

MidwestLiving®

NO CHURN?
*no
problem*

SUMMER *is* SERVED

with
HOMEMADE
ICE CREAM
SMASHED BURGERS
SPARKLING
LEMONADE
THE JUICIEST
FRESH PEACHES
and
A MACARONI
SALAD THAT
WILL ROCK YOUR
POTLUCK

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july/august 2019



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ON THE COVER

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CHARLES
WORTHINGTON

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58 SUCCULENTS For a primer in all things prickly, we tapped the expertise of one very groovy nursery in northern Ohio.

66 I DREAM OF ICE CREAM Whether you own a churn or want to whip up a favorite scoop shop treat using purchased ice cream, our recipes have you covered.

74 5 DAYS. 5 CITIES. 1 EPIC ROAD TRIP. Join us for a tour of the Buckeye State's vibrant cities in our third-annual *Midwest Living Road Rally*.



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By the time midsummer arrives

at our house, chalk drawings splash across our driveway, tan lines are in full force—despite my vigilance with the sunscreen—and we've kicked off many weekends with breakfast cooked in a skillet over the firepit. Our summer habits are predictable, comfortable, satisfyingly familiar. But with each passing year, the season also reveals some surprises. As our two daughters grow and their interests evolve, we make new memories and check new destinations off our travel bucket list. Up next: Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. We can't wait to see the new *Asian Highlands* exhibit.

This summer reveals a change for *Midwest Living*, too. I'm so excited to introduce myself to you as the new editor-in-chief of our 32-year-old brand. A little about me: I grew up in central Iowa.



College took me to Lawrence, Kansas, where I met my husband, Nick. (Go Jayhawks!) Now I live on an acreage outside Des Moines in a house we designed together. Like all homes, it's a work in progress, but I love having room to tend my cutting garden and the family pumpkin patch. "Patch" could be a bit misleading, but hey, we're trying. And, for the last three years, I've been the creative director at *Midwest Living*.

Having spent the bulk of my prior career traveling coast to coast, exploring the Midwest for the past few years has been a dream. I mean, doesn't everyone want to don a wet suit and jump into frigid Lake Michigan in March to capture the perfect "early summer" cover? That was me a couple of years ago. I am still thawing! For this issue, I had the pleasure of traveling the state of Ohio with our team for the third-annual *Midwest Living* Road Rally. That's me rocking out at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland on page 82.


I plan to keep doing what you love in these pages, with some additions: You can expect to see even more faces and stories of real Midwesterners. I'm talking about people with passion and purpose—makers, growers, chefs, entrepreneurs, authors, gardeners and artists. Also, I know that we're all always trying to eat a little better and exercise a little more. So we've introduced a new column, "Live Well," with easy ideas for living your healthiest life. (But don't worry. As you can tell from this issue's delicious cover, we aren't forgoing indulgence altogether!) I look forward, along with the rest of the team, to capturing the spirit of today's Midwest in every issue.


So with that, I will leave you to it. Enjoy these pages. A very talented group created them for you. Thank you for trusting me with this beloved brand. Shoot me a note or follow my adventures on Instagram. I can't wait to get to know you even better.

KYLEE KRIZMANIC
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@KYLEEKRIZ



The codes you see throughout the issue are gateways to a big collection of extra content you can view through your phone. To see videos, bonus photos and more, just hold your phone's camera up to the code. No app required.

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here *travel home culture food* now



over the river, into the woods

To the lesser-known Ozarks we go. Southern Illinois is a haven of sandstone canyons, ancient cypress swamp and thick forest—seasoned with birch-sap beer and world-class barbecue.

GARDEN OF THE GODS
RECREATION AREA



OUTFITTER JOE McCARMISH nudges my kayak off the dock into the murky water. Then he sets me straight down the Cache River, which feels more Louisiana bayou than Midwest tributary. Near the Kentucky line, the southern Illinois waterway marks the start of the Gulf Coastal Plain, which stretches 500-some miles to the Gulf of Mexico. Joe guides me down a water trail through trees that sprouted before the 12th century. They form North America's northernmost cypress marsh, which feels as remote as I imagine it did when French voyageurs named the Cache in the 1800s. But some locals have changed. "Watch for flying Asian carp," Joe says. With no predator, the invasive fish has become an issue for some of the 100 endangered and threatened species native to this fragile ecosystem.

One hundred miles southeast of St. Louis, the Illinois Ozarks, as the region is known locally, gets a fraction of the traffic that flocks

to the Missouri and Arkansas Ozarks. This is a land of secluded bluffs, sprawling tree canopy and small pockets of humans—not water park resorts and party boats. Like two green islands on a map, the twin sections of Shawnee National Forest hold the gold.

I zigzagged between them on a three-day trip, discovering the Cache, roadside sunflowers, ziplines and the best barbecue in Illinois (with a proclamation from the state legislature to back it up). For creature comforts, stick west, where you'll find cute bed-and-breakfasts, hobbit-inspired rentals, a wine trail and good eats. To the east, hikers clamber across iconic boulders above the trees at Garden of the Gods Recreation Area, then cook dinner over a fire or in a cabin.

To see all of Shawnee country, plan for some hour-long drives (and a downloaded playlist). When you find yourself on an empty road with no painted stripes and spotty cell service, you're going the right way.

RIVER TIME

Stories leap straight from the water on the Lower Cache River paddling trail. Yes, flying carp. But also, a 1,000-year-old cypress tree. Book a trip with Cache Bayou Outfitters to find it.



TREE CAM

Hover your phone's camera for an up-close look at ancient cypress trees on the Cache.

WEST SIDE

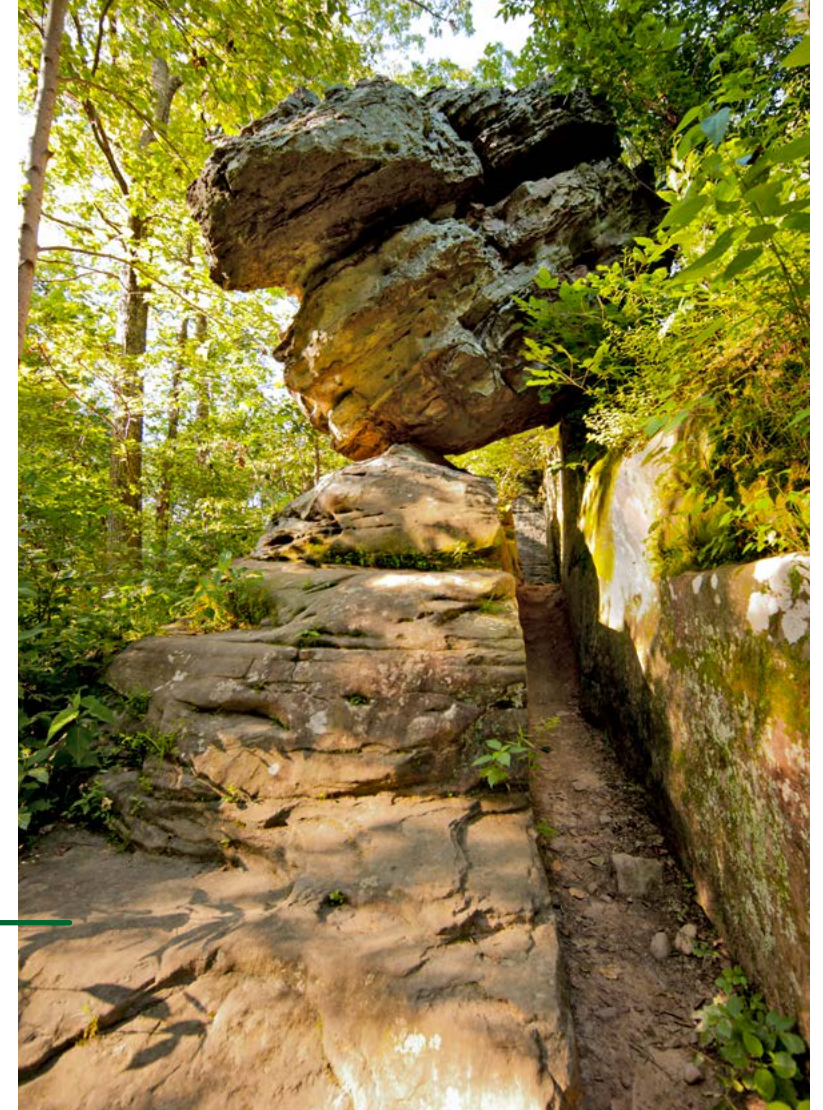
Murphysboro and the college town of Carbondale anchor the western swath of Shawnee National Forest. Base your trip here if you want more to do (and eat!) between outdoor excursions.

STAY Sustainability is more than a schtick at **MAKANDA INN AND COTTAGES**, next to Giant City State Park. Book an earthen-roof cottage in a hillside or a bed-and-breakfast room.

In Anna, **DAVIE SCHOOL INN** has transformed elementary school classrooms into huge suites with comfy beds, blackboards and mod touches updated over the past two years.

PLAY Thrill-seekers shove off a platform at **SHAWNEE BLUFFS CANOPY TOUR** to fly across a lush valley at 40-plus mph. The full tour hits eight ziplines and three suspension bridges.

Families, backpackers and even horseback riders explore **GIANT CITY STATE PARK**. The popular 1-mile Giant City Nature Trail weaves along mossy sandstone tunnels and crevices. Hikers can also pitch a tent midway through the 12-mile Red Cedar Trail. Stop in the lodge to rent a cabin or snag a hot meal.



Out of 27 Barbecue Hall of Famers, two live in Murphysboro, aka the Barbecue Capital of Illinois. Mike Mills' **17TH STREET BARBECUE** (pictured) hogs the love with dry-rub ribs and his *Praise the Lard* cookbook. But Pat Burke's pulled pork is king at **PAT'S BBQ**. Each September, a big-time barbecue competition takes over the city.

