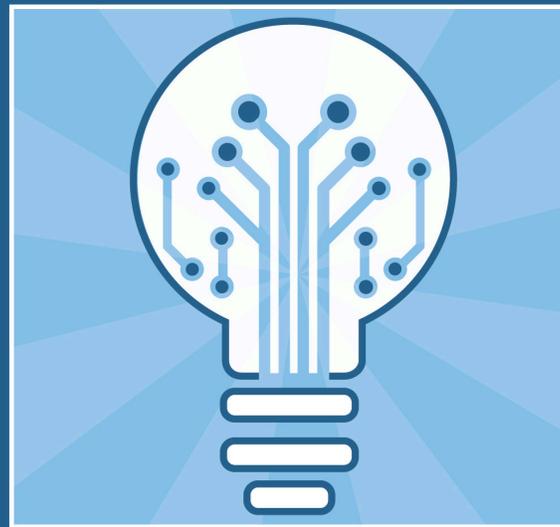




The Ohio Innovation Trail

Where Ideas Create the Future

OHIO TRAILS & TALES



INNOVATION

AMERICA 250-OHIO PROGRAM

“If you can be the best, then why not try to be the best?”

– Garrett A. Morgan, Cleveland inventor of the 3-signal traffic light, precursor to the red, yellow, and green lights used today.

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america250-ohio.org/ohio-innovation-trail



Stories Awaiting Discovery

The **Ohio Innovation Trail** narrates the rich history of innovation in Ohio, showcasing everything from the childhood homes of inventors to locations that feature world-changing inventions. Spanning the entire state, the trail offers something for everyone, no matter where you are located. Ohio ingenuity is characterized by creativity, practicality, resilience, and collaboration. These traits have driven countless innovations, enabling Ohioans to transform ideas into impactful realities.



Hands-On Ingenuity

Ohio's culture of making, testing, and improving ensures a safer and more efficient life. From Akron, where rubber is crafted into reliable tires, to Toledo, which produces affordable and safer glass containers, Ohio's workshops, businesses, and laboratories influence what you purchase. They enhance your safety and health while continually transforming daily life.



The Power of We

Innovation in Ohio is a team sport. Across the Ohio Innovation Trail, breakthroughs are built in partnership. Charles Kettering's Dayton-based Delco team worked with auto engineers and technicians to refine the electric self-starter. Akron's rubber companies collaborated with University of Akron researchers on synthetic rubbers, while NASA Glenn and Cleveland Clinic innovators adapt aerospace technologies for patient care.



Invention with Intention

Ohio's best ideas start with real needs. When Dayton's Ermal Frazee couldn't open a beer can, he created the pull-tab that reshaped packaging and convenience. Toledo teen Becky Shroeder invented the Glo-Sheet to study in the dark. Today, Ohio still finds ways to make life needs easier.



Grit to Glory

Ohio's innovations are rooted in perseverance. Frederick McKinley Jones from Cincinnati tirelessly experimented until he developed mobile refrigeration, enabling the year-round transportation of food and medicine. Meanwhile, Sherwin-Williams in Cleveland overcame numerous setbacks to successfully create ready-mix paint. Persistence is truly Ohio's hallmark.

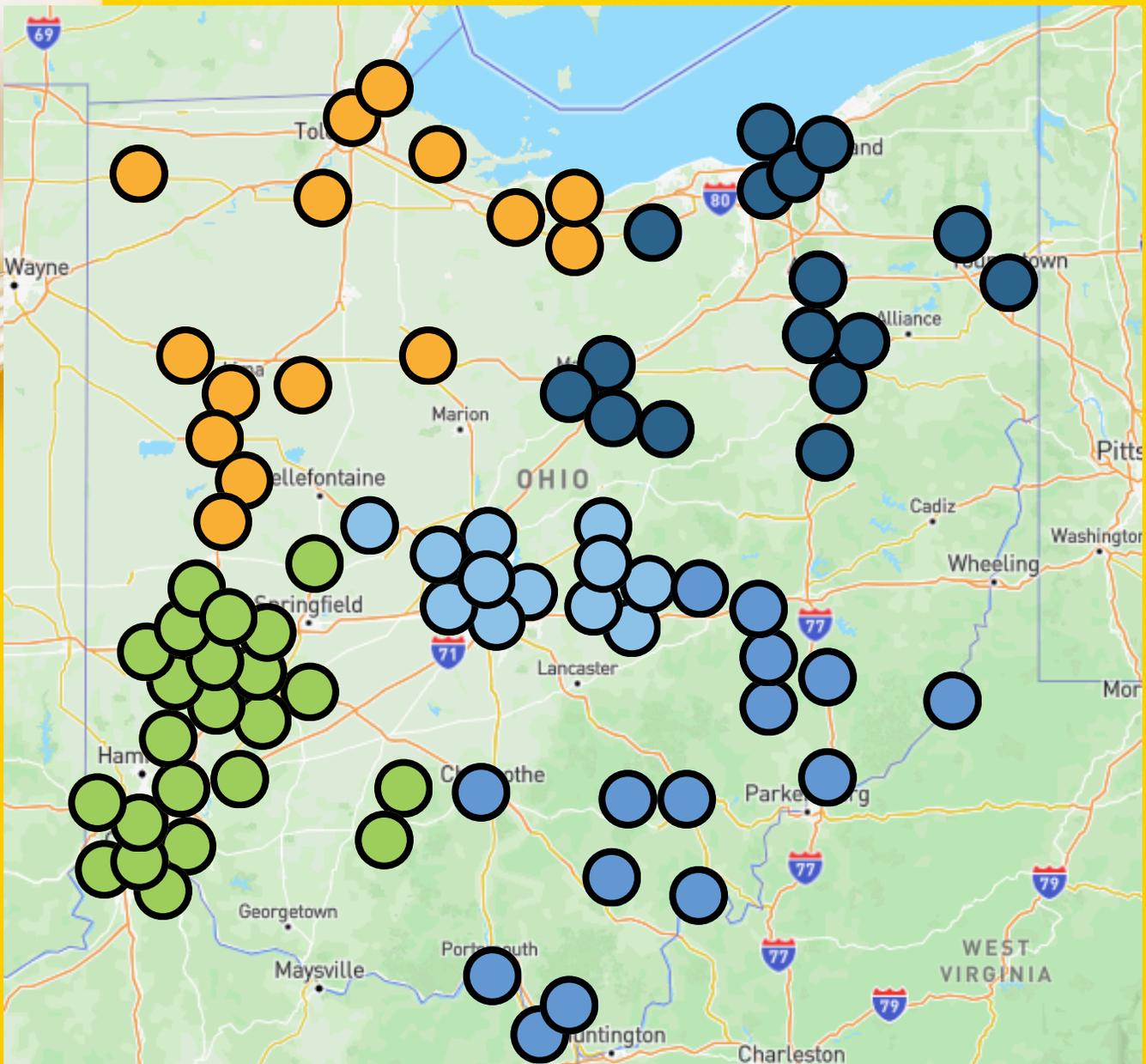
Ohio Innovation Trail

Welcome to Ohio, a state that turns imagination into working reality. With a prime location, deep infrastructure, and a “try it, fix it, make it better” mindset, Ohio has produced wave after wave of problem-solvers whose ideas reshape how we move, manufacture, protect, power, feed, and heal.

Before Milan native Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb, he spent his formative years seeing canal innovations being made in his hometown. The Wright Brothers tested and retested their plane in Dayton. In Cleveland, Garrett Morgan created the first traffic signal. Silas Thormaehlen and Robert McKee accidentally discovered the first oil well in the nation in Caldwell. All inventions started somewhere, and many of those starts have ties to Ohio.



Explore more than 70 museums and historic sites to learn more about Ohio's contribution to innovation.

