



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUMPSTART YOUR SUMMER IN CLE THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

DESTINATION CLEVELAND RECOMMENDS EVENTS, EXHIBITS AND EXPLORATION
DURING THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND

CLEVELAND (May 16, 2017) – Memorial Day means a three-day weekend for many. With extra time off and, hopefully, nice weather, Destination Cleveland suggests residents take the opportunity to discover what makes summer in Cleveland fun-filled and memorable. From festivals to outdoor adventures to special events that honor America's fallen heroes, residents have plenty of options to kick off the unofficial start of summer in The Land.

Honor Fallen Heroes

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

- Located in the heart of Public Square, the [Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument](#) commemorates the 9,000 Civil War veterans that served with Cuyahoga County regiments or lived in Cuyahoga County. Filled with artifacts and the names of the Northeast Ohio's own Civil War veterans etched on the walls, locals can tour the Memorial Room at the base of the monument and learn more about Cleveland's involvement in one of the defining moments in American history.
 - *3 Public Square, Cleveland*
 - *Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.*

Lake View Cemetery

- To pay tribute to the U.S. military's fallen soldiers, [Lake View Cemetery](#) will hold its annual Memorial Day Observance outside of the James A. Garfield Memorial. The program includes a parade, keynote speech and a Sousa band concert. Afterward, locals can tour the James A. Garfield Memorial, pay their respects at the final resting places of historical figures like John D. Rockefeller, Alan Freed and Eliot Ness, gaze at the Wade Memorial Chapel's stunning interior designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany or roam the 285 acres of Lake View's tree-filled grounds.
 - *12316 Euclid Ave., Cleveland*
 - *Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Memorial Day Observance, Monday, May 29, 10:30 a.m.*

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Far Out Festivals

Tremont Greek Fest

- Residents will shout “OPA!” when they go to the annual [Tremont Greek Fest](#) at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Tremont. From authentic food and drink to Greek dancing, live music, tours of the church and shopping, locals will feel like they’ve been transported directly to Greece for the day (but for a fraction of the cost and much shorter travel time). Free parking is also available at this family friendly event.
 - *Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 2187 W. 14th St., Cleveland*
 - *Hours: Friday, May 26 – Sunday, May 28, Noon – Midnight; Monday, May 29, Noon – 9 p.m.*

Blossom Time Festival

- Thursday, May 25 marks the beginning of the Chagrin Falls [Blossom Time Festival](#). The annual event hosts a variety of activities throughout the weekend including a hot air balloon light show called “Balloon Glow,” the Taste of Chagrin, which features more than 20 food trucks and vendors, the Blossom Time Parade, carnival rides and live entertainment.
 - *Various locations, Village of Chagrin Falls*
 - *Hours: Thursday, May 25, 5:30 – 11 p.m.; Friday, May 26, 2 – 11 p.m.; Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.; Sunday, May 28, 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

Food Frenzy

Berea’s National Rib Cook Off

- Locals who stop by [Berea’s National Rib Cook-Off](#) should arrive with an empty stomach. Attendees can dip into delectable dishes from more than a dozen “ribbers” (aka rib cookers) that will be competing for best ribs, best sauce and other awards. Entertainment includes live music from groups like the [Chardon Polka Band](#), [Disco Inferno](#) and [The Spazmatics](#), as well as a children’s activity area with a super-slide, kiddie-bouncer and a rock climbing wall.
 - *Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 19201 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights*
 - *Hours: Friday, May 26, Noon – 11 p.m.; Saturday, May 27 – Monday May, 29, 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.*

Taste of Summer

- Waterfront views, delicious dining and drink options and life-sized games...that’s what Clevelanders can experience at the [Flats East Bank’s Taste of Summer](#) event as they stroll along the Cuyahoga River boardwalk. Attendees can enjoy cuisine at establishments like [Alley Cat Oyster Bar](#), [Bold Food & Drink](#) and [Coastal Taco](#) and partake in a bit of friendly competition with giant Jenga and Connect Four, an obstacle course, shuffleboard and volleyball. Guests should also check out Punch Bowl Social’s new rooftop patio. For convenience, RTA offers extended free trolley service to and from the Flats East Bank beginning Memorial Day weekend.
 - *Flats East Bank, 1055 Old River Road, Cleveland*
 - *Hours: Friday, May 26, 4 – 10 p.m.; Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28, Noon – 10 p.m.*

