

Cincinnati Stuff

I struggled with the best way to present this information. Everybody has a smart phone so it's easy to find information about a place. One just needs to be pointed in the right direction. So here's the "pointing" with a few comments. I'll let you look up the details on your own rather than providing printed material that will soon become outdated. In a few cases I thought it made sense to print information. Those cases are noted below.

This document can also be found at www.pin-llc.net/To_Do so that you can click on the links provided for more information.

If you have a special interest or hobby, let me know and I'll try to think of Cincinnati things that might float your boat.

1. [Ohio's Best Coffee Shop](#) - Mom 'N 'Em (printed) – 3128 Colerain Ave.
 - a. Not my opinion – I'm not a coffee drinker - it's the opinion of Food and Wine magazine and the Cincinnati Enquirer food critic. Not far. Combine it with the American Sign Museum just around the corner.
 - b. They also opened a location in Oakley but westsiders do NOT venture to the east side!!!!!! Sorry – it's a Cincinnati thing.
 - c. OK – can't mention coffee shops without giving a shout out to two within a 5 walk (4 if you walk fast).
 - i. [Muse Café](#) – 3018 Harrison Ave. (corner of Harrison and Montana).
 - ii. [Fable Café](#) - 3117 Harrison Ave.
2. Maybe the best fried chicken you'll ever eat. [Ron's Roost](#), 3855 Race Rd (just 2 miles away).
 - a. A Westside tradition since 1960. It gets busy so go early.
3. [Findlay Market](#) – 1801 Race St -
 - a. A must. Ohio's oldest, continuously operated public market. Think butchers, produce vendors, crafts and locally-owned eateries. Included in my recommendation for a day downtown.
 - b. If you're here in the summer you might want to check out a roadside farmer's stand. I recommend [Burwinkel Farm's](#) stands. You'll need to check the website for days and times. Two nearby are:
 - i. Parking lot of White Oak Garden Center 3579 Blue Rock Rd.
 - ii. 3344 Westbourne Dr (near Home Depot and Kroger on Glenway Ave.)
4. [Ride the Streetcar](#)
 - a. It's free.
 - b. It travels in a figure 8 so you can't get lost! A full loop takes 30-40 minutes. Note: if you're sightseeing don't ride at night or you'll only see your reflection in the window. Included in my recommendation for a day downtown.
5. Walk the Roebling Bridge

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- a. Looks a lot like the Brooklyn Bridge because it was the prototype for the Brooklyn Bridge! When it was built it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. Enter from Smale Park. Included in my recommendation for a day downtown.
6. Visit [Smale Park](#)
 - a. Voted one of the 10 best riverwalks by USA Today. 45 acres along the Ohio River between Great American Ballpark and the Bengals' Stadium. Included in my recommendation for a day downtown.
7. Restaurant with a view – [Prima Vista](#) – 810 Matson Pl, Cincinnati, OH 45204
 - a. One of the West Side's (yes, we capitalize that!) gems. Fantastic view of Cincinnati and NKY from atop Price Hill. Affordable and delicious Italian cuisine. Steps from the Warsaw Incline Theatre if you want to make it an evening. The Incline Theatre has fantastic (live) productions.
8. Another restaurant with a view – [The Incline Public House](#), 2601 W. 8th St, Cincinnati, OH 45204 - right next to Prima Vista.
 - a. The only real view – but it's a great view - is from the patio, so you'll want to go when weather allows outdoor seating.
9. The [Voice of America Museum](#) - 8070 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, OH 45069
 - a. Tells and shows the history of the VOA and Cincinnati's Role in WWII, Radio and TV history – we were a big deal back in the day. Open Saturday and Sunday. About a 30 minute drive, located in West Chester.
10. The [American Sign Museum](#) - 1330 Monmouth St, Cincinnati, OH 45225 –
 - a. A fun place to see a lot of signs from days gone by. Many ages will find interesting but mostly people "of a certain age" (say 50+) will recognize the signs.
11. Sports: Reds, FC Cincinnati, Bengals
 - a. Sports aren't my thing so I'll let you research it. I mention them here so you don't overlook them.
 - b. Fun fact: Cincinnati is the home of the first professional baseball team: The Cincinnati Redstockings in 1869.
12. [Jungle Jim's](#) - 5440 Dixie Highway Fairfield, OH 45014 and 4450 Eastgate Square Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45245
 - a. For foodies and folks seeking ethnic favorites. If the United Nations had a grocery store, this would be it. Two locations: Fairfield (closest) and Eastgate.
13. Cincinnati Chili – EVERYWHERE!!!!
 - a. Cincinnati's most loved/hated food. Started by Greek immigrants. Uniquely spiced, though not spicy, and served over spaghetti. To get the best experience, order a 3, 4 or 5-way (the menu explains) – not just a cheese coney (though they're good, too). Many restaurants serve Cincinnati chili but if you ask me, [Skyline](#) is the best (you'll find them everywhere). Other popular restaurants are [Gold Star](#) (meh) and [Camp Washington Chili](#) (good and near Ohio's Best Coffee Shop and the American Sign Museum mentioned here).

