



**NATIONAL  
AQUARIUM®**



## **BALTIMORE: CITY OF FIRSTS**

### **DAY ONE**

Arrive in Baltimore and start your day at the National Aquarium, consistently ranked one of the top aquariums in the United States, and the first to feature certain species, such as Irwin's snapping turtle, outside Australia. The Aquarium is home to thousands of animals in award-winning habitats from regions all over the world.

After your visit, grab a bite at the Aquarium cafe or a restaurant along Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor, and then walk over to the USS Constellation. In 1797, this was the first U.S. warship to capture an enemy vessel. Walk its decks and feel the ship move under your feet.

Once you have explored all four decks of the ship, take your motor coach over to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. It was the first fort built by the U.S. government in 1798, and in 1814, it was where Francis Scott Key penned "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Head back to the hotel to check in and get refreshed before venturing out to Mustang Alley's for a group dinner and a few games of duckpin bowling, which was invented in Baltimore in 1900.

Please contact group sales at [reserve@aqua.org](mailto:reserve@aqua.org) or visit [aqua.org/groups](http://aqua.org/groups) for more information.

## DAY TWO

After a filling breakfast at the hotel, head to the B&O Railroad Museum to see the birthplace of American railroading. In 1828, the first mile of commercial railroad track in the nation was laid right here in Baltimore. (From June to December, you and your group can ride that first mile.) The museum also commemorates several more Baltimore firsts—the first coal-burning steam locomotive, the Tom Thumb, in 1830; the first operating railroad depot center in the U.S., the Mount Clare Station, also in 1830; and the first electronic railway locomotive in the world in 1895.

Once you've finished checking out the B&O's impressive collection, head over to the National Museum of Dentistry. Did you know the first dental college in the world opened in Baltimore? The museum's extensive 40,000-object collection of dental instruments, furniture and artwork is one of the most important and oldest in the world, and—as a bonus—you can see the dentures of our first president, George Washington. Find out for yourself if they were really made of wood.

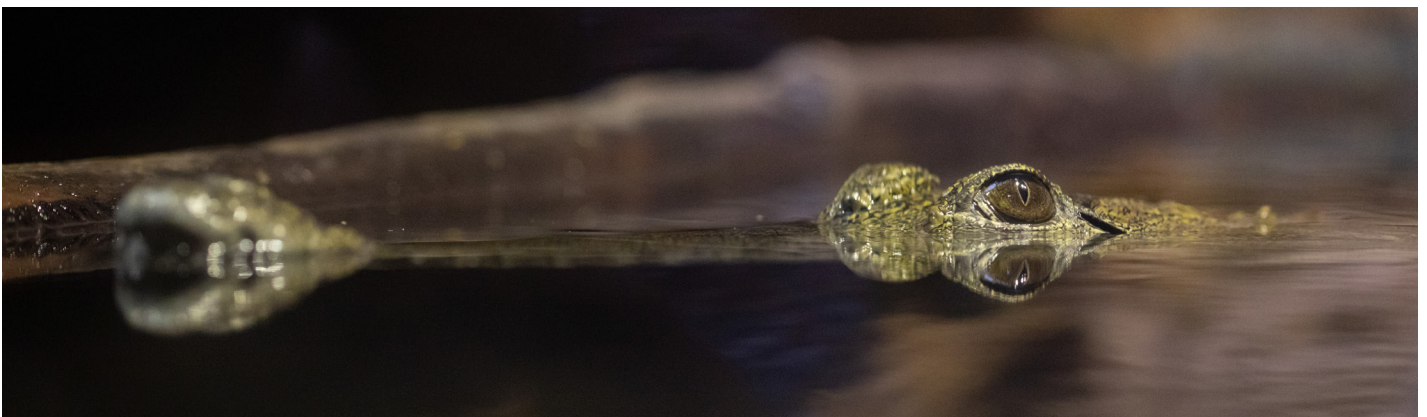
Speaking of George Washington, head over to the Mount Vernon neighborhood to see the first permanent monument erected in honor of our first president. The Baltimore monument in historic Mount Vernon Place was erected in 1815, 33 years before the one in Washington, D.C. Both were designed by architect Robert Mills, who promoted himself as the first native-born architect with professional training. This charming neighborhood has many dining options and is home to the Walters Art

Museum, where you can take a guided or self-guided tour through hundreds of years of history, art and culture.

Or, you may elect to visit St. Mary's Spiritual Center and take a moment to reflect in this quiet oasis in the heart of the city. In 1791, St. Mary's was the first Catholic seminary in the U.S. and in 1796, the lower chapel was the birthplace of the first African American Catholic faith community. Additionally, the first canonized saint from the United States, Elizabeth Ann Seton, ran a boarding house for girls in this location in 1809. Nearby is the Baltimore Basilica, called America's first cathedral, which was constructed in 1806.

