Welcome to our world


2020 Official Visitors Guide
Produced by the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau
GETTING HERE

Columbus, Ohio
66 Miles
Cincinnati, Ohio
140 Miles
Cleveland, Ohio
217 Miles
Toledo, Ohio
212 Miles
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
204 Miles
Indianapolis, Indiana
248 Miles
Washington D.C.
357 Miles
Chicago, Illinois
450 Miles

CONTENTS

WELCOME

UPTOWN ATHENS
COLLEGE TOWN
WEST SIDE
NELSONVILLE
BEYOND

EXPERIENCE

OHIO’S WINDY 9
OUTDOOR LIFE
THE BIKEWAY
BREWED ON THE BIKEWAY

LOCAL LIBATIONS
PLACES TO EAT
COFFEE & SWEETS
NIGHTLIFE
THE ARTS
FESTS & EVENTS

OVERNIGHT
HOTELS & MOTELS
UNIQUE LODGING

DIRECTORY

ABOUT THE COVER • Photo illustration by Joel Prince
Athens County, Ohio sometimes feels like its own little world. This magical place offers everything you need to have a good time exploring, relaxing and connecting with friends and family. The people here are as unique as the place itself. We would simply like to welcome you to our little world. Come visit. You will have a blast!

Special thanks to our local community members (from left to right)
Hallie Kile, outstanding Ohio University student
Kay Carter, local musician
Boone Troyer, mountain biker and visitors bureau employee
Ted Harris, local musician
Brandon Thompson, Director of Ohio Brew Week
Grace Corbin, employee-owner at Casa Nueva

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PRODUCED BY THE ATHENS COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
609 E. State Street | Athens, OH 45701
1.800.878.9767 | AthensOhio.com
Welcome to our world!

Tucked into the corner of Southeast Ohio, Athens County offers a break from the regular hustle of life. We’ve learned to take in the peaceful moments, escaping to surrounding countryside to breathe in the fresh air. And for each peaceful moment, we’ve learned to balance it with a lot of love, gathering with friends and family to experience a vibrant region that marches to the beat of a different drummer. For those among us and those who join us, it’s Peace, Love, Athens.
Uptown Athens is a culture clash of academics, locals, creators, makers and spectacles.

The brick streets Uptown Athens are host to several festivals and events. Come party with us!

Take a stroll down Court Street, Ohio’s most eccentric half-mile in Uptown Athens. Sometimes what happens on Court Street is as much fun as what happens inside the town’s historic buildings. Visit shops and restaurants full of things you never knew you needed. Catch a movie, get a drink, enjoy a meal, make new friends, listen to some music, sit on the courthouse steps, do it all and experience the essence of Athens.

WHERE TO SHOP
Don’t go home empty-handed. There are several places to find souvenir gifts Uptown that you can’t find anywhere else in the world.

College Bookstore, The House, Ohio is Home, Uptown Dog, Precision Imprint and Universitees have some of the larger collections of local Ohio University and Athens swag.

Find gorgeous custom jewelry at Keith Chapman Jewelers, where each piece is a work of art like none other. Or discover small treasures at one of these three great gift shops: Artifacts Gallery, Import House, and Mountain Laurel Gifts.

Looking for something new that is old? Shop vintage! At Athens Underground you can find hundreds of vintage garments, jewelry, vinyl records and more. Be sure to visit Random House Jewelers, where each piece is a work of art like none other. Or discover small treasures at one of these three great gift shops: Artifacts Gallery, Import House, and Mountain Laurel Gifts.

WHERE TO EAT
Casa Nueva is the go-to Athens classic. Restaurant Salaam serves global cuisine with a local flare and has a great atmosphere. Zoe Fine Dining offers an upscale menu featuring world-class dishes with local ingredients. Check out O’Betty’s Red Hot! for gourmet hotdogs inspired by burlesque performers. Go to Fluff Bakery for homemade sweet treats, delicious lunch dishes, or Jackie O’s for local pub cuisine. Other local fare include Burrito Buggy and Bagel Street Deli.

WHERE TO GRAB A DRINK
Some of the town’s classic favorites include Casa Nueva, Tony’s Tavern, Pigskin, Cat’s Eye Saloon and The Pub. Enjoy cocktails and quiet conversations at Zoe’s Fine-Dining.

PARKING UPTOWN
Athens City Parking Garage has hundreds of metered parking spots. Uptown Streets are lined with metered parking spaces. A change machine is located at the entrance to the parking garage or you may pay using a credit card.

Support the arts and artists at Passion Works Studios. Give them a visit and bring home their famous Passion Flower, named the official flower of the City of Athens. If you are lucky, you’ll get to see the artists at work.
There is a love of place and community that extends well beyond the boundaries of the campus.

Students walk beneath the trees on Ohio University’s College Green during a foggy Fall morning.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

College Green is the historic campus of Ohio University that connects to Uptown Athens. Mature trees and brick pathways create a park-like atmosphere. Bordering this area are Class Gateway and Alumni Gateway—two of the most iconic and most photographed spots on campus. This is a great place to enjoy an outdoor lunch from one of the nearby food trucks.

In the spring the cherry blossoms bloom along the Hocking River near the Convo. This spring bloom is an absolute must see.

Emeriti Park is a scenic, four-acre site near the Athletics Mall on South Green Drive along the original bed of the Hocking River. This is a tranquil and serene spot to relax and enjoy the beauty of campus.

The Ridges campus features beautiful, Victorian Era architecture, sprawling fields, rolling hills, and The Kennedy Museum. There are four distinct hiking trails on the nearly 700 acre property that makes up The Ridges. Arguably, one of the most popular being The Ridges Trail which rewards hikers with a panoramic view of Athens from Radar Hill.

