



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### CINCINNATI . . . ITS NAME

John Filson, one of the first settlers in the Ohio Valley community, named it Losantiville, meaning “town opposite the mouth” of the Licking River. The community was the location of Fort Washington, which provided military protection for the surrounding territories.

In 1790, General Arthur St. Clair, Commander of Fort Washington, renamed it Cincinnati in honor of the Society of Cincinnati, an organization of Revolutionary War officers.

### ITS LOCATION

Amidst the gently rolling hills along the Ohio River, Greater Cincinnati spreads from the southwestern corner of Ohio into Northern Kentucky and southeastern Indiana. The city is located about mid-point on the shoreline of the 981-mile long Ohio River.

### ITS SIZE

There are 77.2 square miles in the city itself. The city’s population is about 365,000. The metropolitan area consists of Hamilton, Clermont and Warren Counties in Ohio; Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties in Kentucky; and Dearborn County, Indiana. The metropolitan Cincinnati population is 1,700,000.

### ITS GOVERNMENT

Cincinnati has a city manager/council form of government, which provides for the election of a mayor and council members. The mayor is one of nine council members. The mayor appoints (with a majority vote of city council) the City Manager who acts as the administrative head of the government, responsible to the mayor and council.

### ITS ECONOMY

Diverse and strong. Greater Cincinnati is the headquarters city for various national and international companies such as: American Financial Corporation, Cinergy Corporation, The Kroger Company, Chiquita Brands International, Cincinnati Milacron, Procter & Gamble Company, Western-Southern Insurance, and more! The city is a world leader in production of machine tools, playing cards, soaps, and detergents. It figures prominently in the production of building materials, cans, chemicals, clothing, cosmetics, electronic equipment, jet engines, and valves. The local economy is also strengthened by one of the nation’s fastest growing airports . . . the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport!

### TAXATION

Sales tax in Ohio is 5.5 % and in Hamilton County 1.0% = 6.5 %.

## VISITOR FACTS

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Academy of Medicine (24 hours/7 days)	721-2345
AAA Emergency	762-3222
Police (Cincinnati Proper-non emergency)	765-1212
Police (Hamilton County-dispatch)	825-2280
Emergency (Police, Fire or Medical)	911
Time	721-1700
Weather	241-1010
Talking Yellow Pages	333-4444
Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau	621-2142
Visitor Information	1-800-344-3445 <a href="http://www.cincinnatiusa.com">www.cincinnatiusa.com</a>

\*513 area code unless otherwise indicated

## AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT CINCINNATI HAS TO OFFER

- ❑ More cultural, culinary, entertainment, and historical attractions than other cities its size.
- ❑ A downtown that is compact, vibrant, safe, and used constantly.
- ❑ The “sexiest zoo” in the country (as named by Newsweek Magazine), a leader in successfully breeding wild animals.
- ❑ One of the ten finest art museums in the U.S.
- ❑ Excellent Symphony Orchestra, Opera, and Ballet Companies.
- ❑ Enjoy wonderful theatre productions – first-class Broadway shows, regional shows and much more!
- ❑ One of the largest and finest amusement parks in the nation, in addition to a second smaller one.
- ❑ Great restaurants – from 4-star dining to 5-way chili. Greater Cincinnati is known for its fine dining and has more stars from Mobil Guide than other cities its size.
- ❑ Major League sports – The Cincinnati Reds and the Cincinnati Bengals. It is one of the smallest major league markets, yet the Reds are consistently a favorite attraction for Greater Cincinnati residents and visitors. The Bengal’s coach, Marvin Lewis, has brought a renewed excitement in the Cincinnati Bengals!
- ❑ The beautiful, meandering Ohio River, home port of the Delta Queen. There is a full menu of other riverboat cruises on the Ohio River . . . luncheon cruises, dinner cruises, sightseeing cruises, dance cruises, and romantic moonlight cruises.
- ❑ The elevated Skywalk system enables visitors to explore major department stores, specialty shops, restaurants, and hotels while crossing streets above traffic.
- ❑ The Newport Aquarium is just minutes away from downtown Cincinnati and offers visitors a visit to the depths of the world’s oceans and rivers! It has 16 themed galleries and 11,000 aquatic creatures.
- ❑ Newport on the Levee is the area’s new leisure-time center! The Levee has a variety of restaurants, entertainment venues, and a selection of retailers. On-site parking garage. Easily accessible from the downtown hotels by the Southbank Shuttle or taxi.
- ❑ Hofbrauhaus Newport is located across from Newport on the Levee. The first authentic Hofbrauhaus in America! Restaurant and brewery featuring genuine Bavarian cuisine, American favorites, with world famous beers of the Royal Brewery in Munich!
- ❑ Nearby casinos – Horseshoe Casino in Downtown Cincinnati, Hollywood Casino in Lawrenceburg, Indiana (20 minute drive from downtown Cincinnati) and the Grand Victoria Casino in Rising Sun, Indiana (45 minute drive).

