COLUMBUS INFO & FUN FACTS

In 2012, Columbus, the 15th largest city in the United States, will celebrate its Bicentennial as a diverse, open and vibrant city that is one of the best places to live, work, play and raise a family. As Columbus turns 200, it has gained national attention as an emerging destination for visitors due to its recognition as one of the nation’s leading gay travel markets and its nationally-recognized culinary and arts scenes.

It is also a city for young professionals with an average age of 32.5 years, 6th youngest in the U.S., and the nation’s second highest per capita number of college students, with more than 120,000 students among 12 institutions of higher learning.

Columbus is also no stranger to girls’ youth volleyball and USA Volleyball sanctioned events. The Greater Columbus Convention Center hosts the most USA Volleyball sanctioned tournaments in the U.S. in a year with as many as 62 courts in use at one time, including several national and regional tournaments each year run by the Ohio Valley Region. Nearly 10,000 teams and over 116,000 volleyball players have competed inside the convention center since it opened in 1993, including the Ohio Valley Regional Championships and national bid qualifiers.

Columbus also hosted the 2000 and 1930 USA Volleyball Open National Championships, the top event for adult competition in the United States. The event in 2000 was held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, while the 1930 event was the third-ever in the 82-year history of the Open Nationals.

We are proud of all of the offerings you will find when you visit Columbus and here are some more fun facts:

- COSI named the #1 Science Center in U.S. for Families (Parents Magazine, August 2008)
- The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium voted #1 Favorite U.S. Zoo (USA Travel Guide, February 2009)
- #4 Best City for Shopping in America (Forbes, December 2010)
- #13 Arts Destination (American Style Magazine, May 2010)
- Columbus: A Top City for Biking (Bicycling Magazine, March 2010)
- #1 Sports Town in the U.S. (Scarborough Sports Marketing Analysis, October 2008)
- #9 America’s Biggest Brain Magnets (Forbes, February 2011)
- #9 Best City for New College Grads (Bloomberg Business Week, August 2010)
Columbus among best places for business and careers (Forbes, April 2010)
• #25 Best City for Young Professionals (Forbes, July 2008)
• Columbus Named Among Top 15 Most Affordable Cities to Live (Forbes, January 2011)
• #5 America’s Most Relaxed Cities (Forbes, November 2010)
• #2 Safe Cities for Families with Young Children (Underwriter Laboratories Study, September 2010)
• #16 Gay City in America (UCLA Williams Institute, July 2010)
• Columbus Among Top 10 Big Cities (RelocateAmerica, April 2010)
• Columbus Rates as One of Top 2 Cities in Midwest for Young Adults (Portfolio.com, March 2010)
• #1 Best Place in Ohio to Raise Children (Business Week, November 2008)

Keep reading to learn more about all the things Columbus has to offer including city information, fun facts, directions, dining and shopping options, local events during your stay, sights and attractions and use the following websites below:

• Greater Columbus Sports Commission: www.colubumbussports.org
• Greater Columbus Sports Commission Mobile Site: http://cptr.it/sports
• Greater Columbus Convention Center: http://www.columbusconventions.com/
• Greater Columbus Convention Center Directions, Parking and Interactive Map: http://www.columbusconventions.com/directionsandmaps.php
• Greater Columbus Convention Center Mobile App: http://swiftmobile.com/columbus/
• Experience Columbus: www.experiencecolumbus.com

COLUMBUS MAPS & DIRECTIONS

Columbus is the capital of Ohio, located in the center of the state, halfway between Cleveland and Cincinnati at the intersection of I-70 and I-71. Columbus is also centrally located in the United States within 550 miles of more than half of the U.S. population. You will find the city very accessible and easy to get around. Port Columbus International Airport is located just 10 minutes east of downtown along Interstate 670.

