Thematic Guides – Baltimore Elizabeth Doerr

Overview Guide

Guide Title

Baltimore Overview

Guide Introduction

Outsiders typically know Baltimore from *the Wire*, but as visitors dive deeper into the culture of the city, they'll find it is aptly nicknamed Charm City where the local pride is evident everywhere, each neighborhood boasts quaint quirks, and the food scene is innovative and thriving. Visitors have plenty of attractions to choose, from family-friendly activities on the harbor, historical landmarks important to American history, and off-the-beaten track peculiarities. Baltimore has something for everyone.

Slide 1: Destination at a glance

Title

Baltimore at a glance

Description

As one of the most important ports and cities of early America, Baltimore was the site of incredible change, both politically and industrially. Visitors should experience Baltimore through its unique neighborhoods, each of which carries stories of the city's – and the nation's – history, but also shows the evolution of a modern city transitioning from its roots. Baltimore is known for embracing its uniqueness through innovative art, culture, and especially food. It does this while still retaining the important local traditions the befit a city on the water.

Slide 2: Must-see/Must-do

Title

Getting past the harbor

Description

The Baltimore Inner Harbor has incredibly fun activities for the whole family, but to really get to know Baltimore, try to get out of the inner harbor and explore the neighborhoods. Not a far walk from the Inner Harbor, Fells Point architecturally expresses the colonial history of the city and the Canton neighborhood, once the location of canning factories has become a lively scene with re-purposed factories and a rising food scene. Farther north in Hampden, the aura (and sometimes even the physical presence) of John Waters is alive and well through the quirky shops and the insistent focus on local, small business.

Slide 3: Food and Drink

Title

The Omnipresence of Seafood and Crabs

Description

An enormous benefit to being a city on the water is the fresh seafood. Baltimore has this in the bag. No matter what restaurant you choose, the likelihood that fresh seafood is on the menu, is high. Baltimore's specialty is crabs, steamed and dusted with the ever important, locally

produced Old Bay seasoning. A good crab feast typically involves beer and a bucket of crabs laid out over brown butcher paper. Crab-picking is not for the faint of heart as you end up messy and for the newbies, with tender fingers. Visitors to Maryland might find crab-picking laborious and painful, but you shouldn't leave Maryland without a crab feast of some sort, it's all about the experience.

Slide 4: Culture

Title:

Baltimore Pride

Description:

One thing visitors will find about Baltimore is the locals' intense and infectious pride they have for their city. Although the city gets a bad rap sometimes – especially from its depiction in *the Wire* – locals are quick to point out what is special about their city. Baltimoreans embrace the uniqueness and the quirks, which is at the heart of why it's called Charm City. Baltimore has pride for its local sports teams (The Orioles and the Ravens), its (formally) local beer (Natty Boh), their famous poet (Edgar Allen Poe), and their favorite eccentric movie director (John Waters). Don't be afraid to ask the Baltimorean next to you at the bar what they love most about their city, it'll likely lead to great insights and a lively discussion as there's a lot to be proud of.

Slide 5: Shopping

Title:

Shopping Baltimore from Kitsch to Classic

Description:

Ask most Baltimore residents and they'll point you towards Hampden's 36th Street as the best place to shop in the city. You'll find only small, locally owned businesses there. There is everything from kitsch-inspired gifts, men's and women's clothing (vintage and otherwise), and great restaurants and cafés. On First Friday's you'll find free wine, beer and snacks at many of the shops. Fells Point, both popular amongst tourists and locals, is great for inexpensive antique shops, local art galleries, clothing and music. If you're in town for classic shopping locales without the mall, check out Harbor East for a great selection of boutiques and stores including the well known J.Crew and Anthropologie and the local shops like BIN 604 for excellent wines.

Slide 6: Essential Information

Title:

Essential Information

Description:

Baltimore is an excellent city to visit during the spring and the fall. Summer brings great events and activities, but it is hot and humid from June to early September, so be prepared to hydrate and take air conditioning breaks. The public transportation system in Baltimore leaves a lot to be desired, but there is a great, free bus system, The Charm City Circulator, whose three lines take visitors throughout the Inner Harbor, Mt. Vernon, Fells Point, Federal Hill, and Penn Station. If you want to get up into other sections of the city like Hampden or Woodberry, consider renting a car or taking a taxi. For a side trip to DC, MARC, the regional commuter train, recently expanded its services to include the weekend.

