

Baltimore: Exceptional for Groups

In Baltimore, your tour group is just steps from a vast array of exciting attractions, inspiring historical and cultural opportunities, and first-class dining and hotel amenities. Center your visit around our famous Inner Harbor, where you can conveniently and easily explore our wealth of world-class attractions. Or, explore off the beaten path. Baltimore is a city enriched by the distinct cultures of its diverse neighborhoods, and we are proud to welcome you to them. In Baltimore your group can explore the Australian wilderness at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, walk in the footsteps of revolutionary Americans, dine in Rome and take in a Broadway show all in a single day. And with so many options so close together within a five-hour drive from two-thirds of the United States, you can satisfy your entire group without spending all of your time just "getting there." We think you'll find that there are unexpected surprises around every corner in Baltimore; so whether you're looking for education or entertainment, culture or crab feasts, your next adventure is always just steps away.

Must Sees Baltimore's World Famous Attractions

Baltimore's Inner Harbor is the first stop to most visitors to Baltimore. It features shops and restaurants and its home to two of the city's most popular attractions: The National Aquarium, in Baltimore and the Maryland Science Center. A short walk from the harbor, the Sports Legends Museum and Camden Yards features displays on Baltimore's sports history.



In 1729, immigrants began to arrive in Baltimore to build neighborhoods and communities. People of Native American, European, Asian and African descent were among Baltimore's first residents. By the early 1800s, when slavery was still a legal institution in the United States, African Americans found freedom in Baltimore, forming one of the largest "freed" communities in the country.



Great Taste/Baltimore's Culinary Scene



Fresh Seafood, international cuisine, hometown meals and waterfront views; whatever your taste, Baltimore is a food lover's paradise. During the day, stop by one of our famous food markets as you explore the city: Lexington Market and Cross Street Market are two local favorites. In the evening, sit down at one of our many group friendly restaurants

where your group can enjoy an authentic Chesapeake Bay blue crab feast. Crab feasts can also be catered for your group.

The modern face of Baltimore reflects this depth of history. African American culture feeds the spirit of our city. You'll see it on our monuments, museums and art spaces. Many of our nation's greatest legends have called Baltimore home, from Thurgood Marshall and Eubie Blake to Billie Holiday and Cab Calloway. Their stories and legacies live at many Baltimore museums, including the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park and Museum.

On the Horizon...

The year 2011 also marks the 150th commemoration of the American Civil War, and Baltimore is the perfect spot to begin your exploration of Maryland's fabled Civil War trail. Visit the *USS Constellation*, the last Civil War-era naval vessel still afloat in the United States. See how Civil War military prisoners lived at Fort McHenry. Visit the war's first site of bloodshed and learn how Baltimore's waterfront location contributed to its significant role in early American warfare.

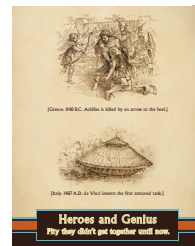


The War of 1812 was one of the defining moments of our nation. Maryland saw more military actions during the War of 1812 than any other state, and the Battle of Baltimore provided the most lasting and significant legacy. Beginning 2012 and ending 2015, there will be many amazing programs, activities and events for tour groups to enjoy as Baltimore celebrates The War of 1812 Bicentennial.

Legends and Legacies in Baltimore

Baltimore derives much of its personality, history and culture from the diversity of its people. Culture is art, music and dance; language, tradition and history. It's what we eat, what we wear and how we live. Culture is an open door, inviting us to learn more about one another and ourselves.

Only in Baltimore



Baltimore's amazing array of attractions and museums is enough to keep any group busy for weeks, but lately it seems there is even more to see and experience than ever before. These special exhibitions are a few of the only-in-Baltimore opportunities you'll find all around town in the coming months. Plan your trip and get here fast before you miss your chance to experience these unique exhibits.

■ Jellies Invasion: Oceans Out of Balance

This new exhibit at the National Aquarium provides a thrilling educational experience as it showcases these mesmerizingly beautiful animals in new, technologically innovative and interactive ways.

■ Da Vinci: The Genius: A Travelling Exhibit/MD Science Center

Inventor, artist, engineer, sculptor, anatomist, biologist, musician, architect, philosopher/Leonardo DaVinci was all of these things; exhibit is a rare look at the genius of one man that influenced generations to come. Through January 31, 2010

■ Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece/The Walters

This Free exhibition will feature objects from U.S. and European museums as well as pieces from the Walter's collection. Through January 2010

■ Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness /American Visionary Art Museum

An exhibition of works by 80 untrained - or "outsider" artists examining human rights issues as explored by French Revolutionaries, Guantanamo Bay detainees, Holocaust survivors, African-American civil rights activists and others. Through September 2010

Baltimore's Annual Events

It seems with each passing year Baltimore has more and more to celebrate and commemorate. Here's a list of some of our annual festivals, celebrations and events. For additional events and an up-to-the-minute events calendar, visit www.baltimore.org.

