



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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ILLINOIS IS A HOLE-IN-ONE FOR GOLFERS

Top-ranked scenic courses found in every corner of the state

America attracts approximately 25 million golfers yearly, according to industry consortium Golf 20/20. Illinois' Midwest location and more than 675 golf facilities make the state an ideal destination for golf getaways. Home to six courses included in *Golf Digest's* list of "America's 100 Best Golf Courses," Illinois is also host to major tournaments in 2006, including the PGA Championship at Medinah and the John Deere Classic in the Quad Cities.

With top-rated courses, world-class dining and exceptional accommodation options, Illinois is a golf lover's dream.

CHICAGO

Less than 20 minutes from downtown, **Harborside International Golf Course** covers more than 450 acres of manicured greens offering stunning views of the Chicago skyline amid sculpted fairways, tufted mounds and tangled roughs. Harborside comprises two 18-hole courses, referred to as the "Port" course and the "Starboard" course. Both carry a par of 72 and their practice facilities have been rated in the "Top 100 in the Country" by *Golf Range and Recreation* magazine. Visitors will love this public course's country club-style amenities, which include deluxe locker rooms, golf carts, on-course beverage carts and a magnificent 24,000-square-foot Prairie Style clubhouse featuring fare from Chicago's famed restaurateur, Phil Stefani.

For more information, contact Harborside International Golf Course (312-782-7837, www.harborsideinternational.com).

CHICAGOLAND

Nestled in the rural Des Plaines River Valley 30 miles southwest of Chicago, the **Cog Hill Golf and Country Club** has been luring avid golfers to its four 18-hole regulation golf courses since 1927. *Golf Digest* ranks it among the top 25 of "America's Best Public Courses" and fourth in the state overall. Cog Hill is home to the PGA Tour's Western Open and is known for its deep bunkers, requiring all the clubs in the bag. The 16th hole – a green surrounded by trees and tucked into the woods – is famous in the area for its beauty. Those looking for energy to keep going should try a hot dog from the on-course cart – rumored to be even better than the ones at Wrigley Field!

For more information, contact Cog Hill Golf and Country Club (630-257-3665, www.coghillgolf.com).

While not all golfers can play at the private **Medinah Country Club**, they can still enjoy the game as a spectator. Sporting an impressive resume that includes hosting 12 major

championships, Medinah is described as brutally long with narrow fairways and a number of water hazards requiring accurate shot placement. Spectators will be thrilled at the 88th PGA Championship, which will be played at Medinah Aug. 14-20. The PGA Championship perennially features the strongest players in major tournament golf. Past and recent champions include Vijay Singh, David Toms, Tiger Woods, Nick Price, Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen and Jack Nicklaus. Golf enthusiasts interested in volunteering may obtain an application form online at www.pga2006.com or by calling the local tournament office at 630-775-1742.

For more information, contact the Medinah Country Club (630-773-1700, www.medinahcc.org).

NORTHERN

Aldeen Golf Club in Rockford combines a true community course with national appeal and recognition. A lifelong golfer, Rockford's Norris A. Aldeen was taught how to play the game by his mother on a public course but enjoyed many of the world's greatest private clubs throughout his life. However, he always maintained his love for public golf and wanted to benefit his hometown by donating funds for a course everyone could enjoy. Since its opening in 1991, Aldeen has set a new standard for upscale public golf in Northern Illinois and has developed into a "must-play" course in the Midwest. Conveniently, seven hotels in the Rockford area offer Play 'n Stay Lodging packages with Aldeen. All packages are detailed on Aldeen's Web site and include two greens fees, one motorized golf cart, a warm-up bag of balls, 10 percent off on Golf Shop merchandise (does not apply to discounted items) and one night accommodation.

For more information, contact Aldeen Golf Club (815-282-4653, www.aldeengolfclub.com).

Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa is located in the 6,800-acre Galena territory six miles from historic Galena and 150 miles west of Chicago. Best known for championship golf, the resort offers 63 holes amid breathtaking scenery. Headed by "The General," Eagle Ridge's most spectacular course, all four courses consistently win accolades from golf magazines and are notable for their elevated tees; long vistas through the countryside; plush, rolling fairways; and large, undulating greens. Whether visitors are spending the week or just a night, Eagle Ridge offers a variety of lodging options, from a well-appointed guest room at the Inn to fully-furnished private villas and homes.

For more information, contact Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa (815-777-5200, www.eagleridge.com).

