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Wild Animal Safari has over 65 different animal species from around the world, adding up to over 650 individual animals. See them all up close from the comfort & safety of your own vehicle or one of ours...and only 32 miles from Columbus!





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ANIMALSAFARI.COM GET YOUP WILDLIFE ON!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

All Out WELCOME

Columbus RiverWalk

+51 Reasons to Stay & Explore Columbus, GA

Columbus, Georgia is the place people go for all out fun!

The white waters of the Chattahoochee River rush by the walkers and bikers who steadily stroll and roll along the RiverWalk. In the water, people in yellow rafts laugh through the spray of the water while others enjoy a leisurely paddle in the river's quieter stretches. Bird watchers hit the RiverWalk with their binoculars to see a variety of



feathered wonders that are attracted to the food and water promised by the river's presence. Above, squeals of excitement echo from daring folk ziplining from one side of the river to the other.

Just a few streets over, a different kind of urban adventure is taking place, with shoppers seeking out Columbus' locally-owned shops and boutiques in easily walkable shopping districts. They stop to admire a bronze statue of a little girl in a rain coat before sitting down under a red table umbrella

800.999.1613 | VisitColumbusGa.com

WELCOME



to order lunch. Later in the evening, they'll come back to Uptown to enjoy a free outdoor concert, a Broadway series musical at the RiverCenter, or the latest production at the Springer Opera House.

Another group of visitors is all about adventuring through another era. Their weekend is filled with military museums and historic homes, from an authentically recreated World War II Company Street to the home of the "Mother of the Blues," allowing them to imagine what life was like "back then."

This is Columbus – exciting and adventurous, quaint and friendly, spirited and courageous. And 51 Reasons is just the start... so bring this book and come see for yourself!



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There are so many things to do in Columbus! Use your mobile device to scan this QR code to watch a video that showcases some of Columbus' many fun activities.



Tech Tip: You may need to download a QR code reader application to your mobile device to use this function. Go to your phone's app store or marketplace to download a reader.

New prints throughout this guide indicate pet-friendly facilities.

COLUMBUS VISITORS BUREAU 800.999.1613 | VISITCOLUMBUSGA.COM

900 FRONT AVENUE | COLUMBUS, GA 31901

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All Out PLANNING

Reasons to Stop In the Visitors Center

Let us help you plan your Columbus adventure with...

Ideas for your

With brochures on every major area attraction and suggested outings to fit every interest, you'll never have a dull moment in Columbus.

6



800.999.1613 | VisitColumbusGa.com

ALL OUT PLANNING

2 Information on events & HAPPENINGS

We have the Event Calendar at our fingertips, and we'll tell you what's going on during your stay.

3 Hotel RESERVATIONS

Whatever your preferences, we can make your reservations for you.



Sky High Hot Air Balloon Festival



Maps, guides & DIRECTIONS

No GPS, no problem. We can help you get where you're going using the fastest and most direct routes.

Service with A SMILE

Our goal is to make your visit to Columbus unforgettable. Anything you need, we're here to help.

COLUMBUS VISITORS CENTER

900 FRONT AVENUE COLUMBUS, GA 31901 706.322.1613 OR 800.999.1613 VISITORS CENTER HOURS MON-FRI: 10AM-5PM SAT: 10AM-1PM

URBAN EXPLORATIONS

All Out ADVENTURE

Free Uptown Concerts

Columbus Adventures

Columbus'attractions and activities provide plenty of urban adventure choices for all out fun! Take the city on two wheels along the Chattahoochee RiverWalk and Fall Line Trace. Explore Columbus' abundant artistic and historic gems. For a super adrenaline rush, fly across the Chattahoochee River on a zip line, or get drenched on a raft sliding through the river's rapids. Here are nine of our favorite activities.

Move that BODY

Walk, run, skate or bike Columbus' 15-mile linear park. The **Chattahoochee RiverWalk** hugs the banks of the Chattahoochee River and provides a blend of cityscapes and untouched wildlife. Extend your journey where the RiverWalk meets the 11-mile Fall Line Trace rails-to-trails path. No bike? No problem! Bike shops in Columbus will rent you a set of wheels.

Tripadvisor*
*A beautiful way to exercise & explore





ALL OUT ADVENTURE

Your Next Great Family Adventure



Columbus Visitors Guide 2017 | 800.999.1613 9

OUTSIDEWORLDCOLUMBUS.COM

URBAN EXPLORATIONS



Watch the BIRDS

Birds are not just flying South for the winter – they're flying to Columbus. With the abundance of fish in the **Chattahoochee River**, birds – and bird watchers – are flocking to Columbus. The Audubon Society's Bird Garden at **Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center** is designed to attract a variety of birds and is a great place to observe our feathered friends. Don't forget your binoculars! **oxbow.columbusstate.edu**

[™] tripadvisor^{*} ●●●●● **"Educational & fun"**

Sing the BLUES

Explore the history and influences of "The Mother of the Blues," Gertrude "Ma" Rainey's life and career in the blues tradition. Also pick up a Black Heritage Visitors Guide at the Visitors Center to see 26 sites of Columbus' African-American historical and social importance, and learn more about Ma Rainey, as well as Corporal Eugene Bullard, the world's first black combat aviator. Horace King, a former slave and master bridge builder, and many others. columbusblackmus.wixsite. com/cbhm

tripadvisor*
 •
 •
 •
 •
 •
 f blues"

Ride the

Take the plunge down the longest urban **whitewater course** in the world! Choose from mild to wild, the low-water trip with Class I-II rapids, or the high-water trip with Class II-IV+ rapids. **whitewaterexpress.com**

© tripadvisor* ●●●●● "A surprising splash!"

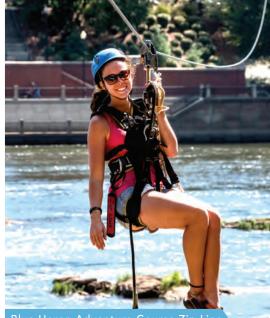


ALL OUT ADVENTURE

5 Fly across THE RIVER

Step off a 60-foot tower in Woodruff Park on the **Blue**

Heron Adventure Course zip line and almost immediately find yourself about 100 feet above the Chattahoochee River as you race toward the Phenix City, AL tower at speeds of 35-40 mph. Once there, get ready to navigate a two-tier aerial course, set off on another 400-foot zip line through the trees along the riverbank, then board a pontoon boat for a ride back to Columbus. whitewaterexpress.com/blueheron-adventures



Blue Heron Adventure Course Zip Line



URBAN EXPLORATIONS



See fantastic A R T

The **Columbus Museum's** rich collection of artifacts and art in all mediums – from artistic photos to a dazzling Chihuly glass sculpture – adds up to award-winning collections and new and exciting programs. Many pieces depict the story of our ancestors who lived in the lower Chattahoochee River Valley. Always changing.... always free. **columbusmuseum.com**

Something for everyone"

Pilot a MARS ROVER

Become an astronaut for a day at **Columbus State University's Coca-Cola Space Science Center**. With interactive exhibits and Georgia's largest collection of NASA Space Shuttle artifacts, children and adults can embark on space adventures and awaken their senses by controlling miniature Mars Rovers, piloting flight simulators, or voyaging through space and time in the full-dome Omnisphere Theater. Don't miss the new Space Shuttle Odyssey program. ccssc.org

for tripadvisor* for this world!"

Discover Historic COLUMBUS

See "100 years of history per hour." Take a walk through time at the oldest house in Columbus or discover the history and architecture of our town with a driving tour of several historic districts. Admission to tour the **Walker-Peters-Langdon House** is ^{\$5} for adults and ^{\$1} for students. Buses must be provided by the group and Historic Columbus will provide the step-on guide for ^{\$3} per person. All tours are by appointment only. **historiccolumbus.com**

© tripadvisor ●●●●○ "One square block showcases a lot"



Coca-Cola Space Science Center

ALL OUT ADVENTURE



PLook for your LUNCHBOX

Browse the proclaimed largest collection of antique, metal lunchboxes at the Lunchbox Museum or stoneware pots and jugs at the Southern Stoneware Museum, both included in **Rivermarket Antiques'** 16 acres of antiques, flea market finds, and specialty cars. **lunchboxmuseum.com**

© tripadvisor ●●●●○○ "A GREAT trip back to my childhood school days!!"



GOLF DIGEST

BULL CREEK ① 7333 Lynch Rd. | 706.561.1614 columbusga.org/bullcreek OXBOW CREEK ⑦ 3491 S. Lumpkin | 706.689.9977 columbusga.org/Oxbow Bull Creek Golf Course is a 36-hole, par 72 course. Oxbow Creek is a 9-hole, state-of-the-art course.



2 SEGWAY GLIDES ON THE RIVERWALK

CHATT GLIDE TOURS

1303 Whitewater Ave. Phenix City, AL | Across the 13th St. Bridge at Whitewater Express | 706.660.9247 chattglidetours.com Fun & Easy. Tours last at least 2 hours. Training & helmets provided. Best introduction to Uptown & RiverWalks. Military/student discounts.