GO BOBCATS!

The Ohio University Bobcats compete in the Mid-American Conference of the NCAA. Bobcat athletics bring crowds of students, families, and visitors together to enjoy spectacular collegiate sports entertainment experiences. Count on the members of the largest student organization on campus, The O-Zone, to rev up the crowd’s energy and jovially razz the opponents at games throughout the year.

Not 4 years...for life

Students may have to leave after graduation day, but Athens will always hold a special place in their hearts. Some of lucky ones will get to return in October, when a clowder of Bobcats visit their alma mater for Homecoming Week to relive their Athens’ experiences.

Students walk beneath the trees on Ohio University’s College Green during a foggy Fall morning.

The Cherry Blossoms at night

OU Homecoming Parade

Students may have to leave after graduation day, but Athens will always hold a special place in their hearts. Some of lucky ones will get to return in October, when a clowder of Bobcats visit their alma mater for Homecoming Week to relive their Athens’ experiences.
The West Side boasts some of the area’s best restaurants and bars, niche shops, a brewery, a distillery and White’s Mill.

**“West is best”**

This funky little neighborhood offers an authentic Athens experience that stands apart from the college town life on Court Street. Here are a few of the West Side’s highlights...

**ATHENS UNCORKED**

The city’s only wine bar, features wine flights, handmade desserts, and live local music.

**BEADS & THINGS**

Explore your creative side at this uniquely Athens bead shop.

**BLACK DIAMOND BICYCLES**

This family owned, local bike shop offers new and used bicycles, bicycle rentals, and repair.

**CATALYST CAFE**

This is a great place to grab a coffee, catch up on life and fuel up with some quick, local eats. Go in the morning, the light is beautiful.

**CYCLE PATH BICYCLES**

Athens’ oldest bike shop offers new and used bikes, bicycling gear and repairs.

**HYACINTH BEAN**

This floral and gift shop is a favorite among locals looking for thoughtful and unique gifts.

**LARRY’S DAWG HOUSE**

Serving hot dogs, burgers and ice cream since the early ‘70s. One word: YUM!

**LITTLE FISH BREWING COMPANY**

This award-winning brewery offers simple, rustic, beer at a spacious family-friendly brewery. This place has the best yard in the West Side.

**LUI LUI**

Global eats from chicken tikka to Mongolian beef (plus sushi on Tuesdays) in a casual, upbeat space.

**MILLER’S CHICKEN**

Often praised as having best fried chicken in Ohio, Miller’s has been frying chicken since the 1940’s. One bite and you’ll know why they’ve stood the test of time.

**THE SMILING SKULL SALOON**

It’s an Athens classic. Welcomes visitors, townies, college kids, bikers – just about everyone visits “The Skull” at some point. Heads up! It’s cash only.

**WEST END CIDERHOUSE**

This neighborhood corner pub with house made cider, wine, mead and other non-grain ferments.

**WEST END CIDERWORKS & DISTILLERY**

This facility began production in 2019, a block or so from the West End Ciderhouse. Visit the tasting room and sample their top-shelf spirits and cider.

**WHITES MILL**

A garden and feed store that also carries unique local pottery, jewelry, and local foods.

See the Directory for complete listings.

There are thousands upon thousand of beads to choose from at Beads & Things. This little store carries all you need to create a one-of-a-kind necklace for yourself or someone you love.
With so much to offer in one location, Nelsonville is truly the Star of the Hocking Hills!

HOCKHOCKING ADENA BIKEWAY
Rent a bike or bring your own and ride the 22-mile paved, flat bikeway from the trailhead at the Rocky Outdoor Gear Store. The bikeway is great for walking or running, too.

WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST
Visit their headquarters on US 33 east of Nelsonville to begin your Wayne adventure.

MURRAY’S LANDING
Rent a Kayak or canoe from Murray’s Landing and drift 7.5 miles down the Hocking River.

MOVIES 10/FUN BARN
See a movie at matinee prices, day or night, plus their enormous arcade offers loads of fun on a budget.

HOCKING VALLEY SCENIC RAILWAY
Twice daily excursions during the weekends from Memorial Day through the fall. Plus, great seasonal and specialty trains. Board at the Nelsonville Depot.

ROCKY OUTDOOR GEAR STORE
The original boot factory offers three floors of boots, homewares and clothing, perfect for everyone in the family. Includes the Boot Grill with a full menu for dining right in the middle of the store.

SHOPPING THE HISTORIC PUBLIC SQUARE
Walk the famous Starbrick sidewalks while checking out the most unique shops in the region, including Nelsonville Emporium, Starbrick Gallery and Paper Circle.

STUART’S OPERA HOUSE
This fully-restored coal-era opera house is home to many live musical and theater events, and a great place to host a special event or party.

HOCKING COLLEGE
Located along the Hocking Adena Bikeway and the Hocking River, enjoy a stroll through their beautiful park-like campus and Robbins Crossing Pioneer Village.

DINING
All this adventure will work up an appetite! Taste regional favorites like the Rocky Boot Grill, The Mine Tavern, Los Mariachis, Fullbrooks Café, Mama Renie’s, Nelsonville Emporium, Rhapsody and more.

See the Directory for complete listings.
ATHENS COUNTY

Beyond

Adventure is out there! But come back for the fun and enjoy the region’s best nightlife.

HOCKING HILLS REGION
For a little extra thrill, experience the beauty from above: Zoom down Ohio’s original zipline adventure at the Hocking Hills Canopy Tours. Venture off the beaten path on a Hocking Hills Adventure Trek, which takes explorers to parts of Hocking Hills that few get to see and experience with some of the best guides in Ohio.

HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK
Old Man’s Cave, with several waterfalls, steep cliffs and deep gorges is the most popular entry into the park, but don’t miss out on Ash Cave and Cedar Falls when you visit. The park is beautiful, but has many dangerous areas. Please be careful when hiking.

LITTLE CITIES OF BLACK DIAMONDS
In the late 1800s, the region surrounding Burr Oak State Park and the Wayne National Forest was filled with thriving “little cities.” These towns seemingly appeared overnight during the rush to extract abundant deposits of coal, iron ore, clay and oil from the Hocking River valley region.

LAKE HOPE STATE PARK
Adjacent to the Zaleski State Forest, the almost 3,000-acre Lake Hope State Park features hiking and mountain biking trails, along which may be found remnants of mining and iron-producing industries of the past. Enjoy real pit barbecue at the stunning Lake Hope Dining Lodge.

BURL OAK STATE PARK
On the border of Athens and Morgan County lies one of Ohio’s best-kept secrets—Burr Oak State Park. With nearly 2,600 acres of wooded hills and natural forest, the park has a fully-restored lodge and restaurant, cabins and camping, a beautiful lake for boating, and fishing and more than 40 miles of hiking trails, including part of the Buckeye Trail, a 1,444-mile trail that loops around Ohio.

CHESTERHILL PRODUCE AUCTION
This unique auction attracts hundreds of local produce growers and buyers, such as local restaurants, grocery stores, road-side stands, individuals and Ohio University Dining Services. It’s a fun event for visitors and families, and often features Amish baked goods, plants and woodcraft items.

MOONVILLE TUNNEL AND RAIL TRAIL
The 16-mile Moonville Rail-Trail follows one of the oldest railroad grades in our area, the Marietta-Cincinnati Railroad that was established in 1853. Today it is still well-known for the masonry of Moonville Tunnel—which is reputed to be haunted. There is a second tunnel, the King Switch Tunnel, which is a timber-built tunnel near Mineral, Ohio.

UNCLE BUCK’S RIDING STABLE AND DANCE BARN
Saddle up for a trail ride at Uncle Buck’s Stable and Dance Barn. Relax in the Lady Buck Saloon with hearty food and drink, or kick off your boots and boogie in the Dance Barn.

POMEROY, OHIO
Just 30 minutes south of Athens is one of Ohio’s most unique river towns. With a quaint business district that includes a new craft brewery, Pomeroy and Meigs County boast some of Southeast Ohio’s best attractions – Fur Peace Ranch, the Big Bend Blues Festival, Buffington Island and the oldest courthouse in Ohio. Plus great views of the Ohio River. This is a great afternoon getaway from Athens.

Make Athens County your basecamp while you explore Southeast Ohio’s history, culture, scenery and mystery.

Visit the Chesterhill Produce Auction to purchase produce and much more straight from the local Amish community.
Experience Peace, Love, Athens.

Discover the essence of Athens County. See why many call it home. Spend a few days getting lost in the county’s beauty by either hiking or biking the rolling hills of Appalachia. Tap into life in Athens County and experience the quintessence of living life like a local.
9 Thrilling Routes, 1 Great Destination
Ohio’s Windy 9 is a curated collection of nine motorcycle riding and driving routes in Ohio—developed with veteran motorcyclists and sports car drivers. All routes begin and end in Athens. So after a great day of riding, you can take in the eclectic spirit of Athens—breweries, wineries, local restaurants plus the best value in hotels and cabins.

- **RIM OF THE WORLD**
  - 87 miles
- **SOUTHERN DIP**
  - 94 miles
- **HOCKING HILLS NIPPER**
  - 93 miles
- **LAZY RIVERS**
  - 101 miles
- **ZALESKI ZIPPER**
  - 94 miles
- **PIONEER PASS**
  - 105 miles
- **POMEROY DASH**
  - 64 miles
- **BLACK DIAMOND RUN**
  - 101 miles
- **THE TRIPLE NICKEL**
  - 66 miles (one way)

Planning a group ride? Want the free map?
Contact the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau for lodging and planning assistance.
800-878-9767
740-592-1819
AthensOhio.com
Windy9.com

Ride pristine roads. Lean into the curves and take in some of the best scenery in the Midwest.

Motorcyclists cruise down Rt. 278 along the Black Diamond Route near Nelsonville, Ohio.
OUTDOOR LIFE

Into the Hills

Get lost in the beauty!
Find yourself surrounded by our Appalachian landscape. Explore the Wayne National Forest, state parks, state forests, wildlife areas, and nature preserves throughout. Hit the trails by horse, bike, ATV, or simply your own two feet. No matter where you stay in Athens County, you can be close to the busy life of town and still feel miles away.

BEST MOUNTAIN BIKING
The trails from Sells Park to Strouds Run are favorites among locals. With more than 22 miles of trails for walking, hiking and mountain biking you’ll forget the busy outside world is just miles away. A wheelchair accessible trail leads from trailhead to the park’s pond—a serene spot worth visiting.

MOST HISTORIC
Head to The Ridges, the site of the former Athens Lunatic Asylum, which looms atop a hill overlooking the Hocking River. The buildings are nearly 150 years old and saw patients during the Civil War. Take in the beautiful landscape and stroll among the cemeteries on a 1.3-mile nature walk.

BEST EXPERIENCE ON HORSEBACK
Smoke Rise Ranch is a Western style guest ranch nestled in the northern hills of Athens County. Live the cowboy lifestyle and get a taste of the Old West with cattle drives, team penning, cow-cutting and guided trail rides, or simply ride at your leisure. The folks at Smoke Rise Ranch will give you a memorable experience.

