

# The Columbus Dispatch

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## GOOD-NEWS

# Ohioans who don't want to venture too far this summer still have lots of fun options

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As travelers and fun-seekers begin to venture out for the first times since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, many will start with a trip close to home.

Columbus-based travel research firm Longwoods International reports that many people who are likely to travel soon plan to make their first trips by car, driving no more than 200 miles.

Many sites in Ohio are now open to travelers who are seeking to rebuild their confidence as road trippers and get their feet wet again, figuratively and literally. Some sites such as museums and zoos reopened earlier this month. Amusement parks will be opening soon. And even more sites will be reopening throughout the summer and into the fall. Keep up with the latest information at the TourismOhio website [ohio.org](http://ohio.org).

Here are some close-to-home destination ideas to help you expand your horizons and stretch your legs this summer. (Because of the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic and related state orders, check with individual sites before heading out.)

## NORTHWEST

### • Lake Erie Lighthouses

Legendary for their isolation, lighthouses seem like an appropriate destination for those seeking both unusual sights and social distance.

The job of lighthouse keeper was often a lonely one, especially when bad weather forced the keeper to stay at his post while the lighthouse, itself, might be cut off from outside contact.

Today, lighthouses are a little less lonely, but still as lovely, as they ever were. A tour of Ohio's Lake Erie lighthouses is an ideal quick trip for history, architecture or photography buffs.

The most impressive, and oldest, operating American lighthouse on the Great Lakes is the Marblehead Lighthouse near the town of Marblehead. The lighthouse, within sight of Cedar Point amusement park rises 50 feet above the shoreline. The rides at the park across the bay might have just reopened, but the lighthouse, which resembles an upside-down ice-cream cone has been warning approaching ships since 1822. Repairs were done on the tower last fall, but the scaffolding has been removed and the beautiful white walls again stand gleaming against the blue sky of the lakeshore.

Although the site's Keeper's House and Lifesaving Station museums, as well as the climb up the tower stairs, have been closed during the pandemic, the grounds around the lighthouse are open to the public and provide fantastic views of the lighthouse, Cedar Point, the lake and islands.

To learn more, visit [marbleheadlighthouseohio.org](http://marbleheadlighthouseohio.org).

Other historic and picturesque lighthouses on western Lake Erie include those at South Bass Island, Huron, Lorain and Toledo. A good resource to learn about and find other lighthouses on Ohio's lakeshore is at [lighthousefriends.com](http://lighthousefriends.com).

- **Put-in-Bay**, Ohio's island party town, might not be as rambunctious this summer as in a normal year. But that makes 2020 an excellent time to explore the island's more natural and quieter side.

Visitors will still find plenty of shops and places to eat and drink, although seating and occupancy will likely be limited. And island guests can rent a bicycle, golf cart, or kayak to visit the remote, picturesque corners of the island.

For more information about the island, including the latest on what is open, visit [visitputinbay.org](http://visitputinbay.org) or call 419-351-5166.

Take a Miller Boat Line or Jet Express ferry from Catawba Island, Sandusky, or Port Clinton to reach the island. For more information, visit [millerferry.com](http://millerferry.com) or [jet-express.com](http://jet-express.com).

- **Maumee Bay State Park**, 1750 State Park Road #2, just east of Toledo on Lake Erie, is a popular spot for lake gazers, bird watchers and nature lovers. The park's beautiful lodge, like other state park lodges, reopened earlier this month. The park also offers camping and cabins.

The park also has a golf course with an unusual (for Ohio) Scottish-links layout.

Several hiking trails are open, although the park's boardwalk trail has been one of the few state park trails to be closed during the pandemic.

For more information, visit [maumeebaylodge.com](http://maumeebaylodge.com) or call 419-836-1466.

- **Charter boat fishing** is big, fun business along Lake Erie. The lake's western basin between Toledo and Sandusky is where you'll find most of Ohio's hundreds of licensed charter boat captains.

This spring has been terrific for walleye, and charter boat fishing was allowed to resume on May 12.

Good walleye catches beckon throughout the summer. And there's plenty of other fish to fry (after you catch them, of course,) in the lake later in the season, including yellow perch and smallmouth bass. Most charter boat captains will supply all of the fishing gear, including fishing poles, bait and lures that you need. (You'll also need a valid Ohio fishing license.)