Directions to the Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215 | (614) 827-2500

From I-70 on the East (Wheeling)
Take I-70 West to the Fourth Street Exit
Travel North on Fourth Street to Nationwide Boulevard
Turn Left onto Nationwide Boulevard

From I-71 on the North (Cleveland)
Take I-71 South
Travel West on I-670 “109-A”
Take Exit “4-B” to the Greater Columbus Convention Center
OR
Take I-71 South to the Spring Street Exit
Travel West on Spring Street to Fourth Street
Head North on Fourth Street to Nationwide Boulevard
Turn Left onto Nationwide Boulevard

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From I-71 on the South (Cincinnati)
Take I-71 North to I-70 East
Travel on I-70 East to the Fourth Street Exit
Head North on Fourth Street to Nationwide Boulevard
Turn Left onto Nationwide Boulevard

From I-70 on the West (Indianapolis)
Take I-70 East to the Fourth Street Exit
Head North on Fourth Street to Nationwide Boulevard
Turn Left onto Nationwide Boulevard

From the Port Columbus Airport
Take I-670 West
Exit at “4-B” to the Greater Columbus Convention Center

DINING & SHOPPING

Columbus’ Nationally-Recognized Culinary Scene

What started out as a comfort food capital has blossomed into one of the country’s most innovative and diverse food scenes. From boutique bakeries and artisan distilleries to fine dining and gourmet street carts, Columbus is an incubator for culinary visionaries of every style. Here you’ll find hundreds of restaurants offering most every kind of cuisine.

Savor spicy vegetable curry at Indian Oven, enjoy a variety of Asian fare at Molly Woo’s Asian Bistro, or count on M for upscale dining and stunning skyline views. German Village boasts long-time favorite bistro Lindey’s for American cuisine, G. Michael’s for contemporary Italian and Barcelona for Mediterranean-inspired dishes and one of the best patios in the city.

In the hip Short North Arts District, linger over roasted chicken and lemon risotto at five-star Rigsby’s Kitchen and walk next door to award-winning Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams for creative flavor combinations straight from local farms to your cone. For more gourmet fare, head up High Street near The Ohio State University to another local favorite, Alana’s Food & Wine.

In the downtown Arena District, try Buca di Beppo for home-style Italian and the North Market for everything from giant deli sandwiches, spicy Pad Thai and fresh salsa to artisan ice cream and rich pastries.

From casual to contemporary, fast food to five-star, it’s all here. Many of Columbus’ favorite dining establishments are within walking distance or a short ride from the Greater Columbus Convention Center. For all the buzz on the city’s local food scene, check out Facebook.com/ColumbusFoodScene.
ARENA DISTRICT (www.arenadistrict.com)
343 Front Street Tavern, BD’s Mongolian Grill, Big Bang Dueling Piano Bar, Boston’s the Gourmet Pizza, Buca di Beppo, Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant, Max & Erma’s on the Boulevard, R Bar Arena, Sunny Street Café, Ted’s Montana Grill, The Three-Legged Mare, W.G. Grinder’s

Also in the Arena District is Columbus’ own North Market, which has served the area since 1876. The North Market merchant community offers the finest in fresh and prepared foods, flowers, ethnic cuisine and unique gifts. This historic market is conveniently located one block west of the Greater Columbus Convention Center and one block north of Nationwide Arena.

DOWNTOWN
Barrio, Due Amici, Elevator Brewery & Draught Haus, Flatiron Bar & Diner, Indian Oven, Latitude 41, M, Mitchell’s Steakhouse, Dirty Frank’s Hotdog Palace

GERMAN VILLAGE/BREWERY DISTRICT
Barcelona, Claddagh Irish Pub, G. Michael’s American Bistro & Bar, Lindey’s, Max & Erma’s, Schmidt’s Restaurant und Sausage Haus, Tony’s Italian Ristorante

SHORT NORTH
Barley’s Brewing Company, Basi Italia, Haiku, Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse, Japanese Steak House, Marcella’s, Martini Modern Italian, Rigsby’s Kitchen, Surly Girl Saloon, Betty’s Fine Food & Spirits, ZenCha Tea Salon

OSU/UNIVERSITY DISTRICT
The South Campus Gateway, near the intersection of High Street and 11th Avenue, offers casual and fun dining with restaurants including Eddie George’s Grille 27, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, Mad Mex, Kildare’s Restaurant & Saloon and Ugly Tuna Saloon.

