



## Footsteps Through Fell's Point

By Lydia Naso

The city of Baltimore's filled with all kinds of exciting places, but one of my FAVORITE places to go is Fell's Point. Fell's Point is only a twenty-minute drive from Loyola's campus! Fell's is a wonderful mix of historical buildings and trending food and shops. And filled with tons of cute little events going on, like Open Mic Nights, the Fun Festival, Lighted Boat Parade, comedy shows, and more. You really cannot take your eyes off the cozy, yet rustic, atmosphere, not to mention the perfect place for Instagram posts. Fell's Point is a vibrant neighborhood with unique local businesses, diverse food options, and engaging community events that make it a must to see!

### Local Businesses in the Area

Fell's Point is FULL of adorable and unique shops, including record stores, boutiques, restaurants, cafes, the list goes on! My favorite thing to do is to just wander around, walk into the little stores, and check out whatever is around.

#### Stores and Shops

If you're looking for unique and locally-owned shops with a creative flair, you're in luck! Here are a few must-visit spots that bring charm and character to the shopping scene.

[Katwalk Boutique's](#) an artsy clothing store independently owned. If you like lots of bold patterns, fringes, and flowers, you are going to want to check it out. *Seriously.*

Now, of course, vinyl records have been making a huge comeback, so if you are into that in Fell's Point, you need to check out [Sound Garden](#). Sound Garden is an independent record store that has been there since 1993! Not only is the environment itself impressive, with records filling the store from the bottom to almost the top of the building, and bright red beams decorating the ceiling, but there's no way you could leave this store without finding something you'll love.



An adorable alpaca made from real alpaca fur for sale.

Another beautiful shop is [Emporium Collegia](#). Emporium Collegia is an Art Gallery/Handmade store. This art gallery and handmade boutique's filled with one-of-a-kind jewelry, intricately crafted pottery with textures that you just want to touch, and vibrant prints that all tell different stories. Whether you're searching for a statement piece or a gift, you're definitely sure to find something that will spark your interest.

One store that my friend, Rachel Counts, who lives and works in Baltimore, would recommend is [Ten Thousand Villages](#). Ten Thousand Villages is a cute shop that sells fair trade and handcrafted goods. It has a very welcoming interior. The second you walk in, the room is filled with all kinds of incense, sweet, woody and smokey. They have products all from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East, with adorable items like handmade alpacas made with real alpaca fur, or more practical items, like plates crafted from Nepal, or wooden mugs made from India.



The view of the Sagamore Pendry Hotel, outside of Emporium Collegia.



## Yummy Food to Grab

Oh my gosh! The FOOD at Fell's Point never disappoints. You can find a wide variety of foods from Asian fusion, Tex-Mex, to Mediterranean, or American cuisine. The list goes on. The crab never fails either. With the classic Old Bay of course, made by the famous Gustav Brunn in Baltimore in 1939. Fun fact! It got its name *Old Bay* after a steamship company that operated in Chesapeake Bay. Anyway, here are some places you should keep an eye out for!

One place without a doubt I would recommend is [Thames Street Oyster House](#). I remember the first time my parents came to visit me in college, and this was where we got lunch. The food was exceptionally good! They have a diverse menu of fresh seafood, and a fun atmosphere that's cozy, yet lively, with its industrial décor and brick walls.



The street that [Thames Street Oyster House](#) and [Emporium Collegia](#) are on!

Another good recommendation is [Barcocina](#). Barcocina serves Mexican cuisine. They have a large selection of tacos and good guacamole (can't go wrong in my opinion). To add on to the list, it's right next to the waterfront, so outdoor seating is a must on a sunny day. Three out of the four people I've talked with mentioned this place! My friend and suitemate, Sofia Pace, a first-year at Loyola, went to Barcocina with her family during the summer and another time with her Messina! She said the food was delicious and the guacamole was to die for.

Veronica, who's a friend of mine and an Junior now at Loyola, also recommended this place a lot! She said it's usually her family's go-to spot for a special occasion with family or friends. Of course, she suggested chips and guacamole, but also recommended cheeseburger tacos, which is her favorite.

Finally, my friend, Jennifer Deardoff, who's a coworker of Rachel, and is actually an alumnus from Loyola, also suggested Barcocina. She said she enjoyed the breakfast tacos, and, just like everyone else, guacamole is a must. With multiple recommendations from students and alumni, it is clear that Barcocina is a local favorite. Whether you crave flavorful tacos, incredible guacamole, or a good spot to enjoy the waterfront view, this restaurant is a hotspot.



