

SUMMER 2013

# Cheap

# Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,  
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students Spending  
a Summer Working in the Public Interest

Published by:

Bernard Koteen Office of  
Public Interest Advising  
Harvard Law School  
Wasserstein Hall 4039  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-3108

# Cleveland

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Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings. For summer 2013, we updated guides for the following major cities:

- Cleveland
- Houston
- London
- Philadelphia

If you're working in another city, check with OPIA to see if there is an edition from a prior year.

In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal. *Cheap Living* remains a work in progress. Restaurants and attractions continuously open and close. If you notice any listing is out of date or if you have suggestions or additions for 2014, please let us know!

A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Program Coordinator

*\*The Cleveland Guide was updated by OPIA Intern Paige von Mehren.*

Cleveland is a very friendly city, with real Midwestern character. It has historically been given unflattering nicknames such as “the mistake on the lake,” but in reality it offers a very high quality of life at a very low cost of living. Cleveland offers some of the Midwest’s best art, culture and nightlife opportunities. The Cuyahoga River runs through the heart of downtown Cleveland and forms the dividing line between the “East Side” and the “West Side” of the greater Cleveland area.

Be sure to check out the “**Best of Cleveland**,” which is the result of a survey done each year by Cleveland Scene Magazine. The survey asks Cleveland-area residents to vote for their favorite places in categories like “Bars & Clubs,” “People & Places,” and “Food & Drink”, so this is a great up-to-date resource to find out about hidden gems in the Greater Cleveland area. 2013’s results (which include over 35,000 votes) are available at <http://www.clevescene.com/cleveland/BestOf?year=2013>. Each year voting closes around the end of March, and results are published soon after so look through it before coming to Cleveland in order to get a sense of what Clevelanders think is the best the city has to offer!

Also check out **CoolCleveland.com**, which is run by a local resident and highlights events going on weekly in the city. You can also sign up for an email newsletter to stay up to date.

## **Housing**

The cost of housing in Cleveland is extremely low compared to most major U.S. cities. The best way to find housing for the summer is to look in the real estate section of the **Cleveland Plain Dealer** (the city’s major newspaper). See: [www.cleveland.com/realestate/](http://www.cleveland.com/realestate/). You can also check out the Cleveland Craigslist directory at <http://cleveland.craigslist.org/>.

If you will be working downtown, your best bet will likely be to find housing on the near east or west side. While some housing may be available downtown, finding a summer rental may be difficult. Most of the downtown housing is made up of newer luxury condos and, east of the river, some single family homes.

The near east side is home to students at Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Institute of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Art. Check out the housing share websites for these schools for summer housing openings. See, for example, [http://law.case.edu/student\\_life/housing.asp](http://law.case.edu/student_life/housing.asp) or [www.rentals.com/Ohio/Cleveland/](http://www.rentals.com/Ohio/Cleveland/).

The neighborhoods near Little Italy (a neighborhood on the near east side of Cleveland) and Coventry (a neighborhood in Cleveland Heights) have apartment buildings and multi-family homes that may have summer space available. Lakewood, on the near west side, is a friendly, walkable city. Lakewood also has a number of apartment buildings and multi-family homes that may have summer space available.

## Transportation

### **Car**

Cleveland is predominantly a driving city, so if you have a car then you will definitely want to take it. Major highways in the area are toll-free (the Turnpike – which is south of Cleveland – has tolls, but there’s almost always an alternate toll-free route that will get you where you need to go in almost the same amount of time). Many companies located downtown provide parking for employees. Since street or free parking in the downtown area can be limited, you may want to check with your employer to see if they provide parking. There are many paid parking lots downtown that are pretty affordable (usually around \$10 or less, although rates can go up when there are special events such as a concert or a game), so finding a spot will not be a problem if you don’t mind paying. If you want to take a weekend trip, there are several other cities within driving distance, including Columbus (2 hours), Pittsburgh (2 hours), Cincinnati (4 hours) and Chicago (5.5 hours).

### **RTA (Bus and Train)**

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) provides bus service throughout the city and suburbs and a rapid transit system (basically an aboveground subway). While the “Rapid,” the vernacular term for the rapid transit system, is fairly quick and reliable, its service is somewhat limited. The buses are much more ubiquitous, and include city buses (which stop frequently and are not always on-time) and express buses (which run non-stop between the suburbs and downtown and are generally reliable). To see route maps and schedules, go to <http://www.riderta.com/schedules/#rail>.