One of the Top Shopping Destinations in the Country

Columbus is a shopaholic’s heaven, filled with great deals and fashion-forward styles. From unique boutiques and art galleries to enormous shopping centers and outlet malls, Ohio’s capital city has a shopping destination for everyone.

EASTON TOWN CENTER
Easton Town Center features entertainment, dining and retail in an indoor/outdoor setting. Easton offers a wide variety of upscale home stores—Crate & Barrel, Restoration Hardware, Sur la Table, Williams-Sonoma; specialty shops—The Apple Store, Brighton Collectibles, Tiffany, Harry & David; and fashion retailers—Abercrombie & Fitch, Ann Taylor, Anthropologie, BCBG MAXAZRIA, bebe, J. Crew and Nordstrom among others.

THE MALL AT TUTTLE CROSSING
This complex located just off I-270 on the city’s northwest side, is yet another shopping destination that includes three anchors (Macy’s, JCPenney, Sears) and 150 specialty shops and also has a number of family-oriented features.
POLARIS FASHION PLACE
Polaris Fashion Place, one of the region’s largest indoor malls, features six anchor stores (Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy’s, the great indoors, Sears, Von Maur and JCPenney) and 150 other specialty shops.

SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT
The Short North Arts District’s eclectic galleries and shops are all within walking distance of the convention center. Shoppers can find fine art, antiques, clothing, furniture, books, jewelry, candles and even gourmet food all along one amazing stretch of High Street.

OSU-UNIVERSITY DISTRICT
The South Campus Gateway on the south end of The Ohio State University campus holds Arts in the Alley, Barnes & Noble, Finish Line, GameStop and Pitaya, a unique clothing store.

For information on all of the unique districts, attractions, entertainment, restaurants, shopping and performing arts, visit experiencecolumbus.com or call 866-397-2657.

LOCAL EVENTS IN COLUMBUS

Major League Soccer’s (MLS) Columbus Crew will host their rival Real Salt Lake on Saturday, June 30th at 8:00 p.m. for Red, White & Crew, which is the team’s game to celebrate the July 4th holiday. The Columbus Crew welcomes all USA Volleyball Championship participants and fans!

Tickets start at only $15, a 30% SAVINGS! Arrive early and enjoy all that Crew Stadium has to offer with Military themed displays, interactive booths and a live, pre-game performance on the plaza! Then, stay after the game for a Red, White and Crew fireworks spectacular! Ask about the Crew Value Pack which includes a game ticket, Pepsi product and hot dog if purchased in advance of the game. To purchase tickets, contact Avin Assomull at 614-447-4106 or aassomull@thecrew.com.

The Columbus Clippers, the Triple-A affiliate of Major League Baseball’s Cleveland Indians, will have six games during the USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships. The Clippers play at Huntington Park, which opened in 2009 and was the Winner of three 2009 Ballpark of the Year Awards from DigitalBallparks.com, BaseballParks.com and BallparkDigest.com over Yankee Stadium and Citi Field. Huntington Park is located just five miles north of Downtown Columbus on Interstate 71 and can be accessed from the 17th Street and Hudson St. exits. You can learn more about the Crew at www.thecrew.com.
The six Clippers games are listed below. For ticket information, call (614) 462-5250 and for more information on the team, visit www.clippersbaseball.com.

