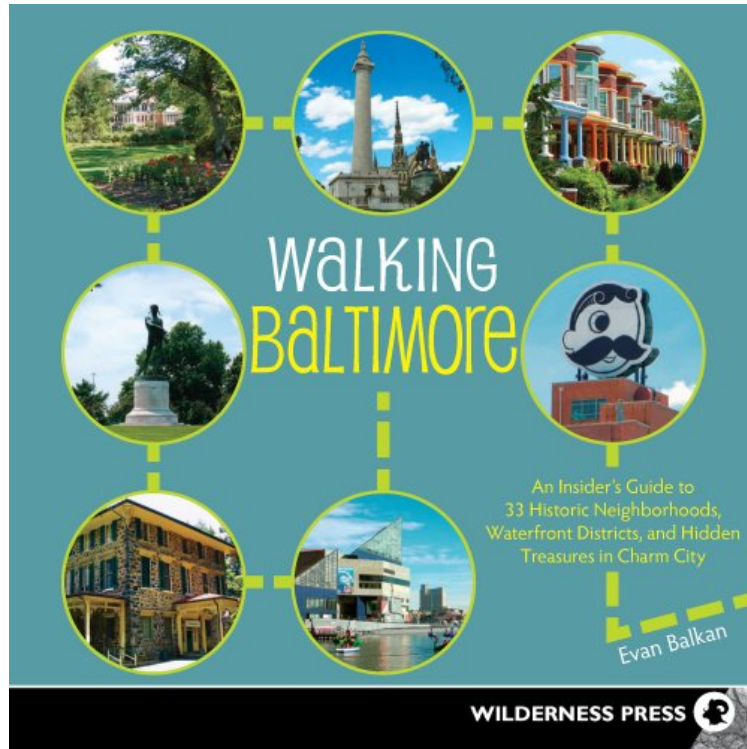


[Mobile book] Walking Baltimore: An Insider's Guide to 33 Historic Neighborhoods, Waterfront Districts, and Hidden Treasures in Charm City

# Walking Baltimore: An Insider's Guide to 33 Historic Neighborhoods, Waterfront Districts, and Hidden Treasures in Charm City

*Evan Balkan*

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**Evan Balkan : Walking Baltimore: An Insider's Guide to 33 Historic Neighborhoods, Waterfront Districts, and Hidden Treasures in Charm City** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Baltimore: An Insider's Guide to 33 Historic Neighborhoods, Waterfront Districts, and Hidden Treasures in Charm City:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Actually, it's pretty good By Jon L Albee 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 The ones that do exist are quickly becoming out of date, so this book is a welcome entry.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. The text most definitely emphasizes historical and cultural context, and architectural details are generally not discussed. Cultural and historical contexts are embedded with each of the tours as sidebars and "back stories" rather than as framing essays common to books of this type. This book is not really rigorous enough to be of much interest to architectural historians, but it will be of interest to serious cultural tourists and local historians. Also note that this book is not a traditional travel guide. It does not offer listings of hotels or restaurants. If you want to see Baltimore properly, take a hike along one or more of these interesting routes.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Aching to Return By M. Paul Holsinger Several centuries ago -- at least it seems like that some days -- I left Baltimore and never looked back. The city then was literally falling apart. It was ugly and I could hardly wait to get away. I have not been back in more than sixty real years and I still wondering why I even bought this small little guide book with its detailed chronicle of 33 different walks throughout the city. But I did, got the book, read it cover to cover, and now, thanks to Evan Balkan's thoughtful accounts, I can't wait to get back. Wow! If Baltimore is even half as interesting as he describes it, we probably all ought to go. It is most definitely, thanks to Balkan, on my bucket list. It ought to be on everyone else's as well. This book doesn't need another 5-star review but here's one anyway, I am going to be back as soon as I can arrange it. When I come, *Walking Baltimore* in hand, I intend to re-see the city as perhaps I should have "way back when." This is a volume for old-timers like me, for new residents anxious to see the city for the first time, and certainly for tourists with several days to explore at least part of the many fascinating places that make up greater Baltimore. It will serve all of us well!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and Well Written By Kevin R. Seeker Great Gift. If you know someone from Baltimore or moving to Baltimore this is a great gift. It is informative and well written. I have given two of them as gifts, and both times they were appreciated and used. Baltimore is a great city with a great history, so if you are visiting make sure you get a copy before your trip and take it along.

*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."

About the Author Evan Balkan's wanderlust was spawned in his international birthplace city of Washington, D.C., and brought him full circle back to the U.S. Atlantic seaboard and to his current home of Baltimore. From playing childhood geography games to, at age 17, exploring France, Italy, Monaco, and Switzerland, he went on to spend 20 years visiting some 25 countries on four continents. Now he says, as a husband and father, he has happily rediscovered what he calls the quirky and livable city of Baltimore. Here, he hikes, bikes, and kayaks in the metro area and, at least once per season, camps in the Appalachians of Western Maryland. Researching *Walking Baltimore*, he says, "reminds me of the many wonderful urban spaces in Baltimore and how I lucky I am to live here." The author holds degrees from Towson, George Mason, and Johns Hopkins Universities and teaches writing at the Community College of Baltimore County. He is the author of five other books of nonfiction. They include *60 Hikes within 60 Miles of Baltimore* and *Best in Tent Camping: Maryland*. With his wife and two daughters, he lives north of downtown Baltimore, in Towson, Maryland--Baltimore County's county seat.