



# ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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## **ENJOY WINTER IN ILLINOIS: DECEMBER 2011 – FEBRUARY 2012**

**CHICAGO** – Illinois is truly 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, [enjoyillinois.com](http://enjoyillinois.com).

### **CHICAGO & BEYOND**

*Trough December 31*

#### **Long Grove's Holiday Festivities**

Long Grove Historic Village  
307 Old McHenry Road  
Long Grove

The magic of the holiday season comes alive in Long Grove from mid-November through December with a full schedule of family friendly activities. Shop till you drop, enjoy an old-fashioned horse drawn carriage ride, visit with Santa, enjoy plenty of live holiday entertainment and share a delicious holiday meal with friends, family or business associates at one of Long Grove's signature restaurants. For more information call 847-634-0888 or visit [www.visitlonggrove.com/holidays.html](http://www.visitlonggrove.com/holidays.html).

***December 3-31***

#### **Holiday Magic**

Brookfield Zoo  
3300 Golf Road  
Brookfield

Gather family and friends and head to Brookfield Zoo for its 30th annual Holiday Magic celebration. During this festive event, the zoo will be decked out with nearly one million twinkling lights. Enjoy ice-carving demonstrations, live musical and dance performances, celebrity storytellers, magicians and animal Zoo Chats with keepers. Many of the zoo's animal exhibits will be open, and there will be an opportunity to visit with Santa Claus (until December 18) and costumed characters. The zoo's restaurants and gift shops will also be open. For further information, please call 708-688-8000 or visit [www.czs.org/CZS/magic](http://www.czs.org/CZS/magic).

*December 10*

#### **3rd Annual Ice Odyssey**

Old Town District

LaSalle and Columbus Streets  
Ottawa

Experience the amazing art of ice sculpting as you stroll the downtown streets with your family. Watch first hand as artists carve ordinary blocks of ice into whimsical holiday visions. Enjoy a winter carnival for children, live reindeer, carolers, and horse-drawn carriage rides. Also be sure to stop in at Jeremiah Joe's Coffee to browse the Holiday Farmers Market and Bazaar.

For more information, please call 888-OTTAWA-4 or visit [www.experienceottawa.com/visitors\\_entertainment.cfm](http://www.experienceottawa.com/visitors_entertainment.cfm).

*February 10-19*

### **Chicago Auto Show**

McCormick Place  
2301 South Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago

Filling 1.3 million square feet of magnificent McCormick Place, this legendary exposition is the place for shiny new wheels, the latest accessories and fun-filled activities for the whole family.

[Nearly 1,000 vehicles will be on display at the largest and longest-running show in North America.](#)

Examine the full range of domestic and imported introductions, including passenger cars, trucks, and sport utility vehicles. Check out experimental and concept cars to learn what you may be driving a few years from now. You can also view antique and collector cars and competition vehicles. For more information, please call 630-495-2282 or visit [www.chicagoautoshow.com](http://www.chicagoautoshow.com).

## **LAND OF LINCOLN**

*Through December 31*

### **Christmas at the Dana-Thomas House**

Frank Lloyd Wright Dana Thomas House  
301 East Lawrence  
Springfield

When the Dana Thomas 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 1,000 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/christmas.htm](http://www.dana-thomas.org/christmas.htm).

*Through December 18*

### **Weihnachten (Christmas) at the Vineyard**

White Oak Vineyards  
8621 East 2100 North Road  
Carlock

Take some time this winter to visit White Oak Vineyards, Inc. for their first annual Weihnachten (Christmas) at the Vineyard event! The vineyard currently features Seyval Blanc, Frontenac, Foch, Traminette, Cayuga White, Steuben, Chardone, St. Croix, Marquette and Johannisberg Riesling grapes on eight acres. A log home on the property has been remodeled into the winery and tasting room with a comfortable, warm and inviting atmosphere perfect for gatherings with family and friends. The wrap-around porch offers lovely views of the vineyards, new pond and

surrounding countryside. For more information, please call 309-376-3027 or visit [www.whiteoakvineyardsinc.com./WOV\\_events.html](http://www.whiteoakvineyardsinc.com./WOV_events.html).

*December 17*

**Christmas at the Mansions**

David Davis Mansion, Broadview Mansion & Mystery Mansion  
1000 Monroe Drive  
Bloomington

Christmas at the Mansions is a community-wide tour of three elegant historical mansions and a mystery house in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. You'll see these gorgeous homes decorated in period Christmas finery. Take in the architecture, the history, the postcard scenes of decorated evergreen trees and Christmas wreaths, poinsettia plants, and even hosts dressed in period costumes, as you walk back in time to the late 1800's and early 1900's. Delectable treats will complement your tour. For more information, please call 309-828-1084 or visit [www.christmasatthemansions.com](http://www.christmasatthemansions.com).