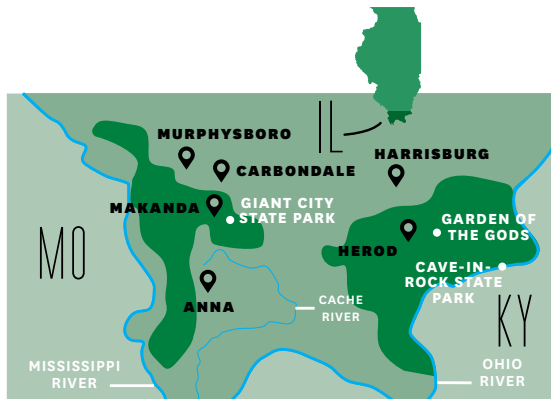


EAT On a gravel road 12 miles outside Murphysboro, **SCRATCH BREWING** gets national buzz for making beer with foraged sweet clover, spicebush or sap (in lieu of water). "We try to add a distinct regional botanical to each beer," says Kris Pirmann, staff beer farmer. Open Thursday-Sunday, Scratch fires up a pizza oven on weekends.

East of Carbondale, sun-splashed **CROWN BREW COFFEE** opened in 2017 with all the trappings of an urban coffee shop: salvaged wood, potted succulents and pour-over coffee brewed to order.

Craving fluffy Dutch baby pancakes topped with lemon curd and blueberry compote? Head for **THE IRON WHISK BISTRO AND BAR** in a reclaimed auto garage in Cobden just north of Anna.

The **SHAWNEE HILLS WINE TRAIL** is the biggest (and most scenic) in Illinois. Don't miss **OWL CREEK VINEYARD'S** new tasting room or **POMONA WINERY**.



EAST SIDE

The Garden of the Gods vista alone warrants a day trip to the less-developed half of Shawnee country. Or make it home base: Pack a cooler and tent, or book a cabin up in the trees.

STAY “The nearest stoplight is three counties and 22 miles away,” says Elizabeth Canfarelli of **TIMBER RIDGE OUTPOST AND CABINS**. Settle into an 1850s log cabin (with kitchen added) or a tree house in towering oaks. The property includes an archery golf course and it’s 5 miles from Garden of the Gods.

PLAY High above a forested wilderness, **GARDEN OF THE GODS RECREATION AREA’S** Camel Rock makes the perfect spot to start the day, catch an epic sunset or pitch your tent in the nearby campground.

Hikers wind through a labyrinth of sheer rock walls and mossy canyons to reach Ox-Lot Cave on **RIM ROCK NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL**. Close by, the small beach and swimming area at **POUNDS HOLLOW RECREATION AREA** marks the birthplace of Shawnee National Forest, established during the Civilian Conservation Corps era of the 1930s.

Rock climbers travel from out of state for **JACKSON FALLS’** many sport-climbing and bouldering routes. At **BELL SMITH SPRINGS** nearby, hikers crisscross a clear stream on a trail system that also leads to daring catwalks and cliffs above swimming holes.

Head to the banks of the Ohio River for a 55-foot-wide cave carved into limestone at **CAVE-IN-ROCK STATE PARK**. The park’s lodge has a simple restaurant, **KAYLORS’**, featuring catfish and other regional staples.



**ADLER
PLANETARIUM**

Chicago

**ARMSTRONG AIR
AND SPACE
MUSEUM**

Wapakoneta, Ohio

**BADLANDS
NATIONAL PARK**

South Dakota

**HEADLANDS
INTERNATIONAL
DARK SKY PARK**

*Mackinaw City,
Michigan*

COSMOSPHERE
Hutchinson, Kansas

eyes to the sky

Fifty years after the July 20, 1969, moon walk, astro-theme attractions celebrate stargazing, space race history and the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

SUNLIGHT GLINTS OFF A SPACECRAFT perched on its landing gear like an interstellar insect—in a tiny memorial park next to a small-town airstrip. Even earthbound and at half-scale, the Apollo 11 Lunar Module evokes the dreamlike moment when the world watched Neil Armstrong's boots touch moon dust in 1969. That giant leap started right here in Warren, Ohio, where 6-year-old Armstrong first took to the sky aboard a Ford TriMotor airplane.

Armstrong isn't Ohio's only flight hero. The Wright brothers began tinkering with gliders in their Dayton bike shop in the 1890s. And since then, Ohio has produced 25 astronauts, including John Glenn, the first

American to orbit Earth, and Jim Lovell, who famously averted disaster on Apollo 13.

Across the state from the tribute to his first flight, Neil Armstrong's western Ohio hometown of Wapakoneta is prepping a party 50 years in the making. At the 10-day Summer Moon Festival (July 12–21), you can salute the lunar landing with moonlight tours, rocket launches and MoonPies. Or visit other spots piquing renewed interest in outer space. Kansas boasts the planet's largest combined collection of Russian and American space artifacts. Float across the solar system in a Chicago planetarium. Or point a telescope at an inky sky in northern Michigan, and let wonder take hold.

ADLER PLANETARIUM

Chicago
The Western Hemisphere's first modern planetarium has brought the heavens to life for generations of stargazers. View the 1913 Chicago sky before modern light pollution, touch a meteorite and chat with resident astronomers in the Space Visualization Lab. Standout attractions include the city's largest free, public telescope and the newest museum-produced film shedding fresh light on the moon.

In 8K ultrahigh definition, Adler's *Destination Solar System* movie travels to the sun's surface and beyond the asteroid belt.



(inter) stellar events

Save the date for these after-dark experiences.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11

July 20

Book a spot at John Glenn Astronomy Park in southern Ohio's Hocking Hills for a minute-by-minute retelling of the moon landing. jgap.info

NEBRASKA STAR PARTY

July 28–August 2

Merritt Reservoir near Valentine places you hundreds of miles from a big city for daytime water play and camping under surreal night skies. nebraskastarparty.org

DAKOTA NIGHTS ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL

August 30–September 1

North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park hosts star-viewing sessions, rocket building and more. nps.gov/thro

ARMSTRONG AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Wapakoneta, Ohio

Apollo 11 fever will take over this tiny town between Dayton and Toledo for more than a week. For three of the days, July 19–21, Armstrong's hometown museum will prove that this facility is more than a time capsule. Ohio astronauts Donald Thomas, Robert Springer and others will participate in July programming, and Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center will present Apollo artifacts. The collection includes Armstrong's space suits, the *Gemini VIII* capsule he piloted, and hands-on space shuttle and lunar landing simulators.



HEADLANDS INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK

Mackinaw City, Michigan

Far from hazy light pollution, celestial reflections ripple across Lake Michigan in this northern park two miles west of Mackinaw City. And there's plenty to see during the day, too. "We have miles of trails and shipwrecks just off the shore," says Marci Schmiege, Emmet County Parks and Recreation Director. Spot constellations with the naked eye or join telescope viewing sessions. Concerts will be part of the July 25–27 Star Party. And an on-site rental home offers private stargazing.

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

South Dakota

As twilight falls over the craggy buttes, rangers train telescopes on planets and nebulae during daily summer viewing events at the Cedar Pass Campground Amphitheater. "People might even see the aurora borealis or a meteor shower," says park ranger Aaron Kaye. Explore deeper into the park's darkest and most remote reaches to see the Milky Way's river of light arch across a canopy of stars. The Badlands Astronomy Festival is scheduled for July 5–7.

COSMOSPHERE

Hutchinson, Kansas

One hour northwest of Wichita, you can try on an astronaut suit or hop in a cockpit at space camp (for adults too). Restored back-room consoles from NASA's Mission Control Center star in the *Apollo Redux* exhibit this summer at one of the country's foremost space museums. Cosmosphere houses a V-1 bomber, a V-2 rocket and the most Russian space artifacts outside of Moscow.

MOBILE STAR MAP

With the free *Night Sky* app, you can identify planets, constellations and satellites by pointing an iPhone or iPad camera to the sky in real time.



A singletrack trail is one that's the width of a bike—like the Switchgrass Trail at Wilson State Park in Kansas.

single-track mind

Conquer mud and tree roots (and maybe your nerves) on a mountain bike trail.

“TWELVE YEARS AGO a friend invited me on a mountain bike trip,” Anne Clark recalls. “So I bought a bike with a hope and a dream that I’d fall in love, and I totally did. I adore the speed and the personal challenge.” But she knows riding a singletrack trail (potentially in the company of ripped pros in stretchy race tees) can be scary. So finding your tribe is key. Anne helms Minneapolis Off-Road Cyclists, a nonprofit that maintains more than 100 miles of Twin Cities trails. (Helping maintain trails is a great way to plug in and meet riders.) Or look for a women-only group. In Chicago, for example, Skunkworks Racing hosts Women’s Dirt Day outings each summer, with monthly peer-led rides for all levels. Anne’s beginners’ advice: “Know who you are and be comfortable with your limits. You don’t have to show off to anybody.”

PHOTOGRAPH: DOUG STREMEL

TEST YOUR PEDAL

TAKE A CLASS

You’ll learn about body position, navigating turns, trail etiquette and more. Many local groups hold clinics, and most REI stores offer a variety of classes, including Introduction to Mountain Biking.

TRY THEN BUY

Start by renting a bike from a local shop. If you fall in love with the sport and decide to buy, women should keep in mind that women’s bikes have completely different frames and suspension for a better fit and ride.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

An adrenaline rush is cool; a broken wrist isn’t. So don’t be shy about hopping off the bike for a sharp turn or scary-steep incline. Even pros follow this mantra: When in doubt, walk it out.

6 things we're crushing on now

Too much summer same-old? Crash in a TV chef's crib, tweet at a Great Lake or take your dog to the ball game.



2

VIEW

EXHIBIT COLUMBUS *Columbus, Indiana*

The annual architecture and design gathering Exhibit Columbus returns August 24 to this small city known for world-class architecture. In odd years, the event places public art all over town. This year's 18 installations will include XX (like the chromosome), in honor of influential Columbus women and invisible stories. View the art until December 1.

Between the Threads, a maze of craft-lace panels, dazzled visitors at Exhibit Columbus in 2017.

1

STAY

WOK-STAR AIRBNB

Cleveland

Channel the culinary genius of Michael Symon. The celeb chef and his wife, Liz, renovated a Cleveland home that is now listed on Airbnb. The house is split into two single-unit stays, both with impressive kitchens. Enjoy sleek appliances, marble counters and an arsenal of cookware from the Symon Home collection. From \$90.

