

DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW IN LICKING COUNTY

Blow a glass ornament, blend your own custom tea, walk on a 13,000-year-old Cranberry bog and much more

Conveniently located off I-70, just 25 miles east of Columbus, Licking County has a wide choice of new experiential group adventures offering engaging, unique and hands-on activities perfect to spice up any itinerary.

Licking County is the only place in the world where you can explore a 13,000 year-old Cranberry bog. Enjoy creating a blown glass ornament or fuse glass to make a sun catcher in a working glass studio. Mix herb and botanicals to create your own tea blends and enjoy lunch or dinner in an 1860s romantic picturesque home with live entertainment.

House the canal built

Step back in time as you tour one of America's most beautiful houses, the **Robbins Hunter Museum**. Blend your own special flavor of tea and botanicals, then savor your tea with a homemade scone. Hear fascinating stories as you explore the Greek Revival home, which has 27 rooms, including one shaped like an octagon. Each are filled with 18th and 19th century American and European collections.

*Suitable for groups of 12-48.
 \$15 per person.*

Glass art 101

Travel back in time to discover the rich history of glass making at **The Works**, a Smithsonian Affiliate Museum. Watch a glass blowing demonstration and blow a glass ornament or fuse glass for a sun catcher or jewelry.

Tours from \$4-\$25 per person.

All aboard

Hop aboard the **Queen of the Lake II** for a guided tour of the shoreline of Buckeye Lake or take a boat ride to the 13,000-year-old **Cranberry Bog**, a one-of-a-kind floating island where you can stroll through time. Learn more at the **Buckeye Lake Museum**, home to over 1,000 artifacts from the Buckeye Lake region including nostalgia from the former Buckeye Lake Amusement Park and the Ohio Erie Canal.

Tours from \$4-\$20 per person.

Tea-riffic teas

Experience culture at its finest in the quaint, historic **Davis-Shai House**, which originally sat alongside the Ohio-Erie Canal. Savor the taste of delicious cuisine during tea, lunch or dinner and be entertained by outstanding local

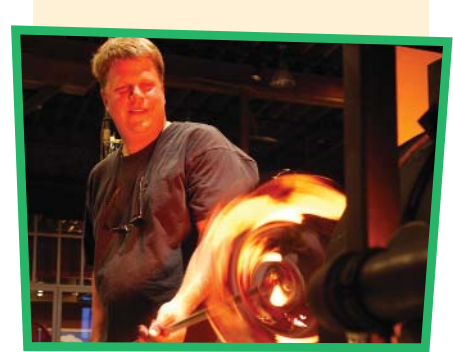
talent such as the Amazing American Women or a "whodunit" murder mystery. Enjoy the ambience and learn the home's history.

Tours from \$16.95-\$24.95 person.

Book your tour today

For more information, contact Amber Lewis, tourism marketing manager for the Greater Licking County Convention and Visitors Bureau, at 800-589-8224 or ALewis@lccvb.com. Contact Amber any time for complimentary group tour planning assistance.

Additional group tour-friendly activities can be found on www.lccvb.com.



The Works



Davis-Shai House



Queen of the Lake II



Robbins Hunter Museum



COME TO COLUMBUS

Hello!

We're thrilled to share that the American Bus Association has once again selected a Central Ohio event for its Top 100 Events in North America. Named to the 2010 list was the Can-Am Police-Fire Games, which will be held Aug. 15-22, 2010 in Dublin. It's a week-long, Olympic-type competition among police officers, fire fighters and emergency personnel with 58 events, including basketball and cycling.

You're invited to visit Columbus for a personal site visit. You pick the date and we'll customize your visit. We'd love to show you all there is to experience in Columbus. With 57 experiential activities ranging from sports, cooking and gardens to history and arts and culture, there's something geared to everyone's interest.

