

BUTLER COUNTY TOURISM AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



**PREPARED BY
BUTLER COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU**



OUTLINE OF SECTIONS

1. Overview and Communities	3
Butler County Visitors Bureau.....	3
Facts About Butler County	3
Map	5
Community Overview	6
2. History & Heritage	9
Historical Attractions/Sites	9
3. Major Attractions	14
4. Major Activities	22
Shopping	22
Outdoor Recreation	24
Arts & Entertainment	25
5. Major Festivals & Events	26
6. Butler County Sports	28
7. Fast Facts	29

BUTLER COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

The Butler County Visitors Bureau (BCVB) is the premier destination marketing organization representing Butler County, Ohio as well as its communities. The organization is accredited by Destination Marketing Association International and is focused on economic development through tourism. The BCVB leverages its resources to promote Butler County, Ohio as a top destination for leisure travel, sports events, meetings, conventions, group tours and business travel. Through strong advertising, marketing, sales and development efforts, the BCVB has gained recognition as one of the top destination marketing organizations in Ohio as well as in the US. The Bureau is located at 8756 Union Centre Boulevard, West Chester, Ohio, 45069. Phone numbers are 513-860-4194, 888-462-2282. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30am – 5:00pm. The website is www.GetToTheBC.com.

FACTS ABOUT BUTLER COUNTY

How to Get Here

Butler County is located in the Southwestern region of Ohio and borders Indiana to the West. It is easily accessed directly from Interstate 75 or Interstate 275, just a 20-minute drive north of Cincinnati or 35-minute drive south of Dayton. Access throughout the county is also available by traveling US Highways 27, 42 or 127 and State Highways 4, 63, 126, 129 or 747.

Butler County is served by two major airports: Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) and Dayton International Airport (DAY). Each airport is an easy 45-minute drive away. In addition, there are three regional airports serving Butler County: Butler County Regional Airport, Hook Field Middletown Regional Airport and Miami University Airport.



Climate

Butler County enjoys beautiful seasonal weather throughout the year. From warm summer days to crisp fall air to cool winter nights, each season brings a new landscape and new climate to enjoy. The climate is perfect for a variety of outdoor activities, year-round. Summer temperatures range between the mid-90s to low 60s and winters range between the mid-40s to 10s.

Climate Chart												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Average High (F)	38	43	53	66	75	84	88	87	80	68	55	42
Average Low (F)	21	24	31	41	51	61	65	63	55	42	34	25
Average Precip.	3.1 in.	2.8 in.	3.9 in.	4.3 in.	5.3 in.	4.0 in.	3.9 in.	3.1 in.	2.8 in.	3.2 in.	3.5 in.	3.5 in.

Accommodations & Meeting Space

There are over 3,600 guest rooms, as of May 31, 2016 within Butler County ranging from full service properties with flexible meeting space to select service options that offer affordability and convenience. Large events can be accommodated at a variety of off-site venues that provide a variety of unique experiences for potential groups and meetings.

Cultural Facilities

Butler County is home to a wide variety of cultural, artistic and performance venues that bring the spirit of the arts to life. From artist enclaves to stunning outdoor sculpture to live concerts and staged performances, the county's art scene is thriving. Butler County is the proud home of three symphonies and numerous art venues, including the Fitton Center for Creative Arts, Middletown Arts Center, Fairfield Community Arts Center, Oxford Community Arts Center and many more.