Thematic Guide 1: Big City/Big Culture

Guide Title

Baltimore History and Culture

Guide introduction

For a city whose population has decreased since it's industrial heyday, the amount of what to see and do grows each year. This is seen through Baltimore's culture – both in its strong roots in American history and its evolution as a scene for innovative and local arts and culture.

Slide 1: Baltimore's Part in American History

Title

Baltimore History from the Star-Spangled Banner to Civil Rights

Description

Baltimore is well known for being the birthplace of "the Star-Spangled Banner" written by Fancis Scott Key after witnessing the Battle of Ft McHenry during the War of 1812. Today, Ft McHenry is the center of Baltimore's Star-Spangled Pride. Baltimore also had an important place in the Civil War, several sites and museums lend insight to that history: the B&O Railroad Museum, Maryland Historical Society and the USS Constellation. Baltimore's part in black history can be traced back to Frederick Douglass who has roots in the city (see the Douglass statue in Fells Point), learn more about black history in the state at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, and the very poignant Blacks in Wax Museum.

Slide: 2: Port/Industrial History and Immigration

Title

Baltimore's Roots as an Important Historical Port Town

Description

In the late-19th and early-20th century, Baltimore was the second busiest entry point for European immigrants to the US. This early immigration history is evident through several neighborhoods including Little Italy and Greektown. Eastern European influence is less localized, but is evident in the Upper Fells Point/Canton neighborhoods with the traditionally built St. Michaels Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Lithuanian Hall Association in Hollands Market (also the site of a monthly soul dance party). For the more traditional port, industrial and immigration history, visitors should visit the Baltimore Maritime Museum, The Baltimore Museum of Industry, and the B&O Railroad Museum.

Slide 3: Historical Architecture

Title

History through Baltimore's Buildings

Description

You can see the Domino Sugar Factory's glowing neon light from Federal Hill Park – it is one of the only still-functioning factories in Baltimore representing the industrial history of the city.

Most of the old canneries and breweries, especially the old National Bohemian (locally called Natty Boh) brewery with its iconic winking guy have been converted to shops and restaurants, but the history is still evident in the existing structures: Fells Point has colonial clapboard houses, row homes, and cobblestoned streets; Woodberry and Hampden have the old mills (Clipper, Union, and Meadow Mills); Mt. Vernon has the brownstone row homes and is the home of the classic Peabody Library.

Slide 4: Art in Baltimore

Title

Baltimore's Vibrant and Varied Art Scene

Description

Home to elite art school, MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art), the Baltimore art scene is lively and diverse. Near MICA, the Station North Arts and Entertainment District hosts projects such as Open Walls Baltimore celebrating street art and programs providing subsidized housing to local artists. For the latest on the local art scene, www.bmoreart.com is the place to look. More universal art can be found at the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Walters Art Museum, both free admissions. On the other end of the spectrum, visitors should not miss the American Visionary Arts Museum featuring art created by untrained artists with colorful and unique exhibits that "revel in the act of creation itself".

Slide 5: Literary History

Title

Inside Poe's Influence on Baltimore

Description

You don't find many cities that name their local football team after a classic poem, but that's one way Baltimore shows its pride for its famous poet, Edgar Allen Poe. Pay extra attention to Poeinfluences around the city (a couple hints: The Ravens football team and the great Canton restaurant, Annabel Lee Tavern to name a couple). The best places to pay homage to the poet are at his gravesite at the Westminster Burial Grounds and Catacombs and the Poe House Museum where visitors can learn about Poe's influence nationally and in Baltimore. All things Poe can be found at www.poeinbaltimore.org.

Slide 6: Local Music Scene

Title

Baltimore's Music Scene

Description

Music lovers should immediately turn the radio dial to 89.7 WTMD upon entering Baltimore. This public radio music station, with the tag line "radio for music people" is at the center of Baltimore's vibrant music scene where larger venues like the Pier 6 Pavilion and Ram's Head Live attract popular national groups and small venues like the 8x10 and Ottobar equally play upand-coming local and national groups. The local love of bluegrass is evident in the Charm City Bluegrass Festival (held annually in April) hosted by the Union Craft Brewing Company. For

classical music lovers, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra holds court at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall and the Lyric Opera House.

