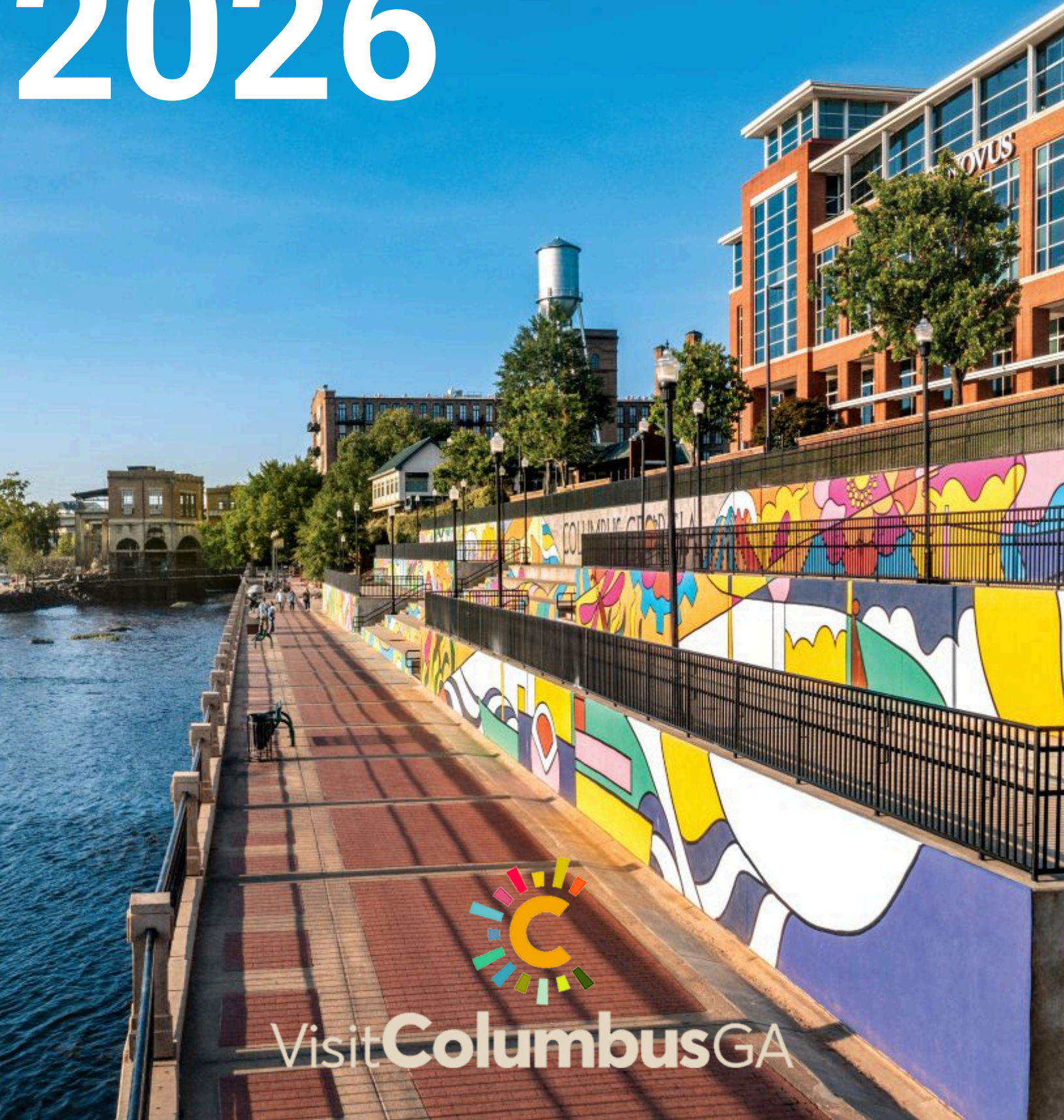


PRESS KIT

2026



Visit **Columbus**GA



ONLY IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

FUN FACTS, UNIQUE LANDMARKS *& More*

In a city as rich in history and heritage as Columbus, Georgia, there are plenty of cool facts, unique landmarks, and historic sites to learn more about and find around town! Read on to discover what makes Columbus, Georgia, different from any other city in the country, and all the sites to see during your next trip with us!

1 Big City Amenities, Small Town Hospitality



In 2021, Columbus was officially declared the **second-largest city in Georgia** by the U.S. Census Bureau, second only to the state capital, Atlanta! Columbus consistently ranks among the top cities in the state with over 200,000 residents. **Columbus is a city on the rise**, and there are plenty of reasons why.

2 World-Class Rafting Course



Columbus is home to the **longest urban whitewater rafting course in the world!** Located on the Chattahoochee River, the **Whitewater Express** course stretches approximately 2.5 miles and has been described as “Wild as Colorado and as Warm as Costa Rica.”

3 Downtown = Uptown



In Columbus, the central city area that would normally be referred to as “downtown” in other towns is known as “Uptown” in Columbus. This began in the 1980s, when multiple nonprofit organizations and local community groups sought to revitalize the once-empty, underdeveloped downtown area. Today, Columbus’ Uptown area is a bustling district filled with notable shops, restaurants, and attractions like the **22-mile Chattahoochee RiverWalk**, drawing thousands of visitors to the city each year.



