

PLAN A GIRLS GETAWAY TO COLUMBUS

Relax at a spa, take a cooking class, create your own custom-designed T-shirt and much more

Look no further than Columbus for your next girls' getaway weekend.

Tap your creative side by making wine and designing your own T-shirt, relax at the spa and more. It's a fun way to reconnect with your girlfriends or make new friends.

Enjoy breakfast or lunch (or even a private dinner) at one of the Rise & Dine locations featured in the Where to Dine sidebar.

DAY ONE

Spend the day in the **Short North Arts District**, which houses one of the best collections of art galleries between New York and Chicago. The Short North also is filled with trendy boutiques, specialty stores and fine and casual dining.

Design your own one-of-a-kind T-shirt at **Substance**, a boutique with many of the clothes designed by owner Christina Getachew and her staff. Groups of five or more can handpaint or embellish the shirt of your choice.

Create your own wine from start to finish at **Camelot Cellars** on-premise winery. Begin at the fermentation process, then bottle, cork and even design the label.

Enjoy dinner in the Short North. Your choices include cuisines ranging from Pan-Asian to All American. Time your visit for the first Saturday of the month during the **Gallery Hop**. The galleries and boutiques stay open until 10 p.m. and entertainers line the streets.

DAY TWO

Eat a full breakfast at **Rise & Dine** in the Arena District, just north of downtown. Call ahead to reserve the private room, which seats 45-50.

Explore the nearby **North Market**, a public market filled with unique—and delicious—souvenirs. Watch as chocolates are hand-dipped or taste gourmet ice cream created with out-of-the-ordinary ingredients such as lavender and fresh ginger.

Heat things up in the North Market's test kitchen during a cooking school with

CaJohns Flavor & Fire at the North Market.

Taste the results as John Hard, better known as

CaJohn, uses chiles to make mild to fiery cuisine.

Explore **Easton Town Center**, one of the Midwest's top shopping, dining and entertainment destinations. You'll find Macy's, Nordstrom and hundreds of specialty stores, along with one of the city's best collections of restaurants and entertainment venues.

After hitting the shops, relax with a full-body massage or any number of indulgent treatments at one of the many **spas** at Easton.

Enjoy dinner followed by a performance by one of Columbus' top performing arts groups, including **BalletMet**, the **Columbus Jazz Orchestra** and **Broadway Across America—Columbus**.



WHERE TO DINE

With seven locations in Central Ohio and full-service catering available, Rise & Dine is the ideal breakfast or lunch spot for your next group outing.

All locations are open from 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. seven days a week, and can be reserved for private evening events. Additionally, the Arena District location has a private room that seats 45-50.

The menu features healthy fare like protein wraps, as well as decadent items such as bananas Foster pancakes and the one-of-a-kind French toast crunch.

Work with the staff event planner to plan a unique menu for your dine-in or catered event. Assistance also is available for room layout, equipment needs and much more.

For more details or to book your group, **contact LeNan Empey**, catering and sales manager, at lenen@risedine.com or 614-396-5030 ext. 106, or visit www.risedine.com.

CENTRAL OHIO LOCATIONS

Arena District

277 W. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, 43215

Dublin

7573 Sawmill Rd., Dublin, 43016

Grandview

1284 W. Fifth Ave., Columbus, 43212

Grove City

2788 London Groveport Rd., Grove City, 43123

Mansfield

625 Lexington Ave., Mansfield, 44907

New Albany

5481 New Albany Rd. W., New Albany, 43054

Westerville

644 N. State St., Westerville, 43082

COME TO COLUMBUS

Hello!

Now is the time to bring your groups to Columbus! Seven more Central Ohio destinations have partnered with us to offer unique and engaging experiences for groups. Here's a sampling of what's new: Learn fashion trends from the experts at Nordstrom, create a blown glass ornament and go backstage to meet the dancers with BalletMet, one of the largest dance companies in the country. See the back cover and our Web site, ExperienceColumbus.com/tours, for details.