**Columbus Clippers vs. Norfolk Tides**
- Thursday, June 28 @ 7:05 PM
- Friday, June 29 @ 7:05 PM
- Saturday, June 30 @ 7:05 PM
- Sunday, July 1 @ 6:05 PM
- Postgame Fireworks

**Columbus Clippers vs. Indianapolis Indians**
- Friday, July 6 @ 7:05 PM
- Postgame Fireworks

Daily Specials in 2012: Sun. – Bob Evans Family Days; Mon. – Dime-a-Dog Nights; Tues. – City Barbeque Buck-a-Bone; Wed. – Knot Hole Kids Club & Roosters 50 cent Wing Night; Thurs. – Thirsty Thursdays... Beverage Special promotion; Fri. – Party-at-the-Park...Pre-game drink specials and Buck-a-Bone in Right-field Picnic Plaza with live Band; Sat. – Pre-game live Band in Right-field Picnic Plaza.

**Red, White & Boom!** is Central Ohio’s premier Independence Day celebration Fireworks Show and will be held on Tuesday, July 3rd. Columbus will You can enjoy live music and great food from 3 PM to Midnight on Nationwide Blvd. and the fireworks show will begin at 10 p.m. along the Scioto River in downtown Columbus, just minutes from the Greater Columbus Convention Center. For more information on directions, viewing areas, parking and more, visit www.redwhiteandboom.org.

Also for Red, White & Boom, the Columbus Clippers will host “Ballpark Boom IV,” where you can watch the fireworks show from the cozy confines of Huntington Park. On July 3, enjoy Red, White & Boom and entertainment from the Street Players and McGuffey Lane. There will be a wide range of activities to keep the whole family entertained. The team will be serving up plenty of your ballpark favorites for your enjoyment, restrooms will be readily available. Tickets are just $5, and go on sale to the public on June 18. For more information, visit the promotions page at www.clippersbaseball.com.

**Short North Arts District Gallery Hop**

In just walking distance north of the Greater Columbus Convention Center on High Street is nationally-acclaimed Short North Arts District. Every first Saturday of each month, Short North hosts “Gallery Hop,” in which thousands of visitors converge on High Street to see new art exhibits and add to their growing collections. With dozens of galleries and non-traditional exhibit spaces, it’s Columbus’ favorite night of the month to celebrate art. Though many shops are open earlier, the Gallery Hop officially starts at 4PM and runs to 10PM with restaurants and bars staying open considerably later. For more information visit, www.shortnorth.org.

**SIGHTS AND ATTRACTIONS**

When night falls, there’s no shortage of things to do within walking distance or a short cab ride of the Greater Columbus Convention Center with our four vibrant entertainment districts: the Arena District, the Short North Arts District, the historic German Village and the campus of The Ohio State University. Columbus also has a list of nationally top-ranked attractions including the number one zoo (Columbus Zoo & Aquarium) and science center (COSI) in America, according to US Travel Guide and Parents magazine, respectively.
The Short North Arts District is filled with funky galleries, trendy restaurants and hip bars. For 24 beers on draught, organic wines and a full menu of unique cocktails, stop by Surly Girl Saloon. Sample a home brew at Barley’s Brewing Company. And if you’re an art lover, plan a trip for the first Saturday of every month to take in a Gallery Hop.

The Arena District is another destination for non-stop nightlife and performing arts options are a staple of the Columbus night scene with its restaurants and lively bars, funky art galleries, sporting events, nonstop nightlife with local bands or a big-name concert.

If your tastes run to classical or swingin’ big band fare, see the Columbus Jazz Orchestra or the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Feeling theatrical? CATCO and the Brewery District’s Shadowbox: The Sketch Comedy and Rock-n-Roll Club are great bets for drama and comedy. Or catch a performance by BalletMet or Broadway Across America–Columbus.

ARENA DISTRICT
As the premier entertainment district in downtown Columbus, Ohio, the Arena District, a 95-acre planned development surrounding Nationwide Arena and Huntington Park, offers dining, accessible parking, live entertainment with an upscale movie theater the Arena Grand Theatre, and the LC, an indoor/outdoor music hall styled after the House of Blues., sports teams and major community events.

