



# 5 Ways to Discover Ohio State & Columbus

*This document is meant to serve as a digital guide to popular areas and activities our medical students enjoy on Ohio State's campus and around Columbus.*

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THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



## 1 Academic explorer

**The William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library**, Ohio State's main library, hosts thousands of students daily.

**Thompson Library** is home to 1.25 million volumes of books, 230 computers, 1,800 study seats and the Berry Café. Be sure to check out the Campus Reading Room on the top floor to see spectacular views of campus and downtown Columbus. While the university remains under a state of emergency, you can tour Thompson Library virtually. [library.osu.edu](http://library.osu.edu)

**Orton Hall**, named for Ohio State's first president, Edward Orton, was built in 1893 using 40 types of Ohio stone laid in stratigraphic order to mirror Ohio's bedrock. Orton is home to the Orton Geological Museum and the Orton Library of Geology.  
[ortongeologicalmuseum.osu.edu](http://ortongeologicalmuseum.osu.edu)

**COSI** (Center of Science and Industry), located in downtown Columbus, was recently named the #1 Science Center in the country by *Parents* magazine. Since opening in 1964, COSI has provided an exciting and informative atmosphere for people of all ages to discover more about our accomplishments, our environment, our heritage and ourselves. COSI is temporarily closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
[cosi.org](http://cosi.org)

*Orton Hall houses the bell tower chimes—14 bells weighing more than 25,000 pounds that mark the hour and quarter hour. Listen at noon to hear “Carmen Ohio.”*



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URBAN  
ARTS  
SPACE

## History and art buff



*The exterior brick walls and castle-like architecture of the Wexner Center for the Arts reference the [Ohio State Armory](#) a landmark formerly located on this site, which was torn down in 1959 after a fire.*

**Wexner Center for the Arts** is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Although temporarily closed during COVID-19, visit virtually to experience the Wex from home. [wexarts.org](http://wexarts.org)

**Hopkins Hall Gallery** is a central part of life in the College of Arts and Sciences. Weeklong student art exhibitions occur throughout the year, particularly during spring and summer terms, when the majority of students are completing their degree programs. [art.osu.edu](http://art.osu.edu)

**Knowlton Hall** is a state-of-the-art facility for the School of Architecture. This modern building features gallery space for exhibitions, a central review space, two computer labs, a roof garden, a digital image library and a café. [knowlton.osu.edu](http://knowlton.osu.edu)

**Urban Arts Space**, located in downtown Columbus, is 10,000 square feet of exhibition space, nontraditional performance and installation space, and conference and office space. A partnership between the Urban Arts Space and faculty from the arts and humanities allows the space to carry out its mission of teaching, experimentation and community engagement. [uas.osu.edu](http://uas.osu.edu)

**The Short North Arts District** is home to dozens of galleries and exhibit spaces. Less than a mile south of campus, the district plays host to Gallery Hop on the first Saturday of every month. Thousands of visitors converge on the strip to see new exhibits and to celebrate art. [shortnorth.org](http://shortnorth.org)



As a “secret foodie city” (Forbes Travel Guide), Columbus offers amazing eats at every turn. Have some time to explore? Take a tour with [Columbus Food Adventures](#).

**The MarketPlace at Neil**, conveniently located in the Neil Building, is a favorite campus dining destination for medical students. MarketPlace serves up plenty of variety, from fresh wraps and hot panini to wood-fired pizzas and stir-fry.

**Ohio Union** offers multiple unique dining experiences. Once open, the Union Market comprises four stations: eat a grilled favorite at Fired Up, enjoy a locally grown salad at Across the Field, make a fresh sandwich at Dough-IO or try some international cuisine at Buckeye Passports. Also in the Union, you’ll find a 1950s-inspired diner called Sloopy’s that features diner-style classics and breakfast favorites. Take a virtual tour of the Ohio Union. [ohiounion.osu.edu](http://ohiounion.osu.edu)

**Brenen's Café**, located within the Biomedical Research Tower on the medical center campus, offers fine specialty coffees, baked goods, and café-style sandwiches and salads. Frequently visited by medical students! [brenensinc.com](http://brenensinc.com)

**Mirror Lake Eatery**, located in Pomerene Hall, features three flavors of chicken tenders and 10 varieties of dipping sauce. The Mirror Lake fries are a student favorite. Shakes, too!