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Fun for Everyone

Cedar Point Shores

- For a day trip that is sure to be a splash with the family, residents can head an hour west from Cleveland for the opening weekend of the new [Cedar Point Shores Water Park](#). Guests should pack their swimsuits, sunglasses and sunscreen and get ready to dive into an afternoon of water-filled fun including the Point Plummet six-story, aqua-drop body slides and the Storm Surge raft slide. Kids can go to Lemmy's Lagoon splash area for slides, geysers and water activities, or the whole family can relax and float down the Cedar Creek lazy river. After a day of sun-soaked swimming, visitors can grab a bite to eat at the Crystal Rock Café or spend the night at the newly renovated [Cedar Point Express Hotel](#).
 - 1 Cedar Point Drive, Sandusky
 - Hours: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Great Lakes Science Center

- LEGO lovers of all ages will want to stop by the [Great Lakes Science Center](#) for the nine-day “Build It! Explore It!” festival. From May 27 – June 4, guests can meet LEGO experts, participate in building competitions and try their hand at eight interactive exhibits including the animation station, blind build and LEGO Maze. Kids (and kids at heart) will be wowed by the more than 30 LEGO sculptures that have been created by some of the best artists in the country.
 - 601 Erieside Ave., Cleveland
 - Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, Noon – 5 p.m.

Get Outdoors

Common Ground Canopy Tours

- Just a 45-minute drive from Downtown Cleveland, residents can be one with nature at [Common Ground Canopy Tours](#). Thrill seekers will be guided on a two-and-a-half-hour ziplining adventure through the trees of the Vermillion River Valley. This outdoor exhilaration combines seven zip lines, including an 850-foot zip over the Vermillion River, 13 platforms and three aerial bridges to create a unique experience for nature lovers.
 - 14240 Baird Road, Oberlin
 - Friday, May 26 – Sunday, May 28, various times

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

- The [Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad](#) (CVSR) offers several adventures through the [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#), the country's 11th most visited national park. Residents can hop on the three-hour, round-trip National Park Scenic ride through the park or stop by a [Day Out with Thomas](#) with their kids from May 26 – 28. While at the Boston Mills-Brandywine Ski Resort station for a Day Out with Thomas, families can take a ride on the popular Thomas the Tank Engine, learn about trains, see magicians perform and enjoy other live entertainment.
 - Scenic Ride Boarding Stations: Rockside Station, Independence; Peninsula Depot, Peninsula; Akron Northside Station, Akron
 - Day Out With Thomas Boarding Station: Boston Mills – Brandywine Ski Resort, 7100 Riverview Road, Peninsula
 - Visit www.cvsr.com for train schedule.

Crocker Park

- Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of outdoor activities at [Crocker Park](#). After stopping at one of Crocker Park's many shops or restaurants, locals can listen to "[Music in the Park](#)" on Friday nights, "[Gather on the Green](#)" for free dance lessons and musical entertainment, or participate in "[Soul Stretch Yoga](#)" on Sunday mornings.
 - 228 Market St., Westlake
 - Music in the Park, Friday, May 26, 6 – 8:30 p.m.; Gather on the Green, Saturday, May 27, 5:30 – 7 p.m.; Soul Stretch Yoga, Sunday, May 28, 10 – 11 a.m.

For more Memorial Day weekend activity ideas or to learn more about Destination Cleveland or new attractions and activities, please visit thisiscleveland.com, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to our channels on [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

DON'T FORGET: Destination Cleveland's Concierge Team is also available to help residents and their visiting family and friends explore the region. Contact our team through email at cleconcierge@destinationcle.org, live chat at thisiscleveland.com or stop in the Cleveland Visitors Center (334 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, 44114) Mon. – Sat., 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. to plan your adventure.

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ABOUT DESTINATION CLEVELAND: Destination Cleveland is Cleveland's convention and visitors bureau. This private, non-profit organization's mission is to drive economic impact and stimulate community vitality for Greater Cleveland through leisure and business travel. Cleveland welcomes more than 17 million visitors annually. For more information, visit thisiscleveland.com.