



# BALTIMORE

BY: JOY MCPETERS

EXPLORING CHARM CITY'S HISTORIC  
WATERFRONT NEIGHBORHOODS



# BOATING

**B**altimore is one of the largest urban areas in the nation, but at heart it's a collection of intimate neighborhoods, each with its own distinct flavor and history and a unique combination of restaurants, shops, and bars. The enclaves ringing the harbor—from Canton right around to Federal Hill—are the perfect places to explore “the real Baltimore,” and they couldn't be easier for boaters to access. Whether you're cruising with your spouse and kids or a gang of friends, Baltimore has attractions—and character!—to spare. And no matter how many times you've visited, there's always something new to discover. Welcome to Charm City.

## Canton

In the past ten years, Canton's industrial warehouses and factories have given way to upmarket eateries, cocktail bars, and marinas. Canton Square, traditionally the stomping grounds of Irish pub goers (and site of a racous St. Patrick's Day party), has long been a central meeting place for the community and is where the liveliest nightlife spots are located.

### WHERE TO DOCK

Anchorage Marina is within walking distance of many bars and restaurants, and across the street from a Safway grocery store. Facilities include floating piers and a swimming pool; groups are welcome. (2501 Boston St., 410-522-7200). Baltimore Marine Center is part of the Lighthouse Point development, and just off Boston Street, Canton's main harborside thoroughfare. Extensive amenities include a heated swimming pool, on-site West Marine store, full-service yard, several restaurants, and a tiki bar. (2780 Lighthouse Pt., 410-675-8888)

### WHERE TO EAT

For all things crab go to Canton Dockside. They have steamed crabs, crab dip, crab-stuffed shrimp, even a concoction called "crab pretzels"—and great sunset views. (3301 Boston St., 410-276-8900) Jack's Bistro is stylish and eclectic, with a menu full of inventive dishes such as sugarcane-skewered hangar steak and miso-marinated black cod. (3123 Elliott St.,



410-878-6542). Nacho Mama's is a funky, retro-inspired interior (Baltimore Colts memorabilia, Elvis posters) and excellent Tex-Mex food. Wash down an order of the jumbo-size Macho Nachos (they come in a pizza box) with an equally ample Hubcap Margarita. (2907 O'Donnell St., 410-675-0898). Mama's on the Half Shell is the oyster-obsessed sibling of Nacho Mama's, next door. The building was originally a maritime bank. (2901 O'Donnell St., 410-276-3160)

### THINGS TO DO

Patterson Park is the hilly, leafy 155-acre park on Canton's northern edge is great for a wander. The restored pagoda—designed by Charles H.

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Latrobe in 1891—is worth a visit. (Entrances on Eastern Ave. between Linwood and Patterson Park Aves.) Pick up Natty Boh Gear including t-shirts and mugs emblazoned with the mascot of Baltimore's favorite hometown beer, National Bohemian, first brewed in 1885. (3600 O'Donnell St., at Canton Self Storage in the Natty Boh Tower, 410-285-7666) Keep an eye out for hand-painted house screens (front doors, windows), a quixotic form of local folk art. Canton is one of the best neighborhoods for spotting these—the screens are often decorated with landscapes.

## Fells Point & Harbor East

Fells Point, a long-established maritime quarter, has more than 161 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, yet the neighborhood feels anything but fusty. The lively mix of boutiques, restaurants, and watering holes makes this one of the



One of the best places to view the city is the historic Federal Hill Park located on the south side of the Inner Harbor.

most popular areas in town. Adjacent to it is Inner Harbor East, a recently developed cluster of waterfront towers with upscale street-level places to shop and eat. Just to the north is Little Italy, a bastion of ethnic traditions for more than a century.

### WHERE TO DOCK

Inner Harbor East Marina offers competitive dockage fees and good-value weekly rates; within walking distance to a Whole Foods grocery store and the excellent Landmark movie theater. (Inner Harbor East, 801 Lancaster St., 410-625-1700)

### WHERE TO EAT

Bertha's is a local institution known for its pub-like atmosphere, green-and-white "Eat Bertha's Mussels" bumper stickers, and, of course, steaming bowls of bivalves. (Fells Point, 734 S. Broadway, 410-327-5795) Pazo is happening. It is a loft-like tapas restaurant with fun cocktails and plenty of small plates for sharing.



**Locals Tip:** The Water Taxi is a hassle-free and cost-effective way to explore all of Baltimore's downtown waterfront neighborhoods. Service is excellent. For a schedule and list of pick-up locations, go to [www.thewatertaxi.com](http://www.thewatertaxi.com).

(Inner Harbor East, 1425 Aliceanna St., 410-534-7296) Chiapparelli's is an Italian mainstay famous for its Old World chamand garlicky house salad. (Little Italy, 237 S. High St., 410-837-0309). Vaccaro's has fantastic Italian pastries—don't miss the cannolis—and the place to catch up on local chatter since 1956. (Little Italy, 222 Albemarle St., 410-685-4905)

#### WHAT TO DO

Fells Point is perhaps best known for its wealth of serious watering holes. Some of the best include Birds of A Feather (1712 Aliceanna St., 410-675-8466), which features more than 120 single-malt scotches; the Cat's Eye (1730 Thames St., 410-276-9866), always a great place to catch live music; and the Wharf Rat (801 S. Ann St., 410-244-8900), which pulls cask-conditioned ales.

### Federal Hill

With its elegant 19th-century rowhouses, Federal Hill has always been a redoubt for the sophisticated and posh. Now a clutch of bustling restaurants and shops cater to this crowd too. There are knock-out views of the harbor from the park at the top

of the hill, and it's just a quick walk to the Inner Harbor and to Baltimore's two top sports avenues—Camden Yards, home of the Orioles, and M&T Stadium, where the Ravens play.

#### WHERE TO DOCK

Baltimore Inner Harbor Marine Center is the closest marina to the Inner Harbor and Federal Hill; docks have been recently renovated, and there's plenty of transient space. (400 Key Hwy., 410-837-5339)



TOP: The Anchorage Marina in Canton is a short walk from restaurants, entertainment and activities. BOTTOM: The Baltimore Inner Harbor Marine Center is located in the heart of Baltimore City.

#### WHERE TO EAT

Pub Dog Pizza & Brewhouse has delicious pizzas and home-brewed beer, and a relaxed, pooch-friendly attitude. (20 E. Cross St., 410-727-6077) Corks Restaurant is a popular, just-updated restaurant with a small-plates menu and a killer wine list. (1026 S. Charles St., 410-752-3810) Find excellent Thai food at Thai Arroy. The prices are unbeatable and as a bonus: it's BYOB. (1019 Light St., 410-385-8587)

#### WHAT TO DO

Cross Street Market is a historic covered market that has raw bars at one end—great for happy hour. (Cross St., between Light and Charles Sts.) American Visionary Art Museum is the country's only institution devoted to outsider art; the collection is dazzling and one-of-a-kind. (800 Key Hwy., 410-244-1900). ❖

For more information on Baltimore visit the Visitor Center located at 401 Light St., online at [www.baltimore.org](http://www.baltimore.org) or call 1-877-Baltimore.