## CINCINNATI FIRSTS

- ❑ First city in which a concrete high-rise building was erected, 1902 (Ingalls Building, Fourth and Vine Streets).
- ❑ First city to produce Catawba wine, 1828.
- ❑ First air mail (lifted in 1835 by hot air balloon).
- ❑ First city in nation to hold a municipal song festival, or Saengerfest, 1849.
- ❑ First city in nation to publish greeting cards, 1850 (Gibson Greeting Cards).
- ❑ First city in nation to establish a Jewish Hospital, 1850, and Jewish theological college, 1875 (Hebrew Union College).
- ❑ First practical steam fire engine, 1853, and first city to establish a municipal fire department. First firemen's pole.
- ❑ First professional baseball team, 1869, and first to play night game under lights, 1935.
- ❑ First city to establish a weather bureau, 1869.
- ❑ First city to hold annual industrial expositions, 1870's.
- ❑ First city in nation to establish a municipal university, 1870 (University of Cincinnati), and the first university to offer cooperative education. 1906.
- ❑ First and only city to build (1880) and own a major railroad (Track to Chattanooga, TN., now leased to Southern Railway System). The real Chattanooga Choo-Choo ran from Cincinnati.
- ❑ First city in which a woman began and operated a sizeable manufacturing operation (Rookwood Pottery, Maria Longworth Nichols Storer, 1880).
- ❑ First heart-lung machine (developed at Children's Hospital Medical Center, 1952. This made open-heart surgery feasible).
- ❑ First city to have a licensed Public TV station, WCET-TV, 1954.

## CINCINNATI FESTIVALS

Cincinnati Flower Show – late April. Enjoy gardens, single genus displays, horticultural competitions staged by premier exhibitors, vendors from across the country in the beautiful setting of Coney Island (approximately 20 minutes from Cincinnati).

May Festival – late May. This is the oldest continuing festival of choral/orchestral music in the Western Hemisphere. The chorus consists of (200) volunteer singers accompanied by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Top names in opera are soloists.

Taste of Cincinnati – Memorial Day Weekend. A giant smorgasbord of famous Cincinnati foods, more than 50 full-service restaurants participate.

Summerfair – late May or early June. There are more than (250) artists exhibiting paintings, sculptures, and crafts. In addition, Summerfair offers entertainment and a youth arts festival.

Appalachian Festival – May. An annual outdoor event to celebrate and demonstrate Appalachian life. Authentic Appalachian food, dance, music, and crafts.

Panegyri Greek Festival – June. Held at Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Panegyri (which means festival) . . . it's a word that kindles emotions of happiness, fun, dance, music, good food, friendship—a great time!

Midwest Regional Black Family Reunion – August. Held at the central riverfront at Sawyer Point. A family-oriented event with educational forums, entertainment, vending, and sponsor exhibits and handouts.

Riverfest – early September. Held at Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point/Yeatman's Cove. Say "good-bye" to summer along with a half million other people at Cincinnati's traditional Labor Day weekend celebration. More than 30 food and merchandise vendors line the central riverfront with three stages of entertainment. The day concludes with the anxiously awaited, nationally renowned Toyota/WEBN Fireworks, a 30-minute display of amazing pyrotechnics.

Oktoberfest-Zinzinnati – mid-September. The nation's largest authentic Oktoberfest, featuring 50 food vendors, seven stages offering live entertainment and a children's area. The two-day extravaganza is held along five blocks of Fifth Street, including historic Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati.

Festival of Lights – late November to early January. Held at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Holiday tradition is alive throughout the park. Live reindeer, nativity scene, Santa, holiday shopping, ice skating, and Hanukkah activities.