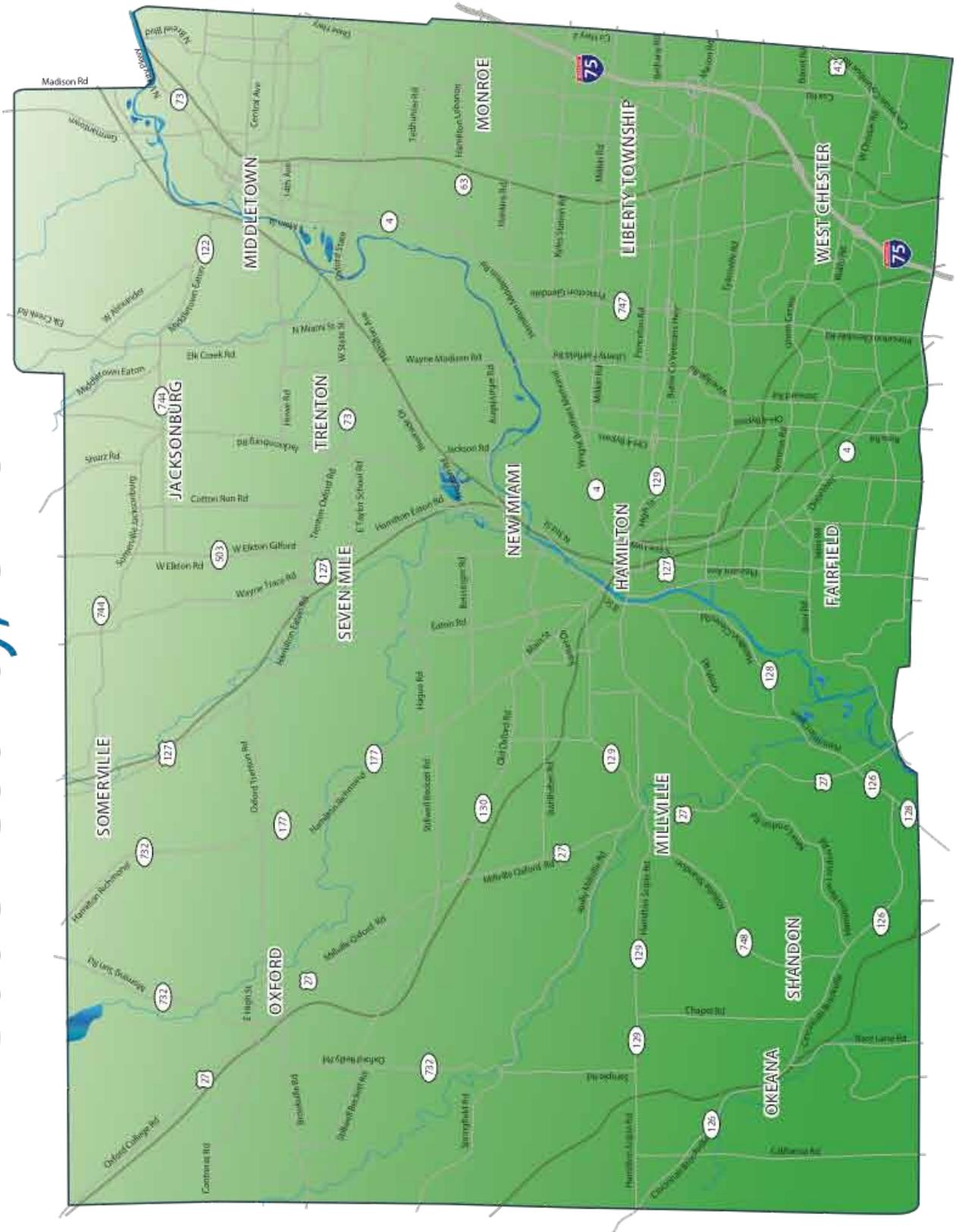
Attractions & Activities

Visitors to Butler County can enjoy a wide array of one-of-a-kind attractions and activities that are sure to make memories to last a lifetime. From unique shopping to thrilling attractions to peaceful hikes to cultural performances, Butler County's diversity of activities and attractions surprises many first-time visitors. There's so much to see and do, many people come back time after time to discover more of what the county has to offer.

History & Heritage

History runs deep through the fabric of Butler County's communities. From pioneer homesteads and one-room schoolhouses to historic neighborhoods and fascinating museums, Butler County history spans more than 200 years.

Butler County, Ohio



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Butler County Summary

Founded in 1803, Butler County is nestled between Cincinnati to its south and Dayton to its north and is within a one-day drive of 60% of the US population. Characterized by an eclectic mix of historic cities, suburban development, rural farmland and a trendy college town, the county offers visitors the opportunity to experience the city life, yet retreat into the country all in one afternoon. Unique and one-of-a-kind shopping abounds and a new memory waits around every corner. Butler County leaves new visitors surprised by its diversity, range of activities and family-friendly environment.

Our Communities

Butler County is home to many cities, townships and communities each with their own distinct flavor and culture. Please see below for information on each.

Fairfield

Offering an eclectic mix of one-of-a-kind attractions and culture, Fairfield leaves visitors surprised by its diversity. Home to the original Jungle Jim's International Market, Wake Nation and a renowned arts center, Fairfield hosts attractions and events that are truly unique. Fairfield can be easily accessed via US 127 from I-275. (Total Population: 42,000+)



Hamilton

Often referred to as the “City of Sculpture”, Hamilton is distinguished as Butler County’s County Seat. This city is decorated by magnificent architecture and is graced by the mighty Great Miami River. Arts and events are the hallmark of Hamilton as the city hosts a variety of cultural events throughout the year that draw thousands of people annually. Hamilton can be easily accessed via SR 129 from I-75. (Total Population: 62,000+)



Liberty Township

Located just north of West Chester, Liberty Township an emerging area featuring new development. This township is on the edge of an economic boom that will be led by Steiner Group’s Liberty Center. The mixed-use development featuring over 1.1 million square feet of retail, dining, entertainment, lodging and living options will be opening Fall 2015. Can be accessed via I-75. (Total Population: 37,000+)



[Middletown](#)

With its roots in the Steel Industry, Middletown has now transitioned into an artist haven. Nestled along the Great Miami River, the community is home to BeauVerre Riordan Stained Glass Studios and the Pendleton Arts Center, home to numerous artists producing incredible pieces in a variety of mediums. Middletown can be easily accessed via I-75 (Total Population: 48,000+)



[Monroe](#)

Straddling I-75, on the western side of Butler County, Monroe has emerged with extensive new investment and development over the past few years. Home to Cincinnati Premium Outlets, the region's premier outlet center and Miami Valley Gaming, the region's only casino/horse race track combination, people visit Monroe to bet on the ponies and shop, shop, shop all in one afternoon. (Total Population: 12,000+)



[Okeana & Shandon](#)

These quiet and peaceful retreats are located in the Southwestern section of Butler County. Characterized by a slower pace of life and a tranquil setting, Okeana and Shandon are marked by a rich agriculture heritage and are surrounded by breathtaking, rolling hills. If you need to get away, these communities will take you back in time and help you reset your clock and spirit. Accessible via OH-126 from US27.



[Oxford](#)

Home to Miami University, Oxford is a trendy college town with boutique shopping, fantastic locally owned restaurants, a quaint downtown and all the arts, culture and sports events that come along with a nationally-renowned university. Set in the peaceful and tranquil Northwestern section of Butler County, Oxford is a quick getaway even for Butler County locals. Can be accessed via US27 from I-275. (Total Population: 21,000)



[Trenton](#)

This quaint town is nestled in the interior section of Butler County. Known for its Amish/Mennonite heritage and the amazing Barn-N-Bunk Farm Market, Trenton is a great stop for visitors. Can be accessed via US4 or US63 from I-75. (Total Population: 12,000)



West Chester

The most populated township in Ohio is located in the Southwestern portion of Butler County. West Chester is an emerging area, which has experienced large amounts of growth and development in recent years. Recent additions to West Chester include Ohio's only IKEA, Voice of America Athletic Complex and EnterTRAINment Junction among other things. It is easily accessed via I-75. (Total Population: 61,000+)



