



# Wheelchair Getaways®

Quarterly Customer Newsletter

April 2004



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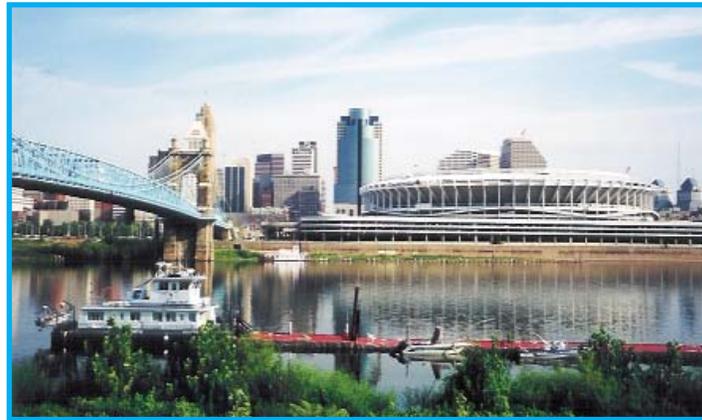
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## Welcome to the Buckeye State! Wheelchair accessible attractions in the great state of Ohio!

Ohio is the perfect blend of urban culture and small town hospitality, making this state a perfect place to plan a fun-filled vacation for all ages and abilities. With countless theme parks, museums, historical sites, and nightspots, the only trip-planning problem you'll have is knowing where to start!

If you are a nature buff, plan a day trip to the Newport Aquarium and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. The Newport Aquarium is an amazing indoor aquarium, with more than 1 million gallons of water hosting 7,000 marine animals. Situated on the Ohio River, the Newport Aquarium boasts one of the world's five seamless underwater tunnels, as well as one of the country's largest open-air shark viewing tanks. Best of all, the aquarium is completely wheelchair accessible, with wheelchairs available at no charge, and no minimum for special needs groups. Plus, the aquarium provides one free ticket for every guest that needs one-on-one assistance. The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, located just ten minutes from the aquarium, has over 500 animal species and over 3,000 types of plants to amaze visitors. The zoo and garden are both wheelchair accessible.

After a day at the aquarium and the zoo, how about enjoying a game at the ballpark? Ohio is home to the Cincinnati Bengals and the Cincinnati Reds. Both stadiums are wheelchair accessible and tickets for regular season home games are available at both stadiums' ticket offices. Another sport spot that can't be missed during your trip to Ohio is the Pro



**Ohio is the perfect destination for a fun-filled family vacation for people of all ages and abilities.**

Football Hall of Fame. Located in Canton, OH, the Pro Football Hall of Fame stands as a shrine to all the old football greats. The museum, interactive games, and gift shop make a trip to the Hall of Fame fun for all ages. The Pro Football Hall of Fame is wheelchair accessible and provides free parking to all vehicles.

Another Hall of Fame that is more than worth visiting in Ohio, is the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. The Hall of Fame's website states, "Made up of thousands of priceless artifacts, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum's permanent collection has become the repository for the most important and rare items of rock's most celebrated artists." Visitors can travel through rock and roll history on three floors of exhibits, with all floors wheelchair accessible. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has a limited number of wheelchairs available, so be sure to check the availability of wheelchairs before you go, if you will need one provided.

For a more unique experience, take a Riverboat Cruise on the Ohio River. The Delta Queen Riverboat Cruise offers a wheelchair accessible riverboat cruise through Cincinnati, allowing passengers to enjoy the city from the relaxing deck of a ship. Cincinnati "City Scape" packages include one night at the Hilton® Netherland Plaza (or equivalent), breakfast, city tour and one-way transfers between airport, hotel and vessel.

Whether visiting one of the state's many museums or munching on some famous "Five-Way Chili", you can only enjoy all that Ohio has to offer if you have a reliable means of transportation. For information on safe and convenient accessible van rentals in Ohio, contact Wheelchair Getaways of Ohio toll-free at (800) 398-5165 or visit their website at [www.wheelchairgetaways.com](http://www.wheelchairgetaways.com). Wheelchair Getaways of Ohio provides wheelchair accessible van rentals throughout the state.

