



Rotary  
Club of Cincinnati



Welcomes You to Zinzinnati!



## ROTARY CLUB OF CINCINNATI LOCAL GUIDE

Our Queen City has so many great dining establishments and attractions it makes it very difficult to choose which ones to visit when in town for only a short time. Our goal is not to overload you with ALL THE THINGS our city has to offer in the way of entertainment. The list below represents venues which are unique to Cincinnati; ones you most likely won't find in any other city. So please go out and EXPLORE AND ENJOY! If you do patronize a suggested venue, please let them know the Rotary Club of Cincinnati sent you!

\*Within Walking Distance of Hotel

^Accessible via Cincinnati Bell Connector – Our Streetcar

# Well Worth a Short Drive/Uber/Cab Ride from Downtown

### **SUGGESTED LOCAL RESTAURANTS**

#### Bakersfield^

Bakersfield serves Mexican-influenced street fare with a focus on tacos, tequilas, and whiskeys. Bakersfield's music and feel is inspired by honkytonks around the country. \$\$

**Address:** 1213 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 579-0446

**Website:** <http://www.bakersfieldtacos.com/>

#### Bouquet Restaurant and Wine Bar#

Nestled in the heart of Covington's charming Mainstrasse historic district, Bouquet Restaurant and Wine Bar is a comfy bistro offering seasonal American fare and an extensive wine list in quaint, living-room-like surroundings. \$\$\$

**Address:** 519 Main St, Covington, KY 41011

**Phone:** (859) 491-7777

**Website:** <http://www.bouquetrestaurant.com/>.

### Christian Moerlein Lager House\*^

Cincinnati's storied brewing history comes alive at this world-class restaurant and microbrewery. Serving delectable fare reminiscent of 19th century beer gardens. We offer a guest experience unlike any other. \$\$

**Address:** 115 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 421-2337

**Website:** <http://www.moerleinlagerhouse.com/>.

### The Eagle Food and Beer Hall^

The Eagle, Food and Beer Hall is a restaurant and bar that celebrates straightforward, American fare; 100 different beers; and the sounds of blues music. Most prominently, we serve antibiotic free, all natural, fried chicken (they're famous for their chicken). A 16-head tap pours local craft and other domestic brews. A wide mixture of Southern, Texas, British, Electric, and Delta blues is played over our loud speakers. \$\$

**Address:** 1342 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** 513-802-5007

**Website:** <http://theeagleotr.com/>.

### Eli's BBQ#^

Eli's BBQ is a barbeque restaurant where the atmosphere, the music, the food, and the people simmer together to create an experience that is uniquely Cincinnati. Bring your own alcoholic beverages (they don't have a liquor license). Arguably the best pulled pork sandwich in a city known for its BBQ. \$

**Address:** 3313 Riverside Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45226.

**Phone:** (513) 533-1957

**Website:** <http://www.elisbarbeque.com/>.

There is a second carryout only location that is located at Findlay Market (tables are available inside the market) - 133 West Elder Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202, which is on the streetcar route.

### Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse\*

Jeff Ruby's. 1940's Art Deco, premiere steakhouse. Private rooms available for 12-50. Conveniently located in the heart of

downtown. The place for steak in Cincinnati. Unparalleled service, food and drink. \$\$\$\$

**Address:** 700 Walnut St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 784-1200

**Website:** <http://www.jeffruby.com/>.

### Metropole\*

Located in Cincinnati's 21c Museum Hotel, Metropole offers a contemporary take on old world fireplace cooking techniques.

Rooftop bar that is great if the weather is nice. \$\$\$

**Address:** 609 Walnut St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 578-6660

**Website:** <http://www.metropoleonwalnut.com/>.

### Montgomery Inn Boathouse#

Greater Cincinnati's will eat ribs, chicken, Saratoga chips, or anything covered in Montgomery Inn Barbeque Sauce. There are three locations, but the Montgomery Inn Boathouse, located on the Ohio River is the closest to downtown. They've been "Rockin the Sauce" since 1951! Absolutely some of the best ribs you'll ever eat and the chicken is great too! \$\$

**Address:** 925 Riverside Drive – Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 721-7427

**Website:** <http://www.montgomeryinn.com/>.

### Nada\*

A festive environment, approachable contemporary Mexican cuisine and a lively bar makes nada the destination for those looking for great food and fun downtown. Guacamole is AMAZING! \$\$

**Address:** 600 Walnut St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 721-6232

**Website:** <http://eatdrinknada.com/>.

### Orchids at Palm Court\*

Cincinnati's "Must Visit" restaurant. Ohio's Only AAA Five Diamond restaurant and one of just 64 in North America.