4 Fountain City



Columbus is nicknamed the “**Fountain City**” because of the many public fountains that can be found around town. There are nearly a dozen fountains within a three-mile radius of Uptown Columbus, and it’s a popular activity to walk around and take a photo with each of the fountains you find.

5 Zipline to a Completely Different State (and Back)



One of Columbus’ most popular attractions allows you to **zipline from Georgia to Alabama, and back!** Columbus sits on the border between both states, and the Blue Heron Aerial Course allows true adventurers to zipline from Columbus to Phenix City, Alabama!

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6

Home to the #1 Best Free Museum in the U.S.



Columbus' **National Infantry Museum** is not only considered one of the top military museums in the country, but also one of the top museums overall, **voted as the #1 Best Free Museum in the U.S. in the 2024 USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards**. Columbus is a true military heritage hub, also offering visitors the chance to see the **National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus** and the **U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence** at Fort Benning.

7

Rooted in Rhythm, Blues, & Culture



Columbus is a city with **deep ties to Black American music**, including jazz and rhythm & blues. **Ma Rainey**, the "Mother of the Blues," was born in Columbus, lived here, and performed here, beginning her career at the historic Springer Opera House. Several other iconic Black musicians also performed in Columbus, specifically at the **Liberty Theatre, the city's first Black theatre**, including Marian Anderson, **Ella Fitzgerald**, **Ethel Waters**, **Lena Horne**, Columbus' own **Ma Rainey**, her protégé **Bessie Smith**, and the big bands of **Duke Ellington**, Cab Calloway, and Fletcher Henderson. Columbus visitors can learn more about Black music and other history in the city on the **Black Heritage Trail**.

8

A Southern Riverside Dining Destination



Columbus is home to a **dynamic and versatile culinary environment**, with over 500 restaurants serving cuisines from all around the world. From **vibrant rooftop bars** serving creative cocktails and dishes, like **Eighteen85 Rooftop Bar & Kitchen**, to upscale establishments serving award-winning cuisine next to the Chattahoochee River, like **Epic Restaurant, the only Georgia AAA Four Diamond Award winner outside of the Atlanta area**, Columbus offers a dining landscape that's worth a trip to the city alone. Some of Columbus' more casual standout eateries include **Ruth Ann's Restaurant**, which was featured in the **Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Guide on the 'Best Diners in Georgia'**, and **Banks Food Hall**, which features seven unique food and drink vendors.

Columbus is also the birthplace of the **iconic Scrambled Dog**, a unique hot dog that both **President Jimmy Carter** and the **United Kingdom's King Charles** have indulged in. Originated in 1908, scrambled dogs remain one of Columbus' signature dishes to this day, with both locals and travelers visiting Columbus eateries like the long-standing **Dinglewood Pharmacy** to enjoy them.



9

Eight Museums, All-In-One



One of Columbus' most unique attractions is the **Columbus Collective Museums**, which brings together **eight museums in one location**. Visitors can experience the **Lunchbox Museum**, featuring more than 5,000 lunchboxes, trays, and thermoses; the **Georgia Radio Museum**, which honors the men and women of broadcasting in Georgia; the **Car Museum**, which showcases a collection of classic cars and rare vehicles; and five other unique and interactive museums!

10

The True Birthplace of the Coca-Cola Formula?



While Atlanta is the birthplace of Coca-Cola as we know it today, it is **widely believed that the original formula for the iconic drink was created in Columbus**. John Pemberton, the creator of Coca-Cola, was a practicing pharmacist in Columbus and is buried in historic Linwood Cemetery. There's no doubt. The first glass of modern Coca-Cola was sold in Atlanta in 1886, but the **original prototype**, known as "French Wine Coca," is said to have been created in Pemberton's Columbus laboratory/pharmacy in the 1860s/1870s. You can learn more about Columbus' place in soft drink history, including as the founding location of the brand RC Cola, on the **Soft Drink Heritage Trail**.

11

An Art Scene Worth Traveling For



Along with its outdoor and riverside adventures, recreational attractions, dining options, and more, Columbus is also known for its **robust art scene**. The Columbus Museum, which is the **second-largest art museum in the Southeast**, offers free admission and showcases local history and heritage.

Columbus is home to a variety of art galleries both large and small, from Columbus State University's **Bo Bartlett Art Center and Ilges Gallery**, to fine art venues like **Highland Galerie**, smaller, artist-led galleries like **Gallery on 10th**, and the philanthropic **Do Good Fund Gallery**, which tells the history of the American South through art.

The performing arts landscape in Columbus is also a thriving one, with multiple options to enjoy, including the **RiverCenter for the Performing Arts**, and the **Springer Opera House**, which is one of the oldest continuously operating theaters in the U.S., having been open since 1871.



SCAN TO START PLANNING YOUR TRIP!