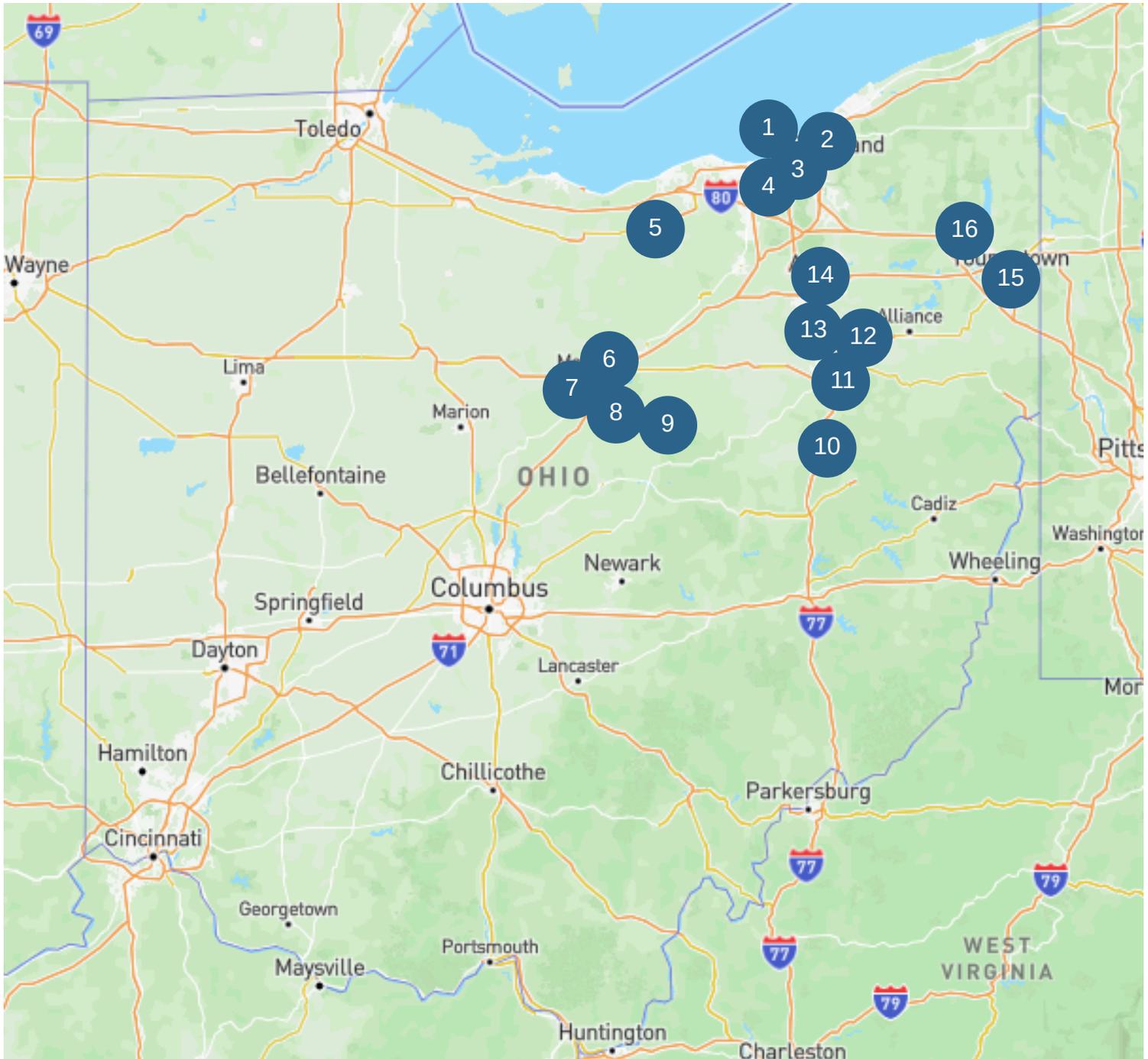


Northeast



Cleveland's Garrett Morgan's gas mask and modern traffic signal design highlight Ohio ingenuity protecting workers and organizing city streets. The Cleveland Clinic worked to become the first use of the heart-lung machine to safely stop the heart during surgery. Akron's rubber industry led to the creation of safer tires to rubber ducks and Canton served as the birthplace of the portable vacuum. Regenerative farming in Richland County led to crop rotations and contour plowing to create a healthier environment for growing crops.

Please confirm days and hours of operation, as some sites have limited access. You may also want to plan visits around demonstrations, special events, lectures and hands-on workshops, so please refer to each site's website for information.



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america250-ohio.org/ohio-innovation-trail





1 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Cleveland earned the nickname “the Birthplace of Rock & Roll” when disc jockey Alan Freed called the R&B music he was playing on his nightly show “rock and roll.” The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame tells the story of the creation of rock & roll through innovative exhibits and engaging digital content, celebrating the artists, events, and songs that shape our world and impact modern culture. See instruments, stage outfits, vintage recording devices, and more that help share how Ohio played a crucial role in rock & roll’s expansion across the country and generations.

1100 E. 9th St., Cleveland

rockhall.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Cleveland](#)

2 Cleveland History Center

Discover innovation at *Cleveland Starts Here*, from the city’s first map to LeBron James’ championship shoes. Follow Garrett Morgan’s creative process and see how he developed a World War I gas mask and the modern traffic signal. Examine a 1960s NASA lunar module component built in Cleveland that spotlights the city’s role in the race to the moon. Then trace a wall length timeline of breakthroughs in medicine, materials, lighting, media, and music to see how Cleveland ideas moved from an idea to the world stage.

10825 East Blvd., Cleveland

whrs.org/plan-visit/places-to-visit/cleveland-history-center

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Destination Cleveland](#)

3 Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum

Northeast Ohio was a crucial hub of transportation development in the early 1900s, where vehicle manufacturers Baker, Winton, Jordan, Peerless, White, Packard, and more popularized automobiles for business and pleasure. See models from these brands and learn about those who advanced steam, electric, and gasoline vehicles. The museum also highlights the Cleveland National Air Races, which helped speed the development of aviation technology, making air travel more accessible to the masses.

10825 East Blvd., Cleveland

whrs.org/plan-visit/places-to-visit/crawford-auto-aviation-museum/welcome

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Destination Cleveland](#)

4 Dittrick Museum of Medical History

Dr. Howard Dittrick collected medical antiques, which Case Western Reserve University has put on display at the Dittrick Museum of Medical History. Ohio has long served as a center for medical advancements, from the first human heart-lung machine and motorized wheelchair in Dayton to the full-body x-ray machine and the craniotomy chair in Cleveland. Rotating displays connect Ohio-born advances and today’s biomedical research, showing how ideas move from clinic bench to life-saving practice.

Case Western Reserve University, The Allen Memorial Medical Library, 11000 Euclid Ave., Cleveland

artsci.case.edu/dittrick

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Cleveland](#)

5 Jewett House of the Oberlin Heritage Center

Charles Martin Hall patented the aluminum reduction process, transforming how this versatile metal could be produced at scale. Its impact stretched from everyday household goods to major industrial and technological advances worldwide. The Jewett House, named for Hall’s mentor and Oberlin professor Frank Jewett, tells how Hall secured the patent, explains the process, and traces the founding of the Pittsburgh Reduction Company.

Oberlin University, 73 S. Professor St., Oberlin

oberlinheritagecenter.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Lorain County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

6 North Central Ohio Industrial Museum

Celebrate the ingenuity of the inventors and factories that made Ohio a manufacturing powerhouse. Explore stories behind homegrown brands – Isaly’s Klondike Bar, Stewarts Root Beer, Mansfield Tire & Rubber – and national giants like Westinghouse and NABISCO. Discover how labor unions reshaped workplaces and elevated American living standards.

100 Reformatory Rd., Mansfield

ncoim.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Destination Mansfield](#)

7 Kingwood Center Gardens

The former estate of Charles Kelley King honors his legacy as a pioneering engineer who helped shape the electric streetcar era. King was the first electrical engineer at Ohio Brass, driving its expansion into fittings vital to trolley systems and power transmission. Exhibits within the historic mansion and the Garden Gateway’s Exhibit Gallery focus on stories of King’s life and his contributions. This beautiful garden is the result of King dreaming of his estate as a public garden to help with horticultural innovation.

50 N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield

kingwoodcenter.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Mansfield](#)

8 Malabar Farm State Park & Visitor Center

Malabar Farm was Louis Bromfield’s living laboratory for sustainable agriculture. The Pulitzer Prize winning author and conservationist championed healthy soil as the foundation of productive farms, demonstrating cover crops, composting, crop rotation, contour plowing, and managed woodlots that welcomed wildlife as part of the farm system. Interactive exhibits show his field tests and careful records that reduced erosion and restored fertility. See how Bromfield helped popularize ideas now called organic, sustainable, and environmental, decades before they became mainstream.

4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas

ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/malabar-farm-state-park

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Mansfield](#)





Northeast



9 Cleo Redd Fisher Museum

The intertwined stories of Charles Kettering and Hugo Young with the Fixable Company are told at the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum. Kettering's electric self-starter freed motorists from hand-cranking, and Young's sidecars carried generations across the country in style. Explore prototypes, patents, and shop-floor ingenuity to see how smart mechanical fixes became market-shaping products. Together, these stories show how small-town Ohio helped fuel innovation, freeing drivers from hand-cranks, carrying families farther, and sparking big ideas that rolled across the country.

203 E. Main St., Loudonville
crfmuseum.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:
[Explore Ashland](#)

10 Ernest Warther Museum & Gardens

Ernest "Mooney" Warther turned necessity into invention. While working in a steel-mill, he designed protective gear and shop tools later copied nationwide. At the museum, see his operating steel-mill replica with ingenious gearing that animates carvings. Explore Warther's modular "Smart Knife" kitchen system with interchangeable blades. Displays highlight his custom jigs and precision methods. He influenced makers worldwide through demonstrations, classes, and enduring tool designs.

331 Karl Ave., Dover
thewarthermuseum.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:
[Travel Tuscarawas County](#)

11 Pro Football Hall of Fame

The American Professional Football Association, now known as the National Football League (NFL), was founded in Canton in 1920. The Canton Bulldogs, a former NFL team, were the first repeat season champions in 1922 and 1923, cementing Ohio as the heart of pro football. See "The NFL's First Century Gallery," which documents the founding of the league in Ohio and how it has evolved over the past 100 years. Be sure to visit the Hall of Fame busts, which includes 30 Ohioans.

