

CINCINNATI

A BENGALS UK CITY GUIDE



2026 EDITION

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Welcome to Cincinnati



Nestled along the banks of the Ohio River, **Cincinnati** has long been a crossroads of American culture and commerce. From its 19th-century roots as a booming river port to its modern identity as a vibrant hub for the arts, sports, and food and beer, the Queen City often surprises visitors with its dynamic blend of tradition and progress.

Each neighbourhood offers its own distinct flavour: Over-the-Rhine boasts one of the largest collections of Italianate architecture in the country and a revitalised arts and bar scene, while Mount Adams enchants with hillside views, parks and galleries.

Sports fans can cheer on the Bengals, Bearcats, FC Cincinnati, Cyclones and Reds all year round, while there's gourmet cuisine and the city's iconic chilli to enjoy.

Additionally, the city's many breweries, restaurants and museums offer something for every interest and pace.

We've asked friends and those in the know - and, of course, dipped into our own experiences - to squeeze as many recommendations as we can into this guide. But these are only recommendations and only a small portion of the places on offer in Cincinnati. We say have fun, and go and explore!

Please note: our recommendations focus on central Cincinnati (Downtown, Over-the-Rhine and the surrounding areas), as this is where most visitors from the UK are likely to stay and many won't have access to a car. Sorry Newport, Northside, Oakley, Walnut Hills and Mount Washington!

DID YOU KNOW?

In the early 1800s, Cincinnati was considered the frontier's gateway and was the largest city west of the Alleghenies. Its booming river trade earned it the nickname 'Queen City of the West.'





My first time in Cincinnati

Bengals superfan Tom McDowell

As a lifelong Bengals fan, visiting Cincinnati felt like a pilgrimage to a place I have a deep-rooted connection to, but have never visited before.

I worried it might not live up to my expectations, but it exceeded them in every way. The access fans have is incredible: meeting players walking back from practice, local fan events with appearances... it's a level of interaction many other cities don't or can't offer.

The city's sports culture runs deep: Bengals, Reds, Bearcats and now FC Cincinnati... pride is everywhere. Strangers shout "Who Dey" in the street. I truly felt like I belonged.

Beyond the sport, the people are so warm and welcoming.

Cincinnati also has a fantastic mix of unique places to eat and drink. My favourite was Knockback Nats for its wings and authentic dive bar atmosphere.

It's a very walkable city, especially the Downtown and Covington neighbourhoods, and it's full of vibrant street art. For everywhere outside of the central areas, I took a bus or an Uber.

My advice? Do your research. There's so much happening, so plan ahead to make the most of every minute. I made spreadsheets and from these made a list of everywhere I wanted to try, but obviously, you don't have to go that far!

Whether you're a fellow fan or just curious about the city, Cincinnati has something for everyone. I'd go back in a heartbeat.



It's said that a staff member from local company Procter and Gamble selected the name of Pringle by selecting the name at random from a phone book.





Booking your trip

Words: Chris Roberts

Making the trip to see the Bengals play in Cincinnati feels like a bucket-list moment for many UK fans. I've done it independently, and it's not complicated - if you can book a European city break, you can organise a trip to the Queen City.

Cincinnati is one of the easiest NFL trips you can make. There's a direct flight from the UK, Downtown is compact, and getting tickets to games is straightforward. Many UK fans have already made this trip, and once you've done it, you'll wonder why you waited so long. If you're thinking about it, just book it.

Step 1: Choose the right game

The NFL schedule is released in May, which is your cue to start planning. For atmosphere, prime-time games and divisional matchups are best. Games in September or October are ideal as the weather is warmer. A Sunday 1pm kick-off is perfect for experiencing the pre-game build-up and tailgating.

Step 2: Buying Bengals Tickets

Tickets are available through the Bengals app, which is linked to Ticketmaster. You'll need to be registered with Ticketmaster.com (not Ticketmaster.co.uk) to buy tickets. Even if a game looks sold out, resale tickets are always available.

Step 3: Booking flights and Accommodation

Booking the direct flights with British Airways from Heathrow is the easiest way to get there, though these are not daily. If timings don't work, connecting via New York, Boston, or Detroit is still straightforward.

Staying Downtown means you don't need a car. Hotels like the Hyatt Regency, Hilton Netherland Plaza and the Renaissance are all within a short walk of the stadium, bars, restaurants, and riverfront. Alternatively, there are Airbnb properties you can book.

Step 4: US Immigration

UK travellers normally enter the US using an ESTA, which you apply for online in advance. It's quick, valid for two years, and essential to do before you travel.



BA Holidays lets you book flights and hotels together with a deposit, while many hotel booking sites offer cancellable room options.



A British expat's view of Cincinnati

Originally from London, **Lucille Kuertz** has lived in Cincinnati with her American husband and two children since 2019. Here she talks about the differences between the UK and the Queen City.



What did you know about Cincinnati before you moved there, and what did you expect when you knew you were moving to Cincinnati?

I didn't know a thing! After visiting Cincinnati a few times, I felt Cincinnati had a lot to offer. There are plenty of things to do, plenty of places to go out and some great bars and restaurants, as well as lots of sporting events and concerts.

What was the biggest surprise when you settled into daily life?

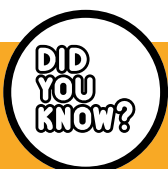
There were a lot of differences - tipping culture, learning to drive on the other side of the road, taking my driving test again, and having to drive almost everywhere; that way grocery stores have baggers, the love for college sports and how big they are here, and, of course, food portion sizes in restaurants. London, where I'm from, is much more of a transient place than Cincinnati, mainly because it's a tight-knit Midwestern city and you can really feel that togetherness.

How did you find getting around the city?

I struggled when I first came here as I was not able to drive on my UK license (you can drive a rental car on your UK license, but to drive a personal car, you need a US driver's license), so we moved to Downtown Cincinnati as it's quite a walkable town. With all that being said, if you're visiting, I'd definitely recommend staying in Covington, Newport, or Downtown Cincinnati. Lyft and Uber are easy ways to get around and are accessible from and to the airport. The streetcar is free and is good to use to get from The Banks to the northern part of downtown Cincinnati. The Northern KY buses are pretty good, too.

Is there anything to watch out for in terms of cultural differences?

This is a big one for Brits: if you ask for a cup of tea, they will not serve it with milk! And be prepared for everyone asking where you went to high school! After hearing my voice, the locals instantly ask where my husband went to high school. I get called Ma'am here a lot!



Cincinnati is the both the birthplace and burial site of William Howard Taft, the 27th President of the US. He also held the position of Chief of Justice.



From the airport to Downtown



Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) is approximately 13 miles from Downtown. Transportation options include:

- Uber/Lyft: Approximately \$20-45, depending on time of day.
- Airport Shuttle: Services like Executive Transportation offer shared rides for around \$25 per person.
- **CHEAPEST OPTION:** TANK's 2X Airporter bus connects CVG to Downtown for just \$2. Buses typically run every 30 minutes, with stops on Government Square and along 4th and 5th Streets.



Buses and public transport only take cash in Cincinnati. Typically, fares are \$2 each way, so if you're planning to use the TANK Airport Connector or other bus services, make sure you have some shrapnel with you.



Getting around town



In American terms, Cincinnati is a relatively small city, and the Downtown area is very walkable. In fact, those who have attended Bengals UK's trips in the past have tended to walk around the Downtown area easily.

However, there are options if you need them - they're all relatively cheap (some free). (Obviously, there is also Uber and Lyft for short journeys.)

The Connector

This streetcar system offers 18 stops throughout the Downtown area, which include landmarks like Music Hall, Great American Ball Park, Fountain Square and more. The Connector operates daily and is free to all.

www.visitcincy.com/plan-your-visit/transportation/streetcar/

Cincinnati Red Bike

Pick up a Red Bike at any of the 50-plus locations and use it for travelling short distances. For registration and passes:

www.cincyredbike.org

Electric Scooters

Like the red bikes, they provide a hassle-free way to get around. There are two providers: Bird (**www.bird.co**) and Lime (**www.li.me**)

Cincinnati Metro

This is the city-wide bus service that goes from Downtown and up into Cincinnati's network of suburbs and satellite towns. You probably won't need it, but it's available.

www.go-metro.com



Download the Transit app to your phone. Transit is a real-time urban travel companion that allows you to instantly see accurate departure times, bus stop locations and modes of transport. Perfect if you're looking to take a bus around town.



Where to stay



You'll most likely be staying in the Downtown area, or at a push, Over-the-Rhine. When it comes to hotels, Downtown is not cheap, so it's best to check sites like Booking.com, Hotels.com or Trivago (or indeed any of the sites you trust and use the most). But here are some ideas... and if none wet your whistle, there's always Airbnb.

HILTON CINCINNATI NETHERLAND PLAZA
35 W 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Beautiful, historic four-star hotel with Art Deco flourishes.

RENAISSANCE CINCINNATI DOWNTOWN HOTEL

36 E 4th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Another beautiful, four-star hotel Downtown.

HYATT REGENCY CINCINNATI
151 W 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202, United States

Modern, four-star hotel.

COURTYARD CINCINNATI DOWNTOWN
6 E 4th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Comfortable, modern three-star hotel.

MOXY CINCINNATI DOWNTOWN
312 Main St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Hip, boutique hotel.

AC HOTEL CINCINNATI AT THE BANKS
135 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Modern four-star hotel.

THE CINCINNATIAN HOTEL, CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON

601 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Historic hotel with modern flourishes.

KINLEY CINCINNATI DOWNTOWN, A TRIBUTE PORTFOLIO HOTEL

636 Race St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Boutique four-starrer.



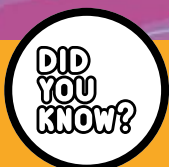
For cheaper places to stay, try over the river in Covington. Try riverside hotels like the Cincinnati Marriott, Cincinnati Courtyard Covington or Extended Stay America - more affordable and they all provide a great view of Paycor!



Neighbourhood focus

Downtown
Over-the-Rhine
Covington
Clifton
Mount Adams

Restaurants/Bars/Things to do



The Cincinnati Art Museum houses a rare 15th-century manuscript known as the 'Book of Hours'. It features an illustration of an owl resembling Hedwig, which is said to have inspired J.K. Rowling for a certain series of books...





Easy to walk around



Public transport hub



Can be lively and edgy at night around The Banks

Downtown



Downtown Cincinnati is the vibrant heart of the Queen City: a compact, walkable hub set against the scenic Ohio River.

Fountain Square, the city's central gathering spot, is busy all year-round with concerts, food trucks, ice skating in winter, and open-air dining in summer. Just steps away, you'll find iconic attractions like the National Underground Railroad Freedom Centre, the Taft Theatre, and Great American Ball Park - home of the Cincinnati Reds. You'll find Paycor Stadium there, too.

Art lovers can explore galleries in the historic West Fourth Street district while foodies will appreciate the diverse dining scene, from upscale steakhouses to inventive gastropubs and international cuisine. The nightlife is equally dynamic, with rooftop bars, craft breweries, and sports bars on The Banks.

Downtown is also the gateway to the city's best neighbourhoods: Over-the-Rhine, The Banks, and Pendleton are all within walking distance.



More than 85 Ambassadors work for Downtown Cincinnati. All Ambassadors are trained in public safety and are happy to provide safety escorts to Downtown destinations. Call the hotline at 001 513 623-3429.



The Banks



**Freedom Way, Cincinnati,
OH 45202**

The Banks is Cincinnati's vibrant riverfront entertainment district, stretching between Downtown and the Ohio River along the city's waterfront. Home to restaurants, bars, hotels, parks, and event spaces, it serves as the gateway to both the Cincinnati Reds at Great American Ball Park and the Bengals.

List of bars on The Banks:

- The Park** | An indoor bar with an outdoor feel.
- BetMGM Sportsbook and Tom's Watch Bar** | Betting and sports
- Killer Queen** | Sports bar with food
- Red Leprechaun** | Irish bar
- Fish Bowl** | Tropical party bar
- Holy Grail** | Legendary sports bar
- Tin Roof** | Live music bar
- The Stretch** | Very lively bar with DJ
- Yard House** | Good food and beer



Take advantage of DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) benefits. If you have a DORA cup you can take your drinks anywhere in The Banks' area, including parks.