Discover More

- Itineraries
- Attractions
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12

A 20-Foot Cow (Named Kadie)



One of Columbus' most iconic local landmarks is **Kadie the Cow**, a 20-foot fiberglass statue of a dairy cow. Placed in 1967, Kadie originally stood as a mascot for the former Kinnett Dairy plant, standing in the same place for 50 years. Kadie was moved to her current home in Uptown Columbus' Chattahoochee RiverWalk in late 2022, where she now stands as a unique photo attraction and a reminder of Columbus' history.



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TOP ATTRACTIONS



With its rich history, commitment to the arts and culture, and gorgeous outdoor landscapes and features, Columbus, Georgia, is a destination that delivers a truly well-rounded travel experience. There's no shortage of activities, whether you're a thrill-seeking adventurer who loves the outdoors, an arts and culture enthusiast, or a history buff who wants to view the artifacts you've heard about in real life. Experience all Columbus has to offer through its unique attractions, exhibitions, parks, and more:

The Great Outdoors of Columbus

Perhaps the heart and soul of Columbus is its most iconic natural landmark, the Chattahoochee River

Serving as an epicenter for activity, walking along the banks of the rushing river is a worthwhile activity all on its own, but the **Chattahoochee RiverWalk** makes it even more special. Stretching 22 miles, the RiverWalk is an accessible urban trail that lets visitors take in **picturesque views of the Chattahoochee, along with local restaurants and bars**, historical sites, and more, with easy-to-find benches and restrooms along the way. Tourists and locals alike gather on the RiverWalk each day to walk, bike, rollerblade, and ride scooters with family members and friends, both human and four-legged alike!

The Chattahoochee River is also home to **Whitewater Express**, the **longest urban whitewater rafting course in the world!** Whitewater rafting isn't the only water sport Columbus is renowned worldwide for, as the city was also recently named the **first-ever U.S. Freestyle Canoe Center of Excellence by the International Canoe Federation (ICF)**. In 2028, Columbus will host the 2028 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup, and in 2029, the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championship!

Believe it or not, Columbus visitors can also enjoy the gorgeous Chattahoochee River high in the sky, and briefly visit a different state, all with the same activity. Positioned 45 feet above the Chattahoochee, the **Blue Heron Adventure Zipline**

runs 1,200 feet, and adventurers who complete each of its ziplines can travel all the way from Columbus, Georgia, to Phenix City, Alabama, and back, in the air!

Beyond the Chattahoochee, Columbus is full of outdoor activities and adventures, with miles of trails for walking, biking, and more, including the **Dragonfly Trails**, **Standing Boy Trails**, and the Joann Holt Walking Trail in the **Columbus Botanical Garden**. In March 2026, the International Mountain Bicycling Association recognized Columbus, Georgia, as an **inaugural Trail Town** because of our commitment to trail infrastructure.



Exploring The Arts

The arts scene in Columbus, Georgia, is easily described as both robust and unique, offering a variety of experiences that won't be found in any other city.



Fine art connoisseurs will enjoy the expansive selection of fine art galleries and exhibitions throughout the city. The **Bo Bartlett Center**, an 18,425-square-foot interactive gallery space housed in a former textile warehouse along the Chattahoochee River. Designed by **acclaimed architect Tom Kundig**, the center functions as both a cultural hub and experiential learning environment with six to eight annual rotating exhibitions featuring regional, national, and international artists. The **Scarborough Collection includes a series of works by Columbus native Bo Bartlett**, along with an extensive archive offering a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the artist's creative process. Together with the neighboring **Ilges Gallery at Columbus State University**, it anchors a growing arts district that continues to elevate Columbus' presence on a national stage.

The **Columbus Museum**, adds another layer, blending American art with regional history to create a sense of place. The experience extends beyond the galleries with the interactive Children's Gallery and Garden designed for hands-on exploration, and the Bradley Olmsted Garden, a serene outdoor space with seasonal blooms and winding paths.

Led by two sisters, **Highland Galerie** honors the legacy of Mary Passalague, a key figure in Columbus' art scene. It offers an intimate experience showcasing regional talent and Southern perspectives.

Arts-minded visitors can also visit **Gallery on 10th**, Georgia's first artist-owned art cooperative. Gallery on 10th is fully staffed and owned by its membership of local and regional artists, who also display their work in the gallery.

Columbus' **Do Good Fund Gallery** is another must-visit in the city. Categorized as a public charity, the fund displays a collection of over 900 images taken in the American South since World War II.

Columbus is also home to a thriving performing arts scene. Visitors are invited to experience performances at the **Springer Opera House**, the State Theatre of Georgia, the community-focused **Family Theatre**, Columbus State University's **Riverside Theatre Complex**, as well as the **RiverCenter for the Performing Arts**, the centerpiece of the city's arts and entertainment district and home of the **Columbus Symphony Orchestra**, the second oldest orchestra in the United States.



For those looking to explore beyond the city center, **Pasaquan** is described as a "Mock-Precolumbian Psychedelic Wonderland," located less than an hour outside of Columbus, Georgia. The seven-acre visionary art environment **features six notable structures with interior spaces adorned with intricate mandala murals and over 900 feet of elaborately painted masonry walls**. Full of vibrant colors and maximalism, Pasaquan is recognized as one of the most significant visionary art environments in the United States and is even **listed on the National Register of Historic Places**. Images don't do Pasaquan justice; it's a destination that must be experienced in person!