2121 George Halas Dr. NW., Canton
profootballhof.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:
[Visit Canton](#)

12 Hoover Historical Center

While working as a janitor, Murray Spangler created a vacuum to help collect dust while sweeping at night. Hoover bought the patent, employed Spangler as a partner, and started the Hoover Company. Explore the legacy with displays that take visitors through the evolution of floor care, from vacuum cleaner innovations to new advertising techniques. See how Hoover supported the U.S. war effort during World War II through specialized military production.

Walsh University, 1875 E. Maple St., North Canton
walsh.edu/hoover-historical-center.html

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Visit Canton](#)

13 MAPS Air Museum

This former Ohio Air Guard hangar serves as the center of aviation history in Northeast Ohio. Local farmer William H. Martin joined the aviation industry by creating the first mono-winged glider aircraft. See this glider and over 60 other aircraft on display throughout the museum galleries. More than 100 aviation artifacts are on exhibit.

2260 International Pkwy., North Canton
mapsairmuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Visit Canton](#)

14 Akron History Center

Akron's spirit of invention grew from its rubber industry. The *Rubber Room* showcases Akron-made creations including tires, golf balls, balloons, PVC, and synthetic rubber. Explore *Akron Originals* with products born in the city, from oatmeal and fishing tackle to marbles. Meet innovators who worked in Akron, from the Menches Brothers, credited with creating waffle cones, the original hamburger, and Cracker Jacks, to Joey Minadeo, inventor of the Earthquake guitar pedal.

172 S. Main St., Akron
akronhistorycenter.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

15 Steel Museum - Youngstown Historical Center of Industry & Labor

Experience how steel shaped Ohio and how manufacturing influenced the nation. The center preserves and interprets the industrial and labor history of the Mahoning Valley. Exhibits trace the triumphs and challenges of workers, their families, and their communities in pursuit of the American Dream. See sculptures crafted from Mahoning Valley steel that reveal the connection between art and industry. A special America 250 exhibit will run throughout 2026 to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial.

151 W. Wood St., Youngstown
yhcil.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Explore Mahoning](#)

16 National Packard Museum

The Packard brothers founded Packard Electric in 1890, manufacturing superior light bulbs prized for their brighter light and long life, helping make electricity more accessible. Through new filaments and an improved manufacturing process, the Packard Lamp won the top prize at the 1893 World's Fair. Soon after, the Packard Motor Car Company began crafting automobile innovations, such as the auto steering wheel and the "H" pattern transmission.

1899 Mahoning Ave. NW., Warren
packardmuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Trumbull County Tourism Bureau](#)



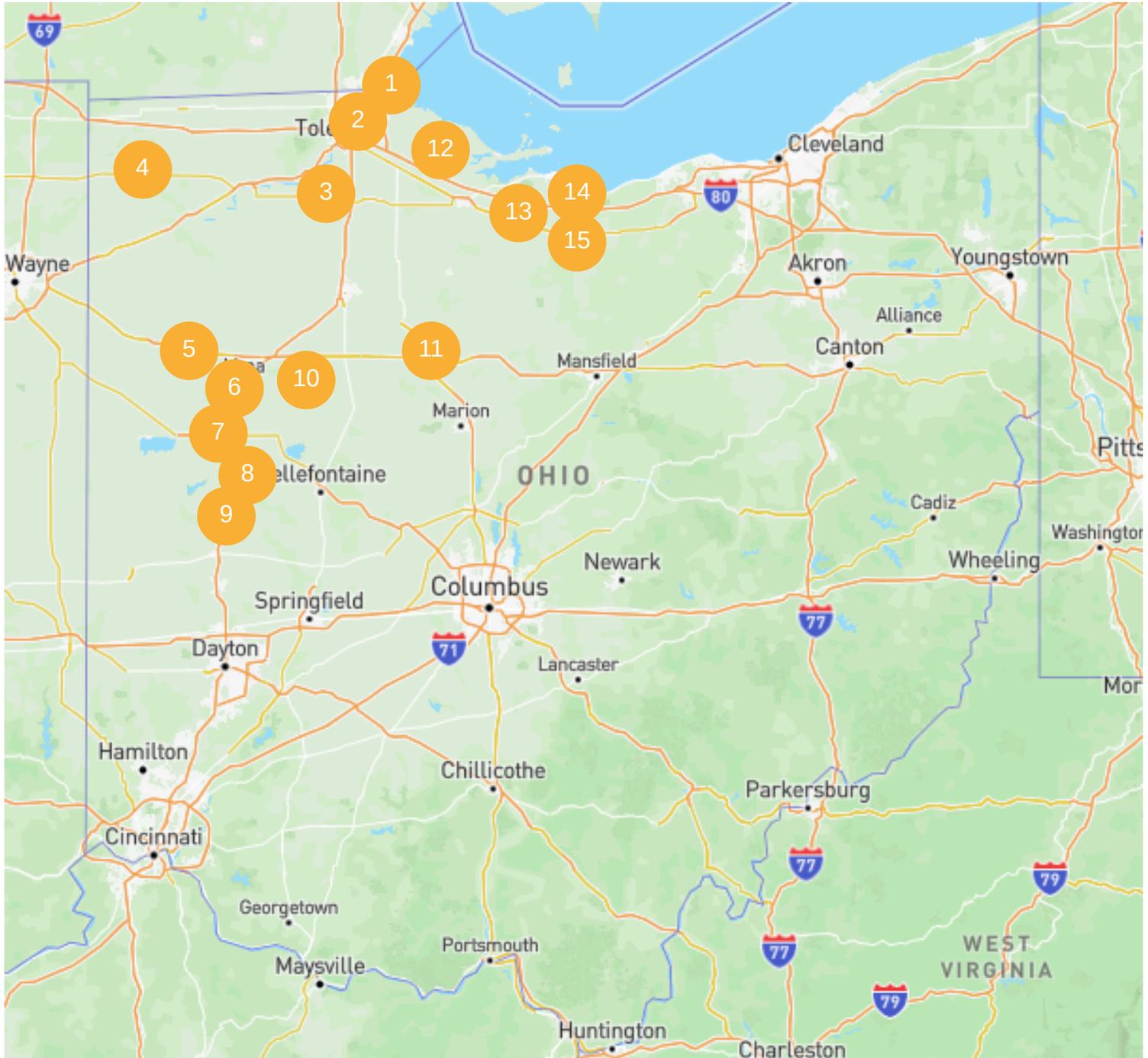


Northwest



“Glass City” Toledo created a cluster of companies that keep Ohio at the frontier of glass, composites, and thin-film solar. L.L. Langstroth’s bee keeping strategies are on display at honey companies near Lake Erie. Thomas Edison’s various inventions transformed sound, light, and motion pictures, laying foundations of modern media and home life. Sidney’s Paul Lauterbur turned nuclear magnetic resonance into MRI technology.

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Northwest



1 Toledo Museum of Art

Toledo's cluster of headquarters, plants, research, and culture keeps it a leader in glass and glass adjacent industries. Abundant natural gas and strong transport links drew innovators like Libbey and helped anchor OI Glass, Owens Corning, Pilkington NSG, and First Solar. Local labs advance composites, thin film solar, and advanced coatings that feed global markets. The American Studio Glass Movement began here, and the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion carries that spirit with daily making and galleries of historic and contemporary Toledo glass. 2445 Monroe St., Toledo

toledomuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Toledo](#)

2 Imagination Station

Imagination Station promotes innovation and creativity in young minds. Interactive activities allow hands-on experiences for kids, like the Circuit Table, which lets kids toy with electricity just like Thomas Edison. Before you leave, visit the "Tinkering Space" to find new and free workshops every month. These workshops let you put on your thinking cap and dive into the world of creativity and innovation. Whether you're an artist, engineer or inventor, you'll find the tools and inspiration to make something one-of-a-kind

1 Discovery Way, Toledo

imaginationstationtoledo.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Toledo](#)

3 National Construction Equipment Museum

Explore the machines that built modern America. The National Construction Equipment Museum showcases innovation in infrastructure and mining with more than 220 machines from the late 1800s through the 1980s, many restored to operating condition. Trace advances by Ohio makers including Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company, Galion Iron Works, Buffalo Springfield Roller Company, and Ohio Steam Shovel Company, and see how improvements in power, controls, and materials accelerated excavation, road building, and heavy construction.

16623 Liberty Hi Rd., Bowling Green

hcea.net

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Wood County Tourism](#)

4 Spangler Candy World

Spangler Candy World, home of the Dum-Dum lollipop, invites visitors to "experience the fun" of candy creation. Engage in STEM-focused activities highlighting how candy is made, such as using robotic arms like the ones used to sort candy in the factory. Learn about the history of Spangler and pose in photo spots. Be sure to take the factory tour and design your own conversation hearts before you leave.

131 S. Main St., Bryan

spanglercandyworld.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Bryan Ohio](#)

5 Delphos Canal Commission Museum

Leslie Peltier, called "the world's greatest non-professional astronomer," turned garage ingenuity into astronomical innovation. In 1937 he built the Merry-Go-Round Observatory, a hand-cranked, track-mounted structure that rotated as a unit to follow the sky. His design was simpler, steadier, and cheaper than dome/drive systems. See a replica alongside his "Strawberry Spyglass," bought with berry money, plus meticulous star charts and observing logs that advanced variable-star science. Exhibits also trace his Delphos Bending Works toy designs, showing how practical mechanics fed discovery.