It was good to visit with many of you at the Bank Travel show Feb. 19-21. Kari Kauffman, our director of tourism, enjoyed meeting everyone at Heartland Travel Showcase Feb. 20-22. We hope you were able to come to the Columbus lunch on Feb. 21. We promoted next year's show, which will be held in Columbus Feb. 18-21, 2010. We hope to see you in our city for Heartland next year!

Please look for Columbus at these upcoming shows: Pennsylvania Bus Association March 24, African American Travel Conference April 21-23 and NTA's Spring Meet June 4-6.



Brian

—Brian Cheek, Tourism Sales Manager – group leader contact

DON'T MISS THESE COLUMBUS EVENTS

Dale Chihuly, a new baseball park and Egyptian treasures among the blockbusters coming to Ohio's capital city

Step inside a full-scale replica of an Egyptian tomb during **"Lost Egypt: Ancient Secrets, Modern Science,"** May 30-Sept. 7 at COSI Columbus.

See thousands of colorful glassworks by **Dale Chihuly** (top right) July 4-March 28 at Franklin Park Conservatory, the only botanical garden in the world with a permanent Chihuly collection. Most of the glassworks haven't been seen since October 2003-July 2004 when the collection debuted.

You'll also find Chihuly glass at the Columbus Museum of Art during "Chihuly Illuminated" Sept. 25-July 2010.

Admire artwork by many of the country's top African-American artists over the last 200 years during **"Soul,"** (lower right) May 1-Feb. 28, 2010 at the Ohio Historical Center. On display will be paintings, sculpture, prints, textiles and crafts from the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center.



The **Lincoln Theatre** is slated to reopen in late spring after a \$13.5 million restoration. The theater originally opened in 1928 and catered specifically to African-American patrons. Broadway choreographer and dancer Maurice Hines is the artistic director.

Two more new attractions will debut this year in Columbus. Cheer on the Columbus Clippers, the Triple A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, at their new downtown home, **Huntington Park** in the Arena District.

The **Grange Insurance Audubon Center** will open just south of downtown—becoming one of the first Audubon centers close to the core of a major American city.

Become a part of Ohio's government at the permanent exhibit, **"Enriching the Experience,"** opening June 10 at the Ohio Statehouse. Deliver your own State of the State speech and have it captured on video.

IT'S SHOWTIME

Enjoy dinner and a show throughout the year in Columbus.

J.B. Productions brings classic stars and tributes from the past to Villa Milano and the Aladdin Shrine Center nearly every month. Lunchtime shows are available as well.

The 2009 schedule includes:

- March 10 Guy & Ralna from the Lawrence Welk Show
- May 14 Red, Hot & Blue
- June 7 Al Martino with the Tom Fries Orchestra
- July 10 The Lennon Sisters
- Aug. 12 A Perry Como Tribute
- Sept. 8 John Davidson Live
- Sept. 27 A Tribute Show: Stars of Yesterday & Today Direct from Las Vegas and Branson
- Oct. 11 The Fab Four
- Nov. 18 The Four Aces and The Ink Spots
- Dec. 19 Branson Country Christmas featuring The Ozark Jubilee

For more details or to book your group, call 800-482-3531.

LEARNING IS FUN IN COLUMBUS

Students won't want to miss this "class"

Ohio's capital city is filled with attractions that allow students to learn in a fun and engaging atmosphere. Even more ideas are included in the three-day itinerary found on ExperienceColumbus.com.

Eat breakfast with the animals at the **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium** (right). Interact with exotic animals and learn from the experts after a breakfast buffet. Take a behind-the-scenes guided tour before the gates open. Cool off at **Zoombezi Bay**, the zoo's new waterpark.

Dine at the all-you-can-eat pizza buffet at **Magic Mountain Fun Center**. There's a reason "fun" is part of the name—activities include bumper boats, laser tag and go-karts. (You can even overnight here.)

Challenge your inner explorer and have fun learning about science in Adventure, a hands-on area open exclusively to groups at **COSI Columbus** (left). Overnight here to allow more hours for students to explore.



Meet prominent figures from Ohio's past on a guided tour of the **Ohio Statehouse**, including "Mrs. John Rankin," the wife of Ohio's noted Underground Railroad conductor.

