

MIZZOU

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Living and lifestyle

From libraries to road trips to historic architecture, here's what you need to know to make Columbia your home away from home. Check out our living and lifestyle picks below, organized by [neighborhoods](#), [road trips](#), [institutions](#) and [historic homes](#). Did we miss something? Let us know: [facebook](#) [Join MIZZOU magazine on Facebook](#).



Neighborhoods

Central Columbia has a number of distinct neighborhoods, says local Realtor Brent Gardner, BA '86. His picks:

- Orr Street artist district: On the northeast edge of downtown, renovated buildings house artists' studios and loft apartments for upscale singles living.
- East campus: A roughly 50-50 mixture of student renters and townies populate this high-energy area with many older homes.
- Grasslands: Just west of campus, this neighborhood with a gated-community feeling includes some architect-designed homes, including one valued at \$1 million.
- Old Southwest: Also west of campus, this eclectic area shelters many MU professors, local professionals and some old-money Columbia families.

- Quarry Heights: Built around a limestone quarry (now a spring-fed swimming hole) that supplied stone for the White Campus, Quarry Heights boasts its own park along a fitness trail that runs to campus.

Goin' downtown | discoverthedistrict.com

Downtown Columbia, aka The District, bustles all day. Coffee shops open early, the lunch bunch flows into restaurants midday, and bars and clubs rock the night away. Columbia's mixture of bricks and mortar includes historic architecture, loft apartments, live theater, coffee shops, sidewalk cafés and varied retail stores. The official count is 110 shops, 70 bars and restaurants, 45 live performances weekly, and 5,900 parking spots. For an "only in a college town" shopping experience, try Cool Stuff, an eclectic international collection of toys, gifts, trinkets, beads and beer-making materials at 808 E. Broadway.



Road trips

Arrow Rock

A quaint, historic downtown with great entertainment at the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, 45-minute drive

Central Dairy | 610 Madison St., Jefferson City | 573-635-6148

Ice cream made in mid-Missouri, 35-minute drive

Kansas City

The city of fountains, museums, professional sports, dining, shopping and barbecue, two-hour drive

Lake of the Ozarks

A lake resort region offering boating, golf, shopping, dining, camping, fishing and a range of accommodations from state parks to fine hotels, 75-minute drive

Les Bourgeois Vineyards | 14020 W. Highway BB, Rocheport | 573-698-2133

Locally made wine and fine dining overlooking the Missouri River valley, 15-minute drive

Mark Twain's hometown | Hannibal

The town of Hannibal, Twain's boyhood home, offers museums, special events and Twain impersonators, 110-minute drive

St. Louis

Gateway to the west, a historic river city on the mighty Mississippi, two-hour drive

The National Churchill Museum | 501 Westminster Ave., Fulton | 573-592-5369

Site of Winston Churchill's famous "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946, housed in relocated 1677 church by Christopher Wren, 30-minute drive

Thomas Hart Benton's murals | 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City | 573-751-3659

Native son Thomas Hart Benton's controversial 1936 murals of Missouri life grace the walls of a room in the state Capitol, 35-minute drive

Institutions

Education | gocolumbiamo.com

Columbia is Collegetown USA, and you can't fling a Frisbee without hitting one of the city's three institutions of higher learning: MU, Columbia College and Stephens College. The K-12 crowd attends Columbia Public Schools and a small number of private schools. Here's the school tally:

- 21 public elementary schools
- 11 parochial and private schools
- 4 special-needs training facilities
- 3 public middle schools
- 3 public junior high schools
- 3 public high schools
- 2 private colleges
- 1 land-grant university (Mizzou)
- 1 area vocational technical school

Hospitals | gocolumbiamo.com

Local health care facilities include Boone Hospital Center, and University of Missouri Health Care, a network of hospitals and clinics in town and across the state. A snapshot:

- 6 hospitals
- 802 physicians, including
 - 51 osteopaths
- 94 dentists
- 2,430 registered nurses
- 655 licensed practical nurses
- 10 residential care facilities
- 1 intermediate care facility
- 9 skilled nursing facilities

Libraries | mulibraries.missouri.edu | dbri.org

MU's libraries contain more than 2.7 million volumes, 6.3 million microforms, 1.7 million government documents and 23,600 periodicals. The Columbia Public Library's lively contemporary building at 100 W. Broadway is graced by native Missouri stone, including red granite from near Elephant Rocks State Park.

Spiritual life | gocolumbiamo.com

Columbia's vibrant spiritual community offers dozens of places of worship, including major denominational and nondenominational congregations. Locals are thinking of the steeple at right when they refer to the First Baptist Church at 1112 E. Broadway as the Donald Duck church.

Historic homes

The Residence on Francis Quadrangle

The residence sits on the oldest public university campus west of the Mississippi River and has hosted many national and international figures, including Mark Twain. Chancellor Brady J. Deaton and wife Anne live there now.

Peanut brittle houses | Westmount Avenue

In 1906, three MU professors acted as their own contractors to build houses for themselves made of homemade concrete blocks finished with a veneer of local stone. They were Winterton Curtis, a zoologist known for his role in the Scopes Monkey Trial; E.R. Hedrick, a mathematician; and M.S. Wildman, an economist. The homes have maintained ties to MU faculty throughout the years.

J.W. Blind Boone home | 10 N. Fourth St.

The home of pianist John William "Blind" Boone in downtown Columbia is under renovation. Boone was a popular performer in the early 20th century in the U.S. and Canada. His programs of classical, plantation and religious songs "bridged the gap between classical and popular and also brought white and black culture together," according to biographer Lucille Salerno.

Boone Junction History Village | 3801 Ponderosa St.

In Nifong Park in southeast Columbia sits a still-growing collection of historic local buildings: Maplewood, an elegant brick 1877 farmstead; the Gordon-Collins cabin, an 1821 log cabin that housed the David Gordon family while a larger house was built for them; the Easley Store, originally built in 1890 on the banks of the Missouri River; and a 1949 Lustron prefabricated home.



Hickman house | New Franklin, Mo.

Built in 1819, the Thomas Hickman House is one of Missouri's oldest intact brick houses. It sits on a hilltop at the University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, Mo. The restored 1,800-square-foot Georgian cottage is just two miles from the site where the legendary Santa Fe Trail started in 1821.

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Published by MIZZOU magazine, 109 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-5916 |
E-mail: Mizzou@missouri.edu

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