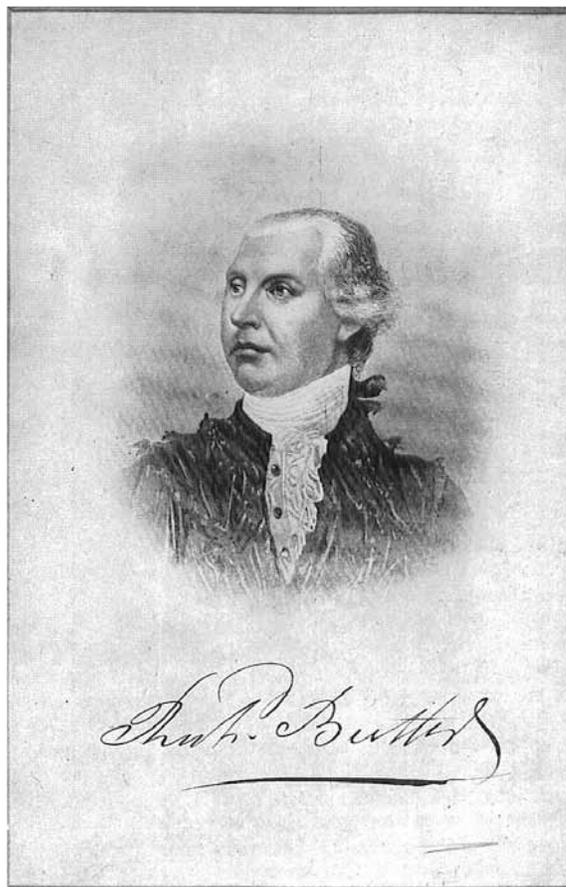
HISTORY OF THE REGION

Butler County's history spans hundreds of years. Long before the first European settlers came to the area, Butler County's first inhabitants were Native American tribes including the Shawnee and Miami Tribes among others. With the western expansion of American settlements, Native American tribes were driven out during the Northwest Indian War between 1785 and 1795. Out of this conflict, the city of Hamilton was born as "Fort Hamilton" in 1791. By the time the fort was abandoned around 1800, Hamilton was becoming a hub for agriculture and trading commerce throughout the region.

Officially, Butler County was formed on March 24, 1803 from portions of Hamilton County (which now borders it to the south). The county was named after famed American Revolutionary War general, Richard Butler who was stationed at Fort Hamilton and was second-in-command of an expedition to Northern Ohio during the Northwest Indian War. He was killed during the Battle of the Wabash on November 4, 1791.

As the 19th Century progressed, Butler County settlements gave rise to larger centers of population and emerging towns and cities became more prominent: Oxford (1810), Monroe (1817) and Middletown (1833). Aided by the western expansion of population in the US and its location between population hubs in Dayton and Cincinnati, Butler County communities grew throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Middletown and Hamilton, which are accented by the Great Miami River, became large centers of industry focused on Steel production and industrial manufacturing. Oxford also gained prominence as the home of Miami University, the 10th oldest public university in the US.

The end of the 20th century ushered in a new changes for Butler County. With the northern expansion of the suburbs of Cincinnati, areas like West Chester Township, Fairfield, Liberty Township and Monroe experienced increased development and growth. Historic areas also experienced renewed interest in historic preservation and community involvement. Overall, the dawn of the 21st century has brought Butler County a renewed focus on preserving the past, while welcoming the progress of the future.



HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS/SITES

BENNINGHOFEN HOUSE/BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

327 N. Second St., Hamilton, OH 45011; (513)896-9930
www.bchistoricalociety.com

Tourist Tips

1. Italianate-style home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features an extensive collection of 19th-century decorative arts, toys, dolls and other county artifacts
2. Home to the Butler County Historical Society.
3. Open Tuesday through Friday 9am – 4pm, Saturday 9am – 2pm.



DAYTON LANE HISTORIC DISTRICT

712 Dayton St., Hamilton, OH 45011; (513)844-8080
www.historicdaytonlane.org

Tourist Tips

1. Includes 210 19th-century homes built between mid-1800s through 1920 with a variety of architectural styles including Queen Anne, Italianate, Second Empire and Georgian Revival.
2. Featured on the National Register of Historic Places



GERMAN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Vine and Dayton Streets, Riverfront Plaza & Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Hamilton, OH 45011; (513)844-8080; www.hamilton-city.org

Tourist Tips

1. A nine-block area of distinguished homes that were part of the first residential village outside Fort Hamilton. Originally occupied by German immigrants from Hamilton who fought in the Civil War and later helped found important business and industries.
2. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1991.



GOVERNOR BEBB METROPARK

1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053; (513)867-5835
www.yourmetroparks.net

Tourist Tips

1. This 264-acre preserve is a collection of historic log cabins and houses moved from other locations in the area. They represent a typical early Midwestern settlement, and include the birthplace of William Bebb, 19th governor of Ohio.
2. The park includes hiking trails, picnic sites, a covered picnic shelter, and rustic campsites for overnight stays by families and organized youth groups.
3. Park is open daily 8am until dark.



LANE HOOVEN HOUSE

319 N. Third Street, Hamilton, OH 45011; (513)863-1389
www.hamiltonfoundation.org

Tourist Tips

1. This rare, restored octagonal home was once the home of prominent industrialist Clark Lane and is one of only 400 octagonal structures in the country.
2. Built in 1863, the Victorian Gothic home is highlighted with ornate details and a unique spiral staircase.
3. Ownership of the Lane-Hooven House transferred to the Hamilton Community Foundation in 1951, where it maintains its offices.
4. Open for tours Monday through Friday 9am – 4pm, except during the summer months, when it closes on Friday at 12pm. Donations are appreciated.



MIAMI UNIVERSITY FREEDOM SUMMER 1964 MEMORIAL

Western College Dr., Oxford, OH 45056; (513)529-1809
www.miamiohio.edu/celebratingfreedom

Tourist Tips

1. This outdoor memorial commemorates the Civil Rights workers trained at Western College for Women in 1964, which is now part of Miami University's Western campus.
2. In June 1964, an estimated 800 volunteers went through orientation training in Oxford before heading south to register black voters and set up freedom schools and community centers.



3. Three civil rights activists were murdered in Mississippi soon after leaving Oxford, and lead to a major federal investigation.

MIDDLETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

120 N. Verity Pkwy., Middletown, OH 45042; (513)424-5539
www.middletownhistoricalsociety.com

Tourist Tips

1. The Shartle House, the current museum was built circa 1900 and was acquired by the Historical Society in 2013.
2. Open for tours by appointment.
3. They also operate The Canal Museum, erected in 1982 as a replica of a lock tender's house which is located on the former site of the Miami-Erie canal.
4. The Canal Museum is open for the summer season on Sundays from 2pm – 4pm.



WILLIAM HOLMES MCGUFFEY MUSEUM

401 E. Spring Street, Oxford, OH 45056; (513)529-8380
www.miamioh.edu/cca/mcguffey-museum

Tourist Tips

1. The William Holmes McGuffey Museum collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits materials relating to his life, including the McGuffey Eclectic Reader.
2. Open Thursday through Saturday, 1pm – 5pm

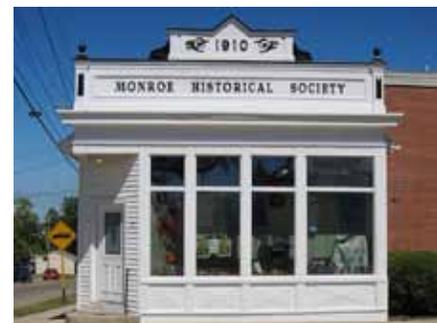


MONROE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10 E. Elm St., Monroe, OH 45050; (513)539-2270
www.monroeoh-historicalsociety.org

Tourist Tips

1. The society operates three museums: an 1800's era log cabin, a 1910 General Store, and their home, a replica of the Williamsburg Virginia Chickahominy House.
2. The Main Street museum campus and log cabin are open by appointment.



MONUMENT CABIN

High Street and Monument Avenue, Hamilton, OH 45011;
(513)896-9930

Tourist Tips

1. Built in 1804 and restored on the site of Old Fort Hamilton.
2. Furnished with pieces to reflect early pioneers of Butler County.
3. Located next to the Soldiers, Sailors and Pioneers Monument
4. Open by appointment.



NATIONAL VOICE OF AMERICA MUSEUM OF BROADCASTING

8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, OH 45069; (513)777-0027
www.voamuseum.org

Tourist Tips

1. The former home of the Voice of America Bethany Station, it started broadcasting during World War II to locations in Europe, North Africa and South America.
2. The Office of War Information began broadcasting in July 1944 and was taken over by the State Department in 1945. The VOA mantra was “tell the truth and let the world decide”
3. The facility boasted six of the most powerful radio transmitters in the world. They were connected to dozens of large antennas located across a one square mile area. The facility closed in 1994, when transmissions shifted to satellites.
4. The museum is open the third Saturday of every month from 1pm to 4pm, admission is \$5.00 per adults, \$1.00 for children under 12.



SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND PIONEERS MONUMENT

High Street and Monument Avenue, Hamilton, OH 45011
(513)867-5823; www.butlercountyohio.org/monument

Tourist Tips

1. Standing on the site of Fort Hamilton, it was dedicated in 1906 and built to honor Civil War veterans and then became a shrine to all pioneers and veterans.
2. Tours available by appointment.
3. No admission fee



MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

For hundreds of years, visitors have recognized the beauty and splendor of the area. One famous visitor noted in 1859 during a stop in Hamilton, OH, “this beautiful and far-famed Miami Valley is the garden spot of the world.” That visitor was Abraham Lincoln. And the same feeling still holds true for visitors today.

Butler County, Ohio is a hidden gem of the Midwest. Featuring a family-friendly atmosphere, all the amenities of home, one-of-a-kind shopping as well as unique attractions and beautiful, lush scenery, first-time visitors are pleasantly surprised. With convenient access from the I-75 corridor between Cincinnati & Dayton, Butler County welcomes a wide variety of visitors each year. Many come to shop at the region’s best and most unique stores. Others come to participate in national and regional level sports events. And still others come for a relaxing getaway or to visit friends and family.

BARN-N-BUNK FARM MARKET

3677 Wayne Madison Rd., Trenton, OH 45067; (513)988-9211
www.barnnbunk.com

Tourist Tips

1. Open April through December 23, Barn-n-Bunk operates out of 3 original turn-of-the-century barns. They feature fresh produce, Amish foods, jams and jellies, specialty gifts and candles from local crafters, and hand dipped ice cream. They also feature a Sunday Brunch Buffet, 6 Fall Festival Weekends and Christmas Open House.
2. Open daily Monday through Friday from 10am – 6pm, Saturday 10am – 5pm, and Sunday 11am – 5pm.
3. They welcome school and motor coach tours, and book special events such as birthday parties and wedding receptions.



BEAUVERRÉ RIORDAN STAINED GLASS STUDIO

1054 Central Ave., Middletown, OH 45044; (513)425-7312
www.beauverre.net

Tourist Tips

1. After 165 years of operation, this historic gem is the oldest continuously operating stained glass studio in the US. World-renowned for their stunning stained glass creations, visitors will find masterpieces in production and pieces for sale.



2. Tours are available for groups of 8+ people for \$7.50 per person.
3. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11am – 5pm, Wednesday 11am – 8pm and Saturday 10am – 2pm, closed Sunday and Monday.

CINEBISTRO AT LIBERTY CENTER

7514 Bales St., Liberty Township, OH 45069; (513)463-0470
www.cinebistro.com

Tourist Tips

1. Enjoy in-theatre full service dining, full bar and ultra-luxurious seating for the ultimate dinner and movie experience.
2. Age policy: Must be 21 to be admitted.



ENTERTAINMENT JUNCTION

7379 Squire Court, West Chester, OH 45069; (513)898-8000
www.entertainmentjunction.com

Tourist Tips

1. Home to the world's largest indoor train display, this whistle stop features 90 G-scale model trains chugging around over 2 miles of track inside a 25,000 square foot facility. Perfect for kids from 9 months to 99 years and train enthusiasts alike.
2. Also home to the A-Maze-N Funhouse, a circus midway experience featuring the region's only mirror maze, tilt room and much more.
3. Open Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm, Sunday 12pm to 6pm. Closed Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day, and closes early on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.
4. Admission is \$13.95 per adult, \$11.95 for seniors 65+, \$9.95 for children ages 3 – 12, and children under 2 are free. Tickets are \$9.95 for the Funhouse, and discounts are usually available on-line at their website.
5. Also available for birthday parties and other larger events.



