



# columbusindiana

unexpected.unforgettable.

Here's why visitors routinely find this one of the most "unexpected" cities they've ever visited, and why many decide to relocate their family, and their businesses, in this "unforgettable" community.

## FAST FACTS FROM:

Columbus Area Visitors Center | [www.columbus.in.us](http://www.columbus.in.us)  
(800) 468-6564 : (812) 378-2622  
506 Fifth Street : Columbus, Indiana 47201

## THE BASICS

- Columbus, Indiana (population 44,000) is ranked sixth in the nation for architectural innovation and design by the American Institute of Architects, right behind Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Boston and Washington, D.C.
- Columbus has hundreds of acres in a city park system ranked number one in the country by the National Recreation and Park Association for cities the size of Columbus. Parks feature such unusual facilities as an ice skating rink, a skateboard park, an observation tower, and an ivy-covered tunnel, as well as the more typical – yet fun – activities such as fishing, walking, hiking and biking.
- Most of the downtown is listed with the National Register of Historic Places. In a highly unusual move, the even more exclusive National Historic Landmarks program honored the city by accepting six locations simultaneously.

## COLUMBUS IN THE MEDIA

- COLUMBUS LEADS INDIANA FOR NUMBER OF START-UPS  
538.com : Columbus is ranked 15th in the nation, and the only Indiana city ranked, among metro areas with fastest-growing rate of new startups. (2017)
- COLUMBUS, INDIANA'S MODERN ARCHITECTURE INSPIRES A NEW FEATURE FILM  
Columbus' modern architecture was the inspiration for the film's story. The director, Kogonada, told Variety that "After visiting the town, I felt an immediate sense for a film that would take place there, which would implicitly explore the promise of modernism (an ongoing quest for me). The story revolves around a man and young woman from opposite sides of the world, each mourning the potential loss of a parent." (2017)
- FACTORY TOWNS REBOUNDED FROM RECESSION  
USA Today : Columbus is ranked #3 on the Top Ten list, the article says, "As the nation nears full employment — a sort of finish line for the jobs recovery — many of the factory towns hit hardest in the Great Recession are already there." (2016)
- BEST SMALL PLACES FOR BUSINESS AND CAREERS  
Forbes : Columbus is ranked 20th in nation for business careers, and 11th for job growth. (2014)
- *The Indianapolis Star* reported in April of 2014 that Columbus was ranked among the best metro areas for high incomes and low costs, according to data released by the Commerce Department.
- Columbus was ranked #2 in the nation by The Milken Institute in December 2013 : "The Milken Institute Best-Performing Cities Index ranks U.S. metropolitan areas by how well they are

creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. The components include job, wage and salary, and technology growth. In most years, these give a good indication of the underlying structural performance of regional economics.”

- The Department of the Interior designated The Republic newspaper as a national historic landmark in October 2012, noting it is “an exceptional work of modern architecture and one of the best examples of the work of Myron Goldsmith . . . a highly respected architect, architectural theorist, writer, and educator.”
- *Area Development Magazine* ranked Columbus first in the nation among 100 Leading Locations overall, and also put Columbus in their Top 20 Midwest Cities and Top 25 Small Cities rankings. Among small cities, Columbus placed 3rd in “Economic Strength” factors, 4th in “Prime Workforce Growth,” and 5th for its “Recession-Busting” indicators.
- *Conde Nast Traveler* named Columbus one of the sixteen best cities in the world for lovers of architecture in June 2012, alongside such cities as Florence, Italy and Oxford, England.
- American Express’ OpenForum named Columbus one of the ten best small towns for business in America, in June 2012. Jack Shultz, the author of *Boomtown, USA* and an authority in economic development for rural America, put Columbus, Indiana on his list.
- The League of American Bicyclists cited Columbus as one of Indiana’s seven bike-friendly communities in May, 2012.
- *Forbes* magazine put Columbus near the top of its list of “America’s Prettiest Towns” in April 2012.
- *Midwest Living* put Columbus on its list of “Top 25 New Places to Stay, Eat and Play” in April 2012.
- In their Sept./Oct. 2011 magazine article “10 Affordable Cities for Retirement,” AARP chose Columbus as one of its top ten cities to retire in, saying, “Never heard of Columbus? That’s fine - residents love this little city’s under-the-radar charm. Less than an hour south of Indianapolis and east of Bloomington, Columbus has it all: design cognoscenti say the city’s innovative architecture ranks right up there with Chicago’s and San Francisco’s.”
- In November 2010, *Forbes* magazine selected Columbus as one of the top ten best small cities to raise a family, saying Columbus is one of the cities that “sweep our ranking of quiet, prosperous, and family-friendly places . . . these places boast solid average incomes, good educational prospects, low costs, short commute times, and high rates of home ownership.”
- In the March 22, 2010 *Chicago Tribune*, Alfred Borcover says, “In the heart of the so-called Rust Belt lies an extraordinary example of what vision and open-mindedness did for a central Indiana industrial town set amid farm fields . . . Columbus, however, is a town that lifts your spirits . . . some 60 architectural gems — schools, a library, churches, banks, a post office, fire stations, a newspaper and offices — make you ooh and aah.”
- In December 2009, *The New York Post* chose Columbus as the must-see Indiana destination for its “50 States” list, saying “Columbus is . . . wonderfully atypical. It’s a design mecca, with more than 60 important Modernist buildings . . . by a who’s-who of architectural heavies.”
- In November 2009, travel writer Jordan Simon listed Columbus, Indiana among his *Top 10 Things to See in the U.S. Before You Die* on Aol.com. Columbus (pop. 39,000) was listed alongside the likes of Charleston, S.C., the Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Park. Simon says, “For a small city, Columbus is a major repository of modern architecture, with works by luminaries like Eero Saarinen, Cesar Pelli, and Richard Meier. This destination says design from the get go...”

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- In July 2009, in Raleigh, North Carolina the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) awarded the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce the 2009 Chamber of the Year. The award recognizes excellence in operations, member services, and community leadership. The Chamber has been focusing on three critical areas: building on the power of place and the region's economic strengths, creating a sense of community, and fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Last year they received the 2008 Indiana Chamber of the Year.
- In the Nov/Dec 2008 edition of *National Geographic Traveler*, Columbus is ranked 11th out of 109 historic destinations worldwide by National Geographic Society's Center for Sustainable Destinations, higher than any other U.S. destination. The magazine says Columbus has "a world-class collection of modern architecture by master architects . . . it is authentic, unique, and unspoiled . . . this town is truly part of America's architectural heritage."
- Columbus was selected as one of only three Indiana cities for *Relocate-America's Top 100 Places to Live in 2009*, which noted the frequent accolades the city receives "...aren't without good reason with the city's impeccable art, lush landscaping, a first-rate park system, and of course, the outstanding architecture."
- Columbus was recognized as one of America's Top 100 best places to live and launch a business by *Fortune Small Business* magazine in its April 2008 issue.
- The Columbus Visitors Center was recognized as the 2008 "Member of the Year" by the National Association of Sports Commissions. The award is given to the member that has the most outstanding impact on its community through sporting events, community activities, charitable giving, and economic impact.
- Columbus was named one of the nation's "most walkable" communities in April 2008 by Dan Burden, Executive Director of Walkable Communities, after a visit to the city. He has given the title to just 100 of the 2,500 cities he has visited, and noted that Columbus has the cleanest alleys of any city he has visited, noting "that shows you pay attention to detail."