January

- Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration and Parade
- Baltimore Winter Restaurant Week

February

- American Craft Council Baltimore Fine Art Show
- Annual Black Heritage Art Show

March

- St. Patrick's Day Parade and Shamrock 5K run

April

- Baltimore Waterfront Festival

May

- Maryland Film Festival
- Kinetic Sculpture Race
- Flower Mart
- Preakness Stakes

June

- African American Heritage Festival
- Honfest
- Baltimore Gay Pride Festival

June – October

- Showcase of Nations Ethnic Festivals

July

- Baltimore's Fourth of July Celebration
- Artscape
- Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week

August

- Maryland State Fair

August – December

- Baltimore Ravens Football

September

- Baltimore Book Festival
- Annual Defenders Day Celebration

October

- Fell's Point Fun Festival
- Under Armour Baltimore Marathon and Running Festival

December

- A Monumental Occasion: Annual Lighting of the Washington Monument
- Mayor's Annual Christmas Parade
- Annual Lighted Boat Parade
- Baltimore's New Year's Eve Extravaganza

Student Tours



Baltimore's colorful attractions, living history and exciting, out-of-the-box educational opportunities make it an ideal destination for your student group tour. An extensive selection of our world-class attractions offers hands-on educational curricula and opportunities for your group to have relevant experiences in real-world settings. Distinguish your trip from any the students have ever taken before by incorporating a once-in-a-lifetime sleeperover immersion program adventure at one of several Inner Harbor attractions, or give student

performers the opportunity to shine in a Masters Class with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra or in a live concert at the Inner Harbor. Student-friendly accommodations and dining options abound all over town. With so much adventure so close together, your group can spend more time learning and having fun and less time getting around.

Swept Away/Arts/Culture and Nightlife

If the French want to see the largest collection in the world of Matisse, they have to visit Baltimore. A great town for art lovers, Baltimore has a deep appreciation for music, fine and performing arts. Baltimore offers stunning exhibits and permanent collections. The Baltimore Museum of Art's cone collection boasts the largest collection of Matisse. The collection also features works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Cezanne and Gauguin. At the Maryland Historical Society, you'll find the world's largest collection of Peale family works. Then discover The Walters Art Museum's internationally renowned collections of ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman art, Old Masters and jewelry. In the evening, enjoy unforgettable performances at one of Baltimore's many performing art venues among them, The Meyerhoff Symphony Hall and the Lyric Opera House for Music. Arena players, CENTERSTAGE and Everyman Theater for drama; Toby's Dinner Theater of Baltimore and Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament for dining and entertainment; and the newly renovated Hippodrome, Broadway's home away from home, for national touring shows.



Getting Around



The only thing easier than getting to Baltimore is getting around the city during your stay here. The majority of our staggering array of national hotel brands are located just a few steps from all of the action, so your group can navigate Baltimore with ease and confidence. Baltimore's city streets are straightforward and inviting, following a simple grid pattern throughout downtown. We offer group tours convenient downtown motorcoach parking in close proximity to the places you'll want to see most. Since we know you'll be eager to see all that you can during your stay, guided services and tour options abound. Explore by land or by sea with guided walking tours, motorcoach tour guides and trolley tours, and water taxis and chartered day sails. We can even show you around aboard a pirate ship! Stay tuned for inaugural date of Baltimore's latest free transportation service: The Charm City Circulator; a free shuttle system highly anticipated by locals and visitors alike!

We're Here to Help/Group Travel at Visit Baltimore

Its never been easier to plan a trip to Baltimore. At Visit Baltimore our group travel specialist is waiting to help you plan a fun filled itinerary. Pack a month's worth of activities into a week or a week's worth into a day. Stay in Baltimore and venture south for day trips to Washington, DC, Annapolis or Maryland's Eastern Shore. See Baltimore by both land and water onboard Spirit Cruises or enjoy a guided tour with the help of our thorough step on guide services. Convenient motor coach parking will make it easy for your group to see the city. Give us a call or visit us online at www.baltimore.org and find out why Baltimore is the perfect destination for your next group excursion.

Set Sail from the Port of Baltimore

The port of Baltimore's new easy-access terminal features cruises from Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Norwegian Cruise lines and Royal Caribbean International. The Port of Baltimore is the ideal drive-to port for the Mid-Atlantic region. Planning to arrive in Baltimore for your next cruise? Plan an extra night pre or post cruise and extend your vacation in Baltimore!

To explore even more group tour ideas contact:

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