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14. Goetta (GET-uh) A German (some say, but I say “German-inspired”) breakfast sausage made from pork, onions, spices and pinhead or steel-cut oats. Some say it’s like scrapple but with oats instead of cornmeal. Need to find me some scrapple to compare. Ask a German about goetta and they’ll say, “Was? Was ist Goetta? Davon habe ich nie gehört.” That’s why I say “German inspired.” The best way to truly taste goetta is to order it as a side to your eggs at a restaurant one might call a “greasy spoon.” Or ask me to cook breakfast for you sometime (not too early, let’s say brunch). If you get it on a burger or mixed with something else you really won’t taste the goetta because it has a rather mild flavor and will get lost in the other food. You can tell I like goetta based on how much I’m writing about it, no? You’ll need to try goetta locally because you won’t find it too far outside the Cincinnati area. If you cook it yourself for the first time (which I advise against), you want it sliced rather thin so it ends up crispy on the outside while still soft on the inside. Don’t let the pieces touch or you’ll just end up with a pile of mush. Cincinnati loves goetta so much we used to have TWO Goettafests. Now we just have one – but it stretches two 4-day weekends – so yeah, we still love our goetta! Check my Events by Date recommendation for the details.

15. Ice Cream

- a. Scooped
 - i. Best scooped ice cream – so good it’s recommended by Oprah (really!) [Graeters](#). Multiple locations. Also available at Kroger.
 - ii. [UDF \(United Dairy Farmers\)](#) also good and also multiple, nearby locations. Note: Avoid the one nearby on the corner of Montana and Glenmore – police are often called to that location. Also known for their malts and shakes.
- b. Soft serve. We call the places that serve soft-serve Creamy Whips (a generic term – not a brand name). Good places near you:
 - i. [Putz’s Creamy Whip](#) - just off the Montana Exit of I74 (2673 Putz’s place). At the time of this writing they only accept cash.
 - ii. [Zip Dip](#) – 4050 Drew Ave
 - iii. [Cone Zone](#) in Cheviot at 4101 Harrison Ave.

16. Speaking of food – Cincinnati’s best bakeries are:

- a. [Servatii’s German Bakery](#) – nearest location 2010 Anderson Ferry Rd
- b. [Busken Bakery](#) – some Kroger stores carry Busken’s baked goods. If you find a store or your Kroger carries Busken goods be sure to try a Cheese Crown – cream cheese in a muffin-shaped puff pastry. Delicious!
- c. [Graeters](#) (see ice cream recommendations)

17. Oktoberfest(s!)

- a. The end of September/early Oktober (yes, I spelled that right!) – even as early as late August. Cincinnati has a big German history and this is one of the many fests where we celebrate that. [Cincinnati’s Oktoberfest](#) is the largest outside of Munich.
- b. If you plan to attend Cincinnati’s (downtown) Oktoberfest, this would be a good time to park uptown and ride the streetcar to the fest location. New (and much better) 2024

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location: Smale Park (another of my Things To Do – see above). To get there via streetcar get off at the 2nd Street exit and walk about 5 mins.

- c. If you like things German google Kolping, Donauschwaben and Germania – 3 local German societies, each with their own fests - Oktober and other.

