

GO GREEN IN COLUMBUS

See the nation's most urban Audubon center, meet farmers and use herbs in everything from pizza to bath soap

Going green has never been so much fun as in Columbus!

Central Ohio is filled with restaurants and attractions that pride themselves on being environmentally sensitive.

DAY ONE

Explore the **Grange Insurance Audubon Center**, the first Audubon center close to the core of a major American city. Built with recycled construction materials, it opened in 2009 after a major reclamation effort. From capturing run-off rain water to using alternative energy sources for heating and cooling, the center serves as a model for sustainable design. Be sure to look outside the building too. It's positioned on a major migratory bird flyway.

Explore the gardens at **Franklin Park Conservatory's** new Scotts Miracle-Gro Community Garden Campus. Custom create a delicious wood-fired pizza after hand picking seasonably available pizza toppings from the garden.

Enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants in the **Short North Arts District** that build their menus around local food. Choices include **Betty's**, **Surly Girl** and the organic-focused **Northstar Cafe**. (They even make sure the wait staff wears organic cotton shirts!) For dessert, stop by the award-winning **Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams**, known for using fresh Ohio ingredients.

DAY TWO

Start the day in downtown's best-hidden oasis — the rooftop garden atop

the **Lazarus Building**, the largest LEED gold-certified building in the nation. Originally built in 1909 as a department store, the building was remodeled in 2007 with environmentally friendly finishes such as bamboo flooring and recycled plastic baseboards.

Discover why **Gahanna** is known as the Herb Capital of Ohio. Visit the **Ohio Herb Education Center** for its appropriately named class, "Thyme for fun in the kitchen." You'll discover fun facts about herbs and how to enhance recipes by adding herbal blends. Or, opt to use herbs to create your own

bath scrubs and lotions.

Taste your way around the historic **North Market** on a guided

tour where you'll meet local merchants and farmers, and sample their fabulous foods. Learn the fascinating history of Columbus' 130-plus year-old public market, home to dozens of independent merchants and farmers peddling the fresh, the local and the exotic.

Stop and smell the roses, cake batter and more than 120 other scents at **The Candle Lab** in **Olde Worthington**. After choosing your favorite aromas, create a custom fragrance blend and pour a natural soy candle. It only needs an hour to firm — more than enough time to pick out your favorite bottle at neighboring **House Wine**. Sample a variety of labels from their collection to find your own "house wine."



GET HOG WILD!

With six locations in Central Ohio and ample area to accommodate large groups, Hoggy's is an ideal dining spot for your next tour.

While known for its award-winning barbecue, Hoggy's has perfected a full menu that goes beyond the "Q." Everything's homemade — from Jamaican salmon to pulled pork to the award-winning macaroni and cheese.

Most locations have a private area for groups and family reunions. The Polaris and Gahanna restaurants even look like a barn — complete with a tractor.

All six locations are open Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. All locations offer a full bar and weekday happy hour specials.

Catering and boxed lunches are available by calling 614-453-4647.

For more details or to book your group, contact **Rebecca Pettis**, regional director of catering, at 614-453-4647 or rpettis@hoggys.com, or visit www.hoggys.com.

CENTRAL OHIO LOCATIONS

Delaware

13 W William St., Delaware, OH 43015

Dublin

7509 Sawmill Rd., Dublin, OH 43016

Grandview

1416 W. 5th Ave., Columbus, OH 43212

Linworth

2234 W. Dublin Granville Rd., Columbus, OH 43085

New Albany

1370 E. Johnstown Rd., Gahanna, OH 43230

Polaris

8740 Sancus Blvd., Columbus, OH 43240
Catering 614-453-4647

COME TO COLUMBUS

Hello!

Thanks to all of you who attended Heartland Travel Showcase in Columbus this spring. We were thrilled to host the Midwest's biggest group tour show in our city.

As you saw for yourself if you attended Heartland, Columbus is filled with entertaining hands-on and VIP activities that are appealing to groups and perfect for mystery tours. You can read more about our 50-plus experiential activities in the 2010 Columbus Tour Planner Guide. Let us know if you need additional copies or help in planning a last-minute mystery outing or other tour to Central Ohio.

