

TRAVEL

FINLAY MARKET



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREAT CINCINNATI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

To market, to market: Cincinnati's Findlay Market, an open-air market in operation since 1852, is famous for its fresh produce and meats.

SCENIC Cincinnati

River runs through it

BY ANNASUE M. WILSON
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

This month Cincinnati celebrated its glory days as a major river port at a festival called Tallstacks 192, when 16 riverboats from across America steamed up and down the Ohio River and met at the city's docks.

Cincinnati was settled in 1788, long before the steamboat era, by Col. Benjamin Stites, who was so impressed with the beauty and natural advantages of the harbor and hills along the Ohio River that he decided to build there.

Seven hills make up the Cincinnati area, and there are some remarkable views of the gentle, winding Ohio River, an integral feature of life on the Ohio-Kentucky border.

Mount Adams, one of the hills, boasts Victorian row houses reminiscent of San Francisco, as well as restaurants and shops. In Eden Park, atop another hill, is the highly regarded Cincinnati Art Museum.

Many early Cincinnatians were German immigrants who lived

downtown along the Erie Canal, which they peculiarly referred to as "the Rhine."

This neighborhood became known as Over-the-Rhine and, though the Germans have moved on and the canal has been filled in to become Central Parkway, the area is worth a tour by car for its remaining 19th-century architecture.

Cincinnati is a river town and its destiny has always been linked to the Ohio. If you travel by car or taxi into the city from the Greater Cincinnati International Airport, cross the river on the Anderson Ferry by taking scenic Route 212 to Constance Road and follow the signs. The ferry costs \$2 and you can pick up U.S. Route 50 right into town.

Events

The Cincinnati Symphony orchestra and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra perform on weekends at Music Hall, into May. Of note are performances of Schumann's "Scenes from Goethe's 'Faust'"

on Nov. 6 and 7. For tickets, which cost from \$9 to \$46, call the box office at (513) 381-3300.

The College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati presents exceptional opera and musical theater. An opera workshop production of Monteverdi's "Madrigals of Love and War" will take place on Nov. 22 at the University YMCA on Calhoun Street next to the campus of the University of Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$5.

The musical-theater department will perform Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Carousel" Nov. 18 to 22 at Corbett Auditorium on Corbett Drive on the campus. Tickets cost \$14 and \$16. Call the box office at (513) 556-4189.

"The Art of Asia," the Cincinnati Art Museum's fine and vast collection of art from the Levant to Japan, including India and Asia Minor, is on view free of charge through Nov. 1, when the museum closes until Jan. 15 to complete its extensive two-year renovation.

The museum is in Eden Park and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. — until Nov. 1. For information call (513) 721-5204.

What to see

Downtown Cincinnati sits very near the river, and the several bridges across to Kentucky, including Roebling's Suspension Bridge near downtown, (a first draft for the Brooklyn Bridge), loom and lurch over the water just to the south.

Riverfront Stadium is right on the river, and in season the continuous flow of Reds and Bengals fans helps keep downtown Cincinnati abuzz.

Fountain Square at Fifth Street between Walnut and Vine is named for its 1872 Tyler Davidson fountain, which was constructed in 1872 by the Bavarian sculptor August von Kreiling.

Two museums downtown are worth a visit. The Taft Museum, 316 Pike St., (513) 241-0343, is an 1820 mansion in which the old master paintings and European decorative art collections of Anna and Charles Phelps Taft, half brother of President William Howard Taft, is on view. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Suggested donation, \$2; students and seniors, \$1.

The Contemporary Arts Center, 115 East Fifth St., (513) 721-0390, famed for successfully defending itself in a lawsuit involving the controversial Robert Man-

pléthorpe retrospective in 1990, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission, \$2; students and senior citizens, \$1; free on Sunday and Monday.

The Findlay Market on Elm Street in Over-the-Rhine is an open-air food market worth a morning browse on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday. Its 1852 market building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Quite a few historic houses have survived in the Cincinnati area and are worth driving by, if not touring. On Dayton Street once called Millionaire's Row, is the John Hauck House, 812 Dayton St., (513) 721-3579, open Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; admission \$2, an Italianate town house built by a famous Cincinnati brewer.

Through Over-the-Rhine on Sycamore Street and into Mount Auburn, up the hill to the north of downtown, are a great many restored 19th-century buildings.

The riverside neighborhood of Covington just across the Ohio has a number of antebellum mansions in the East Second Street area. The 1853 Mirosa Mansion, 412 East Second St., (606) 261-9000, is open Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m., admission \$3.

Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave., (513) 287-7000, houses the Museum of Natural History and the Historical Society. Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission from \$4.95 to \$11.95; children, \$2.95 to \$6.95. Although the museum's collection is still growing, the building is worth seeing for its unusual art deco architecture and rookwood mosaics.

