



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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Enjoy Winter in Illinois: December 2010 – February 2011

Illinois truly is a winter wonderland with unique and exciting seasonal events making it a perfect getaway destination. From eagle watching to winter sports, there's plenty of outdoor fun to be had. For those who prefer warmer indoor activities, there are museums, concerts and plays to suit every taste. Families will find Illinois full of holiday spirit as festive lights and celebrations abound.

The events listed below are just the tip of the iceberg and many more can be found at the Illinois Office of Tourism's official Web site, www.enjoyillinois.com/getaway/Eventsbyregion.aspx.

CHICAGO

Through January 2
Winter WonderFest
Navy Pier
600 East Grand Avenue
Chicago

There is more fun than ever before, with cool new attractions and returning favorites. Experience the warmth of winter inside an enchanted 170,000 square foot holiday hamlet! Bring the entire family for days of music, entertainment, Chicago Blackhawks indoor ice skating, huge inflatable slides, carnival rides, food, beverages, and so much more. Your family holiday memories are even more cherished when shared at *Winter WonderFest!* For more information, please call 800-595-PIER or visit www.winterwonderfest.com.

Through January 2
Lincoln Park ZooLights
Lincoln Park Zoo
2001 North Clark Street
Chicago

One of the brightest parts of Chicago's winter—ZooLights—returns. ZooLights is free and open to all. Join us for ice carving demonstrations, visits with Santa, warm drinks, cool crafts and more than one million beautiful lights. For more information, please call 312-742-2000 or visit www.lpzoo.org/eve_zoolights.php.

December 15 - January 2
Irving Berlin's White Christmas
Bank of America Theater
50 E. Congress Parkway
Chicago

Get ready to discover a delightful new show that's as fresh and rare as newly fallen snow! The classic holiday tradition, *White Christmas*, comes to the stage at last, as a brand new Irving Berlin musical direct from Broadway. Brimming with such Berlin hits as "Blue Skies," "How Deep is the Ocean?" "Sisters," and of course, the unforgettable title song. Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* promises to be a merry and bright

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experience for the entire family. For more information, please call 312-977-1700 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com/shows_dyn.php?cmd=display_current&display_showtag=WhiteChristmas2010.

February 11-20

Chicago Auto Show 2011

McCormick Place
2301 South Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago

The Chicago Auto Show is the largest auto show in North America and has been held more times than any other auto exposition on the continent. Exhibitions include a complete range of domestic and imported passenger cars and trucks; sport utility vehicles; and experimental or concept cars. In total, nearly 1,000 different vehicles will be on display. Additionally, attendees will also have the opportunity to see numerous accessories and auto-related exhibits, competition vehicles and project, antique and collector cars. For more information, please call 630-495-2282 or visit www.chicagoautoshow.com.

CHICAGOLAND

Through Jan. 1

Winter Wonderland Holiday Light Show

Cuneo Mansion and Gardens
North of Route 60 on Lakeview Parkway
Vernon Hills

A Lake County holiday tradition...visit the area's largest drive-through Holiday Light Festival held at the Cuneo Mansion and view thousands of twinkling lights, animated displays and holiday decorations. While visiting the light show, the Cuneo Mansion and Gardens invites you to walk through the museum for a magical view of Christmas' past. For more information, please call 847-362-3042 or visit www.vernonhills.org/special_events/WinterWonderland.asp.

Begins December 30

Monty Python's Spamalot

Drury Lane Theatre
100 Drury Lane
Oakbrook Terrace

A musical lovingly ripped off from the motion picture, Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Follow the legendary King Arthur as he and his knights of the round table venture out on a quest to find the Holy Grail. The creators of the show are allowing only five productions nation-wide next year and Drury Lane is thrilled to host the Chicago regional premiere and share the comedic camaraderie with Drury Lane audiences. For more information, please call 630-530-0111 or visit www.drurylaneoakbrook.com/live_theatre/now_playing.php.

January 8

Musher Mania

Monee Reservoir
27341 Ridgeland Avenue
Monee

The event brings together 4-6 dogsled teams of 2-5 dogs on each team for demonstrations, plus a variety of other activities, including: Snowshoeing Races, History of the Iditarod, ice sculpting, human mushing, campfire with marshmallow roasting, warming tent with booths and concessions, and hot chocolate. For more information, please call 708-534-8499 or visit www.reconnectwithnature.org/information/musher-mania.asp.

January 29-30

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LEGO Star Wars Days at LEGOLAND Discovery Center

LEGOLAND Discovery Center
601 N. Martingale Road
Schaumburg

STAR WARS, like LEGO®, has captured imaginations for decades,” said LEGOLAND® Discovery Center’s own Master Model Builder, Daniel Morey. “The stories have proven to be timeless and because of that cross-generational appeal, they bring parents and their kids together. It’s such a natural combination - STAR WARS and LEGO® - we’re really excited to be throwing this weekend-long party celebrating both.”

For more information, please call 847-592-9700 or visit

www.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/chicago/en/news-and-events/events-calendar.