Downtown bars

ARNOLD'S BAR & GRILL
210 E 8th St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's Choice

Cincinnati's oldest continuously operating bar (since 1861), with a European feel, charming courtyard and live music.

NICHOLSON'S TAVERN & PUB
625 Walnut St,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Editor's Choice

Scottish gastropub with a back-home charm. It has a red telephone box, and Scotch Egg and sticky toffee pudding on the menu! Scotch whisky galore.

THE RIGHTEOUS ROOM
641 Walnut St,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Edgy and artsy. Dark-lit bar near the theatre district, with indie vibes and a solid cocktail list. Popular for pre- or post-show drinks

PRIM
70 W 5th Street,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



New for 2026

High-end, immersive cocktail lounge from the team behind Ghost Baby, offering curated drinks near Fountain Square.

AFTERLIFE
44 E Court Street,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



New for 2026

An experiential cocktail bar on Court Street Plaza known for inventive drinks, retro-futuristic design, and a lively late-night social scene.

JEFFERSON SOCIAL
101 E Freedom Way,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Casual Tex-Mex vibes with upbeat social seating, communal tables, and weekend DJs that keep things tasty.

FLIGHT CLUB CINCINNATI
125 W 5th Street,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



New for 2026

A social darts and cocktail venue combining competitive interactive games with upscale drinks, food. Let's... play... DARTS!

KITTY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL
218 W 3rd Street,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



New for 2026

A casual, family-run sports bar with a large TV setup and hearty pub food (plus out-front BBQ if you're lucky). Directly opposite Paycor Stadium.

AC UPPER DECK
135 Joe Nuxhall Way,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



A spacious, stylish rooftop lounge with views of Northern Kentucky on one side, Great American Ball Park across the street, and Downtown below.

VINTAGE ON RACE
500 Race St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



A hybrid mash-up of upscale athletic club meets cosy neighbourhood pub - warm yet vibrant, with retro-modern design and spacious seating.

TOKYO KITTY
575 Race St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



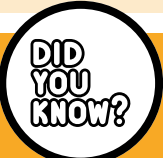
A futuristic karaoke environment featuring neon lighting, mirror 'teleporter' infinity rooms, and robot bartenders delivering drinks via BBot.

QUEEN CITY EXCHANGE
132 W Court St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



New for 2026

Unique, stock market-themed bar that has 40 beers on tap - the price of each beer goes up or down depending on how many people in the bar are ordering it!



Jerry Springer was once mayor of Cincinnati. The legendary late chatshow host was in the hotseat for one year only, in 1977. Jerry, Jerry, Jerry!



Bengals UK's designated pubs

In 2024 - on our third annual trip to Cincinnati - Bengals UK began to award local pubs and bars a special commendation: 'A Designated Local Pub Of Bengals UK'. This stamp of approval means that whichever bar has been awarded or displays the Bengals UK mark, visitors can be guaranteed a good night, a friendly atmosphere and good food and drink. The annual awards started with four bars in the Downtown area that have become real Bengals UK favourites - now we have seven!



O'MALLEY'S IN THE ALLEY
 25 W OGDEN PLACE,
 CINCINNATI,
 OH 45202



Historic dive bar with a warm, unpretentious charm. Opens up into the clubber Blind Pig, which provides great views of Paycor Stadium.

CINCINNATI LAGER HOUSE
 115 JOE NUXHALL WAY, CINCINNATI,
 OH 45202



Homely brewpub with indoor/outdoor seating overlooking Smale Riverfront Park, the Ohio River, and the Roebling Suspension Bridge.

KNOCKBACK NATS
 10 W 7TH ST W,
 CINCINNATI,
 OH 45202



A true Downtown neighbourhood bar and grill, beloved for its atmosphere, its free popcorn and its city-best chicken wings. The hype is real!

THE HOLY GRAIL
 161 JOE NUXHALL WAY, CINCINNATI,
 OH 45202



A Cincinnati institution. The legendary go-to, game-day sports bar, with 30+ TVs. Unbeatable pre/post-game location, that gets very lively after dark.

NICHOLSON'S TAVERN & PUB
 625 WALNUT ST, CINCINNATI, OH
 45202



Scottish gastropub with a back-home charm. It has a red telephone box, and Scotch Egg and sticky toffee pudding on the menu!

MOTR PUB
 1345 MAIN ST, CINCINNATI,
 OH 45202



Gritty and beloved, a fantastic (mostly free) live music venue with cheap drinks and an unpretentious feel. A local favourite.

RHINEGEIST BREWERY
 1910 ELMST, OVER-THE-RHINE,
 CINCINNATI,
 OH 45202



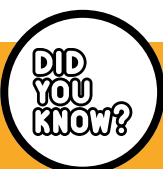
Iconic 25,000 sqft taproom in a historic bottling plant - games, rooftop bar, own-brand craft beers, superb big-screen sporting action. A must-visit.

WHERE ARE THE BENGALS GAME BALLS IN CINCINNATI?

After each playoff win, the Bengals awarded game balls, some by Zac Taylor. So, if you're in town and you want to see one, where do you go?

- Jeff Ruby's Precinct
- 16 Lots Brewing Co.
- Delwood
- The Holy Grail Tavern & Grille
- Zip's Cafe

- Gametime Ultimate Sports Bar & Grill
- Maloney's Pub West Bar & Grill
- Streetside Brewery
- Sinners & Saints Tavern
- Mount Lookout Tavern
- The Blind Pig
- Crowley's Irish Pub
- Clutch OTR
- Walt's Hitching Post
- Oak Tavern
- Gypsy's Mainstrasse
- Rhinehaus



Cincinnati was once home to King Records. The legendary label helped launch the careers of James Brown, Bootsy Collins, and many other soul, R&B, and funk legends.



Cincinnati Reds



Great American Ballpark, 100 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

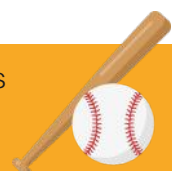
The Cincinnati Reds are one of baseball's oldest franchises. Established in 1881 as the Cincinnati Red Stockings, the team have gone on to win five World Series titles (1919, 1940, 1975, 1976, and 1990), with the 'Big Red Machine' era of the 1970s being their most iconic period.

To the city of Cincinnati, the Reds are more than a team - they're part of the city's fabric and identity. Opening Day is practically a civic holiday, and generations of families have grown up bonding over Reds baseball.



DID YOU KNOW?

Great American Ballpark features 'The Power Stacks'. They are two smokestacks in right-center field that emit flames and fireworks when the Reds hit home runs or win games (which isn't that often).



Downtown restaurants

JEFF RUBY'S STEAKHOUSE
505 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



The legend. Glam and luxurious Cincinnati institution that serves prime steaks and seafood. High-end prices but worth it for a treat/date night.

SOTTO
118 E 6th St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's Choice

Cosy, intimate, and rustic with authentic Italian dishes and handmade pastas served in a relaxed yet refined atmosphere. High-end prices, but so, so worth it.

E+O KITCHEN
56 W Freedom Way, Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's Choice

Vibrant Asian fusion restaurant (sushi etc) slap-bang opposite Paycor (you never know who you'll see in there). Its famous Brussels Sprouts salad is a must-try.

BOCA
114 E 6th St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Elegant and sophisticated with a modern upscale feel, specialising in modern French and Italian dishes. High-end, delicious scrn.

MITA'S
501 Race St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's Choice

Vibrant and stylish with Latin American flair. Trendy and upscale, perfect for creative dishes and cocktails in an energetic setting. Highly recommended.

SCOTTI'S
919 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Established in 1912, Scotti's is a Cincinnati institution known for its old-world Italian ambience and excellent, uncomplicated pasta and pizza. Bada-bing!

THE FILSON QUEEN CITY KITCHEN & BAR
25 E Freedom Way, Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's Choice

A vibrant setting with a menu that is packed with unpretentious family favourites. Diverse, affordable and tasty.

TASTE OF BELGIUM
16 West Freedom Way, Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Lively eatery that's ideal for brunches and casual dinners. It features Belgian-inspired comfort food and signature waffles and moulles-frites.

VIA VITE
520 Vine Street,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's Choice

Outstanding Italian based right on Fountain Square. Prime location, great views, and exceptional cuisine.

PATA ROJA TAQUERIA
52 E Court Street,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202

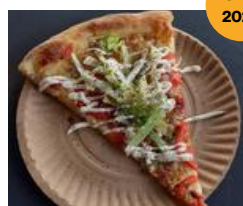


New for 2026

Editor's Choice

Mexico City-inspired taqueria in downtown Cincinnati, celebrated for its authentic street tacos, bold flavours, and standout al pastor and birria dishes

MAD ANTHONY'S PIZZA
120 E 8th Street,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



New for 2026

Serving New York-style slices and Italian-American favourites, as well as Hawaiian bar and grill featuring tiki cocktails.

COURT STREET KITCHEN
7E Court St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Seamlessly transitions from bright brunch/lunch locale to lively happy hour spot. Focused on contemporary American food. Highly rated by many.



The revitalised Fountain District boasts new restaurants, including Mi Cozimel (Mexican), Nada (Mexican), award-winning Salazar and the new flagship Skyline Chili, which serves pizza and has a bar!



East Court Street



East Court Street
OH 45202

East Court Street has transformed into one of Downtown Cincinnati's most dynamic foodie hubs, seamlessly connecting the Central Business District with Over-the-Rhine. Centred around the pedestrian-friendly Court Street Plaza.



List of bars and restaurants on East Court Street

Avril Bleh | Butchers that serves burgers.

Hawkers Alley | Asian street food

Afterlife | Upmarket Cocktail bar

Brewd | Highly-rated coffee shop

Mid City Restaurant | European-style bistro and bar

Pilar | Cocktail bar

Court Street Kitchen | Highly rated, lively and varied restaurant and bar

Pata Roja | Excellent tacos and Mexican street food

Zaha Mediterranean Kitchen

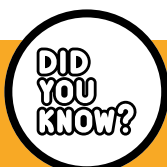
Roji | Japanese food

Daruma | Japanese supermarket that sells fresh sushi

Onolicious | Hawaiian restaurant

Kroger food hall:

- **Dope!** | Asian street food
- **Queen City Burger Company**
- **Kitchen 1838** | Sophisticated bistro food
- **Private Selection Sushi & Poke**
- **Bar 1838**



The city's nickname, 'Porkopolis', comes from its meatpacking past. In the 19th century, Cincinnati was the nation's top pork-processing centre, earning it a meaty moniker still referenced in local culture. Look out for flying pig logos across town.





15-minute walk from Downtown



Use The Connector from Downtown



Take care at night. Walk in groups

Over-the-Rhine



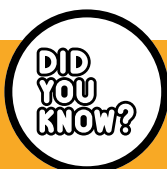
Over-the-Rhine (OTR) is one of Cincinnati’s most storied and vibrant neighbourhoods.

Located just north of Downtown, it earned its name in the 19th century from German immigrants who likened the canal they crossed to the River Rhine back home.

The neighbourhood boasts one of the largest collections of 19th-century Italianate architecture in the US, like the Cincinnati Music Hall. Its streets are lined with independent shops, art galleries, coffee houses, and some of the city’s most acclaimed restaurants and breweries.

At the heart of OTR is Findlay Market, Ohio’s oldest continuously operated public market, buzzing with local vendors, street performers, and year-round events. Green spaces like Washington Park (of particular interest to FC Cincinnati fans) and Ziegler Park provide places to relax, play, or catch a concert.

Once a neighbourhood in decline, OTR has undergone a remarkable revitalisation since the mid-Noughties, becoming a hub for creatives, food lovers, and urban explorers alike.



The Miami and Erie Canal once cut directly through downtown Cincinnati, separated the downtown business district from the Germanic immigrant settlements. The canal was eventually drained in the late 1910s. Central Parkway is where the canal used to be.



Over-the-Rhine bars

LONGFELLOW
1233 Clay St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Cool, intimate and creative - a neighbourhood bar with great cocktails and small bites.