3

FOLLOW

SUPERIOR ON SOCIAL *@lakesuperior*

The largest Great Lake is on Twitter, entertaining more than 30,000 followers with trivia, current lake events and heavy doses of shade and snark. A sampling: "You can't spell inferior without Erie," or "Entire countries I'm bigger than: Czech Republic, Sierra Leone, Ireland, Georgia, Sri Lanka..."



5

PLAY

BASEBALL DOG DAYS *Milwaukee*

Woof, woof, woof for the home team at Miller Park on July 16. During Bark at the Park, dogs (with tickets) join their humans for a Brewers game. Other Midwest teams with upcoming dog days: Cincinnati and Kansas City (September 3), Chicago White Sox (September 10), Detroit (September 16). No word about any 7th-inning fetch.

4

EXPLORE

PARK MAKEOVER *Nebraska*

Go glamping or channel your inner ninja water warrior. A \$35 million Nebraska Outdoor Venture Parks project has upgraded a chain of outdoor hot spots between Lincoln and Omaha. Lounge in a roll-out bed under the stars at a cabin in Platte River State Park. Tackle the Go Ape ropes course or a 40-foot climbing wall at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park. Or splash across a floating playground at Louisville State Recreation Area.

6

READ

MIDWEST MEMOIR *Missouri*



In *Lake of the Ozarks: My Surreal Summers in a Vanishing America* (Grand Central, \$26), former CBS *Sunday Morning* correspondent and humorist Bill Geist recalls with wit and affection his coming of age as a hired hand at his aunt and uncle's resort. His first job? Shoveling the septic field.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (ART) COURTESY OF EXHIBIT COLUMBUS; (LAKE) COURTESY OF NEBRASKA OUTDOOR VENTURE PARKS; (DOG) COURTESY OF SCOTT PAULUS/MILWAUKEE BREWERS; (BOOK) BRIE PASSANO

FUNKY TRENDY SPINY SPIKY SHAPELY AND UNEXPECTEDLY HARDY

GET YOUR FIX AT
ONE VERY GROOVY
OHIO NURSERY.

SUCCULENTS



WRITER **TERESA WOODARD**
PHOTOGRAPHER **THUSS + FARRELL**



RAISE A ROOF

At Groovy Plants Ranch in Marengo, Ohio, Jared and Liz Hughes trim the greenhouse roof in sedums, whose name derives from “sit” in Latin. Sedums grow low and look nice spilling over a container or wall.

Succulents are *fighters*—and that makes them good business.

At least, that’s what Jared Hughes hoped. While working at a nursery in 2008, he discovered a few succulent leaves that had fallen and taken root in the gravel. Like sea stars that grow entire new bodies from broken arms, these plants had an evolutionary will to survive. A college student at the time, Jared saw dollar signs in that tenacity. He figured it would be easy and affordable to grow enough plants to sell at farmers markets.

TALK THE TALK

HARDY

A hardy plant is one that can survive below-freezing temperatures. Some succulents are hardy to 20 degrees below zero!

TENDER

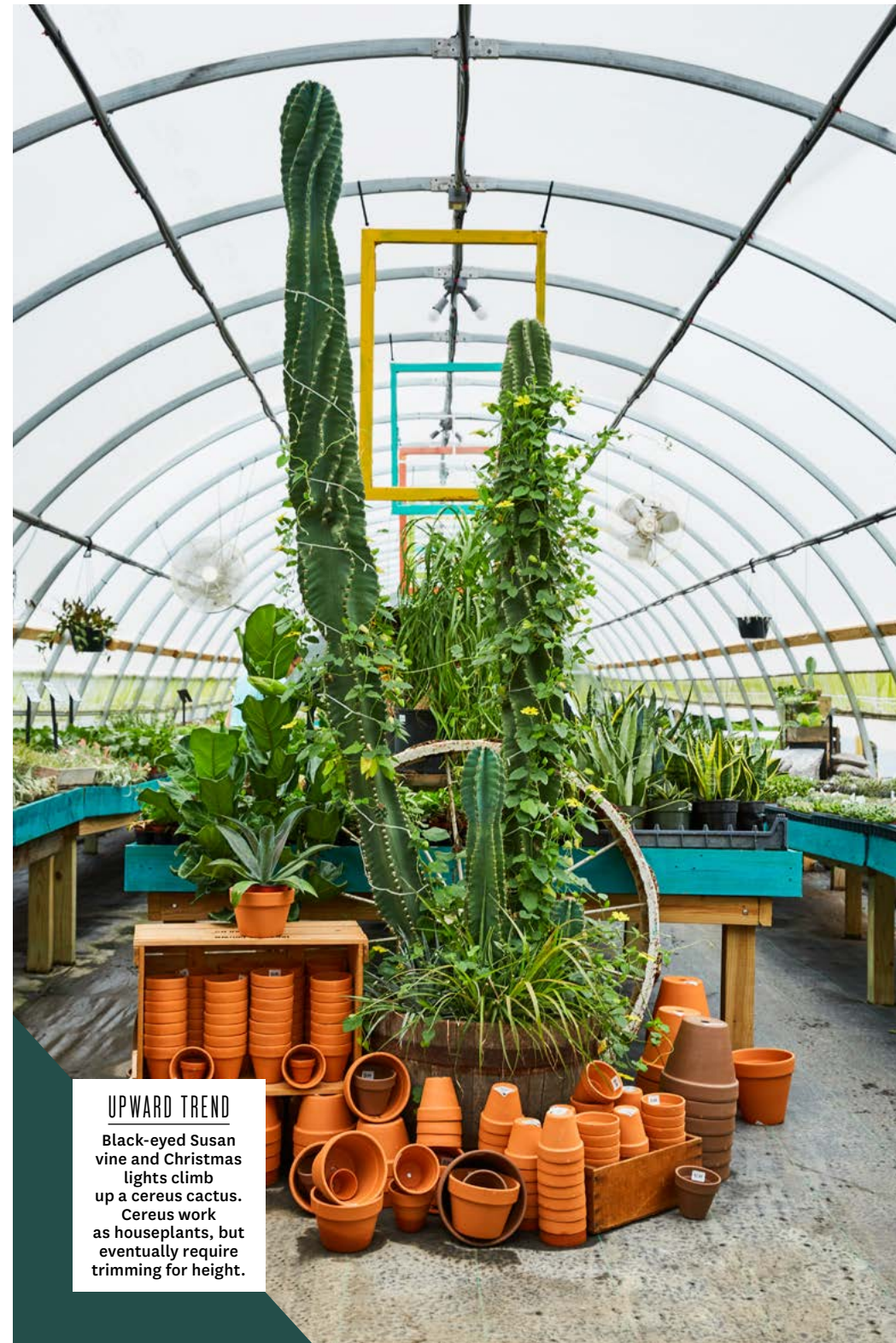
A tender plant, on the other hand, doesn’t tolerate cold well. It will look sad (or, *ahem*, dead) after a frost.



GREEN PARTY

Spread across 2 acres, Groovy Plants specializes in succulents and houseplants but also sells vegetables, mums and other seasonal favorites.

Succulents are easy. But they're also lookers, with sculptural forms and irresistible personalities.



UPWARD TREND

Black-eyed Susan vine and Christmas lights climb up a cereus cactus. Cereus work as houseplants, but eventually require trimming for height.

A Rookie's Guide to Succulents

INDOORS OR OUT, IN A POT OR IN THE GROUND, HERE'S HOW TO KEEP YOUR PLANTS HAPPY.



WATER

Succulents store water in their leaves and stems. They like aridity. Avoid soggy areas in the garden; for container planting, drainage holes are a must. Water only when soil is completely dry. Usually one soak every one to two weeks is plenty.



SUN

Most succulents are sun-lovers that want to bask for at least six hours daily. But if sun is scarce in your yard or home, don't fret: Some daintier sedums welcome afternoon shade. Snake plant, a popular houseplant, thrives in indirect light.



SOIL

Succulents prefer dry, gritty soil. If planting in the ground, amend soil with pumice (especially if your yard is full of clay). For containers, ordinary potting mix works, but a cactus-specific blend is best.



HARDINESS

Hardy succulents like yuccas and hens-and-chicks actually require a cold dormancy, so they don't make good houseplants. Tender ones, such as echeverias and jade plants, are happy outdoors in summer—and may even put on a lot of growth—but they must come inside to spend winter as houseplants.

Jared named his budding enterprise Groovy Plants Ranch, a nod to succulents' 1970s ubiquity. He lined market tables with red, yellow and green plants and decorated with kitschy touches like a succulent-filled guitar. "Customers were drawn in by the crazy, almost alien shapes," Jared recalls. He had no idea another tide—one fueled by Instagram—was about to roll in.

The succulent family encompasses jade plants, aloes, yuccas, snake plants, hens-and-chicks and a hundred more funky little plants you've never heard of. They've always been a favorite for the plant-challenged because they require little water. But they're also lookers, with sculptural forms and irresistible personalities. That combo of ease and visual appeal makes them popular with millennials. So succulents went viral. By 2016, Groovy Plants Ranch had not only set roots, but sprouted new limbs—a greenhouse, an online retail business, and a retail store in a 150-year-old schoolhouse just north of Columbus, Ohio.

When customers pull into the parking lot, a monstrous rock garden greets them, a showcase for giant agaves, flowering yuccas and mounds of colorful stonecrops. Nearby, rosette and flapjack succulents fill containers by the school's brick wall. Green and purple sedums spill out of repurposed gutters stretched along the cashier stand. In the greenhouse, customers gush over mini jelly bean sedums and 6-foot cacti.

All told, Jared and his wife, Liz, stock about 350 varieties and 20,000 plants, an extraordinary collection that lures visitors from neighboring states. "The original idea behind Groovy Plants was to sell unique plants," Jared says. "And that's still what we do. We breed or find succulents that no one else has." He notes that the biggest surprise for most people is that many succulents are hardy, meaning they can be a part of your outdoor landscaping. Growing a new plant from a fallen leaf is one thing, but surviving a Midwest winter? That's the very definition of a fighter.



