



# ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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## **FALL-O-WEEN™ CELEBRATES THE BEST OF AUTUMN IN ILLINOIS** *Events across the state bring the season alive with family fun and gorgeous foliage*

The harvest season is a great time for travelers to experience some of the top events and attractions in Illinois. Fall-O-Ween, which runs from Sept. 1 through Oct. 31, is the state's distinctive, not-to-be missed *fifth* season, guaranteed to provide travelers with the best in family-friendly festivals, spooky spectacles, and gorgeous fall colors. In the coming months, every corner of the state will be packed with exciting new events and always-popular fall activities that will beckon travelers to explore the sights and sounds of this exciting time of year.

### **Chicago**

Ghoulish goblins and devilish demons will call Navy Pier home during **Halloween at Navy Pier** (weekends, Oct. 5 – 31). The popular tourist attraction will be transformed into a haunted village with inflatable games, face painting, ghost-story tellers and appearances by Navy Pier mascots Patch and Pickle. In addition, the Demons of the Deep haunted house will provide spooky surprises at every turn.

In its tenth year of creating screams and making memories, **Chicagoween** provides endless seasonal fun (Oct. 13-31). Children will love the Pumpkin Plaza (Daley Plaza) where the Haunted Village hosts pumpkin decorating, scary storytellers and the high-flying aerialists of the Midnight Circus. On Oct. 21 kids can show off their costumes at the State Street Halloween Happening Parade, where downtown revelers can sneak a peek at the season's most "spooktacular" fashions.

For more information, contact Navy Pier (312-595-PIER, [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com)); Mayor's Office of Special Events ([www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents](http://www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents)).

### **Chicagoland**

Offering three days of family fun, the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Scarecrow Festival** in downtown St. Charles (Oct. 6 – 8) invites community groups and individuals to submit a creative scarecrow in the festival's popular contest. While viewing these kooky creations, festival-goers can enjoy live entertainment, a children's carnival, great food and the famous Autumn on the Fox Arts and Crafts show.

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Lions and tigers and bears – oh my! Children can dress up as their favorite zoo animal at Brookfield Zoo's **Boo at the Zoo!**, (Oct. 21 – 22, 28 – 29). Frightfully fun activities include costume parades, pumpkin carvings, rides on the Fright Night Express and the Endangered Species Carousel, plus much more. Zookeepers will be on hand to explain the not-so-scary side of some of the zoo's most popular creatures.

For more information, contact the St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau (630-513-0566, [www.visitstcharles.com](http://www.visitstcharles.com)) or visit the Scarecrow Festival Web site ([www.scarecrowfest.com](http://www.scarecrowfest.com)); Brookfield Zoo (708-485-0263, [www.brookfieldzoo.org](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org)).

### **Northern**

Halloween festivities reach new heights at the **Galena Halloween Balloon Festival** (Oct. 27 – 29). A spectacular sunrise launch on both Saturday and Sunday will entertain viewers with 25 colorful hot air balloons drifting above scenic Galena. Activities will be plentiful in the evening as well, including a spectacular Halloween parade and trick-or-treating for the kids along the Galena River Levee. On Friday and Saturday night, glowing balloons will dot the sky like shining stars.

Visitors can climb aboard and delve into the ghostly past on Starved Rock State Park's **All About Ghost Trolley Tour**, (Oct. 28 – 29), in Utica. *Haunted Illinois* author and guest host, Troy Taylor, will guide guests through the spooky past and present of the Starved Rock area. On Sunday night, the Starved Rock Lodge will be transformed into a harvest-time haven for the Halloween Masquerade Ball. Karaoke and costume contests will make for an enjoyable adults-only celebration.

For more information, contact the Galena Convention and Visitors Bureau (877-GO-GALENA, [www.galena.org](http://www.galena.org)); Starved Rock Lodge (800-868-7625, ext. 386, [www.starvedrocklodge.com](http://www.starvedrocklodge.com)).

### **Central**

The **Clinton Haunted House – Terror on Washington Street** welcomes all who dare pass through the rattling doors into the Hallway of Mirrors, where visitors will likely see a ghost as their traveling companion. Ranked by [www.hauntedillinois.com](http://www.hauntedillinois.com) as one of the top 10 haunted houses in Illinois, the Clinton Haunted House is recommended for ages 10 and up.

With more than 400 varieties of pumpkins and gourds, plus mazes, farm animals and a bakery offering homemade treats, **The Great Pumpkin Patch** in Arthur is an agricultural gem. Featured in *Martha Stewart Living* in October 2005 and on an episode of Martha's talk show, "Everyday Food," the green thumbs that run the Great Pumpkin Patch know exactly how to showcase the beauty of fall.

For more information, contact the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce (563-242-5702, [www.clintonhauntedhouse.com](http://www.clintonhauntedhouse.com)); The Great Pumpkin Patch (217-543-2394, [www.thegreatpumpkinpatch.biz](http://www.thegreatpumpkinpatch.biz)).

