



# ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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**CONTACT:** Katie Markese 312-297-7561  
katie.markese@edelman.com

## **FALL-O-WEEN<sup>SM</sup> JOURNEYS THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS**

*Scenic drives take visitors on memorable rides along Illinois byways and trails*

CHICAGO – A blend of autumn and Halloween in Illinois calls for its own name: **Fall-O-Ween<sup>SM</sup>** – a time that signals harvest festivals, trick-or-treating, apple picking and pilgrimages to view the state’s vibrant colors and scenic attractions. Ranging from historical homes to kitschy diners, from quaint Main Streets to natural wonders, Illinois offers something special at each turn of the road.

### **Great River Road**

The breathtaking scenery along the Great River Road stretches more than 550 miles along the eastern shore of the Mississippi River. Travelers along this route have access to the picturesque river vistas and rugged rock formations at Mississippi Palisades State Park and Rock Island’s Black Hawk State Historic Site, one of the largest Native American centers in North America, where tribes settled 12,000 years ago. Motorists can also schedule stops in Fulton to see an authentic Dutch windmill, Quincy to visit its Art Center, which sponsors contemporary Midwestern art as its primary focus, and the nearby Eells House, a stop along the Underground Railroad. By continuing south on Illinois Route 3, roadtrippers will find Waterloo Winery, an 1818 mansion where conversation as well as wine of 50 different grape varieties flow freely. (Northern, Western and Southwest)

For more information, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (217-782-6302, <http://dnr.state.il.us>); Black Hawk State Historic Site (309-788-9536); the Quincy Convention and Visitors Bureau (800-978-4748, [www.quincy-cvb.org](http://www.quincy-cvb.org)); Dutch Windmill (815-589-4545); Alton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (800-258-6645, [www.altoncvb.org](http://www.altoncvb.org)) and Waterloo Winery (618-939-5743).

### **National Road**

Along US-40, stretching from Illinois’ easternmost border across the state to Collinsville, the National Road was named by the pioneers who traveled this 165-mile route more than 200 years ago. Today, its rolling hills are laced with small farm towns, legendary statehouses, Native American sites and the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. If drivers are looking for a place to stretch their legs, the Native American Pow Wow at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is the perfect stop. From September 10-12, visitors from across the country will gather to celebrate Native American heritage through colorful pageantry, traditional dance and craft-

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**Governor Rod R. Blagojevich**  
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making. While at Cahokia, adventurers can also visit Monks Mound, a 100-foot-high hill sitting among the remains of an ancient Native American city. (Central, Southwest)

For more information, contact the National Road Association (217-849-3188, [www.nationalroad.org](http://www.nationalroad.org)); the Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau (800-772-0750, [www.effinghamil.com](http://www.effinghamil.com)); Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (618-346-5160, <http://medicine.wustl.edu/~mckinney/cahokia/cahokia.html>).

### **Ohio River Scenic Route**

This 200-mile drive follows the Ohio River south from Shawneetown to Mound City and winds around parks filled with natural wonders such as the Garden of the Gods Recreation Area in the Shawnee National Forest. Visitors are invited to hike one of the many scenic trails or enjoy the sculpted sandstone formation vistas that extend into the valley, peppered with the reds and golds of fall colors. The recommended time to explore is late October, when the Shawnee National Forest's colorful foliage reaches its fiery peak. The neighboring town, Cave-in-Rock, is home to an impressive, 55-foot-wide limestone cave carved by water thousands of years ago. If families are looking for an outdoor adventure, Cave-in-Rock State Park is an ideal destination, offering campgrounds, a charming restaurant overlooking the majestic waterfront and private cabins that feel like a home away from home. (Southern)

For more information, contact Cave-in-Rock State Park (618-289-4325); Garden of the Gods State Park (618-287-2201); or the Southern Illinois Tourism Development Office (618-998-9397, [www.adventureillinois.com](http://www.adventureillinois.com)).

### **Meeting of the Great Rivers Byway**

Located at the confluence of the Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri rivers, the Meeting of Great Rivers Byway stretches 55 miles and offers astounding views of this historically rich region. The scenic drive includes the quaint towns of Elsah and Grafton, as well as Hartford, where the great explorers Lewis and Clark departed 200 years ago on their famed Corps of Discovery expedition. Today Hartford is home to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, which features a 55-foot full-scale replica of their keel boat, educational exhibits on Illinois, and special events such as the Lewis and Clark Music and Dance Festival at Camp River DuBois, September 18 and 19. The event will help visitors understand America's past by featuring traditional music of the late 1700s and early 1800s and inviting visitors to sing along. (Southwest)

For more information, contact the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (618-251-2680 Ext.15, [www.hartfordillinois.net](http://www.hartfordillinois.net)).

