

Baltimore, Reborn And Booming!



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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Tour Summary

A city in decay in the early 1970s, Baltimore has become a glittering tourist center of fascinating distinctive neighborhoods, with a downtown harbor that is full of activity and entertainment. The city is proud of its illustrious history, great sports center, and educational institutions that rank among the best in the world. This is a comfortable, likeable town... after all, what's *not* to like about a town that boasts Thurgood Marshall, Edgar Allan Poe, Babe Ruth, and John Waters as native sons? Come with me as I take you through "Charm City," a place with a whimsical, quirky attitude toward the vicissitudes of life.

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Introduction





Way back when Oprah Winfrey started out as a television anchorperson, she was based in Baltimore. This unique city was described by her biographer Kitty Kelley as "situated north of the Confederacy, south of the Mason-Dixon Line, and in the shadow of Washington, D.C."



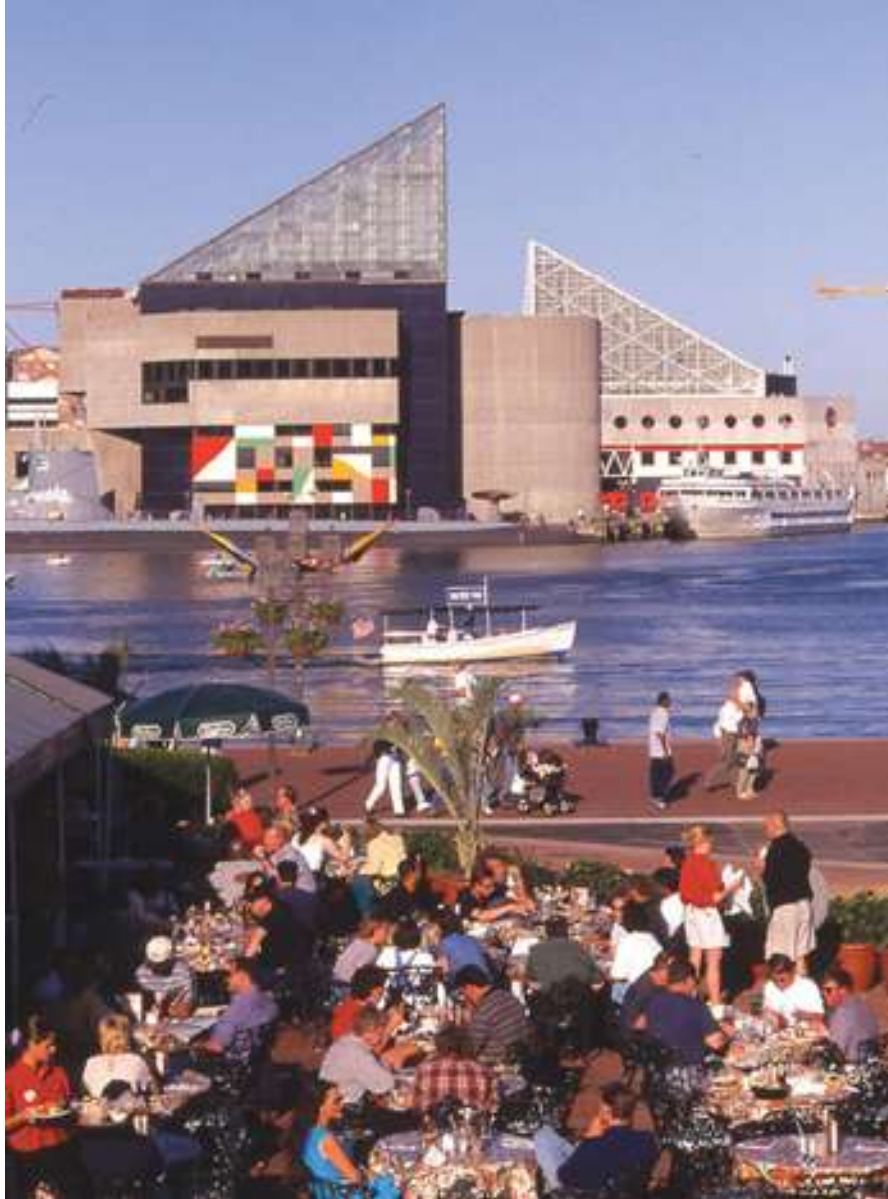
A city packed with a trunk-full of American history (but still a sort of red-headed stepchild of the U.S. capital 40 miles to the south), Baltimore has been described in much more colorful terms than "shadow."