You can pay individual fares with cash (\$2.25 for the bus or for the Rapid) or buy passes for 5 trips (\$11.25), 1 day (\$5.00), 7 days (\$22.50), or 1 month (\$85.00). These fares are subject to change, so be sure to check <http://www.riderta.com/fares/> for the most up-to-date information.

### **By Air**

There are two commercial airports in the region: **Hopkins International Airport** and **Akron-Canton Airport**. Hopkins is the larger of the two, and is a hub for United Airlines. Akron-Canton is a smaller, regional airport where the fares are often cheaper (although it is about an hour and fifteen minute drive south of Cleveland). Airtran has cheap flights out of Akron-Canton, including very affordable flights to and from Boston Logan.

### **By Bus**

**Megabus** has service from Cleveland to plenty of cities in the region, including Chicago, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and New York City. You can also take **Greyhound**.

## Groceries

As in any city, grocery stores abound in the Cleveland area. You will likely also find that food costs less in Cleveland than it does in Boston (if you know where to go). If you are looking for organic food on the West Side, visit **Nature's Bin** on Sloane Avenue in Lakewood or **Trader Joe's** at Crocker Park in Westlake. On the East Side, both a **Trader Joe's** and **Whole Foods** are located on Chagrin Blvd in Shaker Heights.

You should also pay a visit to the **West Side Market** on W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Rd. in Ohio City. The Market has been an integral part of Cleveland since 1840. It features fresh fruit, vegetables, seafood and meat. There are also vendors who sell pastries, cakes, bread, and other ready-to-eat foods. The vendors reflect the cultural diversity of Cleveland, and include vendors of Irish, German, Slovene, Italian, Greek, Polish, Russian, and Middle Eastern descent. Go to <http://www.westsidemarket.org/vendors.aspx> to see a list of the regular vendors. The Market's hours are Monday and Wednesday from 7am-4pm and Friday and Saturday from 7am-6pm.

There are also several conventional grocery stores in the area. The two dominant chains are **Heinen's** and **Giant Eagle**. Heinen's is a chain of large grocery stores that are a bit more upscale (and slightly more pricey) than their competitors. Although the menus vary by location, they also offer prepared foods ranging from sushi to sandwiches to make-your-own stir-fry, all of which are more expensive than buying groceries and cooking for yourself but can be good for a quick lunch. Giant Eagles are franchise grocery stores and the nature of the store largely depends on the location and the owners. For example, the Giant Eagle on Mayfield Rd. in South Euclid is a conventional large grocery store, while the Giant Eagle on Cedar Rd. in Cleveland Heights, just outside of University Circle, provides greater selection and more specialty foods at slightly higher prices. For those really looking for a bargain, **Aldi's** provides rock bottom prices on canned goods and other non-perishable foods. It does come with its quirks. You need a quarter to unlock a shopping cart, there are no plastic bags (so bring your own), they only accept cash and debit cards, and the produce is not really worth it. But for an 89¢ box of spaghetti, this is the place to go.

## Eating Out

### **East Side**

**Coventry** is Cleveland's analog to Harvard Square. It's bustling on the weekends, full of restaurants, and populated with a mix of university students and hippies, young and old. **Tommy's** has delicious, inexpensive vegetarian sandwiches and escarole pies, as well as awesome milkshakes and burgers. There's often a wait on the weekends, but it is attached to the bookstore next door, which provides an enjoyable diversion. If you're looking for quick Mexican food, go to **Chipotle**. **BD's Mongolian Barbeque** is a chain restaurant that allows diners to combine meats, vegetables, and a sauce from a buffet which master grillers cook on a giant circular grill (it's similar to Fire and Ice in Harvard Square). Though it is only Mongolian in the very loosest sense of the term, the fun of experimenting with your entrée more than compensates. There is also a small collection of Asian restaurants,

including **Hunan Coventry (Chinese)**, **Karma on Coventry (Indian)**, and **Pacific East (Japanese)**.

**Little Italy** is a neighborhood along Mayfield Road in Cleveland and is composed almost entirely of restaurants and bakeries. **Mama Santa's** is an east side landmark. Known for its eclectic atmosphere, great prices, and Italian comfort food, it is well worth a visit. Note, however, that they close down for the month of August. **Valentino's** offers some of the best pizza in town. Though they do not deliver, they offer take out and an outdoor dining patio for the summer months. **Presti's** bakery and café is a great place to people watch over a cappuccino and a cannoli.

