



Columbus, Ohio



Columbus, Ohio, did not exist before the state’s legislature selected the site to become the state’s capital because of its central location within the state and accessibility to major transportation routes.

Columbus has numerous diverse museums, including the Ohio Historical Society, which preserves and interprets Ohio’s heritage; Ohio Craft Museum, which exhibits fine crafts; Kelton House Museum & Garden, which interprets urban life in the late 19th century; Jack Nicklaus Museum, which displays mementos from Jack Nicklaus’ golfing career; Santa Maria, which maintains a replica of Christopher Columbus’ flagship; Columbus Museum of Art; Center of Science and Industry; Supreme Court of Ohio Visitor Education Center; Thurber House, which was the home of author and cartoonist James Thurber; Wexner Center, which exhibits contemporary art; Central Ohio Fire Museum & Learning Center, which is located in a restored 1908 fire station; Riffe Gallery, which focuses on Ohio art; and Jubilee Museum at Holy Family Church, which contains Catholic religious artifacts.

Columbus also has many performing arts venues, such as the Ohio Theatre; Palace Theatre; Southern Theater; Riffe Center Theatre Complex; Lincoln Theatre; Greater Columbus Convention Center; Nationwide Arena; Newport Music Hall; Lifestyle Communities Pavilion; Veterans Memorial Auditorium; Crew Stadium; and the Jerome Schottenstein Center, Ohio Stadium, and Sullivant Theatre at Ohio State University. These theaters host the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, BalletMet, Broadway Across America, Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Chamber Music Columbus, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Columbus Gay Men’s Chorus, Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra, The Ohio State University Department of Dance, Columbus Children’s Theatre, Jazz Arts Group, Ministry in Motion, Nomel Inspirational Dance Theater, The Ohio State University Department of Theatre, Thioassane West African Dance Institute, concerts, sports, local community events, and other cultural events.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Columbus features townhouses, contemporary condominiums, lofts, and apartments. Fourteen residential neighborhoods overlap or border the downtown area. Lofts, townhouses, and apartments dominate some of these neighborhoods, such as the Arena District, home to the Nationwide Arena; the Brewery District, site of the former beer brewery industry; and the Short North, the city’s official arts district. The German Village is characterized by brick cottages, Victorian and Italianate homes, and original brick streets. The Italian Village, once an early suburb of Columbus, features Italianate architecture. The University District surrounding the Ohio State campus consists of restored Victorian mansions, 1900s brick homes, gabled frame farmhouses, Craftsman and bungalow dwellings, and rental options. Victorian Village has a mix of large homes and modest cottages and multifamily dwellings on tree-lined streets; housing styles include Italianate, Queen Anne, Second Empire, Carpenter-Stick, Foursquare, Tudor, Shingle Style, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, and Richardson Romanesque.

Further from the downtown area, the Clintonville neighborhood has more than 80 subdivisions that include traditional Sears, Roebuck and Co. kit homes; Foursquare, bungalow, and Dutch Colonial houses; and several all-metal Lustron homes and numerous post-World War II Larcomb homes. Easton Commons is a new luxury apartment and townhouse development that adjoins the Easton Town Center. Other new developments are Upper Albany West and Hayden Run, which have single-family houses, condominiums, and apartments.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Columbus has 232 parks, 10 public pools, 3 public docks, 7 public golf courses, 3 off-leash dog parks, and a skate park. The Topiary Garden Park is a living recreation of Gorges Seurat’s famous post-Impressionist painting “A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of LaGrande Jatte” created from shaped plants. Located in Whetstone Park, the award-winning Columbus Park of Roses showcases over 350 types of roses. Schiller Park features a recreation center, picnic areas, softball diamonds, a fishing pond, the Huntington Perennial Garden, the Umbrella Girl Garden, and a stage for the Actor’s Summer Theater.

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has five nature reserves. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium houses more than 700 wildlife species.

Professional sports teams in Columbus include the Columbus Blue Jackets (ice hockey), Columbus Crew (soccer), Columbus Clippers (baseball), and Columbus Cottonmouths (ice hockey).

EDUCATION

The Columbus City School District educates approximately 53,000 students in 66 elementary schools, 4 prekindergarten-through-grade-6 STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) academies, 5 kindergarten-through-grade-8 schools, 20 middle schools, 14 neighborhood-based high schools, and 5 all-district programs. The Columbus International High School offers language immersion and an international emphasis on all subjects. The district also operates three special-service schools.

Opportunities for higher education are available at The Ohio State University, which has the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, and College of Pharmacy in addition to undergraduate and graduate programs. Franklin University offers degree programs in accounting, business, health, and human services. Mount Carmel College of Nursing provides undergraduate and graduate nursing education. Ohio Dominican University is a four-year liberal arts institution. Columbus College of Art and Design offers bachelor of fine arts and master of fine arts programs. DeVry University and Harrison College offer degree programs in business, health care, and engineering. Columbus State Community College offers liberal arts, career, and technical programs; continuing education classes; and licensure and personal enrichment courses.

HEALTH CARE

Columbus is served by approximately 4,400 acute-care beds in 11 hospitals, including facilities that specialize in pediatric, heart, and cancer care. The city also has two long-term acute-care hospitals; a physical rehabilitation hospital; and a psychiatric hospital that specializes in children, adolescents, and geriatrics.

CITY STATS

2008

City Population	759,360
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,779,822
Per Capita Personal Income, Columbus, OH, MSA	\$38,741