

Events

W.O.W. Wade Oval Wednesdays

Every Wednesday University Circle Inc. hosts a **FREE** live concert on the lawn at Wade Oval. Things start around 6 and go till 9, check out **universitycircle.org** for directions and parking info. As well as great local bands, there are food and art vendors. Bring a blanket and picnic - Fun for the whole family!

HESSLER STREET FAIR

Now in its 45th year, the Hessler Street Fair is a dawn-till-dusk-hippie-jam-art smorgasbord that attracts people from all over the land. This year takes place on **May 18th and 19th**, coinciding with Case Western's commencement weekend (2 blocks away). Come for the sun. Enjoy the music, the vibes, the odors... And maybe get a neck massage from a Reiki master :)

CMA SOLSTICE *The Summer Solstice Party*

The summer solstice occurs exactly when the axial tilt of the earth's semi-axis is most inclined towards the sun... Meaning: Party Time! Over the last few years **The Cleveland Museum of Art** has celebrated the official start of summer with a Big Bang! It's the season's most extravagant event and it's well worth attending. Beginning at 5 in the afternoon, your ticket includes food and beverages from Cleveland's top purveyors, complete access to the art galleries, and international musical acts.

The best time to go (and cheapest tickets) 10 - 2 AM. **June 21**

WINKING LIZARD 5K *A Shot in the Dark*

Run, walk, jog...whatever you want! The main event here starts after you cross the finish line when Huron Road turns into a huge block party. The **\$20 entrance fee** gets you and your friends a t-shirt, beer, burger, and lots of other freebies courtesy of The Winking Lizard Tavern. The course itself is also pretty cool: they close off the streets **Downtown** and you get to cross Lorain-Carnegie bridge at sunset. **July 20**

INGENUITY FEST

This Arts and Technology festival takes place at the **end of July**. The location changes every year and typically highlights a newly developed part of Cleveland. All the performances and installations are designed by Clevelanders and it's **FREE!**

THE FEAST *The Feast of The Assumption*

The Feast is a "religious" festival which takes over Mayfield Rd. in **Little Italy** during the hottest month of summer. Attractions include street food from local restaurants, an old-school amusement park, tons of tan, sculpted Italians, and a big fireworks show closing out the final night. **August 15-18**

Restaurants + Bars

- **EDISON'S** *Tremont*

This laid-back neighborhood bar has good pizza, free popcorn and a backyard with grapevines dangling off the roof. Make sure to stop at Edison's on your way through Tremont...

- **HAPPPY DOG** *Detroit Shoreway*

The Happy Dog has some of the happiest clientele in all of Cleveland due to the popularity of its signature item: hot dogs! The vegan version, tater tots and toppings hit the spot + they have live music and other cool events throughout the week.

- **MELT** *Lakewood and Cleveland Heights*

Melt Bar & Grilled is possibly the most famous grilled cheese restaurant in the world. The sandwiches are Ginormous and the staff is super friendly. If for some reason you can't make it here this summer, I guess you can make your own grilled cheese at home?

- **L'ALBATROS** *University Circle*

Run by chef Zach Bruell, The Albatross never fails. Dress up and go on a weekend night or do lunch out on the patio. Everything on the French bistro's menu is delicious and you will be treated like gods the moment you step through their door.

- **BARKING SPIDER** *University Circle*

This is the first place I ever drank at! I actually started working at the coffee shop next door so I would have an excuse to go there all the time. During the summer months when the French doors swing open, the people hangout all day and hoedown all night.

FREE Live Music 365 days a year includes some of the best players you're likely to see anywhere. *Closed September 2016, after 30 years of service

- **THE FAIRMOUNT** *Cedar Fairmount*

The Fairmount Martini & Wine Bar is one of my favorite places to go in the summer. Outside, there's a covered bar (where they serve handmade jalapeno-infused cocktails) and a large, sun baked patio that's usually brimming with life. Jake, the guy who runs the show, knows what you need and is happy to help you attain it.

- **NIGHTTOWN** *Cedar Fairmount*

Nighttown does everything and they do it right. They bring in world-class jazz musicians on a weekly basis. They have 6 or 7 dining rooms, lined with vintage Cleveland memorabilia, 2 distinct outdoor areas (one with a waterfall), a full New York-style menu and a James Joyce burger for 5 bucks when you sit at the bar.

- **MARKET GARDEN BREWERY** *Ohio City*

Market Garden opened just 2 years ago on West 25th. It's among several brewers on the street, but their Cleveland-centric titles and beer styles make it my current favorite. Plus, their Beer Garden looks out on the West Side Market (Cleveland's oldest food terminal), which is pretty cool.

