

# ILLINOIS INSITES

April/May 2001

You know it's spring when birds migrate back to the Midwest and tulips begin to bloom. And with spring in the air, it is time to get outdoors and explore the wonders of Illinois. To keep you updated on Illinois' latest news, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism has compiled a list of amazing sites and events to visit this season.

If you have any questions, require further information, or would like slides to accompany your stories, please call the Illinois News Bureau at 312/240-2605 or contact us via e-mail at [rebecca.olchawa@edelman.com](mailto:rebecca.olchawa@edelman.com).

**Visitors requiring additional information should call the Illinois Travel Information Center at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit the Illinois Travel Web site at [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).**

## CHICAGO

### **Chicago Neighborhood Tours - May 5-19**

- Travel through some of Chicago's fascinating neighborhoods including South Shore, Andersonville/Lincoln Square, Chinatown/Pilsen and Devon Avenue. These tours will rate top-notch with out-of-town guests and with Chicago natives interested in the city's cultural heritage. Every tour will stop in the featured neighborhoods for a chance to stretch your legs and visit local cultural centers and museums. This spring, Chicago Neighborhood Tours also offers a special tour, *EastMidWest-The Chicago Asian Experience*. This tour will explore Asian neighborhood development and cultural tradition. You'll even stop for lunch at an authentic Asian restaurant! Tours leave every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. from the Cultural Center and last four to five hours. 312/742-1190

### **3rd Annual Great Chicago Places and Spaces Tour - May 19-20**

- Look into the sky and discover the architectural designs that have made Chicago what it is today. The 3rd Annual Great Chicago Places and Spaces Tour explores the Downtown Loop, Michigan Avenue, the South Side and outlying areas. Sign up for the "Designer Tours" and hear professionals within Chicago's architectural community share their thoughts about the Tribune Building and the John Hancock Center along with many other significant structural designs. Self-guided tours, a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy the tour at their own pace, are also available. Visit Chicago this summer and learn about the city from the ground up. 312/744-3315

## CHICAGOLAND

### **Amusement Park Science - April 4-21**

- Do you have an aspiring engineer or physicist on your hands? Have you always wanted to learn about Newton's Law of Motion? Venture to Aurora and stop by the Amusement Park Science exhibit at SciTech, Interactive Science Center. Explore the laws of physics behind amusement park rides and create-a-coaster through hands-on displays. This interactive exhibit is designed to teach the entire family why "when something goes up, it must come down!" 630/859-3434

### **Antiques and Garden Fair - April 20-22**

- Welcome spring at the 2nd Annual Chicago Botanic Garden Antiques and Garden Fair in Glencoe. More than 100 vendors from the US and England will display their antiques and garden merchandise. Stroll through the beautiful indoor garden and gaze at tulips and spring annuals. Stop in and listen to lectures from top gardening experts and gather ideas for summer planting. 847/835-5440

### **2nd Annual Chocolate Festival - May 4-6**

- If you're a chocolate lover then you can't miss Long Grove's 2nd Annual Chocolate Festival. The entire family can indulge themselves with free samples of candy from chocolate artists. Kids can enjoy pony rides while parents watch and learn the secrets to mastering chocolate delicacies. After the family has had their fill of chocolate, take a stroll along the shop-lined sidewalks of this quaint village or find a cozy spot on the lawn and tap to the tempo of live entertainment. 847/634-0888

### **Evanston Historical Society's Annual Mother's Day Housewalk - May 13**

- Take Mom out for her special day and walk through some of the North Shore's most fascinating architectural masterpieces. The tour begins at the Charles Gates Dawes house in Evanston. Built in 1894, the home is a national landmark and was featured on the PBS series, "American Castles." This tour also includes seven other historical homes, all within walking distance of each other along the town's peaceful, tree-lined streets. 847/475-3410

### **Weekend Getaway to Naperville**

- There's something in Naperville for everyone! Enjoy a quiet spring stroll along the Riverwalk while you feed the ducks or hop onto a paddleboat with the kids. Next, step into the past and visit the Naper Settlement, Chicagoland's only 19th century living history museum village. Walk among 25 historic homes located on 13 acres of preserved land. As night rolls in, enjoy a tasty meal at one of the town's many fine restaurants. End the day with a cafe mocha or some well-deserved ice cream as you window shop along the old-fashioned brickstone streets. There are plenty of hotels to accommodate your stay. To plan your weekend getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

**NORTHERN**

### **Lincoln Through The Years: 1846-1865 - Opens April 1**

- Coming to the Midway Village and Museum Center in Rockford is a new exhibit, *Lincoln Through The Years*, presented by the Illinois Association of Museums. Visitors will learn about our 16<sup>th</sup> President by viewing a special collection of photographs detailing his life from 1846 to 1865. After viewing the exhibit, walk through the Midway Village, which includes 24 authentically-restored homes, shops and businesses. 815/397-9112