ESCAPE THE ROOM CHALLENGE

7391 Squire Court, West Chester, OH 45069

www.escapetheroomchallenge.com

Email: customerservice@escapetheroomchallenge.com

Tourist Tips

1. A live, first person, interactive game called Escape the Room Challenge, where you will be locked in a room with friends, family or strangers and have only one hour to figure out how to get out of the room! Enjoy the biggest new entertainment craze in the world!
2. Three separate rooms with different challenges: Esmeralda's Curse with up to 10 people in the room, and Escape the Mob with up to 8 people in the room, and Double Agent Dilemma up to 12 people in the room.
3. Cost is \$28.00 per person, and discounts apply for groups. Must book on-line, except for groups requesting the entire room.
4. Memorial Day - Labor Day: Open everyday. Labor Day - Memorial Day: Closed Monday and Tuesday



HANOVER WINERY

2121 Morman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013; (513)863-3119

www.hanoverwinery.com

Tourist Tips

1. Hanover Winery features a variety of over 20 wines including delicious dry to sweet dessert wines, a Tasting Room where many wines produced on site can be sampled while enjoying a peaceful scenic outdoor setting.
2. Open all year, hours from April through October are Wednesday & Thursday 4pm – 9pm, Friday 2pm - 10pm, and Saturday 1pm – 10pm. Hours November through April are Thursday 4pm - 8pm, Friday 2pm - 9 pm and Saturday 1pm - 9pm.
3. Wine tastings are \$6.00 for 6 tastings, which include a souvenir glass and your choice of tastings. Special events are held throughout the year.



JUNGLE JIM'S INTERNATIONAL MARKET

5440 E. Dixie Highway, Fairfield, OH 45014; (513)674-6000

www.junglejims.com

Tourist Tips

1. This is a one-of-a-kind foodie shopping experience! More than 180,000 items available and food imported from more than 75 countries around the world!
2. Group tours are available for small to large size groups for \$5.00 per person, which include food tastings, fun stories and a discount coupon for shopping.
3. Hours are from 8am – 10pm Monday through Sunday, holiday hours vary.



FUNNY BONE COMEDY CLUB

7518 Bales Street, Liberty Township, OH 45069; (513)779-5233

www.liberty.funnybone.com

Tourist Tips

1. Enjoy big name comedians and a snack or meal with their full food and drink menu.
2. Open Thursday through Sunday Evenings.



MAIN EVENT ENTERTAINMENT

9477 Oxford Way, West Chester, OH 45069; (513)777-1700

www.mainevent.com

Tourist Tips

1. A top destination for people ready to play! It features state-of-the-art bowling, multi-level laser tag, high ropes adventure courses, billiards and interactive and virtual video games, along with cocktails and dining.
2. Summer Hours: Monday, Friday & Saturday: 9AM-2AM, Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday: 9AM-12AM.
3. Winter Hours (September - May): Monday, Friday & Saturday: 11AM-2AM, Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday: 11AM-12AM



NIEDERMAN FAMILY FARM

4972 LeSourdsville-West Chester Rd., Liberty Township, OH 45011
(513)779-6184; www.niedermanfamilyfarm.com

Tourist Tips

1. A working farm that invites the public to see true American farm life. Offering farm tours, a corn maze, pumpkin patch, hayrides, a Fall Festival and a Christmas Display event during the month of December. Also open for parties, corporate events and weddings.
2. Tours run from mid-April to June and are \$7.00 per student/adult. Fall activities start mid-September and run through October 30. Hours and event costs vary depending on day of the week and are available on their website.



PAINTBALL COUNTRY

5110 LeSourdsville-West Chester Rd., Liberty Township, OH 45011
(513)779-3228; www.paintballcountryohio.com

Tourist Tips

1. Located within the Niederman Family Farm, this is the largest paintball facility in the region. Large groups are welcome with advance notice.
2. Open Saturday 11am – 5pm, and Sunday 1pm – 5pm.
3. Basic rental packages start at \$35.00 per person.



PYRAMID HILL SCULPTURE PARK & MUSEUM

1763 Hamilton-Cleves Rd. St. Rt. 128, Hamilton, OH 45013
(513)868-8336; www.pyramidhill.org

Tourist Tips

1. One of just 10 sculpture parks in the US, and the only one of its size in Ohio, Pyramid Hill is a 300+ acre park and outdoor museum showcasing monumental pieces of art in an environment of meadows, forests and various gardens. The park features hiking trails, an arboretum, wall garden, lakes, and picnic areas.
2. Also featured is a 10,000 square foot Ancient Sculpture Museum displaying various pieces of ancient sculpture dating from the Roman, Egyptian, Greek and Etruscan cultures.



3. Park hours from April through October are Monday through Friday 8am – 7pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am – 5pm. November through March hours are 8am – 5pm daily. Museum hours are 12pm – 5pm daily.
4. Park admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 6 – 12, children 5 and under are free. Special event admission varies



START SKYDIVING

1711 Run Way, Middletown, OH 45042; (513)422-5867
www.startskydiving.com

Tourist Tips

1. Start Skydiving Cincinnati is one of the top five largest and fastest growing Drop-Zones in the world. Located at the Middletown Regional airport, skydiving tandem jumps and skydiving lessons are available. Also home to the world-renowned professional skydiving team, Team Fastrax.
2. Seasonal hours after May 15th, office opens at 7:30am every day, wheels up between 8am – 11am, depending on the day, and jumping until sunset.
3. Tandem jump pricing starts at \$129, depending on day of the week and reservation method, check on-line for details.



THE CONE

6855 Tylersville Road, West Chester, OH 45069; (513)779-7040
www.thecone.com

Tourist Tips

1. Quirky soft-serve ice cream, yogurt and ice stand shaped like a swirl cone with family games and rides.
2. Season runs late March to early October. Hours are Monday through Saturday 11am – 10pm, Sunday 12:00pm – 10pm.



