

The charming Charm City

100 Things to Do in Baltimore Before You Die explores the things author Judy Colbert considers the must-do and must-see parts of Charm City for visitors and residents. While the Inner Harbor and the attractions around it are the main draws, there are hidden aspects of even the most popular sights. Here are a few of Judy's favorites.

by Judy Colbert

STARGAZING AT FELLS POINT

Fells Point is a popular spot for restaurants and bars and Herman Heyn, the personable Street-Corner Astronomer. He amazes you as he opens the night skies - exploring the stars, planets, and our Moon - through his eight-inch Schmidt-Casegrain reflector telescope. He's been doing this since November 13, 1987 and still delights when you're delighted. You can find him on clear weekend nights at the Thames Street end of Broadway Square in Fells Point. He'll even give you a yellow sticker that says, "I Saw Saturn" (or Mars or Jupiter). There's no charge, but he will accept donations. Call him at 410-889-0460 to make sure he'll be there, particularly if it's stormy or even overcast.

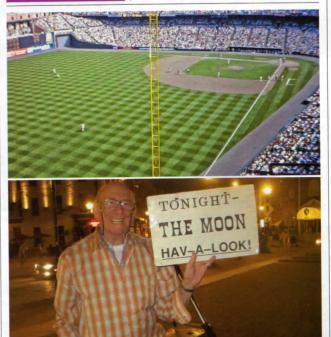
a www.hermanheyn.com.

NO ORDINARY ART

Raltimore has the world-famous Baltimore Museum of Art and the Walters Art Museum, both of which offer free admission. The American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM) also shines as a venue for Visionary Art works from self-taught individuals. That means they usually have no formal training. Bob Benson, a local artist, has pieces of his mirror art on exhibit, along with old-school robots by DeVon Smith and a rotating statue of Divine. Check AVAM's schedule for special events, watch (or participate in) the annual Kinetic Sculpture Race,

or sign up for one or more programs, lectures or classes. Some are free and some have a fee. Some are walk-in and some require reservations. Save time to eat at Encantada restaurant.

Nww.avam.org www.encantadabaltimore.com.



ROCK THE STADIUM

In 1993, Orioles Park at Camden Yards, opened as the first of the retro parks, setting the design standard for many years to come. The playing field is 18 feet below street level, helping make everything feel cozy although it holds about 43,000 fans. Other revolutionary features were incorporated and you can learn about them during a fascinating 90-minute guided stadium tour. They're offered daily during the season except when there's a day game, and at other times. See the club level suites, press box, scoreboard/JumboTron control room and the O's dugout. Ask why there are no kegs at the beer stands (it's supplied through 75 miles of pipeline). Load up on peanuts, Cracker Jack and an Esskay hot dog for the full Camden Yards experience and settle in for an O's game. This is one of the most beautiful stadiums in all of Major League Baseball (if not all of professional sports).

www.baltimore.orioles.mlb.com.

SWEET DELIGHTS

Baltimore's known for its crab cakes, corned beef, snoballs, and numerous other deliciousness. Another specialty is Rheb's Homemade Chocolates. Business started in the home of Louis and Esther Rheb in 1917; it's now run by third generation Win and Patricia Harger. Choosing which little chocolate morsel is best is impossible, but the dark chocolate vanilla buttercreams and the Jimmy truffles are the best sellers. I go for the dark chocolate raspberry cream. You should decide for yourself. And, yes, they have candies other than chocolates. Fortunately, you don't have to come to Baltimore to try these sweet treats. They're available online. Yum.

www.rhebcandy.com/321.

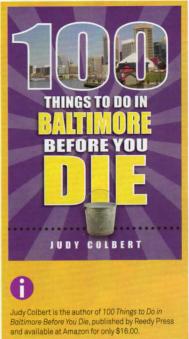
THE PRIDE OF BALTIMORE

Big ships and little boats visit the Port of Baltimore or call it home. One special boat is the Pride of Baltimore II. The topsail schooner splits the year, berthing part-time at the Inner Harbor and sailing to distant ports as a goodwill ambassador for the city and state the rest of the year. You can visit the Pride when she's in town and you can live aboard her and help the twelve professional crew members when she's sailing on the high seas. Trip legs last from four to twenty days and cost from \$500 to \$1,950. The 2016 trips went to the Great Lakes and other ports where they participated in various Tall Ship festivals.

www.pride2.org.

These are but a small sample of the wonderful things you can do and see in Charm City. Enjoy! ❖







There are more things to do in Baltimore, just ask Judy. Hop on one of WOW air's cheap flights to Baltimore/Washington International Airport and start checking off the list.

WCW

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