



# BIG TIME ATTRACTIONS & SMALL TOWN CHARM

**delaware**  
**county**  
*a playground for generations*

Big time attractions and small town charm go hand-in-hand in the center of Ohio. Located just 20 minutes north of the state's capital, Delaware County offers a unique blend of metropolitan flare and Main Street U.S.A.

Just minutes apart are world renowned family-oriented attractions including the **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**, **Zoombezi Bay** water park (opening 2008), **Olentangy Indian Caverns**, **Perkins Observatory**, and quaint historic districts for shopping and dining.

**The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium** provides acres of fun for the entire family. Lifetime memories are made as visitors journey through four continents — Asia, Africa, Australia and North America and see up close gorillas, tigers, kangaroos, and birds—oh, my! The zoo and aquarium are home to over 600 species and more than 7,800 specimens. Celebrating more than 80 years, the zoo is also home to the first Western lowland gorilla, Colo, to be born into captivity.

A storybook atmosphere for children at **Habitat Hollow**, along with carefree rides on the restored 1914 Mangels-Illions carousel (open year round), make this the place to be for family entertainment.

Just 10 minutes away from the zoo are the pre-historic **Olentangy Indian Caverns**. Formed millions of years ago by an underground river, the caverns were used by the Wyandotte Indians during the late 1700s as a shelter and safe haven.

A winding staircase takes visitors 105 feet below ground through three levels. Interactive self-guided and guided tours are offered April through October. During the summer months, the caverns may very well be naturally the “coolest” attraction in the county with a constant 54 degree temperature. In addition to the caverns, a **Wild West Frontier Town**, gem mining station, 18-hole miniature golf course, climbing wall and gift shop with root beer on tap are also available.

Another great place to chill out is the **Chiller North Ice Rink**. An ice skating and hockey facility, Chiller North offers public skating, lessons, and more. If you're a serious hockey buff and are looking to improve your shot or speed—**Chiller North** offers a rapid shot cage and a skating treadmill!

After traversing the jungle, roaming underground, and sailing across the ice spend an evening star gazing at the **Perkins Observatory** where you'll count the craters on the moon and see the second largest telescope in the state. Built in 1923, the observatory was made possible through one man's dream during the Civil War. Public programs are offered on Friday and Saturday evenings, with the exception of the second Saturday of each month.

Delaware County won't be out done by its big name attractions though. The county's **historic downtown shopping** districts provide an escape from the hustle and bustle of life.

The small towns in Central Ohio's Delaware County each offer distinct takes on history and culture, with dozens of antique shops in **Delaware, Powell** and **Sunbury**, fine dining and independent galleries and shops.

Named one of the first Preserve America Communities by the White House, the city of Delaware, boasts wide streets, large storefront windows, and dozens of shops and eateries.

A favorite stop for lunch is **Gulla's Hot Dogs**. Passed down for generations, the Gulla Dog and sauce is something to write home about. The family's famous, secret, chili-style sauce was brought from Italy to America by the original owner Paul Gulla and has been passed down for more than 77 years.

For a fine dining experience, **Lucé Café & Restaurant** in Powell offers Tuscan inspired décor in a casual yet refined setting. Open for both lunch and dinner, Lucé (pronounced loo-chay) has an unbelievable wine list. Focusing on European-influenced selections, paired with excellent contemporary Italian and Mediterranean dishes, Lucé is a must visit for a night out.

Aside from its gourmet and original delicacies, shops and attractions, the county's unspoiled natural beauty is the essence of all things good. If you enjoy natural scenic beauty and serenity, or are looking for an afternoon spent fishing, hiking or even hunting, then you've come to the right place. Delaware boasts two state parks, **Alum Creek State Park** and **Delaware State Park**, as well **O'Shaunessy and Hoover reservoirs**, and a collection of preservation parks.

There is a sense of place when one visits Delaware County. From its historic districts and farmer's markets, to nationally recognized attractions and museums, it is an ideal place to visit and relish the fullness of life.

## When You Have More Time

**Delaware Bicentennial Celebration** – It's been 200 years in the making! Delaware County and City will celebrate its bicentennial anniversary throughout 2008 with special events including a Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, Civil War Re-enactment, and Minnelli Days (film and music). To learn more visit [www.delawareco200.com](http://www.delawareco200.com).

**Maple Syrup Festival** – Located at Camp Lazarus, a Boy Scout camp along U.S. Rt. 23, an average of 2,000 people attend the festival each February to learn about making syrup, as well as partake in eating a few pancakes slathered with the gooey treat.

**Maple Sugar Festival** – Spend a March morning on the farm with a heartwarming breakfast of homemade pancakes, fresh maple syrup and sausage at the Stratford Ecological Center. A scenic hike along the creek or a wagon ride takes visitors out to the sugar shack where they are given an opportunity to collect sap, tap a tree and learn how the clear maple sap is transformed into sweet maple syrup.

## To Learn More

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