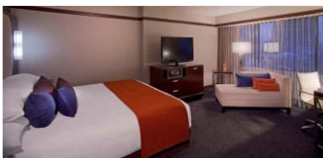




What's New in Columbus?



Columbus has a newly enhanced Convention Package. With the addition of the 532- room Hilton Columbus Downtown opening in September 2012, the city now has 25,932 hotel rooms citywide, 3,800 total rooms downtown and 2,100 connected or adjacent to the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The convention center offers 410,000 square feet of exhibit space. Even better, Columbus is consistently ranked as one of the most valued destinations in the country in terms of costs of doing business and visitor taxes.



More than \$63 Million in renovations to full-service hotels in Columbus have taken place since 2008. Refreshed properties include the Hyatt Regency, Crowne Plaza Columbus Downtown, The Westin Columbus, Renaissance Columbus Downtown, Red Roof Inn Columbus Downtown, Holiday Inn Columbus Downtown Capital Square and the Hilton Columbus at Easton.



In addition to new enhancements to our meeting package, Columbus is gaining national attention as an emerging destination for visitors. The city has been recognized as **one of the nation's leading gay travel markets** and recently was named among **America's Top 5 Shopping Cities** by *Forbes*. Many journalists have noted that the independent and entrepreneurial spirit that drives Columbus has produced **one of the most innovative culinary and arts scenes anywhere** in the U.S.



Did you know that Columbus is home to the number one zoo, science center and new baseball park in America? *US Travel Guide* ranked **the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium** the best zoo in America; *Parents* magazine ranked **COSI** the number one science center in the country; and three baseball publications identified **Huntington Park**, home to the Columbus Clippers, the AAA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, the best new ballpark in America, besting even the new Yankee Stadium.



Columbus Commons is a 9-acre outdoor park in the heart of downtown that opened in May 2011. It features gardens, walking paths, a carousel, an outdoor reading room with free WiFi, a café and a temporary stage. Two blocks south of Columbus Commons is **The Scioto Mile**, a one-mile stretch of parkland located along the downtown Columbus riverfront. It opened in July 2011 and features a tree and colonnade-lined boulevard that connects the Batelle Riverfront Park to Bicentennial Park and features gardens, swings, water canals and scenic views of the Scioto River, along with a 15,000 square-foot interactive fountain, casual dining café – Milestone 229 and a new performance pavilion.



Currently under construction and scheduled to open in September of 2012, the downtown Columbus skyline will have a new addition with the 532-room **Hilton Columbus Downtown** located across the street from the Greater Columbus Convention Center on North High Street. The new full-service convention hotel will include 48 suites and 30,650 square feet of meeting space.



Currently under construction and scheduled to open in late 2012, **Hollywood Casino Columbus** will include up to 3,000 slot machines, live poker and 70 table games. Located on Columbus west side, the facility will also include a steak house, a buffet restaurant, a food court, an entertainment lounge, a sports bar and a VIP lounge.