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WHAT'S NEW IN CLEVELAND: SUMMER 2025

The Land heats up with pop culture, outdoor adventures and Only-in-CLE experiences

CLEVELAND (July 8, 2025) – Cleveland is having a breakout summer. The city takes a starring role in the upcoming "Superman" film while the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame brings Saturday Night Live history to life. Special events offer visitors new opportunities to discover unexpected, surprising urban outdoors adventures. Add diverse new culinary offerings, miles of lakefront and trails plus a jam-packed calendar of festivals and cultural events, and it's clear: Cleveland offers a summer experience that's anything but expected.

Cleveland's Pop Culture Moment Is Now

From internationally acclaimed exhibits to music legends and beloved television moments, Cleveland is embracing the spotlight as a must-visit destination for pop culture lovers this summer. As the "Superman" film soars onto screens, the city invites visitors to explore its many [connections to the iconic superhero](#), from filming locations to the homes of creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. The Cleveland Museum of Art adds to the cultural momentum with two dramatic offerings: Takashi Murakami: "[Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow](#)" (May 25–Sept. 7) is an expanded version of the celebrated exhibition from The Broad in Los Angeles featuring never-before-seen works inspired by the Cleveland museum's own renowned collections; and the acquisition of "[Fata Morgana](#)," a rare marble masterpiece by Giambologna — the only work of its kind on view in the Midwest and one of just three outside Italy.

Across town, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame dives into television history with "[SNL: Ladies & Gentlemen... 50 Years of Music](#)." This standout exhibition brings Studio 8H to life through immersive experiences, rare performance footage and iconic costumes. And at [Blossom Music Festival](#) (July–September), the Cleveland Orchestra balances classical artistry with cultural icons in an eclectic lineup featuring Cyndi Lauper, Neil Young, The Black Keys and [Cynthia Erivo](#).

Additional arts and culture highlights on display this summer include:

- **Cleveland Museum of Natural History**
 - **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** (through Oct. 26)
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is the first in the U.S. to host [this world-renowned exhibit](#) showcasing 100 award-winning images highlighting animal behavior,

diverse ecosystems and the impact of humanity on the natural world. Following its [\\$150-million transformation](#), the museum also recently earned international recognition as one of the [world's most beautiful museums](#).

- **Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (moCa)**
 - **Clotilde Jiménez: “Shapeshift”** (June 27-Jan. 4, 2026)
Marking the most extensive presentation of Clotilde Jiménez's work to date, [this exhibition](#) features newly commissioned pieces alongside previously unseen drawings and process materials. Works span throughout Jiménez's career, including early works from his time at the Cleveland Institute of Art.
 - **Kelli Connell: “Double Life”** (June 27-Jan. 4, 2026)
[This exhibition](#) presents a project that Kelli Connell has been working on for over 20 years with one model, a poetic study of our interior life. Connell's works reflect complex moments in life, exploring how the way we treat ourselves shapes how we connect with others.
- **The Sculpture Center**
 - **Edra Soto: “La Casa de Todos | Everyone’s Home”** (through July 19)
Reflecting on her own migratory experience, Edra Soto celebrates the experience of finding and creating a home. The multifaceted [exhibition](#) weaves together stories of migration and honors Cleveland's Latinx community.

City Life Meets Outdoor Adventure in Cleveland

Long known for its rock roots and industrial edge, Cleveland is emerging as one of the Midwest's most surprising urban outdoor playgrounds. The city's lakefront location offers sweeping views and breezy adventures, from paddleboarding on Lake Erie to biking the [Towpath Trail](#). This popular cycling route will welcome several additional miles this summer as it looks to [complete its 101-mile path this year](#), adding to the route that begins in Cleveland's Flats neighborhood. Lakefront parks provide easy access to beaches, forests and trails – many just minutes from major attractions. Whether kayaking on the Cuyahoga River or catching a summer sunset at Edgewater Park, Cleveland's urban outdoor scene combines city energy with natural beauty.