NORTHERN

Through January 2

Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body

Discovery Center Museum and Burpee Museum of Natural History
711 N. Main Street
Rockford

Grossology explores why your body produces mushy, oozy, crusty, scaly and stinky gunk. Based on the best-selling book "Grossology," the exhibition uses sophisticated animatronics and imaginative exhibits to tell you the good, the bad and the downright ugly about runny noses, body odor and much more. For more information, please call 815-963-6769 or visit

www.gorockford.com/grossology.

January 8-9

Jimmy Buffet Weekend

Chestnut Mountain Resort
8700 W. Chestnut Road
Galena

An island-themed party with Caribbean food and tropical drink specials. Prize giveaways include a pair of skis and bindings. Saturday's live entertainment is from "Pirates over 40," a Jimmy Buffet cover band. For more information, please call 800-397-1320 or visit

www.chestnutmtn.com/events_calendar_detail.cfm?eventID=7.

January 22-23

Eagle Watch Weekend

Starved Rock Lodge
Routes 178 & 71
Utica

Come see a magnificent Eagle watch event, hosted by the Illinois Auduborn Society. The Lodge will have free lectures and exhibits on “Birds of Prey.” The real shows are the eagle’s, which can be viewed comfortably from the Veranda, so bring your binoculars! There will also be raptor awareness presentations by the World Bird Sanctuary. Seating is limited so come early and be ready to be amazed. For more information, please call 800-868-7625 or visit www.starvedrocklodge.com/index.cfm?pageID=38.

January 28-February 2

Groundhog Days

Historic Woodstock Square
Woodstock

From the Friday Night night's Welcoming of the Groundhog to the official Groundhog Prognostication with our very own Woodstock Willie, there's something fun for everyone. Join in as Woodstock celebrates its starring role in the 1993 Bill Murray movie "Groundhog Day." Free showings of the movie, walking tours of movie sites, movie symposium, storytelling, chili cook-off all topped off with Woodstock Willies

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prognostication on the morning of February 2 - Groundhog Day! For more information, please call 815-338-4483 or visit www.woodstockgroundhog.org.

CENTRAL

Throughout Winter Season

Team of Rivals: Lincoln's Cabinet at the Crossroads of War

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

212 North Sixth Street

Springfield

This Civil War 150th Year Exhibition commemorates the beginning of the historic conflict with a visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum for a one-of-a-kind temporary exhibition. Through a series of audio-visual presentations and compelling artifacts, Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of the best-selling book *Team of Rivals* will bring to life those fateful days when our divided nation teetered on the brink, then toppled into the dark abyss of civil war. For more information, please call 217-558-8844 or visit

www.alplm.org/events/team_of_rivals.html.

Through December 31

Christmas at the Dana-Thomas House

Frank Lloyd Wright Dana Thomas House

301 E. Lawrence

Springfield

When the house was completed in 1904, Susan Lawrence Dana and her mother presented their new home to the Springfield community through a series of parties and charity fundraising events. Keeping with this tradition, the Dana-Thomas House is beautifully decorated throughout the month of December. Special evening tours are available to enjoy the house and art glass under the warm glow of winter lighting. Special activities include Children's Story Hour in the Library, Family Night and Luminaria Sunday when 1000 candles in paper sacks line the ledges and walkways around the house. For more information, please call 217-782-6776 or visit www.dana-thomas.org.

December 18

Christmas at the Mansions

David Davis Mansion & 3 other mansions

1000 Monroe Drive

Bloomington

Take an evening tour of four Victorian-era homes elegantly decorated in the holiday finery of yesteryear. Costumed guides, period music, and seasonal refreshments will be featured. For more information, please call 309-828-1084 or visit <http://daviddavismansion.org/programs>.

February 4 – 6

36th Annual Central Illinois Jazz Festival

Decatur Conference Center & Hotel

4191 US Highway 36 West

Decatur

This premier jazz event is a three day multiple venue festival featuring world class musicians - 17 bands and 6 guest artists all under one roof. SPECIAL FEATURE: Vince Giordano and his Highhawk's Orchestra. Includes lots of events such as a get acquainted party, New Orleans style umbrella parade, pianorama, Saturday dinner and dinner show, swing dancing, Saturday ragtime pianorama & late night jam session, Sunday jazz brunch. For more information, please call 217-454-2709 or visit www.juvaejazz.com.

WESTERN

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Through January 1

East Peoria Festival of Lights

One Eastside Drive

East Peoria

The Annual East Peoria Festival of Lights kicks off a journey through the Winter Wonderland, open December 3rd-January 1st (Open Christmas Eve). The Winter Wonderland features two miles of captivating beauty as cars and motorcoaches drive through a glowing park of parade floats and animated displays that continually entertain as motorists travel down the drive. For more information, please call 800-365-3743

www.peoria.org/plan-your-group-tour/festival-of-lights.

December 3-4

Spirit of Peoria Holiday Cruise

Spirit of Peoria Boat

100 Water Street

Peoria

Celebrate love, family and friends with songs and stories from not so long ago, and not so far away. In this toe-tapping tour of an old-fashioned Christmas you can sing-a-long with your favorite carols and explore the stories behind the songs and traditions. Blending tales from pioneer days with local history and Old English carols, all while on board a beautiful historic paddleboat right on the Illinois River. For more information, please call 1-800-676-8988 or visit www.spiritofpeoria.com.