MOST ADVENTURE FOR THE SIZE
Just 17 miles northeast of Athens, Gifford State Forest is Ohio’s smallest state forest. At only 320 acres, Gifford is secluded and has several miles of hiking trails. It is also popular among hunting enthusiasts, with the ample dense underbrush that blankets the ground in early spring.

BEST VIEW
Gazing upon miles of rolling Appalachian foothills from the famous Radar Hill on the Ohio University Ridges property, will steal your breath away. About a one-mile hike, this well-maintained trail will take you to this highest point in Athens, Ohio. Locals and students will always recommend Bong Hill as the best place for a classic view of Athens and Ohio University. We’ll leave it to you to discover the route to this cool classic...

BEST PICK FOR FAMILY FUN
Strouds Run State Park is the largest state park within Athens County. With 2,600 acres of preserved, virtually untouched wilderness, nestled quietly behind the hills of Athens. Strouds Run offers hiking, boat and canoe rentals, 15 mountain bike trails, swimming, camping, and bridle trails.

BEST KEPT SECRET
The Desonier State Nature Preserve, located on the eastern side of Athens County just off of US Rt. 50, is a small park that packs a big punch! Take the four-mile round trip Oak Ridge Trail through amazing hardwood forests in a surrounding that’s purely wild. This Preserve is on a bird enthusiasts must see list.

MOST THRILLING
The 17,000 square-foot Athens Skate Park is innovative and challenging. Designed and constructed by award winning Grindline Skate Parks, Inc. of Seattle, this skate park features a variety of bowls and rails with a large table top and dome. For skaters and bmx riders this is a must ride park.

If you visit Athens County and don’t get up and get outside, then you’re missing half the fun.
Cruising THE BIKEWAY

Ride the 22-mile Hockhocking Adena Bikeway between the area’s two biggest cities—Athens and Nelsonville.

What’s in a name?
“Hockhocking,” was the native Shawnee name—meaning twisted. “Adena” reflects the ancient history of the mound building Adena Indians, who lived in the Hocking Valley more than 2,000 years ago.

Bikeway trailheads

ATHENS
Bikeway riders can access the trails at many different locations along the 22-mile route. If you plan to begin in Athens, it’s recommended that you start at the Athens Community Center. Parking is adjacent to the bikeway entrance, along with access to public bathrooms and the pool when the weather is warm.

You can also access the bikeway at the West State Street Park, near where the Armitage Road spur leads to Little Fish Brewery.

ARMITAGE ROAD SPUR
This bikeway extension leads from the Athens West State Street Park (near Mile Marker 4) across the Hocking River and then meanders through a restoration wetland to Armitage Road near Little Fish Brewing Company.

COLUMBUS ROAD SPUR
Ride the newest section of the bikeway across an amazing bridge spanning the Hocking River. Discover the unique businesses on Columbus Road.

ECLIPSE COMPANY TOWN
Hit the trail here and ride in either direction at Eclipse Company Town, a restored coal town located right off of US 33 at Johnson Road. Visit the Eclipse Company Store Craft Beer Hall.

NELSONVILLE
Begin your journey at the top of the bikeway by starting in Nelsonville. Park at the Rocky Outdoor Gear Store on Canal Street and cruise south towards Athens, crossing several bridges and gliding through the Hocking College Campus. Be sure to ride a block east, under the iron arch, to discover Nelsonville’s Historic Public Square galleries, shops and restaurants.

45 E. Canal Street
Nelsonville | 740.753.1951

Rent a bike!

ATHENS BICYCLE
4 W. Stimson Ave., Athens
740-594-9944 | AthensBicycle.com

BLACK DIAMOND BICYCLES & RENTAL
540 W. Union St. Suite G, Athens
740-249-4045 | BlackDiamondBicycles.com

BLACK DIAMOND BICYCLES & RENTAL AT ROCKY OUTDOOR GEAR STORE
43 E. Canal St., Nelsonville
740-249-4045 | BlackDiamondBicycles.com

Riding the Armitage Road connector to the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway in Early spring.

Riding the bikeway along the river in the Fall.
Exclusive to Athens County, all craft breweries are located on the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway—Jackie O’s Taproom, Little Fish Brewing and Devil’s Kettle Brewery. And don’t forget the Eclipse Company Store Craft Beer Hall which features 40 beers on tap. Get the map at BikewayBrews.com, pick up a printed map at any of these breweries or at the Athens County Visitors Center. For even more information on the area visit AthensOhio.com.
LOCAL LIBATIONS

Sip from the source

DEVIL’S KETTLE BREWING
devilkettlebrew.com
This premium microbrewery and taproom is owned by Ohio Brew Week’s winningest home brewer. Enjoy premium ales and lagers in the handcrafted taproom while you enjoy the fare from area food trucks which frequent the brewery. Now accessible from the Hocking Adena Bikeway’s newest spur & bridge!

DUTCH CREEK WINERY
dutchcreekwinery.com
The county’s specialists in honey wine, ciders and fruit wine. Dutch Creek’s small batch wines are made with fruit from the farm’s orchards and honey from their beekeeping. Bottles available throughout the region.

ECLIPSE COMPANY STORE CRAFT BEER HALL
eclipsecompanystore.com
Sip and sample craft brews from around Ohio in this historic, expertly renovated former company store. Dine on a 30 Mile Meal and enjoy great local music as well.

LITTLE FISH BREWING COMPANY
littlefishbrewing.com
Simple, rustic and beautiful beer is what you’ll find at this brewery and taproom. Located just off the Hocking Adena Bikeway’s newest spur, it’s the perfect spot to pop in and sample some of Athens County’s finest microbrews.

JACKIE O’S BREWPUB & TAPROOM
jackieos.com
Jackie O’s has been an Athens classic for 15 years. Choose from nearly 40 drafts on tap at the BrewPub and Public House locations. Or visit the Tap Room, just minutes down the hill, to sample brews at the source. Jackie O’s distributes throughout Ohio, but don’t miss out on a souvenir growler during your visit.