SOMERSET
139
E McMicken
Ave,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Editor's
Choice

Dreamy and exotic space. Part cocktail lounge, part jungle escape, with global décor and lush outdoor seating. Very Instagram-friendly.

ALICE
1432 Main St,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Chill bar by day, which turns into a full-on retro future discotheque (with a 'mind-bending projection mapped dance-floor') by night. One for those looking for a lively night out.

JAPP'S
1134 Main St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Vintage and classy pre-Prohibition cocktails in a beautifully restored apothecary. Gets lively at weekends when the live music and DJs kick in.

THE LACKMAN
1237 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Sleek and modern polished craft beer and cocktail bar with a grown-up, urban crowd. Great for pre-dinner drinks.

MOTR PUB
1345 Main St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's
Choice

Gritty and beloved, a fantastic (mostly free) live music venue with cheap drinks and an unpretentious feel. A local favourite.

GHOST BABY
1314 Republic
St, Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's
Choice

Super-cool underground bar housed in historic beer tunnels. It's moody, mysterious, and perfect for a classy night out.

**PINS
MECHANICAL
CO.**
1124 Main St,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Editor's
Choice

Game-night larks with duckpin bowling, giant Jenga, pinball, old-school arcade games, and boozy slushies. Great fun.

LOST & FOUND
22 E 14th St,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Dreamy, artsy, and effortlessly cool. Lost & Found features moody lighting, abstract murals, and a quality playlist.

UNCLE LEO'S
1709 Race St.
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Unpretentious dive bar with a great atmosphere and themed nights. Bar food includes beef bourguignon, oysters and lobster rolls.

**SUNDRY AND
VICE**
18 W 13th St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



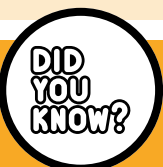
Throwback to the golden age of apothecaries with exposed brick, dim lighting, and a menu full of thoughtfully crafted, inventive cocktails. Classy.

RHINEHAUS
119 E 12th St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's
Choice

OTR's dedicated sports bar and a Premier League-loving, trivia-hosting, shot-pouring neighbourhood favourite. Expect TVs on every wall and a big game day crowd.



In the late 1800s, Over-the-Rhine had one of the highest concentrations of German breweries in the world. Cincinnati was once dubbed the Beer Capital of the US, rivaling Milwaukee and St. Louis.



Findlay Market



**Findlay Market, 1801 Race Street,
Cincinnati, OH 45202**



Findlay Market in Over-the-Rhine is a vibrant, historic gem. Founded in 1855, it's Ohio's oldest continuously operated public market. The market is open Tuesday to Sunday, and inside the iron-framed market hall, there are stalls offering local produce (meats, cheeses, barbecue). Don't miss Jane's, the outdoor bar on Elm Street, and elsewhere, weekends feature street performers, music, and a lively farmers' market alongside food vendors.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The market houses a tower bell salvaged from the razed Pearl Street Market, and is rung every morning.



Over-the-Rhine restaurants

MILKMAN
1106 Race St,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Editor's
Choice

A nostalgic, retro-style diner-meets-burger joint with speedy service. Known for its juicy smash burgers and boozy milkshakes. Best burger in the city?

PEPP & DOLORES
1501 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's
Choice

Cosy-yet-lively Italian with pasta as the star. Perfect balance between intimate and lively group dinner atmos.

THE EAGLE OTR
1342 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Southern comfort with a rock-and-roll soul. Think fried chicken, beer, and loud but good atmosphere.

SACRED BEAST
1437 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Diner meets gourmet. Open kitchen, sleek booths, and upscale takes on classic dishes. Think French onion soup meets cheeseburger.

BAKERSFIELD TACOS
1213 Vine St,
Cincinnati, OH
45202



Casual, spirited Mexican street-food haunt, known for its upbeat, Western-tinted bar atmos. Tacos, tortas and tequila.

NOLIA
405 Clay St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202,
United States



New for
2026

Editor's
Choice

Superb, inventive, elevated Southern cuisine inspired by the diverse food traditions of the American South and New Orleans.

THE DAVIDSON
501 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Polished, elevated American brasserie inspired by Cincinnati's iconic Tyler Davidson Fountain.

QUAN HAPA
1331 Vine St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Urban Asian fusion with a youthful, eclectic feel. Bold street-food dishes and stylish decor with hip-hop vibes. Go for the excellent ramen.

ECKERLIN MEATS
116 W Elder St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



New for
2026

Old-fashioned butcher shop that's been family owned and operated since 1852, and inside Findlay Market. Their kitchen serves up quality, cheap beef stew, meatball subs, pastrami melts and more.

TAGLIO
56 E 12th St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Casual, lively and trendy go-to for Detroit-style (and NY-style) pizza, beer, wine, and cocktails. Great for watching sports, too.

GOMEZ SALSA
107 E 12th St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



A casual, vibrant, fast-casual Mexican eatery that's a local favourite. Known for its inventive burritos, tacos, and bowls.

MIKEY'S LATE NIGHT SLICE
2014 Elm St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Editor's
Choice

A fun late-night pizza joint tucked inside Oddfellows Bar. Focused on whole pies or big slices, it's perfect for munchie-hunters drinking at Rhinegeist next door.



Try the 'turtle' burrito from Gomez Salsa - a burrito sized tortilla stuffed with all the goodies then sealed up with an extra cheesy, tostada shell.



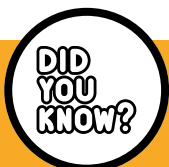
Sugar n' Spice



**1203 Sycamore Street,
Cincinnati, OH 45202**



A long-running Over-the-Rhine diner housed in a restored vintage railcar-style building, Sugar n' Spice is known for its nostalgic American breakfast and brunch menu - especially its "wispy thin" pancakes, oversized omelettes, and playful touches like the famous rubber duck you receive with your meal. But really, you need to visit here for Instagram-friendly, old-school decor and friendly atmosphere.

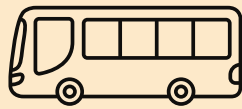


Owner Steven Frankel began handing out rubber ducks to children. It soon became a trend and now they give out nearly 1,000 ducks a week to customers of all ages.





20-minute walk from Downtown



Take the Southbank Shuttle from Downtown (\$2 each way)



10-minute taxi ride

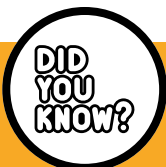
Covington



Nestled on the southern banks of the Ohio River, just across from Downtown Cincinnati, Covington offers a vibrant blend of historic charm and modern energy.

Though technically part of Kentucky, Covington is intrinsically tied to Cincinnati’s cultural and economic heartbeat, connected by a series of iconic bridges and a shared urban spirit. The city boasts beautifully preserved 19th-century architecture, lively streets lined with murals, and a growing reputation for its culinary scene, craft breweries, and eclectic boutiques.

MainStrasse Village, with its German heritage and cobble lanes, invites visitors to wander through a picturesque neighbourhood filled with gastropubs, art galleries, and quirky shops. The nearby Roebling Point district - named after the engineer of the famed suspension bridge - boasts riverside restaurants and views that rival any in the Midwest. Covington is also home to striking landmarks like the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption and the sweeping Devou Park, offering panoramic vistas of Cincinnati’s skyline.



The Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption boasts a massive landmark modeled after Notre-Dame in Paris and features one of the largest stained-glass windows in the world.



Covington bars

MAINSTRASSE VILLAGE PUB
619 Main St,
Covington,
KY 41011



A cosy, German-style community pub in historic MainStrasse village offering draught beers and a dive-bar feel.

DICE ON DRAFT
20 E 5th Street,
Covington,
KY 41011



New for 2026

Board-game-themed cocktail bar featuring more than 200 board games and craft beers.

WEST SIXTH COVINGTON HAUS
100 W 6th Street,
Covington,
KY 41011



New for 2026

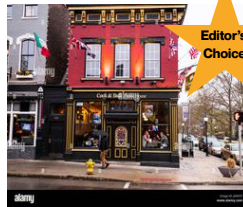
The West Sixth Brewery taproom in a historic firehouse. Second Story cocktail bar is upstairs.

JUNIPER'S GIN BAR
409 W 6th St,
Suite 100,
Covington,
KY 41011



A historic MainStrasse gin emporium with over 230 gins, tapas, and regular live jazz sessions.

COCK & BULL PUBLIC HOUSE
601 Main St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Editor's Choice

A beloved MainStrasse Village 'British' pub established in 1999, which comes with award-winning fish and chips and over 35 taps.

THE HANNAFORD
619 Madison Ave,
Covington,
KY 41011



A stylish, neighbourhood cocktail bar celebrated for its expertly crafted drinks and cool decor.

OLD KENTUCKY BOURBON BAR
629 Main Street,
Covington,
KY 41011



Editor's Choice

Featuring one of Northern Kentucky's largest whiskey collections, with hundreds of bourbons. Firepit outside for boozy chill time.

BRAXTON BREWING COMPANY
27 W 7th St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Craft brewery with a spacious ground-floor taproom, second-story loft, and one of the best rooftop bars in the area.

WENZEL DISTILLERY
412 Madison Ave
(entry via 15 Tobacco Alley),
Covington,
KY 41011



Covington's first bourbon distillery since Prohibition, housed in a beautifully renovated 1916 Packard auto-plant.

COVINGTON YARD
401 Greenup St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Editor's Choice

A vibrant outdoor beer-garden-style bar and food court set in a revamped gas-station-turned-yard, surrounded by shipping containers housing food vendors.

THE STANDARD
434 Main St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Editor's Choice

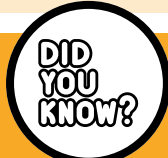
Bar and restaurant converted from a 1930s auto garage, offering a casual full-service menu, outdoor lawn games, and lively happy hours.

REVIVAL VINTAGE BOTTLE SHOP
614 Madison Ave,
Covington,
KY 41011



New for 2026

A unique bourbon and whiskey tasting bar specialising in rare and vintage spirits.



During Prohibition, infamous mobster George Remus lived in Covington and bought up massive amounts of bonded whiskey, effectively masterminding an empire of 'medicinal' pharmacies to legally move liquor.

Bourbon Trail



Walk over the Roebling Bridge and, believe it or not, you're in the state of Kentucky. And of course, mention Kentucky, and everyone immediately thinks of bourbon. In and around Covington, you will find distilleries and bourbon tours aplenty:

Kentucky Bourbon Trail (www.kybourbontrail.com)

The B Line (www.thebline.com)

Covington Distillery Guide

(comefindbourbon.com/covington-ky-bourbon-guide)



DID YOU KNOW?

Bourbon is king in Kentucky. The state currently holds more ageing bourbon barrels than citizens.



Covington restaurants

OTTO'S
521 Main St,
Covington,
KY 41011



A cosy MainStrasse bistro serving American and Southern-inspired fare. Famous for its fried green tomatoes and weekend brunch.

CARMELO'S
434 Madison Ave,
Covington,
KY 41011



Stunning Italian-American restaurant set in a reclaimed historic building, serving elevated homemade pastas and shareable starters.

MAMA'S ON MAIN
621 Main St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Neighbourhood Italian-American restaurant acclaimed for its house-made pastas and stunning, funky decor. Comes with heated rooftop for al fresco eating.

LIBBY'S SOUTHERN COMFORT
35 W 8th St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Comfort-food heaven in an industrial-chic space, dishing out fried chicken and goetta hush puppies with a modern twist.

KUNGFOD AMERASIA
521 Madison Ave,
Covington,
KY 41011



Fun Chinese-American spot renowned for its generous portions of classics like cashew chicken and Mongolian beef.

SMOKE JUSTIS BBQ
302 Court St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Super-popular urban sports-bar-style BBQ joint featuring smoked meats (like brisket), mac & cheese, and hushpuppies.

AGAVE & RYE
635 Madison Ave,
Covington,
KY 41011



An inventive taqueria serving amazing tacos. Try the spicy carne-asada Alderman and pair it with a bourbon-based cocktail.

WUNDERBAR GERMAN RESTAURANT
1132 Lee St,
Covington,
KY 41011



A hidden gem celebrating German heritage with hearty sausage platters all in a stein-filled, beer-garden setting.