For more information, visit [shoresandislands.com](http://shoresandislands.com).

### **JUST REOPENED:**

- **Kalahari Resorts**, 7000 Kalahari Dr., Sandusky, is open. The 174,000-square-foot indoor water park as well as the Safari Outdoor Adventure Park, pool deck, spa, various dining options and other amenities are available.

For more information, visit [www.kalahariresorts.com/ohio/](http://www.kalahariresorts.com/ohio/) or call 1-877-525-2427.

### **REOPENING PLANS**

- **Cedar Point** amusement park, is perhaps the center of the roller-coaster universe. The park will open to season, gold and platinum pass holders on July 9 and the public on July 11. Don't miss a chance to ride Steel Vengeance, which opened in 2018 as the tallest, fastest and longest hybrid roller coaster in the world.

For the latest information on the 150-year-old Sandusky park's status, visit [cedarpoint.com](http://cedarpoint.com).

- **Toledo Museum of Art**, 2445 Monroe St., has reopened with several new safety measures and an amended exhibition schedule. For instance, the West Wing of the museum and the gift shop will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with special hours from 10 am. to noon reserved for at-risk patrons. Other areas will be temporarily closed entirely.

For more information, visit [www.toledomuseum.org](http://www.toledomuseum.org) or call 419-255-8000.

## **NORTHEAST**

### **• Vines and Wines Trail**

If you drink wine but you're not a fan of the Ohio stuff, you probably haven't visited the wineries along Lake Erie east of Cleveland.

Now's the time to remedy that shortcoming. The wineries of the Ohio Wine Producers Association "Vines and Wines Trail" occupy a narrow strip of land along Lake Erie's southern shore, benefiting from the lake's moderating effect on temperatures. More than half of Ohio's wine grapes are grown in this small region.

Many of the region's more than three dozen wineries are now open for on-premises wine tasting and drinking, some with outdoor seating and others with a combination of outdoor and limited indoor seating.

Several large wineries, such as Ferrante Winery & Ristorante, 5585 State Route 307, in Geneva, have large tasting rooms and attached restaurants and are open daily. Some, such as Buccia Vineyard Winery and Bed and Breakfast, 518 Gore Road, Conneaut, might also offer lodging.

Smaller wineries, such as The Blind Squirrel Winery, 7918 Pettibone Road in Chagrin Falls, might have more limited hours and facilities, but are still a treat to visit. The winery recently opened with outdoor seating only.

Many live music and other events traditionally offered at the wineries have been canceled, but check with individual wineries to find out what might be coming up later in the summer or fall.

For information, visit [www.ferrantewinery.com](http://www.ferrantewinery.com), 440-466-8466; [www.bucciavineyards.com](http://www.bucciavineyards.com), 440-593-5976; [www.blindsquirrelwinery.com](http://www.blindsquirrelwinery.com), 330-842-7041.

Or for information about the wineries of the Vines and Wines Trail and those on Ohio's five other wine trails, visit [www.ohiowines.org](http://www.ohiowines.org).

Other northeastern Ohio summer fun suggestions:

**• Cuyahoga Valley National Park** protects 33,000 acres of surprising natural beauty along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron.

Dozens of historic structures are located within the park as is a large stretch of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area encompassing the remnants of the historic Ohio & Erie Canal.

Visitors will also find more than 140 miles of hiking, bicycle and bridle trails within the park.

The Boston Mill Visitor Center has been closed along with the Brandywine Falls Boardwalk and some park restrooms. The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, which runs through the park, has canceled all rides through Sept. 30.

Check the park website at [nps.gov/cuva/](https://nps.gov/cuva/) for more information or call 440-546-5960.

• **Kingwood Center Gardens**, 50 N. Trimble Road, Mansfield, is the 47-acre former estate of Charles Kelley King, president of the Ohio Brass Co. King willed the estate to the private foundation that still runs the site.

Today Kingwood's beautiful gardens are open to the public, although the historic French provincial mansion Kingwood Hall, the display greenhouse, and other indoor sites have been closed during the pandemic. The center's restrooms were also closed at last check.

Horticultural areas include the historic gardens built with Kingwood Hall in 1926, a rose garden, herb garden, courtyard garden, a beautiful flower-lined allee, a prairie area and woodlands.

A new visitor center is also under construction at Kingwood. Officials hope the center will be open this fall.

