

## A Cleveland Primer<sup>1</sup>

### Public Transportation

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority was voted best in the U.S. in 2007. Bus lines and light rail (the Rapid) are available. The Rapid is the best way to get to and from the airport, as well as to the sporting venues downtown. One-way trips (without transfers) are \$2.25. A one-day pass (unlimited rides, valid for both bus and Rapid) is \$5. Weekly and monthly passes are available. Bus and Rapid schedules are available online. The trip planner is great if you are trying to determine the best way to get from point-to-point.

<http://www.gcrtta.org/>

### Food

Cleveland Independents: A consortium of locally owned Cleveland restaurants.

<http://www.clevelandindependents.com/>

#### *Fine Dining*

Fire: Focus on local, sustainably grown food. Consistently high quality. Dinner entrees from \$20-40

<http://www.firefoodanddrink.com/>

13220 Shaker Square Cleveland, Ohio 44120

(216) 921-3473

Lola's: Owned by the Iron Chef on the Food Network, Michael Symon.

Absolutely delicious food (lola fries!). Located downtown Cleveland. Excellent wine list.

Entrees \$25-34.

2058 E 4th St, Cleveland

216-521-5652

<http://www.lolabistro.com/>

Lolita's: Also owned by Michael Symon. Serves what has been called "upscale comfort food". Order the mac and cheese or the kobe beef burger—you won't be disappointed! Located in Tremont (an artsy neighborhood on the West Side). Entrees \$15-18.

900 Literary Rd, Cleveland

216.771.5652

<http://www.lolabistro.com/>

Marotta's: Excellent Italian food. Good service generally. Also, great wood-fired pizzas. Entrees \$18-26.

2289 Lee Road

Cleveland Heights, OH

(216) 932-9264

<http://www.marottas.com/>

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<sup>1</sup> Compiled by R.E. Drenovsky, JCU Biology Department

Groveswood Tavern and Wine Bar: Great upscale pub food. Nice wine selection.  
17105 Groveswood Ave.  
Cleveland, OH  
(216) 531-4900  
<http://www.groveswoodtavern.com/>

Georgetown: Formerly Three Birds. Tasty menu that changes seasonally. A great place to go for dinner before seeing a play at the Beck Center. Entrees \$18-30.  
18515 Detroit Ave  
Lakewood, OH  
(216) 221-3500  
<http://georgetownrestaurant.net/>

Chinato: Delicious, Italian, very trendy and new. Owned by Zach Bruell. Excellent wine menu. Try the Fusilli with ragout of tongue, oxtail and red wine  
2077 East 4th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1038  
(216) 298-9080  
<http://www.chinatocleveland.com>

L'Albatross: French fare. *Excellent* cheese and wine selection. Also owned by Zach Bruell.  
11401 Bellflower Rd  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
(216) 791-7880  
<http://www.albatrosbrasserie.com/>

Parallax: Delicious food with an Asian flare. Really excellent sushi. Tasty cocktails (try the Pear 75). Also owned by Zach Bruell. In Tremont, near Lolita.  
2179 West 11th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44113-6100  
(216) 583-9999  
<http://www.parallaxtremont.com>

Greenhouse Tavern: In the trendy 4<sup>th</sup> Street District with Lola and Chinato. A focus on local and sustainable (even the wood for the tables). Owner Jonathon Sawyer won Food and Wine's prestigious Best New Chef Award (same as Michael Symon a few years back).  
2038 East 4th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
(216) 443-0511  
<http://www.thegreenhousetavern.com/>

Luxe Restaurant and Lounge: In the Gordon Square District on the West Side. Tasty cocktails, laid back atmosphere for dinner. Pizza, pasta, sandwiches.  
6605 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44102-3015  
(216) 916-8732  
<http://www.luxecleveland.com/>

Momocho: They describe their food as Mod Mex, but whatever you want to call it, it's yummy. Is it possible to rave about guacamole? Yes, it is. As well as margaritas. And then there's the tacos...and the paintings on the walls of the Mexican wrestlers...

1835 Fulton Road  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
(216) 694-2122

<http://www.momocho.com/>

Rockefeller's: Located in the Rockefeller Building on the corner of Lee and Mayfield, here, Jill Vedaa is serving up some tasty food that varies seasonally. Great cocktails.