241 N. Main St., Delphos

delphoscanalcommission.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Greater Lima](#)

6 Allen County Museum

Ephraim Shay developed the Shay engine while working for Lima Machine Works in 1880. The engine transformed logging and mining industries and cemented Lima's reputation in the steam age. The museum features Allen's County's transportation history, from a Conestoga Wagon that brought pioneers to canal travel and a Liberty Truck. Also on display is the history of the Lima-Indiana Oil Field, which fueled the oil industry in northwest Ohio.

620 W. Market St., Lima

allencountymuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Visit Greater Lima](#)

7 Armstrong Air & Space Museum

In addition to learning how Ohioan Neil Armstrong took that first step on the moon, the Armstrong Air & Space Museum also highlights Ohioans whose contributions made space travel possible and safer. Rita Rapp led the Apollo Food System Team, making sure astronauts had nutrients in orbit, and Dominick Labino was a glass sculptor and spacecraft engineer who worked to make space travel safe.

500 Apollo Dr., Wapakoneta

armstrongmuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Greater Grand Lake Visitors Region](#)

8 Airstream Factory

Take a tour of the Airstream Factory to learn how these iconic travel trailers are made. Airstream trailers make camping easy, with all the comfort, technology, and convenience of home. Watch how these trailers are made on a special behind-the-scenes factory tour with parts in development right in front of you. Make sure to swing into the Heritage Center before you go to see historical artifacts telling the Airstream innovation story.

1001 W. Pike St., Jackson Center

airstream.com/company/factory-tours

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Sidney Visitors Bureau](#)





Northwest



9 Wallace Family Learning & Innovation Center

At the Wallace Family Learning & Innovation Center, Ohio's problem-solvers take center stage. In the Industrial Ingenuity gallery, trace Earl Muir's breakthrough scroll technology—now core to Copeland compressors that keep America cool. In People of Impact, see how Nobel laureate Paul Lauterbur turned nuclear medicine resonance into the MRI, transforming medicine. Interactive exhibits and patent stories connect shop-floor prototypes to global impact, spotlighting the relentless iteration that powers Ohio industry—and inspires the next inventor.

115 E. North St., Sidney

shelbycountyhistory.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Sidney Visitors Bureau](#)

10 Wilson Football Factory

Wilson Sporting Goods has been the official football of the NFL since 1941 and has been manufacturing in Ada since 1955. Factory tours trace a 20-step manufacturing process of making a football, get an up-close look at graphics and customization operations, and an in-depth analysis of an NFL game day football. Cap your visit a stop at the small on-site museum to learn about the history of football construction after seeing how one is manufactured.

517 E. Highland Ave., Ada

wilson.com/en-us/explore/football/ada-ohio-factory

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance](#)

11 Indian Mill Museum

Following the War of 1812, Wyandot community members and African American farmers built a thriving settlement along the Sandusky River. They constructed a water powered gristmill that applied the latest milling methods to sustain the community. Today the site is the Indian Mill Museum, recognized as the nation's first milling museum. Trace the story of milling from hand stones to modern rollers, and see how innovation in power, machinery, and technique helped the Wyandot earn a living from this mill.

7417 Co. Hwy. 47, Upper Sandusky

ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/indian-mill

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Wyandot County Visitors Bureau](#)

12 Ottawa County Museum

Ottawa County helped reshape meat processing and sport fishing. Carl Bio Sr., a Hungarian immigrant machinist, engineered a durable, precise meat saw celebrated by butchers and supplied to U.S. Navy galleys during World War II. Ohio innovator Dan Galbincea created a walleye lure with controlled wobble and flash that changed how anglers target the species. The Ottawa County Museum highlights their breakthroughs with exhibits and artifacts that trace problems, prototypes, and market impact from workshop to nationwide adoption.

126 W. Third St., Port Clinton

ottawacountyhistory.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Shores & Islands](#)

13 Cherry City Honey

Cherry City Honey's "America 250: Land of Milk & Honey Experience" honors Ohioans who transformed agriculture and food worldwide. From Henry Quirin's queen bee breeding to L.L. Langstroth's moveable-frame hive, Ohioans have worked directly with beekeeping to make important advancements to ease the field. Be sure to roll your own beeswax candle and make a commemorative America 250 bookmark while sipping on a Stars & Stripes Lemonade.

1000 County Road 312, Bellevue

cherrycityhoney.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Sandusky County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

14 Edison Birthplace Museum

Thomas Edison is one of the world's most prolific and influential inventors, and he was born and raised in Milan. From humble beginnings, Edison went on to revolutionize modern life with inventions such as the phonograph, the light bulb, and the motion picture camera. Listen to live demonstrations from phonographs and learn about their impact on sound technology while exploring other materials invented by Edison. Walk through the rooms that forged his grit and imagination, linking small-town beginnings to world-changing innovation.

9 N. Edison Dr., Milan

tomedison.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Shores & Islands](#)

15 Milan Historical Museum

Isaac Woolverton Hoover grew up harvesting potatoes on an Ohio farm, which led him to create a machine that could dig, sift, and separate potatoes from the soil. This digger could harvest 500 bushels a day, making potato farming much more efficient. Once adopted by John Deere, the Hoover Digger became the foundation of modern potato machinery. Be sure to pick up the inventor's activity booklet, which features Hoover alongside Thomas Edison, Samuel Winchester, and James Stoakes, other local inventors.

10 N. Edison Dr., Milan

milanhistory.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Shores & Islands](#)

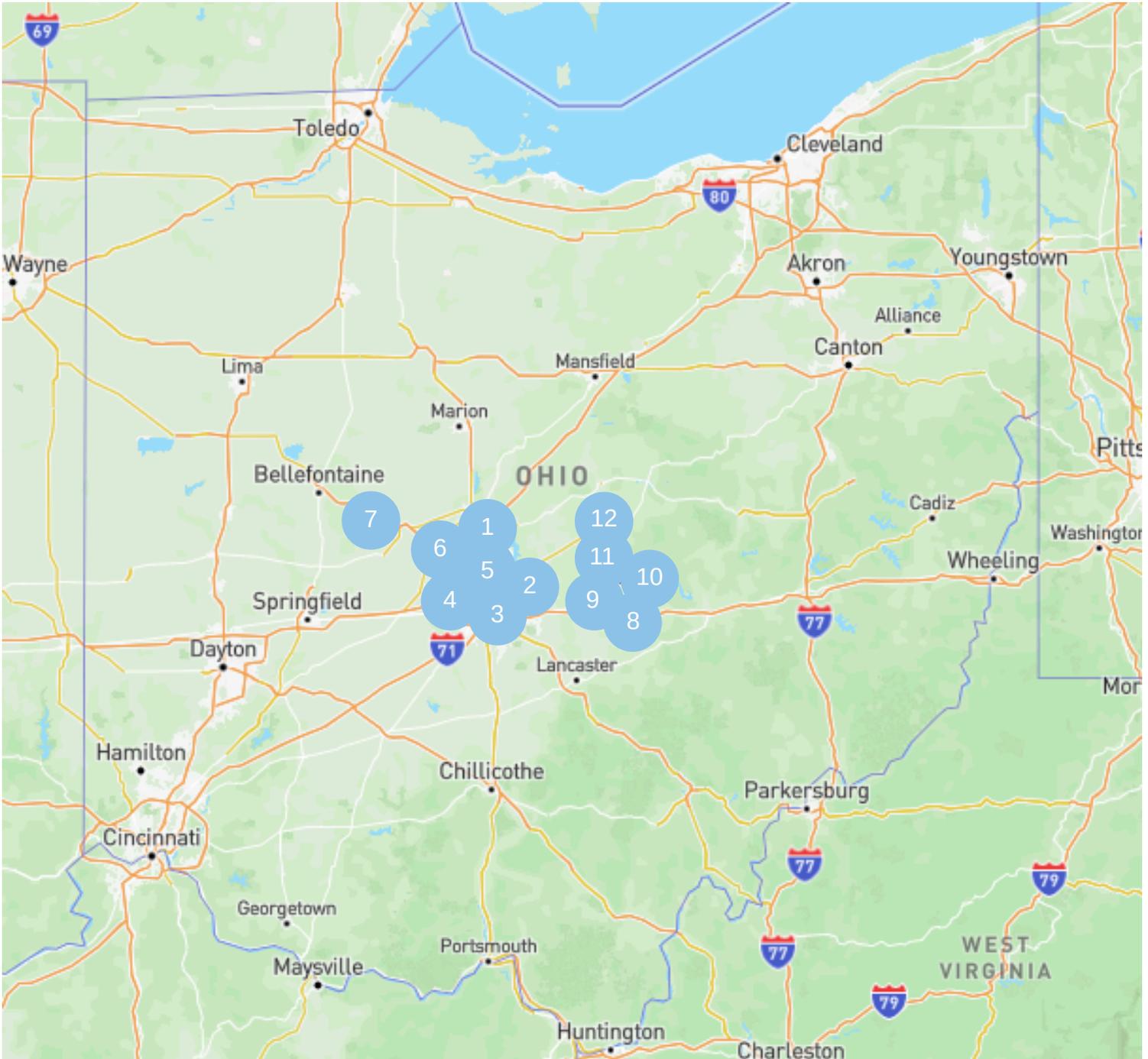


Central



Battelle in Columbus partnered to develop and license xerography, the dry-copy process that became Xerox's foundation. Anthony-Thomas Candy Factory perfected the Buckeye candy - named for Ohio's state tree. Indigenous people created massive precision-engineered earthworks for gathering and ceremony. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks can be seen in Newark, Chillicothe, and Oregonia. Rumpke Recycling uses new technology to continuously improve the recycling process.

