



Around DC

by Antonette Bacani Ang

One of the US of A's major and oldest seaports (a major seaport since the 18th century), the Inner Harbor in South Baltimore, Maryland is considered one of the world's finest travel destinations as well. The Harbor has been welcoming people from all over the globe for over 300 years now. It is an ideal place for families to explore around since it boasts of fun and educational attractions designed for the whole family to enjoy. It is not lacking in activities for business functions as well.

THE INNER HARBOR

Since October is the Christopher Columbus month, a federal holiday celebrated on the 2nd Monday in October each year, originated by the Italians in honor of their heritage, you may want to visit the famous Christopher Columbus Monument at the Columbus Piazza near Little Italy. A short history lesson – it honors the memory of the Italian-born man who discovered the New World of the Americas on October 12, 1492 (supposedly). I say supposedly because even though often portrayed as the first European to have set sail to the Americas, this account is controversial. There is evidence that the first Europeans to have ever sailed across the Atlantic were Vikings from Scandinavia. Also, the land was already populated by indigenous people, who had discovered the America thousands of years before. It is also controversial because the settlement of the Europeans led to the demise of a vast number of the indigenous population, and the decline of their culture as well. Regardless, just a little history since his statue is seen by thousands of tourists who come to visit the Harbor annually.

Other attractions include:

- Fort McHenry – a star-shaped fort, famous for the Battle of Baltimore, which happened when the American troops stopped a British invasion during the War of 1812. The battle was Francis Scott Key's inspiration behind the composition of the "Defense of Fort McHenry," nowadays known as "The Star-Spangled Banner," our National Anthem.

- The Maryland Science Center – a place where you can unearth dinosaurs

- The Geppi's Entertainment Museum – where you can pay respect to pop culture

- The National Aquarium – where you can submerge yourself in exotic sea life



-Babe Ruth Museum and Birthplace – a German-American by ancestry, George Herman Ruth Jr. (February 6, 1895 – August 16, 1948), he started playing minor league baseball for the Baltimore Orioles,

then was sold to the Boston Red Sox where he played as a left-handed pitcher in the Major League. He was later on sold to the New York Yankees, where he became the famous slugging outfielder.

-Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Odditorium

-Historic ships like the USCGC Taney – the last fighting ship that survived the attack on Pearl Harbor; the USS Torsk – Tench-class submarine, the last ship to sink an enemy vessel in WWII; and the Lightship Chesapeake.

-Sports Legends Museum at the Camden Yards (former Camden Station, the birthplace of American railroading where telegraph messages of Civil War movements passed through). Also, houses a display which features Michael Phelps, and a gallery dedicated to Babe Ruth. Other Teams represented are Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Ravens, Baltimore Colts, Maryland Terrapins, Baltimore Elite Giants, Baltimore Black Sox, Baltimore Blast

-Baltimore Grand Prix – a street race for Indycar and American LeMans Series

-Oriole Park at Camden Yards – home of the Baltimore Orioles

-M&T Bank Stadium – home of the Baltimore Ravens

-Power Plant Live! – a collection of clubs and bars

Of course, let’s not forget their famous Maryland Crabs and Crab Cakes!!!

(photo credits to Liza Myers; photo of Columbus – Bahamas)