VARIETY SHOW

Even within a single genus, succulents deliver vast diversity. Agave, for example, spans more than 200 species, including the 2- to 3-foot sea urchin-like *Agave geminiflora* (above right) and the compact, 1- to 2-foot rosette of *Agave victoriae-reginae* (lower left). Hardy to around 25 degrees, both look striking alone in large containers.

THE DIRT

PLANTING A MIXED CONTAINER

PREP Jared likes clay pots because they wick moisture from the roots, and trusty, affordable terra-cotta plays nicely off succulents' desert aesthetic. Shallow bowls are ideal. Don't try to fool a plant by putting gravel in the bottom of a pot with no drainage holes, he warns: "It's still a swimming pool, and succulents will rot."

PLANT For a classic design, choose three plant varieties. It's fine to mix hardy and tender plants, but that will create some end-of-summer work. Select one large succulent as the statement plant. Add a second, smaller plant in a contrasting color and shape. Fill gaps with sedum, allowing some to tumble over the rim.

FINISH After planting, top-dress the container with a layer of rocks to cover the soil. Water thoroughly. Put the container in a sunny spot on a deck, porch or patio, or within a garden planting. In late fall, transplant hardy succulents into the ground and bring potted tender succulents indoors.

ON THE ROCKS

An expansive rock garden at Groovy Plants Ranch shows how succulents can be a low-maintenance (and high drama) landscaping solution.



THE DIRT

BUILDING A ROCK GARDEN

PREP Choose a well-drained south-facing slope, a pocket garden around a patio or a sunny corner of an existing border. After preparing the ground, place boulders in a rough border. Build up a shallow mound of soil in the center. Nestle in a few river rocks or small boulders.

PLANT Anchor the design with one or more statement specimens, such as spiky yuccas or agaves. Here, *Agave americana* 'Mediopicta alba' (1) and 'Variegata' (2) offer dramatic variegated leaves.

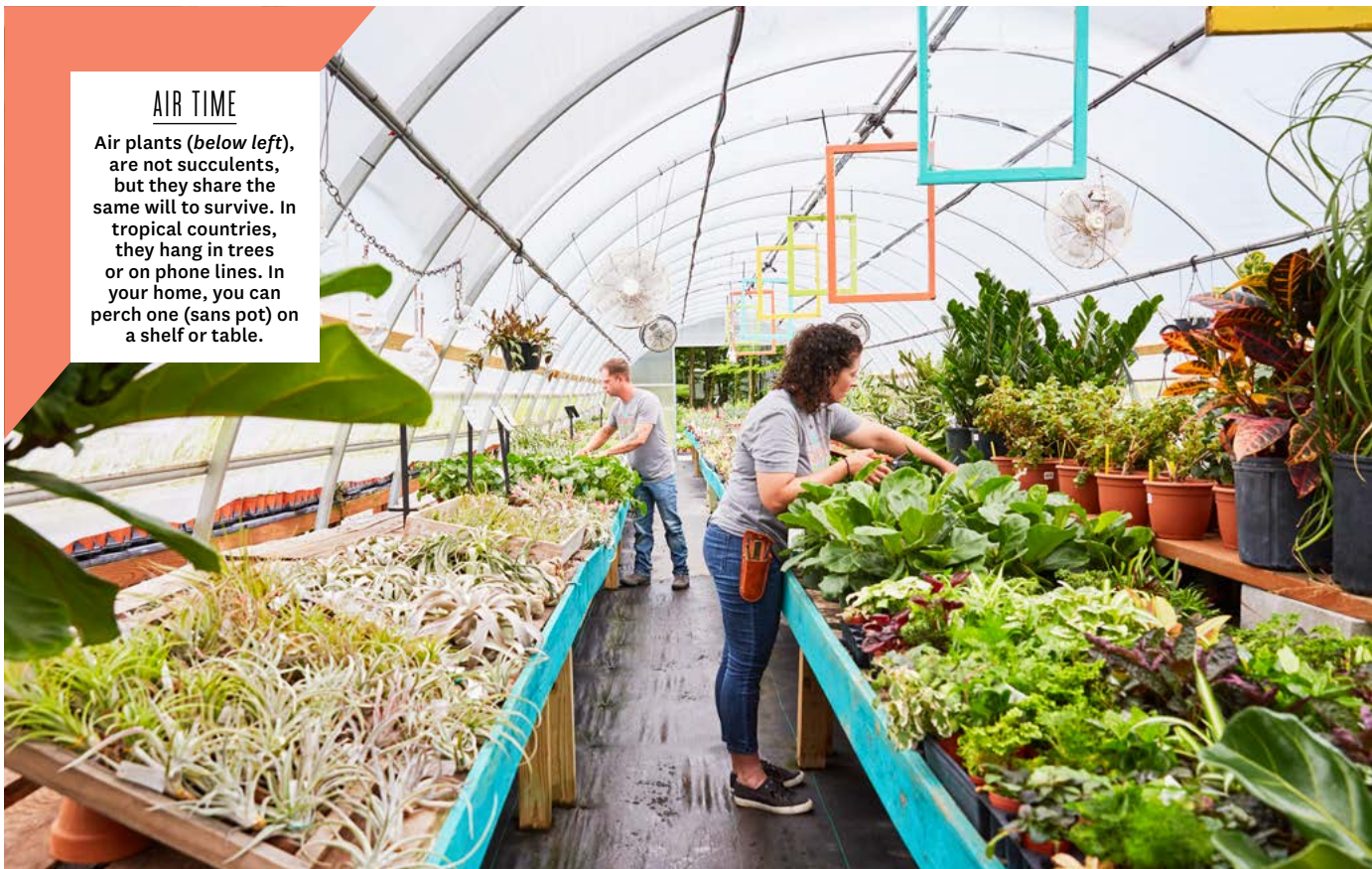
FILL Tuck smaller plants among the rocks, mixing textures, shapes and colors. "This is a Picasso," says Jared. "Not a formal garden." Hens-and-chicks are a must. (Tellingly, their Latin name *Sempervivum* roughly means "long-living.") The variety 'Cobweb' (3) has delicate white webbing in the rosettes. A little less familiar, *Orostachys* are extremely cold-hardy Asian succulents that eagerly self-seed and pop up elsewhere in the garden. *O. iwarenge* (4) has long tendrils that collect water and look striking after a rainfall. Sedums, also known as stonecrops, creep along the ground or cascade over ledges and are great for filling gaps. Jared has about 20 different sedums in this garden, including purple *SunSparkler* (5), which flowers in late summer.

ACCENT Don't limit yourself to succulents. For color, height and textural variety, mix in heat-loving perennials like *coneflowers* and *blanket flowers* (6).

FINISH After planting, top-dress the area with pea gravel or crushed granite to keep the plants' crowns dry and help control weeds. Water thoroughly once; after that, most plants will subsist on normal Midwest rainfall. If you've included any tender succulents, they'll need to over-winter in pots indoors.

AIR TIME

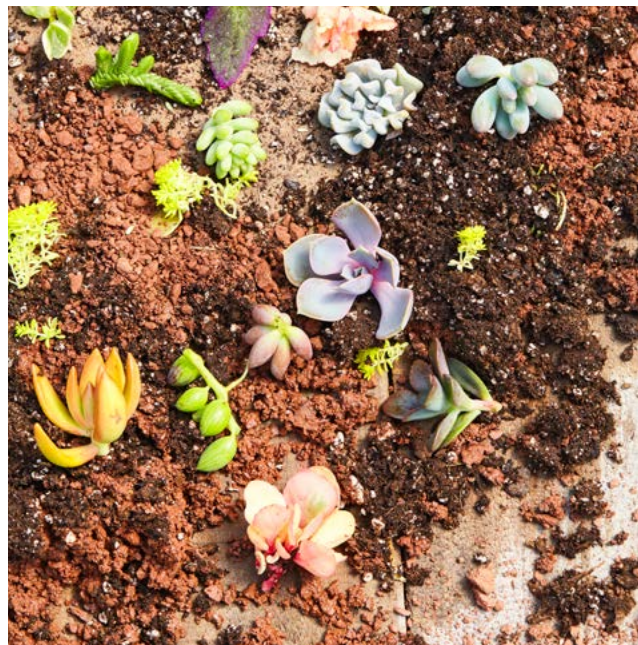
Air plants (below left), are not succulents, but they share the same will to survive. In tropical countries, they hang in trees or on phone lines. In your home, you can perch one (sans pot) on a shelf or table.



TALK THE TALK

PROPAGATION

This means making baby plants! Agaves, aloes and hens-and-chicks grow “pups” that can be cut (with any roots) and replanted. For sedums, echeverias or jade, snap a leaf off at the stem. Let dry a couple of days, then lay in soil (as in Jared’s plant nursery, right). Then leave them be. Some won’t take root—that’s nature—but if they do, mist lightly to nurture growth.



THE DIRT

KEEPING L’L SUCCULENTS AS HOUSEPLANTS

PREP Direct light is important, so a south-facing window is best. If they don’t get enough sun, succulents will etiolate—stretch toward the light and get gangly. If you choose to transplant your new baby, keep the pot within 2 inches of the size of the pot it came in.

PLANT One of the treats of shopping at a nursery like Groovy Plants is finding specimens you won’t see at big-box stores. **Aeonium ‘Kiwi’ (1)** adds a pop of chartreuse and pink to containers; it’s a prolific off-setter, so expect lots of rosettes. **Echeverias** are snapshot-perfect rosette succulents that come in a rainbow of hues and shapes; **‘Perle von Nurnburg’ (2)** has purple leaves, while **E. shaviana ‘Truffles’ (3)** has a ruffled cabbage look. For hanging baskets, consider **Echinopsis chamaecereus (4)**, an easy grower that produces orange flowers. **Senecios** are Instagram darlings with strings of pearl, icicle or hook-shape leaves. Jared is one of the few growers in the country selling the rare **‘String of Dolphins’ (5)**.

