



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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DISCOVER CELEBRATIONS IN ILLINOIS THIS FALL

Enjoy family fun and incredible foliage with autumn events across the state

CHICAGO – For those looking to save on expenses and stay close to home this fall, take a “state-cation” in Illinois. A recent trend made popular by rising travel costs, a “state-cation” lets travelers explore not only their backyards, but the offerings of the entire state as well. And this season, during Illinois’ unique Fall-O-Ween™, travelers can experience the many festive events and attractions that make Illinois a desired fall destination. From annual festivals and haunted attractions, to corn mazes and gorgeous autumn colors, the harvest season is celebrated in every corner of the state.

A detailed events calendar and new Fall 3-Day Getaway itineraries can be found on the bureau’s Web site, www.enjoyillinois.com.

CHICAGO

The attractions at Navy Pier continue to entertain visitors every season and this fall is no exception. From Oct. 5 – 31, visitors can come and share in the frightening fun of **Navy Fear**. For families and kids of all ages, Navy Pier will feature ghostly rides, a family costume contest – and even a costume contest for dogs. Don’t miss Friday Frights every Friday in October with Halloween-themed events and performances, haunted houses and fireworks set to eerie sounds and rock music.

For more information, contact Navy Pier (312-595-7437, www.navypier.com).

Kids can show off their best costumes at the **State Street Halloween Happening Parade** on Oct. 25. The parade begins at noon from the corner of State and Randolph streets as ghosts, goblins, princesses and superheroes march to Daley Plaza, which is transformed into Halloween Pumpkin Plaza. Costume contests, candy giveaways and performances take place after the parade at the Pumpkin Plaza.

For more information, contact the special events office of the City of Chicago (312-744-3315, www.cityofchicago.org).

CHICAGOLAND

Festival-goers will enjoy the season’s favorite fruit at the **Long Grove Apple Festival** in Long Grove, Oct. 3 – 5. Visitors will feed their appetites for everything autumn with brown bag apple pies and apple cider donuts, hot apple cider, caramel apple lattes and apple martinis. Live music, free entertainment and the Apple Jam Kids’ Expo will provide fun for everyone.

For more information, contact the Long Grove Events office (847-634-0888, www.longgroveonline.com/apple.html).

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Governor Rod R. Blagojevich

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism

One of Chicagoland's ever-popular fall events, the **23rd Annual Scarecrow Festival** in St. Charles, offers festival-goers an event that highlights the best of the riverside community. Taking place Oct. 10 – 12, the event includes a whimsical children's carnival, an autumn arts and crafts show, live entertainment, and hundreds of handmade scarecrows. New to the Festival this year will be a Harley Davidson Show and the Chicago Corvette Club Show.

For more information, contact St. Charles Visitors Bureau (800-777-4373, www.scarecrowfest.com).

NORTHERN

In a celebration of patriotism and history, more than 800 re-enactors will participate in **World War II Days** at Midway Village Museum in Rockford, Sept. 27 and 28. This two-day event will recreate significant WWII battles using tanks and other vintage military equipment from the war. Visitors can witness how troops lived on the front line, meet with the soldiers shop for authentic and reproduction military items. On Saturday night, visitors will enjoy a dance in traditional USO-style in the 1905 barn on site.

For more information, contact Midway Village Museum (815-397-9112, www.midwayvillage.com).

The **Northern Illinois Wine Trail** is ideal for a peaceful fall getaway. Located less than two hours northwest of Chicagoland, 15 wineries call the countryside and quaint towns of Northern Illinois home. Throughout the fall season, wineries along the trail will host special events, including Prairie State Winery's Friday Night Wine Down on September 12 and 26, and the Vintage Illinois Wine Festival hosted by various area wineries, Sept. 20 and 21 in Starved Rock State Park.

For more information, contact Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association (217-473-6845, www.illinoiswine.com).

CENTRAL

Car buffs from coast to coast descend upon Springfield each year for a blast from the past at the **International Route 66 Mother Road Festival**, Sept. 26 – 28, in its 7th year of celebrating the country's best-loved road. For the car enthusiast, the event offers classic and muscle car displays, car awards for 41 classes of automobiles, children's area and live entertainment. Performances by KAVAN – the popular rock-and-roll Elvis impersonator, and Butch Wax and the Hollywoods are just a few concerts visitors won't want to miss.