**Catch us at the Abilities Expo New York Metro in NJ April 16-18!**

## “Getting in the Swing of Wheelchair Dancing”

by Ann Bransom

When finding a new hobby, it can be difficult to balance fun and reward with accessible and inclusive. If you are interested in trying something new and exciting with your partner, or just by yourself, wheelchair dancing might be for you! Wheelchair dancing caught on in the 80's and has spread like wildfire. It might surprise some people to know that practically any style of dance can be performed in a wheelchair. From waltz, ballroom, and square dancing to the samba, cha-cha, and rumba, wheelchair and scooter users are joining the dance community in every way!

Wheelchair dancing can be performed in several different ways, including: combi, duo, group, and single styles. Combi is when a wheelchair user and an able-bodied partner dance together, while duo is when both partners are wheelchair users. Group and single styles are also very popular. Many dance companies nationwide offer wheelchair dancing, but there are several that actually specialize in it. Adaptive Dancing, a Colorado based company, has been giving wheelchair dance lessons since 2000. Adaptive Dancing specializes in combi dancing, and has developed ways for wheelchair users to do dances such as the waltz, swing, and cha-cha! They have also choreographed line dances that can be performed by wheelchair and able-bodied dancers alike. In addition to dance lessons, Adaptive Dancing gives demonstrations all over the country and also has an impressive line of videotapes and manuals. Short video demonstrations can be accessed on their website at [www.adaptivedancing.com](http://www.adaptivedancing.com).



**Nancy and Leo Whaley having fun wheelchair dancing at PA DanceSport Ballroom.**

Another company devoted to bringing dancing to the disabled community is Axis Dance Company, located out of Oakland, CA. Axis Dance Company, founded in 1987, has been giving performances, demonstrations, and lectures on wheelchair dancing for almost 20 years. The dance group consists of 10 members, directed by choreographer, Judith Smith, and has performed as far away as Germany and Siberia. In addition to a busy performance schedule, Axis Dance Company does outreach programs such as school assembly and classroom presentations, workshops for health and educational professors, and in-studio programs for kids as well as adults. Other wheelchair dance companies include Full Radius Dance Company, Dancing Wheels, and Danceability. Please see bottom for contact information.

If you are a person with a competitive edge, wheelchair dancing is not only a leisure activity, but also a competitive sport. While Wheelchair Dance Sport was only recently classified as an International Paralympic sport in 1998, the first international wheelchair dance competition took place in Sweden in 1977. According to the International Paralympic Committee's website, 4,000 wheelchair users and 1,500 able-bodied dancers participate in wheelchair dance both recreationally and com-

petitively in over 40 countries. Currently wheelchair dance competitions use the combi style of dancing, and dances include both standard (waltz, tango, viennese waltz, slowfox, quickstep) and Latin American dances (samba, cha-cha, rumba, paso doble, jive).

Even if you don't have a wheelchair dance studio in your area, chances are local dance studios will have some working knowledge of wheelchair dance and might just be waiting for generated interest. If you still can't find an instructor near you, don't be discouraged. Wheelchair Getaways of Pennsylvania franchisees, Nancy and Leo Whaley, inquired about wheelchair dancing and were told that there was no way that people in power wheelchairs could dance together. "I accepted this response as a challenge," said Nancy, "I choreographed several maneuvers my husband and I could, with practice, negotiate in time to the music." Leo and Nancy were successful at developing several dance "steps" that they could do together, including their favorite, the waltz "step." They are currently working on choreographing the cha-cha. In need of a larger ballroom dance floor, Nancy and Leo joined the USA Ballroom Dancers Association and DanceSport, a local ballroom and dance center, where they go weekly to enjoy dancing. Mark Dostalick, co-owner of PA DanceSport Ballroom, said of the Whaleys, "Nancy and Leo are as welcome at PA DanceSport Ballroom as anyone else who loves to dance. The Whaleys continue to amaze and show us that limitations are a matter of attitude and not of legs, feet, or wheelchairs."

Leo and Nancy recently took a cruise and danced together every night on the ship and in various clubs, where they became affectionately known as the Royal Caribbean dancers. "Dancing is something I longed to do since I was a teenager," Nancy said, "Finally in my golden years I enjoy swinging and swaying around the dance floor with my husband."

Remember; don't let a disability keep you from getting out and enjoying all that life has to offer. Wheelchair dancing is great exercise, a good way to build confidence, and just plain fun. If you need transportation to get to and from the dance hall, simply contact your local Wheelchair Getaways franchise about an accessible van rental. Try wheelchair dancing today!