One of the greatest surprises in the Cleveland restaurant scene is the abundance of good Middle Eastern food for a city of its size. The **Aladdin's Eatery**, located at the intersection of Cedar Road and Fairmount, has excellent Mediterranean wraps, soups, pita pizzas, smoothies, and desserts at great prices. **The Falafel Café**, which is located in University Circle, is a small diner that serves a variety of Lebanese cuisine (and yes, the falafel is very good). **The Anatolia Café**, on Lee Rd. in Cleveland Heights, focuses on Turkish cuisine and is similarly excellent and authentic.

Check out **Arabica Coffeehouse** in University Circle and **Algebra Tea House** on Murray Hill Road for an alternative to corporate coffee.

**Slyman's Deli**, downtown on St. Clair Ave., has the best corned beef in the area, as well as other traditional deli offerings.

Other great spots on the East Side include: **Balaton**, a Hungarian restaurant in Shaker Square; **Mi Pueblo**, a Mexican restaurant in University Circle which has mediocre food but outstanding margaritas; **Austin's Smokin' Steakhouse**, in Mayfield Village (the name is self-explanatory); **Lemon Grass**, in Cleveland Heights near the corner of Cedar and Lee (right next to the Cedar-Lee Theater), one of a handful of Thai restaurants in the area; and **Tutto Giorno**, on Murray Hill Road near Little Italy, which serves a great Sunday brunch.

### **West Side**

You can find the original **Aladdin's Eatery** on the West Side at the intersection of Belle Ave. and Detroit Rd. in Lakewood and another location at Crocker Park in Westlake. **Nate's Deli & Restaurant**, located in Ohio City on W. 25<sup>th</sup>, has speedy service and excellent Middle Eastern food at great prices (although keep in mind that they are not open for dinner and only accept cash). **Sweet Melissa** on Detroit Rd., just over the bridge from Lakewood in Rocky River, offers great options for vegans, vegetarians, and carnivores alike. If you're looking for great pizza, try **Danny Boys Pizza** on Lake Rd. in Rocky River or **Angelo's** on Madison Ave. in Lakewood (both deliver within a limited radius and have tables if you want to eat there). There are also chains like **Papa John's**, **Donato's** (great thin-crust options), **Hungry Howie's**, and **Dominos**.

**Rocky River Brewery** on Center Ridge Rd. in Rocky River has great burgers and microbrews brewed on site. Another excellent burger place is the **B-Spot**, with West Side locations in Westlake and Strongsville, whose slogan is “Burgers, Brats and Beer”. It’s owned by Michael Symon, a local celebrity who also owns two restaurants downtown (**Lola** and **Lolita** – both worth a visit even though they’re a bit pricier) and won “Best Burgers in America” from the Sobe Wine & Food Festival in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Do read the “rules” on each table, though. They won’t accept substitutions or additions to burgers, and sometimes the staff can get a little snippy if you try to add something (although you are allowed to ask them to take things off). **Eddie ‘N Eddie**, located in Lakewood at the intersection of Warren Rd. and Detroit Rd., also has great burgers as well as other options.

The original **Melt Bar and Grilled** is in Lakewood on Detroit Rd. The basic “Kindergarten,” which is your choice of cheese on delicious homemade bread with fries and spicy coleslaw, is only \$6. Be forewarned, the portions are pretty huge. There is almost always a wait (up to 2 hours for dinner on weekends), so takeout is often a good option although the atmosphere in the restaurant is great. They feature creative, inexpensive grilled cheese sandwiches as well as salads, soups, and appetizers that make extensive use of locally-grown and sourced food.

Some of the best Mexican food on the West Side can be found at **Nuevo Acapulco** on Lorain Rd. in North Olmsted (this is a bit of trek from downtown but it is well worth the trip if you have a car, and don’t be fooled by the unassuming exterior). **Luchita’s** on West 117<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland also offers excellent Mexican food for decent prices. **Tina’s Deli and Restaurant**, in Lakewood, which is only open for breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday, serves massive, delicious corned beef sandwiches at remarkable prices. **Borderline Café**, on Detroit Rd. in Lakewood, serves southwest-inspired breakfast from 7:00 am until 2:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday (they are closed in the afternoon and evening). If you go on the weekend be prepared to wait, since it is a small restaurant and there is almost always a line out the door! **India Garden**, also in Lakewood, has pretty good Indian food at great prices. They have a lunch buffet every day, which is all you can eat for \$8.95. The staff is also really friendly, and they always remember frequent customers.

