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DESTINATION CINNATI 2012

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Cincinnati skyline | Photo credit CINCYUSA.com

Planning a getaway or staycation in 2012? Then consider Cincinnati, Ohio. Why? Because Cincinnati is #3 on Lonely Planet's Top 10 US Travel Destinations for 2012. Huh?

You read correctly. Cincinnati, Ohio known as the "Queen City" is #3 on Lonely Planet's Top 10 US Travel Destinations for 2012. Lonely Planet, a leading global travel information company, "aims to inspire life-changing travel" and has for over 30 years "inspired and guided independent travellers to explore the world around them". Now Cincinnati which Lonely Planet editors call "the pretty city on the Ohio River" is noted as a "worthy weekend getaway" for 2012.

The editors at Lonely Planet put together a list of "what's new, inter-

esting, and in some cases likely to be overlooked by travelers both domestic and international" of the top 10 places to visit in the US in 2012. Cincinnati was ranked #3 behind the US Virgin Islands (ranked #1) and Hudson River Valley, New York (ranked #2) and above other more sought after vacation spots like Hawai'i: The Big Island (ranked #8), Chicago (ranked #9), and Yellowstone National Park (ranked #10).

This unsolicited, national praise and recognition comes as no surprise to Julie Calvert, Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau, Vice President of Communications. "It's a great honor." Calvert shares in an interview with AboutGreaterCincinnati.com.

"...for Cincinnati to be on that prestigious list really is an honor for the city."

Among points to see in Cincinnati, Lonely Planet cites the narrow, twisting, steep brick roads of Mt Adams and its 19th-century Victorian townhouses and the free admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum along with Findlay Market in Over-the-Rhine and its sprawling collection of historic Italianate architecture as spots to visit. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, located on the banks of the Ohio River where many slaves escaped to freedom in the 19th century, is touted by Lonely Planet as the best attraction.

If you go beyond what Lonely Planet noted, Cincinnati has that and

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DESTINATION CINCINNATI 2012 (CONT'D)

The 2012 World Choir Games comes to Cincinnati July 4–14, 2012. Already, 301 choirs from 43 countries are registered to “unite people from all nations through singing in peaceful competition”. MUSE Cincinnati’s Women’s Choir (pictured right) is one of the 24 U.S. choirs currently registered to perform.

MUSE Cincinnati’s Women’s Choir | File



so much more to offer! There is something for everyone in this family-friendly, affordable, diverse, “big city with a small town feel” offering socially viable nightlife and entertainment for all —family, married, and single!

So what else is happening in Cincinnati? Throughout 2012, catch Broadway performances including West Side Story (it’s the 50th anniversary!); visit a variety of museums including the Cincinnati Museum Center; visit the world famous Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden where you can see a variety of themed events including Zoo Babies and the PNC Festival of Lights; get your groove on at the Macy’s Music Festival - a combination of R&B, hip hop, and jazz music performed by the greatest artists; take in the beauty of nature at any of the 5 regional and 70 neighborhood parks and 34 nature preserves maintained by Cincinnati Parks; catch a MLB baseball game to

watch the Cincinnati Reds (the first professional baseball team) on their quest for the World Series; take in an NFL football game to see the Cincinnati Bengals vie for a spot in the Super Bowl; satiate your appetite at a wide variety of the best restaurants; star gaze from the Cincinnati Observatory which is “The Birthplace of American Astronomy and home to the world’s oldest telescope still in use nightly; take in The Banks, the new downtown entertainment district along the banks of the Ohio River; attend festivals galore; take in the arts; and the list goes on and on and on....

With all of that to offer, it is no surprise that Cincinnati is a destination for national conferences, conventions, and major events. In 2012, Cincinnati will be host to the 2012 World Choir Games, “the Olympics of choral music”. Recently named one of the big events of 2012 worldwide by the Chicago Tribune, the 2012 World Choir

Games which is being held in North America for the first time, takes place in Cincinnati July 4–14, 2012. With already 301 choirs from 43 countries (24 choirs from the United States) registered, totaling more than 12,000 participants, the 2012 World Choir Games promises to be the biggest international event in Cincinnati’s history as it “unites people from all nations through singing in peaceful competition”.

“A town of best kept secrets” no more, current exposure on national television or in theaters is introducing Cincinnati (ok its scenery and charm) to a wider audience. Viewers take notice when catching glimpses of the city and its surroundings on shows like Harry’s Law (airing on NBC) or seeing Cincinnati scenery in the theaters in movies like Ides of March (directed by Cincinnati’s own George Clooney and nominated for three 2012 Golden Globe Awards).

So, whether you are planning a vacation, staycation, or just for the weekend, Cincinnati has a little something for everyone. Put it on your list to explore in 2012.

“Cincinnati is one of those cities where there is so much to do...” said Calvert. “There is a wide variety of offerings – no matter what your likes are!”

Reference links:

www.lonelyplanet.com

www.cincyusa.com

www.2012worldchoirgames.com

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