



# Destination Guide: Columbus



*Top Picks From AAA Travel Editors - Travel information you can trust*

## **AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks**

AAA Destination Guide: Columbus includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

Beckoning visitors to the Midwest with a pleasing mix of down-home charm and contemporary flair, Columbus has become the country's 15th-largest metropolitan area. Named after Christopher Columbus, the city invites exploration; visitors can even tour a full-size replica of the Santa Maria. Other highlights are as assorted as the area's past residents. The itinerary includes stops at the birthplace of the Civil War general who offered Savannah to President Lincoln as a Christmas present; the 24,000-square-foot complex honoring a Masters golf legend; and the former home of an award-winning author and cartoonist who attended Ohio State University, one of the largest schools in the country.

The city's diversity also is found in its people and surroundings. The legacy of American Indians who once inhabited the region surfaces in the names of places and streets and in preserved historic sites such as Newark Earthworks. More recently, Black Entertainment Television rated Columbus as the top place for African Americans to live. Even within individual neighborhoods, diversity manifests itself. Shoppers in the Short North district can find an antique Qing Dynasty bench, a pound of Amish cheese or an Indian sari. Just next door in Victorian Village, striking houses exhibit a collage of architectural styles. Neighboring Italian Village, which most likely acquired its name from a prominent church, reflects a hodgepodge of ethnic influences, from Irish to Lebanese to Greek. And German Village is a great place for wienerschnitzel.

In addition to the cultural and commercial conveniences this modern city affords, Columbus' historic roots and natural landscapes create a singular

vacation destination. Home to the renowned Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, notable art and science museums and such music-filled events as the Jazz and Rib Fest, this flourishing city captivates and enlightens, no matter which direction you head.

## **Essentials**

Hear the Victory Bell ring at an Ohio State University football game. Weighing 2,420 pounds, the bell sounds at Ohio Stadium after every Buckeye win. Get into the spirit of things by donning scarlet and gray, OSU's official school colors.

Visit the "Umbrella Girl" in [German Village](#), one of the city's oldest neighborhoods. In the 1950s, this bronze statue mysteriously disappeared from Schiller Park. The village dedicated a new version of the young girl, garbed in traditional Bavarian dress and carrying an umbrella, in 1996.

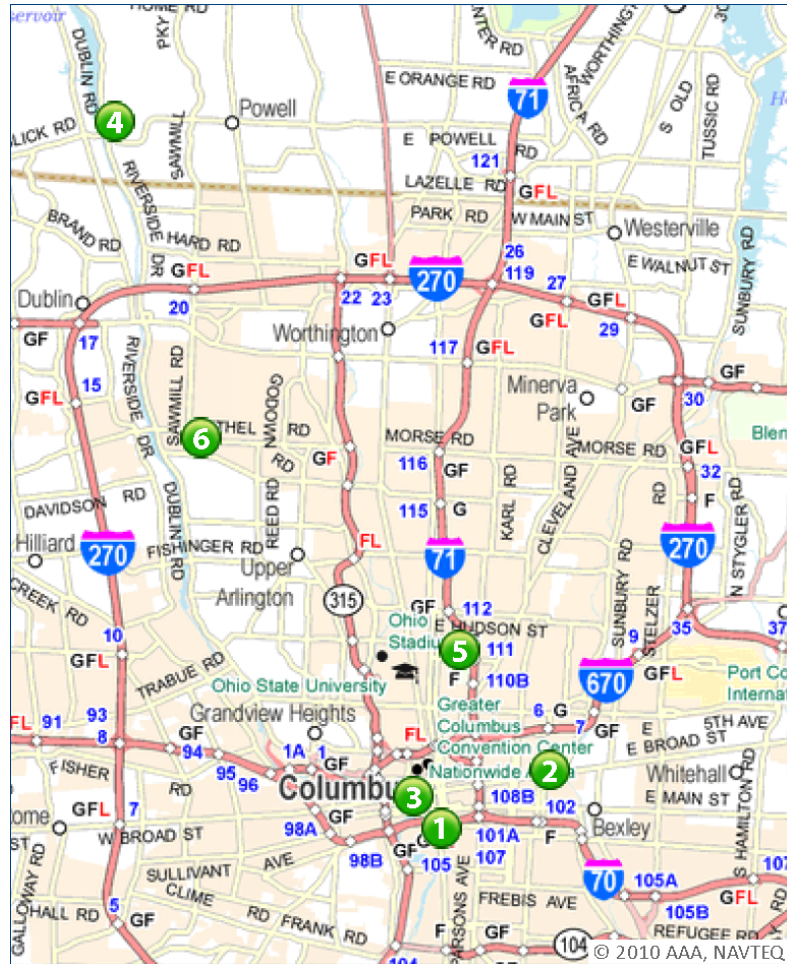


Taste such Mediterranean staples as tabouli and baklava, bring home some petunias and scour for antiques at the North Market. This public farmers' market on Spruce Street is the last of its kind in central Ohio.

Grab a burger at the original Wendy's on the corner of 5th and Broad streets. Dave Thomas opened his first restaurant here in 1969, and you can peruse the memorabilia while you eat.

Take a tour of a tropical rain forest, the Himalayan Mountains or an arid desert at [Franklin Park Conservatory](#), a 12,500-square-foot glass structure built in the style of London's Crystal Palace.