COLUMBUS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
CAPA is one of America’s premier presenters of national and international performing artists and classic films. With outstanding venues in Columbus and New Haven, Connecticut, and presenting partnerships throughout Ohio, CAPA is dedicated to offering the best in entertainment experiences.

COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART
The Columbus Museum of Art features works from an outstanding collection of Impressionists, German Expressionists, Cubists, American Modernists and contemporary artists, including works by Degas, Monet, Matisse, Picasso, Bellows, Hopper, Marin and O’Keeffe. The Museum will remain open throughout extensive renovation and expansion, which is scheduled to be completed in 2012.

COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM
Voted the favorite zoo of America by USA Travel Guide, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium hosts more than 2.5 million visitors each year, and has received national recognition for its success in breeding cheetahs and lowland gorillas. Located along the banks of the Scioto River, the zoo is a picturesque setting of naturalistic wildlife habitats – including an endangered manatees exhibit, gardens, picnic areas, recreational facilities and a golf course. The newest exhibit, Polar Frontier, is home to two polar bears, two Alaskan brown bears and Arctic foxes. The zoo also operates the 22.7-acre water park Zoombezi Bay, which features 17 water slides, a wave pool, an action river and lazy river, a kiddie play pool and private cabanas.
COSI
Ranked the number one science center in the country for families by Parents Magazine, COSI features more than 300 interactive exhibits throughout its discovery-based and themed exhibition areas, including Ocean, Space, Gadgets, Life, little kidspace®, Progress and the outdoor Big Science Park. It creatively combines science facts and learning through play, providing experiences for all age levels. COSI also hosts world-class traveling exhibitions throughout the year.

FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
The Franklin Park Conservatory features horticulture from a wide variety of climate zones, as well as large bonsai and orchid collections. Its signature 1895 Victorian glass Palm House and 73,000 square feet of greenhouse is situated in a 90-acre park just east of downtown. As part of its focus on combining fine arts with horticulture, the Conservatory is the only signature collection from the internationally acclaimed glass artist Dale Chihuly and a permanent light installation by world-renowned artist James Turrell. Special exhibits include an annual living butterfly display and the Scotts Miracle-Gro Community Garden Campus, which is open to the public year round.

GERMAN VILLAGE
Just south of downtown, this 233-acre restored neighborhood 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 you’ll find lovingly restored red-brick homes, wrought iron fences, glorious urban gardens and some of the city’s finest restaurants and specialty retailers.

JACK NICKLAUS MUSEUM
The Jack Nicklaus Museum includes interactive exhibits and memorabilia documenting Nicklaus’ career as a golfer, golf course designer, businessman and family man. Highlights include a series of exhibits that chronicle Nicklaus’ playing career through his performance in the sport’s five major championships – the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open, PGA Championship and U.S. Amateur.

THE KING ARTS COMPLEX
The King Arts Complex is located on the near east side of Columbus, one of the oldest African-American neighborhoods in the city. It celebrates the contributions of African Americans throughout history with dynamic artistic and educational offerings, including art exhibitions, indoor and outdoor concerts, theater and dance performances. The permanent, interactive exhibit “Cargo: The Middle Passage” is designed to look, sound and feel like a slave ship to provide a sense of the hardships of the long journey from Africa to the New World.

OHIO HISTORY CENTER
Described by the 1989 Smithsonian Guide to Historic America as “probably the finest museum in America devoted to pre-European history,” the Ohio History Center is both the headquarters of the Ohio Historical Society and a museum showcasing Ohio’s history from the Ice Age to 1970. The Ohio History Center also hosts a number of exciting temporary exhibits throughout the year, and the adjacent Ohio Village is open to the public for special public events, school groups and private events.