© GET ON YOUR BIKES & RIDE

RIDE ON BIKES 1036 Broadway 706.324.1132 rideonbikes.com Columbus' #1 bike store is located in Uptown. We offer a wide variety of bike brands and biking accessories. We also offer bike rentals. Stop in and Ride On!



STRONGPOINT SHOOTING COMPLEX

959 John Weaver Rd. Waverly Hall, GA | 706.573.5726 strongpointshooting.com Beginner/Advanced Courses, Up to 400 Yard Rifle Range, Steel Targets every 100 yds., 8 Pistol Bays, Five Stand Shotgun, Trap, Archery, etc.

REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS



All Out in the REGION

Wild Animal Safari

Must-See Attractions in West Georgia

Columbus' abundance of adventures in its urban setting makes it easy to fill your time within the city limits. But don't miss some of the fantastic experiences in the surrounding region. Hike, camp and horseback ride through F.D. Roosevelt State Park, trek through Providence Canyon, exercise your "picker" skills at country antique shops. Sites you don't want to miss include:

Little White HOUSE

See the "Unfinished Portrait" of the nation's 32nd president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, hanging in the carefully preserved house with furnishings very much as Roosevelt



left them in 1945. Painted on April 12, 1945, the portrait was disrupted and never finished when Roosevelt suffered a massive stroke and died. The house in Warm Springs was established for Roosevelt in the hopes the healing powers of the warm spring water there would end his fight with polio. Self-guided and guided tours available. gastateparks.org/LittleWhiteHouse

ALL OUT IN THE REGION

2 Providence Canyon OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA

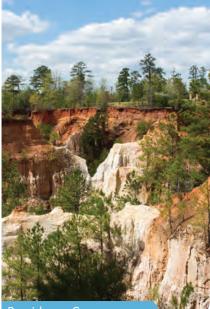
Georgia's "Little Grand Canyon" is a testament to the power of man's influence on the land. Massive gullies as deep as 150 feet were caused simply by poor farming practices during the 1800s, yet today they make for some of the prettiest photographs in the state. The rare plumleaf azalea grows only in this region and blooms during July and August when most azaleas have lost their color. The canyon soil's pink, orange, red and purple hues make a beautiful natural painting at this quiet park. gastateparks.org/ProvidenceCanyon

tripadvisor* ●●●●● "Perfect day trip"



3 Plains, GEORGIA

Explore the rural, Southern culture that influenced America's 39th president, Jimmy Carter. The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains includes the Plains Depot, a museum of the 1976 campaign, Carter's boyhood home, and Plains High School.



Providence Canyon



© LOOKING FOR THE CAR YOU HAD IN HIGH SCHOOL?

RIVER MARKET ANTIQUES "WHERE TREASURES ARE FOUND"

318 10th Ave. at Victory Dr. 706.332.6378 | rivermarketantiques.com allenscars.com | lunchboxmuseum.com Classic & Specialty Cars, Lunchbox Museum, Antique Mall & Thrift Mall. Buy, sell, & trade estates & classic & antique cars. See investment grade automobiles at allenscars.com. We've been in the business over 50 years. New location in July: 3218 Hamilton Rd. at the corner of 33rd street.

ART & SCULPTURE

Columbus Museum

Cool Art Scenes

Columbus' artistic nature goes all out to fuel creativity and provide inspiration, even as you walk through the city. You'll start to see the city through an artist's eye as you wander among the flowing fountains, beloved bronze sculpture "characters," and visit the phenomenal galleries and art museums.

The Columbus MUSEUM

Enjoy the Columbus Museum's permanent and temporary exhibitions on regional history and American art, and its multimedia theater offering a film exploring the history and culture of the Chattahoochee Valley. Visitors can also enjoy the Bradley Olmsted Garden, designed in the 1920s by the Olmsted Brothers firm, founded by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. columbusmuseum.com

tripadvisor*
*Always finding
something new*

Gallery on TENTH

The Gallery on Tenth is an artists' co-op selling local and regional fine art in Uptown Columbus. galleryon10th.com

Beritage PARK

Stroll among Heritage Park's granite pools, outdoor sculptures and interpretive markers that celebrate Columbus' industrial heritage to gain an artistic and historic view of Columbus. historiccolumbus.com/ heritage-park

ALL OUT ART

4

4 Sculpture WALK

See distinctive art around every corner at the Sculpture Walk in Uptown Columbus. Every year new pieces of artwork are submitted by artists all over the U.S. hoping their sculptures will become a part of this year-long exhibit of public art. artbeatcolumbus.org/ art-walk



Pasaquan, BUENA VISTA, GA

Explore out-of-this-world folk art at Pasaquan, the estate and legacy of self-proclaimed eccentric artist "St. EOM" in Buena Vista, GA, near Fort Benning. Amidst Pasaquan's sprawling seven acres are dozens of carved walls, pagodas and totems, all brightly decorated with house paint. The imagery is exclusively otherworldly, rendered with a discernible sense of humor. **pasaquan.com**

Tripadvisor* INFORMATION (INFORMATION OF A CONTRACT) "Visionary art to marvel at"

Solution Juliges Gallery/Corn Center for Visual Arts/ COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Attend one of the 6 to 8 annual exhibitions presented by the Norman Shannon and Emmy Lou P. Illges Gallery in the Corn Center for Visual Arts. These exhibitions are both national and international in scope, often with accompanying lectures and gallery talks. The Illges Gallery is free and open to the public. **art.columbusstate.edu/exhibition**

ENJOY FREE Admission

US Award winning exhibitions and collections featuring American art and regional history ullet A unique Gift shop The Bradley Olmsted Garden (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) ullet A handson children's gallery

THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM

columbusmuseum.com

ON STAGE



Springer Opera House

Places to See a Show

You'll be applauding until the curtains come down in Columbus, whether you experience our music, acting, dance and comedy from a private box seat beneath a sparkling chandelier, in an arena with 10,000 other screaming fans around you, or under the stars in the streets of Columbus.

Springer Opera H O U S E

Catch a musical, drama or comedy at the Springer Opera House, the State Theater of Georgia. Opened in 1871, the Springer is now one of only seven producing theatres that is also a National Historic Landmark. When it opened, the Springer was the grandest theatre between New York and New Orleans and served as a venue for shows traveling from the Big Apple to the Big Easy, allowing them to play and recoup some travel expenses. Legendary talents who have appeared on the Springer's stage include such luminaries as Edwin Booth, Buffalo Bill, John Phillip Sousa, Ma Rainey, Ethel Barrymore, Tom Thumb, W.C. Fields, Chet Atkins, Burt Reynolds, and Garrison Keillor. With the historic Emily Woodruff Hall Mainstage Theatre and the new Dorothy McClure Theatre, the Springer produces Mainstage, Studio II and Children's series of musicals and plays and is the home of the largest theatre academy for the training of young actors (5-18 years) in the Southeast. **springeroperahouse.org**

ALL OUT ENTERTAINMENT

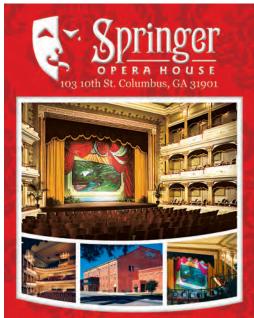
2 RiverCenter for the PERFORMING ARTS

In the heart of Uptown Columbus, this artistic cultural institution hosts Broadway shows, plays, and acts such as Jerry Seinfeld, Vince Gil, Celtic Woman, and Yo Yo Ma. RiverCenter presents its own season of 20-30 major productions and supports hundreds of functions each year. Highlights of the 2016-2017 season include: Romeo & Juliet by the Russian National Ballet, Taj Express the Bollywood musical, Drumline Live, Mamma Mia Farewell Tour, and Cinderella. RiverCenter is also home to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Schwob School of Music, Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus, Cantus Columbus, and the Columbus Ballet. The facility offers unique arts experiences within its three state-of-the-art performance halls: Bill Heard Theatre, seating 2,000; Legacy Hall, seating 430; and Studio Theatre, seating 150.

In addition, outdoor events and activities are often held on RiverCenter's Illges Plaza on the corner of Broadway and 10th Street. **rivercenter.org**

fripadvisor* fripadvisor*





This National Historic Landmark is both a working regional theatre and a popular tourist attraction. The walls of this over 140-year-old building whisper stories of the hundreds of famous people who have appeared here, including Edwin Booth, Oscar Wilde, Buffalo Bill, Ethel Barrymore, Ma Rainey, John Philip Sousa, W.C. Fields and Garrison Keillor. On its two stages, professional actors from all over the United States perform in three theatre seasons: the Mainstage Series, the Studio II Series, and with the students of the Springer Theatre Academy, in the Springer Children's Theatre Series.

11

Tours available! Mon. & Wed. 3:30pm or by appointment. Call 706-327-3688 for information.

