Columbus

The United States’ 15th-largest and 15th-fastest-growing city has been called the No. 1 opportunity city by *Forbes*. This must-visit destination in 2017 (thanks, Expedia) has so many exciting projects underway — like a $125-million renovation and expansion at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, wrapping in July — that there’s never been a better time to meet in the Arch City.

*Greater Columbus Convention Center*  
1.8-million-square-foot center to be highlighted by 373,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space

*AirConnect*  
A one-day drive or one-hour flight from nearly half of the U.S. population

*SmartAsset*  
Named Columbus the #6 best city for conferences in 2016.

*Greater Columbus Convention Center*  
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*Up to 150 daily departures*  
to 33 destinations nonstop

*Metro Population:*  
2.02 million

*Greater Columbus Convention Center*  
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*AirConnect*  
picks up from John Glenn Columbus International Airport to the convention center and downtown hotels every 30 minutes.

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*Time* named Columbus one of the six best big cities in the country and the best big city in the Midwest.

*HOtELS*  

**15 downtown hotels**

**4,000** hotel rooms downtown

**2,100** hotel rooms connected/adjacent to GCCC

**298** hotels citywide

**28,035** hotel rooms citywide

*100+ restaurants*  
within walking distance of the center, including 25 vendors under the roof of the North Market

*Columbus-based Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams* is one of the best in the country, according to *Food & Wine*.

*One of the 25 best tourism websites*  
in the world in 2016, according to Skift
17 Arches along High Street in the Short North have earned Columbus the moniker Arch City.

COSI, the Center of Science and Industry has entered into a first-of-its-kind partnership with the American Museum of Natural History for a new dinosaur exhibit.

61 college and university campuses with a total enrollment of more than 136,000 students

3rd-highest concentration of fashion designers in the country behind New York and Los Angeles

Winner of the $40 million U.S. Department of Transportation Smart City Challenge grant

28 breweries make up the Columbus Ale Trail.

17 coffee shops make up the Columbus Coffee Trail.

Country’s largest free outdoor climbing wall, accessible from paths along the river

253 acres of downtown greenspace, 175 acres on the Scioto Mile along the downtown riverfront

Open 2018
The National Veterans Memorial & Museum opens in mid-2018 on downtown’s Scioto Peninsula — the only place where the stories of U.S. veterans, their families, and the fallen, across all branches of service and all eras of conflict, will be told together.

HOME TO FIVE FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES:
Cardinal Health (21)
Nationwide (69)
American Electric Power (165)
L Brands: Victoria’s Secret, Pink, Bath & Body Works, Henri Bendel, and La Senza (234)
Big Lots (495)

#1 in scaling startups, according to the Kauffman Foundation