ANCHOR GRILL
438 W Pike St,
Covington,
KY 41011



An old-school 24/7 cash-only diner known for hearty breakfast classics including the local goetta-and-cheese omelette.

HERB & THELMA'S TAVERN
718 Pike St,
Covington,
KY 41011



Homely, unpretentious and historic pub (83-years-old!) that serves outstanding, award-commended burgers.

THE GRUFF
129 E 2nd St,
Covington,
KY 41011

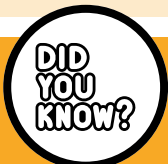


A vibrant pizzeria and deli located at the base of the Roebling Bridge, known for its brick-oven pizzas, creative toppings and craft beer.

CEDAR
701 Main St,
Covington,
KY 41011



An upscale comfort-food spot offering scratch-made breakfast, brunch, lunch, and craft cocktails in a bright, modern space.

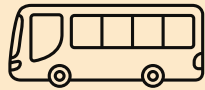


A peach truck does the rounds across the Northern Kentucky area in summer, selling fresh peaches to the community. If you're around in June or July, check out stops on thepeachtruck.com





10-minute taxi ride from Downtown



Take the Line 17 bus from Downtown



Can be edgy in certain areas. Take care at night

Clifton



Clifton is one of Cincinnati’s most distinctive and diverse neighbourhoods, blending historic charm, academic energy, and a laid-back, creative atmosphere. Centred around Ludlow Avenue, the district offers a walkable mix of international eateries, independent bookstores, vintage cinemas, and eclectic shops - all set against a backdrop of grand Victorian homes and tree-lined streets. It’s a place where college students, longtime residents, artists, and professionals live side by side, giving Clifton a dynamic, inclusive feel.

Home to the University of Cincinnati, the area is infused with youthful energy. The Clifton Gaslight District - so named for its original streetlamps - serves as the cultural and social heart of the neighbourhood, with its iconic Esquire Theatre and vibrant café scene drawing locals from across the city.

Clifton also offers easy access to some beautiful green spaces, including Burnet Woods and the sprawling Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.



Clifton is called the Gaslight District because of the historic, 19th-century gas street lamps that once illuminated its streets, and some of those charming gaslights still glow today.



University Of Cincinnati

**2600 Clifton Avenue,
Cincinnati, OH 45221**



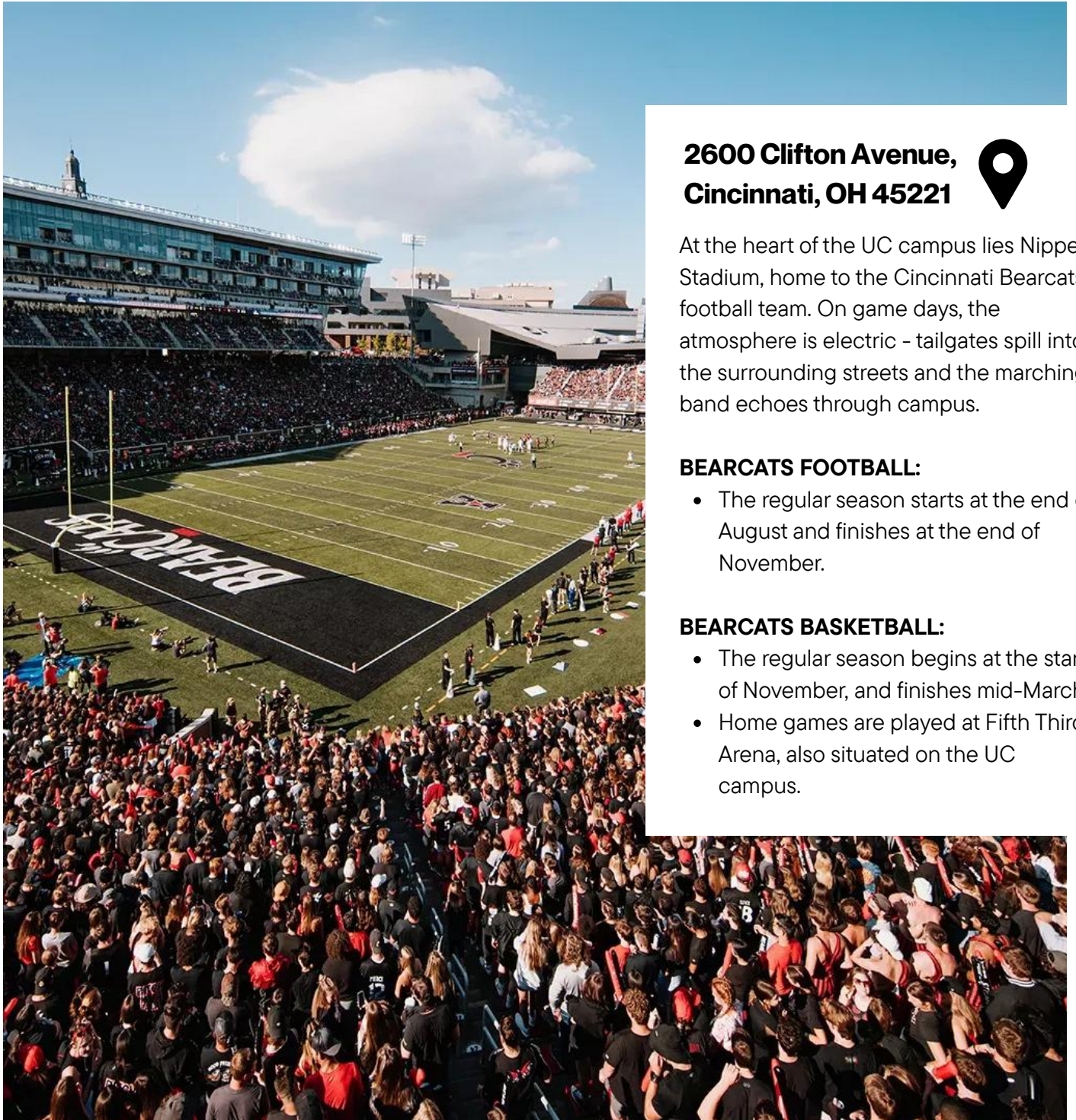
At the heart of the UC campus lies Nippert Stadium, home to the Cincinnati Bearcats football team. On game days, the atmosphere is electric - tailgates spill into the surrounding streets and the marching band echoes through campus.

BEARCATS FOOTBALL:

- The regular season starts at the end of August and finishes at the end of November.

BEARCATS BASKETBALL:

- The regular season begins at the start of November, and finishes mid-March.
- Home games are played at Fifth Third Arena, also situated on the UC campus.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Legendary quarterback Greg Cook and, more recently, Pro Bowl punter Kevin Huber, are the former Bengals on the Bearcats' Ring of Honour.



Cincinnati Zoo



**3400 Vine Street,
Cincinnati, OH 45220**



One of the oldest and most respected zoos in the United States, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is home to more than 1,800 animals from around the world. Renowned for its conservation work and beautifully landscaped gardens, it's a family-friendly attraction where visitors can see everything from elephants and gorillas to red pandas and rare birds, all within easy reach of Downtown Cincinnati. A great day out.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Harambe arrived at Cincinnati Zoo in 2014 as part of a breeding programme for the critically endangered western lowland gorilla. Sadly, his stay in Cincy ended tragically.



Clifton bars and restaurants

ARLIN'S
307 Ludlow Ave,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



A Clifton Gaslight staple since the 1890s, Arlin's features a laid-back atmosphere, pool tables, jukebox and 20+ taps.

FRIES CAFÉ
3247 Jefferson Ave,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



Nearly 100 years old, this legendary bar offers a large outdoor area with live music, cornhole, and craft beer.

MURPHY'S PUB
2329 West Clifton Ave, Cincinnati,
OH 45220



A UC student favourite since 1969, known for cheap pitchers, bar games, frequent free pizza and hot dogs.

GASLIGHT BAR & GRILL
351 Ludlow Ave,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



Housed in the old Clifton Branch Library, this bar and grill offers rooftop views, a charming historic atmosphere, and a diverse drinks menu.

THE LUDLOW GARAGE
342 Ludlow Ave,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



Revived in 2015, the basement venue hosts live music several nights a week, with an upstairs bar and restaurant in a refurbished concert-hall setting.

ALIVE & WELL
3410 Telford St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



A neighbourhood liquor bar and lounge tucked in the Gaslight District. Perfect for sipping quality cocktails

EL VAQUERO
2845 Short Vine St, Cincinnati,
OH 45219



A lively Mexican/Tex-Mex spot offering everything from quesabirria tacos and carne asada to enchiladas, fajitas, burritos, nachos, and more.

KIKI ON LUDLOW
358 Ludlow Ave,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



Voted by City Beat magazine as best Japanese in all of the Cincinnati area. Friendly service and tasty Japanese comfort food.

DEWEY'S PIZZA
265 Hosea Ave,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



Known for gourmet pizza with creative toppings. Recently voted Cincinnati's best pizza by the Cincinnati Enquirer.

BALADI RESTAURANT & BAKERY
3307 Clifton Ave,
Cincinnati,
OH 45220



Middle Eastern bakery and kitchen serving fresh flatbreads, shawarma wraps, hummus platters, and Syrian specialties.

MIO'S PIZZA
2634 Short Vine St
Cincinnati,
OH 45219



This affordable, family-run pizzeria has been serving Chicago-style, deep-dish pizzas since 1975.

MAKI EXPRESS
209 W McMillan St, Cincinnati,
OH 45219



A local gem that serves up quality, affordable ramen and Japanese rice dishes.



Bogart's on Short Vine Street hosts big-name alternative bands and performers like Jack White.





30-minute walk
from Downtown



10-minute
taxi ride

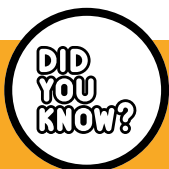
Mount Adams



Perched high above downtown Cincinnati, Mount Adams is a picturesque hilltop neighbourhood known for its artistic spirit, European feel, and panoramic views of the city and the Ohio River. Once a bohemian enclave for artists and intellectuals, this charming area has evolved into one of Cincinnati’s most distinctive and desirable places to explore. Its steep, winding streets are lined with colourful 19th-century homes, cosy cafes, and lively bars.

At the heart of Mount Adams is the stunning Cincinnati Art Museum, a cultural cornerstone nestled in scenic Eden Park. The park itself is a sprawling urban oasis, offering walking trails, a historic conservatory, and serene views that make it a favourite among locals and visitors alike. As day turns to night, Mount Adams comes alive with its celebrated nightlife - intimate bars, rooftop patios, and live music venues that produce plenty of energy.

Despite its proximity to the city centre, Mount Adams feels worlds away. Well worth a stroll up the hill.



The Cincinnati Art Museum in Eden Park showcases masterpieces from the likes of Van Gogh, Monet, Cézanne, Rubens and Matisse.



Mount Adams bars and restaurants

THE HILLTOP
950 Pavilion St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



This intimate, speakeasy-style bar is hidden behind a stone courtyard and features live acoustic music nightly.

MONK'S COVE
1104 St Gregory St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



A laid-back dive with Caribbean-inspired frozen cocktails, outdoor seating and daily happy hour.

NEXT CHAPTER BAR & GRILL
940 Pavilion St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Modern bar/grill with sleek interior, rooftop seating and live entertainment.

CROWLEY'S HIGHLAND HOUSE CAFÉ
958 Pavilion St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



A cosy, family-owned Irish pub since the 1930s known for cheap drinks, jukebox tunes, and a warm neighbourhood atmosphere.

HI-FI CINC
941 Pavilion St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



A stylish hybrid of cocktail bar and vinyl record lounge, with vinyl memorabilia and arcade games. Live bands, too.

CITY VIEW TAVERN
403 Oregon St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Unassuming tavern offering burgers, cold beer, and perhaps the best skyline views in Mount Adams.

LUCA BISTRO
934 Hatch St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



A refined yet cosy bistro featuring fresh, seasonal ingredients and a warm, inviting atmosphere.

EL BARRIL MEXICAN SPORTS BAR & GRILL
940 Pavilion St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Lively Mexican-American menu with tacos, margaritas, pizza and burgers.