Box Office: 706-327-3688 • springeroperahouse.org

ON STAGE

3 No Shame THEATRE

If the stage is calling your name, you'll want to be at the Springer Opera House on Friday nights at 10:30 for No Shame Theatre. In this weekly showcase of original works, you will see improv, music, comedy, poetry, dance and more. Must be 18, you can't break anything, must perform original material and act can only be 5 minutes long. ^{\$5} at the door and you can light up the stage or be awed in the audience. **springeroperahouse.org/no-shame-theatre**

Tripadvisor* *Always a good time



Sherlock's Mystery DINNER THEATRE

Step into the spotlight in this interactive and comedic, murder mystery theatre where actors and audience members solve the crime together. Hosted at RiverMill Event Centre, this mystery dinner theatre has been entertaining thousands since 2008. You can help solve the mystery, or just watch and enjoy during this seasonal offering. SherlocksDinnerTheatre.com

So entertaining!"

5 Historic Liberty THEATRE

Opened in 1925, Columbus' first Black theater continues to host musical events, plays, and classes. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. the theater has hosted such ground-breaking performers as Marian Anderson, Ella Fitzgerald, Ethel Waters, Lena Horne, the big bands of Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and Fletcher Henderson. as well as Columbus'own Ma Rainey and her protégé, Bessie Smith. libertycolumbusga.org



Presenting family friendly entertainment, Family Theatre provides children, teens and adults an opportunity to perform onstage. Musicals, comedies, dramas, children's theatre and an occasional magic show provide a variety of entertainment for the whole family. An intimate theatre experience awaits audiences in a relaxed atmosphere, complete with a café and complimentary desserts at intermission. Family Theatre is located in the historic Rose Hill district in Columbus. familytheatre.org

ALL OUT ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre on the Park/ RIVERSIDE THEATRE COMPLEX

Columbus State University's Department of Theatre offers a regular menu of cuttingedge performances at its Riverside Theatre Complex. **theatre.columbusstate.edu**

8 Columbus CIVIC CENTER

With 10,000 arena seats and various events throughout the year, the Columbus Civic Center is the most diverse entertainment venue in Columbus. Events include the circus, Disney on Ice, the Columbus Cottonmouths professional ice hockey team, Columbus Lions professional indoor football team, concerts, comedy shows, pro bull riding and more. There is always something to see at the arena. **columbusciviccenter.org**



• EXPERIENCE RIVERCENTER

RIVERCENTER

900 Broadway | 706.256.3612 Rivercenter.org

Experience the arts in the largest and finest performing arts center in the Southeast. From Broadway musicals to rock concerts, educational workshops to beauty pageants — RiverCenter has it all.

Make a night of it, capture an unforgettable memory, visit **Rivercenter.org** today!



RESTAURANTS

All Out EATS

Plucked Up Chicken

Delish Local Dishes

Scrambled DOG

Served in a banana split dish, this dog is too messy to pick up! Chopped hot dog and bun smothered in chili, onions and pickles, with oyster crackers on top. People line up outside **Dinglewood Pharmacy** for this local favorite.

Red Velvet

Originally a Valentine's Day special, **Ruth Ann's** now serves these red velvet pancakes with a cream cheese drizzle every day!

2 The Chelsea Biscuit S A N D W I C H

It's unlike any biscuit you've had before...complete with fried chicken, pimento cheese, bacon and jalapeno jelly and the only place you'll find it is at **Plucked Up Chicken & Biscuits!**





ALL OUT EATS

4 Mac'n CHEESE

This Southern fare meets a Columbus twist with a Ritz cracker topping at **Mark's City Grill** and truffles at **Epic Restaurant**. Try them all. You won't be disappointed!





5 Award-winning FRIED CHICKEN

Get your Southern "meat and three," including the best fried chicken in the state, at **Minnie's Uptown Restaurant**.

(continued on page 25)



DEDICATED TO QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD, AND FUN FOR 25 YEARS.

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GREAT BARBECUE E COUNTRY COOKIN' FOUNTERVS

countrysbarbecue.com **3 LOCATIONS IN COLUMBUS**

24

ALL OUT EATS



Pimento CHEESE BURGER

The **Black Cow's** pimento cheese burger with bacon and a dab of jalapeno jelly was named one of the "Best Burgers in the South" by *Garden & Gun* magazine.

Breakfast, lunch, or dinner, Columbus cuisine goes all out. From a hearty **meat-and-three** plate to a **cooked-to-perfection angus steak**, a delicious, **authentic Italian pasta** dish, or a signature cocktail, your taste buds will tell you – Columbus offers it all!



© SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

11TH & BAY 1050 Bay Ave. 706.940.0202 www.11thandbay.com 11th and Bay is a Southern table restaurant inspired by Southern hospitality and fresh creative food. We hope you'll pull up a chair and stay awhile!



• AMAZIN' GRAZIN'

THE BLACK COW STEAKHOUSE & OYSTER BAR

115A 12th St., Ste. A 706.321.2020 Uptown's only Oyster Bar. Southern comfort food in a laid back rustic atmosphere. Voted best burgers in the South by *Garden & Gun* readers.



HONEST FOOD CRAFT BEERS

CANNON BREW PUB 1041 Broadway 706.653.BEER (2337) thecannonbrewpub.com Wood fired pizzas, homemade burgers, great steaks, pastas, and the finest craft brewed beers made in West Georgia.

RESTAURANTS



EVERY DAY IS CINCO DE MAYO

THE CANTINA 1030 Broadway | 706.320.4520 Serving up fresh authentic Mexican dishes for lunch and dinner. Try our delicious homemade chicken soup or our Hot Sizzling Fajita style dishes. Beautiful outside patio located in the heart of Uptown.



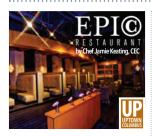
SCRAMBLED DOG HEADQUARTERS

DINGLEWOOD PHARMACY 1939 Wynnton Rd. 706.322.0616 Home of "Lieutenant's Famous Scrambled Dogs." Serving your family since 1918.



AUTHENTIC PUERTO RICAN

EL FLAMBOYAN 1912th St. | Columbus, GA 31901 706.221.8131 elflamboyancolumbus.com Authentic Puerto Rican, Mexican & American Restaurant. Fresh, homemade, cooked-to-order food. Happy Hour every day, all day. Live music Friday & Saturday, 6pm.



❷ YOUR EXPERIENCE BEGINS HERE

EPIC RESTAURANT

1201 Front Ave., Suite E 706.507.9909 | epiccuisine.com info@epiccuisine.com Epic Restaurant offers an intimate space within the downtown Historic Eagle and Phenix Mill to experience culinary creations that empower the senses.



© EAT & EXPLORE

FIFE & DRUM 1775 Legacy Way (inside the National Infantry Museum) 706.685.5801 facebook.com/fifeanddrum. restaurant An American bistro featuring classic American fare served in a richly appointed dining room.



CONVENIENTLY DELICIOUS

HOULIHAN'S

800 Front Ave. 706.653.1898 | houlihans.com Inside the Columbus Marriott Hotel, Houlihan's has become one of the most popular restaurants in Columbus. Enjoy a lively atmosphere, excellent service with an exceptionally creative menu.

ALL OUT EATS



② DINE IN STYLE

HOULIHAN'S 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd. 706.243.0551 | houlihans.com Inside the DoubleTree Hotel, Houlihan's serves Classic American food cooked from scratch for breakfast, lunch & dinner daily and your favorite beverages. Columbus' best outdoor patio.



© EXTRAORDINARY COFFEE

IRON BANK COFFEE CO. #6 West 11th St. 706.992.6609

ironbankcoffee.com Iron Bank Coffee Company is a specialty coffee shop located in the heart of Uptown Columbus. Come enjoy specialty lattes, enticing sandwiches and delectable desserts.



³ PIZZA UNLIKE ANY OTHER

MELLOW MUSHROOM 6100 Veterans Pkwy. 706.322.4602 mellowmushroom.com Serving hand-tossed, bakedon-stone pizzas and calzones, monumental hoagies and scrumptious salads in a unique setting. Offering over 100 beers. Open daily 11am.



ENJOY SOMETHING SPECIAL

MERITAGE

1039 1st Ave. | 706.327.0707 meritageonline.com Lunch to upscale, casual dining. Come taste the experience at Meritage. Lunch Tues-Fri: 11am- 2:30pm Sat. Brunch/Lunch: 10:30am-2pm Dinner Tues-Sat: starts 5pm



RUTH ANN'S RESTAURANT

941 Veterans Pkwy. 706.221.2154 ruthannsrestaurant.com A must visit in Columbus for over 60 years. Country vegetables, entrees and breakfast. Fresh espresso and homemade desserts.



IRISH RESTAURANT PUB • BAR

SCRUFFY MURPHY'S IRISH PUB

1037 Broadway | 706.322.3460 scruffymurphyspub.com A little bit of Ireland in Columbus. Pub-Style Fish 'N' Chips with house made Tartar sauce is our signature dish. We carry premium import & Craft beers on draught.