*Begins February 18*

**Maple Syrup Time**

Lincoln Memorial Garden  
2301 East Lake Drive  
Springfield

For four weekends in late February and early March, you're invited to walk with us into the Garden's sugar bush as we tap our maples. We'll collect the sap as it flows from the trees and cook it down into pure maple syrup. Kids can help us turn the brace and bit as we drill our tap holes and everyone gets a taste of syrup at the end. You can visit the Nature Center and explore the rest of the Garden as well. Our weekend demonstrations begin on Saturday, Feb. 18th and run through Sunday, March 12th. For more information, please call 217-529-1111 or visit [www.lmgnc.org](http://www.lmgnc.org).

**GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY**

*December 2-31*

**Festival of Lights**

VFW Park  
Springfield Road and Par 3 Lane  
East Peoria

More than a million sparkles of colorful lights make up the Festival of Lights signature event, Winter Wonderland, a nearly two-mile drive-through electric park, featuring lighted animated displays of skiers and a toy factory, and more than 30 parade floats. This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nationally renowned festival, which draws more than 100,000 visitors each year. The attraction has been voted one of the Top 100 Events in North America by the American Bus Association. For more information, please call 309-698-6524 or visit [www.cityofeastpeoria.com/index.cfm?pageID=28](http://www.cityofeastpeoria.com/index.cfm?pageID=28).

*December 17*

**Night of the Luminaria**

Main St.  
Galena

Be a part of one of the most beautiful and romantic visions of the year. The streets, steps and sidewalks of Galena come alive with nearly 5,000 candle-lit luminaries at dusk. Take a special luminaria trolley ride, be a part of a pub crawl or just stroll through the streets for this enchanted

view. For more information, please call 815-777-9050 or visit [www.galenachamber.com/event\\_details.cfm?EventID=844](http://www.galenachamber.com/event_details.cfm?EventID=844).

*January 6-8*

**Bald Eagles Days**

QCCA Expo Center  
2621 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island

Bald Eagle Days celebrates these marvelous birds in the Quad Cities. Thousands of residents and visitors turn out for the annual event which includes: live eagle programs and live bird of prey demonstrations. 2012 celebrates the 25th anniversary of Bald Eagle Days and over 40 years of bald eagle education in the area. For more information, please call 309-788-5912 or visit

[www.qccaexpoctr.com](http://www.qccaexpoctr.com).

*February 18-20*

**Masters of the Sky**

National Great Rivers Museum  
#2 Lock & Dam Way  
Alton

Witness the "Masters of the Sky" birds of prey live bird show. Come see eagles, falcons, owls and other birds of prey at this educational program presented by the World Bird Sanctuary.

Also, there will be a free eagle display, crafts for kids, a film on eagles and more. Visitors will also have the opportunity to tour the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary to see eagles in their natural habitat. For more information, please call 1-877-462-6979 or go to

[www.meetingoftherivers.org/2011\\_eagle\\_flyer.jpg](http://www.meetingoftherivers.org/2011_eagle_flyer.jpg).

**TRAILS TO ADVENTURE**

*Throughout Seasons*

**Bald Eagle Watching in the Cache River Wetlands**

Cache River Wetlands Center  
8885 State Route 37 South  
Cypress

The Wetlands offers great opportunities for eagle watching, as well as spotting other birds. The Cache River Wetland Center provides resource and identification materials to help you spot eagles and other birds in the area and along the rivers. They will provide maps and directions to the viewing station for the nest just off Illinois Route 37 off Perks road and south of the visitor's center. For more information call 618-657-2203 or visit

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r5/cachervr.htm>.

*December 1-4*

**Holiday House at Magnolia Manor**

2700 Washington Avenue  
Cairo

Magnolia Manor is a Victorian museum where visitors can admire the spacious and splendidly appointed rooms. Tour this historic 14-room mansion adorned in its Christmas finery, with many new and exciting decorations that are available for purchase. Members of the Historical Society offer guided tours daily from 1 to 4pm. Luncheon reservations may be made with advance purchase. For more information, please call 618-734-0201 or visit

[www.magnoliamanorcairo.org](http://www.magnoliamanorcairo.org).

*December 3*

**20th Annual Lights Fantastic Parade & Activities**

Illinois to Main Street

Carbondale

Don't miss this traditional annual lights celebration. Stop by the Polar Express Station with the kids for candy cane treats and write your letters to Santa. Pet Santa's reindeer and get your holiday pictures with Dancer, Prancer, or even Rudolph. This year the Cookie Walk is back with open houses at several businesses that will provide delicious cookies. Stop in the Carbondale Civic Center and enjoy chili, drinks and finger foods, served by the Carbondale Breakfast Rotary. The popular Light's Fantastic Parade begins in the evening. For more information, please call 618-529-8040 or visit [www.lightsfantastic.org](http://www.lightsfantastic.org).

*December 11-12*

**Living History & Olde Tyme Christmas**

Fort Massac State Park

1308 East 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/content/view/91/111](http://www.metropolistourism.com/content/view/91/111).

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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.*