

Max Kaplan's Favorite Things in Baltimore

Monthly/Weekly

Artscape

Summer

Free

Art festival with tons of installations and lots of art for sale.

Lithuanian Hall

First Friday of every month

Cash Only

Underground dance party playing old R&B (think "Twist and Shout"). Takes place in the basement of a Lithuanian club and you need to become a member to enter. Serves excellent Eastern European beer in large bottles and amazing honey liqueur. Starts to pick up around 10 but still fun if you go earlier.

Bike Party

Last Friday of every month

Free

Bike around the city with a group of hundreds of other riders. Great way to see different neighborhoods. Bring beers

The Book Thing

Every Saturday and Sunday

Free

A warehouse full of free books. That's right, you walk in, take as many books as you'd like, and leave. It's awesome. I used to volunteer here (mostly so I could get first dibs!).

Farmers Market under 83

Summer Sundays

Free

Large, fun farmers market

Museums

The Walters

Free

My favorite museum in Baltimore. Has a little bit of everything: suits of armor, impressionism, taxidermy, etc.

Baltimore Museum of Art

Free

Traditional fine art museum, very large Matisse collection.

National Aquarium

Pricey

A great aquarium. The architecture really sets it apart from others.

Museum of Industry

Affordable

Interesting museum that has belt-driven machines, old cars, a linotype (and a linotypist), and more.

American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM)

Affordable

Unique museum focusing on art from non-traditional artists. Many people I know love this museum and consider it the best one in Baltimore

Food

R House

Upscale food court with lots of good options. My friend is the manager.

Dooby's

Neighborhood spot with rice bowls and banh mi. Great place to do some work.

Red Emma's

Baltimore's premier worker owned anarchist feminist bookstore cafe. Good tea selection, food is vegetarian and largely vegan.

Nepal House

The lunch buffet is one of the best deals around.

Verde

Amazing pizza. Monday is half off.

The Helmand

Great Afghan food. Owned by a relative of Hamid Karzai. Upscale but not expensive.

Chicken Rico

Cheap and delicious rotisserie chicken, Peruvian style. The yuca fries and plantains are perennial favorites.

Tortilleria Sinaloa and Cocina Luchadoras

Two great taco places a few blocks apart. Both have an obsession with the tortilla and it really comes through. Go to Luchadoras for the decor, Sinaloa to see the tortilla making machine.

The Daily Grind

Good muffins and the best chai latte I've ever had

Drinks

WC Harlan

Speakeasy in an old row house. Very hipster, dark, almost Lovecraftian decor. Excellent ambiance. Run by Lane Harlan, star of the Baltimore food and drink scene.

Clavel

Mezcaleria that really knows its stuff. Good food and drink, excellent ambiance. Frequently has a long line. Another Lane Harlan establishment.

Fadensonnen

The newest Lane Harlan joint and probably my favorite of the three. Natural wine, interesting beers, and sake are the stars of the menu.

Topside

Fun bar on the top floor of a hotel. Great views, board games.

Brewer's Art

Underground (literally) beer bar with housemade belgians on draft

Dive bars

Baltimore is known for its grungy dive bars. All of them are great. My local favorites were Spirits and Butt's and Betty's. If you go to Spirits you must play Tub of Fun.