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine St., open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., is verdant and pleasant all year round. Admission, \$6; children, \$3.25. Its botanical collection is one of the largest of any zoo in the world. Admission, \$6; seniors, \$4; children, \$3.25.

Study vacations: Lessons in travel

By EVERETT POTTER
SPECIAL WRITER

For vacation, not everybody goes to the beach to bask in the sun, read glossy best sellers and sip pina colodas.

Some folks want to explore the archeological sites of the American Southwest, participate in a photography seminar in Paris, watch humpback whales off the coast of the Dominican Republic or muse over Russian art treasures.

It's all part of a growing phenomenon — educational travel or the study vacation.

"These are people who've done all that run-of-the-mill stuff," says Ann Waigand, editor and publisher of The Educated Traveler, a newsletter devoted to special-interest and educational travel.

"They'll take a behind-the-scenes museum tour in Europe or visit European opera capitals or go bird-watching in Costa Rica. They've been to England many times, but they'll return just to visit English gardens, for example.

"But these travelers are not specialists. If all they want to do is watch birds, for example, then they probably already belong to bird-watching organizations.

"Our readers are renaissance travelers who want to broaden themselves in many directions. And they want a certain amount of style and luxury on these trips.

"These people are not interested in backpacking it — they did that when they were kids."

A wide range of study tours is offered year-round by groups such as the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, the Art Institute of Chicago, the World Affairs Council and the National Audubon Society, not to mention dozens of university-alumni organizations.

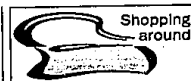
One example, a trip called "Art and Architecture of St. Petersburg," is offered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation from Feb. 14 to Feb. 24, 1993.

Among the highlights are three visits to the Hermitage Museum, trips to three palaces, several theater performances, special evening banquets and lectures by Russian museum curators.

The cost for this trip — \$3,595 per person — includes hotel accommodations, all meals and airfare from New York.

Participants must join the National Trust: A single membership is \$15, a family membership is \$24.

Joining the sponsoring organization is almost always a prerequisite of going on their trips. But membership fees are often nominal and tax deductible.



The Smithsonian Institution, which offers a wide range of tours and programs, has a \$20 membership fee that includes a subscription to Smithsonian magazine.

One upcoming Smithsonian tour is "Cultural Traditions in the Heart of Japan," to Nov. 7.

It includes visits to the cities of Kyoto, Nara and Kanazawa and stops at such sites as Oriental gardens and craftsmen's studios. The price of \$5,445 per person includes hotel accommodations, some meals and air fare from Los Angeles.

"Many people take these tours because they like having the insights an expert can provide," says Karen Ledwin, director of marketing for Academic Travel Abroad Inc.

"But probably the single biggest reason is that they can have experiences that they cannot have on their own."

"They can go behind the scenes of a museum to watch a textile restorer at work. They can go to a sheep farm and learn about shearing wool. They can visit a men's choir in Wales that isn't a show for tourists."

Academic Travel Abroad organizes and customizes tours for the Smithsonian Institution, Harvard Alumni, World Wildlife Fund and many other groups.

The average age of participants, says Ledwin, "is about 55, professionals and retired professionals who are continuing their education through travel. As the American population grows older, this area of travel is becoming more popular."

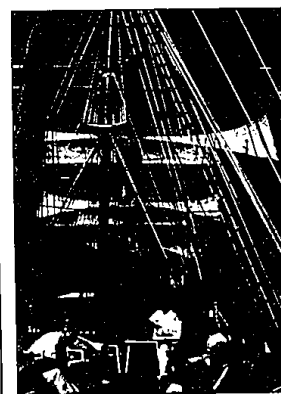
Ledwin gauges the average cost of such trips as "\$3,000 to \$4,000 for 12 days of all-inclusive travel. Cruises are more, averaging \$7,000.

Many journeys are timed for off-season or shoulder-season; participants arrive when the natives, and not tourists, are predominant.

Academic Travel Abroad has prepared more than 140 trips for its clients in 1992 and 1993. Its Smithsonian Institution tours include "The Tropical Treasures of Panama" from March 14 to March 20, 1993.

The Educated Traveler newsletter is \$65 for 10 issues. A subscription includes an index to back issues and a "Directory of Museum-Sponsored Tours."

For further information contact The Educated Traveler, P.O. Box 220822, Chantilly, Va. 22022 or call (800) 648-6168.



KAREN A. LEDWIN

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Water works: Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati is named for its Tyler Davidson fountain, which was constructed in 1872 by the Bavarian sculptor August von Kreiling.