

Washington, DC and Baltimore List September 1, 2011

Why DC Matters

Washington, DC has always been important, no question about it. The national monuments, museums and government institutions make it worth visiting. But, to me, DC seemed to be underachieving as a city. For all its relevance and clout, it lacked a certain “sense of place” and was more like a nice collection of buildings, but with no soul. DC is very organized, but I’m not sure I’d say it’s well planned. The National Mall and all of the government buildings are spread out and difficult to navigate on foot. The skyline is flat due to height restrictions and there is a certain blandness to most government buildings. Also, the nature of DC “residents” is challenging. By definition, a significant part of the population is transient and changes based on election results. Despite the historic stereotypes, DC has matured over the past 10 or 15 years. It has evolved into a real urban place with some great neighborhoods. Georgetown has always been good (and now its better), but DuPont Circle, the U Street/14th Street area and Penn Quarter (best urban neighborhood in U.S. that is anchored by a sports arena) are all success stories. And Capital South is up and coming. DC finally started building places for people. Better restaurants have emerged. Downtown living has skyrocketed and the vast majority of young interns and government workers live in urban lofts, apartments or condos. The architecture and urban design have also improved. One of the great things about DC is that the entire region has developed around transit and, while it took some time, the results are favorable and DC shows how transit can positively shape growth. There is a lot more authenticity to DC than you might think and it’s a neat urban destination that is growing into the great city it should be.

DC Hotels

Hotel Monaco (CTU Favorite)
700 F Street Northwest
(202) 628-7177
www.monaco-dc.com

Willard Intercontinental
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 628-9100
www.washington.intercontinental.com

Sofitel
806 15th Street Northwest
(202) 730-8800
www.sofitel.com

Four Seasons Georgetown
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 342-0444
www.fourseasons.com/washington

Hotel George
15 E Street Northwest
(202) 347-4200
www.hotelgeorge.com

DC Hotels (continued)

Hay Adams
One Lafayette Square, 16th & Hth Streets Northwest
(202) 638-6600
www.hayadams.com

DC Restaurants

DC Coast
1401 K Street Northwest
(202) 216-5988
www.dccoast.com

Oceanaire Seafood Room
1201 F Street Northwest
(202) 347-2277
www.theoceanaire.com

Hank's Oyster Bar
1624 Q Street Northwest
(202) 462-4265
www.hanksdc.com

BLT Steak
1625 Eye Street North West
(202) 689-8999
www.bltsteak.com

Charlie Palmer Steak
101 Constitution Avenue Northwest
(202) 547-8100
www.charliepalmer.com

Bobby Van's Steakhouse
809 15th Street Northwest
(202) 589-0060
www.bobbyvans.com

Ceiba
701 14th Street Northwest
(202) 393-3983
www.ceibarestaurant.com

Central – Michel Richard
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 626-0015
www.centalmichelrichard.com

DC Restaurants (continued)

The Prime Rib
2020 K Street Northwest
(202) 466-8811
www.theprimerib.com

Old Ebbit Grill
675 15th Street Northwest
(202) 347-4800
www.ebbitt.com

Clyde's of Georgetown
3236 M Street Northwest
(202) 333-9180
www.clydes.com

Zaytinya
701 9th Street Northwest
(202) 638-0800
www.zaytinya.com

Zola
800 F Street Northwest
(202) 654-0999
www.zoladc.com

Ben's Chili Bowl
1213 U Street Northwest
(202) 667-0909
www.benschilibowl.com

Eat + Drink DC

Hotel Washington - W Hotel Lobby & Rooftop Terrace Bar
515 15th Street NW
(202) 661-2400
www.starwoodhotels.com/whotels/index.html

Poste Brasserie at Hotel Monaco (for drinks)
555 8th Street Northwest
(202) 783-6060
www.postebrasserie.com

Proof (for drinks)
775 G Street Northwest
(202) 737-7663
www.proofdc.com

Eat + Drink DC (continued)

Potenza (for drinks)
1430 H Street Northwest
(202) 638-4444
www.potenzadc.com

Cowgirl Creamery Cheese Shop
919 F Street Northwest
(202) 393-6880
www.cowgirlcreamery.com

Busboys & Poets
2021 14th Street Northwest
(202) 387-7638
www.busboysandpoets.com

Kramerbooks & Afterwords Café
1517 Connecticut Avenue Northwest
(202) 387-1400
www.kramers.com

DC Museums

American History
1000 Jefferson Drive Southwest
(202) 633-1000
www.americanhistory.si.edu

Portrait Gallery (also American Art Museum)
801 F Street Northwest
(202) 633-8300
www.npg.si.edu

Kennedy Center Tour (weekdays 10 – 5)
2700 F Street Northwest
(202) 467-4600
www.kennedy-center.org

Newseum
555 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 292-6100
www.newseum.org