THE WEB EXTREME ENTERTAINMENT

7172 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd., West Chester, OH 45069
(513)860-2882; www.funattheweb.com

Tourist Tips

1. Cincinnati's premier laser tag facility. Also features go karts, mini-golf and more! Great for team building activities, parties and corporate events. Food is available at the Winners Café, and the Sweet Spot features soft serve ice cream.
2. Laser tag is for ages 6 and older, inside track go-karts are ages 10 and older and at least 56" tall to drive. Minimum 32" tall for rider with driver in a double kart.
3. Open Sunday through Thursday from 11am – 10pm, Friday and Saturday 11am – midnight.
4. Cost for inside track go-kart is \$8.00 per person, laser tag is \$8.00 per person, mini-bowling and mini-golf is \$4.00 per person. Daily specials available.



TOPGOLF

9568 Water Front Dr., West Chester, OH 45069; (513)342-6249
www.topgolf.com

Tourist Tips

1. Topgolf is a premier entertainment and event venue with fun point-scoring golf games, upscale bar food and drinks, music and more!
2. Opening Late Summer 2016.

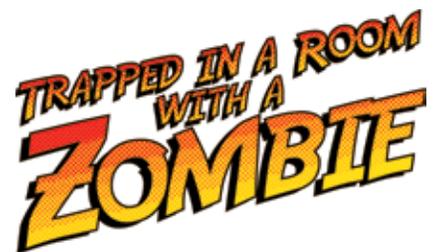


TRAPPED IN A ROOM WITH A ZOMBIE

7172 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd., West Chester, OH 45069
(513)860-2882; www.funattheweb.com

Tourist Tips

1. Be locked in a room with up to 11 other people and a Zombie that is chained to the wall. You have 60 minutes to solve the puzzle and get out of the room, and every five minutes the Zombie's chain will be released another foot!
2. Must reserve your ticket online prior to arrival, and tickets are available up to one month before show date. Cost is \$28.00 per person. Dates are typically available Thursday through Sunday with afternoon and evening time slots.



WAKE NATION

201 Joe Nuxall Way, Fairfield, OH 45014; (513)887-9253

www.wakenationcincinnati.com

Tourist Tips

1. The Midwest's only full-sized cable wake park invites visitors to wakeboard, water ski, kneeboard and wakeskate without a boat! Incredible thrills excite boarders as they are towed around a 10-acre lake on a moveable cable system with optional sliders and rails. There is also a beginner lake for first time wakeboarders ages 5 and up.
2. Bring your bathing suit and towel, everything else needed is available for rent.
3. Hours are seasonal, typically Monday from 12pm – 8pm, Tuesday through Sunday 10am – 8pm. September and October hours change to Wednesday through Sunday from 12pm – 7pm.
4. Wakeboard passes for 2 hours are \$30, 4 hours \$35 and all day is \$40, for ages 5 and up.



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

SHOPPING

Incredible shopping is waiting in Butler County. Ohio's only IKEA, world-famous Jungle Jim's International Market, boutique specialty shops in Uptown Oxford, and the exciting new Liberty Center, all promise to bring exciting shopping, dining and entertainment to Butler County.

BRIDGEWATER FALLS SHOPPING CENTER

3385 Princeton Road, Fairfield Township, OH 45011; (513)895-6800;

www.shopbridgewaterfalls.com

- Bridgewater Falls Lifestyle Shopping Center has more than 45 stores, restaurants and services, including Target, JC Penny, Bed Bath & Beyond, Dick's, and other leading retailers.

CABELA'S

7250 Cabela Drive, West Chester, OH 45069; (513)342-5300; www.cabelas.com

- New to West Chester, as of August 2015, Cabela's is located across the street from the new Liberty Center. Cabela's is a leading specialty retailer and the world largest direct marketer of hunting, fishing, camping and related outdoor merchandise.

CINCINNATI PREMIUM OUTLETS

400 Premium Outlets Drive, Monroe, OH 45050; (513)539-0710;

www.premiumoutlets.com/cincinnati

- Cincinnati Premium Outlets is a high-end outlet center featuring 100 designer stores such as Michael Kors, Cole Hann, Coach, Nike and more!

FRONTGATE OUTLET CENTER

8939 Union Centre Blvd., West Chester, OH 45069; (513)603-1444;

www.frontgate.com/frontgate-outlet

- Frontgate brands include Ballard Designs, Garnet Hill, Grandin Road, TravelSmith and more.

IKEA WEST CHESTER

9500 IKEA Way, West Chester, OH 45069; (888)333-4532;

www.ikea.com/us/en/store/west_chester

- Ohio's only IKEA welcomes shoppers with trademark Scandinavian design. Stop in and take a stroll through an almost endless array of room set ups, decorative finishing touches and more. You'll find everything you need to make your space your own. And don't miss out on the Swedish meatballs in their on-site café.

JUNGLE JIM'S INTERNATIONAL MARKET

5440 E. Dixie Highway, Fairfield, OH 45014; (513)674-6000; www.junglejims.com

- This foodie paradise is a unique shopping experience like none other and has been frequently featured on the Travel Channel, Good Morning America and BusinessWeek. Often described as a theme park of food, Jungle Jim's spans over 6 acres and features over 180,000 food items from around the world.

LIBERTY CENTER

7100 Foundry Row, Liberty Township, OH 45069; (513)644-0900; www.liberty-center.com

- The Liberty Center will bring new premier shopping, entertainment and dining options to Butler County! Home to CineBistro, Cheesecake Factory, H & M, Funny Bone Comedy Club and many other premier retailers.

THE STREETS OF WEST CHESTER

9465 Civic Centre Blvd., West Chester, OH 45069; (513)759-6800; www.streetsofwestchester.com

- The Streets of West Chester features delicious dining and popular retail options including Barns & Noble, LOFT and more. Expanding in 2016 to include Topgolf, Main Event Entertainment and more!