3099 Mayfield Rd.  
Cleveland Heights, OH  
(216) 321-0477

<http://rockefellers-restaurant.com/>

Bar Cento: Italian wine bar in Ohio City that also serves up pizza and pasta. Also a fairly extensive beer menu. The front lounge area has cozy booths. The bar in the back is a bit more lively, if that's how you roll.

1948 West 25th Street  
Cleveland, OH  
(216) 274-1010

<http://barcento.com/>

Tartine: Tasty French bistro in Rocky River (west side)

19110 Old Detroit Road  
Rocky River, OH  
(440) 331-0800

<http://www.tartinebistro.com/>

Nighttown: Jazz club and restaurant. Nice outdoor patio. Mixed reviews on food quality. Entrees \$15-25.

12387 Cedar Rd, Cleveland  
216.795-0391

<http://www.nighttowncleveland.com/>

Blue Point Grill: Known for its seafood. Good wine list. Entrees \$19-50.

700 West St. Clair Avenue Cleveland, OH 44113  
216-875-STAR (7827)

<http://www.hospitalityrestaurants.com/bluepoint.php>

Cowell & Hubbard: Zach Bruell's latest restaurant. Serving the Playhouse Square District, Downtown Cleveland. As always, his cocktails are tasty and the menu is inventive.

1305 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
216.479.0555

<http://cowellhubbard.com/>

Washington Place Bistro & Inn: Focus on local ingredients. Nice outdoor patio in the summer months. Located in Little Italy. Entrees \$15-30.

2203 Cornell Rd  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
(216) 791-6500

<http://www.washingtonplacelittleitaly.com>

*Places that I've heard of with good reviews that I haven't tried:*

Spice Kitchen & Bar: Focus on locally grown, seasonal, and sustainable in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood.

5800 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, OH  
(216)961-9637

<http://www.spicekitchenandbar.com/>

*Ethnic*

Noodle Cat: A new-ish restaurant by Jonathon Sawyer, serving up....well, noodle dishes. Fun fact: some of the furniture was originally in the Bohannon Science Center on JCU's campus.

Two Locations: Public Square, Downtown Cleveland & West Side Market, Cleveland  
216 589 0007

<http://noodlecat.com/>

Anatolia Café: Great Turkish cuisine in a new, expanded location on Lee Rd. I love the stuffed cabbage rolls and the appetizer platter. The apple tea is really tasty, as well.

Entrees \$12-24.

2270 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights  
216.321.4400

<http://www.anatoliacafe.com/index.php>

Peppermint Café: Considered by many the best Thai cuisine in Cleveland. If you like food hot, you can get it here—food is spiced to order. The pad thai (country style) is delicious. I also enjoy their curries.

Best bubble tea in town, too!

30769 PineTree Rd.  
Pepper Pike, OH 44124

(216) 464-5432

<http://www.peppermintthaicuisine.com/>

Pacific East: Great sushi on Coventry Rd. Also, a new location on Chagrin Rd. Rolls from \$5-10.

1763 Coventry Rd  
Cleveland, OH 44118  
(216) 320-2302

<http://pacificeastcoventry.com/>

Shuhei: Good sushi restaurant. Less well known than Pacific East. We've had excellent service here.

23360 Chagrin Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44122

(216) 464-1720

<http://www.shuheirestaurant.com/>

#1 Pho: They're not joking! The pho here is delicious.

3120 Superior Ave.

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

216.781.1176

Tree Country Bistro: the newest Asian restaurant on Coventry Rd. Japanese, Korean, and Thai food. Quality rivals that of Peppermint Café. If spicy is your thing, this is the place.

1803 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights

216-321-0644

<http://www.treecountrybistro.com/>

Aladdin's Eatery: Very tasty and reasonably priced Lebanese cuisine. Many vegetarian options here. Entrees \$8-12 (sandwiches less). In the Cedar-Fairmount area.

12447 Cedar Rd, Cleveland Heights

216.932.4333

<http://www.aladdinseatery.com/>

Taza: Owned by the same family as Aladdin's. More upscale. Also very delicious.

