



YOUR GOOFY GRASSROOTS
GUIDEBOOK TO COLUMBUS!
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THE HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

SWELL PEOPLE IN HERE:

- Michael S. Brown
- Brian Cheek
- Douglas Craven
- Johnny DiLoretto
- Nick Frye
- Jami Goldstein
- Cheryl Harrison
- Ryan Kovalaske
- Aaron Leventhal
- Randy Malloy
- Tommy McClure
- Pete Olsen
- Chet Ridenour
- Bob Vitale
- Josh Weiker
- Ayana Wilson



Ann Fisher is Ready to Shop!

Cleveland: An Exhilarating Weekend Getaway

I was born and raised in Cleveland, attended OSU, live in German Village and have been part of the Buckeye Nation for going on three decades. But I return often to my hometown to visit family and friends and root for its hapless sports teams.

I understand why Cowtowners are less than enthusiastic about Cleveland. It's an acquired taste: urban, ethnic, gritty, edgy - yes, different. I do, however, recommend it for a long weekend escape, less than a three-hour drive from Columbus.

My wife, Beth, and I were hosted last month by Positively Cleveland, the city's convention and visitors bureau. We were wine and dined and introduced to an array of neighborhood attractions, dining and entertainment venues. We were impressed with the new and exciting developments that have taken place in recent years.

Listed below are some highlights of our visit. When the winter doldrums set in, I recommend giving Cleveland a go.

THURSDAY: After work, head north on I-71, exit on E Ninth Street and drive east on Euclid Avenue about four miles to the **Glidden House** (216.231.8900, www.gliddenhouse.com), a century-old, French Gothic mansion built by the son of the founder of the Glidden Varnish Co. It has been restored as an intimate 60-room bed-and-breakfast inn on the Case Western Reserve campus in the heart of University Circle.

Dine in the inn's carriage house at **Sergio's** (216.231.1234, www.sergioscleveland.com), noted for its Mediterranean, French and seafood specialties. Close the night out at nearby **Nighttown** (216.795.0550, www.nighttowncleveland.com), a gathering place since 1965 with three bars, a kitchen that's open until midnight and live music nightly. *Down Beat* magazine named it one of the best jazz clubs in the world.

FRIDAY: Begin the day with a hearty, complimentary European-style buffet breakfast in the inn's parlor. Hop on the nearby RTA Health Line to Public Square and take a short stroll to I.M. Pei's iconic glass pyramid, the seven-story, **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum** (rockhall.com) on the shores of Lake Erie. It contains the biggest collection of rock artifacts in the world, five movie theaters, exhibit galleries, interactive listening exhibits, a museum store and café. (Admission is \$22 for adults.)

Grab a cab to the legendary **West Side Market** on W 25th

Street in Ohio City (www.westsidemarket.org). It's celebrating its centennial year as the largest indoor/outdoor public market in the country with nearly 200 vendor booths. The market features extraordinary neoclassical Byzantine architecture, with a regal clock tower and a red-tile vaulted ceiling.

For an amazing sensory experience stroll through the bustling aisles as vendors of every ethnic background hawk their fresh produce, meats and baked goods to bargaining shoppers. Be sure to nosh on the free samples. Continue along W 25th past dozens of small specialty shops, cafés and restaurants, all exuding an Old World ambiance.

Lunch at **Nate's Deli** (216.696.7529), a Middle Eastern vegetarian restaurant open for breakfast and lunch. The baba ganoush, tabbouleh, kibbeh, hummus and homemade baklava are superb. Taxi back to Public Square and board **Lolly the Trolley**



Travel writer Aaron Leventhal at the West Side Market on West 25th Street

(www.lollytrolley.com) for a narrated sightseeing tour that covers 100 downtown points of interest. Before returning to the inn, check out **The Arcade** (401 Euclid Ave, www.thelevelandarcade.com), which opened in 1890 as one of the first indoor shopping malls in the country. There are more than 75 unique shops and boutiques, a food court and fine dining.

