



Columbus, Ohio

- Columbus is gaining national attention as an emerging destination for visitors. The city has been recognized as [one of the nation's leading gay travel markets](#) and recently was named among **America's Top 5 Shopping Cities** by *Forbes*. Many journalists have noted that the independent and entrepreneurial spirit that drives Columbus has produced [one of the most innovative culinary and arts scenes anywhere](#) in the U.S.
- The [Short North Arts District](#) is a historic urban neighborhood known for eclectic galleries, unique boutiques and independent restaurants all along an amazing stretch of High Street. Shoppers find fine art, antiques, clothing, furniture, books, jewelry, candles and even artisan spirits. The first Saturday of every month, thousands of visitors converge for Gallery Hop, where retailers and galleries open earlier, stay open later and live entertainment of all sorts can be found on the busy sidewalks under the lighted arches spanning the streets.
- [German Village](#), located just south of downtown Columbus, is a 233-acre restored neighborhood that was originally settled in the mid-1800s by German immigrants and today is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Along its tree-lined, brick-paved streets, visitors find lovingly-restored red brick homes, wrought iron fences, glorious urban gardens and some of the city's best-known restaurants and specialty retailers. Annual events include the Haus und Garten Tour, June 27; Oktoberfest Sept. 24 – 26; and Village Lights, the first Sunday in December.
- Voted the No. 1 zoo in the country by *US Travel Guide*, [The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium](#) is home to the one and only "Jungle Jack" Hanna, who serves as the zoo's director emeritus. With more than 600 wildlife species calling it home and habitats ranging from North America to Asia, the zoo also features exciting live entertainment and educational programming on-site daily. Adjacent to the zoo is the 22.7-acre [Zoombezi Bay Water Park](#), featuring 15 state-of-the-art water slides, a wave pool, an action river, a lazy river, private cabanas, a kiddie play pool and more. Across the street from the zoo is the 18-hole [Safari Golf Course](#) on 140-plus acres, featuring several newly-designed holes, a new clubhouse and a new practice facility. In March 2010, the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium opened the **Polar Frontier** exhibit area. In addition to polar bears, Polar Frontier houses Arctic foxes, Alaskan brown bears and reindeer.
- Voted the No. 1 science museum in America by *Parents Magazine*, [COSI](#) features more than 300 interactive exhibits. Its discovery-based and themed exhibition areas provide experiences for all age levels to creatively combine science facts and learning through play. Beyond the exhibits, you'll find COSI's hair-raising Electrostatic Generator Show, the only High-Wire Unicycle in the country, a seven-story Extreme Screen theater, a Science 2Go! retail store and the Atomicafe restaurant.
- Developed by the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, *RACE* is the first nationally traveling exhibition to tell the stories of race from the biological, cultural, and historical points of view. Combining these perspectives offers an unprecedented look at race and racism in the United States. Jan. 28-May 6, 2012

- Set within 88 acres, [Franklin Park Conservatory](#) houses 400 species of plants from a variety of global climate zones and features a Victorian Palm House with more than 40 species of palms. It is surrounded by botanical gardens and floral displays. Franklin Park is the only conservatory with a permanent collection of works by renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly. In addition to a wide range of educational classes and workshops for school groups, families and individuals, it also provides a valuable resource through its “Growing to Green” program for community gardeners. Annual exhibitions include “The Orchid Forest,” “Blooms and Butterflies” and “Holidays at the Conservatory.”
 - The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus located at Franklin Park Conservatory is a “living classroom” where visitors can learn about many aspects of gardening, horticulture, sustainability, nutrition and wellness. The campus includes an apiary, culinary and herb gardens, a berry yard, rentable community garden plots, a resource center designed to help gardeners create and maintain their gardens, computers with garden design programs and a test kitchen for cooking classes and demonstrations.

Urban Development, Greening of the City

- [Columbus Commons](#) is a 9-acre outdoor park in the heart of downtown that opened in May 2011. It features gardens, walking paths, a carousel, an outdoor reading room with free WiFi, a café and a temporary stage.
- Two blocks south of Columbus Commons is [The Scioto Mile](#) , a one-mile stretch of parkland located along the downtown Columbus riverfront, from the Arena District at the north end to Whittier Peninsula at the south end. It opened in July 2011 and is home to the Promenade and Bicentennial Park. The Promenade is a tree and colonnade-lined boulevard that connects the Batelle Riverfront Park to Bicentennial Park and features gardens, swings, water canals and scenic views of the Scioto River. Newly-renovated Bicentennial Park features a 15,000 square-foot interactive fountain, casual dining café – Milestone 229 and a new performance pavilion.
- Experience Columbus has developed 57 [Experiential Tours](#) that take guests behind the scenes of attractions and performances and provide participants access to experiences they won’t find anywhere else. These carefully designed experiences that take groups to the heart of the action, give them unprecedented backstage access, teach them a new skill or even help them create something special to take home. Experiences range from arts and culture to sports and culinary; gardens and history to child’s play and more.

Experience Columbus Media Contact:

Scott Peacock, Public Relations Manager, Experience Columbus, 614.222.6104
SPeacock@ExperienceColumbus.com, www.twitter.com/ScottPeacock34,
<http://ExperienceColumbus.com>

Additional information is available from the Experience Columbus media room at:
<http://experiencecolumbus.com/media.cfm>. We invite you to follow us on Twitter [@ExpCols](https://twitter.com/ExpCols) or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ExperienceColumbus>.

Ohio Tourism Media Contacts:

Tamara K. Brown, Public Relations Manager
 Ohio Tourism Division
 614.466.8591
Tamara.Brown@development.ohio.gov

Leslie Holbrook, Account Director
 Fahlgren Mortine Public Relations
 614.383.1635
Leslie.Holbrook@fahlgren.com

Explore the Ohio Tourism Division’s [Online Press Room](http://consumer.discoverohio.com/pressroom) at <http://consumer.discoverohio.com/pressroom>, follow us on Twitter [@DiscoverOhio](https://twitter.com/DiscoverOhio) or find the Ohio Tourism Division on Facebook at www.facebook.com/discoverohio.

