ROAMING YETI SIDE QUEST GUIDE TO
Cincinnati, OH

Five years of UC parent weekends, move-in days, and any excuse to visit our daughter taught us one thing: Cincinnati is way more interesting than most people give it credit for.

These are our favorite side quests from those years, the places we kept coming back to, the discoveries we didn't expect, and the things we tell anyone heading to Cincinnati for a game, a convention, a college visit, or just a reason to stop.

You don't need to be a UC parent to appreciate any of this. You just need to be looking for fun things to do in Cincinnati.

Before you roam, be sure to check location hours.

View Locations in Google Maps

Want more?
Find all our Cincinnati blog posts and episodes at:
https://theroamingyeti.com/tag/cincinnati/

ROAMING YETI SIDE QUEST GUIDE TO:

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Cincinnati Zoo

https://cincinnatizoo.org/

One of the top-rated zoos in the country and home to the world's most popular hippo bloat.

American Sign Museum

https://www.americansignmuseum.org/

Museum dedicated entirely to the history of signs, including a huge variety of neon. Feels like a journey through American visual culture.

Jungle Jim's International Market

https://junglejims.com/

A 200,000 square foot international grocery store with animatronics, themed sections, and food from every corner of the world. It's not just a grocery store. It's a destination.

Cincinnati Museum Center

https://www.cincymuseum.org/

Housed in the stunning Art Deco Union Terminal, the Museum Center is home to multiple museums under one roof. The building inspired the Hall of Justice.

Loveland Castle

https://lovelandcastle.com/

A medieval castle built entirely by hand by one man in the middle of Ohio. One of those places that makes you say "wait, that's real?"

Kings Island

https://www.sixflags.com/kingsisland

One of the best regional amusement parks in the country. We took a break during move-in weekend, and it was so fun.

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Over the Rhine and Findlay Market

https://downtowncincinnati.com/districts/over-the-rhine/

Findlay Market gets all the attention, and deservedly so, but the whole neighborhood is worth wandering through. Great breweries, restaurants, and independent shops.

Hidden Caverns Tour — American Legacy Tours

https://www.americanlegacytours.com/hiddencaverns

An underground tour of Cincinnati's historic beer caverns. The city literally has a hidden world beneath it. Book in advance.

Murphy's Pub

https://murphys-pub.com/

A beloved Cincinnati bar near the UC campus. On October 6th 1989, Nirvana played here for $3 before anyone knew who they were.

Rhinegeist Brewery

https://rhinegeist.com/

Located in the heart of Over the Rhine in a stunning historic building. Beer garden feel, great energy, and right in the middle of all the action. The rooftop is a must.

MadTree Brewing

https://madtree.com/

Cincinnati's neighborhood brewery. Great beer, great food, and the kind of place that feels like it belongs to the community.

Fifty West Brewing

https://www.fiftywestbrew.com/

A road trip vibe brewery east of the city with sand volleyball courts and curling in the winter. A completely different feel from the urban breweries — worth the drive.

WHAT TO EAT IN:
Cincinnati, OH

Snack Society Field Notes - Cincinnati Foods

Cincinnati Chili
Cincinnati chili is not chili in the traditional sense.

It was created in 1922 by Tom and John Kiradjieff, Greek immigrants who began serving a Mediterranean-spiced meat stew over spaghetti at a small stand next to a burlesque theater called the Empress. It's rooted in Greek cuisine, not Texas chili; think cinnamon, allspice, and clove rather than cumin and peppers.

How to order:

- 2-way — chili over spaghetti
- 3-way — add shredded cheddar piled high (the move)
- 4-way — add onions or beans
- 5-way — everything

Find it at Skyline, Gold Star, or just about any other restaurant in the city. Try it at least once.

Graeter's Ice Cream
Graeter's has been making ice cream in Cincinnati since 1870, and the process hasn't changed much since. They use a French pot method that yields only 2.5 gallons per batch, so it literally cannot be mass-produced. The result is a denser, creamier ice cream than anything you'll find at a chain.

The black raspberry chocolate chip is the iconic flavor and worth trying for the experience. But if you're visiting UC, order the Boldly Bearcat — a UC-themed flavor that feels exactly right for the occasion. Midnight Snack is another favorite.

There are locations throughout the city. You won't have to look far.