

BALTIMORE

Ahoy, Matey! Time for the Privateer Festival

BRANDISHING A COLORFUL MARITIME HISTORY, BALTIMORE'S HISTORIC FELS POINT CELEBRATES ITS PIRATE PAST

MAROONERS, BUCCANEERS AND EVEN SCALLYWAGS come ashore to join the landlubbers for a rollicking weekend of pirate-themed events and living history activities at the Privateer Festival April 15–17. Aye, there are planks to walk, invasions and cannonballs to dodge, grog and grub for feasting, and music for yo-ho-hoing.

Fells Point's cobblestoned main street and many of its bars date to its heyday of privateering and maritime ascendancy. In the early 19th century, the neighborhood was a hub for shipbuilders, who were renowned for their state-of-the-art schooners that carried cargo around Chesapeake Bay. At the outbreak of the War of 1812, the U.S. Navy consisted of just 16 ships, so the government issued "letters of marque," licensing private schooners to attack enemy vessels. The deal included keeping all the booty they seized, thus giving birth to Baltimore's privateering trade, inspiring many to deem the city a "nest of pirates."

Visitors to the festival can find a bottle o' rum and more at the Pyrate Invasion Pub Crawl. Give no quarter at the Battle at Sea show, aboard the

Pride of Baltimore II. Lads, lasses and wee ones will yar-har-har as the Valhalla's Pirates perform authentic stunts and reenactments of life on the high seas during the Golden Age of Piracy (1670–1730). Even sea dogs are welcome and can enter the Pet Costume Contest. April 15–17. 410-675-8900; fellspointmainstreet.org

Participants in the Privateer Festival.



Fun for everyone at the B'More Healthy Expo.

B'More Healthy

Cooking demos and tastings with celebrity chefs, workout sessions with professional athletes, dance classes, live theater, improv, comedians, poetry slams, performances by collegiate gymnasts and sessions on African drumming. Sound like a luxury resort? Think again: This is a rocking one-day health and wellness expo that takes place downtown—and it's free. Now in its seventh year, the B'More Healthy aims to demonstrate that good health is a vital aspect of every part of our lives: how we eat, work, play and cohabitate. Coaches Corner offers coaching tips to families. Perhaps best of all, professionals from some of Baltimore's renowned medical institutions set up shop, providing health screenings and consultations. March 19. 410-662-1443; bmorehealthyexpo.com

For additional event, attraction, restaurant and hotel information, visit baltimore.org



SAVE the DATE

DOWNTOWN

CAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

March 4–7

March Madness returns with 10 Colonial Athletic Association teams competing at Royal Farms Arena over nine games, ultimately crowning a champion to go to the NCAA Tournament. 410-347-2010; caasports.com

MOUNT VERNON

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

March 11 and 13

Performed in its original Italian, this exclusive engagement at the Lyric Opera House stars two luminaries, American baritone Steven LaBrie as Figaro and bel canto specialist Emily Fons as Rosina. 410-900-1150; lyricoperahouse.com

CAMDEN YARDS

OPENING DAY FOR THE O'S, HON

April 4

The Orioles playing the Minnesota Twins is just part of the fun. There's pregame musical entertainment, autograph opportunities, oodles of O-swig, tributes to past players and a celebrity first pitch, all at Camden Yards. 888-848-BIRD; baltimore.orioles.mlb.com

DOWNTOWN

COLOR MY WORLD ... IN INK

April 15–17

The Tattoo Arts Convention at the Baltimore Convention Center showcases the city's most flamboyant body art and tattoo artists from around the country. villainarts.com

DRUID HILL PARK

CHARM CITY FOLK AND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

April 30

Headliners at the event, twice named "Baltimore's Best Music Festival," include Keller Williams and The Travelin' McCourys. Other national and regional acts perform, and local food and craft beer are available. 888-996-4774; missiontix.com