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Walking Baltimore: An Insider's Guide To 33 Historic Neighborhoods, Waterfront Districts, And Hidden Treasures In Charm City



Synopsis

Walking Baltimore includes Charm City's well-known neighborhoods — Downtown, the Inner Harbor, Mount Vernon, and Fells Point. But in the voice of its insider author, the book also covers lesser-known and far-flung corners, revealing what makes Baltimore such a wonderful and fascinating destination and hometown. Full of little-known facts and trivia, this book shows how and why Baltimore was an essential player in the country's early history and continues to be influential today. Here is a city almost unparalleled in American history and it lives up to its modern reputation as a quirky, come-as-you-are and be-what-you'll-be place. The zany Baltimore-based film director John Waters (of Hairspray fame) summed it up best when he said, "It's as if every freak in the South was headed to New York City, ran out of gas in Baltimore, and decided to stay."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Baltimore's oft discussed architecture and cultural sites are the topics of surprisingly few good books. The ones that do exist are quickly becoming out of date, so this book is a welcome entry. As fascinating and diverse as Baltimore's architecture and cultural sites are, they are notoriously difficult to get your hands around. Interesting neighborhoods can be inhospitable to tourists. Sites can be spread out, making a real walking tour tiring or essentially impossible. Evan Balkan has addressed these lingering issues with this new book. The book is organized into 33 walking tours that are really walkable. They are legitimate urban hikes that I would do myself, during the day. Unfortunately, nothing about the notability of Baltimore's lovely architecture and history changes the

fact that it is one of the most violent cities in the country. Use your head. Sites are presented in "tour" format, as if you're going to be carrying the book along with you. It reads, "turn right here, look to the left and see such and such, now walk around the corner and look to your right." You get the idea. The tours are surprisingly comprehensive, and essentially all the important and interesting sites along each route are included. If you managed to do all 33 tours in the book, you would have made a thorough tour of the city. Emphasis is on important historical sites. Tours are presented as text, and there are very few photographs. The book does not make a good armchair traveler, as you'll need to be physically present to view the sites. You can try taking some of these tours with Google Street View or, even better, Apple 3D maps for an interesting remote experience.

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