### **Pre-Civil War Quilts, Hidden Codes to Freedom - April 6**

- During the Civil War, slaves embedded secret codes into their quilts. Used to communicate with other slaves and abolitionists, the patterns on these quilts tell remarkable stories. On April 6, the Galena Historical Society is planning to reveal these secrets and uncover the importance quilt codes played during the era of the Underground Railroad. 815/777-9129

### **Fulton Dutch Days - May 4-5**

- You don't have to travel to Europe for a taste of Holland! Just pack up the car and head to downtown Fulton. The month of May rings in Fulton Dutch Days, Illinois' only authentic Dutch festival. Strap on your wooden shoes and watch performers participate in street scrubbing and Dutch dancing. Check out craft booths and tantalize your taste buds with traditional Dutch delicacies. The kids will not want to leave without a pair of wooden shoes for themselves! 815/589-2174

### **Armed Forces Day "Pause for Patriotism" / Shapiro Open House - May 19**

- Pay tribute to the men and women who served our country by visiting Kankakee on Armed Forces Day when jet pilots demonstrate agile skill and speed. Next, observe aircraft rappelling and helicopter landings. Walk along the Shapiro grounds and view military equipment and crafts. End the day with a relaxing picnic on Kankakee's scenic riverfront. Don't forget to wear red, white and blue! 815/932-1281

### **Weekend Getaway to Galena**

- If you are planning a trip to Northern Illinois, stay the weekend and enjoy Galena. This 1850s boomtown was the home of Ulysses S Grant and eight other union generals. Over 85 percent of Galena's fine old mansions and commercial buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. While in town, enjoy the local wines at Galena Cellars, browse through over 100 unique shops and upscale galleries and tour the Ulysses S Grant Home State Historic Site. The area has more than 40 B&Bs and small inns, as well as a whole host of unique restaurants. To plan your weekend getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## **CENTRAL**

### **Festival of Spring - April 21**

- Hop onto a wagon, paddle a canoe and smell the blooming wildflowers at the Festival of Spring at the Rock Spring Center for Environmental Discovery in Decatur. The World Bird Sanctuary will present wild bird shows, there will be an open house at the farm and you can try your luck at the fishing derby. Next, hit the trail and enjoy a peaceful jaunt in the woods. Afterwards, rest your weary feet and listen to music while the family sits down to eat. 217/423-7708

### **Spring Thyme Plant Fair - April 28-29**

- Roll down the windows, hop onto Route 66 and let the spring air rejuvenate your spirit. Take a leisurely weekend drive to San Jose in Logan County and explore its historical past. Be sure to stop by Clark's Greenhouse Herbal & Country Garden for the Spring Thyme Plant Fair. Wander through the gardens and smell the sweet fragrance of spring flowers. Pick out a few plants and flowers to brighten up your home, indoors and out. 309/247-3679

### **Springfield Highland Games & Celtic Festival - May 19**

- Celebrate the spirit of Scotland and Ireland at the Springfield Highland Games & Celtic Festival that includes bagpiping, ancient athletic competitions, Scottish Highland dancing, and Irish Step Dancers. During lunch, visitors can sample from the delightful array of traditional Celtic foods. Don't forget to pick up a souvenir from the selection of Celtic gifts. 217/241-3000

### **12th Annual Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival - May 19-20**

- Calling all Raggedy Ann and Andy fans! Drive to Arcola this ace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of the Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, and home to the May and enjoy the 12th Annual Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival. Arcola is the birthplace of Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum. Members of the Gruelle family will kick-off the weekend festivities including the 1st Raggedy Ann and Andy Walk. This walk starts at 8 a.m. Saturday morning at the historic Depot. Choose from a 5- or 10-mile recreational trail walk and see the sites of Arcola. Enjoy the entire weekend complete with a street fair, parade, carnival, free entertainment and of course, the festival where you can stroll through the booths of Raggedy Ann and Andy collectibles and memorabilia. 800/336-5456

### **Weekend Getaway to Springfield and the Amish Country**

- When you travel to Central Illinois, take time to visit Springfield and the Amish Country. Steeped in presidential history, Springfield gives visitors a peek into our nation's 16<sup>th</sup> President Abraham Lincoln. With great attractions, unique dining and a variety of accommodations, Springfield is a perfect place to spend the weekend. Start with a visit to the Old State Capitol where Lincoln delivered his "House Divided" speech and continue in this great man's footsteps by visiting his family home, his law office, his tomb and New Salem, a recreation of the village where Abe lived as a young adult. Another great attraction in Springfield is the Dana-Thomas House State Historic Site, a beautifully preserved example of early Frank Lloyd Wright architecture. For history of another kind, travel east to Arthur and Arcola. Together, these towns are the center of historic Amish Country. The beautifully crafted wood

furniture, handmade quilts and great home cooking will make visitors want to extend this weekend getaway! To plan your getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## WESTERN