### Essentials Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

### Essentials Details - [Get additional information on AAA.com](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

#### 1. German Village

588 S 3rd St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 221-8888

#### 2. Franklin Park Conservatory

1777 E Broad St  
Columbus, OH 43203  
Phone: (614) 645-8733



#### 3. COSI Columbus

333 W Broad St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 228-1445



#### 4. Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

4850 Powell Rd  
Powell, OH 43065  
Phone: (614) 645-3550



#### 5. Ohio Historical Center

1-71 and 17th Ave  
Columbus, OH 43211  
Phone: (614) 297-2300



#### 6. Graeter's Ice Cream

2555 Bethel Rd  
Columbus, OH 43220  
Phone: (614) 442-7622

Lift a car all by yourself at [COSI Columbus](#), a science center boasting a mix of education and fun. At COSI's outdoor Big Science Park, the Big Giant Lever exhibit lets you raise a 2,437-pound automobile.

Coo at koalas at the [Columbus Zoo and Aquarium](#), one of the few U.S. zoos permanently housing the marsupials. Like the kangaroo, the koala carries its newborn, which is only about the size of a jelly bean, in a pouch.

Watch a newsreel from the 1920s while exploring the 250,000 square-foot [Ohio Historical Center](#). The expansive collection includes animal and plant specimens as well as prehistoric American Indian art.

Unearth a few gems in the Short North arts district. This urban neighborhood on North High Street embraces an eclectic array of art galleries, restaurants and hip boutiques selling everything from African beads and American Indian jewelry to Indonesian baskets.

Dip a spoon into a cup of [Graeter's Ice Cream](#). Heralded as the best ice cream around, the creamy dessert is a lasting tradition in the Midwest. Try Graeter's best seller, Black Raspberry Chip, or Oprah Winfrey's personal favorite, Butter Pecan.

## Restaurants

Whether you're sightseeing, shopping for souvenirs or strolling through such historic neighborhoods as [German Village](#), Columbus' restaurants tempt at every turn. On the menu are local landmarks as well as newer spots creating a buzz in the culinary world.



On the first level of the Miranova office tower is [M](#), a marquee restaurant and bar overlooking the Scioto riverfront. Eclectic American dishes influenced by European and Pacific Rim flavors include Chilean sea bass with shrimp dumplings, veal mignon with shitake mushroom sauce, lobster mashed potatoes and fresh sushi rolls. A dynamic wine list features selections from around the world. Dramatic lighting, ceiling-high sheer curtains and a comfortable outdoor patio are icing on the cake—which at M is filled with a liquid chocolate center and accompanied by Tahitian vanilla ice cream.

For another restaurant with a hip and relaxing cosmopolitan atmosphere, head to [Martini Modern Italian](#), a storefront eatery in the Columbus arts district. Just past the dining room's stark white pillars, you'll see busy chefs preparing a wide variety of authentic Italian appetizers and entrées. Specialties include herb-seared tuna with parmesan risotto, shrimp scampi served over beef tenderloin and rosemary-cured, orange-glazed pork chops. A separate martini bar and an impressive wine list round out the dining experience.

With white tablecloths and an intimate, candlelit dining room, [The Refectory](#) has been a fine-dining tradition in Upper Arlington since 1980. The 19th-century structure—a former church attached to a

schoolhouse—showcases a world-class wine cellar with more than 700 selections. Reflecting the classic and contemporary cuisine of the chef's homeland of Lyon, France, the menu features beluga caviar, mild-spiced duck and venison with plum bordelaise sauce and lyonnaise sausage. Among the tempting desserts are a traditional vanilla crème brûlée and a European cheese plate.

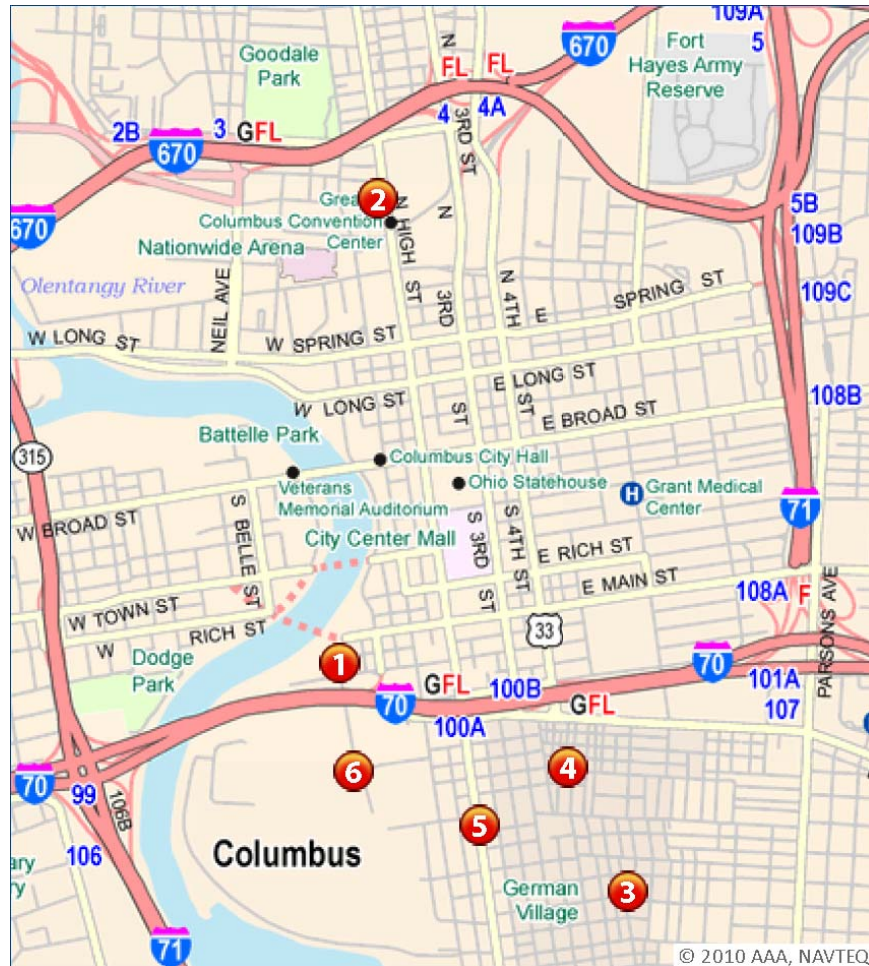
The upscale nautical accents and dark woods at [Columbus Fish Market](#) will make you think you've left port aboard a luxury cruise ship. Serious seafood-lovers flock to northern Columbus, where this restaurant's selection of more than 80 seafood items is so fresh, the menu is printed twice daily. Fish selections can be prepared four ways—steamed with ginger and scallions, grilled, broiled or blackened with étouffée sauce. Other noteworthy specialties include cedar-roasted salmon, hoisin-glazed yellowfin tuna and New England clam chowder, along with macadamia nut-crusted Florida key lime pie for dessert.