ALL OUT SHOPPING

All Out SHOPPING

Places for Retail Therapy

II WATER

Columbus Park Crossing: Enjoy a wide variety of restaurants, the nation's most popular stores and a diverse collection of services. Whittlesey Blvd., Exit 10 off I-185

The Shoppes at Bradley Park:

With stores like Chico's and Talbots, this lifestyle center lets you indulge in pure retail therapy. **6401 Whitesville Rd.**

The Landings:

This pedestrian-friendly shopping center is a FUN place to shop. **Airport Thruway**

Peachtree Mall:

Satisfies your itch for upscale goods and refined service in a traditional indoor setting. **3131 Manchester Expy.**

Uptown Columbus:

Uptown is home to the best locally owned and operated retailers, including Whitewater Express' shop offering outdoor gear for venturing on their rafting or kayaking trips down the river.

Gift shops at Columbus' many museums – pick up



CLIVE BIG WITH BIG DOG

BIG DOG RUNNING COMPANY

1228 Broadway 706.322.2786 Big Dog Running Company is a specialty running/ walking store, offering a full array of running and walking shoes, apparel and accessories. something for your historyloving friends.

Regional shopping:

Charming shops, boutiques and antique stores are found throughout the region.



©A UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

THE POSH PEACH

1105 Broadway |706.221.6402 theposhpeach.com We hand select each item that enters our unique boutique. We believe ALL women should feel the best about themselves. Sizes Small to 3XL. Always adding new items. Mon-Sat: 10am-7pm

GREAT GARDENS

All Out GORGEOUS

Columbus Botanical Garden

Great Botanical Wonders

Stroll through tranquil gardens and historic estates and enjoy the breathtaking floral splendor of nature's all out gorgeous display of colors.

Columbus Botanical G A R D E N

Wander through a variety of experiences, from a nature trail to gardens like homestead, vegetable, herb, event lawn, and camellia, all part of this 23-acre tract anchored by an 1890s farmhouse. A new master plan has recently been adopted and new projects are regularly underway. Open from dawn until dusk, admission is free with a ^{\$}2 suggested donation. The Garden offers tours in addition to both children and adult educational programming. **columbusbotanicalgarden.org**

™ tripadvisor* ●●●●●○ "Beautiful hidden gem"

Bradley Olmsted G A R D E N

Look for this jewel tucked in the 13 acres of what is now the Columbus Museum. Designed in the 1920s by Olmstead & Olmstead, scions of the designer of New York's Central Park, this garden includes sweeping vistas, rose gardens, dramatic ravines, waterfalls, forest glens and massive plantings for dramatic seasonal effect. The museum often schedules live music and other events in the garden. For information call **706.748.2562** or visit **columbusmuseum.com.**

Tripadvisor* Tripad

Columbus Visitors Guide 2017 | 800.999.1613 29

ALL OUT GORGEOUS



3 Hills & Dales ESTATE

Experience the serenity of this 35-acre estate as you tour the spectacular 30room Georgian Italian villa designed to flow gracefully into its pre-Civil War gardens. Located in LaGrange just one hour north of Columbus on I-185. Plan your visit at hillsanddales.org.

Callaway G A R D E N S®

With a medley of activities for more than just those with a green thumb, Callaway Gardens is an experience everyone will love. Nature lovers, adventure seekers, and sports enthusiasts can enjoy award-winning gardens, the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, zip lining, water sports, two of the top golf courses in Georgia, and more. Celebrate holidays and seasonal festivals such as the Hot Air Balloon Festival,



Azalea Watching, and Fantasy In Lights[®], which is ranked among the most dazzling holiday light show experiences in the South. **callawaygardens.com**

© tripadvisor[®] ●●●●○ "Great family place to explore"



A THIRTY-FIVE-ACRE HOME AND GARDEN MUSEUM A THREE-ACRE

Two great destinations only 40 minutes north of Columbus in LaGrange!

Hills & Dales BIBLICAL HISTORY CENTER

ESTATE

Stroll the idyllic gardens and the Fuller E. Callaway family home where tranquility beckons and wandering is encouraged.

Lovingly preserved for over 175 years.

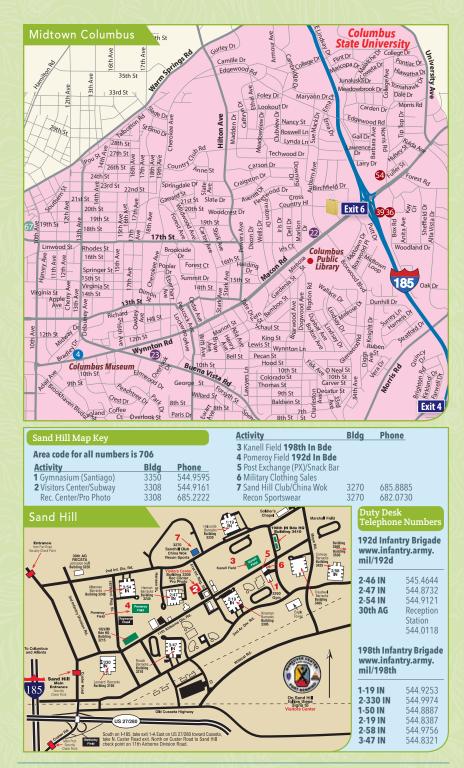
OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10 AM - 6 PM (MARCH-JUNE) 10 AM - 5 PM (JULY-FEBRUARY)

> 706-882-3242 HILLSANDDALES.ORG

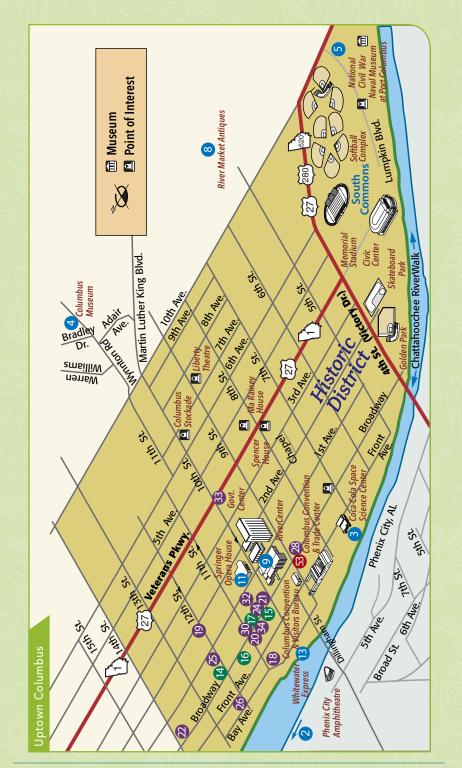
Explore daily life in ancient times. From shepherds' goat hair tents to a stone house like Jesus may have lived in, guests are immersed in biblical times.