## WHAT TO SEE AND DO . . . FOR ALL AGES

The Beach Waterpark – One of the top five waterparks nationwide boasts a 750,000 gallon wavepool, five-story freefall slides, and more. 2590 Waterpark Drive, Mason, OH 45040. (513) 398-2040. [www.thebeachwaterpark.com](http://www.thebeachwaterpark.com)

Cincinnati Fire Museum – Located in a firehouse built for horse-drawn engines, this museum mirrors the history of Cincinnati firefighting with authentic representations and hands-on exhibits. 315 Court St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 621-5553.

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden – Named the “sexiest zoo in the country” by Newsweek Magazine, it’s a leader in successfully breeding endangered species. Its white Bengal tigers, large gorilla families, and fascinating insectarium are among its attractions. 3400 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. 513/ 281-4700.

Coney Island – One of Cincinnati’s favorite entertainment parks. Swim at Sunlite, world’s largest recirculating pool, Zoom Flume water slide, and the ZIPP! Water coaster. 6201 Kellogg Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45230. (513) 232-8230.

Paramount’s Kings Island – Entertainment Capital of the Midwest and one of America’s premier family theme parks. 350-acres of world-class thrills, family attractions. Kings Island, OH 45034. (513) 573-5800. (800) 288-0808.

Major League Sports – For the Reds . . . Great American Ball Park. (513) 765-7600 (ticket information). For the Bengals . . . Paul Brown Stadium, Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 621-3550. Cincinnati’s pro hockey team, the Cyclones, plays at the US Bank Arena, 100 Broadway, Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 421-7825. Information: (513) 531-PUCK.

Museum Center at Union Terminal – The Terminal, one of the world’s most grandiose Art Deco structures is the home to the Museum of Natural History & Sciences, the Cincinnati Historical Society, Children’s Museum, and the OMNIMAX Theater. 1301 Western Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45203. (513) 287-7000.

Riverbend Music Center – Top name entertainment in an outdoor environment. May through September with many superstars. I-275 at Kellogg Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230. (513) 232-5882.

Showboat Majestic – Live stage and musical shows. Last of the original floating theaters in America. On National and State Historical Registry. Season: spring through autumn. Foot of Broadway, Cincinnati, OH. 45202. (513) 352-4000.

William Howard Taft National Historic Site – Birthplace and boyhood home of William Howard Taft, the 27<sup>th</sup> president of the United States and a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The house, which dates from 1840, has been restored by the National Park Service and is open to the public. 2038 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45219. (513) 684-3262.

## WHAT TO SEE AND DO THAT IS . . . CULTURAL

Cincinnati Art Museum – This is considered one of the ten finest general art museums in the U.S. Its collection represents 5,000 years of civilization. Eden Park, Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 721-5204.

Cincinnati Ballet Company – One of the nation's top ten professional companies, known nationally for its diverse repertoire of contemporary and classic dance works. Thirty-five dancers and full orchestra perform a subscription series and the holiday tradition, "Nutcracker," each year. Performances at the state-of-the-art, Aronoff Center (downtown) and the "Nutcracker" performances are at Music Hall. PO Box 14463, Cincinnati, OH 45250. (513) 621-5219.

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra – This is the second major orchestra in the city. 1406 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45210. (513) 723-1182.

Cincinnati Opera – It is second in age only to the New York Metropolitan. It performs in the century-old, beautifully renovated and acoustically superb Music Hall. 1241 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45210. (513) 621-1919.

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park – This is rated as one of the nation's finest regional theaters providing year-round entertainment . . . everything from Shakespeare to modern musicals. Eden Park, PO Box 6537, Cincinnati, OH 45206. (513) 421-3888.

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra – It is ranked in the top ten in the nation. Jesus Lopez-Cobos is its music director. Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45210. (513) 621-1919.

Contemporary Arts Center – See this architectural wonder! This brand new museum opened to the public on June 7, 2003. It emphasizes dramatic art forms and exhibits art forms in every medium. 44 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 721-0390.

Hebrew Union College-The Skirball Museum – It highlights biblical sources of contemporary Jewish celebration and holidays through displays of ancient artifacts and modern objects. 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220. (513) 721-1875.