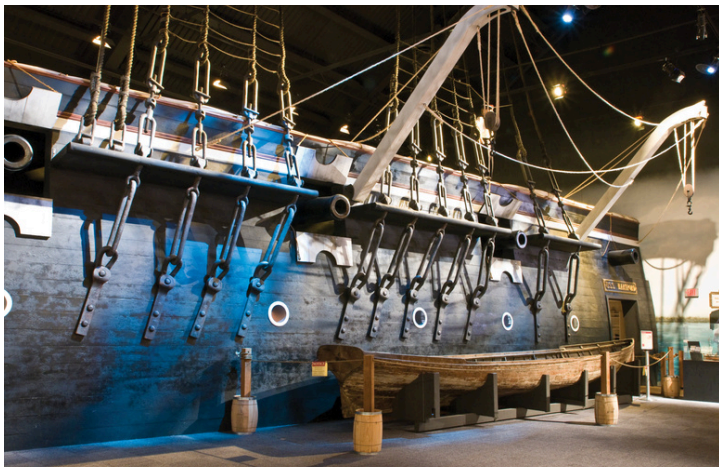
History Hubs, Museums, Interactive Educational Sites, and More

In Columbus, history, culture, and discovery are woven into every corner, offering visitors a **wide range of museums, heritage sites, and interactive educational experiences**. From nationally recognized military institutions to hands-on science centers and living history environments, Columbus invites visitors to explore the stories that have shaped the region and the nation.

Another unique Columbus gem is **The Columbus Collective Museum**, which brings together **eight museums in one location**, creating a convenient and engaging way to experience a variety of exhibits and perspectives. Visitors can experience the **Lunchbox Museum**, featuring more than 5,000 lunchboxes, trays, and thermoses; the **Georgia Radio Museum**, which honors the men and women of broadcasting in Georgia; and the **Car Museum**, highlighting a collection of classic cars and rare vehicles.

For an immersive step back in time, **Westville Village** offers a living history experience that brings the 19th century to life. Set within an authentic village of preserved buildings, visitors can explore at their own pace, moving through historic churches, trade shops, and homesteads while engaging with costumed interpreters. With traditional crafts, hands-on workshops, and seasonal events, it provides a dynamic and visually rich complement to Columbus' broader museum offerings.

Military history plays a central role in the city's identity. The **National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center** offers an immersive look at the history of the American soldier through powerful exhibits and life-size galleries. Visitors can also explore the **National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus**, which houses one of the most significant collections of Civil War naval artifacts in the country, and take a meaningful day trip to the **Andersonville National Historic Site** for a broader perspective on Civil War history.



For hands-on learning and exploration, the **Coca-Cola Space Science Center** offers interactive exhibits, simulators, and a planetarium that make space science accessible and engaging for all ages. Nature and environmental education take center stage at the **Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center**, where visitors can explore local ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and conservation efforts. Guests can view what's blooming at the **Columbus Botanical Garden** year-round and attend educational workshops and seminars.



Columbus' cultural legacy is also deeply rooted in music and storytelling. The **Gertrude "Ma" Rainey House & Blues Museum** honors the life and impact of Ma Rainey, the Columbus native known as the "Mother of the Blues." The museum also highlights Columbus' influence on American music history.

Together, these destinations showcase the depth and diversity of Columbus' identity, blending outdoor adventure, cultural heritage, military significance, history, and education into a collection of experiences that are both enriching and memorable.

Scan to
learn more



What's New *Columbus* IN

Columbus, Georgia, continues to evolve as one of the most dynamic cities in the state and the South, with new restaurants, events, developments, revitalized spaces, and more enhancing the city each year. From boutique hotels with riverfront restaurants, food halls, and renovated museums, to relocated sports teams and stadiums, here's what's new in Columbus, Georgia:



Elevated Experiences in Sports & Entertainment

One of Columbus, Georgia's most exciting additions in recent years came to its sports and entertainment landscape when the city officially welcomed the **Columbus Clingstones**. The Clingstones are a Double-A Minor League Baseball team, and the Southern League affiliate of the Atlanta Braves. The team moved to Columbus in 2024 from Mississippi, with Columbus offering the team a dedicated audience, as well as the newly upgraded Synovus Park, which completed a \$50 million renovation project in 2025. The Clingstones have been playing in Synovus Park since April of 2025, with the team becoming an entertainment staple for both locals and visitors.

The Clingstones are not the only sports team to have recently joined Columbus, Georgia, which welcomed the **Columbus River Dragons**, a minor league professional hockey team, in 2019, as well as **Columbus United FC**, a USL League Two soccer team that joined the city in 2023. Sports fans can also cheer on the Columbus Lions, the city's American Arena League indoor football team at the Columbus Civic Center.

Along with exciting sports teams, a new generation of experiential attractions continues to add even more depth to Columbus, Georgia's offerings. Recently opened concepts include **Vent Rage Room**, which offers high-energy outlets for fun, a relaxing float spa experience at **Shades of Healing**, a local installment of **Escapology**, which provides immersive escape room experiences for families and groups, and **Sand Trap Social**, which combines state-of-the-art golf simulators with elevated casual dining and a craft bar.



