

WORTHINGTON IS WORTH A VISIT

Columbus suburb offers ample hands-on activities for groups

In Worthington's beautiful historic downtown, you'll find a blend of American tradition and European flair, tucked in a progressive and vibrant community.

Worthington's brick sidewalks are lined with specialty shops offering everything from home decor, clothing and jewelry to flowers and unique wines. A variety of dining options await including coffee shops, a French bakery and pubs. For a more upscale experience, chose the new seafood restaurant or head to **The Worthington Inn**, a historic inn annually recognized as one of Central Ohio's best restaurants.

Fascinating attractions

Located north of Columbus off I-270, Worthington is home to several fascinating attractions. The **American Whistle Corporation** is the only manufacturer of metal whistles in the United States. See how the 14K gold whistles used by Super Bowl officials are made. Haven't you always wondered how they get that little ball in the whistle? Come find out!

The **Old Rectory Doll Museum** features a fine permanent collection of 19th century dolls and toys. The historic **Orange Johnson House** is the oldest home in Franklin County still standing on its original foundation that's open to the public.

Hands-on experiences

The biggest trend in group travel is experiential activities where groups participate in hands-on activities. Worthington offers the most unique experiences that we guarantee you won't find anywhere else. Read on for details.

Wax, Wicks and Wine

Meet the scent specialists from **The Candle**

Lab who will help you choose from more than 120 fragrances to find your favorites. Then grab a seat at the Fragrance Bar and mix your favorite scents together to create a custom blend that is uniquely yours. Pour your fragrance into your own natural soy candle.

While your candle hardens, head next door for an enjoyable wine tasting at **House Wine**. The knowledgeable and friendly staff will lead you to discover your own "house wine." The tasting includes 24 different wines you can taste by the ounce using their unique wine tasting machine.

Make your own stationery and create a hardcover book

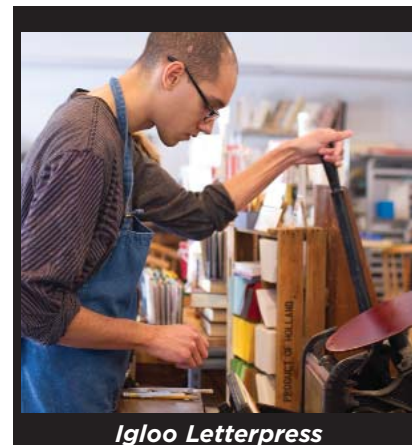
If printing presses sound outdated in today's digital world, **Igloo Letterpress** will certainly change your mind. Dig into a variety of 19th century wooden letters to spell out a name or phrase to customize your own stationery or greeting card. After you create your own design, you'll run the printing press to make copies.

Making your own book is just as hands-on. Starting with cloth, paper and a pot of glue, you will literally build your book by hand. Each book features archival materials and can be personalized.

Book your visit to Worthington

For more details about the experiences and exciting attractions awaiting in Worthington, visit our new website at visitworthingtonohio.com or contact Mindy Mace at 800-871-3070 or cvbwmmace@aol.com.

We also have sample itineraries and additional unique ideas for your groups. See you soon in Worthington!



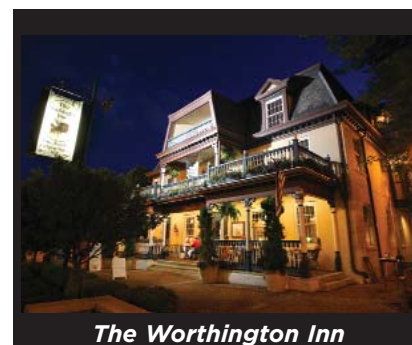
Igloo Letterpress



The Candle Lab



House Wine



The Worthington Inn

COLUMBUS IN THE NEWS

Find out why *National Geographic* called Columbus one of the Top 10 Best Fall Trips in the World

We have exciting news to share: *National Geographic* called Columbus one of the Top 10 Best Fall Trips in the World. That puts us alongside Dublin, Ireland; the vineyards of Switzerland; the Day of the Dead celebration in Puebla, Mexico; and Zanzibar. We're pleased to have our city get the recognition it deserves. There's so much to experience here in the fall and year round!

We're also happy to announce that Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium was named a Top 100 Event for 2012 by the American Bus Association. Read all about Wildlights and former Central Ohio Top 100 honorees on the back page of this issue.

