



Activities & Attractions In and Around Columbus

Nightlife

1. **Arena District:** Home to a number of bars, restaurants, and breweries, Nationwide Arena (Columbus Blue Jackets), Huntington Park (Columbus Clippers), Lifestyle Communities Pavilion (indoor/outdoor music venue), North Market (36 independent merchants and artisans, mixture of delis, bakeries, pastry shops, ethnic food restaurants, specialty goods stores, and produce stores)
2. **German Village:** A historic neighborhood just south of downtown. It was settled in the early-to-mid-19th century by a large number of German immigrants. It was added to the National Register of Historic places in 1974, becoming the largest privately funded preservation district on the list. In 2007, it was made a Preserve America Community by the White House and it is one of the premier historic restorations in the world. Home to Schmidt's Sausage Haus, Thurman's Cafe, Original Max & Erma's, and many more renowned restaurants. Multiple breweries are also present in the adjacent Brewery District.
3. **Short North:** Home to restaurants, bars, breweries, clubs, art galleries, specialty shops. Most of its tightly packed brick buildings date from the early 20th century, comprised of traditional storefronts, old apartment buildings, and newer condo developments.

The Arts

1. **CAPA:** A group of theaters offering live entertainment in Columbus
 - a. Ohio Theater, Palace Theater, CATCO
 - b. Upcoming shows include: Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, America's Got Talent Live, Mythbusters, Blue Man Group, Touring Broadway Shows & plays.
2. **Columbus Museum of Art:** In house collection along with traveling/guest exhibitions. Art tutorials and tours. Currently undergoing multimillion-dollar expansion.
3. **Shadowbox Live:** Non-profit performance troupe that self-produces a wide range of shows, as well as runs the company on a day-to-day basis.
 - a. Performing Music, Sketch Comedy, Musicals, Dance, and Drama.
 - b. Monty Python's Spamalot, Scrooge.
 - c. Wine and dine while watching the show.
4. **BalletMet:** Ballets by critically acclaimed choreographers.
5. **Gallery Hop:** Dozens of galleries and non-traditional exhibit spaces showcasing new art exhibits on the first Saturday of each month.



Music

1. **Large Venues:** Newport Music Hall, LC Pavilion, Schottenstein Center, Columbus Commons Bicentennial Pavilion, Nationwide Arena
 - a. Concerts by major artists including a majority off the Top 40 charts
2. **Smaller establishments:** Dueling Piano Bar, Skully's Music Diner, Open Mic Nights at various venues along Short North

Family Fun

1. **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium:** The Zoo is home to more than 9,000 animals representing 650 species from around the globe. Rated as the number one zoo in America. Watch a polar bear swim above your head, meet the world famous gorilla family, see the koalas, ponder the giant pachyderms and be amazed by the manatees.
2. **Zoombezi Bay:** Zoombezi Bay is a combination water/amusement park at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Some of its many features include 15 water slides, a wave pool, and family friendly attractions designed for individuals of all ages.
3. **Scioto Mile:** Located in the heart of downtown Columbus, the Scioto Mile is comprised of more than 145 acres of parkland. Stretching from the Arena District to the Whittier Peninsula, it connects downtown to the Scioto River through an integrated system of parks, boulevards, bikeways and pedestrian paths. It offers activities for everyone: a 15,000 square-foot interactive fountain, the country's largest free outdoor climbing wall, and numerous festivals & events throughout the year.
4. **Columbus Commons:** A 7 acre green space located in the heart of Downtown Columbus with a state-of-the-art performance space, Columbus Bicentennial Pavilion, a hand-carved carousel, an outdoor reading room, world-class gardens designed and maintained by the Franklin Park Conservatory, outdoor cafés, bocce courts, a life-size chess set, and much more.

Sporting Events

1. Buckeyes (football, basketball, baseball, hockey, etc)
2. Crew
3. Clippers
4. Pro teams: Cavaliers, Reds, Indians, Bengals, Browns, + PGA Memorial.

Festivals

Columbus is home to over 200 festivals. There is truly an event for everyone. Check out the Experience Columbus web page for a comprehensive list of festivals in and around Columbus: <https://www.experiencecolumbus.com/events/>



Outdoor Fun

1. **Metro Parks:** 17 outstanding natural area parks with around 200 miles of trails, and protects more than 27,000 acres of land and water in seven Central Ohio counties. Metro Parks offers free educational and recreational opportunities every day of the year that will excite your senses and rekindle your spirit.
2. **Hocking Hills:** Located less than two hours from Columbus this natural area offers miles of trails for hiking or mountain biking along with views of waterfalls, prehistoric caves, and spectacular cliff top vistas. Considered the zip line capital of the Midwest, you can choose from over 50 zip line canopy tours, or canoe and kayak down the Hocking River.
3. **Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Metro Park:** Located one mile from downtown Columbus this unique center offers miles of trails along the Scioto river, an educational center designed for kids and adults of all ages, and a unique outdoor climbing wall open to the public.