Developments in Dining and Hospitality

Columbus, Georgia's culinary scene has recently undergone a series of dynamic changes and upgrades, driven by innovative chefs and diverse new concepts.

In 2021, the city welcomed **Banks Food Hall**, a lively culinary collective that has quickly become a go-to destination for both locals and visitors. The first food hall in Columbus, Georgia, Banks invites visitors to explore a range of culinary concepts, including **Angry Wings & Things**, **Filberto's Filipino Cuisine**, and **Poke Sun**, all under one roof.

In 2022, Columbus, Georgia, welcomed **Highside Market**, a mixed-use adaptive reuse development featuring restaurants, green spaces, shopping boutiques, events, and community programming. It includes crowd-favorite restaurants **It's Tamale Time** and **Nonic Restaurant Bar & Rooftop**. Highside Market has become a staple for locals, with features unique enough to also make it a "must-visit" space for tourists in Columbus, Georgia, as well. From activities like yoga, concerts, and story times, to hosting signature events like Columbus's only year-round farmers market, a seasonal food truck and film series, cooking classes, and more, Highside Market adds an incredible mix of entertainment to the city.



Beyond these developments, Columbus' thriving restaurant scene continues to impress with standout dining experiences. Seafood lovers flock to **Saltcellar** for fresh coastal-inspired cuisine, while **Hudson's on Main Street** has earned a loyal following for its elevated Southern fare and welcoming atmosphere. Another standout, **The New York Butcher Shoppe** provides premium meats, gourmet prepared foods and a neighborhood market experience that has become a favorite among locals and visitors alike.

On the hospitality front, the locally owned **City Mills Hotel** joined Columbus, Georgia, in 2021, offering a boutique hotel experience and a riverfront restaurant, **Millhouse Kitchen + Bar**. **AC Hotel Columbus Downtown** also opened in 2021 on Broadway in Uptown, providing guests a modern, urban vibe with classic elements. **Hotel Indigo at Riverfront Place**, another elevated, boutique-style hotel opened the same year, also adding **Eighteen85 Rooftop Bar & Kitchen** to the city's culinary landscape.

With **over 500 restaurants and counting**, and a growing hospitality scene, Columbus, Georgia, continues to shape itself as a must-visit destination for both sectors.



A Fresh Take on the Arts



Columbus, Georgia's rich arts scene also continues to expand in exciting ways, with thrilling exhibits, installations, and more taking place each year. Most notably, the **Columbus Museum**, the second-largest art museum in Georgia, underwent a transformative \$25 million renovation and reopened in 2024 after an 18-month closure. The renovation includes refreshed galleries, updated exhibitions, and enhanced visitor experiences that further position the institution as a cornerstone of the city's cultural landscape.

Also on the arts front, Columbus, Georgia's iconic **Springer Opera House** introduced **The PATIO** in 2026, a new urban green space and outdoor performance venue. The PATIO will host musical theatre productions, themed concert experiences, dance concerts, children's theatre, and more.

A Global Outdoor Destination on the Rise



Already home to the **longest urban whitewater rafting course in the world**, Columbus is gaining new international recognition as a leader in outdoor adventure. The city was recently named the **first-ever International Canoe Federation's Freestyle Canoe Center of Excellence** and will **host the International Canoe Federation Freestyle World Cup in 2028 and the World Championship in 2029**, bringing elite athletes and global attention to the Chattahoochee River.

At the same time, continued investment in outdoor infrastructure, from the 22-mile **RiverWalk** to expanding trail systems, ensures that Columbus remains as accessible as it is adventurous. Signature experiences like the **Blue Heron Adventure Zipline**, **Standing Boy Trails**, **Dragonfly Trail**, and more continue to define the city's unique outdoor appeal. Investment in robust trail networks, community engagement, and commitment to trail quality earned Columbus, Georgia, an **inaugural designation as an International Mountain Bicycling Association Trail Town in 2026**.

Emerging Events & Community Energy

As Columbus, Georgia, continues to welcome new restaurants, shopping centers, sports teams, recreational attractions, and more, the city's calendar of festivals and events is expanding as well, with a dynamic mix of community-driven experiences that showcase the city's creative spirit. Newer events gaining traction include the **Crossroads Folk Art Festival**, **Ma Fest**, and **PorchFest**, all of which celebrate the region's artistic and cultural heritage.

Signature events like **Street Food Saturdays**, **Arts in the Park**, **Market Days on Broadway**, and the **MidTown Tiny Stage Concert Series** continue to bring energy to Columbus' streets, parks, and public spaces, while seasonal markets, riverfront events, and live music performances ensure there's always something new to experience.



Local mixed-use community developments and markets also regularly host and introduce exciting new festivals, concerts, late-night markets and more, including **Midland Commons**, **The Vibe on 6th**, **Bluebell Market**, **Highside Market**, and more.

With new energy around every corner, Columbus, Georgia, is redefining what it means to be a modern Southern destination. From its thriving culinary scene to its expanding lineup of experiences and events, the city invites visitors to discover what's new and come back for what's next!

Start exploring today!



Scan to browse maps, photos, travel guides, and more story ideas for Columbus.

