



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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2005 ILLINOIS TRAVEL GUIDE AVAILABLE NOW

Free planning resource features Illinois' top destinations and countless statewide travel ideas

CHICAGO – Visitors will get a new view of Illinois with the 2005 Illinois Travel Guide, published by the Illinois Bureau of Tourism and available now. The comprehensive guide includes “best of” experiences, regional highlights and scenic drives, making it nearly as enjoyable to plan a trip in Illinois as it is to take one.

The guide also features information on new Illinois attractions, such as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Chicago Premium Outlets in Aurora and Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in Gurnee. An extensive Chicago section offers transportation and walking maps, while regional maps and a gatefold state map provide a look at all corners of Illinois.

This one-stop planning tool can be ordered by visiting enjoyillinois.com or by calling an Illinois travel counselor at **1-800-2CONNECT**.

Illinois Highlights

The 240-page guide also includes six “Best of Illinois” articles, complete with travel tips and logistical details that offer behind-the-scene looks at the state’s one-of-a-kind attractions.

Articles include:

- *Land of Lincoln: Lincoln’s Illinois* – gives readers a chronological timeline of Lincoln’s life in Illinois, as well as information on both historic, Lincoln-related sites to visit and the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.
- *Multicultural Mosaic* – details distinctive destinations such as the Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island, the Japanese-inspired Anderson Gardens in Rockford and the town of Alton, which was a crucial hub for the Underground Railroad.
- *Road Trips: Illinois from Behind the Wheel* – showcases the state’s national scenic byways, including historic Route 66 and Great River Road.
- *Architecture: The Best of Illinois Architecture* – highlights Chicago’s world-famous architecture, along with extensive information on Frank Lloyd Wright and noteworthy stops statewide.
- *Antiquing: Go on a Treasure Hunt* – features an assortment of antiquing destinations, from small shops to sprawling antique malls, along with listings of shows and flea markets.
- *Wineries: Taste of Illinois* – offers a taste of the state’s rising wine industry and information about where visitors can enjoy the genuine wine culture of Illinois.

- more -

Governor Rod Blagojevich

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism

Regions of Illinois

The 2005 Illinois Travel Guide also highlights Illinois' seven regions: Chicago, Chicagoland, Northern, Central, Western, Southern and Southwest. Each section includes recommendations to help travelers discover the region's personality and a map to help them navigate the area. Accommodation listings, from luxury hotels to quaint bed and breakfasts, include contact information, amenities and price ranges, making it convenient to arrange a stay. Attractions are also listed within each region complete with detailed descriptions, contact information, handicap accessibility and price categories.

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers additional information on destinations, events statewide and suggested 3-Day Getaways through its Web site, **enjoyillinois.com** or its travel counselors at **1-800-2CONNECT**.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The cover of the 2005 Illinois Travel Guide and statewide photography are available electronically. For artwork, contact Katie Markese at katie.markese@edelman.com, 312-297-7561, or Anne Dattulo at anne.dattulo@edelman.com, 312-240-2829. For additional images, visit the Illinois Media Center at **illinoismediacenter.com**.

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.