"Hopefully a visit now will lead to a visit again later" when the entire site has reopened, said Brenda Nelson, the site's director of development.

For more information, visit [kingwoodcenter.org](https://kingwoodcenter.org) or call 419-522-0211.

• **Rocky River Reservation**, a Cleveland Metropark, follows the course of the Rocky River from Berea almost to Lake Erie. The river has cut a beautiful gorge through the shale along the river and tumbles over picturesque Berea Falls near the southern end of the reservation.

Trails also follow the course of the river, offering lovely views of the river, gorge and the nature that surrounds them.

The Rocky River Nature Center has been closed during the pandemic. Check the Cleveland Metroparks website at [clevelandmetroparks.com](https://clevelandmetroparks.com) for the latest details.

## **JUST OPENED:**

The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland, is open, featuring the new Daniel Maltz Rhino Reserve. The expansion more than doubles the zoo's space for its rhinos and adds a viewing deck for guests.

For more information, as well as any guidelines, visit [www.clevelandmetroparks.com/zoo](http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/zoo) or call 216-635-3200.

- **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**, 1100 E. 9th St., Cleveland, with its myriad shrines to rock icons of bygone eras, has reopened with timed ticketing, the requirement of masks and a ban on the use of cash. Though all theaters and interactive experiences have been closed indefinitely, the current special exhibit, "Play It Loud: The Instruments of Rock & Roll," has been extended through the end of the year.

For more information, visit [www.rockhall.com](http://www.rockhall.com) or call 216-781-7625.

- **Pro Football Hall of Fame**, 2121 George Halas Dr. N.W., Canton, has reopened with a majority of its exhibits available to the public. The Hall of Fame Game, which kicks off the annual Enshrinement Week, has been cancelled.

For more information, visit [www.profootballhof.com](http://www.profootballhof.com) or call 330-456-8207.

- **Cleveland Museum of Art**, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, is offering a limited number of reservation-only timed tickets available online and is mandating guests wear masks. With the indefinite absence of public tours, guests will be on their own as they explore a variety of permanent galleries and temporary exhibitions.

For more information, visit [www.clevelandart.org](http://www.clevelandart.org) or call 216-421-7350.

## **CENTRAL**

### **• Covered bridges**

These romantic and picturesque throwbacks are reminders of the days when high-tech construction was done with wood, and most of the traffic was, at most, single horsepower.

Fortunately for the many admirers of covered bridges, Ohio is home to well over 100 of the lovely old (and some new) structures.

The biggest concentration of historic covered bridges in the state is in Fairfield County, southeast of Columbus.

Visitors can still find and admire 17 of the structures there, from the McCleery-Walter Bridge, built in 1864 and relocated to the Lancaster Bike Path; to the Zeller-Smith Bridge, built in 1906 and now located in Sycamore Creek Park in Pickerington.

Another notable and beautiful structure is the Rock Mill Bridge, built in 1901 and still standing on its original abutments over the Hocking River. As an added treat, visitors can admire the adjacent 1824 grist mill that was recently refurbished for the Fairfield County Park District.

And the George Hutchins Bridge, built in 1883, now stands in Lancaster's Alley Park and is the focal point of the annual Covered Bridge Festival, scheduled this year for Sept. 12-13.

Historic-bridge admirers will also find several more in central Ohio, including a cluster of covered bridges in Union County, northwest of Columbus.

Union County is home to four historic covered bridges, three modern covered bridges and the historic and decorative 1914 Streng Road steel truss bridge, which still carries traffic over Big Darby Creek south of Marysville.

To find a list and map of the covered bridges of Fairfield County, visit [fairfieldcounty.org](http://fairfieldcounty.org).

For a list and map of the historic and covered bridges of Union County, visit [unioncountyohio.org](http://unioncountyohio.org).

Other central Ohio summer fun suggestions:

- **Dawes Arboretum**, 7770 Jacksontown Road, near Newark, which closed for several months during the pandemic, recently reopened with a few changes.

The 2,000-acre botanical site plans to open trails into previously inaccessible areas, allowing visitors to spread out while exploring new sights in the arboretum, said Luke Messinger, executive director. And guests currently must register and buy tickets in advance of a visit on the Dawes website.

Closing the arboretum has had one benefit, Messinger said.

