



Travel Guide

written by Johnpaul Adams and Brian Rapp

Welcome to **GP Columbus**. I'll be your tour guide for this lovely city. First and foremost, North Market. If you are hungry I HIGHLY recommend this food option.

Moving right along, for those of you traveling into town from out of state please know that there is no commercial train travel available. The nearest Amtrak train stations are in Cincinnati (CIN) and Cleveland (CLE) and can connect to the Columbus via the Greyhound Bus Station, (111 East Town St, Columbus, OH 43215). If arriving by Bus, the Greyhound Bus station is in downtown Columbus and very close to several hotels, and about 8 blocks away from the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC). There is also MegaBus that also multiple stops in Columbus, it drops off at the Greyhound station, but be careful not to get off at the Ohio State University stop, as it is several miles from downtown. The major airport, Port Columbus with airport code CMH, is and about 20 mins from downtown. Another option is Rickenbacker Intl Airport with code LCK. this airport is usually best if coming from points far south. (Direct flights from FLL, JAX, MYR, MSY, SFB, PGD, SAV, and PIE via Allegiant).

Transit around the city can be accomplished by either the public bus COTA (cota.com/Riding-COTA/AirConnect.aspx), cabs (about \$25 from CMH to downtown, about \$35 from LCK), Uber (requires an APP for your phone). Within the downtown area there are also ridesharing options (columbus.car2go.com for a car, and cogobikeshare.com for bicycle).

Parking garages around the GCCC are generally about \$10 for all day parking, and meters are free on Sundays in Columbus until Midnight. However, please be aware that the GCCC is LONG and linear. If you park on the wrong end of the GCCC it will likely be a 5-10 min walk to the other end. There is a brand new garage on the North end, and a garage under the hotel on the South end. There is also a garage that is in the middle, located half a block West next to North Market on Vine St.

For Venue specific information, the Greater Columbus Convention Center is located at 400 North High St Columbus, Ohio 43215. The event is scheduled for Hall D which is closest to the North end.



columbusconventions.com/maps.php

Travel Recap:

Planes

Port Columbus - CMH
Rickenbacker Intl - LCK

Trains - None...

Busing

Greyhound - 111 East St
MegaBus - Corner of E Rich St and S 3rd Ave
Make sure NOT the OSU stop or cab to DT is expensive.

Transit in Town

COTA (public busing - cota.com/Riding-COTA/AirConnect.aspx)
Cabs (about \$25 from CMH, or \$35 from LCK to Downtown)
Uber (install apps)
Lyft unavailable

Transit downtown

columbus.car2go.com
cogobikeshare.com

Parking

Almost all \$10 event parking
Meters are free on Sundays in Columbus until Midnight.

For your stay in Columbus, there is a huge variety of options for lodging. From several hotels directly downtown that are either attached to the GCCC (Hyatt Regency, Hilton, Hampton Inn&Suites, Drury Inn&Suites, Crown Plaza) or within a few blocks (Red Roof Plus, Courtyard, Le Meridian) and easily walkable or using one of the ridesharing options. There are also many AirBnB.com options in the Columbus area, and highly recommended for large groups. Additionally, there are several hotels available that are usually cheaper than downtown around the two airports. If willing to drive 20 mins, there several options available around the perimeter of Columbus along the highway 270. If using this option, recommend finding one close to a highway spur connector like 70, 71, 315, or 670. These hotels, while as cheap as \$45/night, are usually not as high a quality as one's available downtown. (Use at your own risk)

Lodging Recap:

Attached to GCCC

Hyatt Regency
Hilton
Hampton Inn&Suites
Drury Inn&Suites
Crown Plaza

Walking Distance to GCCC

Red Roof Plus
Courtyard
Le Meridian

CMH Airport Hotels

Hampton Inn
Fairfield Inn&Suites
Hilton Garden Inn

AirBnB

The food options in Columbus are abundant. Ranging from under \$10 convention center fast-food based options to Texas de Brazil. If you are interested in fast lunch options, the GCCC provides a food court with a Subway, Sbarro's, and a local Mom&Pop type Gyro's place. Just outside the GCCC is the fabulous NorthMarket. I cannot recommend this enough. Cost will vary between \$10-20 depending on what you order, but the variety of eateries available are numerous. From BBQ, to Sushi; from Hot Chicken Takeover, to NY style deli; from artisanal ice cream to homemade donuts. North Market has it all. For dinner options, there are many great restaurants and Bar&Grills available either in walking distance from the GCCC or a short car ride within Columbus.

Food Recap:

Lunch:

- GCCC food court
- North Market
- BareBurger

Dinner:

- Dirty Frank's Hot Dog \$ (5 min South)
- Thurman's Burgers \$\$ (5 min South)
- Schmidt's German \$\$ (5 min South)
- Park Street District \$\$ to \$\$\$ (1 Block West)
- Short North Arts District \$ to \$\$\$\$ (5 min North)
- Texas de Brazil \$\$\$\$ (20 min East)
- The Refectory \$\$\$\$ (25 min North-West)

The Entertainment options in Columbus are just as varied as the food options. There is the Columbus Museum of Arts, the Franklin Park Conservatory for more peaceful walking tours. There is the nationally acclaimed Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, with a waterpark attached. There are many historical sites to visit, from the Ohio Statehouse, to OSU campus, as well as many "Haunted" Locations (columbuslandmarks.org/event-calendar/ghost-tours). Columbus also has many concert venues available around the downtown area (columbus.eventful.com)

For Nightlife and Bars, there are several locations in walking distance around the GCCC, from the Park St strip (about 10 bars in a single block) behind the NorthMarket, to the Arena District about 1 block southwest of the GCCC. There are also many Bar-cade style venues, between 16-bit Bar+Arcade, Olde North Arcade, and KingMakers (Tabletop and Board Games) with-in 5-10 min car ride.

Attractions and Entertainment

- Columbus Commons
- Park of Roses and Franklin Park Conservatory
- Segway Tours
- Ohio Statehouse
- OSU Campus
- The Shoe/Ohio Stadium
- The Commons
- Columbus Zoo
- COSI
- Ohio History Center
- Columbus Museum of Art
- Local AAA Baseball - Clippers have a home stretch from Monday to Sunday

Shopping and Nightlife

- Easton Town Center
- 16-Bit Barcade and Pins Mechanical Company (may not be open)
- Park Street/Arena District
- Short North Arts District
- Campus District