Seasonally updated contemporary American cuisine in breathtaking 1930's French art deco setting. \$\$\$

**Address:** 35 W 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 421-9100

**Website:** <http://www.orchidsatpalmcourt.com/>.

### Otto's on Main#

Otto's is a funky bistro with a relaxed, but certainly not boring atmosphere. This restaurant takes a quirky approach to its decor as well as its dishes. The brightly colored interior and mismatched furniture are reflective of the vibrant and unique flavor combinations of restaurant's dishes. Known for its fried green tomatoes & top-rated Sunday brunch. Located in Covington's historic Mainstrasse Village, which is located just across the river from Cincinnati. \$\$

**Address:** 521 Main St, Covington, KY 41011

**Phone:** (859) 491-6678

**Website:** <http://www.ottosonmain.com/>.

### Senate^

Serving gourmet street food, Senate was named one of the best 25 hot dog shops in the country by Complex.com. Senate features signature dogs with names like Trailer Park and Hello Kitty 2.0. Trendy pub serving gourmet hot dogs with creative toppings, plus local brews & retro cocktails. \$\$

**Address:** 212 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 421-2020

**Website:** <http://senatepub.com/>.

### Skyline Chili\*^

Proclaimed by many non-Cincinnati natives to be an acquired taste, most who were born and raised here can't remember life without Skyline (and those who move here quickly become loyal as well). The chili, part of what makes Cincinnati the city we all know and love, has been made from the same Greek recipe since

the first location opened in 1949. It's not what the average person pictures when thinking of chili; it's so much more. So, how do you like your chili spaghetti? Three-, four- or five-way? With cheese? Onions? Beans? \$

**Three locations downtown:** 254 E 4th Street and 643 Vine St within walking distance of the hotel and 1001 Vine St, Cincinnati in OTR – all 45202

**Website:** <http://skylinechili.com/>.

### Taft's Ale House^

Taft's Ale House sits in a renovated 19th Century Church (over \$40 million restoration). Enjoy their numerous beer styles, brewed onsite, on three unique floors. Taft's menu includes delicious tri-tip steak, salads, chicken & salmon. The tri-tip steak sandwiches are fabulous! \$\$

**Address:** 1429 Race St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 334-1393

**Website:** <http://www.taftsalehouse.com/>.

### Via Vite Italian Restaurant\*

The only free standing building on the newly renovated Fountain Square. Authentic Italian Bistro with wood-fired Pizza oven. Live music 7 nights a week and a GREAT Happy Hour! \$\$

**Address:** 520 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

(513) 721-8483

**Website:** <http://www.viaviterestaurant.com/>.

## **SUGGESTED DESSERTS/BREAKFASTS**

### Abby Girl Sweets\*

Yummy, from Scratch CUPCAKES in the HEART of Downtown Cincinnati! Stop by and try one of our many delicious flavors. \$

**Address:** 41 W 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 335-0898

**Website:** <http://www.abbygirlsweets.com/>.

### Graeter's Ice Cream\*

Cincinnati's famous French Pot ice cream since 1870. This is an absolute MUST try while in town and their double-chocolate chip and raspberry chocolate chip are best sellers. They also feature fine chocolates, confections and fresh baked goods. \$

**Address:** Fountain Square Plaza 45202

**Phone:** (513) 381-4191

**Website:** <http://www.graeters.com/>.

### Hathaway's Diner\*

Nostalgic diner located in historic Carew Tower featuring affordable comfort food & all-day breakfast in old-school digs since 1956. They serve daily specials, great shakes and malts, and breakfast is available all day long. \$

**Address:** 441 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 621-1332

**Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/hathawaysdiner>.

### Holtman's Donuts^

Holtman's Donuts is a family shop that opened in 1960 by Charles Holtman in Withamsville. They still produce donuts by hand every day, so they're always fresh. This location is located in Over-the-Rhine. \$

**Address:** 332 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 381-0903

**Website:** <http://www.holtmansdonutshop.com/>.

### Maplewood Kitchen and Bar\*

Light-filled downtown café which serves farm-fresh breakfast, brunch, and lunch, as well as a cold-pressed juice bar, high-end espresso cocktails, and a full bar.