Return to the Glidden House for a few hours of welcome relaxation. Its cozy **Palette Lounge** is a full-service bar serving tapas from Sergio's. The night begins with a short drive up Mayfield Road to **Little Italy** (also known as Murray Hill), crowded with dozens of specialty shops, art galleries, bakeries

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame + Museum

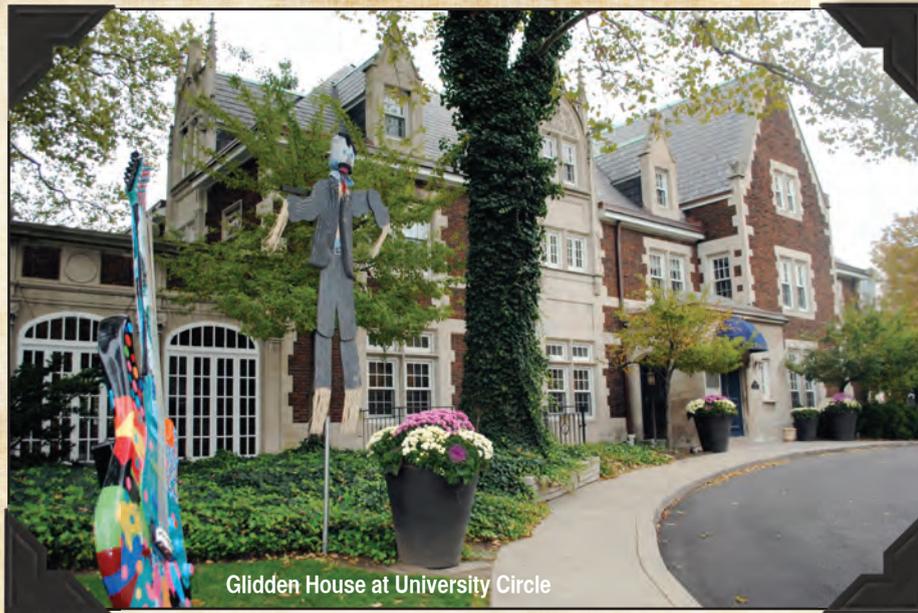


and Cleveland's finest ristoranti.

Enjoy a great dinner at the popular **La Dolce Vita Bistro** (216.721.8155, www.ladolcevita.cleveland.com). To close the night, drive a short distance up the Hill to Cleveland Heights' **Coventry Village** (coventryvillage.org). Located along a six-block corridor of Euclid Heights Boulevard, the famed community prides itself for being independent, offbeat and loaded with eclectic bookshops, craft stores, art galleries, intimate cafés and coffee shops, and small international and vegetarian restaurants.

SATURDAY: After breakfast at the inn, spend the entire day strolling around University Circle, reputed to be the most concentrated square mile of art and culture in the world.

Begin at **MOCA**, Museum of Contemporary Art (www.moca-cleveland.org), Cleveland's shiny new four-story, \$26 million jewel designed by internationally renowned architect Farsid Moussari of London. Its geometric stainless steel and black glass exterior at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Murray Hill is startling. The goal of Moussari's dramatic building is to showcase innovative visual art that's open to new ideas and



Glidden House at University Circle

programs. Its first exhibition features works by 13 celebrated international artists, including Louise Bourgeois, David Hammons, Gordon Matta-Clark and Rachel Whiteread. (Admission is \$8.) The nearby **Cleveland Botanical Garden** (www.cb garden.org) boasts an impressive greenhouse with 10 acres of outdoor gardens. (Admission is \$9.50.)

Stop for lunch at the **Cleveland Museum of Art's** new cafe, part of a \$350 million renovation. With 30,000 works, the museum (www.clevelandart.org) is one of the world's great museums and the only major one in the country still offering free admission. Complete your walking tour at the **Cleveland Museum of Natural History** (www.cmnh.org), with its impressive Hall of Dinosaurs, stunning gem collection, planetarium shows and intriguing exhibits on whales and the best photos from *National Geographic*. (Admission is free.)

Obsessive shoppers can break up the day with a return visit to Coventry Village or **Tower City Center** on Public Square (www.towercity-center.com), featuring three levels of more than 75 specialty shops, restaurants and an 11-screen cinema.



Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (MOCA)

In the evening, head downtown to **E Fourth Street** (www.east4thstreet.com), a narrow, one-block entertainment district crowded with some of the city's best dining and entertainment. Dine at Chef Jonathan Sawyer's new **Greenhouse Tavern** (216.443.0511, www.thegreenhousetavern.com), the first green, farm-to-table restaurant in Ohio. Entrees range from tangy kale

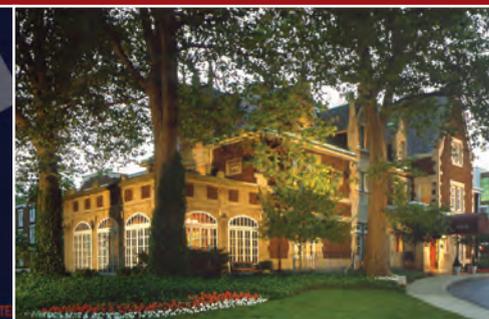
salad with grilled chicken pailard to pancetta and red pepper pasta and veggie crepes.

On E Fourth Street, you'll also find the **House of Blues**, Iron Chef Michael Symon's **Lola, Hilarities 4th Street Theatre** (comedy) and the **Corner Alley** with bowling lanes, entertainment and its **Martini Lounge**. For other popular downtown nightlife, there's **Cowboy Rock**, a nightclub with huge dance floor and light show; the incomparable **Playhouse Square** (www.playhousesquare.org) with 10 theaters for ballet, opera, theater, concerts and shows, including the Cleveland Playhouse; the new **Horseshoe Casino Cleveland** (www.horseshoecleveland.com), housed in the historic Higbee Building; **Peabody's** (www.peabodys.com), a music institution since the 1960s with two floors of live music acts; and **Improv Comedy Club and Restaurant** (www.clevelandimprov.com), with national comedy acts.

SUNDAY: Time to check out a number of attractions before returning to Columbus. Recommendations include the **Greater Cleveland Aquarium** (greaterclevelandaquarium.com), with a 70,000-square-foot aquarium, 36 tanks, and 5,000 saltwater and freshwater fish; **Great Lakes Science Center** (www.glsc.org), with hundreds of hands-on exhibits and a six-story Omnimax screen; **Severance Hall**, the Cleveland Orchestra's famed art deco concert hall offering free tours on Sunday at noon and 1 p.m.; and the **Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage** (www.maltzmuseum.org) in Pepper Pike.

No visit to Cleveland is complete without a final stop at my beloved **Corky and Lenny's** (www.corkyandlennys.net), the best Jewish deli between New York and Chicago. Located on Chagrin Boulevard in Beechwood near I-271, it features incredible piled-

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high corned beef and pastrami sandwiches, mishmash soup (matzo ball, chicken noodle, and kreplach), 13 signature salads, cheesecake, rugalech and chocolate cream sodas.

For More Information: Positively Cleveland (800.321.1001, www.positivelycleveland.com). You can pick up brochures, book concerts and plays, and make dinner and hotel reservations at the CLE+VISITORS Center at the corner of Euclid Avenue and E 4th Street.

Columbus travel writer Aaron Leventhal has organized a small group tour to Cleveland in conjunction with the Tri-C Jazzfest, April 18-21, 2013. For more information and rates log on to leventhaltravel.com or contact him at 614-506-9666.

Cleveland Getaway • April 18-21, 2013

Organized and led by travelwriter Aaron Leventhal
In conjunction with Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland

- 3 night stay at Glidden House w/full breakfast
- Dinners @ Sergio's, La Dolce Vita Bistro, The Greentown Tavern
- Nighttown for drinks and music
- Lunches at Cleveland Art Museum Cafe and Nates Deli
- Tickets: Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Botanical Gardens, MOCA, Lolley The Trolley Tour
- Tri-C Jazz concerts (Aaron Neville & Dr. John, The Smooth Jazz All-Stars)
- Transportation to all venues in Cleveland

For information: www.leventhaltravel.com • 614-506-9666