YOUR MOM'S PIZZERIA
1045 Saint Gregory St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202



Local favourite for thin-crust pizzas, wings, and casual atmosphere.

BOWTIE CAFÉ
1101 Saint Gregory St,
Cincinnati,
OH 45202

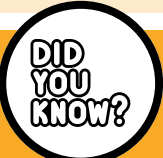


All-day café serving breakfast, lunch, Intelligentsia coffee, cocktails, and light bistro fare.

MOUNT ADAMS BAR & GRILL
938 Hatch St, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Known for its casual, welcoming atmosphere and historic saloon feel, this neighbourhood staple offers solid pub food, great beer, and a friendly crowd. It's a local favourite that's been around for over 40 years, serving sandwiches and heartier family favourites. Legendary but tragic former Bengals quarterback - the late, great Greg Cook - dined here daily during his later years in the same booth at the front of the pub. It's well worth a visit for the food, warm welcome... and to immerse yourself in Bengals folklore.

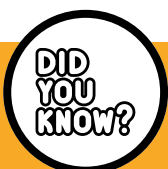


Greg Cook was thought by many to be the next great superstar quarterback of the NFL, but a torn rotator cuff against the Chiefs in 1969 cut short his career... three games into his rookie season. He never truly recovered.



Top 10s

activities
breweries
breakfast joints
sports bars
dive bars
cheap eats

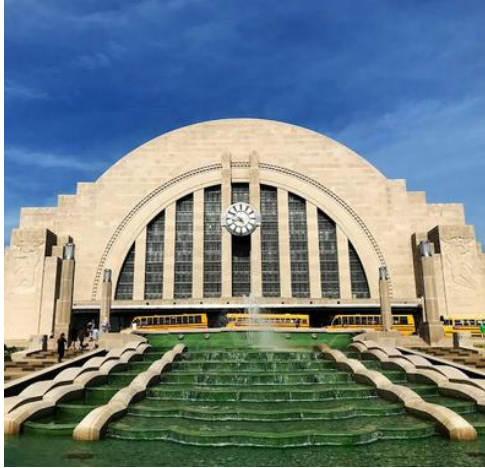


The Roebling Suspension Bridge was the prototype for the Brooklyn Bridge. Designed by John A. Roebling, the Cincinnati bridge opened in 1867 and was the longest suspension bridge in the world at the time.



Top 10 activities

Cincinnati offers a wide range of activities - there's something for everyone!



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden 3400 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45220

Explore 75+ acres and hundreds of animals.

Prices: Adult around \$27, child \$21. Cheaper online.

Great American Ball Park (Cincinnati Reds Game/Tour) 100 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Prices: Game tickets start around \$9-\$273; ballpark tours begin at approximately \$30 for adults.

Queen City Underground Tour

Old Over-the-Rhine district (check bookings for exact spot)

A two-and-a-half-hour local history tour of Prohibition-era tunnels.

Prices: Roughly \$45 per adult.

Cincinnati Art Museum

953 Eden Park, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Classical and modern art from all the superstar artists and more.

Prices: Free general admission (special exhibits sometimes incur fees).

Contemporary Arts Centre

44 E 6th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Price: Admission is \$12 for adults, free for those 18.

American Sign Museum

1330 Monmouth Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Fantastic Vintage sign displays.

Prices: Adults \$20, children under 12. Well worth a trip.

Cincinnati Observatory

3489 Observatory Pl, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Historic telescope viewings and classes.

Prices: Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for under 18s.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Centre

50 E Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Powerful museum on slavery and freedom.

Prices: Admission approx. \$16.50 for adults, \$11.50 for kids.

Kings Island Amusement Park

6300 Kings Island Dr, Mason, OH (24 miles north)

One of the Midwest's largest parks, but 25 miles outside of the city.

Prices: Full-day ticket deals usually start around \$40-\$60

Cincinnati Union Terminal

1301 Western Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45203

An Art Deco masterpiece and former train station now housing museums, theatres, and the Cincinnati History Museum.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cincinnati Union Terminal featured in the 1995 movie *Batman Forever*, as well as 2025's *Superman*.



Top 10 breweries

Cincinnati boasts a vibrant craft beer scene rooted in its 19th-century German history.



Rhinegeist Brewery

1910 Elm St, Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Iconic 25,000 sqft taproom in a historic bottling plant. A real must-visit.

MadTree Brewing Company

3301 Madison Rd, Oakley, Cincinnati, OH 45209

Innovative and crowd-favourite craft beers, plus wood-fired pizza.

Northern Row Brewery & Distillery

111 W McMicken Ave, Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Fantastic brewery/distillery in OTR (in a retrofitted factory) that has a brilliant, vintage feel. Known for beers, small spirits and good vibes. A must-visit.

Fifty West Brewing Company

7605 Wooster Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45227

Brewpub serving classic Americana comfort food alongside house-brewed beers.

Cincinnati Lager House

115 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

On The Banks, a nod to Cincinnati's German brewing legacy.

Brink Brewing Company

5905 Hamilton Ave, College Hill, Cincinnati, OH 45224

Award-winning local brewery, recently recognised at the Great American Beer Festival.

Mellotone Beer Project

New for 2026

1429 Race Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

A multi-level OTR brewpub set inside a restored historic building, serving house-brewed beers.

Urban Artifact

1660 Blue Rock St, Cincinnati, OH 45223

The taproom occupies the lower level of the former St. Patrick's Church, creating a unique and atmospheric drinking experience.

West Sixth Covington Haus

New for 2026

100 W 6th St, Covington, KY 41011

The newest taproom in the heart of Covington.

Knox Joseph Distillery at the OTR StillHouse

2017 Branch St, Cincinnati, OH 45214

A unique female-owned distillery, brewery, and live music venue in OTR, crafting small-batch spirits and beers on-site. Huge beer garden.



If you visit Rhinegeist and need food, pop next door into Mikey's Late Night Slice and take your pizza back with you. (NB. Part of Oddfellow's Bar, the pizza shop's future is currently under threat.)



Top 10 sports bars

There are plenty of options to watch English Premier League action in Cincinnati



The Pitch Cincy

1430 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Soccer-themed bar opposite FC Cincinnati's TQL Stadium, with a stadium-view rooftop and massive video wall. A must-visit.

Rhinehaus

119 E 12th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Known as the original OTR soccer bar, equipped with 14 TVs and a projector, and home to multiple EPL supporter groups.

Molly Malone's Irish Pub (Covington, KY)

112 E 4th St, Covington, KY 41011

Irish pub that consistently shows EPL and Bundesliga games across all floors.

Taste of Belgium

16 West Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Belgian-style brunch spot famed for its Liege waffles and savoury brunch classics.

Knockback Nats

10 W 7th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Central downtown sports bar with a friendly local vibe and plenty of screens for EPL action.

Murphy's Pub

2329 W Clifton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45219

Beloved neighbourhood pub with darts, pool tables, patios, and screened soccer games, including EPL games.

The Holy Grail

161 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

A Bank's favourite only steps from Great American Ball Park with numerous TVs, pub food, and lively atmos. A must-visit on game days.

Hap's Irish Pub

3510 Erie Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Cosy Irish pub that shows live soccer matches, complete with a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

BetMGM Sportsbook at The Banks

175 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

A state-of-the-art retail sportsbook across from GABP featuring a 350sqft video wall and 42 TVs.

Cincinnati Lager House

115 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Big, airy and perfect for game days.

DID YOU KNOW?

BetMGM Sportsbook and Tom's Watch Party is where the popular Growler podcast host their live shows. But one word of warning: you need your passport to enter. Betting rules, innit.

Top 10 breakfast joints

Fluffy pancakes, diner home fries, sausage and biscuits... you'll find it all. Come. On!



Sugar 'n Spice Diner

1203 Sycamore St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Classic retro American diner since 1941, famous for fluffy pancakes and all-day breakfast. An absolute must-visit.

Maplewood Kitchen & Bar

525 Race St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Upscale breakfast and brunch with seasonal, locally sourced dishes in a sleek Downtown setting. Great breakfast/brunch option.

Sleepy Bee Café

8 E 4th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Farm-to-table café known for hearty pancakes and goetta.

Taste of Belgium

16 West Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Belgian-style brunch spot famed for its Liege waffles.

HangOver Easy

13 W Charlton St, Cincinnati, OH 45219,

Trendy brunch destination with inventive twists on brekkie staples (breakfast tacos, anyone?)

Dunlap Cafe

New for 2026

1926 Dunlap St, Cincinnati, OH 45214

Established in 1936, this local cafe serves home-cooked comfort food and all-day breakfasts.

Sacred Beast Diner

1437 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Contemporary French-American twist diner known for lemon ricotta pancakes and creative brunch fare.

Cedar

701 Main St, Covington, KY 41011

Upscale comfort-food spot offering scratch-made breakfast, brunch, lunch.

Anchor Grill

438 W Pike St, Covington, KY 41011

Unassuming American diner serving familiar breakfast favourites till late in throwback surroundings.

Biscuit Love

1602 Pleasant St, Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, OH 45202

A Nashville-born brunch hotspot now open in OTR, serving scratch-made southern-style biscuits, bonuts (!), grits bowls, and hearty breakfast classics.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sacred Beast Diner recently was featured on the Food Network's hit show *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*.



Top 10 dive bars

Perfect for an unpretentious, fun night with cheap drinks and good people. Cheers!



O'Malley's In The Alley

125 W Ogden Place, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Classic downtown dive bar known for strong pours, a lively crowd, and late-night fun. Bengals UK's home from home.

Knockback Nats

10 W 7th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Popular Downtown dive bar with plenty of screens and affordable drinks. Oh, and the best wings in the city.

Madonna's Bar & Grill

11 E 7th St, Cincinnati, OH 45203

Welcoming OTR dive bar offering a casual atmosphere, pool tables, and craft beer.

Arnold's Bar & Grill

210 E 8th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Cincinnati's oldest bar, serving cheap drinks in a historic, no-frills setting since 1861.

Uncle Leo's Bar

New for 2026

1709 Race St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Cosy OTR dive with a friendly crowd, cheap drinks, and a classic jukebox.

The Blind Lemon

936 Hatch St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Whimsical bar, named after bluesman Blind Lemon Jefferson, with live music and lots of cocktails.

Binksi's Bar

2872 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Cool, lively dive bar with events and raffles.

Kitty's Sports Bar

218 W 3rd St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Bengals-centric hangout featuring American grub, beers and multiple TVs in a festive atmosphere.

Holiday Spirits

1538 Race St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Laid-back place with friendly staff. Look out for their incredible Middle Eastern street food.

Liberty's Bar & Bottle Shop

1427 Main St, Cincinnati, OH 45202, United States

Large selection of beer and wine at great prices.



Calé is a different sort of dining experience. One table, 24 spots, and a lot of buzz - Calé is a monthly 'experience'. Go to their IG page to see if your trip corresponds with one of their nights..



Top 10 cheap eats

Craving great food without breaking the bank? There are lots of options



Skyline/GoldStar Chili

Multiple locations (eg, Fountain Square, Cincinnati, OH 45202)

Cincy's iconic chilli brands are known for their chilli spaghetti bowls and coneys.

Pata Roja

New for 2026

52 E Court St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Authentic Mexican street food, like tacos al pastor and loaded tortas.

The Eagle

1342 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Casual spot specialising in fried chicken and Southern comfort sides at reasonable prices.

Kroger On The Rhine

New for 2026

100 E Court St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Large and well-stocked supermarket that stocks fresh sandwiches, deli treats, sushi, salads, desserts, and there's even a food hall upstairs.

Riverside Food Trucks

Various locations, Smale Park

A variety of local food trucks offering everything from tacos to BBQ in a fun outdoor setting.

Eckerlin Meats

New for 2026

116 W Elder St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Inside Findlay Market, this long-standing butchers (since 1852) also serves up hearty dishes at super-affordable prices.

White Castle

596 W 3rd St, Covington, KY 41011

Popular Fast-food chain serving signature beef, chicken and fish sliders,

Jimmy John's

New for 2026

Various locations

'Freaky fast' delivery and fresh-baked French bread subs, all anointed with its signature 'spicy water' (leftover pickle brine).