Look for us at these upcoming shows: the National Tour Association Annual Convention Dec. 5-9, the American Bus Association Marketplace Jan. 6-10 and Heartland Travel Showcase Feb. 24-26.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Don't hesitate to contact us for assistance.

Alissa Preston, Tourism Sales Manager - professional tour operator contact

Brian Cheek, Tourism Sales Manager - group leader contact



GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS WITH PERSONALITY

Worthington is just one of several fun neighborhoods to explore in Central Ohio

Looking for destinations where your groups can experience several fun activities without jumping back on the road? Along with Worthington, here are several other hot spots to explore.

With a spa, trendy boutiques and many of the city's top restaurants, the **Short North Arts District** is an ideal girls' getaway. Relax with a mini-massage at **Mukha Custom Cosmetics & Medi-spa**, owned by Tim Maurer, an internationally renowned makeup artist.

Taste wines made with grapes from around the world at the Short North's **Camelot Cellars**, then create your own wine from start to finish including bottling and designing the label. Satisfy your sweet tooth by sampling the hand-crafted flavors at **Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams**, named one of the Top 5 Ice Cream Parlors in the World by London's *World Travel Guide*.

Taste your way through downtown's historic **North Market**, meeting the local merchants and farmers and sampling their foods. Take a cooking class with America's most-awarded spicy foods creator, CaJohn.

The North Market also is a stop on several **Columbus Food Adventures** guided tours. They offer a real taste of the city with stops at independently owned businesses, complete with samples of their best menu items.

Visit **Easton Town Center**, one of the Midwest's most popular shopping and dining destinations. Start your morning with breakfast at **Nordstrom**



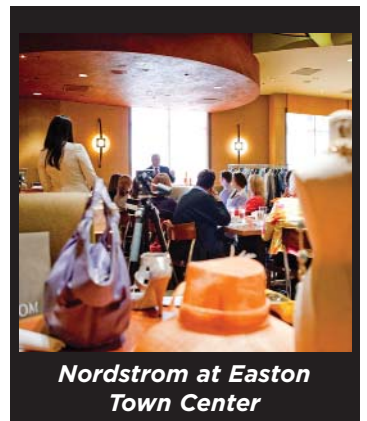
North Market

before the store opens and get expert advice on the must-have fashions and accessories for men and women. Express your inner artist at **Archiver's** by creating personalized cards, calendars or scrapbooks.

Find the luck of the Irish in suburban **Dublin**. Learn "Riverdance" style steps from one of the top Irish dance schools in North America. Listen to Irish folklore and traditional Celtic songs, or even see a traditional Irish wake (it's more entertaining than you'd ever imagine!).

Discover why **Gahanna** is known as the Herb Capital of Ohio. Get cooking tips as you learn how to use herbs to do everything from creating one-of-a-kind teas to herb-infused vinegar at the **Ohio Herb Education Center**. All that make you hungry? Sample herb-flavored foods like pesto or ice cream.

Blow your own colorful glass ornament or fuse glass for a sun catcher or jewelry at **The Works** in Newark, just 30 minutes east of Columbus in **Licking County**. It's the only place in the world where you can explore a 13,000-year-old bog, followed by mixing herbs and botanicals to craft your own tea blend, and lunch or dinner in an 1860s Gothic Revival home.



Nordstrom at Easton Town Center

BLOCKBUSTER EVENTS FOR 2012 IN COLUMBUS

Columbus will celebrate its Bicentennial throughout 2012

In 2012, Columbus will celebrate all of the great things that make Columbus, Columbus. Experience dozens of events and festivals — some are new, others are special editions of perennial favorites.

Columbus turns 200 on Feb. 14. Join the celebration with **200Columbus Days**, Feb. 11-15, when you can enjoy discounts on attractions and entertainment. BalletMet and the Columbus Jazz Orchestra will commemorate the city's heritage Feb. 2-12 with **Jazz Moves Columbus**, a synthesis of music, movement and imagery.



Columbus Arts Festival

Long considered one of the top arts festivals in the country, the **Columbus Arts Festival** will be better than ever in 2012. The festival is moving to the beautiful new Scioto Mile park along the downtown riverfront June 1-3.

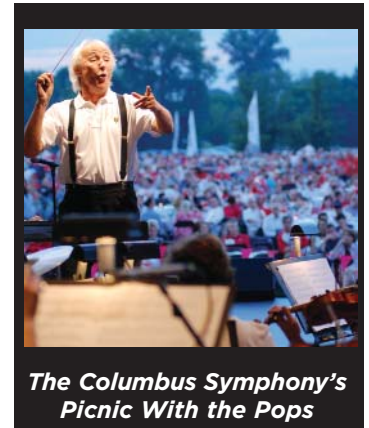
Moving downtown to the new Columbus Commons park are The Columbus Symphony's **Picnic with the**

Pops concerts, featuring famous pop stars, along with an annual Patriotic Pops show complete with fireworks.