May Festival – This is a world-renowned choral festival held each year since 1873. More than 200 voices rehearse year-round for two weekends of performances in May with the world's leading guest artists and conductors and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. It is the oldest continuing choral tradition in the U.S. Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45210. (513) 621-1919.

Taft Museum – This outstanding example of Federal architecture was built in 1820. The personal art collection of Charles Phelps & Anna S. Taft is on display including Chinese porcelains, French enamels, and paintings by artists such as Rembrandt, Goya, Hals, Turner, and Whistler. 316 Pike St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 241-0343.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center - Our nation's newest monument uses exhibits and educational programs to inspire modern action by promoting a better understanding of freedom today from lessons of the Underground Railroad. [www.freedomcenter.org](http://www.freedomcenter.org) 50 East Freedom Way on the northern bank of the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati. For general information, call (513) 333-7500.

## WHAT TO SEE AND DO THAT IS . . . FREE

Basilica of the Assumption – Small-scale Notre Dame with gargoyles and flying buttresses of French Gothic design. Contains the largest, handmade stained glass window in the world and mural-sized oil paintings. 12<sup>th</sup> and Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011. (859) 431-2060.

Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point – On the riverfront. Enjoy outdoor summer concerts, a children's play area, geographic timeline, and Ohio River overlooks. (513) 352-4000.

Cincinnati Art Museum – Holds over 100,000 works of art on display in 88 galleries. Special exhibitions are on view throughout the year (there will be a charge for special exhibits). 953 Eden Park, Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 721-5204.

Fountain Square and Skywalk – The Square is the heart of business and cultural activities in the city, and the hub of the 20+ block elevated Skywalk system that enables visitors to explore downtown shopping and entertainment while crossing above traffic.

Hebrew Union College-The Skirball Museum – It highlights biblical sources of contemporary Jewish celebrations and holidays through displays of ancient artifacts and modern objects. 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220. (513) 221-1875.

Kings Mills General Store & Christmas Shop – Room after room of surprises and discoveries. Twelve decorated Christmas trees that will make you ooh and ahh from the minute you enter. 5687 Columbia Rd., Kings Mills, OH 45034. (513) 398-1677.

Krohn Conservatory – One of the largest public greenhouses in the US. Recognized as a showcase of more than 3500 species of plants. Admission is charged for special exhibits. 1501 Eden Park – (513) 421-5707

Meier's Wine Cellars – This is a 100+-year-old winery offering guided tours with a visit to the sampling room. 6955 Plainfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45236. (513) 891-2900.

Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County – Changing exhibits, musical programs, children's programs. 800 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. (513) 369-6960. Largest reference library in the country.

William Howard Taft National Historic Site – Birthplace and boyhood home of William Howard Taft, the 27<sup>th</sup> president of the United States and a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The house, which dates from 1840, has been restored by the National Park Service and is open to the public. 2038 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45219. (513) 684-3262.

## TRANSPORTATION

- AUTO: The Greater Cincinnati area is served by I-71, I-74, and I-75, plus connectors I-275 and I-471.
- AIR: Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport is ranked as the world's fastest growing airport. Offering 520 daily nonstop departures to 110 cities world wide, including nonstop service to London, Frankfurt, Montreal, Paris, Brussels, Toronto, and Zurich. The airport is located 12 miles (15 minutes) from downtown Cincinnati across the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky (off Interstate 275). As Delta's second largest hub, Cincinnati offers same-day, out-and-back service to more than 70 cities. Other airlines serving the area include American Eagle, Comair, Continental Express, Sabena, TWA, United, USAir, and others.
- RAIL: Served by three freight railroad systems – CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern Corporation, and Conrail—as well as the Indiana and Ohio RR. Total mileage: 64,000 in 27 states. Also, limited Amtrak passenger service.
- BUS: The Metro bus system links the downtown with the city's suburbs. Northern Kentucky is served by Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) buses. TANK also links the Northern Kentucky riverfront (hotels, restaurants, and attractions) to downtown Cincinnati with the Southbank Shuttle Service. The farthest point in the metropolitan area can be reached by car from downtown in 45 minutes. Also serving Cincinnati are Greyhound and Southeastern Trailways.