Just east of Columbus, [City Barbeque](#) attracts crowds of diners for its down-to-earth Southern specialties, from barbecue chicken and ribs to pulled pork and brisket. The simple dining room features wooden picnic tables adorned with the necessities: rolls of paper towels and a variety of secret-recipe sauces. Made-from-scratch side dishes include such home-style favorites as greens with pork, corn pudding and baked beans. The restaurant also offers carry-out service—you can even order a whole smoked hog!

Aromas drifting from [Cafe Istanbul](#) also tempt shoppers at Easton Town Center. Decorated in the style of a Turkish bazaar, the cozy establishment features a wide selection of Mediterranean dishes. Meat and vegetable specialties include mousakka, stuffed cabbage and okra with lamb morsels. A traditional fish entrée from Rize on the Black Sea includes a choice of salmon, flounder or tilapia broiled in a vegetable sauce. The restaurant also makes its own desserts and occasionally features live entertainment. For a breath of fresh air, dine on the seasonal outdoor patio.

Other shopping districts keep hungry visitors just as satisfied. Polaris Fashion Place is home to Molly Woo's Asian Bistro, which specializes in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean dishes. Its comfortable, modern Asian dining room is a great place to unwind after a hectic day of bargain-hunting in northern Columbus. Although courteous servers are on hand to offer recommendations, ordering is still a daunting task with such delectable choices as Kung Pao calamari and Mongolian hot pots

### Restaurants Map



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filled with ginger-sake shrimp and scallops. Enhance these Eastern flavors by sampling Molly Woo's white tea blended with Valencia orange peels.

The Carriage Place shopping center in Dublin is home to the Chile Verde Cafe. Featuring authentic northern New Mexico cuisine—generally more spicy and flavorful than traditional Mexican dishes—the popular family eatery serves up enormous helpings of barbecue-grilled fajita burritos and spicy Southwestern crab cakes. The zesty salsa is prepared fresh, while a large selection of Mexican beers and margaritas are on hand to wash everything down.

Nestled along a row of Grandview Heights stores, Spagio draws attention for its blend of European and Pacific Rim cuisine as well as its eccentric ambiance. Fascinated passersby gaze through the windows at the dining room, where star-lit tree branches and clusters of glowing umbrellas hang from the ceiling. The menu runs the gamut from traditional Italian antipasto, wood-fired pizzas and potato gnocchi to hoisin-glazed duck and Delmonico steak. Adjacent to the restaurant is a wine shop offering several thousand bottles of premium wine, a wine-tasting area and a cigar lounge.

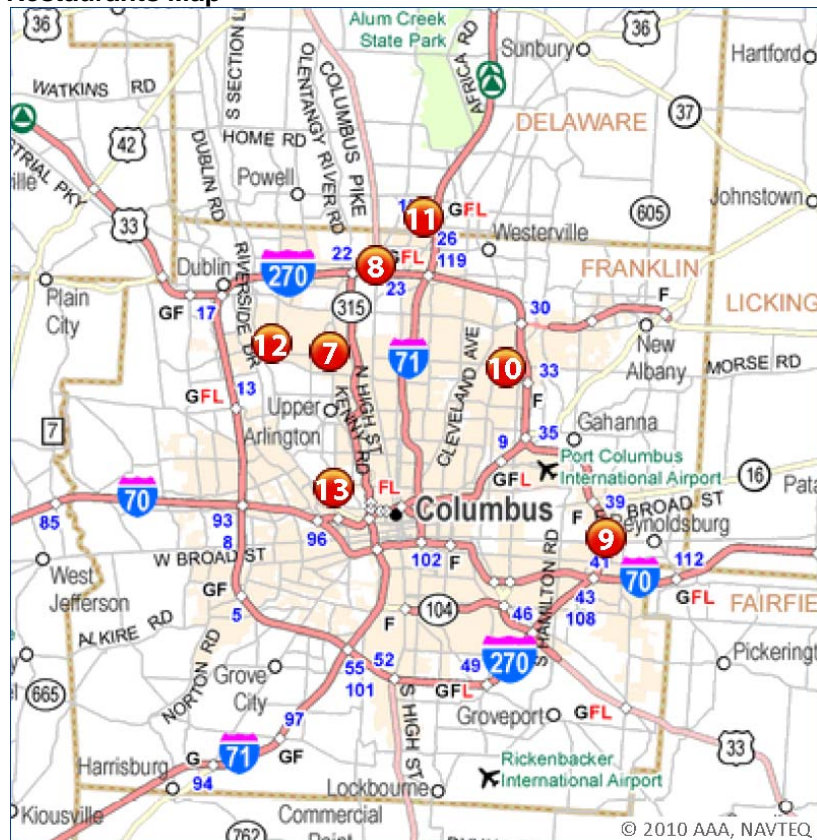
**Restaurants Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](http://AAA.com);**  
**AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](http://AAA.com/Diamonds)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1. M</b> </p> <p>2 Miranova Pl, Suite 100<br/>                     Columbus, OH 43215<br/>                     Phone: (614) 629-0000</p>                             | <p><b>4. Lindey's</b> </p> <p>169 E Beck St<br/>                     Columbus, OH 43206<br/>                     Phone: (614) 228-4343</p>                    |
| <p><b>2. Martini Modern Italian</b> </p> <p>445 N High St<br/>                     Columbus, OH 43215<br/>                     Phone: (614) 224-8259</p>                   | <p><b>5. The Clarmont</b> </p> <p>684 High St<br/>                     Columbus, OH 43215<br/>                     Phone: (614) 443-1125</p>                  |
| <p><b>3. Schmidt's Restaurant and Sausage Haus</b> </p> <p>240 E Kossuth St<br/>                     Columbus, OH 43206<br/>                     Phone: (614) 444-6808</p> | <p><b>6. The Columbus Brewing Company</b> </p> <p>525 Short St<br/>                     Columbus, OH 43215<br/>                     Phone: (614) 464-2739</p> |