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48 HOURS *Columbus* — IN —

From **exhilarating outdoor adventures** and **nationally recognized museums** to a **thriving arts scene** and vibrant **riverfront dining**, Columbus, Georgia, offers the perfect mix of excitement, culture and Southern hospitality. Whether you're visiting for a weekend getaway or a quick escape, this 48-hour itinerary highlights some of the very **best experiences** the city has to offer.



DAY ONE: Discovering Uptown

If you're arriving in Columbus before 4:00 PM, when most hotels allow check-in, we recommend storing your luggage with the hotel you reserved. Many hotels will allow you to keep your luggage with them until you're ready to check in, including local favorites like City Mills Hotel!



9:00 – 10:00 AM

Breakfast at a Local Eatery

Start your trip with breakfast at a local favorite! **Breakfastology** is a laboratory-themed café with a build-your-own bagel lab, genius-fuel cold brews, and à la carte lab specials. **Plucked Up** serves up flavorful breakfast biscuits and morning meal favorites, and **Ruth Ann's Restaurant** has been serving unique and traditional Southern comfort classics since 1959.



10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Columbus Collective Museums

Visit eight museums in one location! The **Columbus Collective Museums** includes the Lunchbox Museum, featuring more than 5,000 lunchboxes, trays, and thermoses; the Georgia Radio Museum and Hall of Fame, which honors the men and women of broadcasting in Georgia; and the Car Museum, which showcases classic cars and rare vehicles, and more.



12:45 – 2:00 PM

Lunch at Banks Food Hall

Stop by Columbus's first food hall, **Banks Food Hall**, for lunch! Opened in 2021, this lively culinary collective includes a range of restaurants, including **Angry Wings & Things**, **Filberto's Filipino Cuisine**, and **Poke Sun**, under one roof.



2:00 – 4:30 PM

Exploring the RiverWalk + Uptown Columbus

Take a stroll along the banks of the Chattahoochee River on the **RiverWalk**! Take in the sights (like the public art), rent a bike, and stop by local shops to support Columbus's small businesses.



5:00 – 6:30 PM

Hotel Check-In, Unpacking, Refresh

Check into your hotel, unpack, and refresh for the night! Some of our favorite boutique hotels in Columbus include the locally owned **City Mills Hotel**, **Hotel Indigo Columbus at Riverfront Place**, and **AC Hotel Columbus Downtown**.



7:00 – 8:30 PM

An Upscale Dinner

Enjoy dinner at one of Columbus's premier upscale eateries, with riverfront options like **Millhouse Kitchen + Bar** and **Eighteen85 Rooftop Bar & Kitchen**, and chef-driven spots such as **Epic Restaurant** and **11th and Bay Southern Table**!



9:00 PM

Enjoy a night on the town in Uptown!

Columbus, Georgia, offers a wide range of bars, breweries, and late-night hangout spots serving drinks, live music, and more. Take a glimpse into the nightlife in Uptown Columbus!

DAY TWO: The Great Outdoors, Museums, & More!



8:00 AM

Coffee + Breakfast

Fuel up for a day full of adventure at one of Columbus, Georgia's breakfast spots and coffee shops! In addition to the three breakfast eateries we included in the day one schedule, you can also consider only-in-Columbus, Georgia favorites like **Fountain City Coffee** and **Iron Bank Coffee Company**.



9:00 – 11:30 AM

Adventure on the Chattahoochee River

Choose from two of Columbus, Georgia's most thrilling Chattahoochee River attractions! Challenge yourself and your travel mates to the **longest urban whitewater rafting course in the world** at **Whitewater Express** or zipline from Columbus, Georgia, all the way to Phenix City, Alabama, and back at the **Blue Heron Adventure Zipline**!



11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Dry Off, Rest, + Refresh at the Hotel

Whitewater rafting on the longest urban whitewater rafting course in the world and ziplining from one state to another are both pretty high-energy activities! Head back to the hotel to relax a little and change clothes for the rest of the afternoon's activities.



1:30 – 2:45 PM

Lunch at Animal Farm, The Black Cow, Mix Market at the Pearl, or Nonic

Enjoy a **flavor-filled lunch** at one of Columbus, Georgia's most popular eateries. **Animal Farm** offers a chef-driven dining experience featuring inventive Southern dishes, bold flavors, and a modern approach to seasonal ingredients. **The Black Cow** is a longtime Uptown favorite known for elevated Southern comfort food, including creative sandwiches and burgers. **Mix Market at the Pearl** features a menu of global dishes, from Neapolitan-style pizza to bold Asian cuisine. **Nonic Restaurant Bar + Rooftop** serves city views, warm meals, and cold drinks.



3:00 – 4:30 PM

Special Interest Activity

Columbus is full of special interest-based attractions! If your group is full of true outdoor adventurers and not too tired from rafting or ziplining earlier in the day, consider biking along one of the **Dragonfly trails**. See what's blooming at the **Columbus Botanical Garden** or explore the collections at the **Columbus Museum**. For an out-of-this-world attraction, the **Coca-Cola Space Science Center** is an excellent choice, and those who are interested in military memorabilia will love the **National Infantry Museum**, which was voted as the **#1 Best Free Museum in the U.S.** in the 2024 USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards.



