

## BALTIMORE



## Orioles, Ravens—and Penguins

A FLOCK OF BIRD NEWS IS HATCHING AT THE MARYLAND ZOO

**PUT AWAY YOUR** Orioles orange and Ravens purple. When the Maryland Zoo reopens for the season full time on March 1, Baltimore's aviary pride will be black and white along Penguin Coast, the state-of-the-art African black-footed penguin exhibit that premiered last fall.

This vivid re-creation of the penguin's natural habitat, which includes a 185,000-gallon tidal pool, allows a nose-to-the-glass view of these flightless birds, whose wings flatten into makeshift flippers for swimming and splashing. An underwater viewing area provides glimpses of the penguins swimming against the current.

The Maryland Zoo has long been known for having one of the country's most successful breeding programs for black-footed penguins. An indoor conservation center houses protected nest boxes, which are designed to grow the penguin colony from 50 to 100 birds.

If Penguin Coast doesn't provide close-enough views, purchase tickets to Penguin Encounter, a private, behind-the-scenes tour with a keeper-guide. The Maryland Zoo's Behind the Scenes program also offers visits into the dwellings of the giraffes, okapis, rhinos, zebras, ostriches and polar bears.

In other zoo bird news: Across from Penguin Coast, the African Boardwalk is the new home for pink Caribbean flamingos. And 10 species of native Maryland birds—including the turkey vulture, wood duck, black-crowned night heron and cattle egret—have been introduced to the recently reconstructed Marsh Aviary, which features a new lily pond. 410-396-7102, [marylandzoo.org](http://marylandzoo.org)

## Color Me Happy

**N**ews flash: Body art has gone mainstream. Need proof? Spend a half-hour at Baltimore's Tattoo Arts Convention April 10–12, and you'll see more colorized flesh than in a cartoon. More than 500 of the nation's most prolific tattoo artists flock here, hoping to become the answer to "Who did your ink?"

The convention includes tattoo contests and entertainers whose body animation tells stories. Carnival-sideshow types suspend themselves from the ceiling on hooks. And look out for 70-something Jim Hall, a local cult figure who claims to be the second most tattooed man in the world. Resembling a blue-skin anime character, Hall is inked cerulean from head to toe. Whether you're pursuing your first tattoo, adding to your collection or purely spectating, this event is a feast for the eyes.

215-423-4780, [villainarts.com](http://villainarts.com)



A tattooed performer at the Baltimore Tattoo Arts Convention.

*For additional event, attraction, restaurant and hotel information, visit [baltimore.org](http://baltimore.org)*



## SAVE the DATE

### MOUNT VERNON

#### THEATRE PROJECT'S SPRING LINEUP

March 5–April 30

For fans of experimental theater, these productions feature original drama, music, dance and even aerial acrobatics.

410-752-8558; [theatreproject.org](http://theatreproject.org)

### DOWNTOWN

#### CAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

March 6–9

The road to March Madness returns to Royal Farms Arena for the second year when the 10 teams of the Colonial Athletic Association battle for the title and NCAA tournament spot. 410-347-2020, [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

### DRUID HILL

#### SPRING FLOWER SHOW

March 28–April 12

Vibrant, multi-hued and fragrant indigenous spring flora garnishes Baltimore's most spectacular urban landscape at the H.P. Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens. 410-396-0008; [rawlingsconservatory.org](http://rawlingsconservatory.org)

### CAMDEN YARDS

#### BALTIMORE ORIOLES HOME OPENER

April 10

How 'bout them O's? The 2014 AL East Division champions make their 2015 Camden Yards debut. 888-848-BIRD; [baltimore.orioles.mlb.com](http://baltimore.orioles.mlb.com)

### DOWNTOWN

#### BALTIMORE FARMERS MARKET

Sundays, April 5–Dec. 20

Maryland's largest producers-only market offers practically everything that grows under the Baltimore sun, alongside local meats, seafood and handmade crafts. 410-752-8632; [facebook.com/bmorefarmersmarket](http://facebook.com/bmorefarmersmarket)