VOICE OF AMERICA SHOPPING CENTRE

7677 Voice of America Centre Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

- Voice of America Shopping Centre features several leading retailers including Target, T.J. Maxx, Pier 1 Imports, Michaels, as well as popular restaurants including Longhorn, Milano's, Chipotle and more.

UPTOWN OXFORD

14 West Park Place, Oxford, OH 45056; (513)523-8687; www.enjoyoxford.org

- Small and eclectic boutiques offer a unique perspective on shopping.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

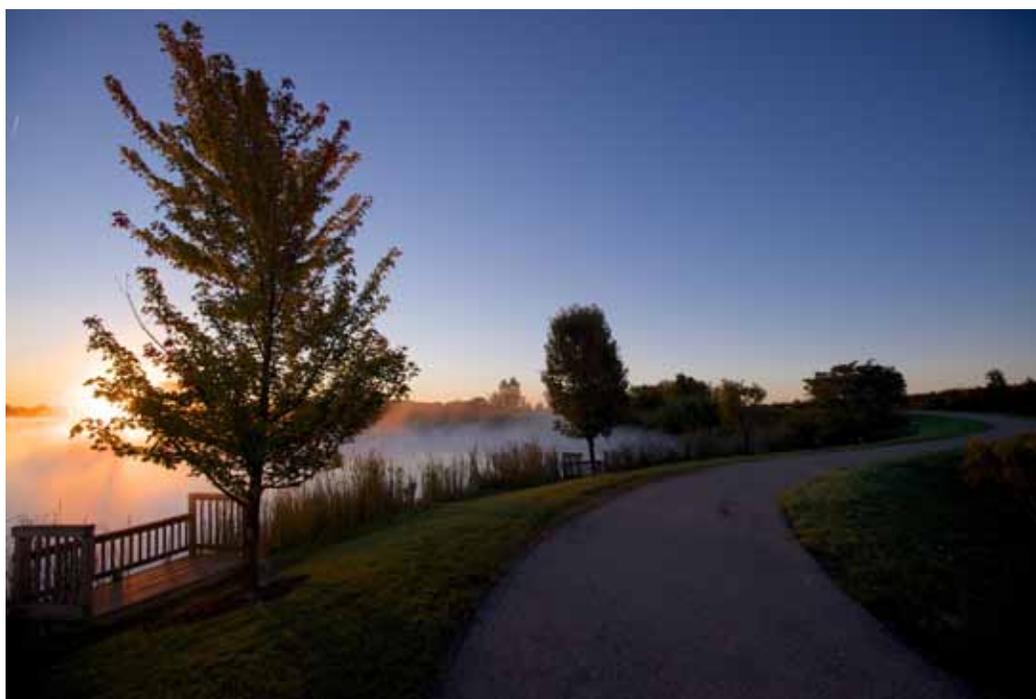
More than 35 parks and trails dot the Butler County countryside. From tree-lined arboretums to extensive trail systems to beautiful riversides and great community parks, local parks offer a variety of landscapes, activities and scenic retreats. **MetroParks of Butler County** offers 10 parks to get out and enjoy nature. Our local communities also offer a wide variety of parks to enjoy. Check out www.GetToTheBC.com for individual park listings.

Voice of America Park in West Chester is home to abundant local wildlife, includes six miles of walking and jogging trails, houses 22 athletic fields, and the Wiggly Field Dog Park. While **Smith Park** in Middletown features playground equipment, picnic tables, grills, baseball diamonds, a seven acre fishing pond, and a number of events throughout the year.

You can explore your daredevil side with a lesson in skydiving with Team Fastrax and **Start Skydiving** also located in Middletown. **Joyce Park** is home to attractions including **Wake Nation** and also hosts nationally recognized events throughout the year.

Butler County is home to 13 golf courses featuring challenging layouts, well-manicured greens, friendly staff and amazing amenities that make Butler County clubs perfect for a golf getaway. The City of Hamilton was ranked by Golf Digest as Ohio's third best city for golf!

The **Great Miami Rowing Center** in Hamilton features a youth rowing team, as well as collegiate and masters rowing program.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

One little known fact about Butler County is that the region is overflowing with arts. Our arts community is thriving and contributes to an increased quality of life for our residents as well as interesting experiences for visitors. From monumental sculptures to dynamic performances and thriving art districts, Butler County is sure to leave you feeling inspired!

BEAUVERRÉ RIORDAN STAINED GLASS STUDIO

1054 Central Avenue, Middletown, OH 45044; (513)425-7312; www.beauverre.net

- This world-renowned studio is the oldest, continuously operating stained glass studio in the US. True craftsmanship is on display and visitors can take a tour of the studio and see artisans at work.

CITY OF SCULPTURE

One High St., Hamilton, OH 45011; (513)863-8873; www.cityofsculpture.org

- Located in downtown Hamilton, over 40 outdoor sculptures are placed for the enjoyment of residents and visitors

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

411 Wessel Dr., Fairfield, OH 45014; (513)867-5348; www.fairfield-city.org/cac

- This center houses a theater, art studio, art gallery and more.

FITTON CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

101 S. Monument Ave., Hamilton, OH 45011; (513)863-8873; www.fittoncenter.org

- Featuring awe-inspiring art exhibits, classes and delightful performances.

MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER

130 N. Verity Pkwy., Middletown, OH 45042; (513)424-2417; www.middletownartscenter.com

- Founded in 1957, the center educates art students and hosts a variety of exhibitions throughout the year.

OXFORD COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

10 S. College Ave., Oxford, OH 45056; (513)524-8506; www.oxarts.org

- Founded in 1998, it features rehearsal space, display and performance space and educational workshops.

PYRAMID HILL SCULPTURE PARK & ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM

1763 Hamilton-Cleves Rd. St. Rt. 128, Hamilton, OH 45013; (513)868-8336; www.pyramidhill.org

- Drive or walk through a picturesque 300 acre park and enjoy exciting monumental art. Also visit the Antiquities Museum featuring various pieces of ancient sculpture dating from the Roman, Egyptian, Greek and Etruscan cultures.