*For more information about the wheelchair dance studios listed in this article, visit their websites: [www.adaptivedancing.com](http://www.adaptivedancing.com) (Adaptive Dancing Company), [www.axisdance.org](http://www.axisdance.org) (Axis Dance Company), [www.fullradiusdance.org](http://www.fullradiusdance.org) (Full Radius Dance Company), [www.ggreg.com](http://www.ggreg.com) (Dancing Wheels), [www.padancesport.com](http://www.padancesport.com) ( Pennsylvania DanceSport), and [www.danceability.com](http://www.danceability.com) (Danceability). For more information on competitive wheelchair dance, visit the Wheelchair Dance Sport section of the International Paralympic Committee website at [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org).*

## "Cruising on Wheels" by Nancy Whaley

Cruising is the way to go for an exciting, entertaining, enjoyable, accessible vacation.

From the moment you approach the port, you enter a world of unbelievable wheelchair accessibility. My husband and I have enjoyed 10 cruise vacations on four different cruise lines and find Royal Caribbean to be the ultimate in accessibility.

As we enter the port, we are whisked out of the long line waiting to go through security and are processed at the VIP check-in desk. The personnel are most helpful in expediting the boarding process and in treating all passengers with dignity and respect. After this brief screening, we are personally escorted to the ship via ramps and elevators, and our dream vacation begins.

As we entered our assigned stateroom, we were pleasantly surprised to find the cabin relatively large and unusually accessible. Our cabin had a king sized bed with adequate space on both sides to park our two power chairs beside the bed for nighttime charging. Light switches and an emergency call button are conveniently located at the head of the bed. The closet has a pull-down bar for reaching to hang clothing. The bathroom is designed to meet the special needs of most wheelchair users. The room has a large roll-in shower with a wall hung bench,

*"From the moment you approach the port, you enter a world of unbelievable wheelchair accessibility."*

absolutely no "lip" to negotiate, a curtain that can be left open for more space in the stall area, and an adjustable shower head and faucet. The toilet is wall hung at wheelchair height and has front and side access with fold-back grab bars. The sink is a little high for short people, but certainly has adequate knee room for wheelchair users. An additional feature in the bathroom is a telephone and an emergency call button.

The entire ship is a haven for wheelchair users. Hallways are wide enough to turn around in a chair, most of the doors to the decks are automatic, all public restrooms have automatic doors to open the door and to enter the handicapped stalls, and there are many elevators large enough to accommodate two chairs and many standing passengers. Elevator buttons are perfectly placed for easy use, and are labeled in Braille. Arrival at each of the 14 floors of the ship is announced by a pleasant taped voice, so if you can't see the floor number because of the crowded elevator, you will know where you are.

The theaters, sports decks, spa, night clubs, shops, library, internet lounge, etc. are all located and arranged to accommodate passengers with disabilities. Unbelievably, the swimming pool has a lift to assist you in entering and exiting the pool. Several of the dance floors are large enough to allow for wheelchair dancing. Viewing the various theatrical shows from one of several wheelchair-seating spaces eliminates the hassle of sitting in the aisle or trying to transfer into one of the theater