Dunlap Cafe

New for 2026

1926 Dunlap St, Cincinnati, OH 45214

Established in 1936, the Dunlap Cafe is the longest-running establishment in OTR. Might not look like much - and off the beaten track a touch - but reviews are very good.

Bakersfield OTR

1213 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

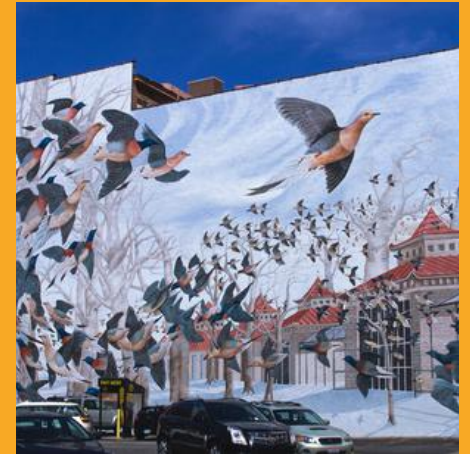
A lively taqueria and tequila bar serving delicious, affordable tacos and street-style Mexican dishes.



Cincinnati Toy Heritage,
West Court Street



Fresh Harvest, Vine Street



Martha The Last Passenger
Pigeon, E. Eighth St

The street art of Cincinnati

Cincinnati is known for its vibrant and diverse mural scene, which has grown significantly over the past couple of decades. Local initiatives, art festivals, and partnerships between artists, businesses, and the city have transformed Cincinnati's walls into colourful canvases that celebrate culture, history, and identity. See if you can spot some of them as you travel around the city!



Mr Tarbell Tips His Hat, Vine Street



Elizabeth Nourse, 8th Street &
Walnut Street



Armstrong, 511 Walnut Street,
Cincinnati , OH 45202



ArtWorks Cincinnati, a local non-profit organisation, has hired and mentored thousands of local youth and professional artists to paint the city since 1996.



Who was Charley Harper?



Charley Harper (1922–2007) was a beloved American modernist artist best known for his bold, geometric depictions of wildlife and nature. Born in West Virginia, he studied at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, where he later became a teacher, and spent most of his life in the Cincinnati area. Harper developed a signature style he called 'minimal realism', capturing the essence of animals and ecosystems with clean lines, vibrant colours, and striking simplicity.

Rather than focusing on realistic detail, Harper distilled subjects down to shapes, patterns, and movement - an approach that made his work instantly recognisable. His illustrations appeared in major publications such as *Ford Times*, *The New York Times*, and on posters for the National Park Service and Cincinnati's own Cincinnati Zoo.

Harper's influence on Cincinnati is both cultural and institutional. His work is deeply tied to the city's identity, with pieces displayed at the Cincinnati Nature Centre, the Contemporary Arts Centre, and various public spaces. The Charley Harper Art Studio continues to operate in Cincinnati, preserving his legacy and making his work accessible to new generations.



DID YOU KNOW?

Other famous people from Cincinnati include Steven Spielberg, George Clooney, Sarah Jessica Parker, Doris Day, Carmen Elektra, The Isley Brothers, Jerry Rubin, and The National.



The legend of Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse

Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse is more than just a top-tier dining spot, it's a Cincinnati culinary institution with a rich history.

Founded by Jeff Ruby, a visionary restaurateur who started his empire with a passion for exceptional food and hospitality, the steakhouse quickly became synonymous with luxury dining in the region. Opening its doors in 1992, Jeff Ruby's set new standards for steak and seafood with its lavish décor, theatrical service, and commitment to sourcing only the finest USDA Prime beef.

Over the decades, it has earned a devoted following for blending classic elegance with a vibrant, contemporary dining experience.

The restaurant's Bengals-themed dishes include the Cajun-spiced Steak Burrow, Money Mac & Cheese, Steak Collinsworth, and a Coach Taylor carrot cake dessert.

Expect to pay around \$60–\$100 per person for a full dinner experience, and you have to dress smartly, too - think of the whole experience as a real treat and a posh dress-up night.



Other great steaks Downtown

Ruth's Chris | E. Freedom Way

Losanti | 1401 Race Street

Butcher and Barrel |

700 Race Street

Prime Cincinnati |

580 Walnut Street

Butcher and Barrel |

700 Race Street

McCormick & Schmick's |

21 E 5th Street

DID YOU KNOW?

After moving to Cincinnati to manage a Holiday Inn, Ruby's showmanship caught the eye of local sports legends. With the direct financial backing of Cincinnati Reds icons Pete Rose and Johnny Bench, Ruby opened his very first restaurant, The Precinct, in 1981.

Cincinnati chili

Skyline and GoldStar, Various locations



Cincinnati chili is a unique regional dish that surprises many first-timers, especially those from the UK. Unlike the thick, spicy beef stew commonly known as chilli con carne we in the UK eat, Cincinnati chili is a thinner, finely minced-meat sauce seasoned with warm spices like cinnamon, cloves, and sometimes chocolate, giving it a sweet-and-savoury flavour more reminiscent of a Mediterranean meat sauce than a fiery Tex-Mex bowl. Oh, and Cincinnati eat it with spaghetti, not rice like we do.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can have your Cincinnati chili different ways: 3-Way: the baseline classic; 4-Way: with onions; 4-Way: with beans; 5-Way: the ultimate combo that includes spaghetti, chili, onions, beans, and cheese piled high.

Graeters ice cream

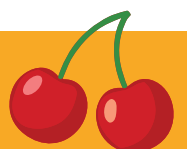
Various locations

Graeter's is a Cincinnati institution, renowned for its rich, indulgent ice cream made using a 150-year-old French Pot process. This small-batch technique (where just two gallons are churned at a time) creates an exceptionally creamy texture and allows for the generous incorporation of mix-ins. Flavours like Black Raspberry Chocolate Chip have become iconic, with locals and visitors alike seeking them out as a must-try treat.

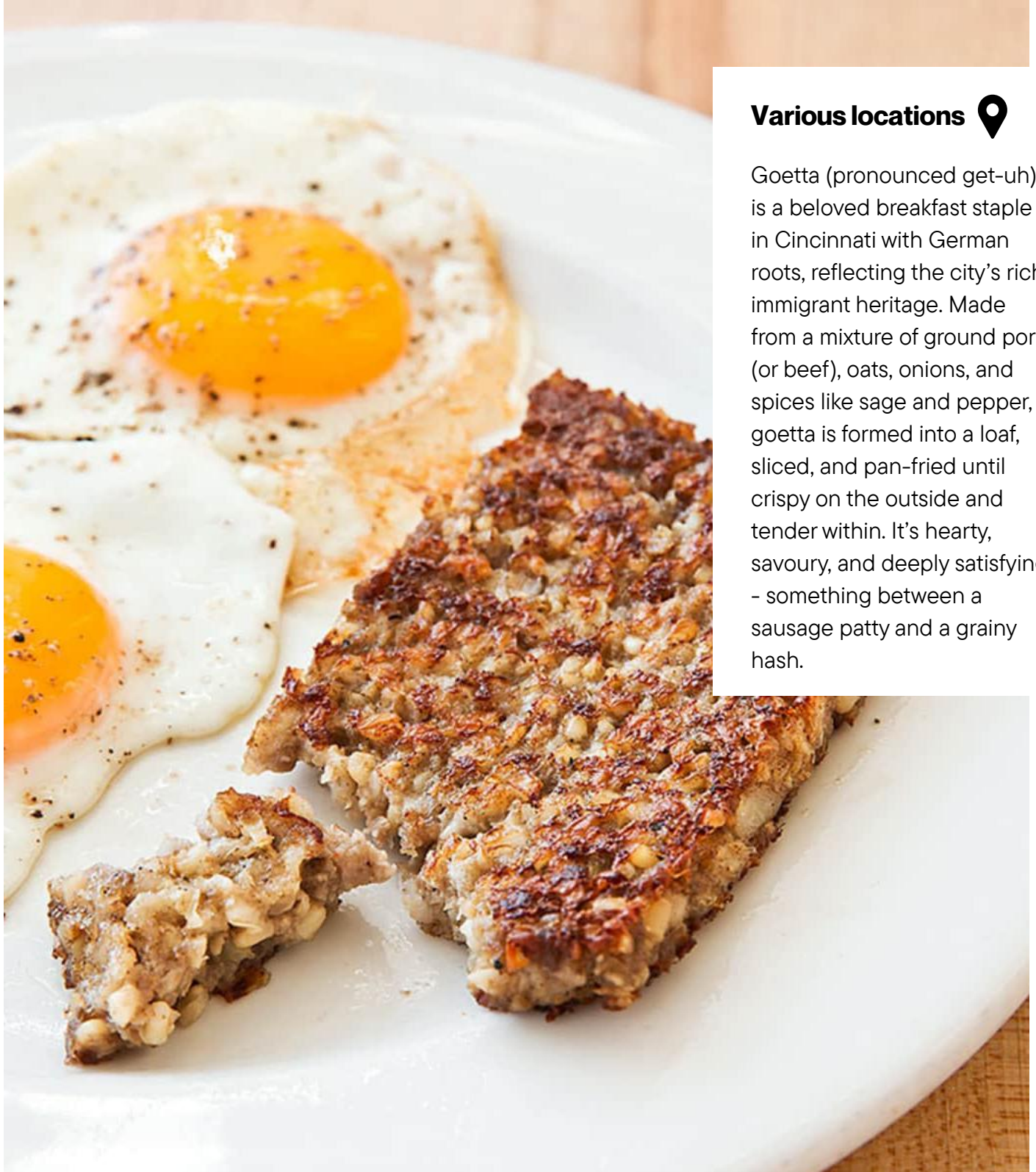


DID YOU KNOW?

Located 45 miles away from Cincinnati, Schmidt Bakery produces Cherry Thing-a-Lings - a cherry fritter-cum-pastry - only once a year for five days over Presidents' Day weekend in February. A huge local favourite.

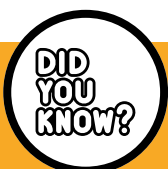


Goetta



Various locations

Goetta (pronounced get-uh) is a beloved breakfast staple in Cincinnati with German roots, reflecting the city's rich immigrant heritage. Made from a mixture of ground pork (or beef), oats, onions, and spices like sage and pepper, goetta is formed into a loaf, sliced, and pan-fried until crispy on the outside and tender within. It's hearty, savoury, and deeply satisfying - something between a sausage patty and a grainy hash.



Working-class German immigrants in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighbourhood added inexpensive whole grain oats to expensive leftover meats to stretch their weekly budget. Goetta was born.



Cincinnati pizza



Various locations

LaRosa's (from Cincinnati) is known for its sweet sauce and traditional crust, while Donatos (from Columbus but now the Bengals' official pizza) is famous for its thin crust and edge-to-edge toppings. Which one is "better" depends on individual preference for sauce, crust, and toppings.

LaRosa's:

- Sweet sauce.
- Traditional crust.
- Toppings. Not overloaded.

Donatos:

- Thin crust.
- Edge-to-edge toppings.
- Variety: Donatos offers a wide array of toppings and crust options.



In 1930, Angelo Grippo - founder of beloved Cincinnati crisp brand Grippo's - revolutionised the pretzel industry by inventing and patenting the 'loop pretzel' to make them more resistant to breaking during shipping.



Cincinnati BBQ

Various locations

While it's not as famous as Kansas City or Memphis, Cincinnati holds its own with a growing number of top-notch BBQ joints.

Bee's BBQ | 1403 Vine Street

Alabama Que | 2733 Short Vine Street

Smoke Justis BBQ | 302 Court Street, Covington

Eli's BBQ | 133 W Elder St

Montgomery Inn | 925 Riverside Drive

Midwest Best BBQ | 669 Justice Ct, Loveland (Just outside Cincinnati)

Lucius Q | 1131 Broadway St

Just Q'in Restaurant | 975 East Mcmillan St



Go to Avril Bleh Meat Market & Deli for the best smash burger in the city. The address is 37 East Court Street, Wed/Fri, 11am-2pm and they serve until they're all sold out.