- **TREE COUNTRY BISTRO** *Coventry*

How did I miss out on this place! Their refreshing menu is a mixture of Korean, Thai curries and sushi. When I finally got there this past spring, the Jasmine-Mellon "fruit drink" and Pad Thai made my tummy extremely happy...

- **FELICE** *Larchmere*

Located in a turn of the century home on Larchmere Rd. (2 blocks from **Shaker Square**), Felice serves Spanish-American food for dinner while the top two floors are a cool place to hangout after dark. Also, there's a small Brazilian restaurant and Colombian street food a couple doors down, if you feel like making a night of things... **Batuqui** and **Barroco**

- **EL TANGO TAQUERIA** *Lakewood*

Last year my friends and I decided to celebrate Cinco de Mayo a day early: Cuatro de Mayo! We spent the whole afternoon hitting up mom and pop shops on Madison Ave. We were the only ones there, because it was Cuatro de Mayo... Our last hurdle, before jumping into the lake, was El Tango Taqueria. The owner is a cowboy from New Mexico. He personally smashed the avocados for our guac and squeezed juice straight from a cactus into our mouths.

- **PIER W** *Lakewood*

This is Cleveland's premier, Michelin-class, behemoth. But don't let that scare you away. The dining room is reminiscent of the Swing Era - if the Swing Era took place on a futuristic ocean liner floating above Lake Erie. Window seats provide panoramic views of your city, and the fresh-caught seafood is equally titillating.

- **ON THE RISE BREAD** *Cleveland Heights*

Do yourself a favor: next time you're driving down Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights, stop at On The Rise. You'll recognize it by the long line of cars parked out front. Adam and his wife make the artisan breads and pastries from scratch every day, and if you get there early enough, they'll still have some left!

PLACES TO GO



Cuyahoga Valley - Peninsula - Akron

Lots of places to hike in the "Emerald Necklace". Cuyahoga Valley National Park is by far the largest and most diverse in Northeast Ohio. In under an hour, you can drive down scenic Riverview Rd. from Brecksville all the way to the little village of Peninsula. If you bike, the Towpath Trail is the place to go. Park and walk the trail next to the Cuyahoga River, or continue another 15 minutes to Akron where you can peruse world class art at the Akron Art Museum. **Half Day**



Cleveland Lakefront Preserve

Way back, when Cleveland was known as "The Best Location in the Nation", we had more millionaires living here than anywhere else in the world. And people used to swim in the Lake! One of the busiest beaches was where Cleveland Lakefront Preserve is now. After decades of unprecedented natural growth, the 80-acre property is now teeming with life. This is the best new location on the Eastside for hiking, bird watching, and views of Lake Erie that rival Edgewater Park's on the Westside.

Check out: **Rockefeller Park Greenhouse** (just off MLK Drive before I-90) and the lakeside village of **Bratenahl** (east of the nature preserve on Lake Shore Blvd.)



Wineries - Erie, PA

Presque Isle is the closest thing we have to the Ocean. MUCH closer than OBX. In fact, skip the Outer Banks... PI is the most visited park in all of Pennsylvania, and it's only an hour and a-half away! The peninsula has 13 miles of roads, 11 different beaches, lush hiking trails - all maintained like a private resort. You can fish, rent a jet ski or kayak (to explore the lagoons) or just relax on the beach across from the Erie skyline (Beach 11, Budny Beach). Try: **Sara's** for a fish sandwich, **The Tom Ridge Environmental Center**, + \$10 ferry ride across the bay (eat at Smugglers' Wharf, Pufferbelly; visit Erie Art Museum).

On a separate trip (or your way back), the **wineries** in **Geneva** are AWESOME. The Grand River Valley has the most wineries of any area in Ohio. When the sun's out and you've still got all night ahead, you will feel like Jack and Miles on their way up the California Coast...

My favorites: **The Old Mill** (perched next to the Railroad tracks) and **Harpersfield Vineyard** (a rustic small estate run by winemakers, Patty and Adolph). **Half Day**



Beaches

Edgewater- Cleveland's only city beach usually gets a bad rap. But it's my favorite, and here's why: It's right around the corner from the eclectic W. 25th, Detroit Shoreway, and Lakewood neighborhoods * On weekends, the western part of the beach becomes a popular hangout for yachts and jet skiers * You can paraglide off the upper level of the park * They have a huge field perfect for throwing disc and flying kites * Chess players, fishermen and The Only Beachfront Bar in the city = Sunset Grille (**Whiskey Island**). NOTE: In 2017 the beach was revitalized and is now more popular than ever!