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america250-ohio.org/ohio-innovation-trail





Central



1 Ohio History Center

The state's history museum explores Ohio innovation from vehicles and homes, to kitchen utensils. Discover the evolution of travel in Ohio from canals to railroads and the National Road. Learn how Ohio became a leading manufacturing state, and explore the full-size Lustron home on display. Visit the "Made in Ohio" to learn about Ohio inventions and innovators, and swing by an additional exhibit that highlights kitchenware, from utensils to bakeware.

800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus

ohiohistory.org/visit/ohio-history-center

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Experience Columbus](#)

2 Rumpke Recycling & Resource Center

At the Rumpke Education Center, trace how recycling evolved from pulling rags, metals, and glass from a stream to high-speed facilities that separate materials long before trash trucks reach a landfill. Follow a container's journey through conveyors, screens, ballistic separators, magnets/eddy currents, and optical sorters — now augmented by AI vision robots that boost purity and throughput. Immersive exhibits show how these systems turn waste into feedstock, reduce emissions, and make "single-bin" recycling easier for households and businesses.

1190 Joyce Ave., Columbus

rumpke.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Experience Columbus](#)

3 Central Ohio Fire Museum & Learning Center

Explore the Central Ohio Fire Museum inside restored Engine House No. 16 — the last Columbus station built for horse-drawn steamers. Trace firefighting's evolution from hand pumps and telegraph boxes to 9-1-1, radio/CAD, and modern apparatus, with exhibits on how the 9-1-1 system was refined and standardized in Ohio. See rigs, gear, and early alarms; learn about Ohio's first Black firefighters; and ring the 500-pound station bell.

260 N. 4th St., Columbus

centralohiofiremuseum.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Experience Columbus](#)

4 Anthony-Thomas Candy Company

Go behind the scenes at Anthony Thomas Candy, where the Zanetos family perfected Ohio's peanut butter buckeye. Follow a glass enclosed suspended catwalk above nine production lines that produce up to 30,000 pounds of chocolate each shift. Guides explain every step, from kitchen cooking to final packaging, so you see how sweetness scales. End your visit with a complimentary sample, then browse the retail shop for fresh buckeyes and other classics.

1777 Arlingate Ln., Columbus

anthony-thomas.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Experience Columbus](#)

5 COSI - Center of Science & Industry

Discover how today's experts are making the vehicles of tomorrow in COSI's new Meet the Innovators exhibit. Using hands-on exhibits and video interviews, encounter local innovators and explore their careers in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). Learn how STEAM-based skills can help prepare tomorrow's innovators to create the as-yet unimagined transportation technologies of the future.

333 W. Broad St., Columbus

cosi.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Experience Columbus](#)

6 Early Television Museum

The Early Television Foundation & Museum preserves the dawn of television. After selling his cable company, founder Steve McVoy began collecting pre-WWII sets; donations from collectors nationwide helped open the museum in 2001. Follow the evolution from mechanical spinning-disc TVs and prewar electronic sets to postwar consoles and early color, seeing how pictures were scanned, transmitted, and received. Hands-on exhibits and restored broadcasts demystify tuners, tubes, and standards, showing how television moved from lab experiments to living-room fixtures.

5396 Franklin St., Hilliard

earlytelevision.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Experience Columbus](#)

7 Honda Heritage Center

The Honda Heritage Center Museum showcases Honda's sales, manufacturing, and research and development presence in the U.S. since 1959. Honda was the first Japanese automotive brand to build products in America, with the plant in Marysville. Learn about automotive concepts, products, and different vehicles, including race cars, motorcycles, and even a HondaJet fuselage. See display engines with cut-outs to explore the insides and finish the day programming a manufacturing robot.

24025 Honda Pkwy., Marysville

honda.com/heritage-center

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Union County Tourism](#)

8 Dawes Arboretum

Bemen and Bertie Dawes co-founded the Dawes Arboretum to share Bemen's personal collection of trees with the public. He took his oil profits and turned his focus to nature preservation at a time when Ohio had witnessed 150 years of forest removal. The Dawes' work helped encourage others to understand that trees are living history and should be preserved, helping spark the protection of the living world in Ohio.

7770 Jacksontown Rd., Newark

dawesarb.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Explore Licking County](#)

9 Great Circle Earthworks - UNESCO World Heritage Site

Innovation in scale and water shaped this monumental circle. Tall interior walls surround a broad ditch that likely held water, while a grand gateway leads into a vast arena so large that the Great Pyramid of Giza could fit inside. The design forms a ceremonial landscape with hydraulic intent and visual drama, and its relationship to the Octagon underscores a wider plan across the Newark complex.

455 Hebron Rd., Heath

hopewellearthworks.org/site/great-circle-earthworks/

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Explore Licking County](#)





10 Octagon Earthworks - UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Octagon Earthworks is made of two geometric enclosures: a 20-acre circle and a 50-acre octagon, connected by a small avenue. This UNESCO World Heritage Site has walls that reach eye-level for visitors, showing how the Hopewell people understood soil science. Studying the soil led to innovations for modern scientists. These mounds centered around the movement of the moon, an early innovation in watching how the sky moved.

125 N. 33rd St., Newark

hopewellearthworks.org/site/octagon-earthworks/

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Explore Licking County](#)

11 National Heisey Glass Museum

The A.H. Heisey Company crafted refined tableware and glass figurines from 1896 to 1957, producing both pressed and blown pieces in a spectrum of colors and patterns. Pushing technique, Heisey pioneered elegant pressed stems which brought cut-crystal looks to affordable glass. Explore 6,000+ objects: stemware, candlesticks, animals, and serving pieces, alongside etchings, engravings, cuttings, molds, tools, and trial runs. Exhibits reveal how high-purity ingredients and tightly controlled formulas delivered Heisey's hallmark brilliance and durability.

169 W. Church St., Newark

heiseymuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Explore Licking County](#)

12 Ye Olde Mill - Home of Velvet Ice Cream

Lebanese immigrant Joseph Dager founded the company with only a hand-cranked ice cream maker. His spirit and determination transformed Velvet from a family recipe to a major brand. Ye Olde Mill takes guests on the journey of ice cream's development and highlights the tradition and innovation behind Velvet. Learn how hand-cranked methods transformed to modern production that turned ice cream into a treasured treat around the world.

11324 Mt. Vernon Rd., Utica

velveticecream.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Explore Licking County](#)