Two-story Schmidt's Restaurant und Sausage Haus, a German Village landmark, has served customers since 1886. The eatery re-creates Old World Germany through its signature cuisine—dished up by servers in traditional Bavarian garb—and charming décor, along with live music on most nights. German beers and microbrews complement the restaurant's sausage platters, Wiener schnitzel and cabbage rolls. A buffet also offers a large selection of German and American recipes. With all that food, you may have to make a separate trip for dessert; choices include apple strudel and whopping, half-pound cream puffs.

German Village also is home to Lindey's. Featuring exciting American cuisine, the establishment fashions itself after an Upper East Side New York bistro. The dinner menu features jumbo lump crab cakes, linguini with shrimp and clams and Lindey's signature tournedos of beef. Lunch and children's menus also are available daily, while brunch is served on weekends. Live jazz plays most Thursday and Friday nights. Stay awhile after your meal to sip a Spanish cappuccino or a New Orleans-style hot toddy with dessert—and who could resist the tiramisu or croissant bread pudding with banana caramel sauce?

**Restaurants Map**



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Reminiscent of a '40s-style supper club, The Clarmont transports patrons to another era. The timeless German Village steakhouse, one of the oldest dining establishments in the city, features such highlights as rack of lamb marinated in red wine and bacon-wrapped filet mignon with gorgonzola cheese, along with a wide assortment of fresh salads and seafood. Mouthwatering starters include colossal shrimp cocktail, deep-fried smelt and the ever-popular cream of tomato soup.

**Restaurants Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#); AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)***

**7. The Refectory**   
 1092 Bethel Rd  
 Columbus, OH 43220  
 Phone: (614) 451-9774

**11. Molly Woo's Asian Bistro**   
 1500 Polaris Pkwy, Suite 220  
 Columbus, OH 43240  
 Phone: (614) 985-9667

**8. Columbus Fish Market**   
 40 Hutchinson Ave  
 Columbus, OH 43219  
 Phone: (614) 410-3474

**12. Chile Verde Cafe**   
 4852 Sawmill Rd  
 Dublin, OH 43235  
 Phone: (614) 442-6630

**9. City Barbeque**   
 5979 E Main St  
 Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
 Phone: (614) 755-8890

**13. Spagio**   
 1295 Grandview Ave  
 Grandview Heights, OH 43212  
 Phone: (614) 486-1114

**10. Cafe Istanbul**   
 3983 Worth Ave  
 Columbus, OH 43219  
 Phone: (614) 473-9144

Paradise awaits beer aficionados at the historic brewery district's [The Columbus Brewing Company](#). After a long day of sightseeing, unwind with any one of their six handcrafted ales, or order a tasting flight and sample them all. The hip, casual eatery offers much more than just suds, though. Aside from a large selection of white, red and sparkling wines, the Short Street restaurant features wood-fired pizzas, buttermilk-fried catfish, pecan-crusted chicken and such Cajun-inspired dishes as shrimp served with grits and andouille sausage.

## Attractions

In a city with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."



After moving to the newly designated capital of Columbus in 1816, state officials would wait more than 40 years for a finished Capitol building. A cholera epidemic, harsh winters and other setbacks delayed construction. Today, visitors can tour the splendor of the Greek Revival-style [Ohio Statehouse](#), which

features historical exhibits, artistic treasures and limestone from the banks of the Scioto (sigh-OH-toe) River.

Just across the river to the west is [COSI Columbus](#), a AAA GEM attraction. Shoot water cannons, drive robotic rovers and travel through time at this interactive science center, all while expanding your knowledge of the world around you. Live shows and special events add to the stimulating atmosphere as you learn about such concepts as centripetal force and erosion.

The [Columbus Zoo and Aquarium](#), another long-standing city favorite, is home to more than 660 species, hundreds of which are threatened with extinction. Dedicated to preserving wildlife, the zoo protects such endangered creatures as bald eagles and leopards. This AAA GEM attraction is one of only three facilities outside of Florida exhibiting West

Indian Manatees. The marine mammals live in a 190,000-gallon indoor aquarium at Manatee Coast.

Just north of Columbus in the city of [Delaware](#) are the [Olentangy Indian Caverns](#), a collection of natural caves formed by an underground river millions of years ago. Artifacts on display indicate the Wyandot Indians sought refuge in these caverns from harsh weather and such enemies as the Delaware Indians. Visitors descend a concrete stairway into the maze of passageways, some descending as far as 105 feet below the surface.

