

# experience COLUMBUS

## OUT IN COLUMBUS

*The word is out on Columbus. Andrew Collins' blog on About.com: Gay & Lesbian Travel labeled Columbus as "one of the nation's most underrated gay cities." And in its March 2007 issue, The Advocate rated Columbus one of the best places in the country for gays and lesbians to live.*

*One of the best times to visit is during the Pride Festival, Held every June since 1981, it attracts more than 100,000 people and is one of the largest gay pride celebrations in the country.*

### DAY ONE

Spend the morning in **German Village**, a charming restored neighborhood listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Stroll brick streets lined with one-of-a-kind shops, such as **Helen Winnemore Contemporary Craft Gallery** and **The Book Loft**, a popular independent bookstore. Grab a coffee or pastry and relax in either Frank Fetch Park or Schiller Park, both of which are filled with flowers. Enjoy lunch at **Barcelona**, which has one of the best patio settings in the city.



*Relax in historic German Village*



*Public art is everywhere in the Short North*

See another side of Columbus in the **Short North Arts District**, a funky urban area filled with art galleries, trendy boutiques and eclectic specialty stores. Several of the city's top restaurants are here, including **Rigsby's Kitchen** for gourmet Italian.

Kick back at one of the Short North's many GLBT-friendly bars, including **Union Cafe**, **Liquid** or **Axis** for dancing. During **Gallery Hops**, held the first Saturday of the month, the galleries and shops stay open late and entertainers line the streets.

Or head to the neighboring **Arena District**, where you can see a concert at **The LC** or cheer on the **Blue Jackets**—Ohio's only National Hockey League team.

### DAY TWO

Indulge yourself with a day at the spa and shopping at **Easton Town Center**, one of the Midwest's top shopping, dining and entertainment destinations. After hitting Nordstrom, Macy's and any of the hundreds of specialty shops, relax with a full-body massage at one of the many spas at **Easton**.

Enjoy dinner near The Ohio State University at **Alana's**, where chef/owner Alana Shock serves up an ever-changing menu of fresh, inventive cuisine.

After dinner, take in a show by one of Columbus' performing arts groups, including **BalletMet**, the **Columbus Gay Men's Chorus**, the **Contemporary American Theatre Company** and **Broadway Across America—Columbus**. Grab a drink downtown at **Q Bar** or **Wall Street**, gay dance clubs, or check out one of the happening clubs in **South Campus Gateway** across from OSU. (Pick up a copy of *Outlook* for a complete list of GLBT clubs.)



*See innovative dance by BalletMet*

### DAY THREE

Eat breakfast at the **North Market**, a public market filled with unique—and delicious—souvenirs. Taste gourmet ice cream created with out-of-the-ordinary ingredients such as coriander and lavender. Call ahead to take a cooking class in The Columbus Dispatch Kitchen.

See avant-garde modern art at the internationally renowned **Wexner Center for the Arts**. Along with cutting-edge visual arts, the Wex has a packed performance schedule featuring many GLBT musicians, films and arts groups.

## CONTACT US

For more information about this itinerary and other group-friendly destinations, contact Brian Cheek, Experience Columbus Tourism Sales Manager, at 800-354-2657,

614-222-6136 (direct), 614-221-5618 (fax) or BCheek@ExperienceColumbus.com. Visit ExperienceColumbus.com for more sample itineraries.