



## Ohio Family Fun Horticulture Itinerary

In Northeast Ohio, Cleveland is a nexus of horticulture and child-friendly museums, and the surrounding countryside offers plenty of hands-on activities to entertain serious gardeners and rambunctious children alike.

### DAY ONE:

**Cleveland's University Circle is a great location to start a long weekend filled with flowers and family fun.**

The **Cleveland Botanical Garden** (<http://www.cb garden.org/>) in University Circle (<http://www.universitycircle.org/>) showcases the flora of Costa Rica and Madagascar in a stunning glasshouse that kids will love. Butterflies alight on visitors in the Costa Rican cloud forest, and exotic creatures, such as the hedgehog-like tenrec delight children of all ages in the Madagascar spiny desert, a landscape so fanciful, Dr. Seuss could have designed it. The Garden also has ten acres of outdoor rose, Japanese and woodland display gardens, including the Hershey Children's Garden – a fun place for kids to climb in the tree house, run and learn about the world of plants, earthworms and insects.

Within a mile of the Cleveland Botanical Garden, 15 more museums and cultural arts organizations provide a variety of family-friendly experiences. **The Children's Museum of Cleveland** (<http://www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org/>) features a fun, interactive space in which kids learn through hands-on activities. **The Cleveland Museum of Natural History** (<http://www.cmnh.org/>) is a repository for dinosaurs and other fossils kids love. June 3 – September 3, 2006, the museum features *Discovering Chimpanzees: The Remarkable World of Jane Goodall*, an engaging, interactive exhibit that traces the history of Goodall's research activities.

Additional stops in the area could include the **Western Reserve Historical Society** (<http://www.wrhs.org/>), the **Crawford Auto Aviation Museum** (<http://www.wrhs.org/crawford/default.asp>) and the nearby **HealthSpace Cleveland** (<http://www.healthspacecleveland.org/>).

**Glidden House Inn** (<http://www.gliddenhouse.com/>) former home of the Glidden Paint family, is located in University Circle and is within easy walking distance of a majority of the above-mentioned sites.

### DAY TWO:

**Today is the day to experience the hustle and bustle of downtown Cleveland and to let the kids set out on a learning adventure.**

On Cleveland's lakefront, the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum** (<http://www.rockhall.com/>) stands as a testament to America's favorite homegrown art form. With collections ranging from James Brown to Britney Spears, there's a piece of pop culture memorabilia for every generation. From May 20 – September 4, 2006, the featured exhibit is *Bob Dylan's American Journey: 1956-1966*. Next door, the **Great Lakes Science Center** (<http://www.glsc.org/>) is a perfect place for kids to learn in a fun environment. Through 340 interactive exhibits and an OMNIMAX theater, it's the perfect place to spend an afternoon.

Kids will love the **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo** (<http://www.clemetzoo.com/>), which houses 600 species of animals and dozens of gardens featuring endangered plants of the Midwest, medicinal plants and butterfly- and hummingbird-attracting flowers. The zoo's Rainforest houses more than 10,000 plants and 600 animals from the jungles of Asia, Africa and the Americas.

**Discover Ohio in Bloom**

**Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism - [www.DiscoverOhio.com](http://www.DiscoverOhio.com) - 1-800-BUCKEYE**



**The Radisson Hotel at Gateway** ([http://www.radisson.com/clevelandoh\\_gateway](http://www.radisson.com/clevelandoh_gateway)) offers affordable rooms in the center of downtown Cleveland's sports zone.

### **DAY THREE:**

**Today, head out into the country for a different side of northeast Ohio's horticultural bounty. Kids will love the wide-open spaces and hands-on fun waiting outside the city limits.**

A few miles east of Cleveland along Interstate 90, **Holden Arboretum** (<http://www.holdenarb.org/>) in Kirtland is beloved by visitors from around the world for its 25-acre collection of rhododendrons, which are at peak bloom in May. Lilacs, viburnum and dozens of varieties of trees can be seen in the 3,400-acre arboretum's miles of walking trails or by tramcar.

Nearby, families will find acres and acres of scenic landscapes to roam at **Lake Farm Park** (<http://www.lakemetroparks.com/HTML/LFP/farmpark.html>) and dozens of scientific wonders to explore. The park features fields of heirloom crops, 50 breeds of farm animals and a learning center where kids can discover what makes tomatoes grow.

A trip a few miles east along Route 20 through the towns of Perry, Madison and Geneva will uncover dozens of **nurseries** selling some of Ohio's best perennials, shrubs and trees. **Bluestone Perennials** (<http://www.bluestoneperennials.com/b/bp/index.html>) in Madison is one of the nation's largest mail-order nurseries. **North Shore Reservation** (<http://www.lakemetroparks.com/HTML/NatureParks/Nature%20Parks%20Info.html#lakeshore>) in North Perry is another stop kids will love. This park is filled with massive rhododendrons, walking trails, giant climbable sculpture and one of the best-kept secret beaches in Ohio.

**The Lodge & Conference Center at Geneva State Park** (<http://www.thelodgeatgeneva.com/>) offers stunning views of Lake Erie and packages including breakfast.

For more family fun experiences and events in northeast Ohio, visit:  
Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland (<http://www.travelcleveland.com/>)  
Lake County Visitors Bureau (<http://www.lakevisit.com/>)  
Ashtabula County Convention & Visitors Bureau (<http://www.visitashtabulacounty.com/>)