Closer to downtown, visit **Great Lakes Brewing Company** on W. 25<sup>th</sup> for dishes featuring locally grown food. GLBC is the home of such microbrews as “Dortmunder Gold,” “Burning River Pale Ale” and “Eliot Ness Amber Lager.” Their goal is to produce zero waste, and their trucks run on vegetable oil. In addition to eating at the restaurant, you can take a guided tour of the brewery that includes beer tasting. Also in downtown, **Sushi Rock** serves very good, creative sushi in an amusing, hopelessly yuppie atmosphere. Though it is usually a bit overpriced, half-price sushi night on Wednesdays makes this a more affordable outing.

The Tremont and Ohio City area also features a number of affordable and trendy restaurants, including **Johnny Mango’s**, **Le Petit Triangle Café**, and **Momocho**.

For dessert, no visit to Cleveland is complete without a visit to **Malley's Chocolates** (ice cream parlors in Lakewood, Bay Village, North Olmsted, and Mentor), for what should be a world famous hot fudge sundae. They also have excellent chocolate treats, many of which are Cleveland-themed. **Mitchell's Ice Cream**, another local company, has creative ice cream flavors and is a favorite for people of all ages on a hot summer night.

**The Root Café** in downtown Lakewood and **Common Grounds** at Kamm's Corners in Cleveland both provide good non-corporate coffee and hangout spots. There are **Starbucks** located throughout the area.

## **Entertainment**

**The Cleveland Scene** provides a great resource for music and cultural events. Pick up a free copy at most stores and restaurants or visit <http://www.clevescene.com/>. For indie and alternative music, popular venues include **the Beachland Ballroom**, **The Grog Shop**, and **The Agora**. There is also a **House of Blues** located downtown. **Cain Park**, in Cleveland Heights, is a "summer performing art park" that hosts live music and other events throughout the summer. The Cleveland Scene is the best way to keep abreast of concert dates. Free tickets to these venues are often given away as prizes to callers to WRUW 91.1, Case Western's college radio station. The competition is usually pretty sparse, so these are not too hard to get. Bigger acts and events play at **Quicken Loans Arena**, as well as at **Blossom Music Center**, a large outdoor venue in Cuyahoga Falls.

Cleveland also boasts one of the best symphonies in the entire world. **The Cleveland Orchestra** is frequently rated as one of the top three symphonies in the world and is one of the "Big Five" American orchestras. They play at **Severance Hall**, located in University Circle, which is one of the world's most beautiful concert halls. Reduced price standing room tickets are usually available. For ticketing and concert info, see [www.clevelandorch.com/](http://www.clevelandorch.com/). The Orchestra also offers a free outdoor concert downtown around the Fourth of July. The nearby **Cleveland Institute of Music** also offers student and faculty productions and recitals.

The University Circle area also features Cleveland's nationally ranked art and natural history museums. The **Cleveland Museum of Art** is FREE (although there is sometimes a cost to see special exhibitions) and wonderful, displaying over 43,000 works of art and internationally renowned for its collections of Asian and Egyptian art. The CMA recently completed a massive renovation that included an overhaul of most of the galleries. Nearby is a beautiful park and sculpture garden known locally as "The Lagoon" that sometimes hosts free outdoor theatre productions and always makes a great spot for a picnic. The **Cleveland Museum of Natural History** has a fabulous collection of dinosaur bones; Balto, the "Hero Dog"; and the world-renowned "Lucy" – at approximately 3.2 million years of age, one of the oldest and most significant skeletons of humanity's earliest known ancestors. Visit [www.universitycircle.org/](http://www.universitycircle.org/) for maps and more information.

For theater fans, **Playhouse Square** is the second-largest theater complex in the United States, second only to the Lincoln Center in New York City. Nationally recognized shows (including Broadway favorites like *Wicked*, *Billy Elliot*, and *The Lion King*) have come to Playhouse Square in the past so keep an eye on their website (<http://www.playhousesquare.org/>) to see what will be playing during your summer. For off-Broadway, edgier performances check out the **Gordon Square Arts District** and **Cleveland Public Theatre**. Additionally, **The Beck Center for the Arts**, located in Lakewood, has both professional and youth theater productions and art exhibitions. They also offer theater and visual arts classes.

