

Ohio

By Tom Kirvan

EXPLORING THE 'HEART OF IT ALL'

Ohio, often called the "Heart of It All," offers an inviting mixture of culture, history, and natural beauty. This Midwestern state – bordered by Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia – invites travelers to explore its diverse offerings. Whether you're drawn by bustling cities, serene landscapes, or historical landmarks, Ohio has something to captivate every visitor.

Ohio, the 34th largest state in the United States by area, boasts a population of more than 11.7 million people, making it the seventh most populous state. Geographically, Ohio is a land of contrasts. It stretches from the Appalachian Mountains in the southeast to the Great Lakes in the north. This variety in terrain provides a range of activities and sights for visitors, from hiking and skiing in the hills to boating and fishing on Lake Erie.

Columbus, the capital city of Ohio, is a metropolis that blends modernity with tradition. As the largest city in the state, Columbus is a hub of education, culture, and innovation. Home to The Ohio State University, the city buzzes with youthful energy and intellectual vigor. Visitors can explore the Columbus Museum of Art, enjoy the vibrant Short North Arts District, or catch a Big Ten football game at Ohio Stadium, fondly known as "The Horseshoe." The Scioto Mile, a stretch of parkland along the Scioto River, offers beautiful views and recreational activities.

Campbell Hill, located in Logan County, holds the title of Ohio's highest point. Standing at 1,550 feet above sea level, it provides a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. While modest in height, Campbell Hill offers a unique vantage point to appreciate Ohio's natural beauty. It's a popular spot for hiking and picnicking, particularly in the autumn when the foliage is a kaleidoscope of colors.

Top 5 Must-See Tourist Destinations

- **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame (Cleveland):** This iconic museum is a pilgrimage site for music lovers. Located on the shores of Lake Erie, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame celebrates the history and impact of rock music. Exhibits feature legendary artists, memorable performances, and artifacts that chronicle the evolution of rock 'n' roll.
- **Cedar Point (Sandusky):** Known as the "Roller Coaster Capital of the World," Cedar Point is an amusement park that promises thrills for all ages. With 18 world-class roller coasters, a water park, and live entertainment, it's a destination that delivers an adrenaline-packed experience.



Fast Facts

Capital: Columbus
Population: 11.7 million
Highest point: Campbell Hill (1,550 feet)
Economic Engines: Manufacturing, finance, and insurance

Primerus Members:

- **Manley Burke, PBLI**
(Cincinnati, Ohio, USA)
- **McNeal, Schick, Archibald & Biro Co., L.P.A., PDI**
(Cleveland, Ohio, USA)
- **Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP, PBLI**
(Cleveland, Ohio, USA)

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- **Hocking Hills State Park:** For those who prefer the tranquility of nature, Hocking Hills State Park is a must-visit. The park's stunning landscapes include waterfalls, gorges, and lush forests. Popular activities include hiking the trails to Ash Cave and Old Man's Cave, zip-lining, and stargazing once the sun goes down.
- **National Museum of the United States Air Force (Dayton):** Located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, this museum is a testament to Ohio's significant contribution to aviation history. Its extensive collection includes historic aircraft, space vehicles, and exhibits on the development of aviation technology.
- **Cuyahoga Valley National Park:** Nestled between Akron and Cleveland, this national park offers a peaceful retreat with more than 125 miles of hiking trails. The park features stunning waterfalls, scenic train rides on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, and the historic Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

Ohio, also known as "The Buckeye State," is rich in history and has played a pivotal role in the nation's development. It was the birthplace of seven U.S. Presidents, earning it the nickname "Mother of Presidents." These leaders include Ulysses S. Grant and William Howard Taft. Ohio's history is also deeply intertwined with the abolitionist movement; the state was a crucial part of the Underground Railroad, with many safe houses still preserved as historical sites.

Ohio's role in aviation is underscored by the fact that the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, hailed from Dayton and conducted many of their early flight experiments there. This legacy is celebrated throughout the state, particularly at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (highlighted above) and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.