Slide 7: Baltimore's Public Markets

Title

History and Culture in Baltimore's Markets

Description

Built in 1792, the largest and oldest public market in the country, Lexington Market, sits in the heart of urban Baltimore. The market was once bustling with horse-drawn carriages bringing daily produce and meats to the city. Now, Lexington Market is full of independently-owned stands selling prepared foods, produce, candy and more. The scene both contrasts and exemplifies the urban grit found right outside the market doors. Five other smaller public markets (Avenue, Broadway, Cross Street, Hollins and Northeast Markets) are scattered throughout the city. The best part of each market is that they are not just important history, they are vibrant elements of the neighborhood's daily life.

Slide 8: Only in Baltimore

Title

Quirky Traditions for a Quirky City

Description

Each city has its unique qualities, Baltimore's can best be described as "quirky" exemplified through some of its local traditions. Food-wise, Baltimore has the delicious and unhealthy fudge-covered Berger cookies and Old Bay seasoning. Duckpin bowling, similar to 10-pin bowling, but with shorter pins, a smaller ball, and slightly different rules, is a distinct activity to the region (try out Patterson Bowling Center in Fells Point). For unique events, the American Visionary Art museum hosts the annual Kinetic Sculpture Race where dozens of team race homemade sculptures powered only by pedals through obstacles across the city and Hampden celebrates Johns Waters (think *Hairspray*) and the homage he pays to Baltimore 60s kitsch.

Slide 9: Classic Harbor and Family Activities

Title

Family-Friendly Baltimore

Description

The Baltimore harbor has plenty of family-friendly activities both inside and outside. On the harbor is the beautiful and diverse National Aquarium. Families can rent paddleboats – the most fun being the Chesapeake Bay Monster "Chessie" boats. A quick walk from the harbor is Port Discovery Children's Museum and the bright colors and eclectic exhibits at the American Visionary Art Museum are attractive to the entire family. For less aquatic creatures, check out the Baltimore Zoo located in the beautiful Druid Hill Park.

Slide 10: Baltimore Festivals and Events

Title

Events Befitting Baltimore's Charms and Quirks

Description

Baltimore has something going on just about every month, but a few aptly represent the unique charms of the city. During the holidays, Hampden's *Miracle on 34th Street* (between Keswick Rd and Chestnut Ave) has unique displays like the hubcap Christmas tree, the nativity scene made from records and the light display depicting Baltimore icons. In June, Hampden spends a weekend celebrating Honfest where there is no shortage of cat-eye glasses and beehive hairdos. Artscape, a three-day art and music festival takes over Mt. Vernon and Station North in July. In October, runners can tour most of Baltimore by foot at the Baltimore Running Festival with full and half-marathons and a 5k race.

Thematic Guide 1: Dining

Guide Title: Dining in Baltimore

Guide Intro:

Baltimore is in a somewhat discrete location being neighbor to one of the more powerful cities in the country, so the food scene can be somewhat surprising as it's pushing some culinary boundaries while still maintaining the important, local classics.

Slide 1: Crabs and Seafood

Title:

The Ubiquitous Crab and Other Seafood

Description:

If you don't already know, quickly you'll find out that Maryland is synonymous with the blue crab (as evidence through the many crab-ified souvenirs in shops around the city). This is for good reason, as Maryland crab is fresh and delicious. Don't leave Baltimore without a classic crab feast: Captain James is on the water and gives beginner tutorials; locals will guide you to LP Steamers in Locust Point, Costas in Dundalk, or Reters just north of the city. For lump crab and crab cakes go to Duda's Tavern in Fells Point or Faidley's in Lexington Market. Of course, Baltimore is more than crabs, you'll find seafood just about everywhere, but for beautifully prepared seafood, head to The Black Olive or the Oceanaire Seafood Room.

Slide 2: Local Food/Farm-to-Table Dining

Title:

Farm-to-Table Dining in Baltimore

Description:

In the last few years, farm-to-table dining has exploded in Baltimore. This isn't niche anymore, rather restaurants, arguably led by the nationally recognized Woodberry Kitchen are not focusing just on the local part, but they're innovating with both food and atmosphere. Notable farm-to-table restaurants with acclaimed chefs are Fork & Wrench with its vintage industrial vibe and

Birroteca's focus on craft beer and local foods. The list of excellent farm-to-table dining goes on: Fleet Street Market, Clementine, Maggie's Farm, and Waterfront Kitchen. For local foods, though, don't miss the markets: Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar (Apr-Dec) exemplifies urban grit residing under the I-83 freeway and the year-round 32nd Street Farmers Market.