MAJOR FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Every year, Butler County hosts a wide variety of events that draw thousands of people from around the Midwest and the world. Below is sampling of events scheduled for 2016. Some event dates are tentative, and event dates can change, so be sure to check out our website, www.GetToTheBC.com for the most accurate information.

MARCH - SHAMROCK SHUFFLE - Let the luck of the Irish be with you during the 5K & 10K races benefiting local community organizations.

MAY - BUCKEYE BBQ FEST - Enjoy the competition of over 35 of the top BBQ teams in the nation as well as music, drinks and family fun.

MAY - OXFORD WINE FESTIVAL - Sample wines from around the world during this popular spring festival..

JUNE - ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL - Celebrate all things strawberry during this family fun summer festival.

JUNE - ANNUAL BEER FEST - Grab a brew and sample beers from more than 100 breweries from across the nation at Jungle Jim's.

JULY - THE OHIO CHALLENGE HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL - Watch as balloon pilots take to the sky to compete in a variety of air challenges! The festival features skydivers, live music, kids activities and more.

JULY - CRAZY CARDBOARD REGATTA - Be prepared to laugh until you cry during this whacky summer festival. The regatta is a people-powered-boat race where the boats are made entirely out of cardboard.

JULY - BUTLER COUNTY FAIR - Featuring livestock, arts & crafts, games, rides and delicious fried fair food.

JULY - ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CAR PARADE - Fall in love with automobile history and see more than 300 antique and classic cars tour through the streets of Hamilton and Fairfield.

JULY - USA TRIATHLON YOUTH & JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - The top youth high endurance triathletes compete in challenging stints of running, biking and swimming all in hopes of winning the national championship.

SEPTEMBER - PYRAMID HILL ART FAIR - Stroll through the beautiful setting of Pyramid Hill and browse the arts and crafts for sale by local, regional and national artists.

OCTOBER - WEEKEND OF FIRE - Think you can handle the heat? This spicy Jungle Jim's festival celebrates all things burning hot. Featuring hot sauces from around the world, the festival is sure to be the hottest ticket in town.

OCTOBER - OPERATION PUMPKIN - All we can say is a lots of pumpkin fun wrapped up into a great fall festival!

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER - LIGHT UP MIDDLETOWN - Take an awe-inspiring tour through this drive through holiday fantasy display featuring a tunnel of lights, Santa's workshop and dozens of animated displays.



BUTLER COUNTY SPORTS

Butler County is home to many major sports events throughout the year. Several key venues are home to major national and international events, welcoming thousands of guests.

COLLEGE SPORTS

- Miami University, located in Oxford, is home to several popular sports including ice hockey, football, synchronized swimming, ice skating, and more. Included at the university are the **Corwin M Nixon Aquatic Center**, **Goggin Ice Center**, home to the nationally prominent Miami University's Redhawks hockey team, and **Miami University Yager Stadium**.

BASEBALL

- Hamilton Joes, Ohio's premier college summer baseball team calls **Foundation Field** in downtown Hamilton their home for exciting summer baseball where collegiate baseball players from around the United States compete.

WATER SPORTS

- Wakeboard, water ski and kneeboard all without a boat at **Wake Nation**, one of only eight cable wake parks in the US, and the only one in the Midwest. Competitions are held at Wake Nation, as well as **Voice of America MetroPark**, where national water ski competitions have taken place, using boats to pull the competitors. The MetroPark offers personal kayaks, pedal boats, paddle boards, and a 35-acre stocked lake for fishing.

FIELD SPORTS

- Butler County is home to a variety of popular field sports competitions and complexes that hold large local, regional, national and international competitions. **Smith Park** is home to the Middletown Spring Blast, MEAD Soccer Tournament and Steel City Shootout Lacrosse, among others. **Joyce Park** has held multiple USA Archery National Target Championships, the US Open Easton JOAD Archery Nationals, and MASC Soccer Tournaments. **Harbin Park** has held the OXVC Cyclocross Tournament and Flying Pig Disc Golf Tournaments. **Oxford Parks & Recreation** has hosted Adidas Blue Chip Soccer and the Miami Little League World Series. **Voice of America MetroPark** has been home to the USA Triathlon Youth and Junior National Championships for several years, GMC Cross County Championships, US Open Ultimate Championship, Cincinnati United Cup Soccer, and the IWLCA Lacrosse Championships, among others!

FAST FACTS ABOUT BUTLER COUNTY

- Originally formed March 24, 1803 from portions of Hamilton County (which is located South)
- The first explorer to arrive in Butler County was from France in 1749
- Named after General Richard Butler, a prominent general in the American Revolutionary War
- Major Communities Include: Hamilton, Middletown, Fairfield, West Chester Township, Monroe, Oxford, Liberty Township, Trenton, Okeana, Shandon
- Total County Population: 370,000+
- County Seat: Hamilton, OH
- Average Yearly Precipitation: 43.3"
- Average Temperatures: January (High 38, Low 21) July (High 88, Low 65)
- Home of Division I - Miami University in Oxford, OH
- Located between Cincinnati (20 minutes) & Dayton (35 minutes)
- Conveniently located within a one-day drive of 60% of the US population
- Three airports – Butler County Regional Airport in Hamilton/Fairfield, Hook Field Municipal Airport in Middletown, and Miami University Airport in Oxford
- AK Steel (Armco Steel) began operations in Middletown in 1901
- The Miami-Erie Canal went through Butler County and connected the Ohio River to Lake Erie, near Toledo
- Miami University, founded in 1809 was the first college established west of the Allegheny Mountains. Miami's name reflects the history of the Native American tribe that once inhabited this area in Ohio



TAKE THE QUIZ

Thank you for completing the Butler County Tourism Ambassador Reading. Please take the quick quiz using the link below. Once complete, the BCVB will score the test and then contact you for registration in an upcoming Cincinnati USA CVB Certified Tourism Ambassador Class.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2LS6GGC>

We appreciate your time and dedication to Butler County tourism.