

Day One

The **Akron Zoo** is known around the world for their conservation efforts. They have received both AZA and World Conservation Zoo accreditation. In 2013, the Zoo celebrated its 60th Anniversary and opened its largest exhibit to date – Grizzly Ridge. Adults and children have the chance to explore animals from all over right here in Summit County. Penguins, Grizzly Bears, Jaguars, Sumatran Tigers, River Otters and more await your visit.

504 Euclid Ave. Akron, 44307 • 330.375.2250 • www.akronzoo.org

Aside from the trails that the **Metro Parks Serving Summit County** offers, many animals make the parks their home. Bats, coyotes, deer and more are spotted at the parks. Hundreds of volunteers dedicate their time each year to tracking and collecting biological data. The Metro Parks also see many invasive plants that are aggressive species grow in areas where they do not historically occur. The most invasive to the Metro Parks are: garlic mustard, honeysuckle, privet hedge, Japanese knotweed and narrow-leaved cattail.

975 Treaty Line Rd. Akron, 44313 • 330.867.5511 • www.summitmetroparks.org

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is a perfect example of artfully landscaped gardens and grounds in Summit County. Seventy acres of the property provide beauty and color that flow into the local natural surroundings. The Corbin Conservatory was originally used to group produce and plant materials for the Seiberling family.

Now it houses exhibits throughout the seasons.

714 N. Portage Path Akron, 44303 • 330.836.5533 • www.stanhywet.org

Bath Road Heronry is a local favorite of wildlife watchers. From mid-February through June, great blue herons build over 140 nests and raise their young high above the passing cars. The heronry is located on the south side of Bath Road between Riverview and Akron Peninsula roads. There is a place to pull over and view the birds. A second colony of nesting herons is in the Pinery Narrows on the west side of the Cuyahoga River. It can be viewed from the Towpath Trail, 1/2 mile north of Station Road Bridge Trailhead.

Bath Rd. Akron, 44313 • <http://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?id=5B333619-155D-4519-3E8871C661670CD5>

Growing since 1953, **Donzell's Flower and Garden Center** is an Akron family-owned and operated shopping destination for Akron/Cleveland residents. Comprised of over 13 acres of greenhouses, nursery, retail garden center, floral design and gift departments, Donzell's is ranked 20th nationally in the latest Top 100 L&G Retailers for 2011.

937 E. Waterloo Rd. Akron, 44306 • 330.724.0505 • www.donzells.com

Celestial Woods Farm is located in Clinton, Ohio between Portage Lakes and Canal Fulton. The Alpaca Farm gives tours of the farm and a spinning demonstration. It's a great way to not only learn about what the alpaca farm provides but it's a great way to learn the history of Clinton, Ohio and how it relates to the Ohio & Erie Canalway.

6594 Kepler Rd. Clinton, 44216 • 330.882.5544 • <http://celestialwoods.com/>

Rest your feet at one of Summit County's hotel properties. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before embarking on your next day adventures.

<http://www.visitakron-summit.org/visitors/stay>

Day Two

Countryside Initiative Farm tours offer a glimpse into the day and the life of real farmers and small-scale farming in Ohio. Learn what sustainable agriculture is and why local food matters. See firsthand what it takes to get dinner to your table. The purpose of **Countryside Conservancy** is to connect people, food, and land by increasing public awareness of how food and farming impact personal, community, and environmental health and by inspiring personal commitment to building a resilient, sustainable food culture.

They pursue their purpose across Northeast Ohio through numerous regional collaborations and a unique partnership with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

2179 Everett Rd. Peninsula, 44264 • 330.657.2542 • <http://www.cvcountryside.org/index.php>

Graf Growers offers not only a local garden center but a farm market & landscape company. The spring months bring beautiful blooms as the Garden Center offers a wide variety of plant materials from annuals to perennials to nursery stock. The summer months continue with fabulous plants to fill in your garden, with the focus shifting to the Farm Market where guests can purchase farm fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden and other local farms. Local apples, Graf Grown pumpkins and mums are a staple in the fall months and you can be sure to find them at Graf Growers. The holiday season brings fresh cut Christmas trees, cheerful wreaths & winter arrangements as well as the classic Graf Grown poinsettia.

1015 White Pond Dr. Akron, 44320 • 330.836.2727 • <http://www.grafgrowers.com/>

Lake Anna Park in Barberton will explode with color as 20,000 chrysanthemums create over a million mum blooms in a rainbow of color at the annual **Mum Festival** which takes place at the end of September. The dazzling floral display provides a brilliant backdrop for a weekend filled with free family entertainment, historic views of Barberton, arts and crafts, gardening tips, and fabulous food.

500 W. Hopocan Ave. Barberton, 44203 • 330.848.6653 • <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Barberton-Mum-Festival/114476888579776>

There are many sections of the **Ohio & Erie Canalway** that are home to two and four legged friends. Your journey may take you through the beautiful sights and sounds of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, as well as the 104-acre Nature Realm and other areas managed by Metro Parks, Serving Summit County. A guided tour can increase your chance of sightings, but any day in the Canalway offers a wealth of viewing opportunities – especially along the Towpath Trail.

47 E. Exchange St. Akron, 44308 • 330.374.5657

<http://www.ohioanderiecanalway.com/Main/SummitCountyBirdWatching.aspx>