

## 21+ Things To Do In Columbus GA You Will Love (With Lots Of Freebies!)

We spent a weekend exploring a myriad of things to do in Columbus GA and I had no clue *how much* there was to do in this expanding city. With the advent of the **Chattahoochee RiverWalk** and **WhiteWater Express**, the city has seen a change. I can't wait to go back!

With lots of **outdoor adventure**, awesome **museums**, great **restaurants**, and plenty of **free things**, too — Columbus is one [Georgia](#) city that's worth the visit.



Courtesy of Whitewater Express

### [Whitewater Express](#)

Whitewater adventuring with [Whitewater Express](#) in Columbus, Georgia, has already taken Georgia and Alabama by storm. RushSouth Whitewater Park on the Chattahoochee River is the **longest urban whitewater rafting** in the world, and one of **top 12 man-made adventures** in the world.

The original idea was born in the 70s, launched in the 90s, and completed in 2013. Visitors have been enjoying **guided tours** down the Chattahoochee ever since!

Read More: [Wet And Wild Adventure: White Water Rafting Columbus GA](#)

### [Coca-Cola Space Science Center](#)

When we visited the [Coca-Cola Space Science Center](#), it was during the Columbus Comic-Book Convention, so we didn't experience it as others might, but we still had a great time.

The kids loved seeing the **space suit** and driving the **simulated space shuttle landing**. There is a *real* shuttle nozzle on display that is pretty amazing too.

Be sure to catch a **movie** or a **planetarium show** in the Omnisphere Theatre.

### [John S. Pemberton's Grave](#)

[Dr. John S. Pemberton](#) is well-known as being the inventor of **Coca Cola**, and he happens to be buried in Columbus. His grave is located in **Linwood Cemetery**.

Read More: [5+ Ways To Pause And Refresh At Atlanta's Amazing World Of Coke Museum](#)

### [Blue Heron Zipline](#)

Ready to zipline to another state?! Try the only **dual zipline** in the United States that **connects two states** (Georgia and Alabama) at [Blue Heron Adventure Park](#)!

[The Flight of the Osprey](#) package includes **3 ziplines** — a 1200' from Georgia to Alabama, a 500' through the trees in Alabama, and an 1100' zip back to Georgia. If you want more, [The Blue Heron Adventure](#) includes **7 ziplines** and two jumps from a 45' tower.

Going over the river was one of the highlights of the zip course for us, and we loved racing our kids!

### **[Blue Heron Aerial Course](#)**

**Ten challenges, two levels of difficulty**, and an infinite amount of fun is what you'll find at the [Blue Heron Aerial Course](#).

Adventure seekers ages 5 and up will enjoy challenges like **crawling through tunnels in the trees**, balancing on **floating beams**, walking across a **wobbly bridge**, **swinging from high ropes**, and so much more.

This experience definitely gave our family something to talk about. We were all impressed with my husband's Tarzan-swinging ability on the high course. [Tickets can be found here.](#)

### **[Stand Up Paddle Boarding](#)**

Even if you've never tried [stand up paddleboarding](#) before, it's pretty easy to stand up on a SUP and actually quite relaxing.

The Whitewater Express folks **brought our boards down** to the flat part of the river (below the rapids), and got us all set up, then climbed down to pick everything up, so all we had to do was **paddle**. My favorite part was being able to see what was on the bottom of the river. We were able to see fish and turtles!

### **[Bike Rentals](#)**

The Columbus RiverWalk has a **22-mile liner-paved trail** that follows the Chattahoochee River. The path takes you from Downtown Columbus to the drill fields of Fort Benning — with lots of interesting stops in between that include **parks and attractions**.

A great way to explore part of it — or all of it, if you're up to it! — is by [renting a bike](#).

There may be some places along the trail where a smaller child or one on training wheels might have a bit of trouble, but for the most part it's a **easy ride** with some **rolling hills**.

### **[Kayak and Tube Rentals](#)**

Just want to relax on the water? Then a [kayak or tube rental](#) is a great choice.

Rent a **kayak or tube** from Whitewater Express in the summer months, and relax on the flat water below the rapids. Year-round, **whitewater kayaks** can be rented too — as long as you know what you're doing!

### **[National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus](#)**

The [National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus](#) honors the sailors, soldiers, and civilians affected by the Navies of the American Civil War. It's one of the most emotional, touching **history museums** we've been to, with a number of **interesting artifacts**.

You'll find the **largest surviving Confederate warship**, the CSS *Jackson*, as well as several **full-scale replicas** of other Civil War vessels.

### **[RiverCenter For The Performing Arts](#)**

Catch a **concert or event** at the [RiverCenter For The Performing Arts](#) while you're in town, and you'll be glad you did.

RiverCenter has hosted famous musicians, dancers, actors, and entertainers from around the globe. The Bill Heard Theatre at RiverCenter regularly holds performances by the **Columbus Symphony Orchestra**, the **Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus**, and the **Columbus Ballet**.

### **The Springer Opera House**

The [Springer Opera House](#) is a **historic theater** in downtown Columbus that was originally opened in 1871.

Today, it hosts **performances** all year on **two stages**. Their main stage, Emily Woodruff Hall, hosts a Mainstage Series that features **plays, musicals, and Broadway-style productions**. The McClure Theatre, hosts a **Children's Theatre Series** and **Studio Series**.

### **Free Things To Do In Columbus GA**



Courtesy of Artbeat of Columbus

### **Sculpture Walk**

Uptown Columbus opened its distinctive [Sculpture Walk](#) in 2012, and you can look for **original sculptures** and **artwork** on the corners of Broadway between the blocks of 9th-13th Streets and also in the median.