5:30 – 7:00 PM

Finale Night Dinner

Make your last night in Columbus, Georgia count with a finale dinner at one of the city's best restaurants. Along with the dinner options listed for night one, other establishments include **Charred Oak Kitchen & Bar**, **Denim & Oak**, **Riverfront Restaurant**, **Goetchius House**, or, for a more casual spot, **Country's Barbecue**, a Columbus, Georgia-founded BBQ joint with multiple locations.



7:30 PM

See a Show or Take in Panoramic Views on a Rooftop Bar

As the sun sets, Columbus comes alive with a mix of performing arts and elevated evening experiences! Catch a live performance at the historic **Springer Opera House**, one of the oldest continuously operating theaters in the country, or enjoy concerts, Broadway productions, and symphony performances at the **RiverCenter for the Performing Arts**. For a more relaxed evening, head to **Stirrup Trouble Craft Cocktail Lounge** for drinks in a cozy atmosphere or **Eighteen85 Rooftop Bar + Kitchen** for craft cocktails and panoramic views of the Chattahoochee River and RiverWalk.

DAY THREE: Departure



8:30 – 10:00 AM A Morning Meal for the Perfect Send-Off

Wake up in time to debrief your trip during one final breakfast in Columbus, Georgia (until your next visit!). Along with the breakfast and brunch options listed for days one and two, other great breakfast eateries in town include **Bodega 1205**, where visitors will enjoy flavorful Latin American-inspired dishes, and the **Brick and Mortar Café**, a cozy eatery known for its fresh-baked goods and seasonal specialties.



11:00 AM Hotel Check-Out + Departure



WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

-  WORLD'S LONGEST URBAN WHITEWATER COURSE
-  8 MUSEUMS IN ONE LOCATION
-  500+ RESTAURANTS & GLOBAL CUISINE
-  22-MILE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERWALK
-  ARTS, THEATER & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

PLAN MORE. SEE MORE.



Scan to explore maps, photos, travel guides, and more story ideas for Columbus.

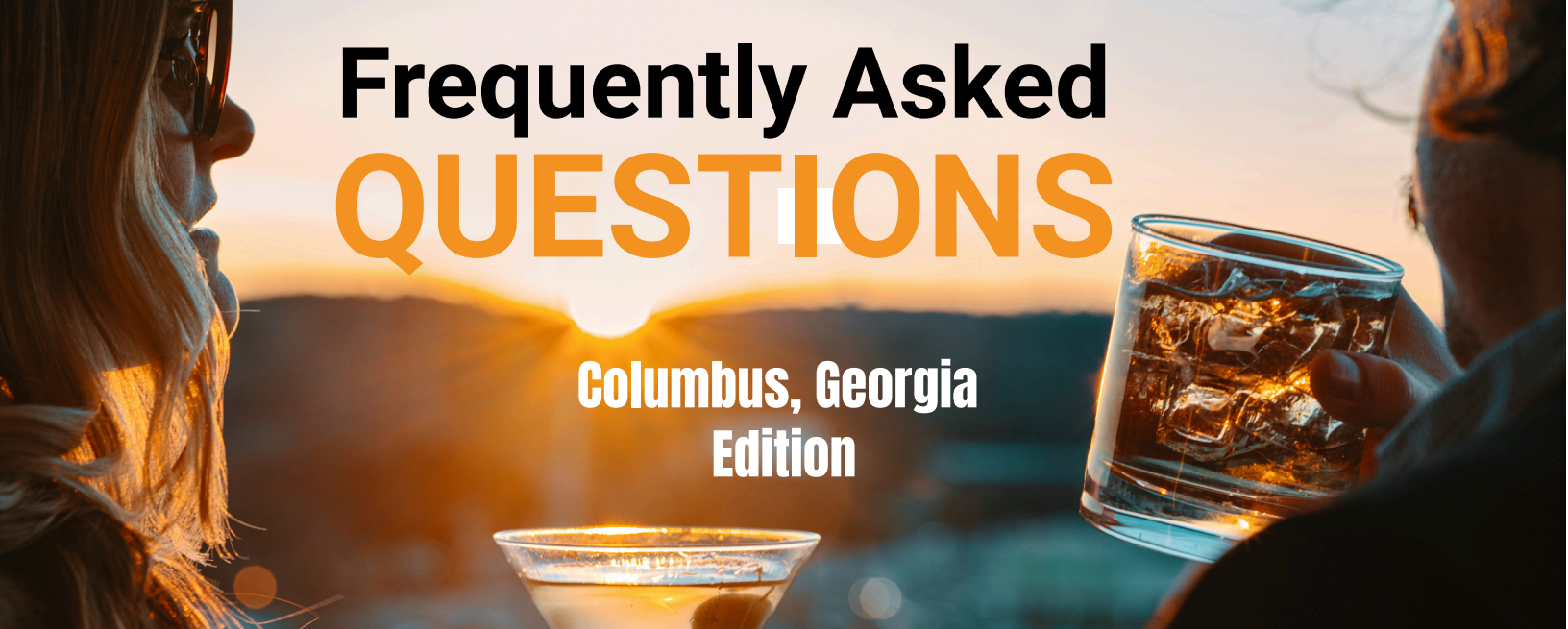


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A romantic scene of a couple at sunset. A woman with long blonde hair and glasses is in the foreground on the left, looking towards the right. A man is on the right, holding a glass of whiskey with ice. In the center, a martini glass sits on a surface. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water.