MAINTAIN Water biweekly, when pots are thoroughly dry (or even less in winter). Remove flowers after blooming to preserve the plant’s energy. Prune or take cuttings of larger, unruly plants. If echeverias get leggy, decapitate the top portion and replant it. [MWL](#)



DIG IN

Hover your phone’s camera for names of every plant on this page—and to order many of them directly from Groovy Plants Ranch.

Stocking the Toolbox

IF YOU’VE EVER SEMI-NEGLECTED A PET CACTUS ON A BOOKSHELF, YOU KNOW SUCCULENTS ARE A LOW-FRILLS GAME. BUT SOME GEAR CAN HELP.



TONGS

Jared warns that cacti prickles have ruined many of his gloves over the years, so now he just uses metal barbecue tongs for lifting and placing the thorniest plants.



FERTILIZER

They can handle tough conditions, but succulents do need nutrients, especially in pots. Jared likes a liquid format; for best results, choose one targeted for cacti.



MOISTURE METER

Take the guesswork out of watering (especially in high, out-of-reach containers) with a gauge that measures moisture levels deep below the surface. Most cost less than \$20.



THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE



COWELL AND HUBBARD, CLEVELAND



ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME, CLEVELAND



FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS, COLUMBUS

epic road trip through Ohio's vibrant cities

5 days cities

OHIO GAVE THE WORLD AVIATION, EIGHT U.S. PRESIDENTS AND MORE BIG CITIES THAN ANY OTHER MIDWEST STATE. THE THREE MAJOR METROS EACH TOP 2 MILLION RESIDENTS. WE PARTNERED WITH OHIO'S TOURISM TEAM TO CHART AN ACTION-PACKED ROUTE THROUGH THE STATE OF MANY SKYLINES. HOP IN!

#ohiofindithere



FOLLOW ALONG

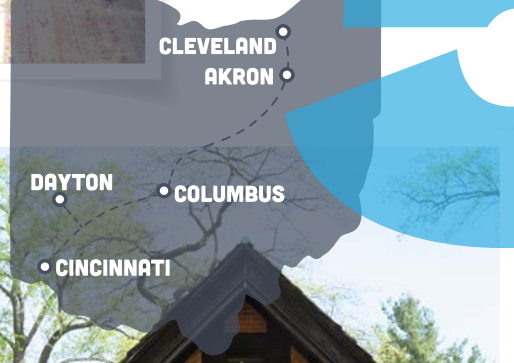
Hover your phone's camera for an interactive itinerary.



OVER-THE-RHINE, CINCINNATI



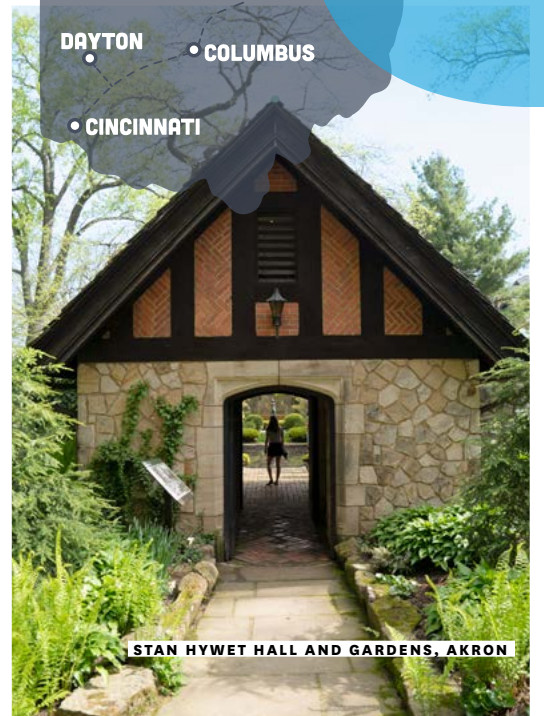
SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT, COLUMBUS



LOCK 15 BREWING, AKRON



AMERICAN SIGN MUSEUM, CINCINNATI



STAN HYWET HALL AND GARDENS, AKRON



LINCOLN SOCIAL, COLUMBUS

WRITER TIMOTHY MEINCH PHOTOGRAPHER RYAN DONNELL



1
21C MUSEUM HOTEL

Big yellow penguins and a play-yourself ping-pong mirror greeted us in the lobby of this hotel-meets-art museum. The galleries are free and open 24-7 to all (including dogs). Drink on the rooftop or eat at Metropole, named for the building's original 1912 hotel.



GREAT AMERICAN BALL PARK

2
CINCINNATI REDS HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

This year, America's first pro baseball team celebrates its 150th anniversary with a \$5.5 million renovation of its hall of fame, adjacent to Great American Ball Park. Stop in to see World Series trophies, an 1869 baseball card worth \$65,000, and a wall of 4,256 game balls—one for each of Pete Rose's MLB hits.



CINCINNATI REDS HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



TOUR OF
Over-the-Rhine

Around the turn of the last century, 136 drinking establishments lined the 8 blocks of Vine Street in Over-the-Rhine. Back then, 75 percent of the neighborhood population was German-American, and as many as 10 people often lived in one 2-bedroom apartment. That twin reality explains Over-the-Rhine's name—and the demand for so many bars, quips local history buff Craig Maness. Just 10 years ago, this area was plagued by crime, but stylish shops and a booming dining scene now fill these streets. In the past two years alone, 85 new businesses moved into the neighborhood.

Keep your eyes up while walking through the area. The striking building facades represent the world's largest contiguous collection of Italianate architecture. And be sure to stroll through Washington Park and across the street to Music Hall, built in 1878. Home to Cincinnati's opera and orchestra, the building reopened in 2017 after a \$143 million renovation.

On the edge of Over-the-Rhine, the Pendleton neighborhood is a rising star. We filled up on burnt ends and brisket at Lucius Q, near Nation Kitchen and Bar, and the new 3 Points Urban Brewery and co-working space.

3
THE MURALS

Pad your walking times for mural gawking. Bolivar Alley in the emerging Pendleton neighborhood showcases raw graffiti creations by teens in the ArtWorks apprentice program.

4
QUEEN CITY UNDERGROUND TOUR

Some immigrant roots are most visible beneath the streets. Craig Maness, a guide for American Legacy Tours, holds the keys to crypts beneath St. Francis Seraph Church and massive tunnels dug by beer barons before modern refrigeration.

5
AMERICAN SIGN MUSEUM

From hand-carved wooden letters to the neon revolution, signage history presents a fun and colorful lens on U.S. history and commercialization. Rows of flashing lights and a *Main Street USA* exhibit cranked up our nostalgia and selfie game.

6
SMALE RIVERFRONT PARK

Take it from our crew: Adults do not require the company of minors to play at this 45-acre gem. Climb up to pilot a flying pig, meditate in a labyrinth or rock on swinging benches overlooking the river.

7
NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

The museum's galleries explore both our nation's history and the less familiar stories of people trapped in slavery today. One of the most sobering exhibits is a slave pen relocated from Kentucky. Outside, the Freedom Flame will stay alight until all slavery ends.



CAN'T-MISS VIEW

Above Smale Riverfront Park, the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge was a prototype for the Brooklyn Bridge. Walk it for a fab skyline view—including the Art Deco Carew Tower, said to have inspired the Empire State Building.



NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER



DAYTON

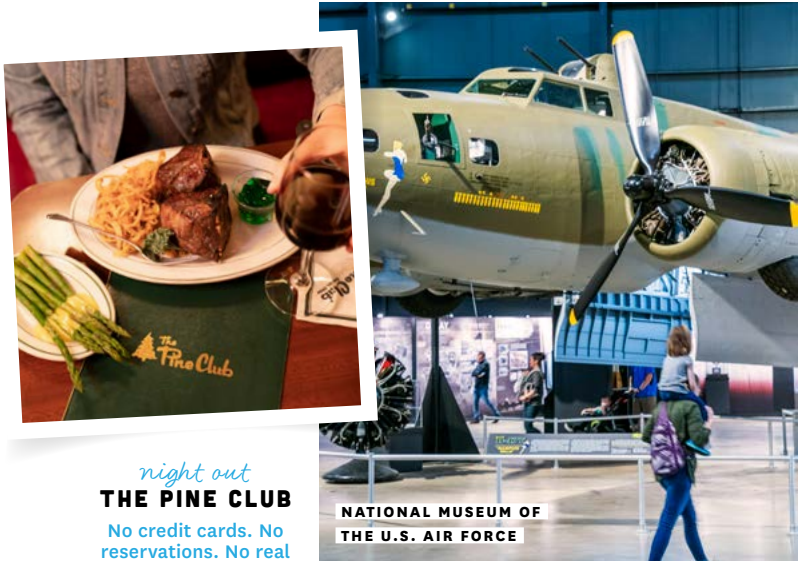
head in the clouds



AMANDA WRIGHT LANE
AT JOHN W. BERRY, SR.
WRIGHT BROTHERS
NATIONAL MUSEUM



CARILLON BREWING









NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE U.S. AIR FORCE

night out
THE PINE CLUB
No credit cards. No reservations. No real changes since 1947. Even a former owner still hangs here, his ashes stashed in a beer stein above the bar in this steakhouse. Owner Dave Hulme says consistency and principles are his secret—and tells how that once meant asking Barbara and George Bush to wait at the bar for a table on a busy night.

EVERY TIME YOU CRACK A POP CAN, YOU'RE HOLDING A PIECE OF DAYTON. But the soda-can pull tab is just a B-lister in the annals of Dayton inventions. We had barely rolled into town when we encountered the city's looming heroes in **Carillon Historical Park**: Orville and Wilbur Wright. As our honorary tour guide, Orville's great-grandniece Amanda Wright Lane shared their story (one failed flying machine at a time) inside **John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers National Museum**.

"Uncle Or didn't even finish high school," Amanda says, explaining that neither brother went to college before running a print shop, then a bike shop—then changing history. In the back of the museum, we found the 1905 Wright Flyer III. This one that *didn't* fail is now a National Historic Landmark. Next door to the Wright Brothers museum, we encountered innovation of a different flavor. At **Carillon Brewing**, brewers stick to 1850s recipes and methods, stoking fires and working pulleys beside diners and drinkers. After lunch, more aviation history: At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the massive **National Museum of the U.S. Air Force** collection spans a 1909 Wright Military Flyer, retired presidential planes and lunar landers. The free museum has nearly every type of major aircraft ever used by the Air Force and Army. Some hang from the ceiling. Others you can walk through, including the plane that carried John F. Kennedy's body to Washington, D.C., and the first Air Force One.