Huntington- The cleanest and most family friendly of beaches, Huntington has a cool 1950s vibe which makes it stand out. Located in Bay Village - **30 mins. West of Downtown** - their concession stand serves famous Mitchell's Ice Cream... Yum!

Mentor Headlands- The mile-long stretch of sand at Mentor Headlands is the largest and most beautiful in the state. The park also stays open after dark so you can enjoy a late-night swim too... Check out the hiking trails and dunes at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve. **30 mins. East of Downtown**



Brecksville Swimming Hole

This is just one of the many gems lying within our Metropark system. My friend Ian asked me along a couple summers ago and I've been going back, and taking others with me, ever since (including my dog, Rosie!)

Here's what you do: **1.** Take I-77 to E. Royalton Rd. **2.** Continue East past Brecksville town square till you reach Cleveland Metro Pkwy on your right (a.k.a. Chippewa Creek Drive). **3.** About half a mile down the road, park on the left near the swing sets and picnic shelter (if you've gone down a hill and over a bridge, you've gone too far!). **4.** Walk North-East onto the trailhead - 100 yards. **5.** Hop over the wood fence (3 ft. tall) on Hemlock Trail and follow the sounds of people below - be careful, it's a steep 150 foot descent. The pools of water in Chippewa Creek are crystal clear and usually about 6-10 ft. deep. Huge rocks jutting out of the riverbed are a pleasant reminder of the last ice-age; the largest one - called "The Point" by locals - makes a great resting place to dry off in the sun and enjoy a cold beverage. **20 mins. South of Downtown**



Put-in-Bay + Kelly's Island

They say Put-in-Bay is like the Key West of the North. I've personally never been, though I came pretty close. Made it all the way to the ferry terminal in fact! I just sat there in my car eating a banana and slurping Miller Lites, while I contemplated the meaning of existence... I didn't get on the boat that day but here's some facts I learned from the brochure: There's history and sights to be had on both islands. Kelly's —the more residential, less booze-oriented twin. If you can manage to actually get on the boat, they're a 20 min. ride from Marblehead Island. Good Luck! (I've since been to both islands, 2015 & 2016. Well worth it, especially the beautiful ferry ride). **90 mins. from Cleveland**
Full Day

----- THINGS TO DO -----



Stretch.

You have no idea how much your body craves a good stretch! Bend down and touch those toes :)



Go for a jog.

Running rejuvenates the spirits and is a great way to explore your neighborhood!



Go for a walk.

Walking is normal in most cultures, but not ours. Remember: bipedalism is what separates us from the apes...



Go Kayaking.

Hiram Rapids (near Hiram College) rents boats by the hour, and **41° North** will take you on a river tour of downtown. Heck! Just put-in with your own boat anywhere you see the bubbly...



Meetup Groups.

Meetups are the way of the future. Great way to meet new people and learn new things... **Meetup.com**



Join a Softball or Volleyball League.

These summer "sports" are a fun way stay active and meet random Clevelanders.



Live Music.

Sometimes you forget how great it is. And then you go to **The Grog Shop** and remember all over again. The Grog and **The Beachland Ballroom** are *thee* places to see Rock-n-Roll in Cleveland.



Bike.

When I was running near Dike 14 last summer, I stumbled upon a game of Bike Polo being played on an old tennis court. What's that?!! By sheer will power, bicyclists are turning Cleveland into a better and safer place for us all. Here's a short list for starters, but check out **BikeCleveland.org** for more...

Critical Mass: Once-a-month, bikes take over the road + FREE and open to the public.

Joy Machines West 25th: Full-service bike shop + Buy or build your own.

Euclid Avenue Corridor: Express bike lane >> 20 mins. from Public Square to University Circle.

The Towpath Trail: Ohio's longest and most scenic bikeway >> 100 miles begins at Harvard Rd. (**Steelyard**)



Take a drive.

Summer is the perfect time to hit the country roads surrounding Cleveland. Roll down the windows, grab a bottle of water and a bag of nuts and you're ready to go. My favorite destinations include: **Oberlin**, **Holden Arboretum**, and Ohio Rt. 2 to **Presque Isle** (Rt.2 changes to 20 after Painesville).