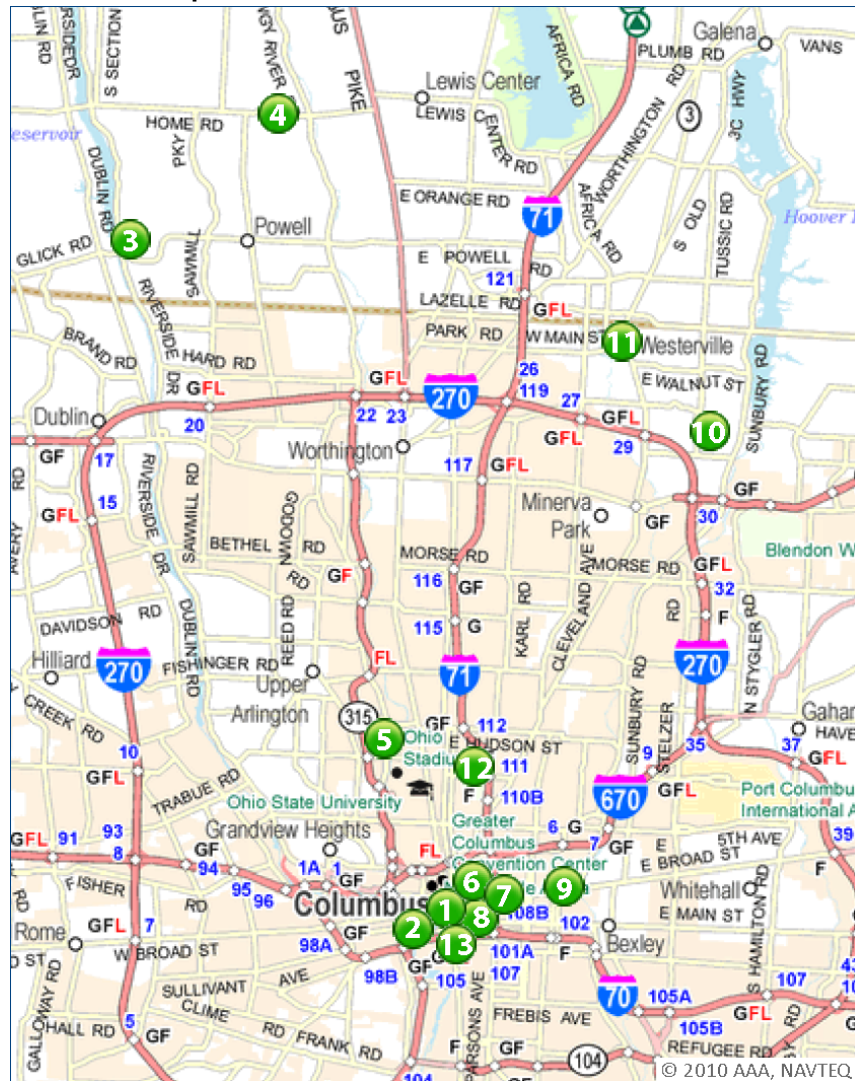
At the [Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum](#) in nearby [Pickerington](#), three major exhibition halls display an ever-changing collection of motorcycles, from a 1912 Indian racer to a 2005 BMW K1200R. Photos, sculptures, riding gear, literature and awards illustrate the story of American motorcycling through the years.

Golf is another beloved diversion in Columbus, the birthplace of Jack Nicklaus. At the Ohio State University sports complex, the [Jack Nicklaus Museum](#) lets visitors pore over items related to his remarkable career. Six of the golfer's Masters Trophies, his Masters green jacket and his 1975 PGA Championship wedge are just a few of the mementos. A pictorial essay chronicles Nicklaus' record-breaking career.

Another Columbus son is memorialized at [The Thurber House](#). Author, humorist and cartoonist James Thurber lived here with his family while attending OSU. Visitors can sit on 1900s-era furnishings, play the downstairs piano or touch the typewriter Thurber used while working for *The New Yorker*.

Just around the corner is the [Columbus Museum of Art](#), sure to inspire visitors with its works by Henri Matisse, American painter Edward Hopper and Columbus native George Bellows. Norman Rockwell, who painted for *The Saturday Evening Post* for more than 4 decades, is also represented in the museum's permanent collection. *Eye Spy*, an educational program for children, took more than 3 years of research and planning to create.

**Attractions Map**



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Children's toys are the main focus at Mid-Ohio Historical Museum, south of Columbus in Canal Winchester. Also known as The Doll and Toy Museum, this attraction presents thousands of toys including collector dolls from the 1920s, more modern collections such as "Star Wars" and

