. Concerts—some of which are free—are regularly scheduled at the acoustically superb Concert Hall of the Peabody Institute of Music, 21 E. Mount Vernon Pl.; phone (410) 659-8100. Cultural and sporting events take place at 1st Mariner Arena; phone (410) 347-2020.

Baltimore's major regional theater is Center Stage, 700 N. Calvert St., which produces a variety of contemporary and classic plays; phone (410) 332-0033 or TTY (410) 332-4240. Drama devotees can enjoy touring Broadway shows as well as the classics at the Hippodrome Theatre at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, 12 N. Eutaw St.; phone (410) 837-7400 for schedule information. Other dramatic offerings are staged at the theaters of the Arena Players, 801 McCulloch St., (410) 728-6500, and the Vagabond Players, 806 S. Broadway, (410) 563-9135.

The Theater Project, 45 W. Preston St., is the city's center for avantgarde productions; phone (410) 752-8558. The Cockpit in Court Summer Theatre of Essex Campus of the Community College of Baltimore County presents musicals, dramas and comedies throughout the summer; phone (410) 780-6369.

Several dinner theaters are in and around the city. Toby's Dinner Theater is in the Best Western Hotel & Conference Center at 5625 O'Donnell St.; phone (410) 995-1969 or (800) 888-6297. A second location is in Columbia at 5900 Symphony Woods Rd.; phone (410) 730-8311 or (800) 888-6297.

For schedules of current theatrical and musical offerings check the local newspapers.

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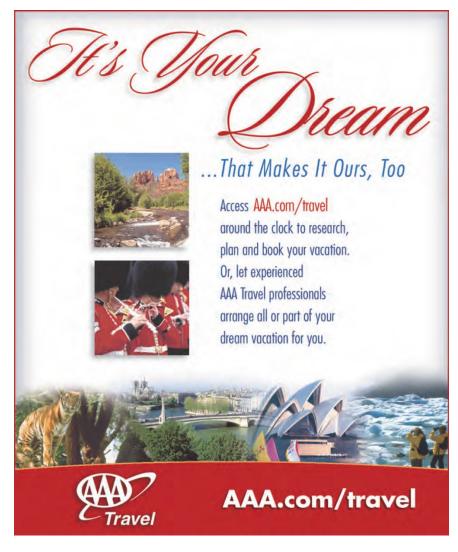
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