Slide 3: True to Baltimore Cuisine

Title:

Baltimore's very "Baltimore" Restaurants

Description:

For a city with this much local pride, there have to be restaurants that reflect the Baltimore-ness of the city. One favorite is the Dizz in Remington with its eclectic décor, somewhat divey feel, and the handwritten somewhat legible menu of homemade pub food, they have the appropriate tagline, "Baltimore in a Bar." Places like the Dizz make kitsch class. Other places that do this well are Paper Moon Diner with some crazy colorful décor and Dangerously Delicious Pies serving both savory and sweet pies for any time of day and many with some classic Baltimore ingredients like Berger Cookies. The Charmery, Baltimore's newest ice cream shop also shows its local pride through a rotating menu of ice creams with Old Bay or Berger Cookies.

Slide 4: Baltimore's Immigration History through Food Title:

Baltimore's Changing Demographics and History of Immigration through Food **Description:**

Baltimore's history as an important immigration entry point has undoubtedly influenced the food. Little Italy's authentic restaurants and delis like Isabella's for sandwiches and Vaccaro's for desserts. Away from Little Italy, you'll find a hidden treat, Trinacria with cheap Italian groceries, delicious sandwiches and authentic desserts. The Eastern European influence is in Fells Point and Canton with Ostrowski's Polish Sausages and Pierogis and more at Ze Mean Bean Café. Other places represent the history and changing demographics in ethnic cuisine: Attman's Jewish Deli, Chicken Rico's Peruvian rotisserie chicken, La Sirenita for authentic Mexican, Mekong Delta's delicious Vietnamese dishes, and Helmand for Afghan cuisine.

Slide 5: Beer and Food

Title:

Craft Beer Movement in Baltimore

Description:

Although Baltimore is passionate about its Natty Boh (National Bohemian), the craft beer movement is making waves in the city. Restaurants like Birroteca and Of Love & Regret treat fine beer like fine wine pairing great craft brews with gourmet cuisine. Local breweries are also popping up around town, the newest of which is Union Craft Brewing, which hosts Saturday tastings where you might find a local food truck or two. The more sage breweries Heavy Seas Alehouse and The Brewer's Art are tried and true serving excellent food to match their excellent brews. Annually, in the fall Baltimore beer is celebrated during Baltimore Beer Week.

Slide 6: Coffee and Coffeeshops

Title:

Where to Find Good Coffee in Baltimore

Description:

There's no shortage of good coffee in Baltimore, but you need to dig a little deeper to find the truly delicious places. Artifact coffee, little sister to Woodberry Kitchen, serves incredible brews alongside locally-sourced food in an old cotton mill. Hands down the best place to while away several hours. In Hampden, Sproh similarly serves craft coffee made to savor. Across from Patterson Park, is the aptly named Patterson Perk, although very small, is an excellent place to people watch. With a brick and mortar shop in Hamilton, Zeke's Coffee can actually be found almost everywhere in the city with many restaurants carrying their delicious roasts, many of which pay homage to the city itself. Buy a cup and some beans at the Farmers' Markets.

Slide 7: Wine & Food

Title:

Wine Done the Maryland Way

Description:

The options for wine and food are plentiful and varied. A recent addition to Hampden has quickly become a favorite, The Other Corner might on the surface seem a little divey, but it is homey and serves fantastic wine along with cheese and meat platters. For wine and tapas, you can't go wrong with Tapas Teatro with a modern Spanish vibe. To sip wine on the water there is V-NO in Fells Point. For classic wine bars you have The Wine Market, 13.5%, and Chesapeake Wine.

Slide 8: Food Trucks

Title:

Cuisine on Wheels

Description:

Baltimore's fleet of food trucks just keeps growing. A few are very worth tracking down. The Gypsy Queen serves a varied assortment of hand-held delights you never would think came off a truck, many with Maryland influence – the most notable is the Crab Cone, crab cake and old bay over fries. Miss Shirley's (which also has two brick and mortar shops) brings its southern comfort food to the masses by truck. Charm City Food Trucks (http://charmcityfoodtrucks.com) keeps eager food truck aficionados alert to various food truck locations and rallies around the city.

