

Washington, DC and Baltimore List October 2016

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 it’s better), but DuPont Circle, the U Street/14th Street area (known as Shaw Neighborhood) and Penn Quarter (best urban neighborhood in U.S. that is anchored by a sports arena) are all success stories. The Capital South and Capital Riverfront/Navy Yards neighborhoods are 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 mass transit like the Metro 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

The Dupont Circle Hotel

1500 New Hampshire Avenue Northwest

(202) 483-6000

www.doylecollection.com

Hay Adams

800 16th Street Northwest

(202) 638-6600

www.hayadams.com

DC Hotels (continued)

Hotel Palomar
2121 P Street Northwest
(202) 448-1800
www.hotelpalomar-dc.com

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

DC Restaurants

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

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

Founding Farmers
1924 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 822-8783
www.wearefoundingfarmers.com

Bourbon Steak, Four Seasons Hotel
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 944-2026
www.fourseasons.com/washington/dining/restaurants/bourbon_steak/

Le Diplomate
1601 14th Street Northwest
(202) 332-3333
www.lediplomatedc.com

Pearl Dive Oyster Palace
1612 14th Street Northwest
(202) 319-1612
www.pearldivedc.com

Fiola (eat at the bar)
601 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest (enter on Indiana)
(202) 628-2888
www.fioladc.com

DC Restaurants (continued)

Birch & Barley (CTU Favorite)
1337 14th Street Northwest
(202) 567-2567
www.birchandbarley.com

The Prime Rib (CTU Favorite)
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

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

Barcelona Wine Bar & Restaurant
1622 14th Street Northwest
(202) 588-5500
www.barcelonawinebar.com/food/

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

District Commons
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 587-8277
www.districtcommonsdc.com

Woodward Table
1426 H Street Northwest
(202) 347-5353
www.woodwardtable.com

DC Restaurants (continued)

District Taco (lunch)
1309 F Street Northwest
(202) 347-7359
www.districttaco.com

Nopa Kitchen + Bar
800 F Street Northwest
(202) 347-4667
www.nopadc.com

Pizzeria Paradiso – Dupont Circle
2003 P Street Northwest
(202) 223-1245
www.pizzeriaparadiso.com

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

Eat + Drink DC

Bar Dupont
1500 New Hampshire Avenue Northwest
(202) 483-6000
www.doylecollection.com/bardupont

Quill Bar, Jefferson Hotel (CTU Favorite)
1200 16th Street Northwest
(202) 448-2300
www.jeffersondc.com/quill

Round Robin Bar, Willard Intercontinental Hotel (CTU Favorite)
1401 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 628-9100
www.washington.intercontinental.com/

EDGAR Bar and Kitchen, Mayflower Renaissance Hotel
1127 Connecticut Avenue Northwest
(202) 347-2233
www.edgarbarandkitchen.com

Eat + Drink DC (continued)

Hotel W Washington - Rooftop Terrace Bar
515 15th Street Northwest
(202) 661-2400
www.starwoodhotels.com

Churchkey (great beer selection)
1337 14th Street Northwest
(202) 567-2576
www.churchkeydc.com

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

Off the Record Bar, Hay Adams Hotel
800 16th Street Northwest
(202) 638-6600
www.hayadams.com/off-the-record-bar

The Next Whisky Bar and Kingbird Bar, The Watergate Hotel
2650 Virginia Avenue Northwest
(202) 827-1600
www.thewatergatehotel.com

Benjamin Bar, The Trump Hotel
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
(202) 695-1100
www.trumphotels.com/washington-dc/benjamin-bar-and-lounge

James Hoban's Irish Pub – Dupont Circle
1 Dupont Circle Northwest
(202) 223-8440
www.jameshobansdc.com

DC Museums

American History
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, Northwest
(202) 633-1000
www.americanhistory.si.edu

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

DC Museums (continued)

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

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

DC Places to Visit

Day trip to Old Town Alexandria, King Street, Lucky Knot Shop
Capitol Riverfront, Yards Park, Bluejacket Brewery
Shaw Neighborhood, 14th Street /U Street Corridor
9th Street Northwest, Florida Avenue, Atlantic Plumbing Building
Shopping in Georgetown, outdoor drinks at Washington Harbour

Baltimore List
November 2018

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 good new 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. Many 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

Royal Sonesta Harbor Court
550 Light Street
(410) 234-0550
www.sonesta.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

Sagamore Pendry
1715 Thames Street
(443) 552-1400
www.pendryhotels.com

Baltimore Restaurants

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

Baltimore Restaurants (continued)

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

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

Loch Bar
240 International Drive
(443) 961-8949
www.lochbar.com

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

Ouzo Bay
1000 Lancaster Street
(443) 708-5818
www.ouzobay.com

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

Rec Pier Chop House
1715 Thames Street
(443) 552-1300
www.recpierchophouse.com

Rusty Scupper
402 Key Highway
(410) 727-3678
www.rusty-scupper.com

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

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

Baltimore Restaurants (continued)

Tagliata
1012 Fleet Street
(410) 224-5830
www.tagliatarestaurant.com

Thames Street Oyster House
1728 Thames Street
(443) 449-7726
www.themesstreetoysterhouse.com

The Prime Rib
1101 North Calvert Street
(410) 539-1804
www.theprimerib.com

Topside at Hotel Revival
612 Cathedral Street
(410) 727-0065
www.jdvhotels.com/hotels/maryland/baltimore/hotel-revival-baltimore/dining/topside

Wit & Wisdom
200 International Drive
(410) 576-5800
www.witandwisdomebaltimore.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.org

Baltimore Neighborhoods

Fells 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); then to the east is Brewers Hill

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, climb to top of Washington Monument

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

Federal Hill Light Street, Cross Street, Federal Hill Park

Ride a Scooter Baltimore has several scooter share services, including Lime and Bird

Charm City Helicopters