> Open Tuesday- Saturday 10 am - 6pm

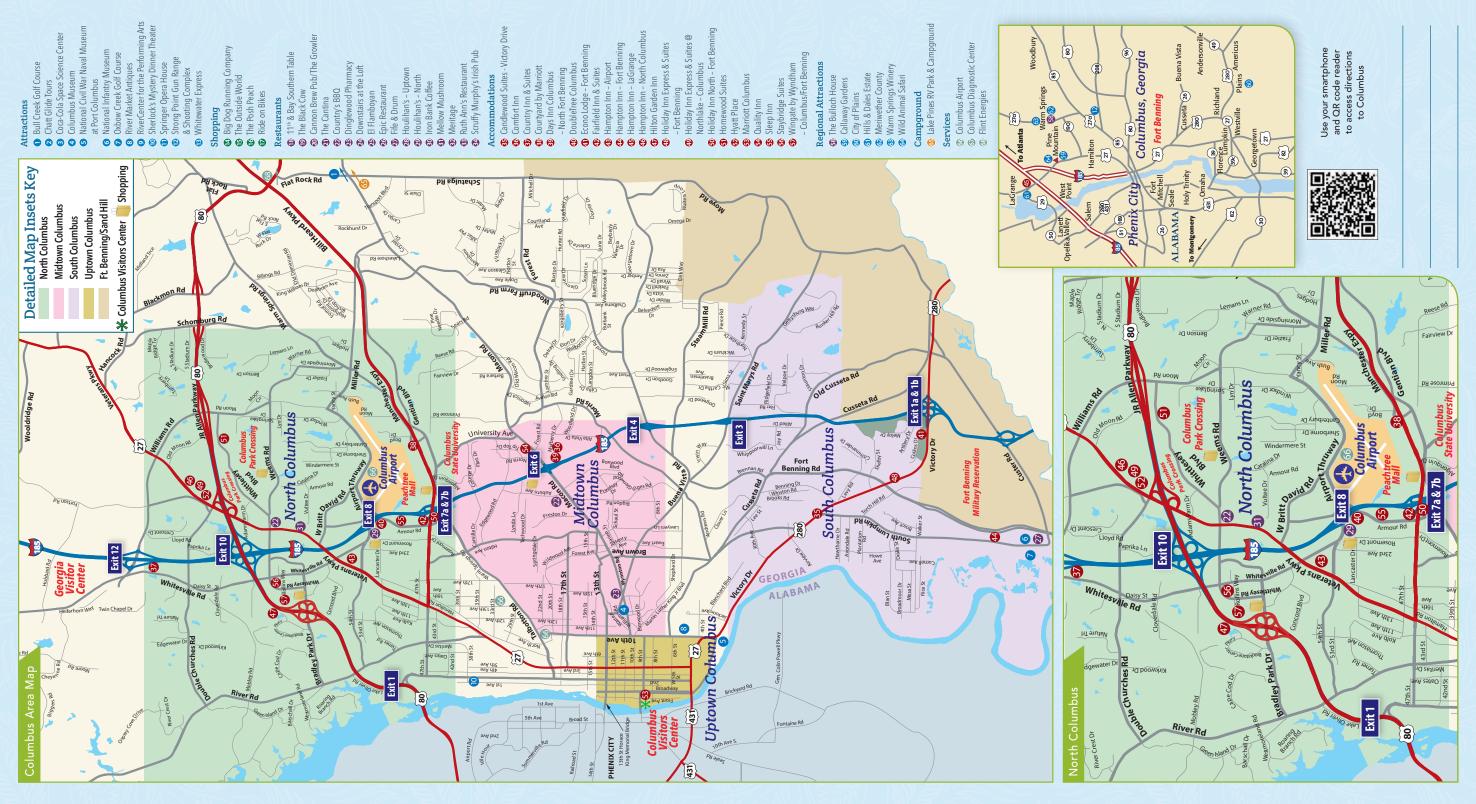
706-885-0363 BiblicalHistoryCenter.com







Columbus Visitors Guide 2017 | 800.999.1613 | VisitColumbusGa.com



HOTELS





EXPERIENCE MODERN STYLE AND AFFORDABLE LUXURY

- Free Wi-Fi through the hotel
- Free hot breakfast
- Freshly prepared food 24/7
 and Starbucks specialty coffees
- Meeting Space
- Bus Parking



706-507-5000 HyattPlaceColumbusNorth.com

WELCOME TO A different PLACE®



- Free Hot Breakfast
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- Free high speed WiFi
- Manager's Reception
- On site Fitness Center
 & Business Center
- Exit 6 off I-185 only minutes from Ft Benning, Aflac, and Columbus State University



3 Diamond Property 3460 Macon Road

(706) 256-3093

Hyatt Place Columbus-North 2974 North Lake Parkway

Columbus, GA 31909



www.comfortinn.com/hotel-Columbus-Georgia-ga306



Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Ft. Benning

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- Free Hot Breakfast Buffet Featuring
- our Famous Cinnamon Rolls
- Free high speed WiFi
- ATM
- · Pet Friendly



www.hiexcolumbusfortbenning.com





Get Some Great Shut-Eye

Stay in comfort and style on your next visit to Columbus whether you come to work or play. You are sure to get a good night's sleep in one of the 4,600 rooms Columbus hotels offer. Featuring amenities, state-of-theart meeting space, and reputable customer service, our hotels will show you what true Southern hospitality really means.

Don't spend hours searching for accommodations for your stay. Our convenient, user-friendly website, **visitcolumbusga.com** – also optimized for your smartphone – can make booking your stay in Columbus a breeze, or call the Columbus Visitors Center at **800.999.1613**, and we will make the arrangements for you.



Let the CVB help you find a great place to stay in Columbus. Contact the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800.999.1613 or go online to VisitColumbusGA.com for more information.

ALL OUT COMFORT



Meet Me at the hotel

Scan the QR code for more hotel information.	For Rooms Su	Pets Decession	Dini	109 001 Will	Airpo		Film	FREE	P.	
Meet Me at the ho	tel	ites sib	Nolcom.	CE WI.	c; ng	T Shutt	000	LEE ROOT	Breakfa	~
Candlewood Suites - Ft. Benning	706.683.9900	81	1	1	1			~	1	
Comfort Inn	706.256.3093	72/2	1		1			~	1	1
Country Inn & Suites	706.660.1880	62	1		1		1	1	1	1
Courtyard by Marriott	706.323.2323	139	1		1	1		1	1	
Days Inn - North Ft. Benning	706.561.4400	119	1		1			1		1
DoubleTree Hotel Columbus	706.327.6868	175/1	1		1	1	1	1	1	
Econo Lodge - Ft. Benning	706.682.3803	80	1		1		1	1		1
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Airport	706.317.3600	57/22	1		1			1	1	1
Hampton Inn - Airport	706.576.5303	118	1		1			1	1	1
Hampton Inn - Fort Benning	706.660.5550	102	1		1			1	1	1
Hampton Inn - LaGrange	706.845.1115	81	1		1			1	1	1
Hampton Inn - North Columbus	706.256.2222	87/2	1		1		1	1	1	1
Hilton Garden Inn	706.660.1000	120	1		1	1		1	1	
Holiday Inn - North - Ft. Benning	706.324.0231	117	1	1	1	1		1	1	
Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Ft. Benning	706.507.7080	81	1	1	1			1	1	1
Holiday Inn Express & Suites @ Northlake	706.507.7200	23/65	1		1			1	1	1
Homewood Suites	706.568.3545	91	1		1		1	1	1	1
Hyatt Place	706.507.5000	82	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Marriott Columbus	706.324.1800	172/5	1		1	1	1	1	1	
Quality Inn	706.568.3300	51/4	1	1	1			1		1
Sleep Inn & Suites	706.653.1330	61/6	1		1			1	1	1
Staybridge Suites	706.507.7700	83	1	1	1			1	1	1
Wingate By Wyndham	706.225.1000	84	1		1			1	1	1

HOTELS



<mark>⊚near</mark> FT. BENNING

CANDLEWOOD SUITES COLUMBUS FORT BENNING

3389 Victory Dr. | 706.683.9900 candlewoodsuites.com

Convenient and historic, the area surrounding the Candlewood Suites[®] Columbus Ft. Benning hotel is ideal for all visitors. Whether you are traveling for business or leisure, our spacious, comfortable suites provide all of the accommodations you need for extended stay travel. Our pet friendly suites have a fully-equipped kitchen, TV with DVD player, and large workspace with high speed Internet.



©LOCATED IN THE HEART OF COLUMBUS

HOLIDAY INN - NORTH FORT BENNING

2800 Manchester Expressway | 706.324.0231 holidayinn.com/columbus-north Located 7 miles north of Ft. Benning, just off of I-185 (Exit 7,7B), convenient to the Columbus Airport, Peachtree Mall, restaurants and attractions. Our 117 guest rooms feature free wireless Internet, 37" HD TVs, huge pool and courtyard area with gazebo. Enjoy breakfast, dinner or room service in our on-site restaurant, the Sweetwater Cafe. Meeting/Banquet facilities available for up to 175 people.



ALL OUT COMFORT



[®]RELAX BY THE POOL

COLUMBUS COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT 3501 Courtyard Way 706.323.2323 Newly renovated Lobby & Bistro; free wireless Internet. 15% off rate with corporate code C77 on columbuscourtyard.com or ask for CVB discount.



SOURCE FORT BENNING

DAYS INN 3452 Macon Rd. | 706.561.4400 Newly remodeled, 40" flat screen TV, complimentary hot breakfast, seasonal outdoor pool, laundry facilities, micro/fridge, coffee/tea, complimentary newspapers, rental car on premise, and ATM/banking services.



DOUBLETREE COLUMBUS 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd. 706.327.6868 columbus.doubletree.com Sweet Dream Bedding, Houlihan's Restaurant, meeting space, mini fridge, flat-panel HDTV, WiFi, business center, fitness center. Near I-185 and the airport.



MINUTES TO FT. BENNING

ECONO LODGE FORT BENNING

4483 Victory Dr. | 706.682.3803 econolodge.com/hotelcolumbus-georgia-GA181 Off Hwy. I-185, Exit 1B. Refrigerator, microwave, WiFi, deluxe complimentary continental breakfast.



ONLY 1 MILE FROM AIRPORT

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES 4510 Armour Rd. 706.317.3600 fairfieldinn.com/CSGFI Off Hwy. I-185, Exit 7. Completely renovated in 2015. Free WiFi, indoor pool & on-site fitness center, deluxe complimentary continental breakfast.



BCONVENIENT TO EVERYTHING

HAMPTON INN - AIRPORT 5585 Whitesville Rd. 706.576.5303 | columbus airportga.hamptoninn.com Two miles from the Airport, 10 minutes from Fort Benning. All rooms feature mini-fridge, microwave, free WiFi, fitness facility, complimentary hot breakfast.

HOTELS



OCLOSEST HOTEL TO FT BENNING

HAMPTON INN -FORT BENNING

2870 S. Lumpkin Rd. 706.660.5550 hamptoninn3.hilton.com Off Hwy. I-185, Exit 1B. Free WiFi, complimentary hot breakfast, HDTV, fitness center, & business center. "Connie Award" Winner.



INNE AWARD WINNER

HAMPTON INN -NORTH COLUMBUS

7390 Bear Ln. | 706.256.2222 columbusnorth. hamptoninn.com Rooms feature micro/fridges, flat-panel HDTV, WiFi, Hampton Cloud Nine bed. Free full hot breakfast. "Light House" Award Winner.