Near Trader Joe's on Chagrin Blvd.

28601 Chagrin Blvd., Woodmere, Ohio 44122

216.464.4000

<http://www.mytaza.com/>

Flying Crane: A teahouse and Japanese restaurant. Very tasty udon and other selections. A nice patio in the back during the summer. Jointly owned by a British-Japanese couple.

13002 Larchmere Blvd

Cleveland, OH 44120

(216) 795-1033

[www.flyingcranescafe.com](http://www.flyingcranescafe.com)

Le Petit Triangle: If you've never been to Paris, this is as close as you'll come to it in Cleveland.

Traditional crepes and Parisian favorites (croquet monsieur, anyone?). Very delicious. And make sure you check out the giant tub of Nutella!

1881 Fulton Road

Cleveland, OH 44113-3345

(216) 281-1881

<http://www.lepetittrianglecafe.com/>

#### *Lunch options*

J. Pistone's: Great lunch place near campus. Order the lobster bisque—yum. Also, a nice selection of wines. Lunch options \$5-10.

3245 Warrensville Ctr Road, Shaker Heights

(216) 283-3663

<http://jpistone.com/>

Luna Café and Bakery: New in the Cedar-Fairmount district. Pastries, crepes, paninis. Delicious. Always busy and always delicious.

2482 Fairmount Blvd  
Cleveland Heights, OH  
(216) 231-8585

<http://lunabakerycafe.com>

Katz Club Diner: Newly opened restaurant by Doug Katz of Fire. New takes on diner favorites. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Excellent coffee!

1974 Lee Rd  
Cleveland Heights

Whole Foods: Another great place to catch a bite to eat near campus. Sit at the Osteria for freshly cooked Italian fare (entrees \$8-12) or pick up something from the hot and cold food bars.

13998 Cedar Rd, University Heights, OH 44118  
216.932.3918

<http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/cleveland/index.html>

Stone Oven: Another lunchtime favorite. Also, a great selection of fresh bread and pastries. The soups are very tasty, as well as the sandwiches. Sandwiches ~\$5.

2267 Lee Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44118  
(216) 932-3003

<http://www.stone-oven.com/>

Don Tequila: The Mexican food isn't fabulous here, but it's fast, cheap, and very close to campus. Friendly service. Entrees \$5-10.

2175 S Green Rd, Cleveland  
(216) 297-9765

Jack's Deli: Another lunch option close to campus. If you're looking for a corned beef sandwich on rye, this place has got it. Kosher.

14490 Cedar Road, University Heights, OH 44121  
(216) 382-5350

<http://www.jacksdeliandrestaurant.com/>

*Pubs and pub grub:* If there's one thing that Cleveland knows, it's great beer!

The Colony: The sign may say "Brennan's", but everyone calls it The Colony. Serves both typical pub grub fare (\$5-8) as well as some really quality entrees (\$12-20). Great place to grab lunch, too. Not frequented by JCU students, which is a plus. They also have a really nice patio.

2299 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
(216) 371-1010

The Tavern Co.: Also known as TavCo. Try their tasty chicken ciabiatta sandwich (how can you go wrong with the combination of avocado and bacon?). They also have great happy hour specials, Sunday night karaoke, and Tuesday trivia nights. Now with seasonal outdoor seating.

2660 Lee Rd

Cleveland Hts, OH 44118

Phone: 216-321-6001

Tremont Taphouse: Gastropub in Tremont (near West Side). Quality food that will make your belly happy.

2572 Scranton Road

(216) 298-4451

<http://www.tremonttaphouse.com/>

Ballantine: Gastropub in Willoughby. Tasty cocktails & Belgian-style cuisine (mussels, frites, and the like)

4113 Erie St

Downtown Willoughby, OH 44094

<http://ballantinewilloughby.com/>

Great Lakes Brewing Company: Cleveland's own brewery makes fantastic beer. Look for the Oktoberfest and Christmas Ale when they come out. The brewery also serves up some tasty grub. The company has a reputation for its environmental stewardship. Entrees \$10-20.

2516 Market Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

216.771.4404

<http://www.greatlakesbrewing.com/>

The B Spot: Michael Symon's new burgers and brat extravaganza. Lots of different beers on tap and delicious milkshakes made from locally produced Mitchell's ice cream.