PLEASANT HILL VINEYARDS
pleasanthillvineyardsllc.com
Sitting on a former horse farm high atop a ridge with rolling pastures, spectacular views and stunning sunsets, is Pleasant Hill Vineyards. Sample wines in the log cabin housed tasting room built in the early 1800s. Ask about their food pairing events where you can feast on a 5-course meal, paired with their delicious wines. Open year-round.

SHADE WINERY
Shadewinery.com
Sip more than 15 wines, produced on-site, on the wrap-around porch, while gazing across the vineyards. Enjoy a wine tasting in the cozy winery, or open a bottle on the patio. Enjoy the Terrace Cafe, serving lunch, dinner and catered events. Craft brews are now available as well. Open March through December.

WOLFTREE WINERY
wolftreewinery.com
Set deep in the rolling hills of southeast Ohio is Wolftree Winery. Visit their tasting room to sip and savor meads, fruit wines, ciders and other delights. Open March through December.

WEST END CIDERHOUSE
athenswestend.com/ciderhouse
House-made cider, created from fruit grown in Southeast Ohio. Located in one of Athens’ most historic buildings, the Ciderhouse is known for creative cocktails using house-made ingredients.

WEST END CIDERWORKS AND DISTILLERY
athenswestend.com/distillery
West End Ciderworks & Distillery uses locally-sourced fruits, grains, roots, and herbs to produce top-shelf spirits and farmhouse ciders that embody flavors and styles uniquely Appalachian.

See what’s brewing or fermenting or distilling or...

With three well-established craft brewerettes and the annual Ohio Brew Week, Athens has earned its place in the craft brew spotlight. In addition, Athens County has 4 wineries, a wine bar, a distillery, and a craft beer hall which add to the flavor of this spirited county.

Cheers from everyone at West End Ciderhouse.
PLACES TO EAT
Real food. Real local.

ATHENS IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR ANY FOODIE WANTING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.

UNIQUELY ATHENS
One Athens original and favorite spots, Jackie O’s Pub & Brewery, invites visitors and locals to sip their world-class brews while dining on upscale pub grub. Sit down and enjoy the quirky atmosphere of Bagel Street Deli while enjoying a unique bagelwich. For something more home-style, check out the famous Miller’s Chicken and sink your teeth into some traditional fried chicken and all the fixins’. Enjoy a burlesque themed hot dog and some cheesy fries at O’Betty’s Red Hot! And check out the hot dog museum while you’re there. Arguably the most popular restaurant in Athens County, Casa Nueva serves local, sustainable, Mexican-inspired food and has been doing so for the last 30 years! Casa is truly a local classic that is worth the visit.

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE
Athens not only serves as a hub for fresh, local food but also offers a variety of international foods. Purple Chopstix creates traditional curry dishes with twists. Sunday brunch transforms into a memorable meal as the restaurant serves dishes like curried fruit, omelets, sushi, or French toast. Thai Paradise offers a variety of Thai dishes including soups, noodles and more. Traditional Cuban food dominates the menu at Sol Island Bar & Grill, but you can also find other Caribbean inspired dishes. Restaurant Salaam serves an eclectic menu inspired from the Middle East, the Balkans, North Africa, India, Pakistan and more.

THE 30 MILE MEAL
Athens County celebrates and promotes the producing, selling and serving of local foods and spirits within a 30-mile radius of Athens. Over 160 partners—farmers, restaurants, local food producers and farmers’ markets—have joined the 30 Mile Meal project which feeds the growing desire of consumers to know where their food comes from, who is producing it and how.

THE ATHENS FARMERS MARKET
athensfarmersmarket.org
Open year-round, every Wednesday and Saturday, from 9am-12pm—crowds flock to the market where over 100 vendors sell fresh, local produce, meats, specialty foods, herbs, plants and more. All vendors produce what they sell, so you’ll never find anything but the best local products.
Fuel up on a classic cup 'o jee or experience a uniquely Athens original. Recognized by Ohio Magazine and The Athens NEWS, coffee shops like Donkey Coffee cater for any caffeine fix. Grab a drink to sip on at one of these local coffee shops before exploring Athens County.

1 Court Street Coffee
67 S. Court St., Athens

2 Donkey Coffee
17 W. Washington St., Athens

3 Brenen’s Café
38 S. Court St., Athens

4 Starbucks
16 W Union St., Athens

5 The Front Room
1 Park Place, Athens

6 McHappy’s Donuts & Bake Shoppe
304 Richland Ave., Athens

7 Sweet Arts Bakery and Cafe’
817 W. Union St., Athens

8 Sunflower Bakery
19 W. Columbus St., Nelsonville

9 Village Bakery and Cafe’
268 E. State St., Athens

10 Whit’s Frozen Custard
49 S. Court St., Athens

Athens Bread Company sells delicious baked goods and specializes in Artisanal breads.
NIGHTLIFE

Find your scene

PUBS, BARS & TAVERNS

The Smiling Skull Saloon, aka “The Skull” is home to cheap beer & good people and hosts some of the best live music acts in the county. Its “biker bar” reputation has earned it mentions in several national motorcycle magazines.

Courtside Pizza, home of the famous “Slice Night” on Wednesday, attracts all age groups to its Uptown Athens location. This is a great place to watch the game and have a beer.

Arguably the most atmospheric bar in the county, The Mine located on the Nelsonville Historic Public Square. Enjoy cold beer and friendly faces. While you’re there, look up! The metal ceiling is a beauty.

