Explore boutiques, bars, restaurants and attractions in Columbus—declared one of Travel Channel’s top 10 domestic destinations to visit in 2020.

outincbus.com
WELCOME TO COLUMBUS

I’m so proud to call Columbus home, and I can’t wait for you to experience everything I love about it. The LGBTQIA community is thriving in Ohio’s capital city, which hosts one of the largest Pride festivals in the Midwest every June. This smart, open and welcoming community consistently and continually scores a perfect 100 on the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index and is a place that has supported me, shaped me and allowed me to be truly and authentically me.

The support I have received since joining the cast of RuPaul’s Drag Race Season 11 has been absolutely incredible, but the Columbus community has been supporting me for years by coming to shows and helping me raise money for organizations that support Central Ohio LGBTQIA youth and families through the Nina West Foundation. Our city is one of tremendous collaboration and heart. Whether you’re lining the streets for Pride, taking in a show at one of my favorite LGBTQIA watering holes like Southbend Tavern or belting it out at Showtunes Sunday at Union Café, you’re sure to feel it on your visit. Columbus is waiting for you to discover her.

Go big. Be kind. Go West. Go have an adventure.

-Nina West
FOOD & DRINK
Named a top culinary destination by Food & Wine Magazine, Columbus has plenty of drinking and dining options for any occasion or taste bud. Here's a sampling of the delicious establishments across the city.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

LGBTQ-OWNED
Service Bar at Middle West Spirits distillery

LOCAL FAVORITES
Katalina’s, famous for their Nutella-filled pancake balls

SHOPPING BY NEIGHBORHOOD

SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT
TORSO - Men’s clothing store known for their huge selection of guys’ underwear and swimwear.
Homage - Screened apparel with vintage sports and civic logos.
Out of the Closet – Thrift store selling clothing, books and housewares. Profits go to the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

GERMAN VILLAGE
The Book Loft – The largest independent bookstore in the country boasting 32 rooms of books for any reader.
Tiki Botanicals – Luxury hair and skin care products.
Red Giraffe Designs – Handmade jewelry studio and boutique where you can have something customized for you while you shop.

EASTON
Easton offers a unique village setting with major national brands like Tiffany’s and Nordstrom, and Columbus headquarters brands such as Eloquii, Bath & Body Works and DSW. The premier shopping destination has recently expanded with a new 16-acre mixed use development that includes shopping, dining, a public green space, a hotel and residential units. The first wave of tenants includes the state’s first RH Gallery from Restoration Hardware and Oprah-backed True Food Kitchen, serving health conscience fast food.
NIGHTLIFE & EVENT HOT SPOTS

1. Union Café
   facebook.com/UnionCafe
   782 N. High St.

2. Axis Nightclub
   facebook.com/AxisNightClub
   775 N. High St.

3. Slammers
   facebook.com/slammerscolumbus
   202 E. Long St.

4. AWOL Bar
   awolbar.com | 49 Parsons Ave.

5. Tremont Lounge
   facebook.com/TremontColumbus
   708 S. High St.

6. Club Diversity
   clubdiversity.com
   863 S. High St.

7. Boscoe’s
   boscoesbar.com
   1224 S. High St.

8. Southbend Tavern
   facebook.com/SouthBendTavern
   126 E. Moler St.

9. Cavan’s Irish Pub
   cavansirishpub.com
   1409 S. High St.

10. Pride Festival
    columbuspride.org
    233 Civic Center Dr.

11. NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series
    nagaasoftball.org/gsws
    325 Greenlawn Ave.
THINGS TO DO
No matter the amount of time you have to explore, visitors can always find something to do in Columbus.

IF YOU HAVE 1 HOUR:
• Take a walk in Goodale Park.
• Play old school arcade games at Brewcadia.
• Drink a craft beer at a nearby brewery or grab a local coffee at places like Stauf’s Coffee Roasters or Roosevelt Coffeehouse.
• Snap a photo of picturesque skyline views while strolling the Scioto Mile.
• Shop the Made in Cbus trail. Pick up information at any Experience Columbus Visitor Center, shop and collect prizes along the way.

IF YOU HAVE 3 HOURS:
• Explore the city’s landmarks and attractions with Columbus City Adventures.
• Throw axes, compete and have fun at Dueling Axes.
• Walk among life-size sculptures in Topiary Park.
• Take a guided Ohio Statehouse tour.
• Try gourmet chocolate with a wine or coffee pairing at Winans Chocolate + Coffee + Wine on the Commons.

IF YOU HAVE A HALF DAY:
• Explore the exhibits at the Columbus Museum of Art.
• Cheer on local sports teams, including NHL’s Columbus Blue Jackets, Triple-A Baseball’s Columbus Clippers or MLS’ Columbus Crew SC. Look for Pride nights throughout the seasons.
• Visit the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.
• Get hands-on with science while exploring COSI.
• Journey through extensive gardens and art collections at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

IF YOU HAVE A WHOLE DAY:
• Browse art galleries, shop and dine in the Short North Arts District, then catch a drag show at Axis Nightclub.
• Zipline, hike, kayak or relax just outside of the city at Hocking Hills Adventures.
• Take a dip at Zoombezi Bay water park or visit animals at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.
• Discover a local festival in any of our neighborhoods.
• Get up close and personal with endangered and rare species at The Wilds.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENING:
• Catch a live regional theater production at the Short North Stage.
• See what’s on stage at the country’s largest resident theater company, Shadowbox Live.
Columbus has several extraordinary neighborhoods throughout the city where LGBTQ citizens reside that also offer fun opportunities for exploration. For a modern and trendy picture of LGBTQ life in Columbus, head to the Short North Arts District. As a business district surrounded by a collection of residential neighborhoods, the Short North is one of the city’s most active spots for gay nightlife. The nearby homes sport many Pride flags flying from historic porches.

A few miles south, German Village ranks highly for partnered gay couples in Columbus. The South High Street corridor is home to several LGBTQ establishments, some of which offer a glimpse into the dive-bar scene of previous decades.

Seeking someplace more subdued? Live the suburban dream and head up to Clintonville—or, more specifically, Beechwold. From the exceptional architecture and leafy tree canopy of the historic district on the west side of High Street to the charming Cape Cod cottages on the east side, the neighborhood offers a unique slice of the city’s LGBTQ culture.

Show your love of the city using #outincbus when posting about your experiences on social media.
ANNUAL EVENTS
Plan your trip around one of these annual events. Visit experiencecolumbus.com/events for the full calendar and dates.

MONTHLY
• Short North Gallery Hop (First Saturday)
• Franklinton Fridays (Second Friday)

MARCH
• Columbus Crew SC (thru Oct.)

APRIL
• Columbus Clippers (thru Sept.)

MAY
• Asian Festival

JUNE
• the Memorial Tournament, presented by Nationwide
• Columbus Pride Festival
• Columbus Arts Festival
• ComFest

JULY
• Red, White and BOOM!
• Jazz & Rib Fest
• Ohio State Fair
• Picnic with the Pops

AUGUST
• Dublin Irish Festival
• Columbus Food Truck Festival
• 2021 NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series

SEPTEMBER
• Greek Festival
• Oktoberfest

OCTOBER
• HighBall Halloween
• Fashion Week Columbus
• Italian Festival
• Columbus Blue Jackets (thru April)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
• Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
• Conservatory Aglow

This is just a start for exploring the LGBTQ scene in Columbus. To see all dining options, attractions and events available in our open and smart city, visit outincbus.com.