CENTRAL

Located in Springfield, **The Rail Golf Course** is a beautifully manicured championship golf course boasting 82 sand bunkers and five lakes. The oldest regular tour event on the LPGA Tour – the State Farm Rail Classic – is held at The Rail every Labor Day weekend. *Golf for Women* magazine ranked the course fourth of "America's Best Women-Friendly Golf Courses." The club is also known for its affordability. The Rail offers duffers the chance to play a tour-quality course for as low as \$30. For those looking to stay in Springfield to visit various Abraham Lincoln sites or cruise along Route 66, the Northfield Inn and Suites and The Rail together offer several packages. Most packages run between \$70 and \$90 a night per person and include accommodations and one round of golf with a cart.

For more information, contact The Rail Golf Club (217-525-0365, www.railgolf.com); Northfield Inn and Suites (217-523-7900).

The City of Bloomington opened the Roger Packard-designed **Prairie Vista Golf Course** in 1991 and it has been challenging golfers ever since. The course, which is considered American Contemporary style, includes tricky water hazards on 16 of the 18 holes, helping it earn *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" four-star rating. Other amenities include a large practice putting green, an impressive practice chipping green (with a practice sand bunker) and a grass driving range. If one day isn't enough, the nearby Chateau Hotel offers a "Hole in 1" golf package that includes overnight accommodations and breakfast buffet for two, complimentary drink tickets for its Lido Lounge and one round of golf for two at Prairie Vista.

For more information, contact Prairie Vista Golf Course (309-434-2217, www.prairievistagc.com); The Chateau Hotel (309-662-2020, www.chateauhotel.biz)

WESTERN

Host of the John Deere Classic, **TPC at Deere Run** is located between the Rock and Mississippi rivers in Silvis. In 2000, the area had a banner year when the PGA Tour opened this premiere TPC (Tournament Players Club) course in America's heartland. Specifically designed to host the John Deere Classic, the course quickly became known as a magnificent 18-hole championship golf club. Visiting golfers will find elevation changes of 75 feet, natural rock outcroppings, mature hardwoods and scenic views of the Rock River. Golfers have also mentioned the intimidating blind shots and tricky doglegs. "This place is unbelievable," said 1999 John Deere Classic winner J.L. Lewis of TPC at Deere Run. "The golf course doesn't have a bad hole."

For more information, contact TPC at Deere Run (309-796-6000, www.tpc.com/daily/deere_run).

Set among the rolling hills and forested valleys of Peoria, the beautiful **WeaverRidge Golf Course** was created to balance nature with design. It features multiple bent grass tees and fairways, fast and true greens, challenging and dramatic elevations and first-rate practice facilities. In addition, the Clubhouse has all the amenities typically found at a lavish private club, including the popular WeaverRidge Bar and Grill with its award-winning Sunday brunch, banquet rooms for weddings and meetings, a full-service pro shop and luxurious locker rooms.

For more information, contact WeaverRidge Golf Club (309-691-3344, www.weaverridge.com).

SOUTHERN

Golfers can tee off at Makanda's **Stone Creek Golf Club and Resort** to chip along dense forests on one of the most scenic courses in Southern Illinois. Eleven rustic cabins provide a stay-and-play option so golfers can fully explore the area's spectacular beauty. In addition, winter rates, senior rates and family membership make playing often at Stone Creek affordable. For a second day of golf, golfers can hit the green again in nearby Marion at the **Kokopelli Golf Club**, named one of "America's 100 Best Courses for \$100 or Less" by *Travel & Leisure* magazine. Featuring 18 challenging holes spread

over 160 acres of beautiful terrain, Kokopelli Golf Club was designed by renowned golf architect Steve Smyers. Kokopelli is also home to the delectable Clubhouse Restaurant, which serves high-end American favorites and specializes in surf and turf.

For more information, contact the Stone Creek Golf Club and Resort (618-351-4653, www.stonecreekgolf.com); Kokopelli Golf Club (618-997-5656, www.kokopelligolf.com).

SOUTHWEST

Annbriar Golf Course in Waterloo features a unique blend of open, links-style terrain on the front nine and wooded rolling terrain on the back nine. *Golf Digest* rated Annbriar one of “America’s Top 500 Places to Play” with a four and one-half star rating. Covering 226 acres, Annbriar is a demanding course that challenges skilled golfers and prompts amateurs to improve their game.

For more information, contact Annbriar Golf Course (618-939-4653, www.annbriar.com)

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers free travel resources with additional information on 3-Day Getaways, festivals, events and attractions. All are available by calling **1-800-2-CONNECT** to speak with an Illinois travel counselor or by visiting the Bureau’s Web site at **www.enjoyillinois.com**. Also, visit **www.golfillinois.com** for information on the various golf courses throughout the state.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Media materials and downloadable images are now available on the Illinois Bureau of Tourism’s online media center at **www.illinoismediacenter.com**. Additional photography may be obtained by contacting Anne Dattulo at anne.dattulo@edelman.com, 312-240-2829, or Katie Markese at katie.markese@edelman.com, 312-297-7561.

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.