The Pub, known and loved for Aquariums and its famous beer cheese soup. Grab your crew and sit in “Mayberry Corner,” a favorite in Athens!

The Pigskin boasts being Athens’ original sports bar & grill. A great place to eat, drink, dance and just have fun!

Cat’s Eye Saloon, a Court Street icon, offers an expansive list of Ohio brews on tap and in bottles. Cat’s Eye is also an official Cleveland Browns Backer’s Bar.

Cat’s Corner is a casual campus bar and a great place to catch the game while hanging with friends.

Places to Catch Live Music

Stuart’s Opera House is one of Ohio’s only remaining, fully operational opera houses. Built in 1879, it’s located in Nelsonville’s Historic Public Square. Stuart’s has welcomed stars such as The Indigo Girls, Lucinda Williams, The Avett Brothers, Ralph Stanley and Gillian Welch. It also hosts many theatrical productions.

Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium is the home of Ohio University’s Performing Arts Series. Nationally and internationally recognized acts come to Athens to perform here.

Casa Nueva and Cantina comes alive with musical performances almost every evening, featuring every genre, from bluegrass to punk rock.

Donkey Coffee has hosted local and regional acts, including the likes JD Hutchison and Bruce Dalzell. Want to take the stage? You’re in luck! Donkey’s open stage was voted the best in town.

Our three Athens-based breweries—Little Fish Brewing Company, Jackie O’s Taproom, and Devil’s Kettle—each host periodic music performances. Check out their events calendars for more info.

The Smiling Skull Saloon presents some of the most entertaining live line-ups with a uniquely Athens ambience. Lovers of classic rock, metal, punk rock and blues will eat up the Skull’s self-proclaimed “cheap beer and good people.”

Tony’s Tavern gets swinging to smooth jazz every Tuesday night.

The Eclipse Company Store and Craft Beer Hall hosts live music inside and on an outdoor stage during warmer months.

A local band, the Water Witches, play a show in the bodega at Casa Nueva in Uptown Athens, Ohio.
Thanks to passionate community members and the influence of Ohio University faculty and students, Athens County’s arts are respected throughout the region and often recognized nationally. Come see why artists and creators choose Athens as a center of creativity.

**The Arts**

**Eight venues for Visual Arts**

- **The Dairy Barn**
  8000 Dairy Ln, Athens
dairybarn.org

- **Fur Peace Ranch**
  39495 St. Clair Rd., Pomeroy
furpeaceranch.com

- **Gallery 1879 at Stuart’s Opera House**
  52 Public Square, Nelsonville
stuartsoperahouse.org

- **The Kennedy Museum of Art**
  100 Ridges Cir, Athens
ohio.edu/museum

- **Trisolini Gallery**
  405 Baker University Center, Athens
ohio.edu/finearts

- **The Majestic Galleries**
  20 Public Square, Nelsonville
majesticgalleries.com

- **Passion Works Studio**
  20 E State St., Athens
passionworks.org

- **Starbrick Gallery**
  21 W. Columbus St., Nelsonville
starbrick.com

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**Five venues where you can see Performing Arts & Music**

- **Arts/West**
  132 West State Street, Athens
artswest.blogspot.com

- **Fur Peace Ranch & Psyloidal Gallery**
  39495 St. Clair Rd., Pomeroy
furpeaceranch.com

- **Shirley Wimmer Dance Theatre**
  Ohio University, Athens
ohio.edu/finearts/dance

- **Stuart’s Opera House**
  52 Public Square, Nelsonville
stuartsoperahouse.org

- **Templeton-Blackburn Memorial Alumni Auditorum**
  Ohio University, Athens
ohio.edu/performingarts

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*The Ohio University School of Dance performs regularly throughout the year bringing the beauty of movement into the light. (Photograph by Daniel J. King)*

*The Quilt National at Dairy Barn Arts Center*

*The artists and staff at Passion Works Studio*
Come together

FESTS & EVENTS

April

ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM + VIDEO FESTIVAL
athensfilmfest.org
Entering its 47th year, AIFVF showcases contemporary international films, sponsors a competition for independent media artists, and invites guest filmmakers to screen and discuss their work.

O HIO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL WEEK
ohio.edu/internationalweek
Celebrated since 1969 and now one of the most anticipated annual events in Athens, especially the International Street Fair on Saturday.

ATHENS MARATHON
athensomarathon.com
Since 1968, the Athens Marathon has been held every year, earning it the title of “Ohio’s Longest Running Marathon.” Though Athens is known for its hills, the bulk of the marathon course runs along the Hocking Adena bikeway making this an ideal place to race and qualify for the Boston Marathon.

May

THUNDERBUNNY 50K
thunderbunny50k.com
This ultra marathon will take place May 8th, 2020 at Strouds Run State Park. The marathon showcases some of the great Appalachian foothills that Athens is known for. Multiple distance options for all types of marathon runners.

June

NELSONVILLE MUSIC FESTIVAL
nelsonvillefest.org
A four-day music festival hosting multiple famous acts, several stages, on site camping, artisans, kids activities, food, beer, and much more. Quite possibly the best music festival in the Midwest.

ATHENA RIDE FOR WOMEN
wendy9.org
Save the date! Ohio’s Wendy 9 will be hosting the first annual Athena Ride for Women. More details to follow including registration, lodging, speakers, and more. Keep up to date with additions at the site below.

ATHENS BRICK CRITERIUM
brickcrit.com
The Brick Crit is back! Beginning in 1986, the original Athens Brick Crit was the Midwest’s largestCrit. For 12 years and became one of the most popular races in the Midwest. The streets of Athens have hosted some of the greatest names in cycling, including Lance Armstrong and Greg LeMond - who wore the Rainbow Jersey while racing on the bricks.