Where do the locals go?

MO EGGAR, ESPN 1530

My favourite bar in OTR is **The Lackman**. It's a neighbourhood bar that's very inviting to outsiders... no food, but right in the middle of a ton of restaurants.

My favourite Downtown restaurants? You have to visit a **Skyline** when you come to Cincinnati. They've just opened a flagship store on Fountain Square, which offers unique Skyline options, like pizza (as well as chili). **Losanti** is an Italian steakhouse, which serves great steaks and unbelievable pastas. Nice little outdoor dining area, too. **Pepp and Delores** is a terrific Italian place with a casual vibe. And then there's **Scotti's** Italian: This place has been around since the 1910s - it's like walking into the 1940s!

MO'S TOP TIPS: Locals make fun of the streetcar, but it's actually excellent for navigating Downtown and OTR. Cincinnati is mostly a safe and friendly city, but avoid walking alone Downtown and in OTR at night. Our Uber and Lyft rides are plentiful.

Check the concert schedule at Riverbend, the Megacorp Pavilion, Taft Theatre, Brady Music Center and Heritage Bank Center for larger concerts. My favorite bar to listen to live music from local bands is the Mansion Hill Tavern.



WHO BAE AND BENGALS CAPTAIN
BENGALS SUPERFAN LEGENDS

e+o Kitchen has an excellent Asian-fusion menu, with inventive dishes including sushi rolls, poke bowls, wood-fired entrees, and even burgers.

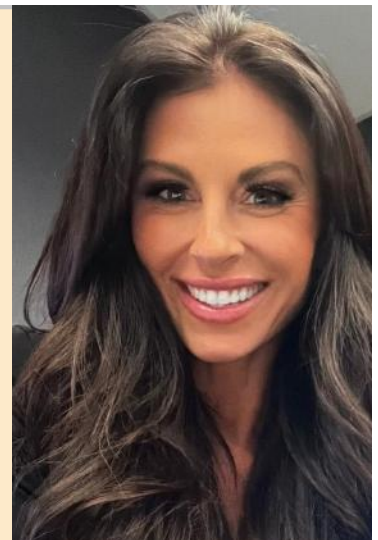
The crispy Brussels sprouts and kale salad is a favourite of Bengals fans and coaches alike.

Who Bae's favourite entree is the sea bass and Captain's favourite is the sticky burger. If you've never tried peanut butter on a wagyu burger you don't know what you're missing! With options for every palate, **e+o Kitchen** is a fun place to get together with friends to celebrate a Bengals win.

And if the Bengals win, it gets pretty lively and fun!

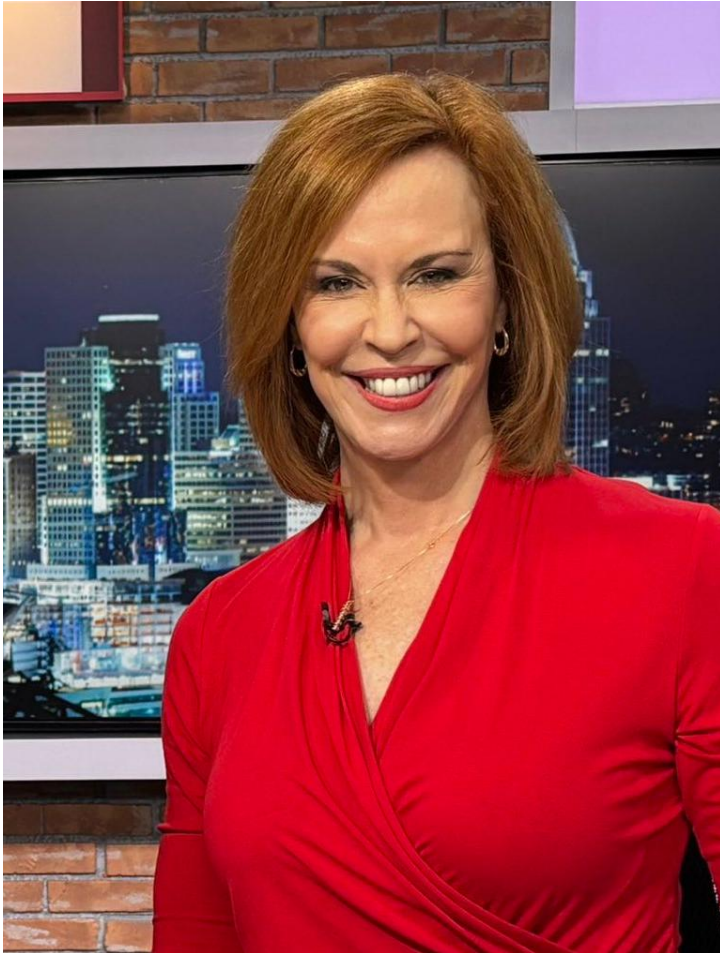
My favorite spot for a drink before and after any Reds/Bengals/Cyclones game, is at **The Holy Grail**.

The spot is in a prime location (right across from Great American Ball Park), the service is quick, the food is delicious, patio seating is available, there are plenty of big screen TVs, and at night, a DJ takes over and it's a prime spot for dancing!



SARA ELYSE
HOST OF THE MORNING
SHOW, WEBN RADIO

SHEILA GRAY
WKRC-TV GOOD MORNING
CINCINNATI ANCHOR



When it comes to restaurants my favourites Downtown are the **Court Street Kitchen**. Get the Branzino! It's one of a kind in town. They also serve olive oil cake, which is made by the owner Brahim's sister.

In Over-the-Rhine I like **Sacred Beast**, which is perfect for brunch, and it has recently received some national recognition, too, recently!

I should mention Covington, too. There are great Italian restaurants - **Carmelo's** on Madison Ave and **Mama Mia's** on Main St in the Mainstrasse neighbourhood. I love doing a restaurant and pub crawl in Mainstrasse - you can get good food and drink at several places.

SHEILA'S TOP TIPS: Don't be afraid to check out Kentucky. It's right across the river, and you get a fantastic view of the city. The TANK shuttle bus makes a circuit through Cincinnati, Newport, and Covington, so it's worth checking out.

If you don't mind going on a short road trip, Augusta Distilling has some fun bourbon experiences, some bottles you CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE, and the Beehive Augusta Tavern nearby is a fantastic place for a drink or a bite with an Ohio River view.



Over-The-Rhine and Covington are the places to focus on - there are just so MANY GREAT PLACES!

In Covington, which is now as popular, if not more so than OTR, I really like **Libby's** (southern food), **Cedar** (great breakfast brunch), **Hannaford** is a great bar, and **Revival Vintage Bourbon** - wow! On the second floor, some bourbons are 100 years old! **Braxton Brewery**, **Kung Food Amerasia** (a cool little Chinese restaurant), and **Wenzel**, the first bourbon distillery in over 100 years in Covington. **Smoke Justis** is great for BBQ, and **Covington Yard** is a great spot with lots going on. There's more, but those are great starting points.

In OTR, I think **Pins Mechanical Co.** is always fun - they have a GREAT selection of beer, duck pin bowling, pinball and video games. They also have a rooftop bar... it's such a FUN PLACE. And then **Goodfellas/Wise Guys**: great New York thin-crust pizza on the ground floor but then upstairs they have the city's best mixology and bourbon bar on the second floor! For brunch, I love to go to **Sacred Beast** (the best!), **Alcove** and the black-owned **Soul Secrets**.



BENGAL JIM FOSTER
TAILGATE ROYALTY

My favourite bar in OTR? **Rhinegeist**. It's a big space, with great beers, activities, and a great rooftop deck, perfect for groups. The only negative is a lack of food, but it's close to Findlay Market, so you can feast there before or after. (Editor: Order a pizza from Mikey's Late Night Slice next door and bring it in with you.) Rhinegeist is right off the streetcar line if you are staying Downtown.

My favourite bar outside of OTR is **MadTree Brewery** in Oakley. An awesome indoor/outdoor space.

Favourite restaurants in OTR? **Nicola's** and **Via Vite**. Both Italian. Nicola's has the best food, but you can't beat the Fountain Square view at Via Vite. Elsewhere, I like **Bakersfield Tacos** and **Crown Republic**.

I also have to mention **The Precinct** - Jeff Ruby's original fine dining restaurant. It's a special occasion steakhouse staple.

DAN'S TOP TIPS: The walking beer tour is fun. It starts at Findlay Market and explores Cincinnati's history as a major hub of brewing in the 19th and early 20th centuries, including hidden underground cellars. If you're a baseball fan, the Reds Hall of Fame is excellent. One of the best museums in the country devoted to a single team.

Check out our great sports venues. Depending on when you're visiting, Bengals games at Paycor Stadium, Reds games at Great American Ball Park, FC Cincinnati at TQL Stadium, college football at Nippert Stadium, UC basketball at Fifth Third Arena, Xavier basketball at Cintas... we're blessed with great teams and fun/affordable places to watch them.

DAN HOARD AWARD-WINNING BENGALS AND BEARCATS RADIO ANNOUNCER



**JEFF TRENNEPOHL
AKA STRAWBERRY ICE,
BENGALS PODCASTER**

My favourite place to go to in the city is the **Cincinnati Lager House**. It's right there on The Banks in between both stadiums, and has delicious beer, delicious food and a great view of our city. It also has the original first base spot from Riverfront Stadium - it's marked in the restaurant, so that's pretty cool. You can also stand where Pete Rose stood when he hit 4,192 hits. It's a great game day experience for Bengals games, too.



Game day at Paycor Stadium



Game day at Paycor Stadium is electric from the moment you arrive.

Start by tailgating around the stadium with Bengals fans - check out the likes of Bengal Jim's Before The Roar and The Bomb Squad, and down at The Banks. Inside, soak in skyline views, and enjoy DJ Prymtime's tunes.

You're allowed to take in:

- One clear bag (plastic, vinyl, or PVC) no larger than 12" x 6" x 12", including clear backpacks, cinch packs.
- Sealed bottled water and snacks that fit in your clear bag.
- One-gallon clear freezer bag or a small clutch purse.
- Small cameras (non-commercial use).

You're not allowed to take in:

- All non-clear bags, including backpacks, diaper/purse bags, and camera totes.
- Alcohol, soda, open beverages, coolers, and food (unless medically necessary).
- Recording equipment, video cameras, and professional lenses.
- Noisemakers, strollers, umbrellas, selfie-sticks, poles, weapons, drones, smoking/vaping devices.



DID YOU KNOW?

There was an earlier football team in Cincinnati called the Cincinnati Bengals that played in the 1930s and '40s. That team was owned by Hal Pennington, and at one point it was sponsored by a local oven manufacturing company called the Crosley Corporation.

Bengals merchandise



Various locations

It's the ultimate way to express your fandom - wearing a jersey, shirt or hat. Visiting merch stores is often the first thing fans do when they hit the city.

BENGALS PRO SHOP

1 Paycor Stadium, Cincinnati, OH 45202

KOCH'S SPORTING GOODS

131 W 4th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

I LOVE CINCINNATI

441 Vine St Second Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45202



Tailgating guide

Tailgates are so different to what we're used to when it comes to pre-match activities, it's not unusual for Brits to feel overwhelmed or even confused at how to conduct themselves!

It's best to think of tailgating as one giant pre-match festival in the stadium car parks. Fans gather hours before kick-off to cook food, play games, listen to music and chat football. It's one of the most memorable parts of the NFL experience and, unlike many sporting events in Britain, supporters of both teams generally mix together in a friendly atmosphere.

Here are our top tips to get the most out of this unique experience:

Arrive early. Aim to get there at least three or four hours before kick-off. Tailgating is an event in itself.

Be sociable. Americans are often delighted to meet traveling NFL fans, especially those who've made the journey from the UK. A friendly conversation can easily lead to an invitation to sample some authentic tailgate barbecue.



