



Photo by Deval Parikh

OFF THE QUAD AND INTO THE CITY

By Will Lancaster

When you step onto Loyola's campus, you'll notice how calm everything feels. The green quad, shaded paths, and red brick buildings almost make you forget that you're in one of America's oldest port cities. But after a few weeks, you'll crave more. Maybe it's the sound of a live crowd echoing through [Camden Yards](#), the smell of [Old Bay](#) hanging over [Fell's Point](#), or the sight of rowhomes that look like they've stood forever. Baltimore's story sits right outside Loyola's gates, and if you take the time to explore it, you'll find a city filled with history, pride, and energy that's impossible to feel from the dorms.

Getting to know this city connects you to something larger than college—it connects you to the roots of Baltimore itself. Exploring beyond the quad helps you see the stories behind the places, from baseball legends and cobblestone streets to the neighborhoods that built the city's identity. Loyola's location gives you the perfect balance: a campus that feels peaceful and a city that feels alive.

Getting Around: The Loyola Loop and Beyond

You don't need a car to start your Baltimore story. Loyola provides the Collegetown Shuttle, a free bus service that runs between area colleges and popular spots like [Towson](#), the [Inner Harbor](#), and the [Station North Arts District](#). The shuttle leaves right from campus and runs late enough for night games or dinner downtown. If you want even more freedom, the 51 MTA bus picks you up at Cold Spring Lane and takes you directly to [Penn Station](#) or Camden Yards. As freshman Drew Peters explained, "The 51 bus picks you up right outside of [Seton Court](#). It's been really convenient. It takes you all the way down to the train station or to the stadiums like Camden and [M&T Bank](#)." The light rail and CityLink lines also make it easy to move through the city, and the MARC train from Penn Station takes you to D.C. in just over an hour. Tickets cost around nine dollars — less than a Loyola late-night pizza run. According to the [Maryland Transit Administration](#), Baltimore's public transportation serves more than 250,000 riders a day and connects to 1,300 stops across the

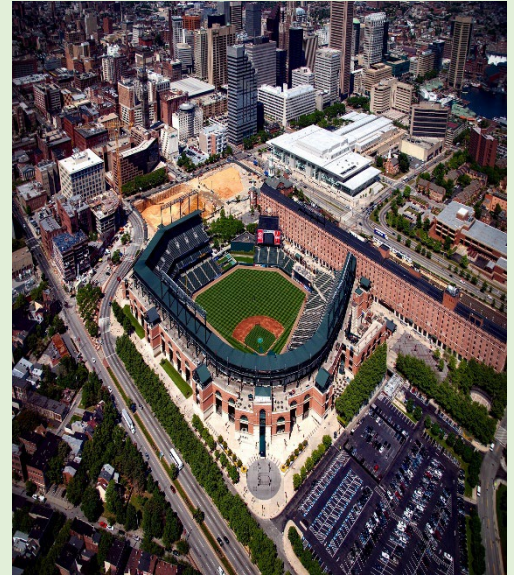
Photo by Bruce Emmerling



city. That means your next adventure could be as simple as hopping on the bus with a few friends and seeing where it goes.

Camden Yards: Baltimore's Living History

Camden Yards isn't just a baseball stadium—it's where Baltimore's history breathes. Walk through the gates, and you'll smell barbecue from [Boog's stand](#), hear the crack of the bat echo against brick warehouse, and feel the crowd rise when the Orioles take the field. The air carries a mix of excitement and nostalgia, like the city itself. Dr. Sara Magee, a Loyola associate professor, called Camden Yards "a place where you can actually feel Baltimore's character come alive." She added that Loyola often runs [Messina](#)-sponsored trips to Orioles games at discounted rates. "They even provide shuttles for first-year students," she said, "so they can experience the city together in a safe, fun way." Tickets rarely cost more than twenty dollars and Loyola has designated student nights where tickets are FREE. On slow nights, ushers don't mind when students move closer to the field. When the crowd shouts the "O!" during the national anthem, you'll feel it in your chest. That's the sound of Baltimore pride — a tradition that stretches back decades.



Fell's Point & Inner Harbor: Baltimore's Heartbeat

If Camden Yards represents the city's history, Fell's Point represents its soul. The cobblestone streets feel like time travel, and the waterfront buzzes with a mix of music, laughter, and sea air. You can grab ice cream at [Pitango Gelato](#), shop at the small markets, or sit by the docks as the boats roll in. Senior Dennis McNamara described Fells perfectly: "It's got this old-town feel, but there's always something happening—markets, live music, little thrift shops. It's history you can walk through." If you're more into sightseeing, the Inner Harbor offers museums, the [National Aquarium](#), and one of the best skyline views in Maryland. Loyola students can reach both areas using the Collegetown Shuttle, or the CityLink Red Line that drops off within walking distance. To understand the city's deeper roots, visit the [American Visionary Art Museum](#) or the [Baltimore Museum of Industry](#). When you walk there today, you're literally stepping on history.



Sherwood Gardens

Nature and Local Favorites

When city life starts to feel loud, Baltimore still gives you quiet spaces to breathe. [Sherwood Gardens](#), just a short walk from campus, is described as “a hidden gem where you can just relax or take a picnic on nice days” (McNamara). If you want something a little bigger, [Lake Roland Park](#) sits a few miles north with trails, open fields, and a lake that reflects the trees in every season. Junior Matt Bradley suggested another local favorite: “There are great public golf courses nearby like [Pine Ridge](#) and [Clifton](#). They’re safe, cheap, and open to students. You can rent clubs there and get a full round for twenty bucks.” Even if golf isn’t your thing, Baltimore’s neighborhoods always have something going on—[Belvedere Square Market](#) for food and music, [The Charmery](#) for Maryland Mud ice cream, and [R. House](#) in Remington for late-night tacos. Each place has a story that connects back to the people who built the city, and every visit teaches you a little more about the culture surrounding Loyola.

Day Trips: A Train Ride Through Time

If you ever want to escape for a day, hop on the MARC train from Penn Station and head to Washington, D.C. It’s a one-hour ride, and you’ll land right at [Union Station](#), where the marble arches and echoing halls feel straight out of a movie. From there, you can walk to the [Smithsonian Museums](#) or the [National Mall](#). Dr. Magee reminded students that “taking the train to D.C. is simple and affordable—it’s a great way to connect Loyola to the larger history of the region.” Whether you’re standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial or walking through the [National Aquarium](#) back in Baltimore, you’re still part of the same historical story. Loyola sits at the center of it.

My Advice to You

The biggest mistake you can make as a new student is staying inside campus walls. Baltimore doesn’t just surround Loyola—it shapes it. Every mural, market, and museum tells a story that adds to your college experience. Some of my favorite weekends started with no plan at all, just a few friends and a “let’s see where the day takes us” mindset. Like Dr. Magee said, “Baltimore rewards curiosity.” That’s the truth. You’ll learn more from exploring its neighborhoods than you ever could by scrolling through pictures online. So grab your Loyola ID, a bus pass, and a couple of friends. Let the city surprise you. Baltimore isn’t perfect, but it’s proud. It carries scars from its past and stories worth hearing. When you take the time to step off the quad and into the city, you’ll see that this place doesn’t just host your college years, it becomes part of them.

