

ADVENTURES *in Cincinnati*



Cincinnati is a fascinating city with a rich history,
incredible architecture, a vibrant arts culture,
outstanding breweries and a variety of food for all tastes.
Here are some ideas for spending your free time in the
Queen City. I'd love to hear about your experiences here!
-Tami McMann, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur




Downtown







Contemporary Arts Center

 [Website](#) |  Open 10a-7p Thu-Fri, 10a- 4p Sat & Sun | 

 Founded in 1939, the Contemporary Arts Center is one of Cincinnati's oldest non-profit arts organizations. You can see paintings, sculptures, unique architecture, memorable performance art, and photography. Be sure to stop by the Unmuseum!

Taft Museum of Art


 [Website](#) |  Open daily 10a-5p (closed on Tues) | 

 A National Historic Landmark, this mansion-turned-museum is home to an amazing permanent collection and exhibits. Look for the Robert S. Duncanson landscape murals that were found hidden behind wallpaper when the house became the Taft Museum in the 1930s!



Historic Cincinnati Scavenger Hunt (self-guided)


 [Let's Roam Website](#) | 

 Explore the city's history and architecture on a self-guided outdoor scavenger hunt! Sign up online and check in when you're ready for a downtown adventure. You'll need a smartphone, good walking shoes and probably a jacket.



Art Murals Walking Tour (self-guided)




 [Website](#) | 


 Download a free walking tour guide from Artworks Cincinnati and then lace up your shoes for a colorful look at the fantastic murals around downtown! You can also make an appointment for a guided tour for a fee.

The Banks




National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

 [Website](#) |  Open 10a–5p Wed–Sun | 

 Located on the banks of the Ohio River, which once separated free northern states from southern slave states, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is where history comes alive. Here, you can experience the “slave pen,” a small building used to cram dozens of enslaved people inside as they were forced to be auctioned off. Prepare for an emotional, eye-opening educational experience.


Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame Museum


 [Website](#) |  Open 10a–5p daily | 

 Did you know the Cincinnati Reds were the first professional baseball team in America? Learn more about sports history at the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame & Museum, located adjacent to the Great American Ball Park. The exhibits include memorabilia and the MVP awards of players such as Joe Morgan, World Series trophies, and much more. You can also get a guided tour of the stadium for an additional fee.



Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame

 [Website](#) | 

 The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame celebrates the legacy and untold stories of music artists, songwriters, producers, and musicians from Southwest Ohio. It’s a fun, outdoor interactive attraction for music lovers or those interested in Black American history.



Smale Riverfront Park/Roebling Suspension Bridge


[Website](#) | 

👑 The park spans 45 acres on the Cincinnati waterfront and features landscaped gardens and tons of picnic spots. You can sit on a swinging bench facing the river, enjoy the vintage Carol Ann's Carousel, or try out the foot piano. While you're there, walk into Kentucky across the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge, the prototype for New York's Brooklyn Bridge.

Eden Park



Cincinnati Art Museum

[Website](#) | 🕒 Open 11a–5p Tues–Sun, until 8p on Thurs | 

👑 One of the very best free things to do is visit the spectacular Cincinnati Art Museum where you can enjoy all types of art and learn about Cincinnati's famous Rookwood Pottery. There are over 73,000 pieces of art on display, so you could literally spend hours here! The cafe is also wonderful and highly rated.



Krohn Conservatory

[Website](#) | 🕒 Open 10a–8p daily | 💰


👑 Eden Park is also home to Krohn Conservatory, a public indoor garden with over 3,500 radiant plant species, tons of flowers, a desert garden and water features. It's an oasis in the Midwest!

Nearby







Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (Avondale)

 [Website](#) |  Open 10a–5p daily | 




 The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden was opened in 1875 and is beautiful during Zoo Blooms in April. There are many wonderful animals, new exhibits for bears and elephants, and the grounds are just lovely. As a bonus, you can enjoy Cincinnati’s famous Graeter’s Ice Cream during your visit!


Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal (Queensgate)

 [Website](#) |  Open 10a–5p Thu–Mon | 

 The Cincinnati Museum Center is housed inside the historic Union Terminal, a fantastic example of art deco architecture listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Besides the train station, which still operates, it’s home to the Holocaust and Humanity Center, Cincinnati History Museum, Museum of Natural History & Science, Duke Energy Children’s Museum, and an iMax theater.




Harriet Beecher Stowe House (East Walnut Hills)


 [Website](#) |  Open 10a–4p Thurs–Sat, 12–4p Sun | 

 The Harriet Beecher Stowe House is an 1800s historic home which was once occupied by “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” author, Harriet Beecher Stowe. Renovated in 2024, the reason for the two-toned paint job will all become clear when you learn about the home’s unique history as both a private residence and an African American boarding house once listed in the Green Book. Guided tours available.






Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum


 [Website](#) |  Open 8a–6p daily | 

 The Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum is a beautiful outdoor space with multiple walking paths covering over 700 acres of tree groves, hills, gardens, lakes, and ponds. The largest cemetery in Ohio and one of the oldest, it is a National Historic Landmark. Come for a peaceful day among the imposing gothic tombs, statues, and mausoleums and discover the resting place of famous politicians, scientists, athletes, artists, and Civil War generals.



Newport Aquarium (Newport, KY)


 [Website](#) |  Open 9a daily |
Closes at 6p Mon–Thu, at 7 pm Fri & Sun, at 8 pm Sat | 

 The Newport Aquarium is where you can see thousands of sea creatures swimming in millions of gallons of water. Sharks, jellyfish, colorful fish, coral reefs — you'll be astonished by the diversity alone, as there are about 650 species living here and more than 16,000 animals in total. Every day, there's a penguin parade!



Cincinnati Music Hall (Over-the-Rhine)

 [Website](#) |  Hours vary | 

 For the best experience, book a 90-minute tour that explores private and public spaces in the iconic Music Hall.

If you have a particular interest in history, music, theater, architecture, or Cincinnati culture, this will be a real treat! This jewel was completed in 1878 and is the performing arts space for the Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Opera, May Festival Chorus, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

A Taste of Cincinnati



Too many wonderful restaurants to list them all! Here are a few local favorites.

Skyline Chili: This is a fast food staple in these parts. “Cincinnati chili” has a signature flavor with infusions of nutmeg, cinnamon, and chocolate. It’s served over spaghetti with a mountain of shredded cheddar and beans and/or onions if you choose. Don’t knock it ‘til you try it!

Graeter’s Ice Cream: Local ice cream chain founded in 1870 - try the best selling Black Raspberry Chip or one of their seasonal flavors.

Jeff Ruby’s: Upscale steakhouse that is a favorite of the Bengals players and every celebrity who’s ever visited Cincinnati (DOWNTOWN)

Moerlein Lager House: Brewery and restaurant on the Ohio River known for the authentic German sausage platter (THE BANKS)

Rhinegeist Brewery: Historic bottling plant offering house-brewed beers, table tennis, cornhole and giant TVs. (DOWNTOWN)

Montgomery Inn at the Boathouse: Scenic views and award winning barbecue (CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT)

The 1931: Stunning art deco dining inside the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. It’s a must-see if you’re a fan of this era! Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. (DOWNTOWN)



Another Cincinnati specialty comes from its German roots -- **goetta** (pronounced GET-uh). It’s a sausage made from ground pork/beef, steel-cut oats, onions, and spices. You might see it on breakfast menus served with eggs. Give it a try!