BHISTORIC CHARM DOWNTOWN

MARRIOTT COLUMBUS 800 Front Ave. | 706.324.1800

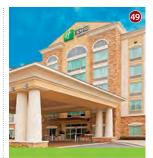
marriott.com/csgmc Newly remodeled guest rooms. Built around the original Empire Mills Grist Mill, the hotel combines 19th century charm with 21st century amenities. Located Uptown.



GOOD VALUE

QUALITY INN 3443 Macon Rd. 706.568.3300

The relaxed rooms have flat-screen TVs with cable, plus fridges, microwaves and coffeemakers. Pool. Freebies include WiFi, stays for kids 12 and under, and FREE HOT BREAKFAST.



STAY REFRESHED.

Free Full Hot Breakfast

- Fitness Center
- Business Center

Outdoor Heated
Pool and Indoor Spa

Free WiFi

- Same Day Dry Cleaning
- Discount at The Office Sports Bar & Grill (Next door to the hotel)
 - Meeting & Banquet Facilities for up to 120 people.



7336 Bear Lane Columbus, Georgia 706.507.7200 hiexpress.com/columbusga



© RECENTLY REMODELED

WINGATE BY WYNDHAM -COLUMBUS/FORT BENNING

1711 Rollins Way | 706.225.1000 wingatehotels.com/ hotel/12201

Spacious rooms, free hot breakfast, 42" flat screens, fridge, Internet, microwave, coffeemaker, outdoor pool, fitness center, business center.

More Accommodations

Best Western Plus - North Columbus	706.507.1111
Budgetel Inn & Suites	
Candlewood Suites - Columbus Northeast	706.940.0900
Comfort Suites Airport	706.322.6666
Country Inn & Suites - Bradley Park	
Econo Lodge & Suites - Historic District	
• Extended Stay America - Columbus Airport	
• Extended Stay America - Bradley Park	
Hawthorn Suites	
Home2 Suites	
Home-Towne Suites	
Howard Johnson Express	
La Quinta Inn - Midtown	
La Quinta Inn & Suites - Columbus State University	
Microtel Inn & Suites - Fort Benning	
Microtel Inn & Suites - Columbus North	
• Motel 6	
Motel 6 Columbus - Uptown	
Residence Inn	
Rothschild Pound House Inn	
Springhill Suites	706.576.3773
• Super 8	706.322.6580
TownePlace Suites	706.322.3001
Value Place	706.649.6599



Newly Renovated! SLEEP INN & SUITES Enjoy a Restful Night in one of our New Designed to Dream Rooms. You'll be Impressed by the stylish décor!

Rooms with King, Queen, and Full Beds
 Suites with King Bed and Two Doubles
 Refrigerators, Microwave, Coffee Makers
 Complimentary Full Hot Buffet Breakfast
 Outdoor Pool and Pass to Max Fitness
 32 inch Flat Screen TV'S
 Free High Speed Wireless Internet
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(55)

The SLEEP INN & Suites is located just off I-185, within a mile of the Columbus Airport and just minutes from Fort Benning, Columbus State University and Downtown.

> Certificate of Excellence 2013, 2014, 2015

SLEEP INN

Call (706) 653-1330 5100 Armour Rd., Columbus, GA 31904

FORT BENNING

All Out HONOR

National Infantry Museum

Fort Benning, Maneuver Center of Excellence

Columbus' patriotic spirit goes all out every day for the steady stream of visitors who make their way to take part in activities at neighboring Fort Benning, or to visit soldiers and their families in the area.

Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry since 1918, transforming into the Maneuver Center of Excellence in 2005. Since World War I, its mission has been to "produce the world's finest combat infantrymen."

The U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning has developed such military leaders as five-star generals Omar Bradley, George Marshall and Dwight D. Eisenhower. George Patton and Colin Powell also trained at Fort Benning.

Since the 1970s, new missions at Fort Benning have included the Airborne school and the Ranger school.

POSSIBLE FORT BENNING ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Riverside Plantation

Built in 1909 by businessman Arthur Bussey, Riverside is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the commandant's residence.

(continued on page 42)



NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM



A PLACE TO HONOR, EDUCATE AND REMEMBER.



Nowhere is the American Soldier more revered than at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, voted the nation's Best Free Museum in USA Today's Readers' Choice Awards. The 185,000-square-foot, world-class museum in Columbus, Georgia, just outside the gates of Fort Benning, honors the legacy of valor and sacrifice of Soldiers past, present and future. From our collection of priceless artifacts, to our authentic World War II Company Street, to our three-quarter scale Vietnam Wall, the National Infantry Museum is a must-see attraction. Whether you have only a couple of hours to visit or are looking for a memorable spot for your reunion group's next gathering, it is an experience you'll never forget.

See for yourself why this is... A Place to Remember.

241 Years of Military History • Just 90 Minutes South of Atlanta



For more details, please check our website NATIONALINFANTRYMUSEUM.ORG

FORT BENNING



POW Monument

Erected in 1946, this monument was originally intended to honor U.S. prisoners of World War II. It was later moved to its current location and altered to also reflect the POWs of World War I, Korea, and Vietnam.

WHINSEC

Currently training officers of foreign countries, this building originally served as the U.S. Army Infantry School and Fort Benning Headquarters.

Doughboy Stadium

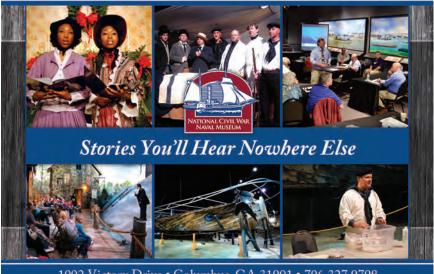
Built by U.S. Army Infantrymen as a memorial to their comrades of World War I.

Cuartels

Designed and constructed in the 1920s, this building serves as offices and quarters for visiting officers. The building appeared in the 1941 edition of *Ripley's Believe It or Not* for the world's longest continuous porch.

Contact the Visitors Bureau at 800.999.1613 for more information.

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM [©]



1002 Victory Drive • Columbus, GA 31901 • 706.327.9798 WWW.PORTCOLUMBUS.ORG

MILITARY HERITAGE

Оп

National Civil War Naval Museum

Places to Explore Military History

Our nation's military heritage gets a lot of attention in Columbus, and for good reason. Neighboring Fort Benning has trained hundreds of thousands of soldiers for our country's defense since 1918.

National Infantry Museum & SOLDIER CENTER

Visit the best free museum in America as voted by USA Today's 2016 Readers' Choice Awards! Trace the footsteps of the Infantryman from early wars to the jungles of Vietnam to the sands of the Persian Gulf



through an interactive experience with amazing special effects. "Meet" Infantrymen from the Revolutionary War through today's War on Terrorism and come to understand why an Infantryman puts himself in harm's way in the name of liberty. The Patriot Park campus includes the museum, a ¾-scale replica of the Vietnam Wall, stadium and parade field for weekly graduations of new soldiers, Memorial Walk of Honor, authentic World War II Company Street, a full-service restaurant, gift shop, combat simulators, and theater. **nationalinfantrymuseum.org**

MILITARY HERITAGE



2 National Civil War Naval Museum AT PORT COLUMBUS

You can still smell the charred wood 150 years later of the two original Civil War military vessels dredged up from where they burned on the Chattahoochee River. There are stories you'll hear nowhere else – of sailors, marines, sailing ships, and history-changing battles. Step into a reproduction exhibit of the USS Hartford and CSS Albemarle. There's always something new to discover! **portcolumbus.org** (outside only)

3 Eternal Flame

Honor our veterans when you visit the Eternal Flame monument on the south side of Columbus' Government Center at 100 10th Street (the 9th Street side of the building). The monument also recognizes the city's five Medal of Honor recipients.

Tripadvisor* If you are a Civil War buff, then this is a must!"

And one more... ANDERSONVILLE

Travel about an hour's drive southeast of Columbus to Andersonville, site of Camp Sumter, a prisoner of war camp that is now Andersonville National Historic Site, a memorial to the nearly 13,000 Union POWs who died at the camp during the Civil War. In addition to the prison, the site includes the Andersonville National Cemetery and the National Prisoner of War Museum, which honors all American POWs in the United States' various military conflicts. **nps.gov/ande** (outside only)

tripadvisor* ●●●●●
 "Moving experience"



Places Your Kids Will Love

Let your little ones go all out with these kid-friendly activities. Splash around at Woodruff Park, let your imagination take flight or journey to sea at Columbus museums, or travel on an exotic safari. You'll never hear "I'm bored" again!

G O: National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus DO: Explore the USS Hartford

It was on board this ship that Admiral Farragut famously damned the torpedoes at the Battle of Mobile Bay. A recreated berth deck, wardroom and captain's cabin are displayed and are frequently used in living history at the museum.

Tripadvisor[®] "Great adventure!"

G O: Wild Animal Safari DO: Get your wild-life on

Drive through one of the best animal parks in the Southeast and encounter more than 500 animals. Like no other zoo you've been to! Only 1/2 hour from Columbus in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Feed and interact with animals from six continents and enjoy a ride in a zebra van or tour bus (seasonal). Visit online for more info at animalsafari.com.

