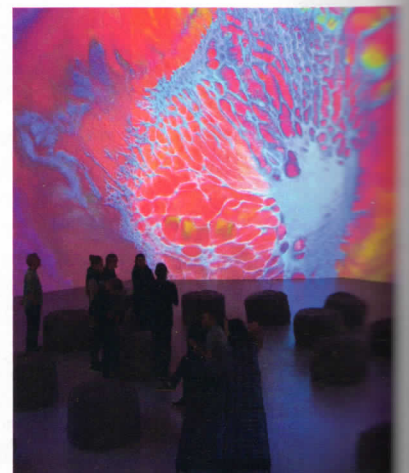
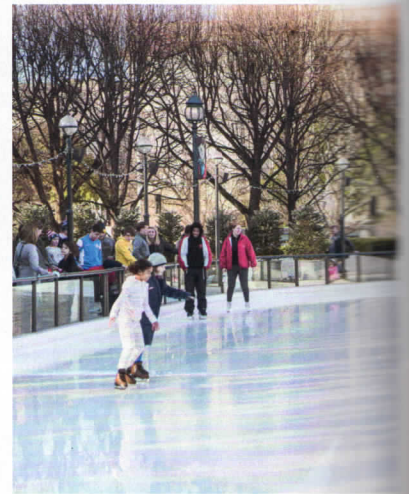


Photo: Ken Stanek / kenstanek.com



ARTEHOUSE. Photo: Hasnain Bhatti

## Let it snow, let it snow

Winter is a perfect time to visit Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Oh, the weather can be cold and snowy, but you can see and do things in the winter that you can't during other times of the year, and there aren't nearly as many tourists.

by Judy Colbert  
Photos: iStockphoto.com

### MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Starting in Baltimore, there's the world-famous "Miracle on 34th Street," a short block of row houses in the Hampden section of Baltimore where owners decorate almost every visible inch of every home, roof, and yard with lights and animations. Look for the 10' tall hubcap Christmas tree by artist Jim Pollock, the bike rim snowman, an outdoor train garden, and the big red-lit crab. Sign the guestbook on the porch at the home of Bob and Dar Hosier. The lights are on from about 6-11 pm the weekend after

You'll see the Washington Monument in the Mount Vernon section of the city, Fells Point, Harbor East, Canton, and, of course, the Miracle on 34th Street.

Thanksgiving through January 1, except for December 24 and 31 when they're on all night. There is no admission fee for this neighborhood celebration.

[www.christmasstreet.com](http://www.christmasstreet.com)

### HOLLY JOLLY TROLLEY

Next, take the two-hour narrated ride on the seasonally decorated Holly Jolly Trolley ride where you'll learn about the history of Charm City. You'll see the Washington Monument in the Mount Vernon section of the city, Fells Point, Harbor East, Canton, and, of course, the Miracle on 34th Street. The tour



ffered twice a night, at 6 and 8:30, Thursday through Sunday in December.

www.zbestlimo.com/baltimore-trolley-tour for

#### CLASSIC WINTER FUN

For a Currier & Ives memory of Baltimore spend an hour or so ice skating at the Pandora Ice Rink at the top of the amphitheater. Whether a midday break or an evening date, you're in the middle of everything that's happening at the Inner Harbor. On the one side is the Science Center and Visitor Center and to the other is the World Trade Center, the historic ships, and the National Aquarium. The rink is open from November 10 through January 15 with special programming and events scheduled regularly. Rental skates are available.

baltimore.org/article/ice-rink-baltimores-inner-harbor.

#### ADVENTURES BY THE WASHINGTON WATERFRONT

Just 40 miles southwest of Baltimore is Washington, DC where two new attractions have opened. Katie Bianco has written the second edition of 100 Things to Do in Washington, D.C. Before You Die and says the Wharf in Southwest Washington "is relatively new, but it's already become one of my go-to weekend spots. My kids love being by the water and eating at Shake Shack, and my husband and I can do date night there at one of the sit-down restaurants." The Wharf, in a revitalized section of DC's historic Southwest Waterfront section, is home to the nation's longest continually operating open-air fish market. The Wharf is a 6,000-seat concert venue, surrounded by more than 20 restaurants and bars (including

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chefs Fabio Trabocchi, Kwame Onwuachi, and Cathal Armstrong and his wife Meshelle), with choice waterfront views and an array of cuisines. "Politics and Prose" is a new location for a DC destination bookstore and is only one of many shops and boutiques.

www.wharfdc.com/wharf/

#### DIGITAL DELIGHTS

In a city filled with incredible art galleries ranging from pre-historic to contemporary, ARTECHOUSE (art, tech, house) is at the crossroads of art, science, and technology. ARTECHOUSE is a first-of-its-kind innovative art space dedicated to showcasing experiential and immersive large-scale installations by artists who are forerunners of the new age in arts and technology. Their goal is to create interactive, multi-sensory art experiences and a digital playground for all ages. And then there's the bar that offers drinks with augmented reality."

This fall (2018) at ARTECHOUSE, step into a colorful digital menagerie of nature-inspired creatures and plant life that will react in real-time to your gestures and actions. New Nature is the first solo exhibition for Polish-born, San-Francisco-based digital artist Marpi. The highly interactive exhibit inspired by early gaming platforms explores our organic world through immersive audio-visual experience, incorporating responsive technology, computer learning (A.I.), and music.

www.dc.artechouse.com

#### ART AND ICE

When you want to combine art and exercises, head to six-acre Sculpture Garden for D.C.'s rink on the Mall. Skating to recorded music, you can look at the sculptures, and take in a panoramic view of the Mall. The large-scale contemporary sculptures are by such notable artists as Louise Bourgeois, Sol LeWitt, Roy Lichtenstein, Roxy Paine, and Tony Smith. A self-service Pavilion Café has indoor and outdoor seating. Rental skates are available. The rink is open, weather permitting, from November through mid-March.

Get into the festive spirit and take a winter trip to Washington, D.C. and Baltimore.

**WOW**

WOW air offers cheap flight to Baltimore-Washington International airport every day of the year, all year round.



# THE ICELANDIC PENIS MUSEUM

We  Dicks!

**The Icelandic Phallogical Museum is one of the most informative, humorous, and unusual museums in the world.**

The world famous "Penis museum" in Reykjavik is the only museum in the world to contain a collection of phallic specimens belonging to all the various types of mammal found in a single country. The founder, Sigurður Hjartarson started the collection 40 years ago and made it first accessible to the public in 1997 with the opening of the museum. The Icelandic Phallogical Museum contains a collection of more than 220 penises and penile parts belonging to all the land and sea mammals that can be found in Iceland. There is also a foreign section that holds more than forty examples and a folklore section that has some twenty pieces on display. All in all, more than 380 biological examples. In addition to the biological section of the museum, visitors can view a collection of about 350 artistic oddments and practical utensils related to the museum's chosen theme. The museum is in a 250 square meter location on the upper part of Reykjavik's main shopping street, Laugavegur, only a 10 minutes walk from the city's centre.

There is a souvenir corner with a small exclusive selection of things related to the museum's theme.

**Seeing is believing!**

No pornography or offensive material in the museum.