18. Beer

- a. I'm not a beer drinker but I've heard good things about [West Side Brewing](#) – literally steps from your front door – so be sure to check that out. I do like pizza, though, and beginning 2023 Catch A Fire pizza opened in WSB – great wood-fired pizza.
- b. Cincinnati also has (several, apparently according to google) beer tours.

19. And speaking of beer: [Bockfest](#) and the Bockfest parade.

- a. Bockfest celebrates Cincinnati's beer heritage by, what else? - drinking beer and eating.
- b. The Bockfest parade can be considered Cincinnati's Mardi Gras. Held around the start of Lent.

20. Best Views

- a. Price Hill next to the restaurant Prima Vista
- b. Eden Park – two scenic overlooks.
- c. Mt. Adams, from the parking lot of Highland Towers/The View (apartment building and event center). 1071 Celestial St.
- d. The banks of the Ohio River in Covington, KY., are, in my opinion, best visited at night. Consider taking a nighttime stroll across the Roebling Bridge, turn north (left) at the end of the bridge and walk a few hundred feet to a small riverside park.
- e. See also Best Dinner Views (Enquirer article – printed).

21. [Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens](#) - 3400 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45220

- a. Always fun but especially early spring when the flowers are blooming and around Christmas when (literally) millions of lights are put up. It's a big deal. It's not cheap so check prices before you go or find a friend with a membership. To get in free check special events like Blooms and Tunes (April) where you can get in free after 5 and hear live music.

22. [Newport Aquarium](#) – 1 Aquarium Way, Newport, KY 1-800-406-3474

23. [Arnold's Bar and Grill](#) – Cincinnati's oldest bar. 210 E. 8th St.

- a. Opened in 1861. Good food and a neat courtyard where you'll find a variety of music (Americana, bluegrass, boogie-woogie, jug band, zydeco) several nights a week.

24. Cultural stuff

- a. [Cincinnati Music Hall](#) – home of the world renowned Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. 1241 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- b. [Memorial Hall](#) – neat, older venue featuring many nationally-known musicians. Right next door to Music Hall. 1225 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- c. [Shakespeare Theatre](#) - 1195 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- d. [Aronoff Center](#) – Broadway on Tour, other visiting acts. 650 Walnut St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

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- e. [Taft Theatre](#) – visiting comedians, musicians. 317 E 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
 - f. [Cincinnati Art Museum](#) – in Eden Park. 953 Eden Park Dr.
 - g. [Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center](#). 44 E. 6th Street, **Cincinnati**, OH 45202
 - h. [Playhouse in the Park](#) – live theater productions in Eden Park.
 - i. [Warsaw Federal Incline Theater](#) - 801 Matson Place – live productions usually quite good, sometimes Broadway quality. This theater production company has two other Westside locations including Madcap Productions (kid-focused productions and classes) – the building with the red tiled roof visible from your dining room window.
25. [King's Island Amusement Park](#) – 'nuff said.
26. [Perfect North Slopes](#) - 19074 Perfect Place Lane, Lawrenceburg, IN. About 34 mins - 39 if you take the scenic (non-highway) route.
- a. If you're here the right time of year this is a fun place. Skiing (including equipment rental and lessons), tubing or just going to eat, drink and watch others from the warmth and comfort of the lodge. It's where Olympic medalists Nick Goepper and Justin Schoenefeld got their start so, yeah, it's got some good cred.
27. Blink Cincinnati – a FANTASTIC show of art and lights. One of my favorite events. Held every other year when we don't have a pandemic! As of now it's on the even-years schedule. It's spread over 30 blocks of downtown Cincinnati and stretches into Covington and Newport, KY. Details as of this writing are few so check www.blinkcincinnati.com for more details closer to the date. It's a show you don't want to miss but be forewarned – parking will be tight. Plan to arrive a bit early, enjoy dinner downtown, and do a LOT of walking. If history repeats itself the streetcar won't be a great option – too many people trying to use and too many people walking in its path.
28. Paul's Recommendation for A Day (or maybe two!) Downtown (printed)
29. Paul's Recommendation for Great River Views (printed). See also Best Dinner Views (Enquirer article – printed).
30. Paul's Recommendations for Events, listed by date (printed)