28699 Chagrin Boulevard

Woodmere, OH 44122

<http://www.bspotburgers.com/>

Bottlehouse Brewery: New, popular microbrewery on Lee Rd. Always something going on.

2050 Lee Rd

Cleveland Heights OH

<http://thebottlehousebrewingcompany.com/>

Parnell's: Irish pub located on Lee Rd. Although they serve a few food items, they'll give you a heart attack. Often, people buy pizza across the streets at Dewey's and bring it into Parnell's. Fun place to grab a drink before a movie at Cedar-Lee theater and to throw some darts. Also, a new location downtown in the Theater District.

2167 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-2907

(216) 321-3469

Le Cave du Vin: Known as Le Cave. Excellent atmosphere and very knowledgeable staff. Unique beers on tap and solid wine selection. Located near Coventry.

2785 Euclid Heights Blvd.

Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

216.932.6411

<http://www.lacaveduvin.com/>

Winking Lizard: Popular bar on Coventry, particularly for watching sports. Huge beer selection. Pub grub available.

1852 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-1682

Phone: 216.397.8380

<http://www.winkinglizard.com/data/content/>

### *Breakfast and Brunch locations*

Lucky's Café: Tasty brunch items. Focus on locally grown items. Located in Tremont. Outdoor seating available.

777 Starkweather Ave, Cleveland, OH 44113

(216) 622-7773

<http://www.luckyscafe.com/>

Fire: see above in fine dining.

Yours Truly: Locally owned chain with multiple locations—the closest one to campus is the one in Shaker Square. Straight up, American-style breakfasts.

<http://www.ytr.com/>

Inn on Coventry: Various pancake, omelet, and other breakfast options. Not my personal favorite but popular with many locals. Packed on the weekends.

2785 Euclid Heights Blvd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

(216) 371-1811

Luna Café and Bakery: New in the Cedar-Fairmount district. Pastries, crepes, paninis. Delicious. Always busy.

2482 Fairmount Blvd

Cleveland Heights, OH

(216) 231-8585

<http://lunabakerycafe.com>

### *Bakeries*

One the Rise: Amazing French bakery. Fresh bread, croissants, and other pastries daily (except Monday). Great coffee (just perc, no fancy options). Located close to campus.

3471 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

(216) 320-9923

<http://ontheriseartisanbreads.com/>



Stone Oven: see above in lunch options

Luna Café and Bakery: see above in breakfast options

### *Butcher*

Perhaps this seems like an odd section in such modern times, but if you like a good piece of meat now and then, you should visit:

Mr. Brisket: Seriously high quality meat. Most of his clients are local restaurants and it shows in the quality of what he sells. Also serves tasty (meat forward) sandwiches.

2156 S. Taylor Rd

Cleveland Hts Oh 44118

<http://www.misterbrisket.com/>

### *Ice Cream*

SweetieFry: New establishment in the Cedar-Lee neighborhood serving ice cream and fries. Ice cream made on-site in small batches. Seasonal flavors. Recommended: Butter Pecan, Dark Chocolate, and at the holidays, Candy Cane.

2307 Lee Rd, Cleveland Hts, OH

<http://sweetiefry.com>

### *Wine Shops*

Colonial Wine and Beverage: The owner, Bob Eppich, is fantastic. He has a wide variety of wines, as well as price ranges, and he is extremely knowledgeable about what he sells. Generally, he hosts a monthly tasting with food. This is my top stop in the Cleveland area for wine, even though it's a bit of a hike. Voted #1 wine shop by the readers of Cleveland magazine.

<http://www.tastewine.com/>

Western Reserve Wines: Now located in a new storefront in Solon. Also hosts winetastings.

Good selection of wines, but typically more in the higher price ranges.

<http://www.westernreservewines.com/>

The Wine Spot: New in the Cedar-Lee neighborhood. Weekly wine and beer tastings, as well as beer & wine by the glass. Also shows local art.

2271 Lee Rd., Cleveland Hts

<http://thewinespotonline.com>

Cleveland Wine School: Close to the Heights area. Holds weekly tastings.