HOW DAYTON CHANGED YOUR WORLD

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| STEP LADDER (1862) | CASH REGISTER (1879) | AIRPLANE (1903) | ELECTRIC STARTER FOR CAR ENGINES (1912) | RIP-CORD PARACHUTE (1918) | POP-CAN PULL TAB (1965) |

more to explore EAT, SIP, PLAY

At **Lock 15 Brewing**, chef John Taylor cooks up fish and chips, steak salads, and the decadent Devil Strip Dog. Nearby, **Akron Coffee Roasters** serves pour-over, and **Thirsty Dog Brewing** gives new life to an 1800s brewing building. Starting June 27, **Akron Art Museum** launches its **Downtown at Dusk** free outdoor concert series.

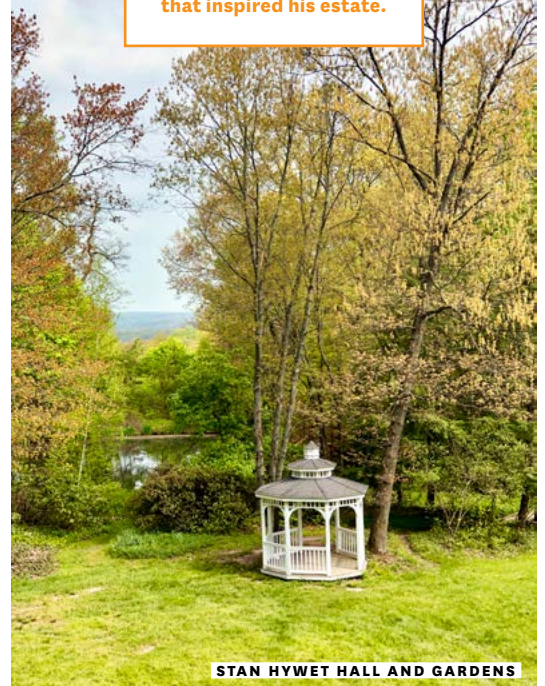


AKRON ART MUSEUM



LOCK 15 BREWING

CAN'T-MISS VIEW
You could spend hours at **Stan Hywet** touring the 65-room **Tudor Revival** home. But those who wander the 70-acre grounds can find a sunken secret garden and a tea house, built on a quarry lagoon where F.A. Seiberling saw a vista that inspired his estate.



STAN HYWET HALL AND GARDENS



STAN HYWET HALL AND GARDENS

BETWEEN BITES OF TUNA POKE AND BISON BURGER, we steal glances of the old canal beyond the patio at **Lock 15 Brewing**. A southern neighbor to Cleveland, Akron was the final and highest stop on the Ohio and Erie Canal, a distinction that gave the city its name, Greek for "high place." When roads overtook waterways, Akron was ready. Goodyear co-founder F.A. Seiberling brought big rubber money to town in the 1900s—and with it, art and culture. The tire tycoon was never one to keep things to himself, though. At his estate, **Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens**, a crest reads *Non Nobis Solum*: "Not for Us Alone." We'll drink a local brew to that!

AKRON

not for us alone



SMART COLUMBUS SHUTTLES

IN COLUMBUS, WE SWAPPED OUR ROAD RALLY FLEET FOR MARIA.

In Jetsons-like fashion, she gave us a ride to the future. Maria, along with Major, Miko and a few other self-driving vehicles, began rolling along the **Smart Columbus shuttle** route in December. “They really do have their own personalities,” says fleet attendant John Hargrove, who sat in Maria’s driver(less) seat to help when needed. Four-way stops, for example, still pose too many variables with human drivers on the road. Maria zipped us along the 1.5-mile downtown loop to four stops: **Bicentennial Park, COSI** (science museum), the **National Veterans Memorial and Museum**, and **Smart Columbus Experience Center**, where you can test-drive electric vehicles for free.

Plans are already in place for a second route, thanks to a \$40 million Department of Transportation Smart Cities Challenge grant; to win it, Columbus beat out 77 other cities in 2016. The timing couldn’t be better. The metro population of America’s first Smart City tops 2 million, and trends predict the area will add 1 million more residents by 2050. Columbus proper recently surpassed Indianapolis as the largest Midwest city outside Chicago. With all that growth, new visitor attractions are sprouting up all over Ohio’s capital.

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children’s Garden opened last summer at **Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**. Think that’s just a planter of pansies? Spin it and take a peek through the looking glass to watch it become a living kaleidoscope. Herb gardens, play structures and a Hocking Hills-inspired splash area—waterfall and all—cover the 2-acre garden. Visitors this summer can spot many of Dale Chihuly’s signature glass creations suspended above plants in the Conservatory; *Chihuly: Celebrating Nature* runs through March.

Late astronaut and Ohio senator John Glenn helped spearhead the **National Veterans Memorial and Museum**, an \$82 million facility that opened last fall. Exhibits include video interviews and soldiers’ letters, plus interactive elements like hoisting a 75-pound pack. “We go from the ‘me’ and the ‘I’ to the ‘we,’” says Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, U.S. Army (retired). As president and CEO, he explains how the museum connects personal lives to the larger sweep of American history.

Like any town, Columbus is a mash-up of independent businesses, personalities and ethnicities. But locals we met here kept talking up the big picture in this city. They call it The Columbus Way. We call it innovative, artistic, delicious and smart.



LINCOLN SOCIAL



COLUMBUS FOOD ADVENTURES

taste the town
GOOD EATS

What’s the easiest way to navigate a booming food scene? Let someone else do the driving. For about \$60, Columbus Food Adventures shuttles hungry explorers on a progressive meal at several restaurants. Themes include taco trucks, desserts or an Alt Eats tour of the cuisines of Somalia, El Salvador or Vietnam. Prefer to linger at one spot? We found a great one: Middle West Spirits Service Bar offers distillery tours and tastings, plus flavor-packed meals from Chef Avishar Barua.



TOUR OF Short North Arts District

Sharon Weiss opened her gallery a quarter-century ago in Short North—“before parking meters were here,” she says. Forget finding a spot easily now. Short North has morphed into a 20-block mosaic of fashion boutiques, restaurants, bars, murals and new faces. This summer, \$500 million of investment will add more storefronts and lofts. And trailblazers keep evolving, too: To create space for art studios, Sharon Weiss Gallery has just expanded into a building next door.

Come the first Saturday of the month for Gallery Hop—and don’t miss the hottest rooftop in Columbus, Cameron Mitchell’s new Lincoln Social. Group drinks come in crystal urns and one clever cocktail, Don’t Kill My Vibe, features a mouth-tingling edible flower called a buzz button. The Insta-perfect backdrop alone is worth the wait at the bottom of the elevator.

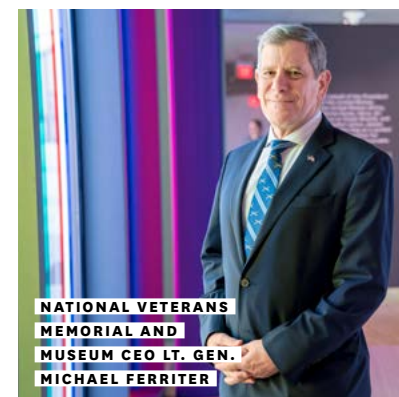
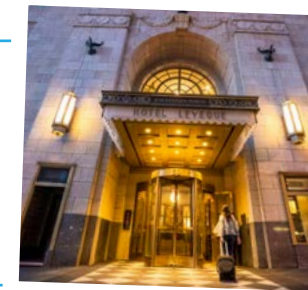


MIDDLE WEST SPIRITS SERVICE BAR



CAN’T-MISS VIEW

Every night, colored lights illuminate Columbus’ first skyscraper. The downtown building was renovated in 2017 and reopened as the celestial-theme Hotel LeVeque. But the dreamiest view is after lights-out. Lie down to see the Milky Way, constellations and shooting stars—projected over your bed from a high-tech star globe.



NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM CEO LT. GEN. MICHAEL FERRITER



FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

CLEVELAND

presents...

THE BEST SHOWS END WITH A MIC DROP—AND THE BEST ROAD TRIPS DO, TOO.

On the shore of Lake Erie, 250 miles from where we began, Cleveland delivered a grand finale of mega stops: The gods of rock. Stunning architecture. Renaissance masters. Hilarious photo ops. Befitting the home of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, here's our Fab Five (because we couldn't limit it to just four). Anyone else ready for an encore?



5

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

We hadn't even seen a work of art yet, and the CMA's vast marble- and wood-walled atrium stopped us in our tracks.

Light pours through a glass ceiling to illuminate sculptures and plants. Leaving our jaws on the floor, we broke up to explore the free, two-story labyrinth of surrounding corridors and galleries. The collection spans 6,000 years of art. Look for Andy Warhol's *Marilyn x 100* and a 5,000-year-old statuette believed to be from Western Anatolia.

4

WEST SIDE MARKET

Frank's Bratwursts has been filling hard rolls with kraut, spicy mustard and plump sausages for 48 years.

We ate ours on the go while eyeing massive apple fritters, sampling cheeses and basking in the 107-year-old indoor market's cross-cultural history. Outside, vendors sell fruits, veggies and farm-fresh staples year-round.

1

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

A blur of flashing lights and marquees on Euclid Avenue creates a mini Broadway in Cleveland. It's one of the country's largest performing arts centers.

Ten theaters and the 2 blocks they cover host 1,000-plus events per year, including outdoor summer movies and touring shows. Just look for the world's largest outdoor chandelier lighting up the street.

2

A CHRISTMAS STORY HOUSE AND MUSEUM

No triple-dog dare needed. When you see the bar of soap beside Ralphie's bathroom sink, you might just stick it in your mouth. The filming location from the 1983 "you'll shoot your eye out" Christmas classic holds all the goods that sparked decades of relentless quoting and holiday schtick. A Red Ryder BB gun. A copy of Ralphie's C+ paper from Miss Shields. And not one, but several leg lamps, just in case—they're *fra-gee-lay*. You can even rent a bunny suit onesie for an irresistible photo op in the house.