“This has given us a chance to rethink how visitors connect with us,” he said. “Staff creativity is really beginning to flow.”

Visitors will find a wide variety of themed botanical areas, including a beautiful and peaceful Japanese garden and one of the continent's northernmost cypress swamps. Dawes also offers

12 miles of walking trails plus an auto tour for those who prefer to explore from the comfort and safety of their own vehicle.

The site's visitors center and restrooms have been closed, but portable toilets have been set up in the parking lot.

For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit [dawesarb.org](http://dawesarb.org).

- **Deer Creek State Park**, 22300 State Park Road 20, south of Columbus near Mount Sterling, encompasses 3,100 acres, including the 1,200-acre Deer Creek Lake. For visitors who have been stuck at home for weeks or months, it's a perfect place to get a big dose of nature — comfortably, especially now that the park's large guest lodge has reopened.

Lodge rooms begin at about \$125 per night. Other park lodging options include cabins and camping. Visitors will find seven hiking trails around the lake near the lodge, and 18-hole golf course, and plenty of family activities such as a miniature golf course, swimming beach and horseshoe pits.

The park's marina also rents kayaks and paddleboats for those who want to get out on the water.

For information visit [deercreeklodge.com](http://deercreeklodge.com), or call 740-869-2020.

- **Cedar Bog Nature Preserve**, a National Landmark near Urbana, contains one of the greatest diversity of native plants of any site in Ohio. The 450-acre preserve, located at 980 Woodburn Road, is home to more than 40 percent of Ohio's rare plant species. Visitors can see beautiful displays of orchid, prairie and woodland wildflowers depending on the time of year.

Although the site's nature center has been closed during the pandemic, the mile-long boardwalk through the bog is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, times subject to change.

For more information, visit [www.cedarbognp.org](http://www.cedarbognp.org).

## **JUST OPENED:**

- **The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**, 4850 Powell Road, Delaware County, is open to those with pre-purchased tickets for a specific date and entry time.

Some viewing areas, exhibits and interactive stations might be closed if they are too narrow to allow for social-distancing.



The zoo's newest exhibit, Adventure Cove, is still on track to open this summer, featuring 10 California sea lions and four harbor seals who arrived in late May.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.columbuszoo.org](http://www.columbuszoo.org) or call 614-645-3400.

- **Zoombezi Bay**, 10101 Riverside Drive, Delaware County, has reopened the majority of its water attractions to cool off Ohioans this summer. Because the water park was unable to reopen in mid-May as usual, it will offer extended weeknight hours (5 to 9 p.m.) at the end of summer with a select few attractions opened on Aug. 19-21, Aug. 24-28, and Aug. 31 to Sept. 4.

For more information, [www.zoombezibay.columbuszoo.org](http://www.zoombezibay.columbuszoo.org) or call 614-724-3600.

- **Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**, 1777 E. Broad St., with an outstanding horticultural collection displayed in a variety of "biomes," has also reopened with limited visits and timed tickets. Some paths within the greenhouse conservatory are now one-way. Admission to the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden will also be limited to maintain safety.

For more information, visit [www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org) or call 614-715-8000.

- **Memorial Tournament**, Muirfield Village Golf Club, 5750 Memorial Dr., Dublin, will still go on. Although hosting the tournament during its typical run in late May wasn't feasible this year, the event has been moved to July 13-19. Spectators will be subject to a plethora of safety measures, including taking their temperature, wearing a mask and social distancing while on the links. Tickets to the event are sold out.

For more information, visit [www.thememorialtournament.com](http://www.thememorialtournament.com).

## COMING SOON:

- **The Columbus Museum of Art**, 480 E. Broad St., intends to announce a reopening date in the near future. The museum has already indicated that timed ticketing, limited admission, touch-free entry and social-distancing graphics will be part of the visitor experience when it welcomes back the public.

For more information, visit [www.columbusmuseum.org](http://www.columbusmuseum.org) or call 614-221-6801.

- **COSI Columbus**, 333 W. Broad St., plans to reopen July 8 for members and July 15 to the public, with a multitude of safety measures put in place, including timed ticketing and

frequent cleaning of hands-on areas.

Guests might also be able to enjoy an expanded slate of science demonstrations that were once part of the temporarily-suspended COSI on Wheels traveling program.

For more information, visit [www.cosi.org](http://www.cosi.org) or call 614-228-2674.