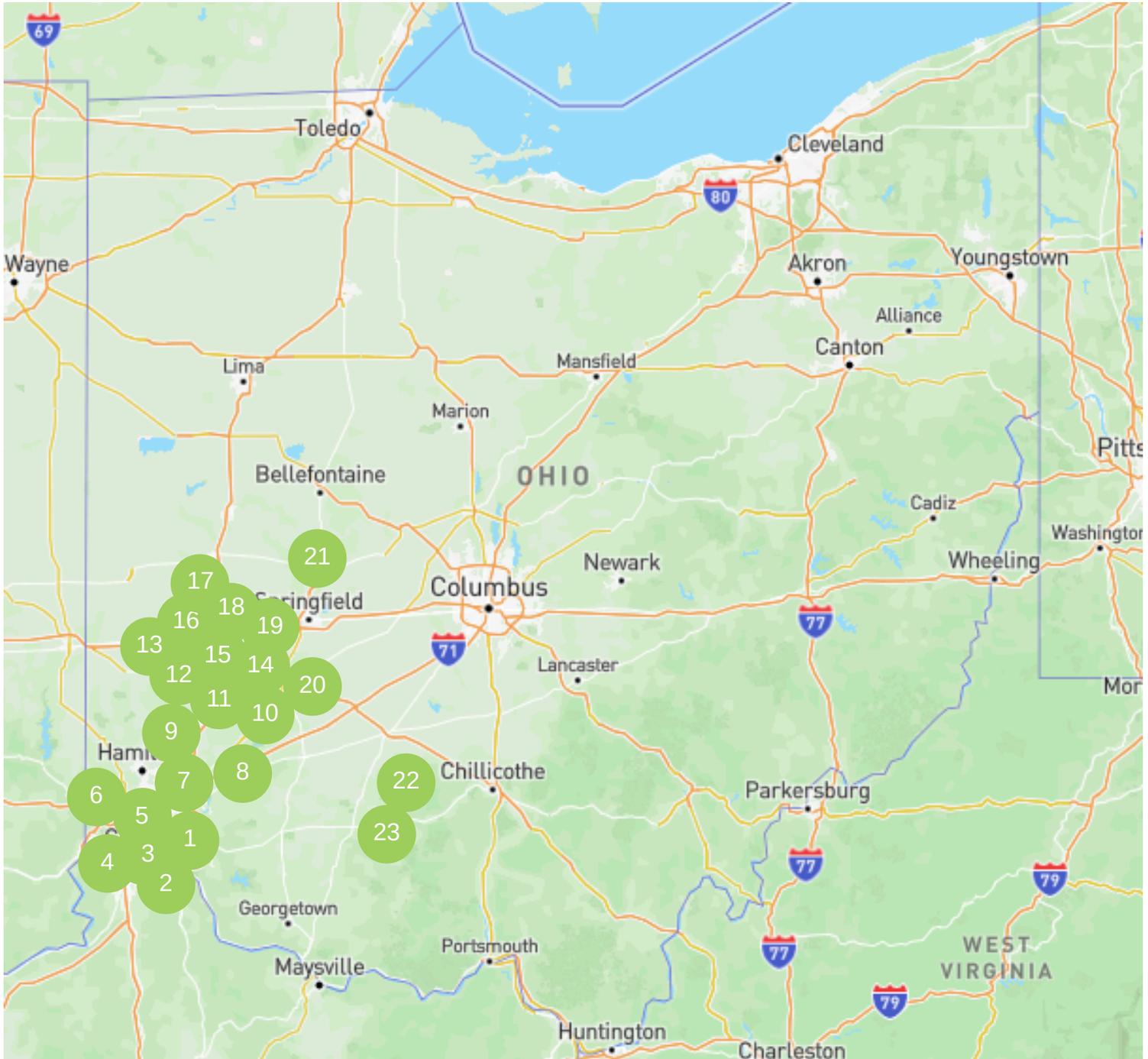


Southwest



Dayton's aviation history is presented across the area through the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, from the Wright Brothers first plane to the first free-fall parachute. The nation's first fully paid, professional fire department protected Cincinnati. Charles Kettering and Delco replaced dangerous hand cranks and helped bring cars to the masses. The first UPC scan was at a Marsh Supermarket in Troy. Shaker innovators branded and packaged garden seeds, standardizing varieties for home gardeners across the nation.

Please confirm days and hours of operation, as some sites have limited access. You may also want to plan visits around demonstrations, special events, lectures and hands-on workshops, so please refer to each site's website for information.



Map provides general location and should not be used for navigational purposes. Visit the Ohio Innovation Trail website for more information and mapping.

america250-ohio.org/ohio-innovation-trail





Southwest



1 Cincinnati Observatory

Known as the “Birthplace of American Astronomy,” the Cincinnati Observatory was the first public observatory in the nation. Cleveland Abbe helped to found the National Weather Service, earning him the nickname “America’s First Weather Forecaster,” and developed the Standard Timekeeping method during his time as director. See the first public telescope and astronomical instruments during your visit, and learn about Paul Herget, who established teaching methods still used in celestial mechanics today.

3489 Observatory Pl., Cincinnati

cincinnatiobservatory.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Cincy](#)

2 Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum

The Cincinnati Red Stockings were the first Major League Baseball team, and this site documents how bold ideas shaped the game’s beginning. Explore the many baseball clubs that have called Cincinnati home, including the Red Stockings, the Tigers, and the Reds. The Reds Firsts exhibit highlights innovations and milestones where the Reds led Major League Baseball from their first game onward.

100 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati

mlb.com/reds/hall-of-fame

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Cincy](#)

3 Cincinnati Fire Museum

Cincinnati is the birthplace of professional firefighting. The museum shows what it was like to work in the busiest Cincinnati firehouse in 1906. See an 1816 Fire Engine, volunteer-era fire parade hats, and leather fire buckets, transporting you back to the early days of fighting fire. Learn about the history of firefighting with hands-on experiences, such as sliding down a real firehouse pole, trying on firefighters’ uniforms, and running lights and sirens in the E-One Pumper Cab.

315 W. Court St., Cincinnati

cincyfiremuseum.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Cincy](#)

4 Rookwood Pottery Company

Maria Longworth Storer, the first woman in the United States to own a manufacturing company, founded Rookwood Pottery to encourage the individuality of her artists, thereby promoting artwork in the home. See innovative glazes, such as vellum, which features a light-colored background with landscapes and flowers, making the pottery appear more like a painting. This “art pottery” technique spread across the country and became a popular design. Artists at Rookwood championed the exploration of new materials to expand the types of pottery the company could create.

1920 Race St., Cincinnati

rookwood.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Cincy](#)

5 Cincinnati Museum Center

Cincinnati served as an innovative center across many sectors, not only making things, but making things better. From children’s toys to food, inventors created many items in the Cincinnati region. See the story of iconic children’s brands Play-Doh and Kenner Toys, innovative artwork techniques from Rookwood Pottery Company, and explore Cincinnati’s food history, from the Kroger Supermarket to the creation of German-inspired goetta. Learn how innovators Granville T. Woods, Henry Boyd, Maria Longworth Storer, and JP Ball used their ideas to change their fields forever.

1301 Western Ave., Cincinnati

cincymuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Cincy](#)

6 White Water Shaker Village

Discover how American Shakers transformed home gardening into a consumer innovation: they were the first to package and brand garden seeds for households, replacing bulk farm sales with clearly labeled packets that standardized varieties, portions, and quality. Explore historic photos, timelines, and original seed boxes that carried these packets nationwide. Then tour the Meeting House to see the communal systems that powered Shaker ingenuity, from shared labor and careful record keeping to design discipline and continuous improvement.

11813 Oxford Rd., Harrison

whitewatervillage.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Cincy](#)

7 National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting

The Voice of America Bethany Station allowed for news and entertainment to be broadcast across the world at the end of World War II. The advanced radio communication technology created by Powel Crosley Jr. transmitted shortwave radio around the world. Learn about the history of the Voice of America, regional broadcast history, and the development of radio technology. See how Crosley’s inventions helped shape and continue to influence amateur radio communications.

8070 Tylersville Rd., West Chester

voamuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Travel Butler County](#)

8 Fort Ancient Earthworks - UNESCO World Heritage Center

High above the Little Miami River, Fort Ancient was built by Indigenous peoples over 2,000 years ago. Explore the embankments that reach up to 23 feet high, an incredible feat considering they were built one basket of dirt at a time. Morehead Circle, an area that once housed a woodhenge used for sacred ceremonies, is accessible just outside the museum. The locations of these embankments and ceremony spaces reveal how Indigenous innovations revolved around astronomical connections.

6123 OH-350, Oregonia

ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/fort-ancient-earthworks/

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)





Southwest



9 BeauVerre Riordan Studios

BeauVerre Riordan Studios is the oldest continually operated stained glass studio in the country. The studio specializes in stained, beveled, etched, painted, and fused glass, and the art gallery contains works from many area artists, including sculptures, paintings, and jewelry. See studio archives dating back to the 1800s, with display cases showcasing many of the old tools used from the original Riordan firm, along with old photographs and original watercolors. Learn about the history of the building and studios, and how to create stained glass.

1054 Central Ave., Middletown

beauverre.net

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Travel Butler County](#)

10 Delco Park

The Charles Kettering History Walk tells the story of the renowned inventor, educator, and philanthropist who revolutionized transportation, retail shopping, health care, and daily living. Kettering founded the National Cash Register Company and the Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company (Delco). His inventions include the electric car starter, electric windshield wipers, and the Delco light, among many others. Following the death of his wife, Kettering invented new diagnostic tools and improved medical equipment for people facing cancer.

1700 Delco Park Dr., Kettering

playkettering.org/locations/delco-park

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Dayton](#)

11 Wright Brothers Museum at Carillon Historical Park

See the original 1905 Wright Flyer III, the world's first practical airplane, created by Wilbur and Orville Wright. The story of the Wright Brothers comes alive throughout this museum. Other artifacts include bicycles built by the Wright Brothers, the camera that captured photos of the first plane in flight, Wilbur's traveling bag, Orville's toolbox, and more.

1000 Carillon Blvd., Dayton

daytonhistory.org/visit/things-to-see-do/wright-brothers-national-museum

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Destination Dayton](#)

12 Carillon Historical Park

Dayton is a hotbed of invention. Carillon Historical Park proves it. In the Cash Register Room, see how John H. Patterson's NCR reimagined safeguarding sales. Inside Deeds Barn, discover Charles Kettering and Edward Deeds' electric self-starter, the spark of modern motoring. Across the grounds, follow everyday breakthroughs from Erma Frazee's pull-tab to Thomas Midgley Jr.'s Freon. The park ties hands-on tinkering to world-changing ideas.