BOOGIE ON THE BRICKS
boogieonthebraicks.com
This annual event is held on the bricks of Court Street in beautiful Uptown Athens. Featuring live music, beer, wine & cider, kids zone and more!

July

OHIO BREW WEEK
ohiobrewweek.com
Every year, hundreds of beers from dozens of Ohio breweries take over the taps in Athens for Ohio Brew Week. The week ends with an all day street fest on the historic bricks of Court Street, aptly called "Last Call."

ATHENS RESTAURANT WEEK
athensohio.com
Get out and try something new! Athens has to offer, and have a unique dining experience! Enjoy Athens restaurants week and taste the flavors of Athens.

August

PARADE OF THE HILLS
paradeofthehills.org
A good, old fashioned family fest on and around Nelsonville’s Historic Public Square. Four days of food, carnival rides parades, a fiddle competition and so much fun!

September

OHIO PAWPAW FESTIVAL
ohiopawpawfest.com
Join the crowds of happy folks at scenic Lake Snowden in Albany, Ohio, for 3 days of pawpaw music, food, contests, art, history, education, sustainable living workshops, activities for the kids and lots more!

October

ATHENS HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY
athenshalloween.com
Get dressed up and join the thousands of others haunting Uptown Athens during the Athens Halloween Block Party. Expect the unexpected, but count on seeing some great music and great costumes. Please check the website for updates on this schedule and plans for 2022.

November

OHIO UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING WEEK
www.ohio.edu/homecoming
Ohio University alumni, current students, and celebrate in their shared and unique experiences. Book your rooms early for this event.

December

UP TOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN ATHENS
athenschamber.com
When the storefronts are decorated with lights and jolly old Santa comes to town! Ride a horse-drawn carriage, find eclectic treasures for everyone on your shopping list, and enjoy the magic of the season.

NORTH POLE NELSONVILLE
nelsonvillechamber.com
Each December historic Nelsonville becomes a holiday wonderland. Enjoy seasonal performances at Stuart's Opera House, take a ride on one of the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway's Santa Trains, and visit the local galleries and shops around the Nelsonville's Historic Public Square.

Look out! Pawpaw Zombies!
Kids play Humans Vs. Zombies in the kids area at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival. Want to have your own Nerf Blaster Zombie Apocalypse party? Reach out to Jesse Brown at rentawar@protonmail.com.

We know how
to throw a good party.
And you are all invited!
WEDDING VENUES

Your most special day should be celebrated in the most special place.

The Zenner House in Athens, Ohio is one of the many beautiful venues available in Athens County, Ohio for your big day. [Photograph courtesy of BFlick Photography bflickphotography.com]

Making plans to tie the knot?
There are very few places as special as Athens County, Ohio. The historic brick streets, winding back roads, majestic rolling hills and pure natural beauty offer a perfect backdrop for weddings of every scope and size.

10 beautiful places to say ‘I do’

DAIRY BARN ARTS CENTER
740-592-4981 | dairybarn.org
Four unique areas, making up over 10,000 square feet of versatile indoor space can be configured for your special day. Gorgeous outdoor spaces are also available.

DUTCH CREEK WINERY
740-818-4699 | dutchcreekwinery.com
Dutch Creek Winery, located in Athens, Ohio, is a wonderful country setting for medium size events. Accompany your event with their honey wine, cider and fruit wines.

THE LODGE AT DOUBLE PLAY RANCH
740-249-2099 | airbnb.com
The lodge is now booking weddings, reunions, corporate functions, and other events for the 2020 season. In house catering is available for all events. Check out the beautiful lodge and grounds at the Double Play Ranch.

OHIO UNIVERSITY
740-593-4021 | ohio.edu/student-affairs/event-services
Ohio University offers on-campus venues of varying size and scale. Reservable spaces include the historic Galbreath Chapel, Walter Hall Rotunda, the ballrooms at Baker Center and outdoor spaces around campus.

OHIO UNIVERSITY INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER
740-593-6661 | ouinn.com
Recite your vows in the lavish 1,500 square foot ballroom, perfect for larger ceremonies. Or choose the gorgeous outdoor patio, which features a picturesque gazebo and cozy fire pit. Wedding packages, including group room blocks, available.

PLEASANT HILL VINEYARDS
740-502-3525 | pleasanthillvineyardsllc.com
Let Pleasant Hill host your next event. They’ll handle the details—from the food to the wine—making your event worry-free. Hosting small events, from birthdays to bridal showers, as well as larger outdoor events, such as weddings and receptions.

SHADE WINERY
740-696-1323 | shadewinery.com
Enjoy wines by the bottle, glass or just a taste. Kick back in the comfy tasting room or relax on their wrap around porch with views of the vineyard. Shade Winery is also available for small and medium private events.

STROUD’S RUN STATE PARK
Burr Oak Office: 740-767-3570 | parks.ohiodnr.gov/stroudsrun
Located in the scenic forested Appalachian foothills, Stroud’s Run State Park in rural Athens County offers over 2,000 acres of uninterrupted hardwoods sprawling over hills, valleys, and caves. The beautiful terrain, well-marked trails, and scenic lake provide visitors a unique wilderness escape in the splendor of Southeastern Ohio.

STUART’S OPERA HOUSE
740-753-1924 | stuartsoperahouse.org
Host your special day in a setting that will be fondly talked about for years to come. A 140-year-old theater, perfect for ceremonies, coupled exceptional grand reception area with seating and table service for up to 250 guests will create the most magical of memories.

ZENNER HOUSE
740-594-0300 | zennerhouse.com
Zenner Mission - To promote the Envisage Wealth mission through a commitment to education for the leaders practice staff, and clients; as well as provide a facility for the betterment of the Athens community.