3

ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME

Yes, we drooled over Jimi Hendrix's 1970 Fender Stratocaster. But treasures like Jimi's childhood drawings truly pry into the psyche and roots of America's music heroes. Some legends, like 2018 Hall of Fame inductee Sister Rosetta Tharpe, are finally getting their due for planting the seeds of rock and roll in electric gospel. Many exhibits are hands- (and headphones) on. This summer, play pinball on more than a dozen rock-inspired arcade machines in *Part of the Machine: Rock and Pinball*. Starting July 1, visitors can jam on guitars, drums and other instruments in The Garage. Take a lesson or record your session and create custom band merch in the new space.



BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Hover your phone's camera to see more of our team's road trip snaps.

out *and* about

Bonus content for select readers in
ILLINOIS / INDIANA / MICHIGAN / MINNESOTA / WISCONSIN

After a morning chasing waterfalls at Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, Indiana, explore the riverfront town—featuring one of the largest blocs of National Historic Landmark properties in the entire country.



PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL NORDMANN

OA2 GETAWAY TO **MADISON, INDIANA** | **OA8 THE BUZZ: PLAY** BOBBLEHEAD MUSEUM/ROMAN-STYLE BATHS/PERFORMANCE ART/MAJOR LEAGUE QUIDDITCH/BOWLING SPEAKEASY/EPIC SPLASH PAD/CREATIVE RETREATS | **OA10 THE BUZZ: EAT & DRINK** RURAL BAKERY/LITERARY COCKTAILS/SUSHI SURPRISE/HISTORIC MENU | **OA12 THE BUZZ: STAY** CITY CAMPING/BREWERY LODGE/ART-THEME HOTEL



MWL J/A 2019

glory on the river

Roaring jet boats and hydroplanes, burbling waterfalls and clinking glasses provide summer's soundtrack in Madison, Indiana.

WRITER **JESS HOFFERT**
PHOTOGRAPHER **PAUL NORDMANN**



ROCKIN' THUNDER RIVER TOURS

PHOTOGRAPH: (MISS HOMESTREET) COURTESY OF MADISON REGATTA



MADISON'S WATERFRONT

the jet boat's buzz grows to a roar as the craft zips closer on the Ohio River. In an instant, it spins out, whipping up the water like a blender, to the thrill of riders on board. Madison's Rockin' Thunder jet boats provides guided tours of the area around historic Madison, Indiana, in speedboats that skip like stones along the water's surface. Travelers can take a two-hour ride to see wildlife and learn about river pirates, or take a two-day trek to Frankfort, Kentucky. That trip journeys through a series of limestone locks built by German immigrants in the 1830s, offering a dive into history and chances to spot bobcats and herons.

The jet boats are a newer attraction, but speeding on the water is part of the legacy in this southeast Indiana town of 12,000. The Madison Regatta, the town's 69th annual powerboat race, takes place this July 5-7, and all eyes will be on local icon *Miss HomeStreet* (formerly known as *Miss Madison*), which will defend her title this year.

Once a scrappy underdog, the world's only community-owned racer has risen to world-class status (the predictable but heartwarming 2005 film *Madison* chronicles her rapid rise).

Madison has plenty to be proud of on land, too. Visitors can explore 133 blocks designated as a National Historic Landmark, perhaps the most of any U.S. town. The well-preserved homes, shop fronts (including three wineries) and mansions provide tangible evidence of how commerce on the Ohio River—in addition to a busy railroad line—made this one of the Midwest's wealthiest towns in the 1800s.

West of Madison, Clifty Falls State Park blankets the area with wooded hiking trails and a series of waterfalls, plus outstanding panoramic views of downtown and the river valley. From here, jet boats and hydroplanes look like toy boats flitting across the water, but you can still hear the distant hum that's become the signature sound of summer in Madison.



↑
can't miss

Competing each year since 1961, the *Miss HomeStreet* hydroplane racing team is the longest continuously active group in the sport's history.

MADISON REGATTA MUSTS

1

Purchase a combo ticket that includes races plus the new Roostertail Music Festival, showcasing rock, folk and country acts at Bicentennial Park (July 4–6). This year’s headliners include southern Indiana’s Nick Dittmeier and the Sawdusters, and Texas rockers Whiskey Myers.



ROOSTERTAIL MUSIC FESTIVAL

2

Claim a spot early under the shade of the large tree below Jefferson Street for prime views of the boat racing.

3

Reserve a site across the river at Kentucky’s McCoy’s Camping. Watch races there, then walk over the Milton-Madison Bridge for the music fest. (Combo ticket is required.)



MADISON'S MAIN STREET

STROLL THE SHOPS

Early 1800s Main Street buildings contain a diverse array of indie shops, including Madison Table Works (gorgeous cherry- and walnut-wood works), Unique Boutique (colorful home decor), Broadway Hotel and Tavern (the state’s oldest tavern, established in 1834) and Cocoa Safari Chocolates (with truffle flavors including honey lavender, key lime and strawberry champagne). A couple of blocks off the main drag, sample the dry but fruity Rivertown White in the Cellar Tasting Room at Lanthier Winery, the state’s oldest, housed in an 18th-century brick building.

ORDER UP!

CRYSTAL AND JULES

Chef and owner Andy Richmer loves to visit with diners to make sure they’re enjoying his masterfully executed specialties: house-made pasta, seared tuna and a savory Costa Rican strip steak marinated for three days.

HINKLE’S SANDWICH SHOP

Grease is the word here. And it’s been keeping this tiny burger joint’s tables filled since 1933. Order two or three Hinkleburgers (sliders with grilled onions and pickles), and wash ‘em down with one of dozens of milkshake options.

HORST’S LITTLE BAKERY HAUS

Don’t be fooled by the “haus” name and the Bavarian cuckoo-clock decor. Breakfasts here are very American—and very good—especially the lineup of pastries, including glazed doughnuts, cinnamon buns and pecan rolls.



GET OUT AND PLAY

CLIFTY FALLS STATE PARK

Niagara they are not. But the four modest waterfalls lend a lovely burbling soundtrack to hikes along 10 wooded paths, some leading to the secluded falls and bluff-top views of Madison. Rugged trails 6, 7 and 8 deliver the best scenery.

LANIER MANSION

The 1844 Greek Revival jewel of Madison's Historic District sparkles thanks to a painstaking restoration (down to the horsehair brushes that were used to paint the walls the original colors). Tour the home, then relax in the palatial gardens landscaped according to an 1876 lithograph of the grounds: heirloom roses, peonies, wisteria and more.

ROCKIN' THUNDER RIVER TOURS

Zip along the Ohio and Kentucky rivers in jet boats at speeds reaching 50 mph. Tours range from a scenic two-hour outing to an overnight excursion with lodging at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort, Kentucky.



LANIER MANSION



LANIER MANSION GARDENS



ROCKIN' THUNDER RIVER TOURS

out and about THE BUZZ

Hot off the minds of travel writers across the region: your definitive guide on where to play, eat, drink and stay now.

WRITER ANN KLEIN



PLAY

Bobble 'til You Wobble MILWAUKEE

We challenge you to keep from bobbing along at the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood. The world's largest collection of pop culture noddies (6,500-plus) opened this year, starring Babe Ruth, Flo the Progressive insurance saleswoman, and a rockin' party of politicians and religious figures from across history. How's that for a cross-cultural spectacle?

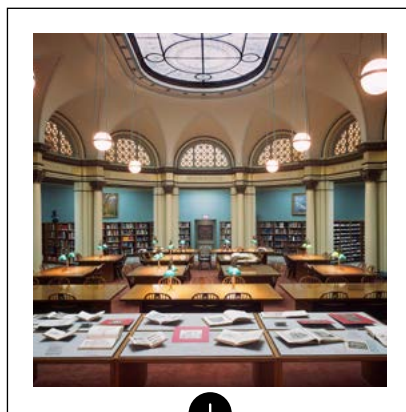
Relax like a Roman CHICAGO

Step one: Stow away your phone. At Aire Ancient Baths in Chicago's River West warehouse district, staff take relaxation seriously. The subterranean space that was once a paint factory has walls so thick that even the car horns on West Superior Street can't wedge their way between you and some serious ancient Roman bliss.

Pronounced AYE-ray (for "air"), Aire re-creates the cavernous candlelit bathhouses of the Greek, Roman and Ottoman empires—with a few updates. Swimsuits are mandatory, for example,

and the exfoliation area has pink Himalayan salt, not metal instruments.

The Ancient Thermal Bath Experience is the standard for many first-timers. Starting at \$84, it includes 90 minutes to indulge in all eight pools and two steam rooms. For the wish list? The Red Wine Experience for Two (starting at \$800) includes a wine soak in an antique Venetian well and a full body massage.



Oh Hey, Art CHICAGO

The Art Institute of Chicago launched a dynamic two-year series this year. Through spring 2021, *Iterations* will feature seven artists from around the world, each presenting commissioned work anchored in sound, spoken word, choreography and other performance practices. Turkish artist and musician Cevdet Ereğ kicked off the series in February with his obscurely titled *chiçičiçichiciçi*, featuring a fence structure, a sound installation and a graphic score.

Iterations will feature exhibitions throughout the museum's galleries and public spaces. Next up: Swiss artist

Alexandra Bachzetsis will use choreography, music and voice to explore the aesthetic of the uncanny in *Chasing a Ghost*. Bachzetsis' performances, October 31–November 2, will take place in the ornate Chicago Stock Exchange Trading Room.

At Aire Ancient Baths, walls are so thick that even car horns on West Superior Street can't wedge their way between you and some serious ancient Roman bliss.

CHICAGO

Quidditch, with Gravity MINNEAPOLIS

That fictional flying sport from J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series has landed in Minneapolis. In the spectator-friendly Major League Quidditch semipro league, PVC pipes sub in for brooms, nobody flies (for long) and teams score points with a volleyball—but you can still call it a quaffle if you'd like.

