THE VILLAGE OF ADA

Experience all that small-town living has to offer – the friendly people, the festivals, the varied restaurants and shops, and the memories that last a lifetime. Ada is a short road trip away from many prime destinations: Columbus is 1.5 hours, Cleveland and Cincinnati are 2.5 hours, and Chicago is 4.5 hours. Bluffton, located about 15 minutes away, has main street shops offering everything from specialty popcorn to crafts from developing countries. Findlay and Lima, both mid-sized cities, are 20 to 30 minutes down the road from Ada and offer expanded shopping, culture and dining.

ARTS AND CULTURE

The arts come alive at the Freed Center for the Performing Arts on ONU’s campus. Every year, the Freed Center brings acts to campus, and showcases the talents of ONU students with music ensemble concerts, theatre productions and dance performances. Be sure to catch the ONU Holiday Spectacular - a beloved tradition for more than 25 years! Also on campus, two art galleries - the Elzay Gallery of Art on Gilbert Street and the Stambaugh Studio Theatre Gallery adjacent to the Freed Center - give local, regional and national artists the chance to showcase their work.

DINING AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Perhaps during an all-night study session, you need a Big Mac or Doritos Locos taco. We’ve got you covered. Three fast food restaurants - McDonald’s, Taco Bell and Subway - are located in town, and they’re open late. Ada also has three pizza shops - Padrone’s Pizza, famous for its Wild Wednesday specials, East of Chicago Pizza, and 3 Brothers Pizza, which also serves ice cream.

Craving Mexican or Chinese cuisine? You’ll find restaurants that cater to your whims just minutes from campus. El Campo (very popular with the campus crowd) and Jalapenos Mexican Grille specialize in cuisine from south of the border. New China serves all your favorite Chinese stir-fries. Tavern 101 features some of your grill favorites including its burgers and breakfast specials. The Cask Room serves craft beverages and the Regal Beagle is popular with students. No Limit Nutrition is a one-stop shop for nutritious shakes and herbal teas. You can enjoy specialty coffee, espresso and pastries at Buckeye East.

Starbucks at Northern offers a range of exceptional products - coffees, teas and sandwiches - to enjoy in our store, at home and on-the-go. An ideal meeting spot, it’s always packed with students and professors. If you desire an upscale, but relaxed ambiance, The Inn at Ohio Northern University on campus is perfect for a date night or special evening out.

And, you’ll never leave hungry at McIntosh Center Dining Hall, which serves food for every appetite, from made-to-order subs, pizzas and pastas, to freshly-tossed salads, to Mongolian-style stir fries. Northern Lights Cafe (in Heterick Memorial Library) serves Starbucks-brand coffee and smoothies.

For out-of-town guests, The Inn at Ohio Northern features an elegant design and comfortable accommodations. Located on the ONU campus, only steps away from the vibrant campus life, it’s the preferred hotel for business, leisure, faculty, sports, alumni and family guests.
EVENTS AND FESTIVALS
Ada embraces every season with fun for all ages. In September, the Harvest and Herb Festival draws people from throughout the region for a parade, homemade food, handcrafted items, fresh herbs and produce, music, and activities.

During the holidays, Ada is bedecked with lights and decorations. Live music events at Depot Park are often paired with chicken barbecues or ice cream socials. Nothing is more refreshing than summertime in a small town! The summer months feature the Farmers & Merchants Picnic in the War Memorial Park, the Made in Ada Wilson Football Festival, and the Lima Symphony Orchestra celebrates the Fourth of July with a free “Patriotic Pops” concert on the Ohio Northern University campus.

RECREATION
If you like to bike, jog or walk, check out the infamous Green Monster, an emerald paved trail that offers spectacular views of nature, the changing seasons, and American western art on the Remington Walk. You’ll also find a great disc golf course on the campus.

For entertainment, the Ada Theatre runs the latest blockbuster films with ticket and popcorn prices that won’t break your piggy bank. Bowling enthusiasts can knock down pins at Norada Lanes. And if you like to shop, there are boutique shops like the Gallery of the Arts, The Mercantile on Main, Ruthie’s Boarding Room and Whatever Cards & Games, a hobby-based games retailer. You’ll find several golf courses – Colonial Golfers Club, Hidden Creek Golf and Bluffton Golf Club – in the area. YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine offers a variety of equestrian activities and camps.

The ONU Bookstore offers all your favorite Polar Bear gear. The Inn’s Gift Shop is the perfect choice when you need to buy something special and unique.

The War Memorial Park features a swimming pool, playground equipment, picnic shelters, ball fields and more.

Wilson Football factory is Ada’s claim to fame. Every football used in every Super Bowl has been made here. Production is all done by hand. Every football is cut, sewn, steamed and laced by a local worker. Tours are available by appointment.

The village of Ada offers a number of service-oriented groups such as Ada Kiwanis Club, Ada Rotary Club and Ada Lions Club.