Love wins

Stay here!

Stay in one of our contemporary hotels within the city limits or find your home away from home in a cozy cabin out in the rolling Appalachian hills. Athens County has accommodations to meet each and every need.

The Athens Central Hotel, the closest hotel to Uptown Athens, offers modern amenities and decor.
Convenience and comfort
A day shopping in town, viewing beautiful art or taking in a late night show and local brew, calls for an overnight stay. Elevate your Athens County experience with the convenience and modern amenities of our hotels and motels.

ATHENS CENTRAL HOTEL
88 E. State St., Athens
740-595-0500 | athenscentralhotel.com

DAYS INN ATHENS
330 Columbus Rd., Athens
740-593-6655 | daysinn.com

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES
924 E. State St., Athens
740-589-5839 | marriott.com

HAMPTON INN
986 E. State St., Athens
740-593-5600 | hamptoninn3.hilton.com

HIGHLANDER MOTEL
420 W. Union St., Athens
740-593-6449 | athensohio.com

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ATHENS
555 E. State St., Athens
740-592-4640 | hiexpress.com

HOMETOWN INN
100 Albany Rd., Athens
740-594-2294 | athensohio.com

KNIGHTS INN
997 E. State St., Athens
740-593-5565 | redlion.com

OHIO UNIVERSITY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER
331 Richland Ave., Athens
866-593-6661 | ouinn.com

QUALITY INN OF ATHENS
20 Home Street, Athens
740-594-3000 | choicehotels.com

SUPER 8
2091 E. State St., Athens
740-594-4900 | super8.com

SUNSET MOTEL
135 Columbus Rd., Athens
740-593-3302 | athensohio.com

Modern amenities make a stay that much easier, but often its the little things that our hotels do that make your stay outstanding.

The Ohio University Inn and Conference Center is a full-service hotel with the charm of family-operated business. [Photograph by Gabriel Roth, @photofusionmedia, courtesy of the Ohio University Inn and Conference Center]
LODGING

Stay away from it all or in the middle of it all at one of our many unique lodging options.

Unique stays

Home away from home
Consider a more unique overnight stay at one of our wonderful cabins, bed and breakfasts, or a campground. After a long hike on the beautiful Athens trails, a challenging mountain bike ride, or even a trip to town for art, music, and local food—find yourself resting your bones at one of these peaceful locations.

ATHENS FOOTPATH B&B
48 E. Stinson Ave., Athens
740-593-6744 | athensohio.com

ATHENS COTTAGE
429 Richland Ave., Athens
740-290-6762 | athenscottage.com

BEELINE BED, COTTAGE APARTMENT
Athens, Ohio | Airbnb.com

BITTERSWEET FARMS B&B
6270 Scott Rd., New Marshfield
740-541-0042 | bittersweetfarmbb.com

BOBCAT CABIN
104 E. Canal St., Nelsonville
740-856-7848 | 1stchoicecabinrentals.com

BODHI TREE GUESTHOUSE & STUDIO
1950 Lavelle Rd., Athens
740-707-2050 | bodhietreeguesthouse.com

CHALET IN THE HILLS LODGE
104 E. Canal St., Nelsonville
740-856-7848 | 1stchoicecabinrentals.com

COLLEGE HILL COTTAGE
Miffield, OH | Airbnb.com

COZY CABIN
104 E. Canal St., Nelsonville
740-856-7848 | 1stchoicecabinrentals.com

CREEKSIDE COTTAGE
Rockville Rd., Athens
419-206-2105 | Airbnb.com

DOUBLE PLAY RANCH LODGE
9150 Herman Rd., Athens
419-783-7851 | doubleplayranch.com

FOX LAKE PARK’S EDGE
Athens, Ohio | Airbnb.com

GOOD WORKS COUNTRY B&B
7557 Stinson Rd., Athens
740-594-3336 | good-works.net/bb/

GROSVENOR PLACE
Athens, Ohio | Airbnb.com

HAWK’S NEST
104 E. Canal St., Nelsonville
740-856-7848 | 1stchoicecabinrentals.com

HOUSE ON NORTH HILL
Athens, Ohio | Airbnb.com

INTEGRATION ACRES
9794 Chase Rd., Albany
740-678-6060 | integrationacres.com

LAKE HILL CABINS
Lake Hill Rd., Athens
740-384-4474 | lakehillcabins.com

MARGARET’S LANDING HOME STAY
Athens, Ohio
740-517-1303 | Airbnb.com

NEEDLES N PINES
149 Pine Grove Dr., Nelsonville
740-503-1093 | needlesnpines.com

PAPA CABIN
Athens, Ohio | Airbnb.com

PLEASANT HILL RETREAT
4321 Pleasant Hill Rd., Athens
Vrbo.com

RED CARDINAL COTTAGE
104 E. Canal St., Nelsonville
740-856-7848 | 1stchoicecabinrentals.com

STAFFORD HILL CABIN
3222 Swart Rd., Albany
740-438-0590 | staffordhillcabins.com

THE HYDE HOUSE
138 Fort St., Nelsonville
740-856-7848 | 1stchoicecabinrentals.com

THE LITTLE B INN
88 Fort St., Nelsonville
740-591-4906 | thelittlebinn.com

WATERS EDGE
6596 Jeff Lane, Athens
740-591-4906 | Airbnb.com

WOODLAND RIDGE
4884 Copper Rd., Athens
740-591-4906 | woodlandridge.net

WOOD SPIRIT GETAWAY
6170 N. Cockville Ridge Rd., Athens
740-593-5628 | woodspiritgetaway.com

Find your peace at Bodhi Tree Guesthouse and Studio just minutes from town along a quiet country road. (Photograph by Russel Chamberlain)