**Address:** 525 Race St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 421-2100

**Website:** <http://www.maplewoodkitchenandbar.com/>.

### Servatti Pastry Shop and Deli\*

Wilhelm Gottenbusch, a German immigrant, came to the United



States after traveling around the world on an international freighter. In 1963, Wilhelm opened his first bakery and made a name for himself by focusing on one thing- quality. Focusing on the quality of his products, Wilhelm and his sons have expanded and grown over the last 50 years. Servatti's is known for their super cream puffs and pretzels. Closed on Saturday and Sunday. \$  
**Address:** Fountain Square-511 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, OH 5202  
**Phone:** 513-421-2253  
**Website:** <http://www.servatii.com/>.

### Taste of Belgium^

At Taste of Belgium in Over-the-Rhine (and a stand in Findlay market), there is nothing taken more seriously than their waffle. Each waffle is baked individually in a specialized cast iron press, just like they were centuries ago by master cooks in the city of Liège, Belgium. They have perfected an old family recipe, passed down for generations, to bring you the taste and authenticity of a true Belgian favorite. The bistro is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and the best weekend brunch in town with a full bar. \$\$  
**Address:** 1133 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202  
**Phone:** (513) 396-5800  
**Website:** <http://www.authenticwaffle.com/>.

## **SUGGESTED BARS/COCKTAIL VENUES**

### Arnold's Bar and Grill^

Cincinnati's oldest tavern. Est. 1861. Featuring Italian & American traditional cuisine. Soups, salads, and unusual desserts. Live music nightly. Lunch Mon-Fri; dinner Mon-Sat; brunch Sun.  
**Address:** 210 E 8th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202  
**Phone:** (513) 421-6234  
**Website:** <http://www.arnoldsbarandgrill.com/>.

### The Bar at Palm Court\*

Nostalgic Historic 1930s bar with breathtaking original French art deco. Relaxed menu by 2011 American Culinary Federation Chef of the Year; weeknight happy hour; live jazz Friday and Saturday evenings. Located in the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel.



**Address:** 35 W 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 421-9100

**Website:** <http://www.orchidsatpalmcourt.com/restaurants.aspx>.

### Hofbräuhaus#

America's first authentic Hofbräuhaus modeled after the legendary 400+ year-old Hofbräuhaus in Munich, Germany! Traditional Bier Hall, dining Stube, and Biergarten. World famous beers brewed on-site. Live entertainment nightly. Oktoberfest every day!

**Address:** 200 E 3rd St, Newport, KY 41071

**Phone:** (859) 491-7200

**Website:** <http://www.hofbrauhausnewport.com/>.

### Rhinegeist Brewery^

Rhinegeist is one of Cincinnati's largest local craft breweries. Located in the historic Moerlein bottling plant, Rhinegeist's tap room offers a selection of their brews to sample and an abundance space for their frequent events, such as, yoga!

**Address:** 1910 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 381-1367

**Website:** <http://www.rhinegeist.com/>.

### Sundry and Vice^

Located in historic Over-the-Rhine, Sundry and Vice is Cincinnati's premier cocktail-focused establishment. Their specialty is freshly-mixed, classic cocktails, against a beautifully unique turn-of-the-century, apothecary-themed environment.

**Address:** 1214 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 721-8422

**Website:** <http://www.sundryandvice.com/>.

### We Olive Cincinnati\*

Olive oil and wine is a centuries old pairing with rich traditions. We Olive & Wine Bar revives and celebrates these traditions by creating a place where family, friends and neighbors gather to enjoy great food and wine. Be sure to check out their Happy Hour Menu!