**Attractions Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)***



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

**1. Ohio Statehouse**

Broad St & High St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 728-2695

**2. COSI Columbus**

333 W Broad St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 228-1445



**3. Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**

4850 Powell Rd  
Powell, OH 43065  
Phone: (614) 645-3550



**4. Olentangy Indian Caverns**

1779 Home Rd  
Delaware, OH 43015  
Phone: (740) 548-7917



**5. Jack Nicklaus Museum**

2355 Olentangy River Rd  
Columbus, OH 43210  
Phone: (614) 247-5959

**6. The Thurber House**

77 Jefferson Ave  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 464-1032

**7. Columbus Museum of Art**

480 E Broad St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 221-6801



**8. The Topiary Garden**

480 E Town St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 645-0197

**9. Franklin Park Conservatory**

1777 E Broad St  
Columbus, OH 43203  
Phone: (614) 645-8733



**10. Inniswood Metro Gardens**

940 S Hempstead Rd  
Westerville, OH 43081  
Phone: (614) 895-6216

**11. Westerville**

**12. Ohio Historical Center**

I-71 and 17th Ave  
Columbus, OH 43211  
Phone: (614) 297-2300

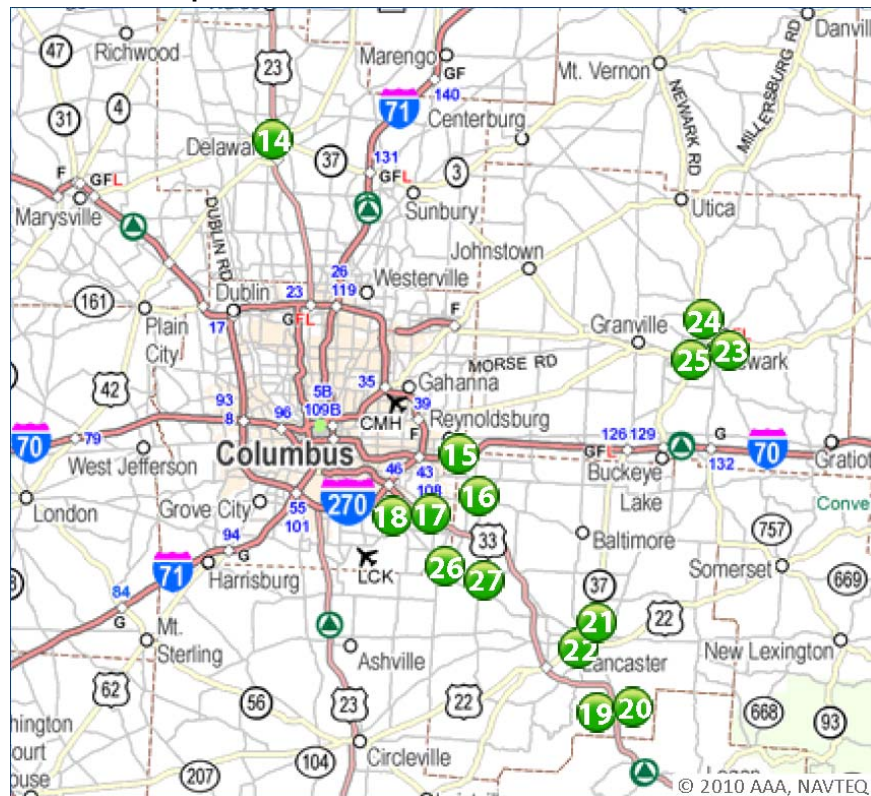


**13. German Village**

588 S 3rd St  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 221-8888

Disney memorabilia, and G.I. Joe action figures. Barbie, who is actually a revamped version of a popular German doll named Lilli, also makes an appearance.

**Attractions Map**



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Step into a work of art at The Topiary Garden, a botanical depiction of the Pointillist painting “A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte.” A local sculptor re-created French artist Georges Seurat’s most recognizable work in this whimsical garden of clipped yews.

A Bonsai collection, exotic orchids and a Pacific Island water garden are just a few of the highlights at the Franklin Park Conservatory. The glass structure was built in 1895 in the style of London’s Crystal Palace. As visitors walk through this AAA GEM Attraction, they’ll find vibrant blown-glass pieces by artist Dale Chihuly interspersed throughout the natural exhibits.

**Attractions Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](http://AAA.com)**

**\$** - Exclusive AAA member discounts available

**14. Delaware**

**15. Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum**  
13515 Yarmouth Dr  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
Phone: (614) 856-2222

**\$**

**16. Pickerington**

**17. Mid-Ohio Historical Museum-Doll & Toy Museum**  
700 Winchester Pike  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110  
Phone: (614) 837-5573

**\$**

**18. Motts Military Museum**  
5075 S Hamilton Rd  
Groveport, OH 43125  
Phone: (614) 836-1500

**19. Wahkeena**  
2200 Pump Station Rd  
Sugar Grove, OH 43155  
Phone: (740) 746-8695

**20. Sugar Grove**

**21. Lancaster**

**22. The Sherman House Museum**  
137 E Main St  
Lancaster, OH 43130  
Phone: (740) 654-9923

**\$**

**23. The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art and Technology**  
55 S First St  
Newark, OH 43055  
Phone: (740) 349-9277

**\$**

**24. Newark**

**25. Newark Earthworks**  
455 Hebron Rd  
Heath, OH 43056  
Phone: (740) 345-8224

**26. Wagnalls Memorial**  
150 E Columbus St  
Lithopolis, OH 43136  
Phone: (614) 837-4765

**27. Lithopolis**

Another tranquil spot is the 150-acre Wahkeena nature preserve in Sugar Grove. Wahkeena is an old Yakima Indian word meaning “most beautiful,” and these forested sandstone cliffs merit the name. Along the nature trails, hikers may come across native orchids, 26 types of ferns, countless birds and such wildlife as the state animal, the white-tailed deer.

A scenic nature preserve surrounds lovely plantings of daffodils, daylilies and more than 2,000 species of plants at Inniswood Metro Gardens in



Westerville. Once headquarters for the Anti-Saloon League, the leading group for prohibition in America, Westerville was known as the “dry capital of the world.”

In nearby Lancaster is The Sherman House Museum, birthplace of General William Tecumseh Sherman and his brother, U.S. Senator John Sherman. The house museum contains family mementos and period furniture. Named Tecumseh after a Shawnee Indian chief, General Sherman led his army on the famous March to the Sea, carving a path of destruction through Confederate Georgia during the Civil War.

Civil War weapons, American Indian art pieces and a mastodon are just a few of the artifacts you'll see at the Ohio Historical Center, the flagship museum in the Ohio Historical Society's statewide system of historical sites. The 250,000-square-foot center houses three permanent exhibits and a 280-seat auditorium. The neighboring 1800s Ohio Village is open during signature events, including games of the Ohio Village Muffins and the Lady Diamonds, teams that play vintage baseball according to Victorian rules.