For movie lovers, there are several movie theaters in the area, including **Regal** and **AMC** chains. For indie movies and foreign films, check out **Cedar Lee Theatre**, a local landmark that is exquisitely affordable (\$8.00 with a valid student ID in the evenings and \$6.50 for matinees). Monday is the best day to check out the Cedar Lee because all movies are \$5 and the popcorn is free. The **Cleveland Cinematheque**, run by the Cleveland Institute of Art, features rare and independent films. See [www.cia.edu/academicResources/cinematheque/cinematheque.php](http://www.cia.edu/academicResources/cinematheque/cinematheque.php). Another really cool theater that shows independent films is the **Capitol Theatre**, which is located on W. 65<sup>th</sup> St.

**The North Coast Harbor area** features the famous **Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame** and the **Great Lakes Science Center**. Visit [www.rockhall.com/](http://www.rockhall.com/) and [www.glsc.org/](http://www.glsc.org/), respectively, for more information about admission and special events. Take the Rapid here on the Fourth of July for an impressive and surprisingly un-crowded fireworks display. When visibility is good, you can also see fireworks going off at other venues all along the lakefront.

In addition to the plethora of restaurants, Coventry offers a number of interesting and unique shops including the **CD/Game Exchange** which sells and trades used CDs and video games, and the National Historic Landmark **Big Fun**, a kitschy vintage toy store with every childhood object you were sure no longer existed, and more. Visit [www.coventryvillage.org/](http://www.coventryvillage.org/) for more information.

For nightlife, there are centers of activity in a number of different parts of the city. The “Lakewood Bars” area includes a number of bars along Detroit Rd. in Lakewood’s West End. The bar called **Around the Corner** is one of the local favorites. Visit the **W. 6<sup>th</sup> area** and **The Flats** (along the Cuyahoga River) downtown for a more club-oriented scene. For a cross somewhere between the yuppie and hipster scene, check out the bars and restaurants in **Ohio City** and **Tremont**. On the East Side, Coventry has some of the more popular bars including **McNulty’s Pub** and the **Winking Lizard**. The **Barking Spider** in University Circle is also a great option, serving a primarily student crowd and offering live music.

If you’re looking for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) hangouts, **Truffles**, in Lakewood on Clifton, is a great little café with amazing pastries. At Truffles, you can pick up a copy of **The Gay People’s Chronicle**, a free local newspaper that lists events going on around town. Also, check out

the **LGBT Community Center's** community resources to find the popular bars and clubs ([www.lgcsc.org/](http://www.lgcsc.org/)).

Greater Cleveland is also blessed with the **Metroparks**, a wonderful park system that extends throughout the city. These parks provide opportunities for golfing, swimming, fishing, horseback riding, boating, hiking, tobogganing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, sledding, and geocaching. For more information, see [www.clemetparks.com/](http://www.clemetparks.com/). The **Rocky River Reservation**, colloquially known as “The Valley,” features bike and exercise trails, ball fields, a dog park, and is a great spot for weekend picnics. **Edgewater Park**, located just west of downtown Cleveland along Lake Erie, has a beach, picnic area and beautiful views of the Cleveland skyline. It's also a popular kite flying spot on windy days. **Lakewood Park**, along the lake in Lakewood has a public swimming pool, a great view of the lake and lots of picnic areas. On the Fourth of July, most of Lakewood comes to the park to watch a performance of **The Lakewood Project**, the country's first high-school rock orchestra (you can watch some of their performances on YouTube to get a feel for what they do) and then take in one of the area's best fireworks shows. Further west, **Huntington Beach** in Bay Village also has great picnic areas and public beach access. Northeast Ohio also has an active **orienteering club**, which challenges you to navigate through the woods to find markers using a compass, a topographical map, and your wits. The club charges nominal fees (generally under \$10) for participants and requires each to have a whistle, which can be bought for \$1 if you don't have one. This is a good way to get outdoors on the weekend and is best done with a friend of similar experience (or inexperience) and physical fitness.