**Address:** 33 E 6th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

**Phone:** (513) 954-8875

**Website:** <http://weolive.com/cincinnati/>.

## **SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

### **American Sign Museum#**

Come take a walk down memory lane and experience the only public sign museum in America. The American Sign Museum preserves, archives, and displays a collection of signs in an over 19,000 square foot exhibition space. The museum also houses a working neon shop. Watch the owners of Neonworks create neon signs, and maybe have a chat with them during a museum guided tour. Tours are Wednesday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. You can visit the museum without doing a tour, but tours are definitely well worth trying to schedule your visit so you can take one.

**Website:** <http://www.americansignmuseum.org/>.

### **Carew Tower Observation Deck\***

Carew Tower is the second tallest building in Cincinnati, however, it is still the highest elevated building in the city. Built in 1930, art-deco architecture, there are panoramic views from observation deck on the 49<sup>th</sup> Floor.

**Website:** <https://365cincinnati.com/get-outside/carew-tower>.

### **Cincinnati Art Museum#**

Located in scenic Eden Park, the Cincinnati Art Museum opened in 1886 and features an unparalleled art collection of more than 60,000 works spanning 6,000 years. In addition to displaying its own broad collection, the Art Museum also hosts several national and international traveling exhibitions each year. The recently opened Rosenthal Education Center offers an immersive, hands-on experience for families to view the Art Museum's collection. Admission to the museum is FREE.

**Website:** <http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/>.

## Cincinnati Bell Connector – Our Streetcar\*^

The Cincinnati Bell Connector is a modern streetcar system designed to link major employment centers in Downtown and connecting through Cincinnati's historic Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. It operates 18 hours a day, 365 days a year. The route is from The Banks, to the Central Business District to Over-the-Rhine. The streetcar route is 3.6 miles long. It will travel on a loop from Second Street (at The Banks on the riverfront) to Henry Street (just north of Findlay Market in Over the Rhine). Popular destinations between these points include: Government Square, Fountain Square, Contemporary Arts Center, Public Library, Aronoff Center, JACK Cincinnati Casino, Gateway Quarter, School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Music Hall, and Washington Park. The cost to ride is \$1 for 2 hours or \$2 for all day and you can buy tickets online or at stations.

**Website:** <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/streetcar/>.

## Cincinnati Brewery Tours^

Cincinnati's Brewery District is home to one of the largest collections of pre-Prohibition brewery architecture, in the middle of one of the largest historic districts, in the country. Beer helped build this city, and the stories of those days still resonate today. Cincinnati Brewery Tours show you the breweries, cellars, and tunnels that were the heart of Cincinnati's brewing heritage. Named one of the top 3 local tours in *Citybeat's* Best of Cincinnati Reader Picks 2015 and 2016.

**Website:** <http://www.cincinnatibrewerytours.com/>. Insider tip...be sure to stop at Moerlein Malt House in OTR (1621 Moore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202) for a pint after your tour!

## Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center\*

Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center is a pioneering contemporary art museum and one of the first contemporary art institutions in the United States. Founded in 1939 as the Modern Art Society (MAS), within a few years, the MAS had exhibited Renoir, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Picasso, Beckman, Klee and many more in the lower levels of the Cincinnati Art Museum. In 1952,

the MAS changed their name to the Contemporary Arts Center and in 1964 they earned a space of their own in downtown. In 2003, the CAC moved into the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art by architect Zaha Hadid. The NY Times called the structure, “the best new building since the Cold War.”

Admission to the museum is FREE.

**Website:** <https://www.contemporaryartscenter.org/>.

## Cincinnati Zoo

The Zoological Society of Cincinnati was founded in 1873 and officially opened its doors in 1875, making the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden the second oldest Zoo in the United States. Feed a giraffe or meet a new animal friend during an Animal Encounter at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Africa exhibit. The Zoo's 75 acres house more than 580 animal species and 3,000 plant varieties making it one of the largest zoo collections in the U.S. This not-for-profit entity is internationally known for its success in the protection and propagation of endangered animals and plants and engages in research and conservation projects around the world. **Website:** <http://cincinnati zoo.org/>.