<http://www.clevelandwineschool.com/>

## Places to Go

### *Museums*

Cleveland Museum of Art: Newly renovated and free! Large collection of a broad spectrum of art..  
<http://www.clemusart.com/>

The Cleveland Orchestra: Considered one of the top 5 orchestras in the world. The music is phenomenal and the restored Severance Hall is beautiful. Free tickets are sometimes available through the university, as long as you take students with you. During the summer, the Orchestra plays at the Blossom Amphitheater. Buy lawn seats and bring a picnic dinner. For evening concerts, you can bring wine and beer to accompany your meal.  
<http://www.clevelandorchestra.com>

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: They say that Cleveland Rocks, and we have the museum to prove it. Although the entry fee isn't cheap, it's a fun museum. Great for when you have guests in town.  
<http://www.rockhall.com>

Cleveland Museum of Natural History: Lucy's bones were formerly housed here (they now can be observed as a cast of the original). A nice museum with an active research staff. The museum frequently hosts evening lectures.  
<http://cmnh.org/site/Index.aspx>

Cleveland Botanical Gardens: Large outdoor gardens during the spring and summer months and year around indoor tropical and desert gardens. The indoor portion is particularly nice during the cold winter month (it's warm!). Yearly orchid show and holiday show.  
<http://www.cb garden.org/>

The Holden Arboretum: Located in Kirtland, OH, it houses a great collection of plants and sponsors many activities throughout the year. Highly recommended.  
<http://www.holdenarb.org/home/>

Great Lakes Science Center  
<http://www.glsc.org/index.php>

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
<http://www.clemet zoo.com/>

## **Sports**

Sports are HUGE in Cleveland. You can't go very far without bumping into an Indians, Cavs, or Browns fan. Cleveland also has a minor league hockey team. Stay here long enough, and you may discover your inner sports fan, if you haven't already.

Cleveland Indians (baseball)

[http://cleveland.indians.mlb.com/index.jsp?c\\_id=cle](http://cleveland.indians.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=cle)

Cleveland Browns (football)

<http://www.clevelandbrowns.com/>

Cleveland Cavaliers (basketball)

<http://www.nba.com/cavaliers>

Lake Erie Monsters (hockey)

<http://www.lakeerimonsters.com/>

## **Farmers Markets**

Shaker Square: held spring-fall on the Square. Great place to find organic, locally grown meats and produce.

West Side Market: A Cleveland tradition. Produce, meat, fish, cheese, etc. available. Stop by Ohio City Pasta for excellent fresh pasta. Kate's is the best for fresh fish. Also, Urban Herbs is a great source for spices.

<http://www.westsidemarket.com/>

## **Theaters**

Playhouse Square: An historic building in downtown Cleveland, as well as the destination for visiting Broadway productions.

<http://www.playhousesquare.com/>

Cleveland Playhouse: Host of various plays and productions.

<http://www.clevelandplayhouse.com/index.asp>

Beck Center: A great cozy theater in Lakewood showing a variety of plays and musicals.

<http://beckcenter.org/>

Dobama: mainly plays written by local artists

<http://www.dobama.org/>

## **Movie Theaters**

Cleveland Cinemas: This locally-owned set of movie theaters has multiple locations in the Cleveland area.

Cedar-Lee Theater: Specializes in independent films. Monday nights have reduced ticket prices and free popcorn.

Shaker Square Cinemas: Mainstream films. Monday nights have reduced ticket prices and free popcorn.

<http://www.clevelandcinemas.com/default.asp>

Cleveland Cinematheque: Hosted by the Cleveland Institute of Art. Specializes in art house and foreign films.

<http://www.cia.edu/academicResources/cinematheque/cinematheque.php>

Regal Severance Town Center 14

[http://cleveland.citysearch.com/profile/11276050/cleveland\\_heights\\_oh/regal\\_severance\\_town\\_center\\_14.html](http://cleveland.citysearch.com/profile/11276050/cleveland_heights_oh/regal_severance_town_center_14.html)

Regal Cinemas Richmond Town Square 20

<http://cleveland.mrmovietimes.com/movie-theaters/Regal-Cinemas-Richmond-Town-Square-20.html>

## **Hikes, Walks, and Natural Areas**

Near campus: Shaker Lakes (trails around the lake, near Doan Brook, and through the woods); the neighborhoods around Fairmount Blvd. (the houses are huge and beautiful)

The Cleveland Metroparks: Dubbed “The Emerald Necklace”, the greater Cleveland area has a series of parks with hiking trails that encircle the area. My personal favorite is South Chargin Metropark, east of campus.