Tripadvisor[®] "Very fun, exciting safari drive"

Columbus Visitors Guide 2017 | 800.999.1613 45



CHILD'S PLAY

3GO: The Columbus Museum DO: Release your inner Picasso

Draw a self-portrait, put on a puppet show, or read an art story in the reading area of Transformations, The Family Gallery at the Columbus Museum. Kids can develop their creative side and create a work of art in the process. And the best part is, all activities are completely free! **columbusmuseum.com**

Tripadvisor* *A family favorite for many years



Coca-Cola Space Science Center



G O: Family Theatre D O: Let your imagination soar

Be transported by the musicals, comedies, dramas, children's theatre and an occasional magic show. Enjoy an intimate theatre experience in a relaxed atmosphere, complete with a café and desserts at intermission. Located in the historic Rose Hill district in Columbus. familytheatre.org

5 G O: Coca-Cola Space Science Center D O: Take off into Outer Space

Use your imagination along with incredible interactive exhibits and Georgia's largest collection of NASA Space Shuttle artifacts to find yourself in outer space! Control miniature Mars Rovers, pilot flight simulators, and experience the universe like never before in the center's Omnisphere Theater. Children will embark on cosmic adventures through discovery learning. And for the tiny astronauts in training, there's even a designated "KidsSpace." **706.649.1470, ccssc.org**

ALL OUT FUN

G O: Oxbow Meadows D O: Discover Columbus wildlife

Experience nature up close at Oxbow Meadows. See if you can spot the Queen Bee in an observation bee hive, watch the American Alligators swimming in the enclosed pond, or catch the carnivorous plants in action. Children will be fascinated by the center's reptiles, amphibians, fish and other live exhibits. Admission is free, some programs do require a fee; donations always welcome. oxbow.columbusstate.edu



G O: National Infantry Museum & Soldier Center D O: Dress up like a Soldier!

Visit the best free museum in America as voted by USA Today's 2016 Readers' Choice Awards! Explore the museum's Family Gallery to learn about the sacrifices made by those who love a Soldier. Try on uniforms, boots, and hats and crawl into the virtual interior of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, where stereoscopes reveal images of Soldiers befriending children. nationalinfantrymuseum.org

Tripadvisor* *Exhibits capture your attention and ignite your patriotism"

8 G O: Columbus Ice Rink D O: Perform your best arabesque

Practice your figure skating, play hockey, take lessons or just glide around the rink on your blades. The Columbus Ice Rink is an NHL regulation-sized ice surface, offering public ice skating, party rentals and programs in hockey, figure skating, and learn-to-skate classes for all ages. **ColumbusIceRink.org**



CHILD'S PLAY



G O: Riverfront Splash Pad D O: Splash around

Run through the refreshing, spraying waters that will keep kids cool on those sticky, summer days. This kid-friendly interactive fountain in Woodruff Park provides hours of summertime fun and entertainment. Open 9 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, April-September.

Itripadvisor[®] ●●●●●● "Great escape with children"

Rain or shine, there's always something going on in Columbus to entertain the kids whether it's 3-D blockbusters at The Ritz, arcade games and bumper cars at Stars and Strikes, or special children's performances at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts and the Springer Opera House. Check out the calendar of events on page 60 or visit **calendarcolumbusga.com**





Take the RiverWalk GeoTour

Bring your family and friends to follow the RiverWalk GeoTour and to hunt for treasure along the Chattahoochee RiverWalk. Locate hidden containers, called geocaches, then share your experiences online. You can even take home prizes!

Pick up a RiverWalk GeoTour Grid Sheet from the Columbus, GA Convention & Visitors Bureau (900 Front Avenue 31901) or download it from visitcolumbusga.com/ visitors/riverwalk_geotour. If you are not already registered to geocache, go to Geocaching.com, create a log-in and find the GPS coordinates and additional information for the RiverWalk GeoTour locations. Locate one or all the caches – labeled as RiverWalk GeoTour geocaches – using a hand-held GPS unit. Caches are located at 31 points along the 15-mile Chattahoochee RiverWalk. When you find a RiverWalk GeoTour cache, log your name and comments in the logbook inside the container. Then, fill in the correct space on the grid sheet with the letter found inside each cache container.

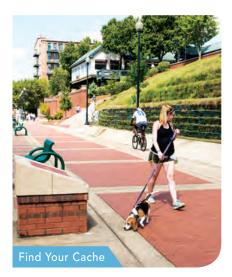


TWO WAYS TO WIN!

There are six unique geocache SERIES in the RiverWalk GeoTour:

- RiverWalk
- Dams
- Attractions
- Mills
- Chattahoochee River
- Whitewater

Complete each of the series to qualify to win a limited edition **RiverWalk GeoTour trading card.** There are 5 to 6 caches in each series. Collect one or all six cards. Present your RiverWalk GeoTour Grid Sheet with the appropriate spaces filled in at the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau during regular hours.





In addition, complete a specific number of caches to get a custom geo-coin.

Bring your completed grid sheet into the Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau during regular hours to receive your coin.

- 10 completed caches = bronze level coin.
- 20 completed caches = silver level coin.
- 30 completed caches = gold level coin.

ALL OUT BARGAINS

All Out BARGAINS

Bike the Fall Line Trace

Ways to Enjoy Columbus for ^{\$}5 or Less

Check out these fun and funky ideas to enjoy Columbus on a budget.



Grab your SNEAKERS

and get a good stretch before you hike, bike or skate the 15-mile Columbus **RiverWalk** that hugs the banks of the Chattahoochee River. Extending from the main post of Fort Benning to the cotton mill town of Bibb City, this exercise routine is completely free.

2 Step into the SPOTLIGHT

or watch from a cushy seat in the audience during No Shame Theatre every Friday night at the **Springer Opera House**. For ^{\$}5 you can entertain the city or watch your comrades perform original acts of improv, music, comedy, poetry and dance. Must be 18, you can't break anything, must perform original material and act can only be 5 minutes long.

^{\$}5 OR LESS

3 Immerse YOURSELF

in Columbus' history and art on a self-guided tour of **Heritage Park** or the **Sculpture Walk** in Uptown Columbus. Free.

Release your

at the Columbus Museum-always changing...and always free.

5 Take a WALK

through one of the largest botanical gardens in the Southeast, **Columbus Botanical Garden**, where stopping to smell the roses is always free. Open dawn to dusk.

Discover the WARES

of artists, artisans and crafters at **Uptown's First Friday** events, or bring a picnic and a blanket to one of Uptown's frequent concerts held on the stage in the 1000 Block of Broadway. Free.





Come face TO FACE

with Infantrymen from the Revolutionary War to today's War on Terrorism at the **National Infantry Museum**. This amazing, interactive experience is free. ^{\$}5/person donation requested at the door; some programs have a fee.

B Hunt for G H O S T S behind the scenes at the historic Springer Opera House. On Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m., a 30-minute tour is offered for just ^{\$}5. The tour gives you access to the ornate trappings of the State Theater of Georgia, a haunted thrill or two, and much more.

Pedal through TOWN

along the former railroad path that once connected Columbus to the rest of the nation. The **Columbus Fall Line Trace** weaves its way through town for cyclists, walkers, and joggers to enjoy. Free.

51⁺ HOURS IN COLUMBUS



All Out

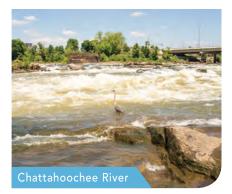
Kayak the Chattahoochee River

Hours in Columbus

240 × 1000

Not sure where to start your fun in Columbus? We're here to help. We've taken care of everything including the itinerary, so the only thing you have to worry about is what to do when the family doesn't want to leave!

DAY ONE



8 AM

Start the morning right with a fresh cup of coffee. Stop in **Uptown Columbus** for a steaming brew or a muffin at a shop you can't find in your hometown.

9 AM

Rent a bike and take the kids for a ride on the **Chattahoochee RiverWalk**, or stroll through **Heritage Park** to see the granite pools, outdoor sculptures and interpretive markers that celebrate Columbus' industrial heritage.

51⁺ HOURS IN COLUMBUS

10 AM

Explore Uptown's unique shops. Local retailers bring you clothing, jewelry, unique gifts, new running shoes, outdoor apparel and more.

11 AM

Become an astronaut for a day at the **Coca-Cola Space Science Center** on Front Avenue. Engage with flight simulators and other interactive tools, and journey through time and space in a show in the **Omnisphere Theater.**

12 Noon

Enjoy Japanese, Mexican, Thai, or fried chicken for lunch – there is no shortage of choices for dining in Columbus. Lunch at the **Fife & Drum**, the restaurant in the **National Infantry Museum**, puts you steps away from the museum's interactive wonders.



War Posters at the National Infantry Museum

2 PM

After exploring the **National Infantry Museum**, get some fresh air with a visit to **Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center**, an animal "museum" filled with living reptile and aquatic exhibits. See the carnivorous plants in the Bog Garden, or look for birds in the Aviary Garden.