Timely events and additions for the 2025 summer season include:

- **Cuyahoga Valley National Park 50th anniversary** (through end of 2025)
The only national park in Ohio — and one of the few adjacent to a major metro — celebrates its [50th anniversary](#) with a yearlong lineup of events, including a national speaker series and the free, family-friendly “Rhythm on the River” summer concert series. Plus, local favorite [Mitchell's Ice Cream](#) is offering a special flavor to sweeten the milestone: “Cuyahoga Valley Crunch.”
- **Dragons Landing at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo** (July 5-Aug. 24)
The outdoors meets fantasy as zoogoers marvel at 20 animatronic dragons – including a 100-foot-long ‘ice and fire’ dragon – when they take over the Waterfowl Lake during this immersive, [family-friendly experience](#).
- **Blazing Paddles Paddlefest** (July 18-19)

Once a symbol of environmental crisis, the Cuyahoga River now hosts one of the city's most spirited summer events. The seventh annual [Paddlefest](#) will turn the river into a festive, high-spirited racecourse. Launching from its new home at Music Box Supper Club, the event features races, relaxed paddles, live reggae and Caribbean fare — all against the backdrop of Cleveland's skyline.

- **Cleveland Botanical Garden celebrates Japanese Garden's 50th anniversary** (through Sept. 1)
A hidden oasis within the city's cultural hub, Cleveland Botanical Garden's Japanese Garden turns 50 this summer. The [commemorative exhibit](#) "Between Water and Stone" offers visitors serene strolls, interpretive displays and insights into the art of traditional Japanese garden design.
- **The North Coast Yard** (through September)
A new [pop-up waterfront park](#) in Downtown's North Coast Harbor is increasing access to the city's lakefront. Through September, visitors can get active at the pickleball courts or skate park, enjoy local flavors from food trucks and a weekend bar, or simply take in the waterfront views.

Culture and Community Meet in Cleveland's Culinary Scene

Cleveland's culinary landscape is expanding in ways that celebrate the city's diverse cultural communities and neighborhood identities. The Clark-Fulton neighborhood, one of the most ethnically diverse communities, now features [CentroVilla25](#), a Latino-led marketplace. With about 20 independently owned micro-businesses, the space offers traditional foods and local goods. In the growing MidTown neighborhood, [Pearl's Kitchen](#) and [Black Frog Brewery](#) have created a unique dining and entertainment destination at the [MidTown Collaboration Center](#). Pearl's Kitchen brings soul comfort food to fast-casual dining, while Black Frog Brewery — Ohio's first Black-owned brewery — serves a lineup of craft beers. And this fall, owners of the modern Midwest restaurant [Cordelia](#) are introducing a new concept to the Ohio City neighborhood. James Beard-nominated chef Vinnie Cimino and business partner Andrew Watts will bring their ingredient-first approach to a new intimate eatery within Hingetown, Ohio City's historic LGBT district.

Send Summer Off in The Land

As the days get shorter, Cleveland turns up the volume with a unique lineup of festivals and events. Late summer in The Land is packed with can't-miss celebrations, bold flavors and high-energy fun. August kicks off with the [Cleveland Puerto Rican Parade & Cultural Festival](#) (Aug. 2–3), a weekend-long celebration featuring delicious food, live music and, of course, the lively parade. Next, follow the aroma of fresh pasta and pastries to Little Italy's [Feast of the Assumption](#) (Aug. 14–17), where culture, tradition and art fill the historic neighborhood.

Sports fans can rally at [Tennis in the Land](#) (Aug. 16–23), a WTA 250 tournament and the final stop before the U.S. Open. The competition is part of a larger story unfolding in Cleveland, where the city is quickly becoming a national leader in elevating women's sports. With the recent opening of [The W Sports Bar](#), the city's first women owned and focused sports bar, and the announcement of a WNBA team [returning](#) in 2028, Cleveland is building real infrastructure around visibility and equity in women's athletics.

As school resumes, visitors can celebrate Labor Day the Cleveland way. [Cleveland Oktoberfest](#) (Aug. 29–Sept. 1, Sept. 5–6) brings beer steins, bratwurst and wiener dog races to the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, while the [Cleveland National Air Show](#) (Aug. 30–Sept. 1) takes to the skies with high-flying thrills from the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

Cleveland Expands Hotel Offerings to Welcome More Visitors

As Cleveland draws more visitors, the lodging landscape is expanding to welcome them. The [Fidelity Hotel](#), the latest local addition, is a boutique property in the historic Baker Building featuring custom-designed rooms and locally inspired spaces. Meanwhile, construction is underway on the iconic Sloan building, where a 123-room [Marriott Tribute Hotel](#) will open in December 2026. Also in 2026, an [AC Hotel by Marriott](#) is expected to replace Downtown’s former Holiday Inn Express, featuring 141 modern guest rooms. In 2027, the [W Hotel](#) will bring new luxury accommodations to Downtown, including a full-service spa and gym, rooftop deck and a restaurant with stunning skyline views.

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