Traditions also run deep at German Village, a historic downtown district. St. Mary's Catholic Church, built in 1868, may be the focal point, but the village's charm is reflected in small cottages with wrought-iron fences along tree-lined brick streets. Around Third Street, restaurants and shops keep travelers satiated during a day of sightseeing, offering everything from sauerbraten to specialty cheese and European housewares.

Affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art and Technology stirs the creative spirit. Wander the Art Works Gallery for inspiration, take a class on glass blowing or become a scientist in the first floor laboratory. There's always something new to discover at this innovative center in Newark.

Also in the vicinity is the Newark Earthworks, three major segments of earthen enclosures built by Ohio's prehistoric peoples. Experts speculate that the Great Circle, nearly 1,200 feet in diameter, was a ceremonial

hub. The 50-acre Octagon Earthworks and the square Wright Earthworks most likely served religious and social purposes.

South of Columbus, the Wagnalls Memorial in Lithopolis displays memorabilia relating to the Funk & Wagnalls Co., publisher of dictionaries and encyclopedias. The former estate houses two Norman Rockwell paintings that served as covers for the company's early publication, The Literary Digest. The attraction also exhibits art from other former Funk and Wagnalls illustrators as well as a collection of Chinese keepsakes.

## Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of outstanding festivals and events that may coincide with your visit. GEMs are “Great Experiences for Members.”

Events around Columbus range from the traditional—the city's Independence Day celebration, Red, White and Boom—to the not-so-usual Circleville Pumpkin Show, which features a 400-pound pumpkin pie. Visitors who stay out late at these happenings shouldn't fret. As humorist and Columbus native James Thurber wrote: “Early to rise and early to bed makes a male healthy and wealthy and dead.”

With the arrival of spring comes the Asian Festival and its ethnic fare of spring rolls, sushi and satay. The May event includes cultural displays, martial arts performances, cooking demonstrations and an open market selling exotic Asian goods.

The Memorial Tournament in late May epitomizes the rich history and traditions of golf. Started in 1976 by Columbus native Jack Nicklaus, the PGA Tour event takes place at Muirfield Village Golf Club in nearby Dublin. A portion of the proceeds benefits Ohio charities.

The Haus und Garten Tour, a AAA GEM Event, takes place in German Village in late June. Visitors tour eight houses and four gardens embodying the neighborhood revitalization efforts of the German Village

Society. Festivities include gardening demonstrations and a watercolor competition.

The 10-day [Lancaster Festival](#) brings together a diverse mix of musicians; past performers have included R&B singer Aretha Franklin, trumpeter Doc Severinsen and country singer Gary Morris. The visual arts are represented during ArtWalk on the first Friday of the July event.

If there's one don't-miss festival in town, it's the Columbus [Jazz and Rib Fest](#) in late July. Some 400,000 people bring their bibs to this AAA GEM Event, which boasts performances by premiere jazz artists and local



bands—plus 50 tons of barbecued ribs. After chowing down on the award-winning food, take a break and relax to mellow tunes.

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department produces a series of events during the summer called “Music in the Air.” [Festival Latino](#) in June attracts growing crowds with Latin American music and food as well as educational workshops and cultural performances.

Traditional and modern music and dance are highlights of the 3-day [Dublin Irish Festival](#), a AAA GEM Event in August. Cultural draws include Irish storytelling and English Civil War re-enactments.

August is also time for the [Ohio State Fair](#), one of the biggest state fairs in the country. More than 800,000 people attend this 12-day event, which has been offering midway rides, livestock shows, celebrity entertainment and funnel cakes since 1850.

Stand on the sidelines to cheer thousands of runners in the [Columbus Marathon](#) in October. Ranked as one of the top U.S. marathons, the course is mostly flat with a clover-leaf design, looping through downtown and the surrounding suburbs.

The [All American Quarter Horse Congress](#), considered the world's largest single-breed horse show, attracts more than 650,000 people to the Ohio

Expo Center each October. Events include professional bull-riding shows, horse-judging contests and educational lectures.

In November, the [Columbus International Festival](#) promotes international peace and understanding through multicultural exhibits and performances. A Parade of Nations is held daily, and visitors can taste tantalizing dishes from more than 80 countries.

From mid-November to early January, the [Columbus Zoo and Aquarium](#) presents [Wildlights](#), a winter wonderland featuring light displays, holiday activities and an ice skating rink.

## Things to Do

### Shopping

Columbus, the home of the original regional shopping center, is a natural for discovering bargains and hard-to-find items. While the bulk of shopping is done at five suburban malls—Eastland, off I-70 and Hamilton Rd.; Easton Town Center, off I-270 exit 33 at Easton Way; The Mall at Tuttle Crossing, off I-270 and Tuttle Crossing Blvd.; Polaris Fashion Place, off I-71 and Polaris Parkway; and Westland at W. Broad Street and I-270—specialty shops are sprinkled throughout the area.

Among the offerings you'll find at the North Market, which has been in operation since 1876, are ethnic cuisines, flowers, cookware and gift items. On Saturdays during the growing season (May-October), more than 20 farmers set up shop. Saturdays also feature live music, and festivals are held throughout the year. The market, 59 Spruce St., is open Tues.-Fri. 9-7, Sat. 8-5 and Sun. noon-5. The market is also open Mon. 9-5, but this is an optional day for vendors, so you may not find as many as you will on the other days of the week.

College Traditions, 286 W. Lane Ave., and Conrads College Gifts, 316 W. Lane Ave., carry Ohio State University memorabilia for avid Buckeye boosters. German Village, a restored 19th-century German community on 3rd Street south of I-70/I-71, has antiques, books and baked goods.