Hop back on the bus and meet your step-on guide for a personalized, two-hour tour of many more Baltimore firsts. This narrated tour can focus on any number of Baltimore's achievements—in education, religion, business, society, politics, sports, heritage and more—whatever best suits your group!

Take the evening to relax and enjoy the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), the first municipal orchestra supported by public funds, created in 1916. The BSO made two more historical firsts in 2007 and 2022; in 2007, maestra Marin Alsop led her inaugural concerts as the orchestra's 12th music director, making her the first woman to head a major American orchestra. In 2022, Jonathon Heyward made history when he was named music director at the BSO, making him the first African American music director in the orchestra's history, as well as the youngest.



### DAY THREE

The final day is here and there's still so much to explore! Start the morning at the Baltimore Museum of Industry and learn how the city developed from a small trading post to a thriving industrial center. Located in an 1860s oyster cannery on a five-acre waterfront campus, the museum offers dynamic indoor and outdoor exhibitions, live demonstrations, engaging tours and hands-on activities for visitors of all ages.

Want to know who is tapping at the chamber door? Head to the site of the first Edgar Allan Poe monument, erected in 1875. Visit Poe's gravesite and learn the legend of his annual visitor and maybe toast with a sip of brandy. Close by is the Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum, a small home where he reportedly wrote some of his famous tales.

Finish up with a quick, fun stop to the Bromo Seltzer Tower, which commemorates the first commercial stomach antacid, developed by Captain Isaac E. Emerson in 1891. Today the

tower is a 15-story artist space, with ever-changing exhibits. At the top is the largest four-dial, gravity-driven, non-chiming clock in the world.

If you want to grab a bite on your way out of town, consider stopping at Petit Louis Bistro or Johnny's for an upscale lunch by one of the city's top restauranteurs. Both restaurants are in the Roland Park Marketplace, built in 1891 as the first multi-store shopping center building in the country.

Or, stop by the Guinness Brewery on your way out of town. The brewery, which is the first Guinness presence on U.S. soil since 1954, has a world-class visitor center featuring taprooms, food, merchandise and tours.

Head home, remembering all that you have discovered, and knowing there is so much more to see and do in Baltimore. When you're ready to return for your *second* visit, we'll be ready to welcome you back!



## MORE BALTIMORE FIRSTS

- **1773** - First stagecoach route
- **1774** - First post office system
- **1784** - First Methodist church
- **1785** - First general meeting of the Quakers
- **1783** - First dredger invented by Andrew and John Ellicott
- **1785** - First Church of the United Brethren
- **1789** - First Catholic diocese
- **1796** - First Sunday newspaper
- **1796** - First sugar refinery
- **1800** - First investment banking house
- **1803** - First electric refrigerator
- **1814** - First museum building in United States (The Peale museum)
- **1816** - First hydrogen gas streetlights
- **1818** - First American bicycle created by James Stewart
- **1819** - First gaslight company
- **1820** - First canned oysters
- **1828** - First American umbrella factory
- **1829** - First African American Catholic order of nuns
- **1831** - First nominating convention for president of the U.S.
- **1836** - First steam vessel to cross Atlantic from the U.S.
- **1836** - First car ferry
- **1839** - First commercial canned corn
- **1844** - First public-supported high school for girls
- **1844** - First telegraph line in the world
- **1848** - First ice cream freezer
- **1849** - First teachers college for women
- **1854** - First Jewish community center
- **1854** - First commercial ice cream factory
- **1856** - First electric elevator
- **1859** - First published short story by an African American woman in the United States (Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's *The Two Offers*)
- **1859** - First YMCA
- **1859** - First horse-drawn streetcar line
- **1869** - First African American labor union
- **1878** - First animal welfare organization, American Humane Society
- **1869** - First candy factory to produce licorice
- **1879** - First synthetic sweetening agent, saccharine
- **1883** - First publicly financed vocational school
- **1884** - First typesetting machine
- **1885** - First commercial electric streetcar line
- **1886** - First public library system with branches
- **1890** - First steam tanker
- **1892** - Crown cork bottle caps invented by William Painter
- **1892** - First Ouija board
- **1895** - First Catholic college for women
- **1897** - First practical submarine
- **1901** - First female professor at a U.S. medical school
- **1906** - First city magazine, Baltimore magazine
- **1916** - First portable electric drill with pistol grip
- **1917** - First gas station with pumps
- **1919** - First city with clean public drinking water
- **1920** - First factory to manufacture stainless steel
- **1921** - First National Guard air squadron
- **1921** - First African American musical on Broadway, written by Baltimorean Eubie Blake
- **1922** - First nationwide presidential radio broadcast
- **1932** - First Venetian blinds
- **1936** - First African American newspaper chain
- **1946** - First photograph of Earth from space
- **1948** - First Stratovision television broadcast
- **1959** - First mobile microwave television tower
- **1964** - First building with a revolving restaurant
- **1967** - First African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court
- **AND MORE!**