Library of Congress (Tour)
101 Independence Avenue Southeast
(202) 707-5000
www.loc.gov/index.html

DC Museums (continued)

National Geographic Museum
1145 17th Street Northwest
(202) 857 7588

www.events.nationalgeographic.com/events/locations/center/museum/

National Gallery of Art, East Building (I.M. Pei Architect, Modern Art, eat lunch at cafeteria in tunnel downstairs)

401 Constitution Avenue Northwest
(202) 737-4215

www.nga.gov

National Building Museum (best gift shop in DC)

401 F Street Northwest
(202) 272-2448

www.nbm.org

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Why Baltimore Matters

Baltimore faces a lot of challenges. It's not the business or economic force it used to be. There's too much city, and too little to do with it. Lots of vacant and underutilized real estate. But some success stories. Waterfront projects at Inner Harbor are the national model for tourist oriented urban redevelopment. Harbor East is a new, urban infill, mixed-use neighborhood. Fells Point, Mount Vernon and Federal Hill are interesting older neighborhoods with good housing stock and some notable restaurants. Camden Yards is the best "new construction" ballpark in the U.S. and an excellent example of how to integrate a sports stadium into the downtown fabric. Better art museums than you would think and a nice city to spend a long weekend. In some ways, Baltimore is inspiring. It could have totally failed, and it probably should have. But it has tried a lot of things and reinvented itself in many ways. Several old harbor or port cities would be lucky to have the development that Baltimore does. However, there are also many challenges ahead. This is a tough city to turn around, but one that proves solid urban planning and policy decisions can make a difference.

Baltimore Hotels

Intercontinental
550 Light Street
(410) 234-0550
www.harborcourt.com

Hotel Monaco
2 North Charles Street
(443) 692-6170
www.monaco-baltimore.com

Marriot Harbor Waterfront
700 Aliceanna Street
(410) 385-3000
www.marriott.com

Baltimore Restaurants

Charleston
1000 Lancaster Street
(410) 332-7373
www.charlestonrestaurant.com

Oceanaire Seafood Room
801 Aliceanna Street
(443) 872-0000
www.theoceanaire.com

Baltimore Restaurants (continued)

Pazo
1425 Aliceanna Street
(410) 534-7296
www.pazorestaurant.com

Ryleigh's Oyster Bar
36 East Cross Street
(410) 539-2093
www.ryleighs.com

B & O Brasserie, at Hotel Monaco
2 North Charles Street
(443) 692-6172
www.bandorestaurant.com

Bertha's, Fell's Point
734 South Broadway
(410) 327-5795
www.berthas.com

Kali's Court, Fell's Point
1606 Thames Street
(410) 276-4700
www.kaliscourt.com

Kali's Mezze, Fell's Point
1606 Thames Street
(410) 563-7600
www.kalimezze.com

Pitango Gelato, Fell's Point
802 South Broadway
(410) 702-5828
www.pitangogelato.com

Tapas Adela, Fell's Point
814 South Broadway
(410) 534-6262
www.tapasadela.com

Cinghiale, Harbor East (CTU favorite)
822 Lancaster Street
(410) 547-8282
www.cgeno.com

Baltimore Restaurants (continued)

Sullivan's Steakhouse, Inner Harbor
1 East Pratt Street
(410) 962-5503
www.sullivansteakhouse.com

Blue Hill Tavern
938 South Conkling Street
(443) 388-9363
www.bluehilltavern.com

Salt
2127 East Pratt Street
(410) 276-5480
www.salttavern.com

Baltimore Museums and Sights

Baltimore Museum of Art
10 Art Museum Drive
(443) 573-1700
www.artbma.org

North downtown, near John Hopkins University, on Charles Street, 3 miles north of Inner Harbor; Gertrude's is a great museum restaurant in BMA sculpture garden

Walter's Art Museum (in Mount Vernon neighborhood, downtown)
600 North Charles Street
410-547-9000
www.thewalters.org

American Visionary Art Museum
800 Key Highway
(410) 244-1900
www.avam.org

Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards
301 West Camden Street
(410) 727-1539
www.baberuthmuseum.com

Baltimore Neighborhoods

Fell's Point neighborhood, east of Inner Harbor, Admiral Fell Inn; Broadway and Thames Street, Bertha's Restaurant (mussels); Canton is next district over to the east (O'Donnell Square)

Inner Harbor Water taxi, harbor cruise, Power Plant (Pratt Street), visitor center is very well done

Mount Vernon neighborhood, north Charles Street, one mile north of Inner Harbor

Baltimore Neighborhoods (continued)

Harbor East Aliceanna Street, new urbanism, Whole Foods and lots of good restaurants

Federal Hill Light Street, Cross Street, Federal Hill Park, very walkable, great view from Federal Hill Park