A Self-Guided Walking Tour
of the central Columbus campus

Ohio State boasts some of the nation’s finest facilities for students. We invite you to join the many students, faculty, and staff who crisscross campus every day. Feel free to enter any building that interests you, but please do not enter classrooms if they are in session. You can complete this tour in about an hour and a half. Enjoy your visit!

1. Ohio Union is the heart of student life, featuring 50 student organization offices, an instructional kitchen, the Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, meeting facilities of all sizes, Sloopy’s Diner and other eating options, a retail shop, and lots of places to study and relax. Also located at the Ohio Union: the Undergraduate Admissions Visits and Events Suite, the Multicultural Center, and Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement. Plenty to explore here!

2. Orton Hall was named for Ohio State’s first president, Edward Orton, and was built in 1893 using 40 types of Ohio building stone. Orton houses the bell tower chimes—14 bells weighing more than 25,000 pounds—that ring at the top of every hour and each quarter hour. Stop by the Geology Library and the Orton Geological Museum (and gift shop) to check out minerals, fossils, crystals, and more.

3. Mendenhall Laboratory first opened in 1905 and is the current home of the Department of Geological Sciences. Check out the “fossil-like” design of the floor in the main lobby. This building also houses the Writing Center, where the university community gets help with research papers, lab reports, dissertations, and resumes.

4. Hagerty Hall, home of the World Media and Culture Center, houses several academic departments, foreign language laboratories, and an international media library.

5. Page Hall opened in 1902 and is recognized by its classic architectural elements, including grand Ionic columns. These architectural elements were preserved when it was renovated to house the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. Check out the John Glenn Museum in the lower level (there’s even a piece of the moon).

6. Wexner Center for the Arts is an internationally renowned research lab and center for contemporary art, film, dance, and other performances. As members of the center, Ohio State students are entitled to discount tickets and other benefits. Admission to the galleries is $8 (free for 18 and under). While you’re there, stop by the Wexner Center shop or grab a bite at Heirloom.

7. The Oval is the open grassy area stretching from Thompson Library to College Road, has symbolized Ohio State to students and visitors for generations. At the heart of campus, the Oval is a favorite place for reading, relaxing, tapping into the wireless network, and meeting friends. Tradition has it that if you take the “Long Walk” from the seal at the east end to the William Oxley Thompson statue on the west end holding hands with your loved one, you’ll be together forever.

8. Hopkins Hall is home to fine art, industrial design, and art education classes. Visit the Hopkins Hall Gallery to view exhibits by faculty, students, and visiting artists. Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

9. Bricker Hall houses the Office of the President and other administrative offices. The Bricker Hall Exhibit Area (first and second floors) regularly features university collections, artifacts, and the work of university artists. A little-known fact: the ashes of a former university trustee are buried in a wall here.

10. The 18th Avenue Library, one of Ohio State’s 17 libraries, is open 24/7 and houses one of the 20 computer labs on campus.

11. Scott Laboratory, one of the newest buildings on campus, features three buildings joined by an elevated walkway. Home to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Scott Lab houses several computer labs, an electronics lab, and a machine shop for class projects.

12. 18th and Neil stop: If you happen to stop here while classes are changing, you’ll witness the hustle and bustle of campus as students head to class, to the RPAC (20) for a workout, to lunch at one of the many dining locations in the area, or back home.
13 Look to the north to see part of the Fisher College of Business campus, which includes the Blackwell, our four-star hotel.

14 Student Academic Services Building: Home of Undergraduate Admissions and the Student Service Center. SSC is a one-stop shop for taking care of Buckeye business related to financial aid, fee payment, and student records.

15 Toward the northwest corner, you can see the tip of an all-white marble building—this is Knowlton Hall, home to the School of Architecture and KSA Cafe. You may want to check out the roof garden, accessible from the fourth floor.

16 You can also see the Journalism Building from this corner. Whether you’re a journalism major or not, you can contribute to one of Ohio’s oldest newspapers, The Lantern. The back of the building houses the campus post office.

17 University Hall is a replica of Ohio State’s first building, which was built in 1873. The tower clock, entrance, and pillars are from the original building. The new structure, opened in 1976, houses the Graduate School and other academic departments. Check out the University Museum to learn more Ohio State history.

18 The William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, Ohio State’s main library, hosts thousands of students daily. After a three-year renovation, the library is now home to 1.25 million volumes of books, 230 computers, 1,800 study seats, and the Berry Cafe. Be sure to check out the Campus Reading Room on the top floor to see spectacular views of campus and downtown Columbus.
Ohio Stadium, completed in 1922, was the first horseshoe-shaped, double-deck stadium in the United States. Nicknamed “The ‘Shoe,” the stadium was renovated in 2001 and now holds approximately 105,000 wildly cheering Buckeyes.

The Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) is the largest collegiate recreation center in the nation. Staying fit is easy with 12 basketball courts, 10 racquetball courts, 25,000 square feet of fitness space, an indoor running track, and lots more. Students also get a splash out of the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion, taking advantage of the pools, diving well, 25-person hot tub, and saunas. You can get a visitors pass to tour the facility at the RPAC Welcome Desk.

Mirror Lake, originally fed by a natural spring, figured prominently in the site selection for the university. Mirror Lake Hollow includes Browning Amphitheatre, Bucket and Dipper Rock, the Faculty Club, and Pomerene Hall—all great campus landmarks.

Mirror Lake Creamery and Grill, located in Pomerene Hall, is one of the many dining spots Ohio State has to offer, serving up authentic favorites like burgers, subs, and ice cream.

Oxley Hall is home to the Office of International Affairs (OIA). OIA facilitates international opportunities for Ohio State students and faculty and makes educational resources accessible for the campus, our international guests, and the community beyond. Come to Oxley Hall when you’re ready to study abroad.

The Kuhn Honors and Scholars House, former home of university presidents, is home to the University Honors and Ohio State Scholars Programs. If you look closely, you might notice that the back of the building faces the street. The building was originally slated for the other side of 12th Avenue, but when they decided to cross over to the current plot, the architect neglected to turn the plan around!

Campus-adjacent areas to explore:

- West of the Olentangy River, north of Lane Avenue
  - Schottenstein Center/Value City Arena – home to the basketball and hockey Buckeyes
  - Longaberger Alumni House—home to The Ohio State University Alumni Association
  - Jack Nicklaus Golf Museum
  - Woody Hayes Athletic Center
  - Bill Davis Baseball Stadium
  - Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium (track and field)
  - Buckeye Field (softball)

South Campus Gateway is located on High Street between 9th and Chittenden Avenues. Here you’ll find Barnes & Noble – The Ohio State University Bookstore, retail shops, art galleries, offices, a unique array of restaurants and nightclubs, the Gateway Film Center, and convenient, inexpensive parking.

Lennox Town Center, just west of the river and SR315, features shops, restaurants, and a 24-screen movie theater.

For added safety and convenience, emergency blue-light phones are located all around campus.