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## **Ohio Sets the Stage for a Delectable Culinary, City or Cultural Vacation**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** - From Rachmaninoff to Rock n' Roll and Rock Crabs to Rock Gardens, Ohio offers a symphony of culinary, city and cultural vacation offerings. Ohio's world-class cities, unique arts and master chefs mean that sophisticated travelers need not venture to the country's biggest cities to show their good taste.

Ohio's dazzling cities are experiencing a cultural renaissance that beckons former visitors to rediscover a new Ohio.

### **Cleveland**

Once the industrial heart of Cleveland, "the Flats" is now a red-hot entertainment district. The area is home to more than 50 restaurants and nightclubs and a variety of other entertainment options. During the warmer months, visitors can enjoy food and drink outside on the boardwalks and patios of many of the restaurants and clubs taking in great views of the downtown skyline, illuminated bridges and pleasure boats. Cleveland's Historic Warehouse District is a popular entertainment destination, featuring trendy restaurants, lounges and nighttime hot spots complete with live jazz and blues.

Quickly becoming a nightlife destination of choice, narrow brick street of the East 4<sup>th</sup> Street Entertainment District is packed with upscale eateries and entertainment. Take in a show at the House of Blues, laugh along with your favorite comedian at Hilarities, bowl at the upscale Corner Alley, or savor a pint at Flannery's. One thing to add to your must-do list: Dine at Iron Chef Winner Michael Symon's Lola. It's all there, and more.

The highlight of Cleveland's Theater District is Playhouse Square, the second largest performing arts center in the country. Five beautifully restored theatres are home to the Cleveland Opera, Ohio Ballet, Broadway productions, the Great Lakes Theatre Festival and hundreds of concerts throughout the year.

University Circle, located four miles east of Downtown Cleveland, is the cultural center of the city and Northeast Ohio. University Circle is home to more cultural and performing arts institutions within one square mile than anywhere else in the country. Museums include the highly acclaimed Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Western Reserve Historical Society. The Circle also is the winter home of magnificent Severance Hall and the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra and the year-round home to the Cleveland Botanical Garden and its new Glass House. All are within walking distance of one another and situated in a lovely park-like setting.

For more information about visiting Cleveland visit [www.PositivelyCleveland.com](http://www.PositivelyCleveland.com).

### **Cincinnati**

In the past decade, Cincinnati has become a city unlike any other and has been placed on Money magazine's top 20 list of "Most Fun Cities." Cincinnati evokes a resounding applause from visitors and the media. The Contemporary Arts Museum has been hailed as one of the most important buildings to be erected in the world. The Great American Ball Park provides sports fans with an enhanced stadium

experience. The Underground Railroad Freedom Center commemorates the struggle for freedom while celebrating the achievements of all people.

Cincinnati also is home to some of the world's finest restaurants and lodging properties that combine to create an unmatched urban vacation experience. Grab some rock-inspired eats at Bootsy's, an extravagant, two-story restaurant, bar and nightclub owned by Ohio native and Parliament Funkadelic member Bootsy Collins. For travelers seeking the very finest, stops must include the Mobil five-star restaurant *Maisonette* and relish the lodging experience of *The Cincinnati* or the *Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza*, two magnificent, old-world properties in downtown.

For theater lovers, Cincinnati provides an entire array of offerings. The Aronoff Center for the Arts is a state-of-the-art venue downtown containing three stunning performance spaces and featuring the Weston Art Gallery. The Cincinnati Opera delights audiences with glorious arias at the Music Hall. The Opera offers four main stage productions during its summer season. Also during the summer, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati's professional theater, presents comedies, dramas, classics and musicals September-June.

Cincinnati's Museum Center at Union Terminal provides visitors with three museum experiences in one: The Cincinnati History Museum, The Museum of Natural History and Science and the Cinergy Children's Museum.

Cincinnati's culture largely comes from its location on the Ohio River. With Ohio on one side and Kentucky on the other, Cincinnati blends the Midwest and the South with uncommon sophistication.

For more information about visiting Cincinnati, visit [www.CincyUSA.com](http://www.CincyUSA.com).

## **Columbus**

Vacationers looking for a destination offering a wide variety of world-class attractions and events, along with a friendly atmosphere, will want to visit Ohio's largest city, Columbus. The state capital and home to one of the country's largest universities, The Ohio State University, Columbus offers a style rich in diversity and teeming with joie d'vivre. The culinary offerings in quaint and historical German Village and adjacent Brewery District celebrate its Germanic heritage. Recently renovated to its gilded glory, the Ohio Theater offers music, dance and theater to sold-out crowds.

The Short North Arts District, just north of downtown, offers an eclectic arts and entertainment district that is home to the funky and fashionable. Art galleries, restaurants and unique boutiques line the streets. On the first Saturday of every month, the area hosts a Gallery Hop, where visitors can see the newest works of art during gallery open houses.

Information about visiting Columbus can be found at [www.ExperienceColumbus.com](http://www.ExperienceColumbus.com).

## **Across Ohio**

Ohio's arts and culture offerings only begin with the large cities. Several of Ohio's mid-sized and small towns have undergone renaissances of their own, transforming industrial downtown districts into arts quarters.

Akron has undergone a multi-million dollar refurbishment of its historic theater and arts facilities throughout the downtown area. Home to one of the nation's unique hotels, the old Quaker Oats silos, where rooms are actually within the silos, Akron also is home to one of the country's premier gardens. Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, the former home of Goodyear Tire and Rubber co-founder, F.A. Seiberling and his family. The estate features guided tours of a 65-room Tudor Revival mansion filled

with treasures from around the globe and situated among 70 acres of artful garden landscape.

Toledo is one of the Ohio cities to have undergone a remarkable facelift. Downtown Toledo now features luxury hotels, renovated arts and theater spaces and an entire grouping of delightful restaurants at the Docks along the Maumee River. The Toledo Museum of Art collects only the finest works of art from each period and visitors will find world-famous paintings, sculpture, and glass in every gallery.

Dayton has come into its own through being the birthplace of aviation. Because of this notoriety, Dayton has emerged as an arts and cultural center. Dayton, a city literally at the crossroads of America, offers unique arts, culinary and educational opportunities around every corner. Just outside Dayton, Yellow Springs is an artist community that evokes an eclectic environment and offers visitors a singular arts and culinary adventure.

Throughout Ohio's 29 Appalachian counties, the arts are flourishing. Art galleries are popping up inside unused buildings throughout the region. Longaberger baskets, crafted by hand near the company's Ohio headquarters (the world's largest basket itself!) are distributed throughout the country. Cambridge and Marietta also have undergone major renewals.

Ohio's Appalachian Arts Trail provides travelers with a unique opportunity to find crafts and arts interlaced with the spectacular beauty found throughout this region.

And, in the Northeast, Ohio's burgeoning wine industry offers delectable reds and whites and the crowd-pleasing ice wine.

For more information about all of Ohio's remarkable city, culture and culinary offerings, visit [www.DiscoverOhio.com](http://www.DiscoverOhio.com) or call 1-800-BUCKEYE.

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