100 Carillon Blvd., Dayton

daytonhistory.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Dayton](#)

13 America's Packard Museum

Packard Motor Car Company was responsible for many automotive firsts. Located in the original restored 1917 Dayton Packard dealership, the museum brings visitors into the full dealership experience, presenting cars without ropes or barriers. Cars have open hoods and doors to explore the inner workings of vehicles, including a 1929 Jesse Vincent Speedster and a 1902 Model F single cylinder. See America's first purpose-built motorhome, Al Capone's last Packard, and several Packard innovations, like the auto steering wheel and first car air conditioner.

420 Ludlow St., Dayton

americaspackardmuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Destination Dayton](#)

14 Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center

The story of Wilbur and Orville Wright and their aviation journey is on display at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. The brothers started their careers as printers at Wright & Wright Job Printers in this building before inventing the airplane. Watch the film *Wright Brothers on Great White Wings* to see the Wright Brothers go from printing newspapers to flying.

22 S. Williams St., Dayton

nps.gov/places/wdic.htm

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Destination Dayton](#)

15 Aviation Trail Parachute Museum

Explore the development of the free-fall parachute from its first deployment from a disabled aircraft in Dayton's McCook Field to safely landing today's spacecraft. Following World War II, the need for better aircraft safety heightened and resulted in the free-fall parachute. Learn about the parachute packing process, touch a nylon parachute, learn about the evolution of ejection seats, and see how air flow dynamics lead to improvements in parachute designs.

22 S. Williams St., Dayton

aviationtrail.org/parachute-museum

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Destination Dayton](#)

16 Riverscape Metropark

Stroll the Dayton Inventors River Walk and trace a city that builds what it imagines. Along the esplanade, seven oversized "Invention Stations" and 150+ commemorative bricks spotlight Miami Valley breakthroughs – from the Pop-Top and cash register to the ice cube tray and a nod to the search engine. Each stop blends story and sculpture to show how everyday problems spark elegant solutions. The walk culminates at the Charles F. Kettering Pavilion, honoring his self-starter legacy in modern mobility.

237 E. Monument Ave., Dayton

metroparks.org/places-to-go/riverscape

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Destination Dayton](#)





Southwest



17 National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force boasts more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display - many rare and one-of-a-kind. Exhibits span from the early years of the U.S. Air Force to war-specific galleries to a space gallery. Connect the Wright Brothers' airplane to current-day stealth and precision technology by enjoying flight simulators not far from where flight was invented, and learn about the U.S. Air Force's research and development to improve speed, maneuverability, and safety. 1100 Spaatz St., Dayton
nationalmuseum.af.mil

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Destination Dayton](#)

18 National Aviation Hall of Fame

The National Aviation Hall of Fame's Heritage Hall Education Center shares stories of aviation pioneers whose inventions changed history. Interactive exhibits and storytelling bring to life the stories of Ohio aviation innovators. Learn about the Wright Brothers' first powered flight, and how Warren Grimes created aircraft lighting to help make the airplane safer. Many other Ohioans and their innovations are on display, such as Clay Bruckner and Robert Hartzell. 1100 Spaatz St., Dayton
nationalaviation.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Destination Dayton](#)

19 Huffman Prairie Flying Field

The Wright Brothers tested and perfected their early aircraft at Huffman Prairie Flying Field, which led to the development of the 1905 Wright Flyer III. At Huffman, Orville and Wilbur built their skills as pilots, started a flying school, and broke early aviation records. The Interpretive Center on-site shares the story of the Wright Brothers and the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and is home to the 17-foot Wright Memorial. 2380 Memorial Rd., Wright-Patterson AFB

nps.gov/daav/learn/historyculture/huffman-prairie-flying-field.htm

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Destination Dayton](#)

20 National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center

The "Trailblazers of Innovation" gallery spotlights Black inventors from the 1800s to today. Vivid graphics, interactives, and artifacts show how everyday problems became patented breakthroughs – from fire suppression to candy-making. Meet Garrett Morgan, whose firefighter breathing device drew clean air from safe zones, protecting wearers from toxic smoke and foreshadowing modern respirators. Explore Iula Carter's portable nursery chair that converts to a travel potty – an ingenious, on-the-go solution granted a patent in 1960. 1350 Brush Row Rd., Wilberforce

ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/national-afro-american-museum-cultural-center/

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:
[Greene County Ohio Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

21 The Grimes Flying Lab

Warren G. Grimes invented aviation lighting because of his dedication to making flight safer at night. See a Beech 18 that served the U.S. Air Force as a C-45, a valuable tool to test and evaluate aircraft exterior lighting systems under various flying conditions, and examples of lights and equipment that Grimes manufactured for planes. 1636 N. Main St., Urbana

wixsite.com/grimesflyinglab

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:
[Champaign County Visitor's Bureau](#)

22 C.R. Patterson & Sons Storyboard

Seeking freedom and opportunity, the Patterson family moved from Virginia to Ohio's abolitionist stronghold. Skilled blacksmith C.R. Patterson built a thriving carriage shop, earning three patents and a reputation for quality. His sons scaled the enterprise with multi-state newspaper advertising and, in 1915, launched C.R. Patterson & Sons – America's first and only Black-owned automobile manufacturer. Explore the family's entrepreneurial arc and engineering ingenuity in a 60-by-8-foot storyboard that brings workshop design, marketing savvy, and cars to life. 301 Jefferson St., Greenfield

mainstreetgreenfield.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:
[Visitors Bureau of Highland County Ohio](#)

23 Music Makers Museum

The Music Makers Museum showcases the impact of Thomas Edison's photograph. These recorded sounds set the stage for the music industry, with recorded sound becoming a major background of our lives. See 50 playable phonographs sharing music from over 100 years ago, as well as Edison's original phonographs. Learn about the progression of sound recording and the changing of music genres that help show the diversity of Ohio's musicians. 11885 US Hwy. 50, Hillsboro

musicmakersmuseum.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:
[Visitors Bureau of Highland County Ohio](#)



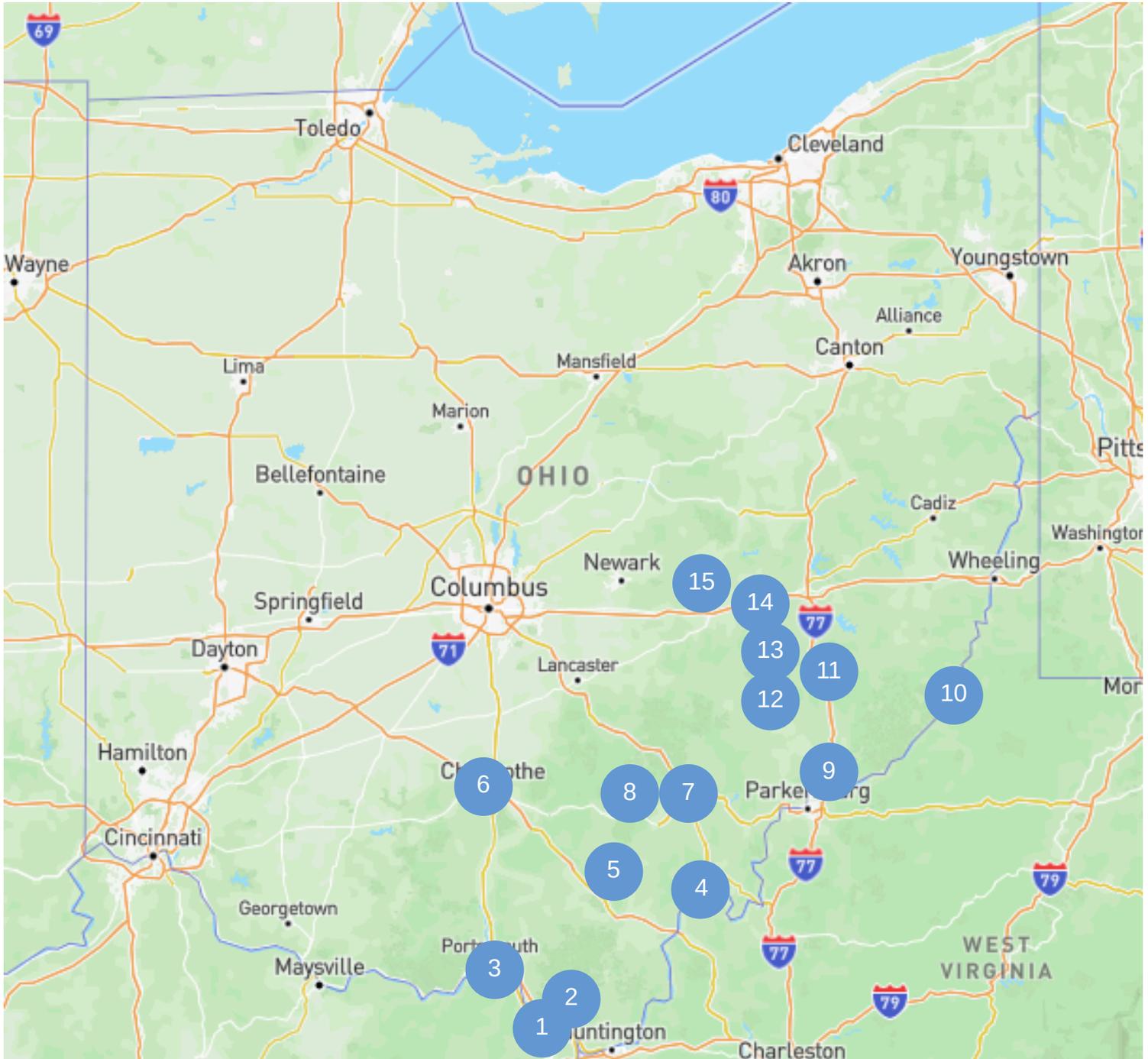


Southeast



The National Road crossed into Ohio in the Southeast, linking the nation's eastern markets with the Western Frontier. The Thorla-McKee Well in Noble County was dug for salt brine, but became the first oil-producing well in the country. The Hanging Rock Region's 46 furnaces transformed local ore into pig iron, many of which can still be seen today. The location of towns along the Ohio River led to increased industry, like shoemaking in Portsmouth and iron in Athens. The vast natural areas make this area the perfect place to promote environmental safety and conservation.