Look for Columbus at these upcoming shows: Going on Faith, Aug. 24-26; Lenzner Coach, Aug. 26; the AAA East Central Travel Show, Aug. 31-Sept. 1; and the Virginia Motorcoach Association Convention, Sept. 12-15. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Alissa Brin

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



WHAT'S NEW IN COLUMBUS

New additions to three major attractions will enthrall your groups; another great season of Broadway shows will entertain them at night

From polar bears to urban gardening, there's a lot of new activities happening in Columbus. Read on for fresh and exciting ideas for your tours.

Watch polar bears at the **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium** frolic and swim overhead as you walk through an acrylic tunnel under their huge pool. Polar Frontier, which opened spring 2010, also lets you peek into the burrows of Arctic foxes and watch the antics of Alaskan brown bears.

Polar Frontier is the zoo's newest in a string of projects. Asia Quest and Zoombezi Bay waterpark opened in recent years, and African Savanna is planned for 2014.

Stroll through the gardens at **Franklin Park Conservatory's** new Scotts Miracle-Gro Community Garden Campus. Sample teas and munch on delicious tea sandwiches while relaxing on the grape arbor terrace. A Conservatory specialist will lead a leisurely tour and provide interesting



tips and tricks to inspire your inner gardener.

Stroll through the indoor gardens and admire the Conservatory's permanent collection of colorful glass art by Dale Chihuly. Visit at dinner time to see the Conservatory illuminated with a colorful light installation by internationally acclaimed artist James Turrell.

The **Columbus Museum of Art** unveils its new Center for Creativity on Jan. 1, 2011. As part of a major renovation, the Center will allow visitors of all ages to explore their creative side, and design and make their own art.

And finally, your groups will enjoy nighttime fun courtesy of **Broadway Across America—Columbus**. They're bringing another season loaded with blockbusters to Columbus' historic theaters. Don't miss "Jersey Boys," the 2006 Tony Award-winning Best Musical, coming Aug. 17-Sept. 4, 2011 to the Ohio Theatre.

NEW FOR 2010

We're always looking for ways to add to the services we provide.

Here are some of the ways we make it easy to plan a trip to Columbus.

Free gifts for your tours

Make your time on the road more entertaining with our new Buckeye Bus Bags.

Contact Experience Columbus to receive free promotional items to share on your tour. Just provide the tour's hotel information and we'll deliver a bag of promotional items to use as giveaways. We can even provide a fun list of Columbus trivia.

It's a great way to take a little bit of Columbus home with you.

New itineraries for mystery trips

Have a mystery tour scheduled and not sure where to take your group? Columbus is the answer!

We've developed new itineraries that let you "Go Green" and find out "How did they do that?" on behind-the-scenes tours. Plus, we have fall and holiday tour ideas to share.

STUDENTS FIND LEARNING IS FUN IN COLUMBUS

With Columbus as their classroom, students will learn science, history, art and much more

With dozens of attractions that allow students to learn in a fun and engaging atmosphere, a trip to Columbus is a “class” students won’t want to miss.

Explore two of the top-ranked attractions in the country. Challenge your inner explorer and have fun learning about science in Adventure, a hands-on area open exclusively to groups at **COSI** (top), the No. 1 science center in the country for families according to *Parents* magazine. (You can even overnight here—allowing hours for students to explore.)

Eat breakfast with the animals at the **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**, named the No. 1 zoo in the nation by the *USA Travel Guide*. Arrive before the gates open to the public to interact with exotic animals and learn from the experts after enjoying a breakfast buffet. Cool off at **Zoombezi Bay**, the zoo’s new waterpark.

Feel what the long journey to the New World was like for slaves with “Cargo: The Middle Passage” at **The King Arts Complex** (bottom), a cultural center devoted to promoting African-American heritage. Find

out more about the Underground Railroad at the **Kelton House**, a restored stop. You’ll meet “Sophia Kelton” who will let you in on the family’s “secret.”