Religion? You don't have to believe in order to visit the temple. Cleveland has large populations of Mormons, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and more! At Shiva Vishnu Temple in **Parma**, there's a walkway that takes you above the treetops before setting foot inside. Call ahead for service and visiting hours. Wherever you decide to go, you're sure to find an enlightening experience.



The Library. Go to the Library! I go to the Lee Rd. branch like every day (**Cedar Lee**). Mark Twain (author of *The Chicago of Europe*) said that libraries were the university of the people... This place embodies that idea. There are lots of quiet study spots upstairs, and I enjoy browsing their extensive travel, magazine, and dvd collections. They also have a bookshop named after Harvey Pekar (*American Splendor*) where you can buy used books for fifty cents. 'Nuff said.



Patios. I live in Coventry so I tend to go where I can walk: **Panini's**, **The Barking Spider**, and **The Fairmount** are all great. But **The Coffee House at University Circle** has The Best Patio on EARTH! Bring a book, lounge under their canopy of tall trees, and while away your afternoon sipping ice tea across from The Cleveland Institute of Music. East or Westside, don't forget to visit your local watering hole this summer!!!



Cleveland Cinemas. Beat the Heat this summer by seeing a matinee in air-conditioned comfort. My favorite is the **Cedar Lee**. They have beer and food for sale and it's still sunny when the movie lets out!



Whole Foods Fridays. Great way to start your weekend! This weekly event happens year round but summertime is the most fun (**Cedar/Warrensville**). For **\$5** you get a free wine glass, 6 food & wine pairings, and lots of nice people. The Osteria has an excellent dinner menu if you don't feel like leaving... **5-7 pm**



Take a date to Playhouse Square. If *Midnight in Paris* was shot in Cleveland, Owen Wilson's character would roam the streets behind **Euclid Avenue**, before bumping into John D. Rockefeller outside **Cowell & Hubbard**... Downtown Cleveland has the largest theater scene between New York and Chicago. The buildings are extravagant and transport you back in time to La Belle Epoque. Whether you're a theater buff or not, you'll have a great time at The Playhouse. Check out their "Smart Seats" for **\$10**



Bed and Breakfast. Cleveland has some terrific small hotels and they're located in the heart of our most happening neighborhoods. You don't have to be from out of town to enjoy a weekend at The Glidden House (**Univ. Circle**), Washington Place (**Little Italy**), or Clifford House (**Ohio City**). The Renaissance Hotel on Public Square is worth checking out, even just for a cocktail. If you're traveling light, The Cleveland Hostel on West 25th (across the street from the West Side Market) is where you want to end up.

MAP



Cleveland is home to over 2 Million People, which means a lot of interesting places.....

NEIGHBORHOODS

- * **coventry** - Picadilly Yogurt, Phoenix Coffee, American Apparel, Mac's Backs, La Cave, Grog Shop
- * **cedar fairmount** - The Fairmount, NightTown, Luna Café, Vero Bistro, Cube
- * **univ. circle** - CWRU, CMA, MOCA, Severance Hall, Barking Spider, Coffee House
- * **little italy** - Mama Santa's, Presti's Bakery, Guarino's, Lounge Leo, Lakeview Cemetery
- * **shaker square** - RTA train, shaker lakes, Shaker Cinema, Fire, Felice
- * **asia town** - Asia Town Center grocery, #1 Pho, Siam Café, Slyman's Deli
- * **waterloo** - Beachland Ballroom, Slovenian's Home, Waterloo Arts Fest, Native Cleveland
- * **slavic village** - St. Stanislaus Church, Red Chimney, Becker's Donuts
- * **warehouse district** - W. 6th = Party Central! (Velvet Dog rooftop)
- * **tremont** - South Side, Treehouse, Lolita, Sokolowski's, Gateway Animal Clinic
- * **ohio city** - Ohio City Farm, Momocho, VTR, Cleveland Film Commission, Bier Markt, Bounce
- * **detroit shoreway** - Happy Dog, Capitol Theater, Parkview, Sweet Moses, ilthy
- * **lakewood** - Pier W, Brothers Lounge, Barroco Grill, Villa Y Zapata, Optimal Wellness Center

places to go

- 1 Put-in-Bay**
- 2 Oberlin**
- 3 Huntington Beach**
- 4 Edgewater Park**
- 5 Cleveland Lakefront Preserve**
- 6 Brecksville Swimming Hole**
- 7 Peninsula**
- 8 Hiram Rapids**
- 9 Holden Arboretum**
- 10 Mentor Headlands**
- 11 Grand River Wineries**
- 12 Presque Isle**