



Here's why visitors routinely find this one of the most "unexpected" cities they've ever visited, and why many decide to relocate their family, and their businesses, in this "unforgettable" community.

FAST FACTS FROM:

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THE BASICS

- Columbus, Indiana (population 44,000) is ranked sixth in the nation for architectural innovation and design by the American Institute of Architects, right behind Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Boston and Washington, D.C.
- Columbus has hundreds of acres in a city park system ranked number one in the country by the National Recreation and Park Association for cities the size of Columbus. Parks feature such unusual facilities as an ice skating rink, a skateboard park, an observation tower, and an ivy-covered tunnel, as well as the more typical – yet fun – activities such as fishing, walking, hiking and biking.
- Most of the downtown is listed with the National Register of Historic Places. In a highly unusual move, the even more exclusive National Historic Landmarks program honored the city by accepting six locations simultaneously.
- The Columbus Visitors Center Architecture Tour was selected as one of Rand McNally's Best of the Road in 2003. The tour is part of the "Indiana: Hills and Architecture" trip of approximately 260 miles.
- Columbus is also home to NASCAR racing champion Tony Stewart and Chuck Taylor, the man behind the phenomenon of Converse All-Stars.

COLUMBUS IN THE NEWS

- In their Sept./Oct. 2011 magazine article "10 Affordable Cities for Retirement," AARP chose Columbus as one of its top ten cities to retire in, saying, "Never heard of Columbus? That's fine - residents love this little city's under-the-radar charm. Less than an hour south of Indianapolis and east of Bloomington, Columbus has it all: design cognoscenti say the city's innovative architecture ranks right up there with Chicago's and San Francisco's."
- In November 2010, *Forbes* magazine selected Columbus as one of the top ten best small cities to raise a family, saying Columbus is one of the cities that "sweep our ranking of quiet, prosperous, and family-friendly places . . . these places boast solid average incomes, good educational prospects, low costs, short commute times, and high rates of home ownership."
- In the March 22, 2010 *Chicago Tribune*, Alfred Borcover says, "In the heart of the so-called Rust Belt lies an extraordinary example of what vision and open-mindedness did for a central Indiana industrial town set amid farm fields . . . Columbus, however, is a town that lifts your spirits . . . some 60 architectural gems — schools, a library, churches, banks, a post office, fire stations, a newspaper and offices — make you ooh and aah."

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- In December 2009, *The New York Post* chose Columbus as the must-see Indiana destination for its "50 States" list, saying "Columbus is . . . wonderfully atypical. It's a design mecca, with more than 60 important Modernist buildings . . . by a who's-who of architectural heavies."
- In November 2009, travel writer Jordan Simon listed Columbus, Indiana among his *Top 10 Things to See in the U.S. Before You Die* on Aol.com. Columbus (pop. 39,000) was listed alongside the likes of Charleston, S.C., the Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Park. Simon says, "For a small city, Columbus is a major repository of modern architecture, with works by luminaries like Eero Saarinen, Cesar Pelli, and Richard Meier. This destination says design from the get go..."
- In July 2009, in Raleigh, North Carolina the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) awarded the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce the 2009 Chamber of the Year. The award recognizes excellence in operations, member services, and community leadership. The Chamber has been focusing on three critical areas: building on the power of place and the region's economic strengths, creating a sense of community, and fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Last year they received the 2008 Indiana Chamber of the Year.
- In the Nov/Dec 2008 edition of *National Geographic Traveler*, Columbus is ranked 11th out of 109 historic destinations worldwide by National Geographic Society's Center for Sustainable Destinations, higher than any other U.S. destination. The magazine says Columbus has "a world-class collection of modern architecture by master architects . . . it is authentic, unique, and unspoiled . . . this town is truly part of America's architectural heritage."
- Columbus was selected as one of only three Indiana cities for *Relocate-America's Top 100 Places to Live in 2009*, which noted the frequent accolades the city receives "...aren't without good reason with the city's impeccable art, lush landscaping, a first-rate park system, and of course, the outstanding architecture."
- Columbus was recognized as one of America's Top 100 best places to live and launch a business by *Fortune Small Business* magazine in its April 2008 issue.
- The Columbus Visitors Center was recognized as the 2008 "Member of the Year" by the National Association of Sports Commissions. The award is given to the member that has the most outstanding impact on its community through sporting events, community activities, charitable giving, and economic impact.
- Columbus was named one of the nation's "most walkable" communities in April 2008 by Dan Burden, Executive Director of Walkable Communities, after a visit to the city. He has given the title to just 100 of the 2,500 cities he has visited, and noted that Columbus has the cleanest alleys of any city he has visited, noting "that shows you pay attention to detail."
- Bartholomew County was named one of 2007's 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth. The award recognizes communities that provide children with exposure to caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others.
- According to the June 12, 2007 *New York Times*, Columbus "just happens to have the most incredible collection of modern architecture in the Midwest (outside of Chicago...)"
- Otter Creek Golf Course made *Golfweek* magazine's top ten list for Indiana's public access courses in March of 2007. The course, which features 18 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and nine holes designed by Rees Jones, ranked 5th among Indiana courses.

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- In June 2006, Otter Creek Golf Course was voted the number one public course in the state by the Indiana Golf Association. Otter Creek was “head and shoulders above the rest,” said the director of the IGA-PGA.
- Columbus won the highly competitive 2006 America in Bloom national competition for the population category 25,001-50,000. Eight core categories were judged, such as heritage, urban forestry, and floral displays. The city won on its first attempt, a very uncommon achievement. It was also chosen “Best of the Best” for landscape design, citing Irwin Gardens, its national landscape design awards, and its park and trail system.
- The July/August 2006 issue of *Dwell* magazine, a national publication that promotes innovative design and architecture, said Columbus “has one of the country’s most prized collections of buildings by modern architects.”
- The December, 2005 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine called Columbus a “veritable museum of modern architecture.”
- Columbus was named to the 2005 list of U.S. Dozen Distinctive Destinations by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Columbus was the only Indiana city featured in the June 3, 2005 issue of *USA Today* in the article “Ten Great Places to Discover Midwest Charm.”
- Columbus is featured in the book, “1,000 Places To See in the USA and Canada Before You Die,” published by Workman Publishing Company.
- Columbus was cited in the “62 Reasons to Love Your Country” in the July 2005 issue of *GQ Magazine*.
- Columbus was selected in 2004 as one of the Ten Most Playful Towns in America by *Nick Jr. Family Magazine*.
- The United States Specialty Sports Association gave Columbus a “Commitment to Excellence” award in 2004.