Become an artist for a day at the **Columbus Museum of Art**. Design your own art at the Center for Creativity, an expansive hands-on area opening Jan. 1, 2011.

Climb aboard the **Santa Maria**, the world’s most authentic replica of Christopher Columbus’ ship. Learn about the teamwork it took to survive, work the sails and tie sea-worthy knots. (To really feel like a sailor, stay overnight aboard the ship.)

Watch butterflies hatch and take their first flight during Blooms & Butterflies, March 19–Aug. 14, 2011, at **Franklin Park Conservatory**.

There’s more ways to satisfy your curiosity. See how whistles are made at the **American Whistle Corporation**, the only U.S. manufacturer of metal whistles. You’ll even get your own whistle to take home. Watch ice cream being made at **Graeter’s Ice Cream** or snack on roasted nuts and chocolates after a tour of **Krema Nut Company**, one of the oldest peanut butter makers in the United States.



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

September 2010

Sept. 3-6 Greek Festival.
100 Sept. 10-11 Longaberger Heritage Days.
Sept. 11-12 & 18-19 Jack Hanna’s Fall Fest.
100 Sept. 24-26 Columbus Oktoberfest.
Sept. 24-26 Country Living Fair.
Sept. 26 The New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix & Family Day.

October 2010

Oct. 1-24 All American Quarter Horse Congress.
Oct. 8-10 Columbus Italian Festival.
Oct. 15-17 Apple Butter Stirrin’ Festival.
Oct. 15-23 Haunted Statehouse Tours.
Oct. 20-23 Circleville Pumpkin Show.

November 2010

Nov. 6-7 Columbus International Festival.
Nov. 19-Jan. 1 Wildlights.
Nov. 20-21 The Columbus Symphony: Handel’s “Messiah.”

December 2010

Dec. 1-5 Columbus Jazz Orchestra: “Home for the Holidays.”
Dec. 10 ProMusica Chamber Orchestra: “Messiah Sing Along.”
Dec. 10-18 Dickens of a Dinner.

January 2011

Jan. 1 Columbus Museum of Art’s Center for Creativity Grand Opening.
Jan. 29 The Columbus Symphony: Soldiers’ Chorus of the United States Army Field Band.

February 2011

Feb. 4-13 BalletMet: “Cinderella.”
Feb. 26-March 6 Central Ohio Home & Garden Show.

March 2011

March 3-6 Arnold Sports Festival.
March 12 Dublin’s St. Patrick’s Day Celebration.
March 16-20 Columbus Jazz Orchestra: “Basie, Buddy & Benny.”
100 March 19-Aug. 14 Blooms & Butterflies.

April 2011

April 2 The Columbus Symphony: “Cirque De La Symphonie.”
April 20-May 8 Broadway Across America—Columbus: “Mary Poppins.”

BOOK ONE OF OUR EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES

Our 50-plus hands-on, VIP activities are perfect for creating memorable tours for your groups

Columbus wants to help you grow your business.

We're one of just three U.S. cities that have developed an Experiential Tourism program.

We did it for you — so you'd have the hands-on, VIP experiences that Baby Boomers and younger audiences are looking for.

Our 50-plus experiences are perfect for groups of any size from a full coach to a book club of a few friends.

Use our experiences to create day trips, mystery tours or overnight get-aways by mixing two or three of them, or follow the themed sample itineraries available on ExperienceColumbus.com/tours.



Here's a sampling of what you'll find in Columbus:

- Heat things up in the kitchen during a cooking school with **CaJohn's Flavor & Fire** (top) at the **North Market**.
- Go on stage for an exclusive opportunity to meet one of the world's finest big bands, the **Columbus Jazz Orchestra**.
- Create your own wine from start to finish at **Camelot Cellars**.
- Relax with a massage or makeup lesson in the **Short North Arts District** at **Mukha**, owned by internationally renowned makeup artist Tim Maurer.
- Coming in 2011, become an artist for a day at the **Columbus Museum of Art** (bottom).
- Be a pro baseball player for a day with the **Columbus Clippers**.

CONTACT US

Touring Columbus is published three times a year by Experience Columbus.

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