Look for Columbus at the National Tour Association Annual Convention on Nov. 14-16 and at ABA's Marketplace on Jan. 15-19. And, we'll host Heartland Travel Showcase Feb. 18-21. See the back panel for details. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Alissa Brian

Alissa Preston, Tourism Sales Manager – professional tour operator contact
Brian Cheek, Tourism Sales Manager – group leader contact



BRING YOUR MYSTERY TOUR TO COLUMBUS

With a wide selection of attractions, Central Ohio is an ideal location for your next mystery tour

Looking for a destination for your mystery tours? Consider Columbus as you plan your tours for 2010-2011.

Our attractions and hotels will be happy to work with you to fit your schedule and accommodate your groups' needs. And, of course, Experience Columbus staff also can be of assistance in planning your itinerary.

Booking a short-term tour is easy here, too. Recently, we worked with an operator to plan a four-day mystery tour less than a month out.

Columbus' wealth of entertaining attractions and packed calendar of special events will give you plenty of options from which to choose.

Below are just a few of the activities that were recently featured on mystery tours:

- The interactive dinner theater in **Ohio Village**, where the audience is a part of the story. Figure out "whodunit"

at the entertaining "Dickens of a Mystery" or discover the mysterious powers of the necklace of the Mummy Princess during "Mayhem and Mystery at the Museum" (bottom).

Two other shows are available and all can be held at other venues along with Ohio Village, a re-creation of an 1800s town.

- Gardening lessons from the expert horticulturists at **Franklin Park Conservatory**. Find out how to develop your green thumb and learn how to attract butterflies to your yard.

- Cooking with a pro at **Woodhaven Farm** (top). Join Tami J. Cecil, a Culinary Institute of America trained chef and the star of Ohio News Network's *Chef Tami*

cooking show, to create tempting meals from start to finish.

- A guided tour of **Anthony-Thomas Candy Company**, a family-owned confectionery where you can indulge your sweet tooth.



VISIT US ONLINE

Planning a trip to Columbus just got easier. We recently improved the Tour Planners area of ExperienceColumbus.com.

Details on all 57 experiential activities

Now you'll find complete details on all 57 of the hands-on and VIP experiential activities currently available in Central Ohio, divided by theme. All of the booking information you need is listed, including pricing and availability.

Sample itineraries and other key tools at your fingertips

Other helpful planning tools on ExperienceColumbus.com include:

- 20 sample itineraries you can use to create memorable overnights, day trips or mystery tours
- A searchable database of restaurants, attractions and hotels eager to service the group tour market
- Motorcoach parking map
- Details on upcoming major events and a searchable events calendar
- Recent editions of *Touring Columbus*

EXPLORE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Group tours welcomed with VIP treatment in several Central Ohio communities

Along with Licking County, there are several neighborhoods in Central Ohio that are so eager to attract group tours they've developed group-only activities, offering special access or VIP treatment. Complete details are available on ExperienceColumbus.com.

Indulge your senses in **Olde Worthington** (top). Pick from hundreds of fragrances before pouring your own custom-scented candle at The Candle Lab. Stroll next door to select your favorite bottle at House Wine, *Columbus Monthly's* Best Wine Bar for 2009, after sampling a variety of labels.

Discover why **Gahanna** (bottom) is known as the Herb Capital of Ohio. Savor herb-infused foods and learn how to use herbs to create everything from one-of-a-kind herbal teas to culinary treats like herb-infused vinegar.

Shopping will never be the same after a trip to **Easton Town Center**, located near Gahanna.

Express your inner artist at Archiver's by creating personalized cards and become a top chef during cooking school at Sur La

Table. Start your morning with breakfast at Nordstrom before the store opens for the day, and get expert advice on the must-have fashions of the season.

Experience the luck of the Irish in **Dublin**, which has created more than 10 experiential activities. Learn "Riverdance" style steps, enjoy a taste of Old Ireland during a gourmet cooking demonstration, hear Irish folklore and traditional Celtic songs and much more.

Taste the results as America's most-awarded spicy foods creator John Hard, better known as CaJohn, uses chiles to make mild to fiery cuisine during cooking school downtown at the **North Market**. You can literally taste your way around the North Market on a guided tour where you'll meet local merchants and farmers.