Although Cleveland sports teams are famous for breaking their fans' hearts year after year, there are some distinct advantages to having mediocre sports teams. Most importantly, tickets to professional sporting events are cheap and plentiful. Although basketball and football aren't really summer sports, tickets to see the **Cleveland Cavaliers** and the **Cleveland Browns** start at around \$10. Clevelanders take football VERY seriously, and if you have the chance to go to a game you should absolutely go tailgate at the **Municipal Lot**, which is just off of I-90 East a few hundred yards past the E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street exit. As long as you aren't obviously rooting for the other team, you'll definitely be able to make friends with some of Cleveland's more passionate fans. You may not get to see the Red Sox or the Yankees when they play at home, but you are practically guaranteed to get a ticket when they play the **Cleveland Indians** at **Progressive Field** (although many still refer to it as “The Jake,” a reference to its former name of Jacob's Field), with bleacher seats that provide a pretty decent view at \$14. In 2013, Progressive Field lowered concession prices to make the whole experience even more affordable. You should also keep an eye out for games with special promotions, such as Dollar Dog Night (as many hotdogs as you can eat for \$1 apiece) or other fun giveaways. **The Lake Erie Monsters**, an AHL hockey team that is part of the Colorado Avalanche franchise, offers all the intensity of NHL hockey at extremely low prices (the Monsters are actually one of the better AHL teams out there). All that being said, some of the most exciting games in Cleveland aren't played by professionals. For many people in the area, **high school football** is a very big deal. These games can often be as fun to watch as the professional games and give you a wonderful sense of Cleveland's

local color. College football is also really popular, and Cleveland is definitely an **Ohio State Buckeyes** town. You can go down to Columbus to catch a game near the end of the summer in the **Horseshoe**, which is always filled with scarlet and grey-clad fans (every year there are almost 50,000 students at Ohio State, which means that there are tons of alumni who still love to go to games and show their Buckeye pride) and see one of the Big Ten's best programs in action.

In mid-August, **Little Italy's Feast of the Assumption**, a four-day long celebration of Italian heritage, is not to be missed. The area's restaurants set up booths along the sides of the street and visitors walk up through the area, sampling Italian cuisine and enjoying outdoor music, dancing, artwork, and rides.

The **Lakewood Arts Festival**, which usually takes place at the beginning of August, features local artists selling their creations, as well as great food from local restaurants and lots of promotions and contests from local businesses.

### **Weekend Getaways**

While not exactly cheap, **Cedar Point Amusement Park** ([www.cedarpoint.com](http://www.cedarpoint.com)) features many of the largest and fastest roller coasters in the world. Located in Sandusky, Ohio, Cedar Point is approximately an hour and a half drive from the west side of Cleveland. Tickets start at \$44.99 if you buy them at the park, although there are various places to get cheaper tickets ahead of time, including AAA (if you're a member) and **Discount Drug Mart**, a local drug store chain with several locations throughout the Cleveland area. If you are a roller coaster fan, Cedar Point is well worth the trip. Do be prepared to wait in line, though, especially on weekends (you can buy a bracelet that lets you get into a much shorter line on the most popular rides, but these bracelets can cost more than the price of a ticket depending on how many you buy). There is also a water park, **Soak City**, that is located right next to Cedar Point and you can get multi-day tickets for both attractions.

**The Lake Erie Islands**, also near Sandusky, are a popular destination for many Clevelanders. **Put-in-Bay** on South Bass Island is a resort town that hosts sailboat races during the summer. **Kelley's Island** sports some very interesting glacial grooves left over from the receding glaciers during the last ice age. On both islands you can walk, bike, rent golf carts, or drive (you have to pay extra to put a car on the ferry, though). There is plenty of inexpensive parking where you can leave your car on the mainland before you get on the ferry. Put-in-Bay has more of a touristy/party atmosphere, while Kelley's Island is more oriented towards families and nature-lovers.

**Amish Country, Ohio** (including Berlin, Coshocton, New Philadelphia and Zoar) offers a slower pace. See some beautiful vistas and homemade crafts and goodies made by the Amish.

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park** ([www.nps.gov/cuva/](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/)), features hundreds of hiking, biking and bridle trails. The **Towpath Trail**, a multi-purpose track, follows the old Ohio & Erie Canal route.

The dramatic ledges at **Whipp's Ledges in Hinckley Reservation** in Medina County and **Nelson Ledges State Park** in Portage County are popular rock climbing spots, and also offer hiking trails.

**We hope you enjoy your summer in Cleveland!**