## Explore Over-the Rhine

Over-the-Rhine (OTR) is Cincinnati's oldest neighborhood. It is also believed to be the largest, most intact urban historic district in the United States. Since 2006, about \$93 million has been invested in the development and creation of the OTR Gateway Quarter. Locally-owned restaurateurs, boutiques and bars have opened shop and transformed the area into a most visited destination. Listen to live music, make your own candle, visit a bean to bar chocolate company, or grab a bite and a beverage at the many unique restaurants. OTR has it all and more! The best way to get there is via the Cincinnati Bell Connector Streetcar.

**Website:** <http://otrchamber.com/>.

## Findlay Market

Findlay Market is Ohio's oldest continuously operated public market and one of Cincinnati's most cherished institutions,

welcoming more than a million visitors a year. Located just blocks from downtown in Over-the-Rhine, a dense historic neighborhood rich in 19th century architecture, Findlay Market remains the bustling center of farm fresh, locally sourced, artisanal and specialty foods. Open Tuesday through Sunday year round, Findlay Market is home to more than 40 indoor merchants selling meat, fish, poultry, produce, flowers, cheese, deli, and ethnic foods. On weekends from April through November the Market also hosts a thriving farmers market, dozens of outdoor vendors, numerous street performers, and lots of special events.

**Website:** <http://www.findlaymarket.org/>.

### Krohn Conservatory#

Krohn Conservatory, located in Eden Park, was built in 1933 at the height of the Art Deco era. It's what's inside those aluminum and glass walls that make Krohn Conservatory truly special. You'd have to travel a good distance from Cincinnati to visit a rainforest or a desert – or come to Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati Parks' nationally recognized showcase of more than 3,500 plant species from around the world.

**Website:** <http://www.cincinnati-parks.com/krohn-conservatory/>.

### Newport Aquarium#

Where else can you pet a shark, pet a penguin, and see one of only a few Shark Rays on exhibit in the world? Newport Aquarium showcases thousands of animals from around the world in a million gallons of water, including the enormously popular "Sweet Pea" and "Scooter," the stars of the first shark ray breeding program in the world. This state-of-the-art facility was named the No.1 aquarium in the 2012 Readers' Choice Travel Awards. The Aquarium is open to the public 365 days a year. It is located only two minutes from downtown Cincinnati at Newport on the Levee.

**Website:** <http://www.newportaquarium.com/>.

### Smale Riverfront Park\*^

Enjoy the sunshine and river breezes at this 45-acre park along

the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati. Smale Riverfront Park is a park for the generations—a compelling recreational, entertainment and leisure resource for the entire Greater Cincinnati community. Its many and varied features—including fountains, walkways, gardens, event lawns, playgrounds and restaurants—contribute to the emotional and physical health of its citizens; to the economic vitality of the region and to the exceptional quality of life and experience to be cultivated and enjoyed throughout the area. Carol Ann's Carousel is also located at the park. This carousel features hand-carved animals representing many areas of life, history and culture in the Greater Cincinnati area. The figures along with their trappings reflect river life, sports, Cincinnati cuisine, iconic places, transportation, history, business, the arts, the seasons and folklore.

**Website:** <http://www.mysmaleriverfrontpark.org/index.htm>.

### Taft Museum of Art\*

The Taft Museum of Art is a historic house museum holding a fine art collection in Cincinnati. It is on the National Register of Historic Places listings and is a contributing property to the Lytle Park Historic District. The Taft house was first built for Martin Baum and then was the residence of Nicholas Longworth. David Sinton lived in the house with his daughter Anna, who married Charles Phelps Taft, the half-brother of President William Howard Taft. The Tafts lived in the house from 1873 until 1929. William H. Taft accepted his presidential nomination there from its portico in 1908. The Tafts were avid art collectors. They turned their home into a museum, and donated their Greek Revival house and the collection of art that filled it to the people of Cincinnati in 1927.

**Website:** <http://www.taftmuseum.org/>.

Thanks to the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau for providing descriptions for many of these venues. Click [HERE](#) to visit their website to find even more fun things to do in the Tristate area.

The logo for the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau. It features the words "CINCINNATIUSA" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. "CINCINNATI" is in red and "USA" is in blue. Below this, the words "CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU" are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a solid green rectangular background.