You can learn more about the **public art** featured throughout Uptown Columbus by downloading the [FREE OtoCast app](#). The app allows you to take a narrated **self-guided tour**.

### **Oxbox Meadows Environmental Learning Center**

The [Oxbox Meadows Environmental Learning Center](#) provides **exhibits, displays, nature trails,** and **educational programs**.

When we visited, we loved seeing the turtles, snakes, alligators and more. Don't forget to check out the **Discovery Trail Guide** at the front desk; it's a great way to extend the learning opportunities of your visit.

Oxbox is free, but donations are welcome.

### **Spring and Fall Concert Series In Uptown Columbus**

Hang out and enjoy the **live music** at the [Spring and Fall Concert Series](#) in Uptown Columbus. All **outdoor concerts** are FREE and open to all ages. Bring your **lawn chair, blanket,** and your **family** for a night of great music and fun.

## The Island

Our favorite place along the [RiverWalk](#) was “The Island.” It’s one of the best places to **view folks rafting!** You’ll find it directly below the Eagle and Phenix apartment complex.

The Island is open daily from 9am – 8pm, depending on the weather. You can also **splash in the water** here, just bring a life vest.

## Columbus Museum

[The Columbus Museum](#) is one of the **largest museums** in the Southeast and is unique for its dual concentration on **American art and regional history**, displayed in both its permanent collection as well as temporary exhibitions. The best part? Admission to Columbus Museum is FREE.

Additional FREE programs of note here:

- **Artful Babies:** For ages 6-24 months, each session explores a different theme, includes playtime in the galleries as well as an art activity for children and their caregivers to complete together.
- **Parent and Child Workshops:** These art-making workshops give families an opportunity to work with an art instructor while exploring different mediums.
- **Annual Fall Festival.** The Annual Fall Festival takes a look back in time to explore past decades! Get hands-on at several different activity stations featuring marble making, photo tinting, invisible ink, and more.

The Museum provides **family-friendly games, special scavenger hunts, and story time** throughout the program. Children can also participate in a costume contest for a chance to win prizes.

## Heritage Corner

Established in 1988 as a stunning addition to the Columbus Historic District, the [Heritage Corner](#) features **five preserved homes** representing different eras of Georgia history. Among them is the Pemberton House, once the home of local pharmacist Dr. John Pemberton.

You can see the homes from the sidewalk for free, but **guided tours** are also available for a small fee.

## Historic Linwood Cemetery

Visit the beautiful [Historic Linwood Cemetery](#) to see the graves of such notables as Dr. John S. Pemberton, H. Augusta Howard, and Noble Leslie DeVotie.

## Kadie The Cow

[Kadie the Cow](#) used to sit in front of Columbus’s Kinnett’s Dairies, but once they were torn down, she sat in storage for a while. But not to worry!

You can now see the **larger-than-life cow** just west of the Peachtree Mall. She has been visible to residents of Columbus for decades, and was deeded to the City of Columbus as a **historical landmark**.

## Columbus Botanical Garden

Located on 36 acres of green space, the [Columbus Botanical Garden](#) currently offers **four developed acres** with plans for new gardens in the works. The gardens offer **free daily admission** to visitors, and hosts **fun events** and **plant sales** throughout the year.

## **Splashpad**

Directly across from Whitewater Express, there is an awesome, seasonal [splash pad](#) for the kids at **Woodruff Park**.

They can **watch the rafters**, soak up some rays and cool off in the **water**. Trees, rocks and music make this a great place for a **family picnic**, too.

## **National Infantry Museum**

The [National Infantry Museum](#) is a large, beautiful facility and a **world-class tribute** to those who served in this capacity in the **Army**. Honestly, I was a little worried about it holding my guys' attention, but they really enjoyed it. The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center is a museum located just outside the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning.

The museum itself is FREE — however, greeters at the door do suggest a \$5 per person donation.

The museum includes a **Family Gallery**, which examines how spouses and children manage when a soldier is deployed. There is a **kid-sized room** in which they can **try on soldier uniforms** and learn about humanitarian missions soldiers carry out.

## **Historic Westville**

[Historic Westville](#) is a **living history museum** focused on the Chattahoochee Valley during the 19th century. This village contains **17 historic buildings** allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in the unique cultural experiences of the Chattahoochee Valley, and providing a timeline of the area's history.

## **Columbus GA FAQ**

Is Columbus, Georgia, worth visiting?

Yes, Columbus is definitely worth a visit. This west Georgia city is home to the largest urban whitewater rafting course in the world! In addition to that, you'll find plenty of other outdoor recreation, family-friendly activities, delicious restaurants, and history here.

What is Columbus best known for?

Columbus, GA, is best known for being the home of Fort Benning, and many museums and tourism sites associated with the army base.

How far is Columbus, GA, from Atlanta?

Columbus, GA, is a little over 100 miles southwest of Atlanta. It'll take you about an hour and 40 minutes to drive to Columbus from Atlanta without traffic.

## **MORE INFORMATION FOR YOUR TRIP TO GEORGIA**

- [YOUR GEORGIA VACATION](#)
- COLUMBUS RESTAURANTS: [27 Delicious Restaurants In Columbus GA Foodies & Families Will Love](#)
- WHITE WATER RAFTING: [6 Exhilarating Places You Should Try White Water Rafting In Georgia](#)
- WHITEWATER EXPRESS: [WhiteWater Express: Wet and Wild Adventure in Columbus, Ga](#)
- ATLANTA DAY TRIPS: [31 Day Trips From Atlanta That Should Be Top Of Your Bucket List](#)