## **SOUTHEAST**

### **• Ohio River Scenic Byway**

With many travelers venturing out first by car, the drive along one of the most beautiful and historic stretches of territory in the state is a perfect daytrip destination.

The Ohio River Scenic Byway, which begins in East Liverpool, runs for 943 miles along the river through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Ohio Route 7 carries the byway in southeastern Ohio from East Liverpool to Portsmouth; among hills, farm fields and forests; through historic and pretty river towns like Marietta and Gallipolis; and, just to keep things in perspective, past gigantic steam-belching power plants like the Gavin Power Plant in Cheshire.

The byway follows the route of some of the region's earliest explorers, including George Washington.

In Steubenville, visitors can see a recreation of historic Fort Steuben, first built in 1786 to protect early land surveyors.

An observation platform in Monroe County above Hannibal Locks and Dam is a great place to watch river traffic, including the huge barges that ply the Ohio.

Drivers will understand why early French explorers called the Ohio "The Beautiful River" as they drive past unbroken stands of forest, part of the 250,000-acre Wayne National Forest.

Many historic sites and museums, such as the Ohio River Museum, 601 Front St., Marietta, await travelers.

Pleasant public parks in the river towns offer opportunities for pleasant picnics and sightseeing along the river.

For more information about things to see and do along the byway, visit [ohioriverscenicbyway.org](http://ohioriverscenicbyway.org).

Other southeastern Ohio summer fun suggestions:

- **Hocking Hills** is a region known far and wide for its beautiful trails, caves and rock formations, unique cabin lodgings and fun activities for the whole family. Some of those activities might still be closed temporarily, but many of the natural features, trails and lodgings are open and awaiting visitors.

Hocking Hills State Park, the center of many visits to the region, has closed some of its most popular (and narrow) trails until July 2 because of social-distancing concerns. But with nine state parks and nature preserves, three state forests, Wayne National Forest, Clear Creek Metro Park and other local parks, visitors who want to hike will find plenty of opportunities of varying length and difficulty.

The region's wide variety of lodging options offer places to stay off the beaten trails and away from any crowds. Dozens of privately owned individual cabins and lodges are available for short-term rental to visitors who want to get out into the wilderness, just an hour's drive from Columbus.

For information on the region, including things to do and places to stay, visit [hockinghills.com](http://hockinghills.com).

- **Burr Oak State Park**

For a slightly different, but just as beautiful park experience, Burr Oak State Park in the Appalachian foothills near Athens offers a cozy, comfortable getaway.

The lodge at Burr Oak, 10660 Burr Oak Lodge Road, which like other state park lodges reopened in June, overlooks the park's scenic 660-acre lake surrounded by natural hardwood forest. The lodge is offering a "welcome back" \$25 lodge credit for stays Sunday through Thursday, through Aug. 27. Rooms start at \$149.

Guests will find 40 miles of trails in the 2,600-acre park. Bald eagles are often spotted from the lodge's pretty Cardinal Dining Room, with windows looking out on the lake. The dining room is open with limited seating and for carryout orders.

For more information, visit [stayburroak.com](http://stayburroak.com) or call 1-866-471-1609

- **Scenic murals**, picturesque and quite photogenic, are located in many of the small southeastern Ohio towns along the Ohio River, some on river floodwalls, some on downtown buildings.

Steubenville has 23 murals depicting scenes from local history and hometown celebrities such as Dean Martin and Moses Fleetwood Walker, one of the first African American men to play professional baseball.

A quick trip across the Silver Memorial Bridge from Gallipolis takes drivers to Point Pleasant, West Virginia, which has a lovely and extensive collection of floodwall murals depicting scenes from early regional history and early heroes such as George Washington. (While there, visitors might also pay a visit to the downtown statue of Mothman, a legendary half-man half-moth figure said to have once terrorized the region.)

Portsmouth has its own set of 60 beautiful floodwall murals, spanning some 2000 feet of wall, painted by renowned muralist Robert Dafford.

For more information, visit [ohio.org](http://ohio.org).

#### JUST REOPENED:

- **The Wilds**, 14000 International Road in Cumberland, is open, offering attractions including Wildside Tours and Fishing Safaris. Tours and overnight stays require an advance reservation. Once a strip-mining area, the nearly 14-square-mile land is home to a host of endangered species.