Nearby is the **Short North Arts District**, where you can find out how art can be delicious and soothing. Sample hand-churned ice cream with exotic flavors like lime cardamom at Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams and taste foods created

before your eyes at Details Minibar & Lounge. Relax with a mini-massage at Mukha Custom Cosmetics & Medi-spa.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS IN COLUMBUS

For a complete list of events, contact Alissa Preston or Brian Cheek at Experience Columbus at 800-354-2657 or view the complete calendar at ExperienceColumbus.com. **100** -American Bus Association Top 100 Event

Ongoing exhibits

Thru March 28 "Chihuly Reimagined."
Sept. 25-July 4 "Chihuly Illuminated."

March 2010

Opening in March Polar Frontier at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

March 4-7 Arnold Sports Festival.

100 March 13-Sept. 6 Blooms & Butterflies.

April 2010

April 21-25 Columbus Jazz Orchestra: "The Big Band Sound: Past Present Future."

April 24-May 1 African American Heritage Festival.

May 2010

May 29-30 Asian Festival.

May 31-June 6 the Memorial Tournament.

June 2010

June 4-6 Columbus Arts Festival.

June 8-13 Broadway Across America-Columbus: "Chicago."

June 18-20 Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival.

June 24-27 Vaud-Villities: "The Best of Vaud-Villities."

June 25-27 Easton Art Affair.

100 June 27 German Village Haus und Garten Tour.

July 2010

July 9-11 North Market Food & Ohio Wine Festival.

July 23-25 Jazz & Rib Fest.

July 28-Aug. 8 Ohio State Fair.

July 28-Aug. 29 Broadway Across America-Columbus: "Wicked."

August 2010

100 Aug. 6-8 Dublin Irish Festival.

Aug. 14-15 Festival Latino.

Aug. 21 Art al Fresco.

September 2010

Sept. 3-6 Greek Festival.

100 Sept. 10-11 Longaberger Heritage Days.

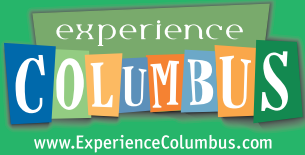
October 2010

Oct. 1-24 All American Quarter Horse Congress.

Oct. 20-23 Circleville Pumpkin Show.

November 2010

Nov. 19-Dec. 2 Wildlights.



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PLAN TO ATTEND HEARTLAND TRAVEL SHOWCASE

Grow your business at the largest regional motorcoach marketplace in the United States

If you can only attend one regional group tour show in 2010, make sure it's Heartland Travel Showcase, set for Feb. 18-21, 2010 in Columbus.

The show is the largest regional motorcoach marketplace in the United States. You'll uncover new ideas for your tours from all of the exhibitors and especially the host city, Columbus.

Ohio's capital city is one of just three U.S. cities that have developed an Experiential Tourism program.

Stay after Heartland to experience Columbus on the Taste of Columbus FAM. You'll get cooking with Tami J. Cecil, a Culinary Institute of America trained chef and the star of Ohio News Network's *Chef Tami* show. Plus you'll

learn how to use herbs to create everything from herb-infused vinegar to pesto in Gahanna, the Herb Capital of Ohio.



You can also experience Columbus' hot spots on sightseeing tours during Heartland. One offered Thursday, Feb. 18 from 1-5 p.m. will stop at several of Columbus' top arts, culinary and historical attractions. A second tour on Friday, Feb. 19 from 9-11:45 a.m. highlights entertainment areas surrounding downtown, along with two of the city's top attractions for groups—Franklin Park Conservatory and the North Market.

For more details about Heartland Travel Showcase, contact Betsy Decillis at 800-896-4682 ext. 0# or Betsy@OhioTravel.org.

CONTACT US

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Ohio Travel Association
Pennsylvania Bus Association
Student Youth Travel Association
Travel Industry Association of America
Virginia Motorcoach Association