For more information, contact the International Route 66 Mother Road Festival (317-236-6515, www.route66fest.com).

Hardy's Reindeer Ranch, the beloved wintertime attraction in Rantoul and home to 18 Alaskan reindeer, offers an animal-friendly fall getaway with nearly ten acres of twisting and turning corn mazes. The mazes are set up like a giant treasure hunt as visitors try to find the eight hidden reindeer. Brave visitors can even explore the mazes at night with a flashlight. A new addition to the farm this year is the Reindeer Crossing, a 30-foot bridge that both visitors and reindeer can 'hoof' across. Hardy's also offers pedal race cars, hay rides and tours of the ranch.

For more information, contact Hardy's Reindeer Ranch (217-893-3407, www.reindeerranch.com).

WESTERN

A variety of art mediums created by artists around the country will be on display at the **46th Annual Peoria Fine Art Fair**, Sept. 27 and 28. This event provides visitors a chance to meet with nationally recognized artists, sample Peoria's finest cuisine and enjoy live performances of local musicians. The Kids Art Fair allows burgeoning, young artists a unique opportunity to create their own masterpieces.

For more information, contact Peoria Art Guild (309-637-2787, www.peoriaartguild.org),

Every Saturday in October, visitors to the town of Quincy will find themselves on the edge of their seats as they embark on the **Haunted Historic Rivertown Tours**. Quincy's double-decker bus will take those who are brave enough on a two-hour tour to see some of the historic and haunted buildings and sites in the area, including the Quincy Museum, Woodland Cemetery and Dick Brothers Brewery. Guides will be on hand to tell the lore of the region and provide a frighteningly good time.

For more information, contact Quincy Visitors Bureau (800-978-4748, www.seequincy.com).

SOUTHERN

Illinois' finest artists will have their work on display at the **Annual Illinois Wine & Art Fair** at Rend Lake in Whittington, Sept. 27 and 28. The fair also offers great food and wine native to the region, which visitors can enjoy while listening to music from local artists. Outside of the fair, Rend Lake offers plenty of outdoor activities, including a 27-hole golf course, beaches and resort.

For more information, contact the Wine & Art Fair (800-661-9998, www.wineandartfestival.com).

Enjoy the beauty of Southern Illinois' landscape during a relaxing round of golf on the **Southern Illinois Golf Trail**. The trail, which consists of five golf courses adjacent to Shawnee National Forest, makes it easy for visitors to hit the links and enjoy a beautiful fall day. Golfers can find more information on the Web site, or use the golf trail's knowledgeable travel planners to create individualized golf getaway itineraries.

For more information, contact the Southern Illinois Golf Trail (800-526-1500, www.sigt.org).

SOUTHWEST

Travel back in time to experience the life of early Calhoun County settlers during **Old Settlers Days** in Kampville, Oct. 11 and 12. On the banks of the Illinois River, visitors will find it easy to mix entertainment with education as they learn about the life of the early settlers through period demonstrations, mountain man activities, fiddle contests and much more.

For more information, contact the Old Settlers Days (618-465-2114, www.greatriverroad.com).

Once visitors find the **Great Godfrey Maze** located in Godfrey, they'll just as soon find themselves lost! Two mazes full of traps, turns and dead ends are cut into seven-acres of corn in the shape of a cowboy, and are sure to make visitors' heads spin. Perfect for groups, this attraction is open Aug. 31 – Oct. 28, Friday through Sunday.

For more information, contact Great Godfrey Maze (618-466-1483, www.greatgodfreymaze.com).

To help travelers plan their fall getaways, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers free travel resources with additional information on magnificent 3-Day Getaways, wine trails, fall festivals, events and attractions through the Bureau's Web site, **www.enjoyillinois.com** or its travel counselors at **1-800-2CONNECT**.

Beginning Sept. 15, travelers can check the Illinois Bureau of Tourism's **weekly fall color updates** on **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 travels.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Media materials and downloadable images are now available on the Illinois Bureau of Tourism online media center at **www.illinoismediacenter.com**. Additional photography, available electronically, may be obtained by contacting Emma Douglas at emma.douglas@edelman.com, 312-240-2730 or Andrew Smith at andrew.smith@edelman.com, 312-552-1139.

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.