Also new for 2012, Columbus' newest theater troupe, the **Short North Stage**, will perform musicals at the renovated Garden Theater, and **Hollywood Casino Columbus** will open with 3,000 slots and 70 gaming tables.

Several blockbuster exhibits highlight the city's packed events calendar. COSI will take an unprecedented look at race and racism in the United States with **"Race: Are We So Different?"** Jan. 28-May 6, before opening **"Water: H2O=Life"** March 17-Sept. 3.

Celebrate one of the city's most famous artists, woodcarver **Elijah Pierce**, Nov. 2-Feb. 17 at the Columbus Museum of Art. The Columbus museum is one of just four in the world to display a **Roman mosaic excavated from Lod, Israel**. The elaborately detailed piece will be here June through Jan. 6.



The Columbus Symphony's Picnic With the Pops

UPCOMING 2012 SPECIAL EVENTS

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

February

Thru May 6 "Race: Are We So Different?"

Feb. 2-12 BalletMet and the Columbus Jazz Orchestra: "Jazz Moves Columbus."

Feb. 11-15 200Columbus Days.

Feb. 25-March 4 Central Ohio Home & Garden Show.

March

March 1-4 Arnold Sports Festival.

100 March 10-Sept. 9 Blooms & Butterflies.

March 17-Sept. 3 "Water: H2O = Life."

April

April 11-15 The Best of Vaud-Villities.

April 17-22 Broadway Across America: "West Side Story."

April 21-28 African American Heritage Festival.

May

May 26-27 Asian Festival.

May 28-June 3 the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide Insurance.

May 29-June 3 Broadway Across America: "Memphis."

June

100 June 1-3 Columbus Arts Festival.

June 9 Stop and Smell the Roses.

June 15-17 Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival.

100 June 24 German Village Haus und Garten Tour.

July

100 July 3 Red, White & Boom!

July 13-15 North Market Food & Ohio Wine Festival.

July 20-22 Jazz & Rib Fest.

100 July 25-Aug. 5 Ohio State Fair.

August

100 Aug. 3-5 Dublin Irish Festival.

Aug. 11-12 Festival Latino.

Aug. 31-Sept. 3 Greek Festival.

September

100 Sept. 7-8 Longaberger Heritage Days.

Sept. 14-16 Country Living Fair.

100 Sept. 28-30 Columbus Oktoberfest.

October

Oct. 5-7 Columbus Italian Festival.

Oct. 27 HighBall Halloween.

November

100 Nov. 16-Jan. 3 Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

December

Dec. 1 Short North Holiday Hop.

WILDLIGHTS NAMED TOP 100 EVENT

Plan your next tour around one of Columbus' Top 100 winners

Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium was recently named one of the American Bus Association's Top 100 Events for 2012.

Set for Nov. 16, 2012-Jan. 3, 2013, Wildlights features millions of lights, live reindeer and even a scuba diving Santa.

More than a dozen Central Ohio events have been honored as Top 100 Events. Below are listed 2012 dates for several of the previous winners.

Blooms & Butterflies - March 10-Sept. 9

Walk amid hundreds of colorful butterflies from around the world.



Wildlights

German Village Haus und Garten Tour - June 24

Get an inside look at this charming historic village.

Columbus Arts Festival - June 1-3

Admire the work of 200-plus international artists.

Red, White & Boom! - July 3

Don't miss the largest fireworks in the Midwest.

Dublin Irish Festival - Aug. 3-5

The acclaimed festival celebrates its 25th year.

Ohio State Fair - July 25-Aug. 5

Enjoy concerts, great food and much more.

Longaberger Heritage Festival - Sept. 7-8

Weave your own basket at this celebration of fall.

Columbus Oktoberfest - Sept. 28-30

There's no better place to learn the polka.

CONTACT US

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Member of: African American Travel Conference | American Bus Association | BankTravel | BiG - Boomers in Groups | Going on Faith | Heritage Clubs International | National Tour Association | North Carolina Motorcoach Association | Ohio Travel Association | Travel Alliance Partners | Travel Industry Association of America | Virginia Motorcoach Association

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