Slide 9: Neighborhood Gems

Title:

The Inside Scoop on Baltimore's Best Hole-in-the-Walls

Description:

Walk around any neighborhood in Baltimore and you're bound to pass small hole-in-the-wall restaurants way more than they look on the outside. In Fells Point, Henninger's Tavern has eclectic décor and a neighborhood watering hole appeal serving both pub foods and decadent seafood dishes. Peter's Inn is located in a small row house with elbow-to-elbow seating and an incredible rotating menu. In Upper Fells/Butcher's Hill is Water for Chocolate, a tiny corner restaurant that serves soul food with a twist. Looking for a good dive bar with a great beer selection? Try Duda's Tavern in Fells Point. The Hamilton neighborhood's Big Bad Wolf serves excellent barbeque in a shack and in Dundalk, Chaps serves the area's best pit beef.

Slide 10: Outdoor Dining

Title:

The Best Outdoor Dining Spots

Description:

Although the summer months might be a little sticky, the long spring and fall make outdoor dining great in Baltimore. Waterfront dining is best at Waterfront Kitchen for fine dining and Captain James Crab House for a casual setting. Tapas Teatro and Thames Street Oyster House both have sidewalk seating, but the latter has a quieter back patio as well. Woodberry Kitchen has an idyllic outdoor patio with a beautiful view of the historic Clipper Mill – best is the fire pit where visitors can congregate more casually and partake in locally sourced, gourmet bar fare. For a fancier feel, Gertrude's at the Baltimore Museum of Art is nice with a bubbling fountain nearby.

Thematic Guide 3: Romantic Destinations

Guide Title: Romantic Baltimore

Guide Description:

With beautiful parks, a classic skyline, and great culture, Baltimore has everything for a romantic day or night out.

Slide 1: Parks

Title:

A Romantic Walk in the Park

Description:

Contrasted against the grit of Baltimore's urban center are several beautiful parks that are the perfect place for a romantic stroll. Patterson Park, north of Canton, is expansive with a unique pagoda, many winding trails, a pond, and a plethora of picnic spots. Federal Hill Park's view of the city is perfect for an afternoon picnic. Another green space gem is Druid Hill Park where you can find the beautiful Rawlings Conservatory, a quiet spot away from the bustle of the city where exotic plants bloom in the greenhouses. For an even more secluded open space, visit the Cylburn Arboretum with its several gardens and variety of trails.

Slide 2: Dance Spots

Title:

Dance Destinations Befitting Baltimore's Quirks

Description:

Leave it to Baltimore to have out of the ordinary dance spots, the type and genre of music and dancing is eclectic to say the least. The most unique is the "Save Your Soul" dance party held every first Friday of the month at the Lithuanian Dance Hall where DJs play hip-shaking 50s and 60s R&B and Soul music, the bar is stocked with Lithuanian and Eastern European beers and liquors and the party is hopping and sweaty (it really gets going around 10pm). Mobtown Ballroom has 1920s-style swing dancing on Monday and Friday nights, no experience necessary, but beginners can take a class before the party gets started. For blues, check out the Cat's Eye Pub and Paradox is the go-to for house music.

Slide 3: Candlelit Dinners

Title:

Romantic Dining by Candlelight

Description:

Baltimore has a variety of romantic dining spots for any mood. Salt is modern and off-the-beaten track with beautifully plated dishes with an emphasis on quality seafood. For a classic romantic evening, try Pazo with its Mediterranean focus. For something candlelit, but homey, Woodberry Kitchen offers excellent farm-to-table cuisine with innovative cocktails and delicious wines. Tapas Teatro bustles like a traditional Spanish tapas bar, without skimping on the class and quality. Petit Louis Bistro, provides the feel of a classic French bistro and Corner BYOB is the perfect setting to try delicious food while supplying your own wine (that can be purchased a step away in the well-stocked Wine Source).

Slide 4: Leisurely Brunches

Title:

Brunching Baltimore Style

Description:

You can't beat a slow, leisurely brunch on a lazy Saturday or Sunday morning. Baltimore's brunch scene grows and with it the variation. Blue Moon Café is often seen as the best place for brunch and the line gets long for this small spot in Fells Point, but the decadent dishes (like the Cap'n Crunch French toast) are worth the wait. Water for Chocolate is another more casual, and equally small spot with amazing southern-inspired soul food that outsizes the small locale. Golden West Café is a local favorite with southwest soul food and a laid-back vibe. For upscale brunching with both the classic and innovative morning cocktail selections to accompany a gourmet brunch, there's The Food Market, Woodberry Kitchen, Fork & Wrench and Clementine.