## WHAT TO SEE AND DO THAT IS . . . HISTORIC

Cincinnati Art Museum - Explore 5,000 years of world art including paintings, photography, sculpture, decorative arts, and special exhibitions. Free admission. Phone: (513) 721-5204.

Cincinnati Fire Museum Located in a firehouse built for horsedrawn engines, this museum mirrors the history of Cincinnati and firefighting with authentic representations and hands-on exhibits. Phone: (513) 621-5553.

The Golden Lamb Inn This is Ohio's oldest inn. It was licensed in 1803 and furnished in period antiques. It is recognized as a Shaker Museum. Phone: (513) 621-8373.

Hebrew Union College-Gallery of Art and Artifacts Core exhibition "An External People". The Jewish Experience" includes ceremonial objects for celebrations, holidays, paintings, sculpture, jewelry, changing exhibitions, tours, and programs. M-Th 11-4, Sun 2-5. Phone: (513) 221-1875, ext. 358.

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides Take an historic tour of downtown in horsedrawn carriages. Located on the Vine Street side of Fountain Square, between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

John Hauck House Museum An interpretive tour is available through an elegant house museum furnished to represent the life of a wealthy family of the late Victorian era. Phone: (513) 721-4506.

Sharon Woods Village Outdoor museum of restored 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings from various parts of southwestern Ohio, Greek revival farmhouse, train station, barn complex, Carpenter Gothic home, Federal home. Admission. Phone: (513) 563-9484.

Taft Museum This outstanding example of Federal architecture was built in 1820. The personal art collection of the Charles Phelps Taft family is on display including Chinese porcelains, French enamels and paintings by such artists as Rembrandt, Goya, Hals, Turner, and Whistler. Phone: (513) 241-0343. (Closed for renovation – will reopen in early 2004)

Warren County Historical Society Museum A magnificent three-story historical museum shows the development of southwestern Ohio from prehistoric days through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including an award-winning Shaker gallery. Phone: (513) 932-1817.

William Howard Taft National Historic Site Birthplace and boyhood home of William Howard Taft, the 27<sup>th</sup> president of the United States and a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The house, which dates from 1840, has been restored by the National Park Service and is now open to the public. Phone: (513) 684-3262.



## **MORE TO SEE IN CINCINNATI!**

- 🔔 **Great American Ball Park** – The new millennium added another jewel to Cincinnati in the form of a new, sparkling “old style” baseball stadium as home to the always exciting Cincinnati Reds. Located downtown on the river, this stadium will anchor the eastern edge of a riverfront redevelopment by joining the Paul Brown Stadium, home to the Cincinnati Bengals, the US Bank Arena and over 40 acres of lush parkland! This wonderful facility is open for all to enjoy!
- 🔔 On June 7, 2003, the new **Lois and Richard Rosenthal Contemporary Art Center** opened in the heart of downtown Cincinnati in the Backstage Entertainment District. This \$28 million facility will feature 20,000 square feet of exhibit space, a 200-seat performance space and an interactive education center. This is the first United States project by world acclaimed architect, Zaha Hadid, and the first art museum in the U.S. to be designed by a woman.
- 🔔 The **Taft Museum of Art** reopened in early 2004! The \$19 million renovation and expansion project includes a reorganization of the family’s treasures, a 70-car parking garage, enhanced educational programs, larger space for special exhibitions, and an intimate café.
- 🔔 In August of 2004, Cincinnati’s riverfront held the national spotlight when the planned **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center** opened! The \$110 million facility, the first of its kind in the U.S. highlights the area’s role in the Underground Railroad’s efforts to help slaves cross the Ohio River to freedom during the Civil War era. The Freedom Center features three pavilions, celebrating courage, cooperation and perseverance.
- 🔔 The **Duke Energy Convention Center’s** \$160 million dollar expansion and renovation is complete. This state-of-the art facility has successfully hosted many prestigious conventions in 2006! The Grand Ballroom is phenomenal and one of the largest in the Midwest at just under 40,000 square feet!
- 🔔 The hub of downtown Cincinnati, **Fountain Square**, underwent a multi-million dollar renovation! The famous “Genius of Water” sculpture was moved to the Center of the square and will soon be surrounded with an array of restaurants. There is also a seasonal ice rink that will provide great entertainment for visitors and residents alike! Fountain Square was reopened in November of '06!