Short North Arts District, along N. High Street from Poplar Street to Smith Place, offers boutiques, restaurants and eclectic art galleries behind restored 1930s facades.

In the quaint suburb of Grandview Heights, The Marketplace at Grandview Avenue, located between 3rd and 5th avenues, offers a variety of interesting restaurants, cafes, shops and galleries.

Off the I-70 Brice Road exit at 2361 Park Crescent Dr. is JCPenney's Catalog Outlet Store, which posts reductions on merchandise no longer sold in its catalog. Antiques can be found at Greater Columbus Antique Mall, 1045 S. High St., and Heritage Square Antique Mall, off Brice Rd. at 1865 Channingway Dr.

## Performing Arts

With "Sold Out" stamped on many dates of the performing arts calendar, it is evident that a cultural explosion has hit Columbus. When it comes to entertainment, residents like it big and brassy.

The Columbus Association for the Performing Arts, (614) 469-1045, brings to the area productions including well-known musical performers and plays. Professional theater and Broadway shows visit area stages on a regular basis; Broadway Across America performs at the Ohio Theatre and Palace Theatre; phone (614) 224-7654 or (800) 294-1892.

Jazz is prevalent in Columbus, with the Jazz Arts Group's Columbus Jazz Orchestra playing the familiar Big Band sounds of Count Basie, Louis Armstrong and Woody Herman; phone (614) 294-5200. The 17-piece big band plays a subscription series at The Southern Theatre, 21 E. Main St.; phone (614) 469-0939 for tickets. The ProMusica Chamber Orchestra also offers concert series at The Southern Theatre; phone (614) 464-0066. Aspiring musicians compose the Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble, which performs on campus.

The Columbus Symphony Orchestra plays a regular 9-month concert season in the opulent Ohio Theatre, directly across from the Ohio

Statehouse. The venue is decorated with plaster ceilings, brocaded paneling, gold leaf trim and a chandelier in the grand foyer; phone (614) 228-9600. The symphony also presents pops and chamber music concerts as well as youth concerts.

Opera Columbus performs several major opera productions throughout the year; phone (614) 461-8101 for information or (614) 469-0939 for tickets. BalletMet, (614) 229-4848, produces classical and contemporary works. Zivili performs the dance and music of the former Yugoslavia; phone (740) 587-7715.

Community groups also provide a full schedule. Gallery Players at the Jewish Community Center offers productions, including musicals; phone (614) 231-2731 for tickets. Contemporary American Theater Company (CATCo) performs in the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St.; phone (614) 469-0939 for tickets. Grove City's Little Theatre Off Broadway performs comedies, dramas and musicals; phone (614) 875-3919.

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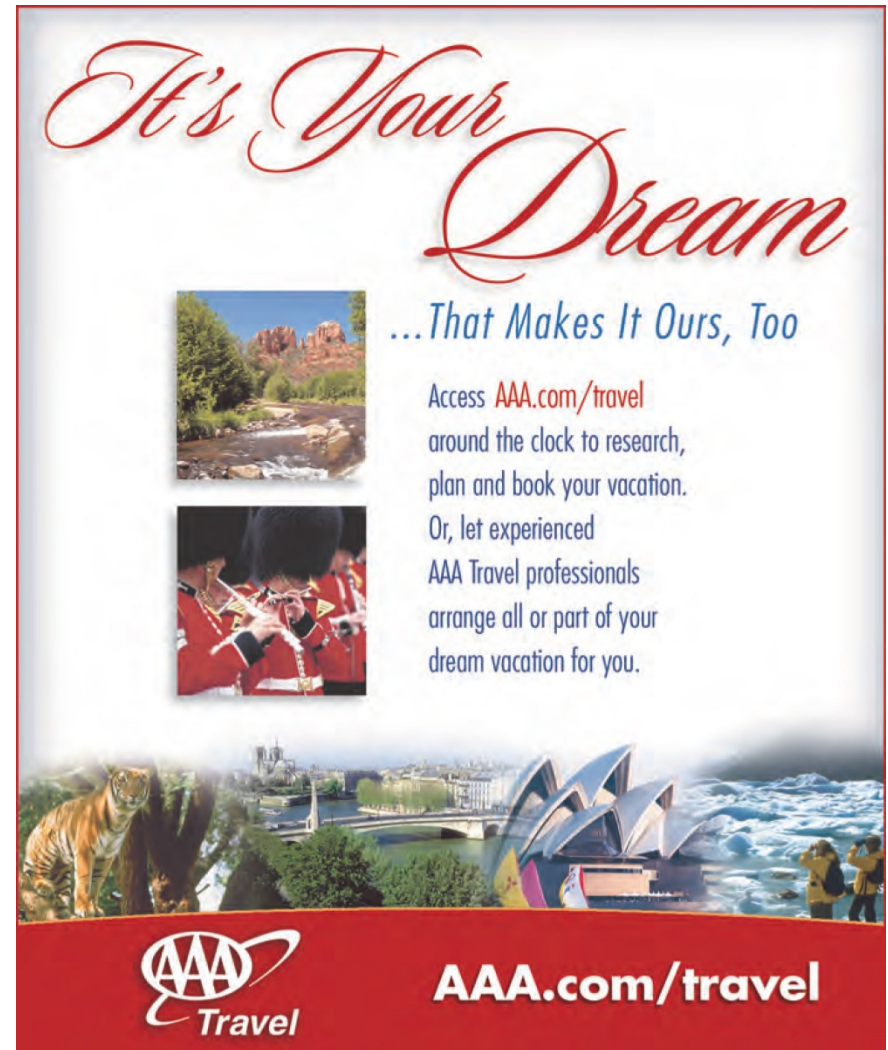
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