### **Lincoln Highway**

This 179-mile byway stretches across Northern Illinois, with worthwhile stops at the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet, the 1930's Paramount Arts Centre in Aurora, and the Kane County Flea Market, Paddlewheel Riverboat Cruises and the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. Not far off the highway visitors will find terrific shopping, golfing and dining in Galena. In the fall Galena is surrounded by brilliant hills of crimson and amber and hosts the Galena Halloween Balloon Fest October 29-31. Children can trick-or-treat at more than 25 hot-air balloons tethered on the

downtown levee and then watch them launch at sunrise off the grounds at the Victorian Pines Inn and Spa. (Chicagoland, Northern)

For more information, contact the Lincoln Highway Association (815-456-3030, [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/info/il/](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/info/il/)); Galena and Jo Daviess County Convention and Visitors Bureau (877-464-2536, [www.galena.org](http://www.galena.org)).

### **Knox County Scenic Drive**

Every year, thousands gather to celebrate autumn's peak through the self-guided Knox County Scenic Drive. The drive, October 2-3 and 9-10, is a fall tradition that takes travelers along more than 100 miles of colorful Western Illinois countryside. Part of the drive's purpose is to generate appreciation for the area's historical landmarks. For this reason, it includes stops at an 1800s log cabin, a restored 1865 barn and the Old Knox County Courthouse. The route also includes pioneer and Native American music performances, homemade food, and demonstrations ranging from basket weaving to pumpkin carving. A tradition continues this year with the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Knox County Scenic Drive Photo Contest, in which drive participants who best capture the fall foliage, festivities and demonstrations will win a cash prize and have their name announced in Galesburg's *The Register-Mail* newspaper. (Western)

For more information, contact Knox County Scenic Drive, Inc. (309-343-2485, <http://home.grics.net/scenicdrive>).

### **Shawnee Hills Wine Trail**

Southern Illinois presents a different kind of journey with its tree-lined, 25-mile Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. Beginning just south of Carbondale and looping past the rolling hills of the Shawnee National Forest, the trail stops at the award-winning wineries of Pomona, Von Jakob, Alto, Owl Creek and Winghill. The Illinois Art and Wine Festival, September 25 and 26, takes place at the Southern Illinois Artisans Shop alongside Rend Lake just outside Benton. The fest satisfies all the senses by encouraging visitors to browse the work of more than 50 Illinois artisans and enjoy locally made foods and prized state wine. (Southern)

For more information, contact Alto Vineyards (618-893-4898); Owl Creek Vineyard (618-893-2557); Winghill Vineyard and Winery (618-618-WINE); Von Jakob Vineyard (618-893-4500); Pomona Winery (618-893-2623); The Southern Illinois Artisans Shop (618-629-2220) or visit [www.shawneewinetrail.com](http://www.shawneewinetrail.com).

### **Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive**

The Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive was established 35 years ago so Illinois residents could experience the changing colors of their area firsthand. Today, nearly 100,000 people gather annually to drive along the 130 miles of multihued rolling hills on the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive. This year's Spoon River Fall Festival and Scenic Drive will take place October 2-3 and 9-10 throughout Fulton County with highlights such as the Major Newton-Walker Home, where Abraham Lincoln spent time, and Dickson Mounds Museum, which offers special exhibits and public programs throughout the year on archaeology, Native American culture, natural history and rural life. (Western)

For more information, contact Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive Associates, Inc. (309-647-8980, [www.spoonriverdrive.org](http://www.spoonriverdrive.org)).

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers free travel resources with additional information on **Three-Day Getaways**, scenic drives, fall festivals, events and attractions. All are available by calling **800-2CONNECT** to speak with an Illinois travel counselor or by visiting the bureau's Web site at **[www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com)**. The fall issue of *Illinois Now!*, a seasonal magazine devoted exclusively to travel in Illinois, will be available late August for fall travel planning. The magazine can be obtained by calling 800-2CONNECT or by visiting the bureau's Web site.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Statewide photography is available electronically or in slide format. For artwork, contact Katie Markese at [katie.markese@edelman.com](mailto:katie.markese@edelman.com), 312-297-7561 or Amy McGee at [amy.mcgee@edelman.com](mailto:amy.mcgee@edelman.com), 312-240-2829.

*The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.*

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