



**INSIDER
GUIDES**
from VisitTheUSA

GREAT NORTH MUSIC TOUR

ILLINOIS – MICHIGAN – OHIO – PENNSYLVANIA – NEW YORK – MASSACHUSETTS

GREAT NORTH MUSIC TOUR



Chicago, Illinois to Detroit, Michigan

4 hours and 30 minutes/455 kilometres

Detroit, Michigan to Cleveland, Ohio

2 hours and 45 minutes/274 kilometres

Cleveland, Ohio to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2 hours and 15 minutes/214 kilometres

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

4 hours and 45 minutes/489 kilometres

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to New York City, New York

1 hour and 45 minutes/151 kilometres

New York City, New York to Boston, Massachusetts

3 hours and 45 minutes/346 kilometres

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Day 1

Chicago's music history is firmly rooted in Jazz and Blues, but the diverse music scene offers a variety of genres as well as a thriving musical theater hub and the famous annual **Lollapalooza** and **Pitchfork** festivals. Continuing a tradition that began in 1907, take in a Jazz or Big Band performance at the **Green Mill Cocktail Lounge**. Muddy Waters and Buddy Guy were among musicians who developed the legendary Chicago Blues style; see Guy still performing every January in his **Legends** club. A

big city, of course, needs big venues for touring shows; top acts fill up the **United Center**, **Allstate Arena** and the **Chicago Theatre**. The city is a melting pot, and the pedigrees are reflected on local stages. See eclectic lineups and up-and-coming performers on small stages in the **Wicker Park**, **Bucktown**, **Lincoln Park** and **Logan Square** neighborhoods.

Accommodation: 2 Nights in Chicago, Illinois

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Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Illinois



 4 hours and 30 minutes/455 kilometres

birthplace of Motown music. At the **Motown Museum**, view artifacts and see where music icons such as Stevie Wonder, the Supremes and Marvin Gaye recorded hits in the 1960s heyday. Other acts with Detroit roots include Alice Cooper, Eminem and Jack White. Jazz lovers can hear live music nightly at **Cliff Bell's**, a legendary, restored art-deco nightclub. From tunes by established Hip-Hop artists to the classic sounds of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, a variety of first-rate music is played in Detroit.

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN TO CLEVELAND, OHIO

● ● ● ● ● ● ● 2 hours and 45 minutes/274 kilometres

Day 5

Follow the shores of **Lake Erie**, one of the Great Lakes, to Toledo, Ohio, where a stop to view masterworks and the **Glass Pavilion** at the **Toledo Museum of Art** will not disappoint. For a more daring outing, drive about an hour to **Cedar Point Amusement Park** for thrill rides on nearly 20 roller coasters. Continue on to Cleveland, where the phrase “rock ‘n’ roll” was coined by a radio disc jockey. Spot the distinct I.M. Pei-designed pyramid-shaped building on the Lake Erie waterfront and go inside the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**.

Wander through several floors to see permanent and temporary exhibits and learn about the biggest Rock music acts. While Cleveland has an amazing tale of musical history, it also has a vibrant music scene today at venues such as **Beachland Ballroom & Tavern** and the **Music Box Supper Club**.

Accommodation: 2 Nights in Cleveland, Ohio

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Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Ohio



 2 hours and 15 minutes/214 kilometres

Del Vikings and others started singing Doo Wop, again putting Pittsburgh on the musical map. The Pop, Rock and Rap genres also have roots in the city with Christina Aguilera, Chris Frantz of the Talking Heads, Bret Michaels and Wiz Khalifa. Venues to see Pittsburgh's newest up-and-comers include **Brillobox**, **Park House** and **Club Cafe**. For bigger shows, check out **Stage AE**, **Heinz Hall** or **PPG Paints Arena**.

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● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● 4 hours and 45 minutes/489 kilometres

Day 8

From Pittsburgh, travel through the **Pennsylvania Amish Country** for a glimpse into the horse-and-buggy lifestyle before arriving in bustling Philadelphia, known as the birthplace of the USA because that's where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were signed. Among the most iconic of the city's performance venues is the **Academy of Music**, established in 1857. Since 1924, composers and performers from throughout the world, including Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Barber, have trained at the **Curtis Institute of Music** in Rittenhouse Square. When you enjoy a **Philadelphia Orchestra** concert, take note that half of its musicians graduated from Curtis. Philadelphia singers such as Frankie Avalon and Chubby Checker put the city at the forefront in the early years of rock 'n' roll, and Dick Clark exposed Philadelphia as a cutting-edge music city through

the TV show “American Bandstand” that aired for nearly 40 years. Hum the melody of Elton John’s 1975 song “Philadelphia Freedom” as you view some of the 4,000 murals throughout the city, then attend a free concert at the outdoor Piazza at **Schmidts** in the **Northern Liberties** downtown neighborhood near the Delaware River. Immerse yourself in local culture at one of the many outdoor festivals, including the summer concert series at the **Great Plaza** at Penn’s Landing on the riverfront, or the **Made in America Festival** the first weekend in September on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Prefer the indoors? Venues large and small continue the centuries-old tradition of making great music in a variety of genres.

Accommodation: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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**World Cafe Live, Pennsylvania**

 3 hours and 45 minutes/346 kilometres

In a city that played a prominent role in the birth of the USA in the 1700s, historic buildings dot the Boston cityscape, but there is nothing old-fashioned about the music scene. Look to the power era of the 1960s through the 1990s that set the pace with several Boston acts creeping to national prominence – James Taylor, Joan Baez, Donna Summer, Boston, The Cars, Aerosmith, New Edition and New Kids on the Block. The heart of New England pulses with pumped-up volume in the established Punk, Metal and Hard-Core scenes. With 35 colleges, universities and community colleges in Boston, there's always an audience to hear emerging new artists in a variety of genres. Some of those musicians might be students at **Berklee College of Music** performing at intimate

venues like **Atwood's Tavern**, **Great Scott** or the **Lizard Lounge**. Venture to the waterfront **Seaport District** for dining, lodging, breweries and a plethora of bars and pubs featuring live music. Catch big-name touring acts at the **Bank of American Pavilion** at the Boston Harbor or the **Comcast Center amphitheater** in Mansfield. Tone it down with a classy night enjoying the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** or **Boston Lyric Opera**. Kick it up a notch and head to the **Hatch Shell** along the Charles River for Fourth of July festivities and to see fireworks synchronized to the music of the **Boston Pops Orchestra**.

Accommodation: Boston, Massachusetts

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