### **Sandburg Days Festival - April 18-21**

- Founded in 1837, Galesburg was home to Pulitzer Prize winning poet and Lincoln biographer Carl Sandburg. Sandburg Days celebrates the legacy and life of this Galesburg native. Visit this quaint town and participate in literary, historical, sporting and children's events. While you are in town, stop by Sandburg's birthplace and home, the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site. This historic site preserves family belongings as well as Remembrance Rock, where Sandburg's ashes are safeguarded. 309/343-2485

### **Native American Pow Wow - April 27-29**

- Head to the Wildlife Prairie Park in Peoria for the Native American Pow Wow this April. The Pow Wow is an authentic event portraying the lives and actions of the Native Americans who once occupied the area. Visitors will enjoy song, dance, and demonstrations of the Native American culture, as well as art displays and authentic food. 309/676-0998

### **32nd Annual Dogwood Festival and Parade - May 5-6**

- Quincy's Dogwood Festival is a traditional town celebration for the kick-off of spring. The annual Dogwood Parade starts the festival on Saturday morning, followed with fun for all on the town square. Roam through the craft booths and enjoy local entertainment, while the kids check out the latest thriller roller-coaster at the carnival. Come back on Sunday for the pet show and the kiddie tricycle race. 217/222-7980

### **Bluegrass Festival - May 18-19**

- Stomp your feet and practice your "Yee-ha!" In May, Peoria hosts a Bluegrass Festival featuring an open jam session, barn dance and several concerts. This festival will showcase some of the best bluegrass talent in the Midwest. If you are a fan of bluegrass music or hoping to expand your repertoire, be sure to put this event on your calendar! 309/579-2157

### **Weekend Getaway to Galesburg**

- When you travel to Western Illinois, you'll find plenty to do in Galesburg. Wake up Saturday morning and stop by the Discovery Depot Children's Museum. Swing by the downtown square and check out Carl Sandburg Days, then hop over to the Galesburg Railroad Museum and experience railroading of the 1900s through memorabilia housed in a Pullman parlor car. Take an afternoon adventure at the Lake Storey Recreational Area, with 600 acres of preserved land that offers golfing, hiking, boating, fishing, swimming and water sliding. Don't forget to stop by "Old Main,"

the only remaining original building of the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates, located on Knox College campus grounds. There are plenty of hotels to accommodate your stay while you enjoy a weekend in Galesburg. To plan your getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## SOUTHERN

### **Morel Mushroom Weekend - April 6-8**

- Get out your spy glass! Larry Link, North America's #1 Morel Expert, will guide you through the woods in Jonesboro while you hunt for morel mushrooms. Pick your treasures and then head off to the kitchen where Larry will share his secret mushroom recipes that will flavor any dish. The weekend includes a Friday evening welcome party, Saturday morning mushroom seminar, guided hunts and discussions. 618/833-8697

### **Barnstorming Weekends in Illinois - April 27-29**

- Put on your plaid shirt and overalls and visit 19th century rural America. Southern Union County invites you to experience farm life and discover the most symbolic icon of early American landscape – barns. Enjoy a full weekend of motor coach tours, workday demonstrations, farm activities and a Sunday devoted to social and historical traditions of farm families. 618/833-6311

### **National Road Spring Festival - May 12-14**

- Start your engines and drive to the first National Road Spring Festival this May. Six Southern counties participate in the festival featuring kids' contests, re-enactments, food, music, crafts, parades and much more. The counties celebrate the history of our country's first national road traversing from Cumberland, Maryland to St. Louis, Missouri. Put on your cowboy boots and begin your tour at the Greenup Western-Pioneer Festival. Next, drive to downtown Greenville for Heritage Day. Each county has its own unique history to share. The National Road Festival is an opportunity to come together and preserve what remains of U.S. 40, the first national road. 217/342-5303

### **Strawberry Fest and Bicycle Ride - May 20**

- Another town on the map for the National Road Festival is Collinsville. The St. Louis Bicycle Club sponsors 7-, 14- or 21-mile bike rides to encourage people to discover the sites of this great town located just 12 miles from St. Louis. Tour Collinsville on bike, then join the celebration and eat all the strawberry sweets you want. Tempt your taste buds with strawberry confections and desserts and stay for live entertainment. This festival also includes a craft fair and even more strawberries! 618/345-4999

### **Weekend Getaway to Shawnee National Forest**

- You'll need more than a day to explore Southern Illinois, so pack your bags and stay the weekend. The Shawnee National Forest is a perfect place to hang your hat, lace