Frequently Asked QUESTIONS

Columbus, Georgia Edition

Where is Columbus, Georgia?

Columbus, Georgia, is located in the western region of the state, right along the Chattahoochee River.

How Far is Columbus, Georgia, from Atlanta?

Columbus is only **90 minutes southwest of Atlanta**, Georgia, making the travel time similar to that of cities like Blue Ridge, Dahlonega, and Macon.

What is Columbus, Georgia known for?

Columbus, Georgia is known for a wide variety of activities, attractions, and features, including **outdoor adventures** like whitewater rafting, canoeing, paddleboarding, and more on the Chattahoochee River, as well as **arts and cultural attractions** and its **rich military heritage**.

Is Columbus a family-friendly city?

Columbus, Georgia is a very family-friendly city, offering numerous museums, science attractions, parks, river activities, hands-on educational experiences, restaurants, and well-suited accommodations for families. Columbus was also named the **most welcoming community in the U.S. by Travel & Leisure** in 2025.

Is Columbus an affordable destination to visit?

Yes, Columbus offers a strong value compared to larger metro destinations, especially across the Southeast.

What is the best time to visit Columbus, Georgia?

Columbus is a **year-round destination** with family-friendly seasonal events, mild winters, and warm-weather outdoor activities.

What are some unique things that can only be found in Columbus?

- The **world's longest urban whitewater course**, Whitewater Express
- A 1,200-foot zip line that stretches from Georgia to Alabama
- The **Columbus Collective Museum**, which features eight museums in one location
- The 22-mile Chattahoochee RiverWalk
- The **second-largest art museum in the Southeast**, the Columbus Museum
- The Columbus Black Heritage Trail, featuring stops like the **Ma Rainey House & Blues Museum**
- Springer Opera House, one of the **oldest continuously operating theatres** in the U.S.
- Kadie the Cow, a local landmark with a lot of history
- The Soft Drink Heritage Trail
- **Over 500 restaurants** offering global cuisine
- And so much more!

Is Columbus walkable?

Parts of Columbus, Georgia are very walkable, including **Uptown Columbus** and the **Dragonfly Trails**, a 32-mile network of paved trails throughout Columbus, connecting neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and more. These trails make it easier for residents and visitors to access most of the city by walking, jogging, or biking. One of Columbus, Georgia's most popular attractions, the **Chattahoochee RiverWalk**, is part of the Dragonfly Trail Network.

Can you really zipline from Columbus into another state?

Yes, at Blue Heron Adventure Park, visitors can **zipline from Georgia into Phenix City, Alabama, and back**, over 100 feet above the Chattahoochee River.

What are Columbus' top outdoor attractions?

Popular outdoor activities in Columbus include:

- Whitewater rafting
- Kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding
- Fishing
- Camping, especially at Camp David RV Resort and Lake Pines RV Park & Campground
- Walking or biking the Chattahoochee RiverWalk
- Ziplining
- Golfing
- Biking, hiking, or walking trails like the Dragonfly Trails and Standing Boy Trails
- Exploring the Columbus Botanical Garden, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, and the Bradley Olmstead Garden at the Columbus Museum

Is Columbus a good destination for meetings and conventions?

Columbus is a great destination for meetings, conventions, reunions, and more, offering **more than 750,000 square feet of meeting space**, thousands of hotel rooms, distinctive venues, leisure attractions, and entertainment.

Does Columbus have a good restaurant scene?

Columbus offers an impressive restaurant scene for both visitors and locals. With **over 500 restaurants**, Columbus has become a notable dining destination. The city showcases a variety of establishments, from local coffee shops and historic diners to chic rooftop bars and upscale eateries offering riverfront dining experiences.

What are the top attractions in Columbus?

Visitor favorites include:

- The Columbus Museum
- Coca-Cola Space Science Center
- Columbus Collective Museums
- Chattahoochee RiverWalk
- Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center
- Springer Opera House
- Ma Rainey House & Blues Museum *Currently under renovation
- RiverCenter for the Performing Arts
- National Infantry Museum
- National Civil War Naval Museum

What types of hotels are available in Columbus?

Columbus offers a wide range of accommodation options, from boutique hotels and historic inns to major national brands and riverfront properties. Boutique hotels in Columbus include the locally owned **City Mills Hotel**, **Hotel Indigo Columbus at Riverfront Place**, and **AC Hotel Columbus Downtown**.

What are popular event and meeting venues in Columbus?

- Columbus, Georgia Convention & Trade Center
- RiverCenter for the Performing Arts
- Bibb Mill Event Center
- The Cunningham Conference Center
- National Infantry Museum

Where can I get help planning my trip?

VisitColumbusGA offers itineraries, maps, event calendars, lodging help, visitor resources, and more to help with planning a trip to Columbus!



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