For more information or to make a reservation, visit [thewilds.columbuszoo.org/](http://thewilds.columbuszoo.org/) or call 740-638-5030.

#### REOPENING PLANS:

- **The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art, & Technology**, 55 S. 1st St., Newark, plans to reopen to members beginning July 7 and to the general public on Aug. 4.

The museum is home to a bevy of local history, art, science, and glassblowing attractions. Guests, including members, will be required to schedule their visits online ahead of time to limit the amount of visitors at once.

For more information, visit [www.attheworks.org](http://www.attheworks.org) or call 740-349-9277.

- **The Zanesville Museum of Art**, 620 Military Road, Zanesville, is planning for an unspecified July opening. Although some areas of the museum, including the popular Ayers Gallery, will remain closed upon reopening, many galleries, including the Shirley Gorsuch Gallery, will be available. Online registration and the recommendation that guests wear masks are among the new safety protocols.

For more information, visit [www.zanesvilleart.org](http://www.zanesvilleart.org) or call 740-452-0741.

## **SOUTHWEST**

### **ANCIENT INDIAN EARTHWORKS**

Southwestern Ohio is dotted with dozens of ancient Indian earthworks, a small portion of those that existed when settlers first arrived.

Many of the surviving earthworks, thought to have been constructed largely for ceremonial purposes from 1,000 to 2,000 years ago, can be visited by the public.

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, 16062 State Route 104, Chillicothe, is open for visits, although the main visitors center at the Mound City site has been closed during the health crisis.

Interpretive trails at the Mound City site are handicap accessible.

The national park also encompasses several other mound sites nearby.

Hopeton Earthworks offers a 1.1-mile round-trip trail that leads to an overlook where visitors can view remnants of the earthworks, a 20-acre circle connected with a 20-acre square, a common design for Hopewell Culture earthworks.

A 2.5-mile trail is accessible at the Hopewell Mound Group unit. The site also includes a covered picnic shelter available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Seip Earthworks, once another huge and precise geometrical construction, has largely been obliterated by a century or more of cultivation. But the large central burial mound has been recreated and some of the remaining original walls from the site's great circle are still visible.

Among other impressive ancient constructions in southwestern Ohio is Fort Ancient, 6123 State Route 350 in Warren County, now a state memorial and nature preserve. Ancient peoples constructed earthen walls around a 126-acre plateau about 260 feet above the Little Miami River. The site was closed to the public as of mid June, but check [fortancient.org](http://fortancient.org) for the latest information.

And Serpent Mound, one of the world's largest and most impressive surviving effigy mound, has instilled wonder in visitors for at least hundreds — and probably thousands — of years. The Ohio History Connection site, 3850 State Route 73, Peebles, in Adams County recently reopened.

For more information, visit [arcofappalachia.org](http://arcofappalachia.org).

Other southwestern Ohio summer fun suggestions:

- **Young's Jersey Dairy** is known and loved far and wide for its 15% butterfat ice cream made on site for Young's Dairy Store, 6880 Springfield-Xenia Road, near Yellow Springs. The Dairy Store has remained open for carryout throughout the crisis, and opened to limited indoor seating last month.

Visitors will find a variety of yummy flavors, including a "flavor of the week." Upcoming flavors of the week include black raspberry, chocolate fudge brownie and key lime crunch.

Young's Dairy also has several family friendly entertainment activities on site, including the Udders and Putters miniature golf, driving range and batting cage.

The dairy's petting zoo has been closed during the pandemic.

For the latest information, visit [youngsdairy.com](http://youngsdairy.com) or call 937-325-0629.

- **Eden Park**, 950 Eden Park Drive, is a beautiful Cincinnati city park located in the Mount Adams neighborhood.

Visitors can enjoy landmarks such as the Hinkle Magnolia Garden, which features a picturesque gazebo, memorial tree groves and paths; and Twin Lakes, once a quarry, now featuring a footbridge, lovely walking paths and an impressive view of the Ohio River and Kentucky.

And the park's biggest and most notable landmark is the historic 172-foot high Water Tower built in 1892.

And as the site's venerable indoor institutions, such as Krohn Conservatory and the Cincinnati Museum of Art, reopen, visitors will have even more reason to visit this lovely Queen City destination.

For information, visit [cincinnatiiparks.com/central/eden-park/](http://cincinnatiiparks.com/central/eden-park/).

