



# ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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## **COMMEMORATIVE 2009 ILLINOIS TRAVEL GUIDE AVAILABLE NOW**

*Updated travel guide honors Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial with myriad options to celebrate throughout the Land of Lincoln*

CHICAGO – Illinois travelers can explore and discover all the great statewide destinations and events commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Abraham Lincoln in 2009, thanks to the newly released Illinois Travel Guide. In addition to providing highlights of Bicentennial festivities, events and a detailed overview of Illinois' Lincoln historic sites, the new guide features user-friendly, region-specific information about the state's shopping destinations, food festivals, lodging, activities and attractions.

The 2009 Illinois Travel Guide is available now at tourist information centers, local convention and visitors bureaus, and regional tourism development offices across the state. Consumers can order a copy of the new guide by calling the state travel hotline at 1-800-2CONNECT or by visiting the Bureau's Web site, [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com), where they can also download a PDF version or view the interactive, searchable eBook.

Travelers seeking Illinois getaway ideas will benefit from the guide's new feature sections, including:

- *Land of Lincoln*, providing details about statewide events, celebrations, historical reenactments, and numerous memorable places to see and things to do in the Land of Lincoln;
- *Exit Now!*, exploring the offbeat, colorful, and often surprising side of Illinois by veering just a few miles off the interstates, with everything from dinosaurs and Civil War forts to mega malls and thrill rides;
- *The Great Outdoors*, thrilling outdoor enthusiasts with plenty of natural wonders throughout the state to challenge and excite, as they climb, bike, canoe, and soar across the action-packed state;
- *Top 5 for Families*, taking visitors on a region-by-region tour of the state, highlighting family-friendly activities and attractions sure to enchant and engage all ages;
- *Sweet Spots*, satiating everyone's sweet tooth with some of most delicious local delights that are guaranteed to tempt travelers to save room for dessert.

To help travelers with their planning, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers free travel resources with additional information about magnificent 3-Day Getaways, festivals, events and attractions through the Bureau's Web site, [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com) or its travel counselors at **1-800-2CONNECT**.

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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](http://www.illinoismediacenter.com). Additional photography, available electronically, may be obtained by contacting Zachary Morrison at [zachary.morrison@edelman.com](mailto:zachary.morrison@edelman.com), 312-240-2848, or Emma Douglas at [emma.douglas@edelman.com](mailto:emma.douglas@edelman.com), 312-240-2730.

*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.*