Please confirm days and hours of operation, as some sites have limited access. You may also want to plan visits around demonstrations, special events, lectures and hands-on workshops, so please refer to each site's website for information.



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Southeast



1 Lawrence County Museum

Set in an 1880 home, the museum anchors stories of regional ingenuity that shaped American industry. Its Ohio River setting powered an innovation corridor where furnaces, foundries, and riverboats moved materials and ideas. Explore a working pig iron furnace model to see how ore, limestone, charcoal, and forced air became cast iron for the factories of the Industrial Revolution. Trace the rise of modern sport through the Ironton Tanks, an independent powerhouse team that helped shape early National Football League history.

506 S. 6th St., Ironton

ohio.org/things-to-do/destinations/lawrence-county-ohio-historical-museum

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Lawrence County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

2 Vesuvius Iron Furnace

Vesuvius Iron Furnace stands within Wayne National Forest, one of 46 furnaces that operated in the Hanging Rock Iron Region. Using charcoal from extensive timber harvests, workers smelted locally mined ore into pig iron. Its forest setting and access to the Ohio River demonstrates how sourcing, transportation, and finance are linked to a growing industrial network. Today, Vesuvius remains one of the best-preserved nineteenth century furnaces.

Paddle Creek Rd. & Sugar Creek Ridge Rd., Pedro

fs.usda.gov/r09/wayne/recreation/underground-railroad-vesuvius-furnace

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Lawrence County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

3 Southern Ohio Museum

The Indigenous tribes of Southern Ohio used local resources to create tools used for daily life, including pots for storage and dining, utensils. With over 10,000 prehistoric objects, the Charles and William Wertz Collection shows the innovative nature of the Adena and Hopewell people. Learn the importance of the Ohio River to Portsmouth and how it influenced the steel, brick, and shoemaking industries.

825 Gallia St., Portsmouth

somacc.com

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Portsmouth Scioto County Visitors Bureau](#)

4 Meigs County Museum

Pomeroy's Valentine B. Horton transformed river commerce. In the 1830s he introduced coal barges and built the Condor, the first towboat fueled by coal, creating a reliable system to move coal from Meigs County mines down the Ohio River. His innovations accelerated regional industry and drew workers and families to the river towns. Towboats still push coal barges on the Ohio today. Explore how these breakthroughs reshaped national coal shipping and how mining shaped community life.

399 S. 3rd Ave., Middleport

meigschs.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Meigs County Ohio Chamber Tourism](#)

5 Buckeye Furnace

The Buckeye Furnace is a reconstructed charcoal-fire blast. This towering smelter used charcoal, limestone, and a strong air blast to turn local iron ore into pig iron. When iron was found in southeastern Ohio, Ohio erected furnaces to use the iron. Learn how iron making towns supported the Union during the Civil War and see how workers produced pig iron in the furnace.

123 Buckeye Park Rd., Wellston

buckeyefurnace.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Discover Jackson County](#)

6 Hopewell Culture National Historical Park - UNESCO World Heritage Site

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park showcases ancient landscape engineering. Begin at the Mound City Group visitor center, then explore other nearby World Heritage components managed by the National Park Service. Together they present vast geometric enclosures, shared units of measure, precise surveying, and alignments with the movements of the sun and moon that reveal an Indigenous tradition of science and design. Watch Mysteries of the Ancient Architects in the visitor center to see how Hopewell intelligence fused precise engineering, astronomical observation, and civic planning into a designed landscape.

16062 State Route 104, Chillicothe

nps.gov/hocu/index.htm

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Chillicothe](#)

7 Southeast Ohio History Center

The Southeast Ohio History Center features rotating exhibits linking regional ingenuity with industry. Athens' earliest industry was salt production, followed soon after by iron production and coal extraction. Learn how the railroad and river access helped Athens become an industrial hotbed. Visit with genealogists to see how families used industry to make their living and continued this grit through generations.

24 W. State St., Athens

southeastohiohistory.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Athens County Ohio](#)

8 Hope Iron Furnace

During the late 19th century, the Hanging Rock Iron Region operated 69 iron furnaces. Few remain, but the stone stacks of Hope Furnace still stand at Lake Hope State Park. Innovation in transportation connected forests, mines, and furnaces through canals and later railroads, which moved iron ore, charcoal, and coal to the stacks and carried pig and cast iron to market. These flows powered manufacturers during the Industrial Revolution, expanding Ohio's influence on the national economy and contributing to the rise of the Industrial Age.

27331 State Route 278, McArthur

ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/hope-furnace-ruins

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Vinton County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)





9 Campus Martius Museum

Marietta's position just across the Ohio River in the Northwest Territory led it to become one of the first communities founded in the West. Learn how American surveying expanded to determine boundaries in the West by visiting the Ohio Company Land Office. Important settlement logistics and frontier engineering were developed in Marietta that extended further West. Learn about life in the new settlement and how the spirit of innovation brought changes to settler families.

601 Second St., Marietta

mariettamuseums.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Marietta/Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

10 Hannibal Locks & Dam and Visitor Center

The Hannibal Locks & Dam changed navigation engineering in the Ohio River. The locks control the water level and help with the navigation pool upriver of the dam. As the gates are raised or lowered, the upstream pool is maintained at a constant level to ease the flow of traffic. A private hydropower facility helps fuel the locks and dam, showing the importance of hydro power.

40344 OH-7, Hannibal

lrd.usace.army.mil/Mission/Projects/Article/3641081/hannibal-locks-and-dam/

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Monroe County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

11 Thorla-McKee Well Park

In 1814, Silas Thorla and Robert McKee searched for salt brines in Ohio. While they did find salt, they stumbled across oil in the same well. This became the first oil-producing well in North America. The men separated the oil from the salt water by soaking up the oil with blankets, then bottling the oil as a "cure-all." Following their discovery, wells in Kentucky and West Virginia were dug for salt brine but were found to produce oil, leading to the first well dug specifically for oil.

18488 Frostyville Rd., Caldwell

visitnoblecountyohio.com/thorlamckee-park

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Noble County](#)

12 Big Muskie's Bucket - Jesse Owens State Park

Big Muskie's Bucket - Jesse Owens State Park

Central Ohio Coal Company unveiled Big Muskie, the world's largest dragline, in 1969. Today, Big Muskie tells the history of the evolution of coal mining techniques and technology. Coal impacted everyday life by providing electricity. See how extraction shifted from prized work to debates over emissions, public health, and land. Today, visitors stand in Big Muskie amid a vast reclaimed state park that was once a mining field.

4470 State Route 78, McConnellsville

ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/miner-s-memorial-park-big-muskie-s-bucket

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Visit Morgan County](#)

13 The Wilds

Built on nearly 10,000 acres of reclaimed coal land in southeast Ohio, The Wilds turns a former mine into a living lab for conservation. Open range habitats support threatened species while teams advance science through projects like the American Institute of Rhinoceros Science. The Ohio Hellbender Partnership rears and releases native salamanders to strengthen wild populations. Ongoing prairie and watershed restoration studies track ecological recovery, and education programs connect visitors with the results firsthand.

14000 International Rd., Cumberland

thewilds.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Zanesville - Muskingum County](#)

14 National Road & Zane Grey Museum

The National Road, early America's busiest land artery to the West, stretched from Maryland to Illinois, cutting through the heart of Ohio. The "Main Street of America" linked the east coast to the Western Frontier, a dream of Washington and Jefferson. This road helped move crops and goods between the East and West and helped promote immigration.

Learn about the innovative construction of the road, and see a diorama of the National Road during the 19th century.

8850 East Pike, Zanesville

nationalroadandzanegremuseum.org

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining, and lodging:

[Visit Zanesville - Muskingum County](#)

15 Muskingum River State Park

The nineteenth-century's innovative canal systems are on display throughout Muskingum River State Park, with a system of 10 dams and 11 hand-operated locks that were completed in 1841. The Ohio & Erie Canal played a vital role in Ohio's growth and development as an industrial powerhouse, helping move goods to the rest of the country. Explore the locks across the canal, especially Lock #7, which is well-preserved and offers recreational activities for visitors.

698 E. Riverside Dr., McConnellsville

ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/muskingum-river-state-park

- Visitor information for nearby attractions, dining and lodging:

[Visit Morgan County](#)

