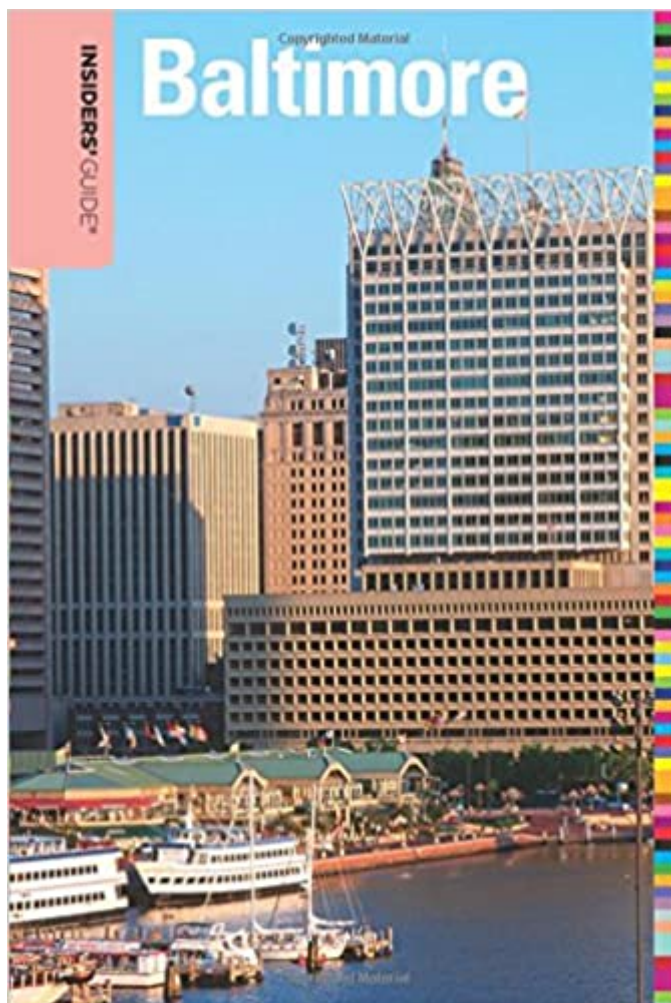


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# Insiders' Guide™ To Baltimore (Insiders' Guide Series)



## Synopsis

Insiders' Guide to Baltimore is the essential source for in-depth travel and relocation information to the Maryland's largest city. Written by a local (and true insider), this guide offers a personal and practical perspective of Baltimore and its surrounding environs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Your Travel Destination. Your Home. Your Home-To-Be. Baltimore A city with a passion for sports, boating, culture, food, medicine, research, history, hiking . . . the list goes on. A personal, practical perspective for travelers and residents alike. Comprehensive listings of attractions, restaurants, and accommodations. How to live & thrive in the area - from recreation to relocation. Countless details on shopping, arts & entertainment, and children's activities.

An award-winning author and photographer, Judy Colbert has had articles and photos appear in Washingtonian, Chesapeake Life, Howard County Times, USA Today, AAA World, Latitudes, Maryland Life, Marketing Review, and more than 500 other publications. Judy has spoken about travel on hundreds of radio and television shows including Good Morning America. In 1991 she was honored as Travel Writer of the Year by the Maryland Office of Tourism. She is also the author of Maryland and Delaware Off the Beaten Path and Virginia Off the Beaten Path (Globe Pequot Press) and is a regular contributor to several Internet sites, writing about spas, business travel and

etiquette, and museums for children.

I have always bought a travel book before we go to make sure we don't miss things. This book did not help plan our trip and the Visitors Center as the first stop in Baltimore is a must. Did not even include a useable map that showed you where the items they do list are located.

One would think an insider had better information than this. Apparently, however, the insider largely used the same method I have often used to get to know a city. Google. Really, there is not much inside INSIDERS' GUIDE BATIMORE that one could not obtain using a basic search on the internet. Ok, I did obtain a number of decent bookstores to explore, and a few markets to try to find some fresh veggies. But in a town that seems to have few coffee shops that stay open past 10:00, some insider info for us night owls would have been helpful. Indeed, even one of the better ones, Bohemian Coffee Shop, which closes lamely at 10:00 on weeknights but much later on weekends, is nowhere found here. Decent microbreweries? Forget it. Bohemian neighborhoods? Nope (try Hampden). Good brunches? Not really, though a few diners are included. Does one really need an "insiders' guide" for 21 pages of hotels or information on how to even get to the city? No. The reason to have an insiders' guide is to get at those tidbits not easily found by someone who has not spent time there. Yet this guide just fails to deliver. Oh, one last point. The publisher must think that only those already familiar with the city would be interested in this book. Otherwise they would have included some useful maps.

Writing a book like this isn't easy as this city is in constant flux, but I got the distinct impression wasn't even trying. She tells you pick up magazines that haven't printed in 10yrs, she sends you to an arena that was renamed in 2003, and other glaringly obvious mistakes that show how little effort she put into the research of this book. She also shoehorns in badly written references to recent events to try and make her book seem more current than it really is. To her credit, she has completely overhauled the text and formatting from the previous edition of the book, none of them for the better. The blue font she uses is distracting and often unreadable, she removes the rather helpful geographic organization in favor of a straight alphabetical system, and the aforementioned "relocation" section has changed from a comprehensive five chapters to a 10 page appendix. She also removes the indepth coverage of certain neighborhood shopping districts replacing them with akward, unhelpful capsule reviews. She then, as a public service, lists her favorite butchers, hardware stores and other things tourists DON'T CARE ABOUT all sprinkled with her own useless

editorial comments. If you are planning to visit Baltimore, please SKIP THIS BOOK and go directly to the Visitors' Center. If you are relocating (like I was) you can still use the previous edition (as it has a LOT more information about local amenities).

I got this book not to use so much as a tour book but to help with relocating to the area. I was amazed! It was packed with lots of information about schools, health care, parks and recreation. It also had the other tourist type information as well! It includes Web address and phone numbers! It was great that it had BOTH the relocation types of things and travel things ALL in one book so I didn't need more than one book!

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