- **Hiking trails**

At a time of social distancing, outdoor destinations are at the top of everyone's travel list, and Ohio, especially southwestern Ohio, has some great trails that are perfect for enjoying nature while not getting too close to other people.

John Bryan State Park, 3790 State Route 370 near Yellow Springs, contains a stunning limestone gorge cut by the Little Miami River. The park's trails provide magnificent views of the gorge and river. For more information, visit [yellowspringsohio.org](http://yellowspringsohio.org) for information.

The Arc of Appalachia, a nonprofit preserving natural lands in southwestern and southern Ohio, has a number of preserves with hiking trails open to the public, including Junction-Steel Earthworks Archaeological Park, on the Southeast Corner of Belleview Avenue and Plyleys Lane, another site featuring 2,000-year-old Indian earthworks. For more information, visit [arcofappalachia.org/hiking-visiting](http://arcofappalachia.org/hiking-visiting).

And the Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve system, which encompasses more than 20,000 acres in southern Ohio, also contains 24 miles of hiking trails through forests and prairies. For more information, visit [nature.org](http://nature.org). To find out more about trails in southwestern Ohio and around the state, visit [trails.ohiodnr.gov](http://trails.ohiodnr.gov).

### **JUST REOPENED:**

- **Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden**, 3400 Vine St., Cincinnati. Fiona the Hippo is happy to greet her fans again now that the zoo is open. All visits require a prior reservation and guests must enter during their given 30-minute entry window. Indoor habitats, rides and animal experiences are not open.

For more information or to make a reservation, visit [cincinnati-zoo.org](http://cincinnati-zoo.org) or call 513 281-4700.

- **Cincinnati Museum Center**, a multi-museum complex housing 1.8 million artifacts, as well as the the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, has reopened to the public. The facilities are located in Cincinnati's historic Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave., a site where numerous Holocaust survivors arrived in Cincinnati to rebuild their lives. Timed admission tickets are required.

For more information, visit [www.cincymuseum.org](http://www.cincymuseum.org) or call 513- 287-7000.

- **Cincinnati Art Museum**, 953 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati, has reopened its doors to guests who can experience most permanent and special exhibitions. All tours will be self-guided, and other programs and interactive activities are temporarily unavailable. Timed ticketing is required, and masks are recommended, but not mandated.

For more information, visit [www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org](http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org) or call 513-721-2787.

- **Carillon Historical Park**, 1000 Carillon Blvd., Dayton, is open for families to explore the grounds and buildings at the 65-acre open-air museum. The museum is also home to more

than 3 million artifacts that tell the story of Dayton's history. Carillon Brewing Co. and Culp's Cafe are also open for dining.

For more information, visit [www.daytonhistory.org/visit/dayton-history-sites/carillon-historical-park](http://www.daytonhistory.org/visit/dayton-history-sites/carillon-historical-park) or call 937-293-2841.

• **Great Wolf Lodge**, 2501 Great Wolf Drive, Mason, is open with new implemented safety protocols. Families can enjoy the 80,000-square-foot indoor water park as well as other activities and attractions, including the ropes course, bowling and Oliver's Mining.

For more information, visit [www.greatwolf.com/mason](http://www.greatwolf.com/mason) or call 1-800-913-9653.

## REOPENING PLANS:

• **Kings Island and Soak City Waterpark**, 6300 Kings Island Drive, Mason, will open on July 2 to season pass holders and on July 12 to daily ticket holders. Visitors won't want to miss Orion, Kings Island's tallest, fastest and longest steel roller coaster. All guests are required to make a reservation and wear a mask while in the park.

Meanwhile, Soak City has not yet announced an opening date.

For more information, visit [www.visitkingsisland.com](http://www.visitkingsisland.com) or call 513-754-5700.

## CDC travel recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control suggests that travelers take special precautions during the current pandemic.

Among the suggestions:

- Clean your hands often.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, after touching surfaces frequently touched by others, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, and before touching your face or eating.
- If soap and water are not available, bring and use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub your hands together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.



- Avoid close contact with others.
- Keep 6 feet of physical distance from others.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Pick up food at drive-throughs, curbside restaurant service, or stores.

And remember that, when traveling by car, stops along the way for gas, food, or bathroom breaks can put you and your traveling companions in close contact with other people and surfaces.

For more information visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).