OHIO STATEHOUSE
A National Historic Landmark and a masterpiece of 19th century Greek Revival architecture, the Ohio Statehouse was completed in 1861 and restored in 1996. The new, interactive Ohio Statehouse Museum encourage visitors to participate in the government process, challenges their knowledge of Ohio history and government and even allows them to give a State of the State address. Tours of the Statehouse are given daily.
SHADOWBOX LIVE
Shadowbox Live, The Sketch Comedy and Rock-n-Roll Club, which moved to the Brewery District in August 2011, delivers a high-energy mix of outrageous original comedy, theatrical shorts and live music. Providing a unique entertainment alternative that has been called “theatre for the attention deficient,” Shadowbox is no traditional theater experience.

SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT
Here, visitors will find the city’s largest and most eclectic collection of art galleries, with works by local, national and international artists. This district also has restaurants, pubs and specialty shops. Most businesses stay open late the first Saturday of each month for the popular “Gallery Hop.” The Short North is on the north edge of downtown, marked by 17 lighted arches along High Street.

THEATRES
Downtown Columbus features three historic theaters, the Ohio, Palace and Southern. They are home to the Columbus Symphony, BalletMet, Broadway Across America-Columbus, Columbus Jazz Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Opera Columbus and the city’s many other performing arts groups. The Ohio is a 1928 movie palace with a lush, Spanish-Baroque flair. The Palace is modeled after France’s Palais de Versailles and opened in 1926. The Southern, originally opened in 1896, was renovated and reopened in September 1990. The historic Lincoln Theatre reopened in May 2009 after a $13.5 million restoration and the 1928 theater once hosted jazz greats such Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Miles Davis.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
The Wexner Center for the Arts is an internationally-known contemporary arts center on the campus of The Ohio State University. The center serves as a laboratory for the arts, with exhibitions, performances, films, artistic residencies and educational programs. The building, a landmark of postmodern architecture, houses galleries, performance spaces, a film video theater, a store and a cafe.

For information on all of the unique districts, attractions, entertainment, restaurants, shopping and performing arts, visit experiencecolumbus.com or call 866-397-2657.

LAUNDROMATS

Central Columbus

Spintown – (624) 885-7890
4934 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43214

Blue Bubble Express Laundromat – (614) 725-1805
2380 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43202

Campus Laundry – (614) 291-0721
1400 High Street, Columbus, OH 43201

Rainbow Dry Cleaners – (614)299-8592
113 Michigan Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

Wash Land – (614) 272-8861
1469 West Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43222
North Columbus

**Worthington Laundry & Dry Cleaners** – (614) 847-9274
1101 Worthington Woods Boulevard, Worthington, OH 43085

**LA Cleaners** – (614) 882-2995
6113 Maxtown Rd, Westerville, OH 43082

**Swan Cleaners** – (614) 882-5115
1620 East Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43229

**Shelby’s Laundromat** – (614) 659-0980
1870 Hard Rd, Columbus, OH 43235

East Columbus

**Buckeye Linen, Mat, & Uniform Services, Inc.** – (740) 345-4045
76 Jefferson Street, Newark, OH 43055

**Jeff’s Laundromat** – (740) 366-1434
1052 Mount Vernon Rd, Newark, OH 43055

**SC Wash and Tan** – (614) 367-6715
4400 East Main Street, Columbus, OH 43213

**Clean Express Maytag Coin** – (614) 231-9274
25 North James Road, Columbus, OH 43213

Southeast Columbus

**Mr B’s Laundry & Cleaners** – (614) 575-0900
2755 Independence Village Ctr, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

**Spring Creek Laundry** – (614) 862-9274
6800 Refugee Road, Canal Winchester, OH 43110

South Columbus

**Eastgrove Sunshine Laundromat** – (614) 871-9166
3969 Hoover Road, Grove City, OH 43123

West Columbus

**Hilliard Coin Laundry** – (614) 219-7180
4120 Wayne Street, Hilliard, OH 43026

Northwest Columbus

**Powell Dry Cleaning System Inc.** – (614) 792-1118
3972 Powell Road, Powell, OH 43065

**Rainbow Dry Cleaners**
6550 Riverside Drive, Dublin, OH 43017

**Collins Ave Laundry** – (937) 642-8398
225 Collins Avenue, Marysville, OH 43040