The rainbow lights coming from the [Under Armour Headquarters](#).

If you're more in the mood for some American foods, like burgers, chicken and waffles, crabcakes, all that shebang, then you've got to go to [Kooper's Tavern](#). This is another place my suitemate, Sofia, went to. She said the burgers especially good. Kooper's is right across from the river, so the sights are gorgeous. Especially at night with all the lights. Sofia mentioned that one thing she thought was kind of cool was that she could see the Under Armour Headquarters from across the river with their bright neon sign for their logo in rainbow colors. Another nice thing about Kooper's Tavern is all the fun events they host throughout the year. In the past they have had Family Date Night, with dress-up challenges, Book Socials, with trivia games, and lots of holiday-themed events.

## How About Dessert?

I have a bit of a sweet tooth. Ice cream, cookies, you name it, I'm all in. So, if you're like me and are in the mood for some pastries or ice cream, like I normally am, then I'd recommend [Pitango Bakery and Café](#).



It's right down the street from Kooper's Tavern, next to the river. It is a family business that uses local products from around the area, so you know it is good stuff! "We churn out made-from-scratch products in house-- free from colorings, flavorings, and preservatives. We think you will taste the difference." (Noah Dan, "[Pintago Gelato](#)"). Jennifer also agreed that Pitnango Gelato is exceptionally good. She also recommended a nice square right next to the Bakery, a beautiful spot to sit and look at the view of the historical architecture and cobblestone streets.

Another place that's got killer cookies is, of course, [Insomnia Cookies](#). It's right next to Pitango Bakery! Rachel is a huge cookie fan, and she LOVES Insomnia. Insomnia has lots of different and fun kinds of cookies, like a classic chocolate chunk, or something more exciting like confetti, or salted caramel (my favorite oh my gosh).

## Fun Traditions and Celebrations

Fell's Point has a bunch of ways of getting the community together! Some popular traditions are the Fell's Point Fun Festival, Oyster Fest, and the Old Tyme Christmas Festival.

[Oyster Fest](#) is, you guessed it, where people get together to eat seafood. During this event, games, live music, and other activities are there to check out. So, if you're a big seafood person, this is definitely something you should put on your calendar!

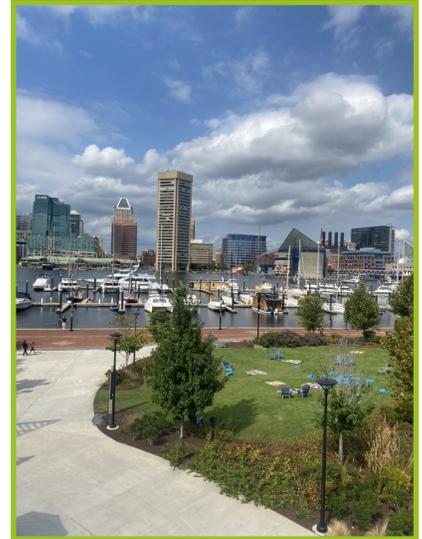
Another big one is [Fell's Point Fun Festival](#). It has been a tradition for five decades, and it was started to fundraise money to protect the neighborhoods and history of Fell's Point. The Fun Festival is one of the biggest events they have there, I'm talking six blocks big. Six blocks of stands activities, shops, all selling yummy food or products. Jennifer has gone a few times before and said the Festival had also a nice selection of vendors, food trucks, and even live entertainment!

One of the most popular is [Old Tyme Christmas Festival](#). Right near Christmas, of course. The streets all change into Christmas market themed. People go caroling and come together to watch the tree lighting. And, of course, Old St. Nick makes an appearance. Like the other traditions, there's always lots of games and activities going on. If you're a big eggnog fan, then maybe next year you should give the Eggnog contest a try! Ha!

## Final Thoughts on Fell's Point

Fell's Point is a lively community filled with charm, culture, and excitement. Whether you're exploring its history, strolling through local shops, or sampling its incredible food scene, there's always something new to discover.

The neighborhood's vibrant traditions and events bring people together, making it a must-visit destination for both locals and visitors! If you're feeling adventurous, Fell's Point is the perfect spot to explore.



Beautiful views of the Inner Harbor, right near the docks.



People walking on the historic brick road through Fell's Point.