Climb aboard the **Santa Maria**, the world's most authentic replica of Christopher Columbus' ship. Learn about the teamwork it took to survive the voyage, work the sails and tie sea-worthy knots. To really feel like a sailor, stay overnight aboard the ship. You'll sleep on deck like Columbus' crew did, unload cargo, keep watch and prepare meals.

Create artwork like Columbus' internationally known artist Elijah Pierce in "Eye Spy: Adventures in Art" at the **Columbus Museum of Art**.

Watch butterflies hatch and take their first flight during Blooms & Butterflies March 14-Sept. 7 at **Franklin Park Conservatory** (right).

Take a Gossip Tour of the **Ohio Historical Center's Ohio Village**, which re-creates life in the 1800s.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS IN COLUMBUS

For a complete list of events, contact *Cindy Hartsook* 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

Ongoing exhibits

100 Thru Sept. 7 "Blooms & Butterflies."

Thru Sept. 7 "Lost Egypt: Ancient Secrets, Modern Science."

Thru Feb. 28 "Soul! Art from the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center."

June

June 1-7 PGA Memorial Tournament.

June 5-7 Columbus Arts Festival.

June 10 Ohio Statehouse Museum Grand Opening.

June 19-21 Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival.

June 26-28 Easton Art Affair.

100 June 28-28 German Village Haus und Garten Tour.

July

July 3 Red, White & Boom!

July 4-March 28 "Chihuly Reimagined."

July 7-12 Broadway Across America-Columbus: "Mamma Mia!"

July 10-12 North Market Food & Ohio Wine Festival.

July 24-26 Columbus Jazz & Rib Fest.

July 29-Aug. 9 Ohio State Fair.

100 July 31-Aug. 2 Dublin Irish Festival.

August

Aug. 15 Art Al Fresco.

September

Sept. 4-7 Greek Festival.

100 Sept. 11-12 Longaberger Heritage Days.

Sept. 12-20 Jack Hanna's Fall Fest.

Sept. 19 India Festival.

Sept. 25-Summer 2010 "Chihuly Illuminated."

Sept. 27 New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix & Family Fun Day.

October

100 Oct. 2-4 German Village Oktoberfest.

Oct. 3-25 All American Quarter Horse Congress.

November

Nov. 7-8 Columbus International Festival.

Nov. 20-Jan. 3 Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

December

Dec. 5 25th Short North Holiday Hop.

Dec. 19 Branson Country Christmas.

NEW EXPERIENCES IN COLUMBUS

Spice things up in the kitchen with a cooking class, pour your own custom-scented candle and much more

Bringing your groups to Columbus will be even more enticing later this year. Eight more Central Ohio destinations have teamed with Experience Columbus to develop unique and fun experiential activities.

Here are two of our new experiences:

Get fired up!

Heat things up in the kitchen during a cooking school with CaJohns Flavor & Fire at the **North Market**. Taste the results as John Hard, better known as CaJohn, uses chiles to make mild to fiery cuisine.



All about you

It's all about you in **Historic Worthington**. Spend an afternoon or

evening in this charming shopping district choosing everything to your liking. Pick from hundreds of fragrances before pouring your own custom-scented candle at The Candle Lab.

Stroll next door to pick your own "house wine" after sampling vintages from more than 250 labels.

More experiences await your groups

Find out about all of the experiences awaiting in Columbus by ordering our experiential tour guide or by visiting our Web



site at ExperienceColumbus.com/tours. Contact Cindy Hartsook or Brian Cheek at 800-354-2657 to get your guide.

CONTACT US

Touring Columbus is published quarterly by Experience Columbus for tour operators and group leaders.

Professional tour operator contact

Cindy Hartsook
 Tourism Assistant
 800-354-2657, 614-222-6101 (direct)
 614-221-5618 (fax)
 CHartsook@ExperienceColumbus.com

Group leader contact

Brian Cheek
 Tourism Sales Manager
 800-354-2657, 614-222-6136 (direct)
 614-221-5618 (fax)
 BCheek@ExperienceColumbus.com

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