Visit [dining.osu.edu](http://dining.osu.edu) for a list of dining locations across campus and hours of operations.

**The Short North Arts District** is not only home for art lovers, but also a major attraction for food and drinks. Here, you’ll find popular destinations for any meal of the day, such as Forno (known for the best happy hour in Columbus), Northstar, Bakersfield, Brewdog and Condado (famous for build-your-own tacos). [shortnorth.org/eat-drink](http://shortnorth.org/eat-drink)

**The North Market** is a popular public market started in 1876 that features the food of locally grown businesses like Flavors of India, Hot Chicken Takeover, Hubert’s Polish Kitchen, Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams, Nida’s Sushi, Sarefino’s Pizzeria and Momo Ghar. Located 3 miles south of campus, the market is a short ride on the #2 COTA bus that runs along High Street. [northmarket.com](http://northmarket.com)

**The Gateway**, located on High Street between Chittenden and Ninth avenues, features great eateries frequented by Ohio State students. Although not part of the campus dining plan, students spend their extra cash at spots like Cazuelas Mexican Grill, Trism, Elia Athenian Grill, Five Guys, Mark Pi’s, Cane’s, Araci Pizzeria and Coffee Connections. [heygateway.com](http://heygateway.com)



## Sports enthusiast



Once sporting events resume normal operation, Ohio State students have access to discount tickets for all three sports programs—and many other city events—through D-Tix.

**Ohio Stadium**, completed in 1922, was the first horseshoe-shaped double-deck stadium in the United States. Home to Buckeye football, the stadium attracts over 105,000 enthusiastic fans on fall Saturdays. Tour the Ohio Stadium virtually. [Take a virtual tour](#)

The **Columbus Clippers**, a minor league affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, make their home at Huntington Park, a 10,100-seat stadium located in the Arena District just a few miles south of campus. [clippersbaseball.com](#)

Columbus is home to the **Columbus Crew SC**. The team plays at MAPFRE Stadium—the first soccer-specific stadium ever built for an MLS team—from February through October. [thecrew.com](#)

The **Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC)** is one of five recreational sports facilities on campus. Centrally located, RPAC is one of the largest collegiate recreation center in the country, boasting more than half-a-million square feet of recreation, fitness and aquatic space, as well as meeting rooms and cafes. [recsports.osu.edu](#)

The Arena District plays host to the NHL's **Columbus Blue Jackets**. Hopefully you can catch a game if you're in town during hockey season (September through April). [bluejackets.nhl.com](#)



## Nature enthusiast



*Mirror Lake, originally fed by a natural spring, figured prominently in the selection of a site for the university. Mirror Lake Hollow includes Browning Amphitheatre, Bucket and Dipper Rock, the Faculty Club and Pomerene Hall — all campus landmarks in their own right. Visit in-person or [virtually](#).*

**The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**, named the #1 Zoo in America by USA Travel Guide, fosters a greater appreciation of wildlife and conservation issues among its visitors. Just 30 minutes north of campus, the zoo offers discounted admission to Ohio State students. Reservations are currently required to visit the zoo.

[columbuszoo.org](http://columbuszoo.org)

**Columbus Metro Parks**. If you're on a mission to stay outside and be physically distant, Metro Parks features 19 outstanding parks with more than 230 miles of trails and over 27,700 acres of land in seven central Ohio counties. Take a stroll along the park trails, participate in a scavenger hunt or explore one of the many different outdoor activities our parks have to offer.

[metroparks.net](http://metroparks.net)

**Central Ohio Trails**. Whether you're a biking enthusiast or an avid nature lover, the trails are divided into sections that will appeal to your personal taste. Our 19 trails create a unique experience by joining the natural wonders of our scenic rivers with the diverse neighborhoods and attractions of the city.

[centralohiogreenways.com](http://centralohiogreenways.com)

**Franklin Park Conservatory** is central Ohio's premier botanical garden, located approximately 2 miles from downtown Columbus. The experience consists of botanical biomes, lush gardens, special horticulture and art exhibitions, and seasonal offerings.

[fpconservatory.org](http://fpconservatory.org)

Love being on the water? Columbus offers various locations for kayaking and canoeing, including Trapper John's Canoe Livery, Hoover Adventures, Alum Creek Adventures and Alum Creek Marina. Visit their websites to make a reservation. Stay safe and don't forget your hat and sunscreen!