<http://www.clemetparks.com/>

Cuyahoga Valley National Park: One of the newest national parks and the only one located in Ohio. Lots of hiking options.

<http://www.nps.gov/cuva/>

The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad travels through the CVNP. A beautiful trip particularly in the fall.

<http://www.cvsr.com/>

Mentor Headlands: The longest stretch of undeveloped Lake Erie shoreline in Ohio. I wouldn't recommend swimming here, necessarily, but it's a nice place to relax, have a picnic, and walk through the trails.

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/parks/headlands/tabid/742/Default.aspx>

Triangle Lake Bog: This nature preserve is one of the most beautiful places I have visited in Ohio. Tons of carnivorous plants!

<http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/967/default.aspx>

The Audubon properties near Aurora: frequently have evening and Saturday naturalist programs with knowledgeable folks leading the hikes.

[http://www.clevelandaudubon.org/sanct\\_Novak.htm](http://www.clevelandaudubon.org/sanct_Novak.htm)

### **Live Music Venues**

Beachland Ballroom

<http://www.beachlandballroom.com/>

Agora Theater

<http://www.clevelandagora.com/>

Peabody's Concert Club

<http://www.peabodys.com/>

The Grog Shop

<http://www.grogshop.gs/>

House of Blues Cleveland

<http://www.hob.com/venues/clubvenues/cleveland/>

### **Hardware Stores**

If you bought a house in the area, it's likely not new. I've found that the locally-owned hardware stores are more helpful with house projects associated with older homes.

Cedar Center Hardware: Closest hardware store to campus. It's amazing what they've packed into this space!

1970 Warrensville Center Rd, South Euclid OH 44121

<http://www.cedarcenterhardware.com/>

Dunn Hardware: A little further of a drive, but it has everything.

5144 Willson Mills Road (Richmond road)

Richmond Heights, OH 44143

(440) 720-0301

### **Grocery Stores**

Whole Foods Market

13998 Cedar Rd, University Heights, OH 44118

216.932.3918

<http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/cleveland/index.html>

Fresh Market  
20125 Van Aken Blvd, Shaker Heights, OH 44122  
(216) 283-5774  
<http://www.thefreshmarket.com/>

Zagara's Marketplace  
1940 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights  
<http://www.zagarasmartplace.com/>

Heinen's: Many locations in the Cleveland area—below is the one closest to campus.  
Large selection of kosher items.  
2180 South Green Road, University Heights, OH 44121  
(216) 382-4144  
<http://www.heinens.com/>

### **Looking for a weekend away?**

Pittsburgh: Visit The Phipps Conservatory, take in a Pirates game (they may stink, but the tickets are cheap!), see the museums, shop rei and IKEA...within an hour are Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water and Kentuck Knob.

The Erie Islands: You may need a 3 day wknd, due to the ferries, etc., but for a laid back weekend, grab your bike and head for Kelley's Island.

Hocking Hills: Tons of B & B's can be found in this area of state parks with numerous hiking trails.

Finger Lakes Region, NY: Once again, you may need a long weekend for this trip, but the scenery is pretty and it's fun to sample the wine (even if a lot of it isn't so great). Definitely stick to the whites as much as possible, and watch out for the sugar bombs!

Camping in upstate NY: The NY State Parks definitely have it going on with their campgrounds. Clean, efficient, with great facilities.

Pure Michigan: As a native Michigander, these ads make me seriously miss my homestate. If you have a long weekend (or even a bit longer), you really can't beat the Lake Michigan coastline, and northern Michigan in general. And if you're ready for a car trip, the Upper Peninsula is gorgeous.

Chicago: A 6 hour car trip, or a 1 hour flight, Chicago really is my kind of town. Great public transportation, world class museums, tasty restaurants, all on beautiful Lake Michigan.