January 7-9

Bald Eagle Days

QCCA Expo Center

2621 4th Avenue

Rock Island

Celebrate the return of The Bald Eagle, now off the endangered list. Watch live birds of prey, bald eagles, owls and falcons fly over the audience. Enjoy more than 100 display and information booths. For more information, please call 309-788-5912 or visit

www.qccaexpo.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=14&Itemid=26.

February 12-13

Galesburg Historical Society Chocolate Festival

Galesburg Antiques Mall

349 E. Main Street

Galesburg

Annual festival featuring homemade and commercially made chocolate treats. It is an endless buffet of tortes, cakes, pies, cookies, candies, beverages & much more. Don't miss this chocolate lover's dream. For more information, please call 309-299-3590 or visit <http://www.visitgalesburg.com/calendar.php?date=2010-02>.

SOUTHERN

Through December 30

Holiday Lights Fair

Du Quoin State Fairgrounds

Du Quoin

Come and experience the wondrous beauty of over a half million twinkling lights that decorate Du Quoin's magnificent fairgrounds. The driving route starts as soon as you enter and meanders along a paved street, lined with old street lights, past two decorated mansions, lighted buildings, and the spectacular grandstand, over 25 animated lighted displays, the decorated expo hall, not to mention all the lighted trees throughout the grounds. For more information, please call 800-455-9570 or visit www.duquoin.org/holidaylights10.htm.

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December 4

20th Annual Lights Fantastic Parade & Activities

Downtown Carbondale

121 S. Illinois Avenue

Carbondale

The traditional lights celebration continues this year. Stop by the *Polar Express Station* (the Old Train Depot) for candy cane treats and write and mail your letters to Santa. Pet the reindeer and get your holiday pictures with Dancer, Prancer, or even Rudolph. Stop in the Carbondale Civic Center and enjoy chili, drinks and finger foods. One of the regions favorite, *The Light's Fantastic Parade* begins at 6pm. For more information, please call 618-529-8040 or visit www.carbondalemainstreet.com/lights_fantastic.html.

December 4

Christmas in the Village

Downtown

Cobden

Enjoy fresh-roasted nuts while listening to strolling Victorian Carolers and madrigal players. Visit Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and elf helpers at the Feed Store where handcrafted wreaths and gingerbread houses are on display. Let the kids try their luck on a candy filled Piñata then take a horse draw surrey or wagon ride around the Village. Join in on the lighting of the Village Christmas tree, where fresh cut trees and wreaths will be available. For more information, please call 800-248-4373 or visit www.southernmostillinois.com.

December 11-12

Living History & Olde Tyme Christmas

Fort Massac State Park

1308 E 5th Street

Metropolis

Enjoy the holiday season with a step back into history at the annual Fort Massac State Park Olde Tyme Christmas. With the reproduction of an 1802 American fort as the backdrop, the Christmas holiday will be celebrated by a representation of the holidays throughout the history of Fort Massac. Re-enactors will be showcasing Christmas traditions of the French Colonial period, American Revolutionary, Lewis and Clark, War of 1812 and Civil War periods in the barracks and various other areas of the fort. For more information, please call 618-524-9321 or visit www.metropolistourism.com.

SOUTHWEST

Through January 2

41st Annual Way of Lights

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

442 S. De Mazerod Drive

Belleville,

This unique celebration of Christmas features drive-thru light displays, tree & wreath displays, an interactive children's village, camel rides and an indoor laser show. With over 1.1 million lights, this event celebrates the true meaning of Christmas. For more information please, call 618-397-6700 or visit www.wayoflights.org.

December 11

Vandalia Statehouse Holiday Open House

Vandalia Statehouse

315 West Gallatin Street

Vandalia

The 1830's rooms at the Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site are illuminated by candlelight at the annual Christmas Open House. The oldest remaining Capitol building in Illinois celebrates the time when a young Abraham Lincoln was beginning his political career. Period music sets the tone, and cookies and mulled

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cider will be served by Vandalia Friends of the Old State Capital. For more information please, call 618-283-1161 or visit www.vandaliaillinois.com/christmas.html.

January 1-29

Eagle Meet & Greet

Alton Visitors Center

200 Piasa Street

Alton

Open Saturdays. Come see live eagle demonstrations by the World Bird Sanctuary. See a live bald eagle up close and personal! Ask and learn about their species and habitats. Then, grab your official *All Around Alton Eagle Watcher's Guide* as you journey out along the Great River Road to see eagles in their natural habitat. For more information please, call 800-ALTON-IL or go to <http://visitalton.com/visitors-events-details.cfm?ID=1489>.

January 8 - February 20

Eagles over the Confluence

Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower

435 Confluence Drive

Hartford

Kick off eagle season with a soaring view of the confluence and the Mississippi Flyway. Join in the food, fun and games at the first eagle event at the new Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower. Other eagle activities follow on weekends throughout January to mid-February. For more information please, call 618-251-9101 or visit www.confluencetower.com/calendar-of-events.cfm.

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The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.

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