Slide 5: Late-Night Cocktails

Title:

Drinking where the Cocktails are Unique

Description:

When it comes to cocktails, Baltimore has both innovation and the classics and no shortage on atmosphere. Fork & Wrench has no less than a book of both new and classic prohibition-era cocktails. Speaking of prohibition, the newest speakeasy in town, W.C. Harlan is a great spot for a secret rendezvous – with no phone or website, it can be hard to track down, but online searches show that fans have let the cat out of the bag. Hersh's Pizza & Drinks is known first for its pizza, but also has some of the best cocktails in town and Myth & Moonshine Tavern brings a modern twist to the renegade spirit, moonshine. For a more classic cocktails, try Wit & Wisdom inside the Four Seasons with hand-crafted cocktails in a classy setting.

Slide 6: After Dinner Sweets

Title:

Finish the Night off the Sweet Way

Description:

Although many of the popular restaurants serve incredible desserts, there are a couple places to reserve some stomach space for. The Charmery, Baltimore's newest ice cream shop rotates its flavors regularly using locally sourced products wherever possible and serving such flavors that pay homage to Baltimore like Old Bay Caramel and Berger Cookies and Cream. For a late night sweet treat, Vaccaro's in Little Italy is busy late into the evening like a true Italian pastry shop.

Slide 7: Wine Tasting

Title:

Wine Done the Maryland Way

Description:

In *Baltimore Magazine*'s recent "Best of Baltimore" issue, the winery voted as favorite is actually a cider producer. Millstone Cider takes wine-making methods and applies it to its craft cider production while adding a twist of experimentation. Their ciders can be found in a number of stores around Baltimore, but it's worth a trip to their refurbished mill in Monkton, MD for tastings and a tour on Saturdays. For more classic wines, there is Boordy Vineyard if you like sweet wines, and Black Ankle in Mt. Airy, MD for a beautiful, rustic setting and decent wines. In the city, Bin 604 in Harbor East carries an incredible variety of wines, has an exceptionally knowledgeable staff and hosts regular thematic wine tastings.

Slide 8: Romantic Harbor Spots

Title:

Romance on the Harbor

Description:

There's nothing more romantic than being on the water. Baltimore's harbor location provides a lot of options for that, but one of the most romantic options is on the water with *Spirit of Baltimore* dinner cruises. Waterfront Kitchen is excellent for harbor-side seating, is centrally

located in Fells Point, but removed from the hubbub of the city. Follow up any activity with a walk along the harbor promenade winding from Fells Point all the way to the other side of the harbor to Federal Hill. For waterside concerts, the Pier 6 Pavilion regularly hosts well-known performers all summer long.

Slide 9: Dinner and a Show

Title:

Dinner and a Show

Description:

Baltimore has a variety of theaters hosting nationally recognized music, comedy, and Broadway shows or showing independent movies and music act. These spaces a great way to spend an evening with dinner and a show: Seafood and beer at Ale Wife and a Broadway show at the Hippodrome Theatre; fresh "farm to fork" food at the Marquee lounge followed by a world-music performance at the Creative Alliance; Tapas and sangria at Tapas Teatro and an independent movie at the Charles Theater; Craft beer and upscale bar food at Brewer's Art and a comedy act or symphony performance at the Lyric or Meyerhoff; Farm-to-table southern classics at Shoo-Fly Dinner and a movie at the recently-refurbished Senator Theatre (where John Waters' films once debuted).

Slide 10: Great City Views

Title:

Romantic Cityscapes

Description:

Nothing says romance like a beautiful skyline. There are a number of places around town to take in the view both during the day and night. During the day, the pagoda in Patterson Park has 360-degree view of the water all the way to downtown. The *Top of the World* (the 27th floor of the World Trade Center), right at the inner harbor has a fantastic view of the entire city from the vantage point of downtown. At night from Federal Hill Park, the neon light from the Domino Sugar factory glows over the city and there is always a great view of the entire downtown skyline. For cocktails with a view, try 13th Floor (in the Belvedere in Mt. Vernon with strategically placed tables with a view.