The Minneapolis Monarchs launched this year, joining 14 MLQ teams in the United States and Canada. In the Midwest, you can catch the Cleveland Riff, Detroit Innovators, Indianapolis Intensity and Kansas City Stampede, along with the Monarchs.

The competition is chaotic, physical and fun to watch. Show up in person or tune into the action on Facebook Live at mlquidditch.com.

Bowling with Class

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

Leave Dad's league shirt in the closet because Oshkosh's new 10-lane bowling alley may just inspire you to slip into a flapper dress. The Lanes is tucked in the basement of a historic Tudor Revival event space called The Howard. Cushy armchairs and couches, chandeliers,

and a menu of speakeasy-esque cocktails evoke a hangout from the pages of *The Great Gatsby*. Reserve a bowling lane in advance, then sip on a Greenpoint Manhattan while you bowl. Crack 200 on the score sheet? Order a round of brandy ice cream sundaes.

Splashing Back, Better than Ever

MINNEAPOLIS

By the time the Minnesota Orchestra's Sommerfest series begins in Peavey Plaza in July, the sunken park's fountains should be splashing again. That's no small feat. The 2-acre downtown plaza was built in 1974 and earned National Register of Historic Places recognition in 2012 for its modernist architectural design. But it had fallen into significant disrepair, so a \$10 million overhaul promises a full face-lift. The stainless-steel fountains will be restored among a new water feature adding a shallow basin of water. Ramps make the space more accessible. And new trees will wash it all in green.

The Peavey isn't downtown Minneapolis' only revamped public space. The Nicollet pedestrian mall next door completed its own two-year restoration in 2017, with new public art, walkways, LED lighting, hundreds of trees and the impressive \$30 million Douglas Dayton YMCA.

Making Time

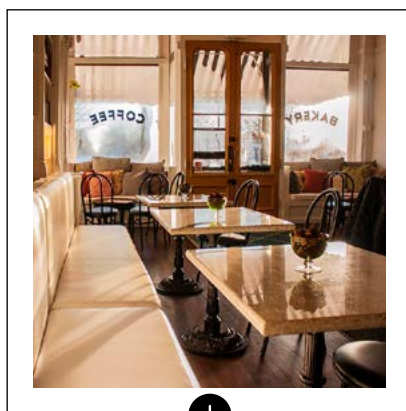
BELOIT, WISCONSIN

One Sunday a month, Vanessa Herald invites other creatives to join her for a working hangout on her rural Wisconsin property. At Make Time Farm, you can show up with a book project, guitars or that baby quilt you've been trying to finish for two years. The one-day retreats start by dropping your cell phone into a basket. For the price of

a small donation (\$5-\$20 suggested), you'll have six hours and all the sky you can contemplate on the 15-acre property just 1.5 hours southwest of Milwaukee.



EAT & DRINK



One Sweet Travel Tip

PRINCETON, ILLINOIS

On your next trip across Interstate-80, skip the Dairy Queen or gas station coffee and hop off at the Princeton exit in north-central Illinois. One mile south of the interstate and the typical restaurant chains, Flour House Bakery and Coffee awaits on North Main street.

Beyond the striped awning, owners Sallee Zearing and her mom, Terri (who taught her pretty much everything she knows about baking), promise fresh coffee and baked goods. Check Facebook for their daily schedule of specialty bagels and breads, sweet scones, and flourless treats, such as monster cookies.

If Sallee and Terri are there—and they usually are—ask them about the building's many iterations. It's been in their family for four generations.

Read It and Eat

CHICAGO

Michael and Fabiana Carter wanted their new Hyde Park restaurant to wrap guests in comfort. For them, that meant books, so they spun college memories of English libraries and manor houses into the eclectic Bibliophile, which opened in October just down the street from their popular Fabiana's Bakery.

Bartenders here inspire spirited conversation with literary-themed cocktails like Great Expectations, made with butter-washed bourbon. You can also snack on caviar, bone marrow with brioche toast or Kentucky Bourbon Cake and Amaretto Pie.

See an interesting title on the bookshelves? Pull it down to take a look—or add it to your bar tab and take it home.

marinated Edomae-style in soy sauce, salt or vinegar.

Ready to take the plunge? You can try it at Omakase Yume in the West Loop (\$125), Omakase Takeya in Fulton Market (\$130) or Kyōten in Logan Square (\$220).

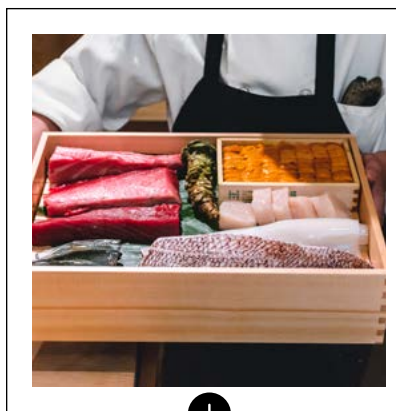
See an interesting title on the bookshelves at Bibliophile? Pull it down to take a look—or add it to your bar tab and take it home.

CHICAGO

House Special

MUNCIE, INDIANA

Go ahead—snoop around the Greek Revival house on East Adams Street in Muncie, Indiana. The 1852 home opened late last year as The Neely House restaurant. Hoosier restaurateur Russell Irving opened it to the public after living in the home and directing a major renovation to restore its original design. Russell drew guidance from 41 years of diaries penned by original homeowner Thomas S. Neely. That research, for example, inspired an orchard that provides fresh peaches, plums and cherries for the restaurant kitchen. The menu includes dishes such as Smoked Fried Chicken, topped with a spicy-sweet apricot and Fresno chili sauce and served with bacon collard greens and cornbread pudding.



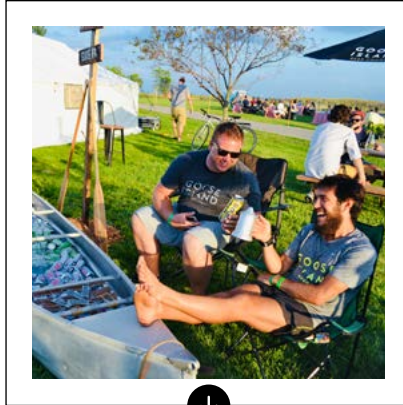
Splurge of Faith

CHICAGO

Going out for sushi in Chicago just got more interesting. At the city's Japanese *omakase* restaurants (loose translation: "I'll leave it up to you"), you eat what the chef sets before you. And, making the experience even more of a trust fall, a meal will set you back more than \$100. But if you've got an eye for art, you'll appreciate these beautiful bites—up to 18 of them—created with seafood from Japan and



STAY



Camping It Up

CHICAGO

Forget getting away from it all. Book a spot to pitch a tent right in the Windy City during Camp Northerly at Humboldt Park, August 16–17. Use a provided tent or bring your own for a discount. Either way, proceeds go to the Chicago Parks Foundation. Past years' highlights have included canoes filled with Goose Island brews, hyper-local neighborhood eats and nature walks in restored prairie. Instead of Northerly Island, this year's tent party moves to 200-acre Humboldt Park, 8 miles west. The Northerly Island spot was already claimed for an interactive Hamilton exhibition this summer. (Yep, put that one on your calendar, too.)

Hop Inn

MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

The ultimate crash pad has finally arrived to complement a night at the brew pub. Or, make that *many* brew pubs. The Brewery Lodge in Michigan

City opened last year, a boutique hotel conveniently close to a smattering of microbreweries that have cropped up like dune grass in northwest Indiana and southwest Michigan.

Capitalizing on good vibes (and good water), the owners of Zorn Brew Works and Shady Creek Winery partnered to transform a 1930s inn. The hotel's Brew Bus Tour (\$50) travels to Michigan's Harbor Country for wineries and breweries, such as Greenbush Brewing and Tapestry Brewery.

Back at the lodge, sink into your primo bed for a good night's sleep. Just don't leave your door open or you might wake up with kisses from Zeus, the friendly resident Great Dane.

The Brewery Lodge is the ultimate crash pad to complement a night at the brew pub.

MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

Artful Sleeping

MILWAUKEE

Next time you visit Milwaukee, consider parking yourself in the artsy East Town neighborhood. The InterContinental Hotel is reopening this summer as the art-themed Saint Kate. Explore a big first-floor gallery before heading to your room, where creations by Wisconsin artists await. The funky shower curtains come from high school art teacher and designer Kelly Frederick Mizer. Time your trip with one of these upcoming art events: Sculpture Milwaukee, now through October 21, Gallery Night and Day, July 19–20, and Third Ward Art Festival, August 31–September 1.



FULLER'S NORTH BRANCH OUTING CLUB
Lovells, Michigan



TUNE IN

Hover your phone's camera to watch our documentary short film about Fuller's.

THE TINY BROOK TROUT cradled in my palm lies still and glistening, strangely at peace with his predicament. Maybe he knows that if he waits just a minute—long enough for me to marvel at the blue flecks on his skin and the orange rim of his eye—I'll slip him right back where he was born, the cold, clear North Branch of the AuSable River.

I'm a rookie fly fisher in borrowed waders, standing shin-deep in storied waters three hours north of Detroit. (The AuSable was America's first dedicated fly-only river.) The current tugs at my feet, pines stretch up and riparian wildflowers bloom. Gazing into the trout's eye, I wonder if Henry Ford might have done the same a century ago. After all, last night I saw his name scratched into a guest book at my lodge, Fuller's North Branch Outing Club.

Judy Fuller bought and restored the 1916 hotel, a National Historic Site, with her husband 23 years ago. Antique rods and nets hang on the walls. The floorboards are a little creaky; the beds are a little squeaky. And only two suites have private bathrooms. "We figured if Ford and Rockefeller could share a bath, anybody could," Judy says. When people like Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Thomas Edison and others came up here, running water and electricity represented peak wilderness luxury.

Today's adventurers can gear up in the lodge's fly shop, and guided trips float downstream in flat-bottom wood boats. Rocking chairs line the porch where, legend holds, auto magnates fixed prices after a day of pulling trout. And at night, you can hear the AuSable burbling through your open window. northbranchoutingclub.com