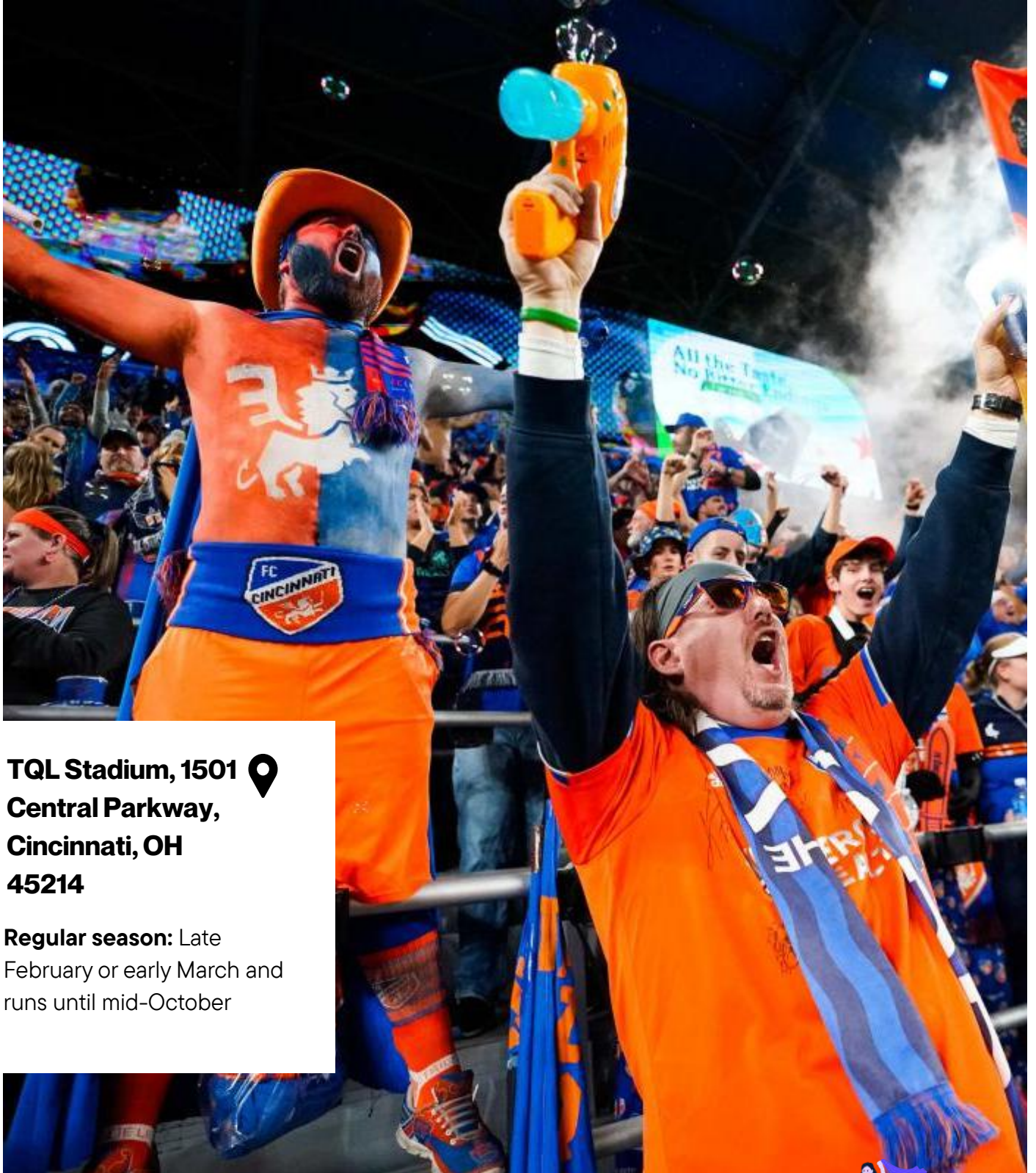
Be prepared for large... and small. Bengals Jim's Before The Roar tailgate is more like a festival and attracts hundreds of tailgaters. Others will be a family with a portable barbecue out of the back of their car with beers in the cooler. Experience it all!


Do you just take food and beer? Some of the bigger tailgates like the Bengals Bomb Squad actively encourage you to get stuck into free food and beer. Some ask for donations, but the general rule is

ask before you take. Many American tailgaters are incredibly welcoming, particularly if they discover you've travelled from the UK, and it's not uncommon for fans to invite visitors over for a burger or offer them a beer. If someone says, "Help yourself," they genuinely mean it.

Leave your British politeness at the hotel. Talk to people, say hello and you might just make a new friend for life!

FC Cincinnati



TQL Stadium, 1501 
Central Parkway,
Cincinnati, OH
45214

Regular season: Late
February or early March and
runs until mid-October




Take part in the famous FCC fan march to TQL Stadium. Gather in Washington Park in OTR for family fun, giveaways, street food and beer, and then join the march to the stadium.



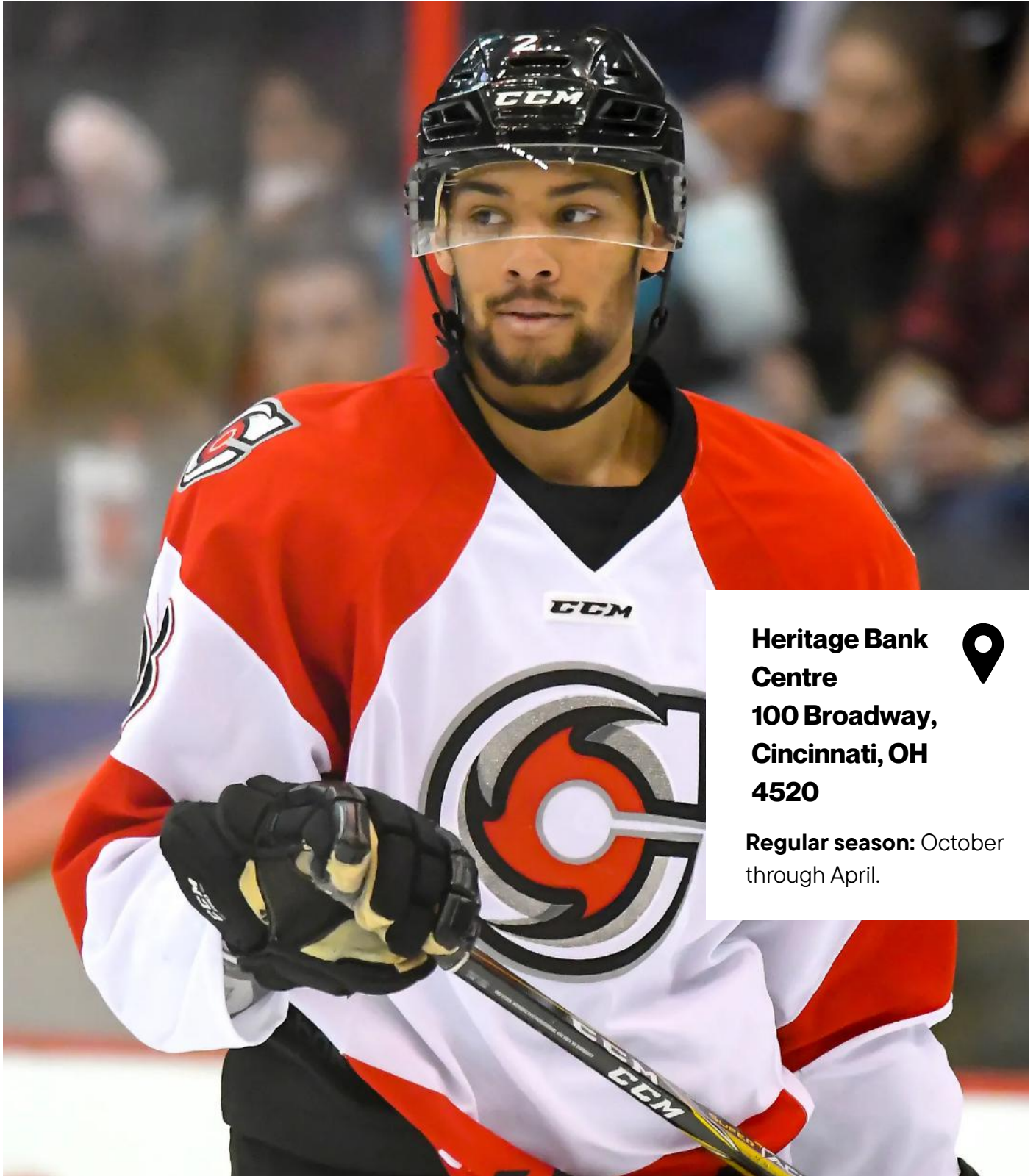
Xavier basketball



Cintas Centre 
**1624 Musketeer
Drive, Cincinnati,
OH 45207**

Regular season: The beginning of November and finishes mid-March.

Cincinnati Cyclones



**Heritage Bank
Centre**
100 Broadway,
Cincinnati, OH
4520



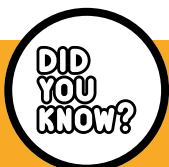
Regular season: October
through April.

High-school football



Various locations

Regular season: Mid-August. Check Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) for teams (including Moeller, pictured) and Friday Night Lights fixtures.



Past NFL layers who have attended Cincinnati high schools include... Sam Hubbard (Moeller), Luke Kuechly (St Xavier), Roger Staubach (Purcell), and on the current Bengals roster, Erik All (Fairfield)

Sample itinerary

You've read our guide and hopefully been given plenty of ideas on how to spend your time in Cincinnati. How about putting it all together into a sample, three-night Bengals-themed weekend?

Words: Chris Roberts

FRIDAY

Fly into CVG and then check into your accommodation. Then it's time for a drink.



OPTIONS:

- O'Malley's In The Alley
- Knockback Nats for wings
- The Holy Grail and The Banks



SATURDAY

2

AM: Go for breakfast

OPTIONS:

- Sugar n' Spice
- Sleepy Bee Cafe
- Maplewood
- Sacred Beast

- Covington bourbon trail
- Cincinnati walking tour

EVENING: Go for dinner and a pub crawl in Covington.



OPTIONS:

Check out the Bengals merch stores:

OPTIONS:

- Bengals Pro Shop
- Koch Sports

- Smoke Justis for BBQ
- KungFood Amerasia
- Mama's On Main
- Agave & Rye
- Mainstrasse pub crawl

PM: Explore Cincinnati

OPTIONS:

- Explore OTR and hang out in breweries like Rhinegeist and Northern Row

ALTERNATIVE: Posh night out.

OPTIONS:

- Cocktails at Prim, Afterlife or AC Upper Deck
- Dinner at Jeff Ruby's
- Post-dinner cocktails at Ghost Baby



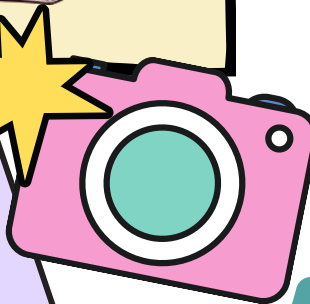
SUNDAY GAME DAY

Have a hearty breakfast (very important)

Tailgating

Get there three or four hours before the game

Break the game down with a few drinks on The Banks



MONDAY



AM: Check out and go for breakfast. See Downtown options above
Explore Cincinnati: **OPTIONS:** Cincinnati Zoo, American Sign Museum, Cincinnati Art Museum, Union Terminal.
PM: Spend remaining dollars in Koch Sports
 Try Skyline Chili for lunch
 Head to the airport via TANK 2X Airporter



DID YOU KNOW?

There is a Bengals-themed bar at the airport. Perfect for one last pint...





Bengals UK is a fan group that unites all Bengals fans in the UK with fan meet-ups, social media interaction, podcasts and Bengals-related initiatives. Recently celebrating its 10th anniversary, its mission remains the same: to create an inclusive and fun space where fans can express their passion and fandom.

Follow Bengals UK on Twitter (@WhoDey_UK), Facebook (Bengals UK), Instagram (Bemgals_UK), BlueSky (BengalsUK) or visit our blog (www.bengalsuk.wordpress.com) for news, updates on fan meets and general Bengals chat.

We hope this guide has been useful and has provided advice and inspiration for your trip to Cincinnati. It forms part of a number of free resources (available via our blog), which includes a recipe book for game day and Madrid and London city guides.

WHO DEY!

Compiled and edited by Paul Hiron

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