### **Western**

As the pumpkin capital of the world, the town of Morton will celebrate its **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Morton Pumpkin Festival** (Sept. 13 – 16) with pumpkin pie, pumpkin fudge, pumpkin art and the world record-holding pumpkin-chucking machine, the Q36 pumpkin modulator that shot a pumpkin an astounding 4,860 feet. Kids of all ages can get into the fun with a pumpkin parade, carnival rides, crafts, and food tents as far as you can throw a pumpkin.

History is brought to life during the **Knox County Scenic Drive** two-weekend annual event (Oct. 7 and 8, 14 and 15). In celebration of the area's rural heritage, attractions along the self-guided drive will be open to the public. Knox County's pioneer and Native American cultures are brought to life in an 1832 log cabin, a one-room schoolhouse and four buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This event is ideal for avid foliage fans and history buffs alike, providing a family-friendly atmosphere and a wealth of unique activities.

For more information, contact the Morton Chamber of Commerce (888-765-6588, [www.pumpkincapital.com](http://www.pumpkincapital.com)); Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (309-343-2485, [www.visitgalesburg.com](http://www.visitgalesburg.com)).

### **Southern**

Southern Illinois is known for its breathtaking scenery and delicious wines, and the **Illinois Wine & Art Festival at Rend Lake** (Sept. 23 and 24) will showcase both. Visitors can look forward to varietals from 13 area wineries along with regional foods, entertainment and products from well-known local artisans. Guests will have the opportunity to watch glass blowers, blacksmiths and potters in daily exhibitions, and wine aficionados can indulge in tastings and lectures by local vintners.

A time-honored tradition, the **Murphysboro Apple Festival** (Sept. 13 – 17) celebrates the harvest season by tempting the taste buds with tasty apple treats, a competitive apple pie-eating contest, the Appletime Grand Parade and even an apple auction. One of the longest-running events of its kind, it is expected to attract tens of thousands of visitors this fall.

For more information, contact the Illinois Wine & Art Festival (800-661-9998, [www.wineandartfestival.com](http://www.wineandartfestival.com)); Murphysboro Apple Festival (618-684-6421, [www.murphysboro.com](http://www.murphysboro.com)).

## **Southwest**

What fall festival season is complete without the perfect pumpkin? Luckily, Eckert's Farm has locations in Belleville, Millstadt and Grafton, making it easy to find one that's just right for that jack-o-lantern. The **Jumpin' Pumpkin Jamboree**, (weekends, Oct. 7 – 29) makes the search more fun with live music, pony rides, fresh food and loads of activities.

A fall favorite, the **Great Godfrey Maze** will have visitors looking for treasure while they try to find their way through the tall corn stalks of this year's pirate-themed maze. The extremely brave can try the Great Godfrey Maze "After Dark," where the bounty can only be found using a flashlight. While the maze opens in early September, maze-lovers can't miss the Fall Corn Festival on Oct. 7.

For more information, contact Eckert's Country Store and Farms (618-233-0513, [www.eckerts.com](http://www.eckerts.com)); Godfrey Parks and Recreation (618-466-1483, [www.greatgodfreymaze.com](http://www.greatgodfreymaze.com)).

## **Jump into Fall-O-Ween**

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers free travel resources with additional information on scenic drives, fall festivals, events and attractions. In September, the Bureau will launch its **Magnificent Fall 3-Day Getaways** offering a variety of themed travel packages to suit every interest. This season's 3-Day Getaways feature one-of-a-kind activities that range in theme from girlfriends' getaways, wineries and antiques in Northern Illinois to guys' getaways, golf and biking in Southern Illinois, and family-fun festivals, sporting events and museums in Chicago and Chicagoland. All are available by calling **1-800-2CONNECT** to speak with an Illinois travel counselor or at the Bureau's Web site at **[www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com)**.

Beginning Sept. 11, travelers can check the Illinois Bureau of Tourism's **weekly fall color updates** on **[www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com)** to help them plan and make the most of any Illinois getaway. Together with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Bureau created the updates to report where and when the fall colors are the most brilliant in each of the state's seven regions so that potential travelers can maximize their Fall-O-Ween fun.

This September, experience the genuine culture of Illinois Wine Country during **Illinois Wine Month**. Information on exciting events and special wine offers throughout the month are available now. Visit **[www.illinoiswine.com](http://www.illinoiswine.com)** for more information.

The Illinois Bureau of Tourism has collaborated with *Midwest Living* to create an official **Fall-O-Ween Guide**, a resource for travelers throughout the Midwest. Guides can be obtained by calling 1-800-2CONNECT or by visiting the Bureau's

Web site at [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Media materials and downloadable images are now available on the Illinois Bureau of Tourism online media center at **[www.illinoismediacenter.com](http://www.illinoismediacenter.com)**. Additional photography, available electronically, may be obtained by contacting Emma Douglas at [emma.douglas@edelman.com](mailto:emma.douglas@edelman.com), 312-240-2730 or Stephanie Aenchbacher at [stephanie.aenchbacher@edelman.com](mailto:stephanie.aenchbacher@edelman.com), 312-240-2688.

*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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