Try "crime-ridden, rat-infested, abandoned, drug-wracked," and such a wreck that in 1974 the mayor asked adman Bill Evans to create a moniker for the town to help sell it to tourists. He came up with "Charm City."



Because of Baltimore's ironic, laid-back sense of humor, the name stuck, and in 1979, when the Baltimore Convention Center opened...

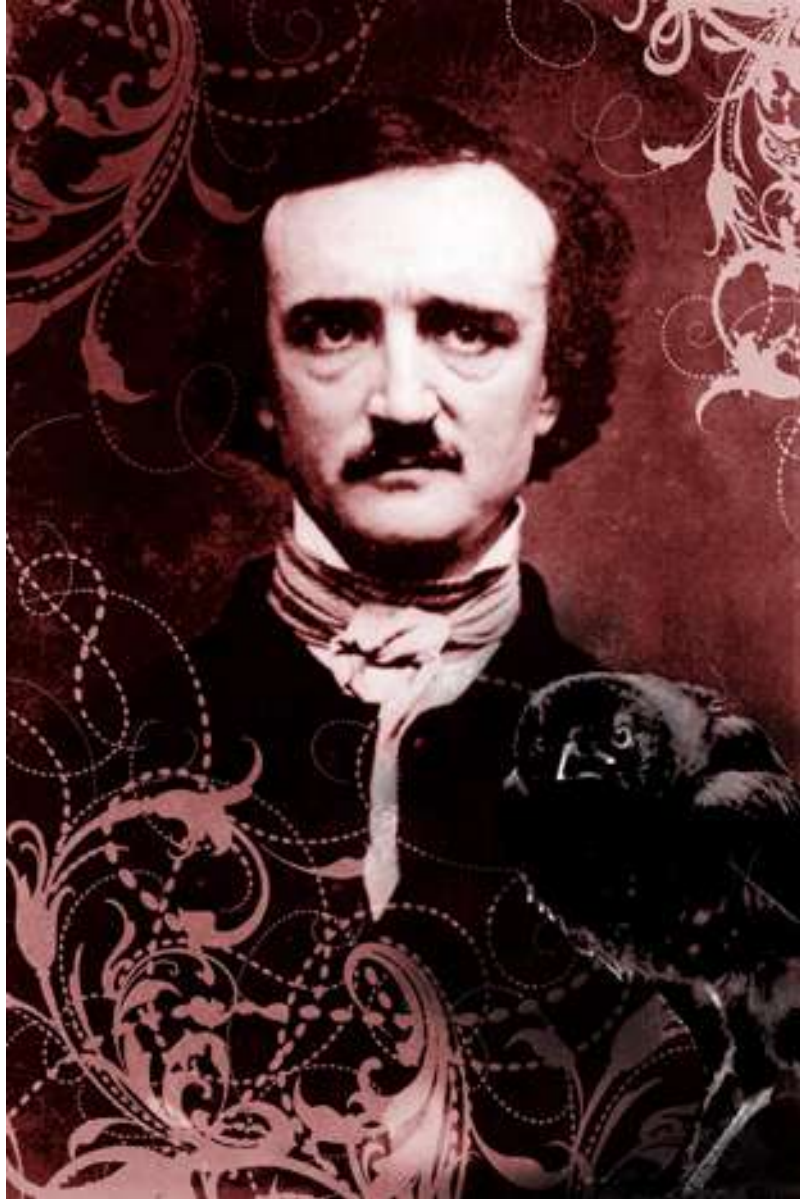


...when the retail and restaurant complex Harborplace was created and the National Aquarium built, the city began to come alive. Life returned to downtown, and

Baltimore could actually, realistically, finally,
be called "charming."



Today, downtown Baltimore is a lively, safe, fun place to visit, defined by specific neighborhoods, each with its own ethnicity and character.



It's the offbeat, whimsical Baltimorean personality that makes this traditionally working-class port town fun.



The city's character is best portrayed by film director and Baltimore native John Waters ("Hairspray," "Pink Flamingos," and other films, all set in the Baltimore area). We'll show you 4 of the more interesting neighborhoods, and tell you why you should explore this many-layered town.

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