### NATIONWIDE LOCATIONS

<b>CORPORATE</b>	(800) 536-5518	Central & Southern	(888) 468-9055	<b>OHIO:</b>	(800) 398-5165
<b>ALABAMA:</b>		Ft. Wayne	(800) 398-5165	<b>OKLAHOMA:</b>	(866) 846-8029
Birmingham	(800) 554-6893	<b>IOWA:</b>	(800) 781-0663	<b>OREGON:</b>	(800) 351-8267
Mobile	(877) 416-0175	<b>KANSAS:</b>	(800) 781-0663	<b>PENNSYLVANIA:</b>	(800) 221-6501
<b>ARIZONA:</b>	(888) 824-7413	<b>KENTUCKY:</b>	(800) 458-1115	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA:</b>	(866) 288-8118
<b>ARKANSAS:</b>	(800) 781-0663	<b>LOUISIANA:</b>	(877) 416-0175	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA:</b> (Eastern)	(888) 256-5807
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b>		<b>MARYLAND:</b>	(800) 438-8465	<b>TENNESSEE:</b>	
Northern	(800) 638-1912	<b>MASSACHUSETTS:</b>	(800) 727-1656	Eastern & Central	(888) 245-9944
Los Angeles, Orange Co	(800) 659-1972	RI, NH, VT, MA		Western	(800) 781-0663
San Diego, Palm Springs	(877) 388-4883	<b>MICHIGAN:</b>	(800) 887-7868	<b>TEXAS:</b>	
<b>COLORADO:</b>	(800) 238-6920	<b>MINNESOTA:</b>	(888) 256-5807	Dallas, Ft. Worth	(877) 688-4695
<b>CONNECTICUT:</b>	(800) 228-0185	<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>	(877) 416-0175	El Paso	(800) 408-2626
<b>DELAWARE:</b>	(800) 438-8465	<b>MISSOURI:</b>	(800) 781-0663	Houston, San Antonio, Austin	(866) 616-8267
<b>FLORIDA:</b>		<b>MONTANA:</b>	(800) 630-8267	<b>UTAH:</b>	(866) 886-3100
Orlando, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Tampa	(800) 242-4990	<b>NEVADA:</b>	(888) 824-7413	Salt Lake City	
Miami, Ft. Meyers, Naples, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach	(800) 637-7577	<b>NEW JERSEY:</b>		<b>VIRGINIA:</b>	
Pensacola	(877) 416-0175	Northern NJ, NY City, Brooklyn	(800) 344-5005	Central & Southern	(877) 271-9826
<b>GEORGIA:</b>	(800) 554-6893	Central	(800) 221-0034	Northern Virginia	(800) 438-8465
Augusta	(866) 288-8118	<b>NEW MEXICO:</b>	(800) 408-2626	<b>WASHINGTON, DC:</b>	(800) 438-8465
<b>HAWAII:</b>	(800) 638-1912	<b>NEW YORK:</b>		<b>WASHINGTON:</b>	(888) 376-1500
<b>ILLINOIS:</b>		Long Island, NY City	(800) 379-3750	<b>WEST VIRGINIA:</b>	(800) 221-6501
Chicago & Northern, IL	(800) 637-2597	Upstate NY, Syracuse, NYC, Albany, Westchester Co	(866) 725-1803	<b>WISCONSIN:</b>	(866) 748-3004
Central & Southern	(800) 781-0663	<b>NORTH CAROLINA:</b>	(800) 662-7572	<b>WYOMING:</b>	(800) 238-6920
<b>INDIANA:</b>		Charlotte	(866) 288-8118	Cheyenne	
Northern	(800) 826-9764	<b>NORTH DAKOTA:</b> (Eastern)	(888) 256-5807		

### NATIONWIDE RENTAL INFORMATION:

(800) 642-2042

[www.wheelchairgetaways.com](http://www.wheelchairgetaways.com)

seats.

In addition to life on the ship, the exciting part of a cruise vacation is that every day you wake up ready to explore a new island or location without packing and unpacking. If the port of call requires entrance via a tender, no need to worry; Royal Caribbean tenders are totally wheelchair accessible. This cruise line has a private island in Haiti that affords wheelchair users the opportunity to enjoy the beach. Because the sand is hard-packed, we were able to travel in our power chairs all over the beach island. For those in manual chairs or chairs that cannot handle the terrain, there are beach wheelchairs and attendants waiting to push you all over the island.



Many cruise companies offer wheelchair accessible cruises that meet the needs of most wheelchair users.

The only downside to cruising is that most of the ports visited do not have wheelchair accessible transportation to take people with disabilities on the trips to tourist attractions. However, if you use a manual chair and are able to transfer, you should be able to enjoy many of the trips arranged by the cruise line. Even though we were not able to see many of the tourist attractions, we

were able to get off the ship at every island and roll in our power chairs to shopping areas and were able to explore the local neighborhoods and talk with the residents.

If you have never tried a cruise vacation, I highly recommend that you put this vacation option on your wish list.

Be sure to directly contact the cruise line you are considering and make certain they can meet your special needs. If you need accessible transportation to the port of embarkation, you can rent a van from your closest Wheelchair Getaways franchise. Cruising is the way to go for the vacation of your life!

*For more information on wheelchair accessible cruises, visit [Access-Able Travel](http://Access-Able Travel)*

*Source at [www.access-able.com](http://www.access-able.com) for a list of wheelchair accessible cruise lines and general information. For more information from Nancy Whaley, contact Wheelchair Getaways of Pennsylvania toll-free at (800) 221-6501 or visit their website at [www.wheelchairgetaways.com/pa](http://www.wheelchairgetaways.com/pa). For national van rental information, call 1-800-642-2042.*



Accessible Van Rentals  
PO Box 605  
Versailles, KY 40383



Daily - Weekly - Monthly