3 PM

Continue from Oxbow Meadows to the National Civil War Museum at Port Columbus. See the "bones" of ships that burned and sank on the Chattahoochee River during the U.S. Civil War.



5 PM

Freshen up at the hotel for the evening's adventure.

6 PM

Go out for a delicious dinner at a Columbus bistro, grille or other local favorite. A bowl of crab bisque at **Meritage**, perhaps? Delicious!

8 PM

Attend a Broadway touring production at **RiverCenter for the Performing Arts**, or take the family to see the latest Hollywood blockbuster at Carmike Cinema's Ritz 13, Peachtree 8 or Carmike 15 theaters.

BAKERY & CAFE

LIGHTNIN

10 PM

Cap off the evening with a late-nite milkshake or a frozen yogurt, then settle down for a great night's sleep at one of Columbus' welcoming and comfortable hotels.







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DAY TWO

8 AM

Fill your belly with a Southern breakfast at **Ruth Ann's Restaurant**, a Columbus landmark. We recommend the red velvet pancakes with a cream cheese drizzle!

9 AM

Stretch your legs with a walk on the Chattahoochee RiverWalk.



10 AM

Explore the **Columbus Museum's** ever-changing exhibits of art, furnishings and historical artifacts that will provide you and your family with a fresh outlook on Columbus' past and present.

12 Noon

Try Columbus's hidden hotdog gem, the "scrambled dog" at **Dinglewood Pharmacy**. Pair it with a cherry Coke or vanilla malt.



1 PM

Strap on your helmet and prepare for the ride of your life as you raft the Class I-II whitewater rapids on the **Chattahoochee River**, the longest urban whitewater rafting in the world!

3 PM

Get a birds-eye view of the river on the **Blue Heron Adventure Course** complete with a 1,200-foot zip line that glides you 100 feet over the water!

4:30 PM

Didn't get enough of the rapids? Do it again, this time on the highwater trip, a Class II-IV+. The river has rapids like those found in Colorado and Zimbabwe!

6 PM

Shower and change into some dry clothes back at the hotel.

7 PM

Help solve a crime at Sherlock's Mystery Dinner Theatre. Did the butler do it?

9 PM

Unwind and share memories of the day at a martini bar, sports bar, or sweetery in Uptown, Bradley Park, the Landings, or Columbus Park Crossing.



DAY THREE

8 AM

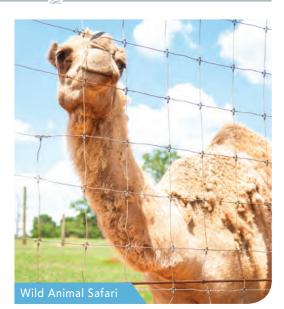
Try the Plucked Up Chicken Biscuit with pineapple marmalade. Yum! Then hit the road for the 45-minute drive to Pine Mountain, Georgia.

10 AM

Encounter zebras, giraffes and other exotic animals when you drive through Wild Animal Safari in Pine Mountain. You may even have animals eating right out of your hand!

12 Noon

Have lunch at the Safari Café or drive over to the village of Warm Springs for an authentic Southern lunch served buffet-style.



62 Memories await in Meriwether FROM PAST TO PRESENT, WATER TO LAND Each of its seven cities offers something unique - history; attractions; dining; shopping; festivals; and eco-friendly outings. Enjoy new murals that portray beauty, charm and stories of each city. Butterfly gardens are underway in what will become a county-wide Meriwether Murals and Monarchs Trail. Geocache adventures are being developed with The "Real Woodbury" Zombie GeoQuest now available with the soon-to-be launched Magic City RailOuest in Manchester and the Marvelous GeoVengers in Warm Springs. Come & make your memories in Meriwether ... 1 Broad St. | Warm Springs, GA 706.655.2558 or 706.655.3322

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51⁺ HOURS IN COLUMBUS

1 PM-4 PM

Meander through Warm Springs for an afternoon of shopping. The town is filled with gift boutiques, mercantiles, galleries, antique shops, and more. If you're in the mood for a little more history, visit President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Little White House, his Georgia home and escape from the concerns of the nation's capital. The entire family can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, swimming, and more at neighboring F.D. Roosevelt State Park.

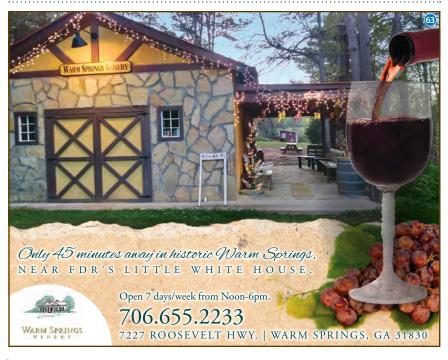
If you'd rather see more of the region after lunch, head south to **Plains, Georgia,** the hometown of another



president, Jimmy Carter. **The Jimmy Carter National Historic site** includes the Plains Depot, a museum to the 1976 presidential campaign, Carter's boyhood home, and Plains High School.

6 PM

Come back to Columbus for a BBQ dinner in an old bus. **Country's Barbecue's** Uptown location serves up delicious pork, chicken and beef in a restored bus station, complete with a dine-in bus.



ALL OUT LONG WEEKEND

8 PM

Take your seat at **RiverCenter for the Performing Arts** to hear the best of Bach, Beethoven, or many of your favorite classical, pop or Broadway Show tunes by the **Columbus Symphony Orchestra**. For live drama, comedy or musicals, snag tickets to the **Springer Opera House**, the State Theatre of Georgia.

11 PM

Stop for a late dessert and coffee or nightcap after the show, then back to the hotel to rest up for the trip home – that is, if you can convince the family to leave. Contact the Columbus **Convention & Visitors Bureau** for suggested itineraries to satisfy interests ranging from the arts, education, military, and regional explorations. We can also help you set up a custom itinerary for your group. For details, contact the Visitors Bureau at 800,999,1613 or ccvb@visitcolumbusga.com or visit the website at visitcolumbusga.com. Refer often to the Columbus Event Calendar. calendarcolumbusga.com, for the latest information on what's going on in and around the Columbus area where to go, when you need to know.



⁽³⁾NEAR CALLAWAY G A R D E N S

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60

Home of the 39th President of the United States and the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

- Plains Historic Inn & Antique Mall Relax in one of the seven period suites - 1920s to the 1980s
- Jimmy Carter National Historic Site includes the Plains High School Museum and Visitors Center, the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm and the Plains Depot, the site of the 1976 Presidental Campaign Headquarters.
- Historic Self Guided driving tour of Plains
- Attend a Sunday School class taught by President Carter
- Visit the Billy Carter Gas Station Museum
- Plains Peanut Festival 4th weekend of September

For information: (229) 824-5373 or (229) 824-4517 www.plainsgeorgia.com ANNUAL CALENDAR

15 Reasons to mark your calendar



COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Mozart & Friends Festival





BLACK HISTORY Month Events



THUNDER IN THE VALLEY Airshow



UPTOWN RIVERFEST 8 Dragon Boat Festival



COLUMBUS BALLET'S Spring Repertory



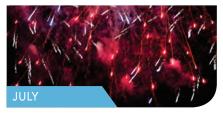
Riverblast AT NATIONAL CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM AT PORT COLUMBUS



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ALL OUT EVENTS



4TH OF JULY **Fireworks**



UPTOWN **Beer & Wine Festival**



JIM BLANCHARD Leadership Forum



Arts ON THE RIVER



SPOOKTACULAR Halloween Festival



CHRISTMAS Made in the South



Victorian Christmas AT NATIONAL CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM AT PORT COLUMBUS



Polar Express AT THE NATIONAL **INFANTRY MUSEUM**

For details on these and many other Columbus Area Happenings, visit the Event Calendar at ColumbusGaCalendar.com



GETTING HERE

All Out DIRECTIONS

Columbus Airport

Getting Here & Getting Around

Getting to Columbus couldn't be easier! Visitors to our city are served by the **Columbus Airport**, **located at 3250 W**. **Britt David Road**, **706.324.2449**, **flycolumbusga.com**. Delta Air Lines offers daily flights to Columbus from Atlanta, Georgia. At the airport, car rentals, cabs, and airport and hotel shuttles are available to help you get to all our shopping centers, accommodations, restaurants, sites, and attractions.

Columbus is also served by several of the state's major highways, including Interstate 185 and U.S. 27/27Alt. off I-85 South out of Atlanta, U.S. 80 West out of Macon, and U.S. 280 North out of Albany.

Columbus's METRA bus system operates from 4:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and picks up from bus stops located all around the city. Visit **columbusga.org/metra** for schedules and fare information.

If you are a **Zipcar** member, there is a Zipcar lot on the main campus of Columbus State University, near the airport. Go to **zipcar.com/columbusstate** for more information.

It's easy to get around in our city, because exits are clearly marked and our citizens are some of the friendliest people in the South, so just ask! You'll soon feel right at home!

See the maps in the center of this guide for more help in enjoying our city.



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We are committed to Columbus and excited about its future, both as a regional tourism destination and center for economic development. Our friendly, professional staff has one priority: **YOU!**

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VALLEY HOSPITALITY