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CONTENTS

FEATURES

39 Foodie Star Gazing

Celebrity chefs lend their names and talents to restaurants across Chicago.

46 Hail to the Chiefs

Before the White House, four presidents called Illinois home.

52 Celebrate the Season

Make plans: Come for a spectacular event and stay for the weekend.

60 On the Hunt

Some of the country's biggest bucks roam the western region of the state, south of Quincy.

64 50 Ultimate Things to See and Do

Travel the state to discover must-see destinations and attractions.

GUIDEBOOK IN EVERY ISSUE

EATS p. 6

INTERVIEW p. 10

ILLINOIS MADE p. 16

NATURE p. 20

HERITAGE p. 24

GETAWAY p. 27

INTERLUDE p. 34

CALENDAR p. 36

RESOURCES

Regions See, savor and stay on great Illinois road trips. p. 68

Traveler Resources p. 78

End Note p. 80

ON THE COVER
Matthiessen State Park, Utica
Photograph: IOT



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of Nature
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a Year

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Starved Rock State Park
(Oglesby)



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Pictured
Left to Right - Lincoln Landing (Lockport), Starved Rock State Park (Oglesby),
Final Cut Steakhouse at Hollywood Casino (Joliet)

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ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

IN THIS ISSUE

EATS Foraged food **P. 6**

INTERVIEW Jane Lynch **P. 10**

ILLINOIS MADE Pumpkin attraction **P. 16**

NATURE Trails to explore **P. 20**



HERITAGE *The Blues Brothers* **P. 24**

GETAWAY Winter warm-up **P. 27**

INTERLUDE Chicago park **P. 34**

CALENDAR Bald eagle watch **P. 36**



FRENCH ROAST POTATOES
WITH MINT PESTO,
KINNIKINNICK FARM, CALEDONIA



FRESH EGGS,
KINNIKINNICK FARM, CALEDONIA



STONE MILLING PANCAKES,
KINNIKINNICK FARM, CALEDONIA



take it outside

WHAT IS IT ABOUT AUTUMN THAT MAKES EVERYTHING TASTE SO GOOD? DISCOVER ANSWERS—AND BACK-TO-THE-EARTH EATS—AT THESE COOL PLACES.

GLAMP ON THE FARM

Spend a few days in a posh-primitive tent on **Kinnikinnick Farm** in Caledonia, and you'll get pretty darn close to the hens that laid your eggs and the goats whose cheese jazzed up your pizza.

You'll also meet Susan and David Cleverdon, who host immersive stays at their organic farm outside Rockford. Guests cook on their own woodstoves, but some meals are prepared, such as roast chicken in lemony drippings—and yep, the broilers grew up here.

To deepen your connection, the Cleverdons tell you how far your food traveled to reach your plate, whether it's 550 feet (bacon) or 108 miles from Wisconsin's Driftless Area (pancake flour).

FORAGE AND FEAST

Chicagoan Dave Odd sees edibles everywhere—scattered across parks, lining woodland paths, even stretching toward the sun through sidewalk cracks. "Once you become aware of it," he says, "you look at the world in a different way."

Odd Produce, his foraging and farming business, supplies some of the city's best chefs, but he also shares his secrets in **Eat the Neighborhood** tours that culminate with a chef-made meal.

Up for a farther-flung culinary adventure? Pack your walking shoes for a two-day Survival Camp on his "little piece of heaven" in Beaverville, 80 miles south of Chicago, where you'll tramp the land and gather finds for a chef to prepare on-site.



AUTUMN OLIVES



DAIRY GOATS HAVE THE RUN OF THE PLACE.



GUESTS DISCOVER A TWO-NIGHT STAY INCLUDES A MAKE-YOUR-OWN-PIZZA FEAST FOLLOWED BY S'MORES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE.

PIZZA NIGHT, KINNICKINICK FARM, CALEDONIA

INTO THE WILD

WORK UP AN APPETITE IN THESE SUMPTUOUS OUTDOOR SPOTS.

Matthiessen State Park, Utica

Hike past drippy gorges on 5 miles of trails, or snake through the forest on 11 miles of multiuse trails.

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington

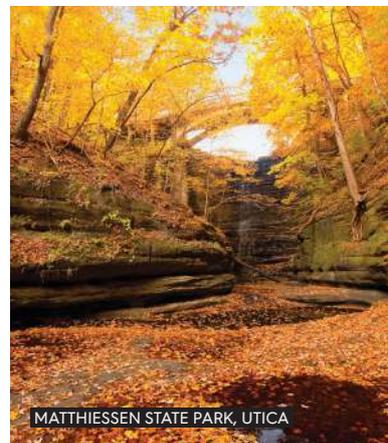
Rent a fat-tire bike and pedal 22 miles of easy trails alongside fenced pastures where bison graze.

Nachusa Grasslands, Franklin Grove

Walk the prairies, woodlands and wetlands while scoping out the herd of bison, or join a guide during Autumn on the Prairie in September.

Hardy's Reindeer Ranch, Rantoul

Wander a 10-acre corn maze, pick a pumpkin or Christmas tree, and kiss an Alaskan reindeer (open early September through late December).



MATTHIESSEN STATE PARK, UTICA

STORY: ANN KLEIN; PHOTOGRAPHS: (KINNICKINICK FARM) JENNIFER CAUSEY, (TENT) CORAL VON ZUMWALT, (ODD PRODUCE) DAVE ODD, (STATE PARK) JASON LINDSEY

"WE CREATE BEER WITH A DIVERSE ARRAY OF FARMED AND FORAGED INGREDIENTS THAT SHOWCASE THE TERROIR OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS."

MARIKA JOSEPHSON, CO-OWNER,
SCRATCH BREWING COMPANY



BASIL ALE, SCRATCH BREWING COMPANY

TOAST THE WILD SIDE

On the edge of Shawnee National Forest and down a gravel road in southern Illinois, **Scratch Brewing Company** crafts beer with natural finds like clover, mushrooms, elderberry, hickory nuts and oak leaves.

Aaron Kleidon grew up exploring these woods; he and co-owner Marika Josephson created the artsy, earthy place that *Men's Journal* called America's coolest microbrewery. Settle in at a big communal table to sample their latest brews and munch wood-oven pizza, or hang on the patio all day and savor the new lager released during Oktoberfest (late September).

Stay the night at a bed-and-breakfast in Ava or rent a cabin a short hike from the cliff-dotted forest where the Shawnee people once harvested food of their own.

FORAGE FLAVOR

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O&A

jane lynch

ILLINOIS CONNECTIONS HAVE MADE GUEST APPEARANCES THROUGHOUT THE WICKEDLY WITTY ACTOR'S CAREER, FROM HER TIME WITH THE SECOND CITY TO HER EMMY-WINNING ROLE ON THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL.

You can call it an actor's instinct—or perhaps it's the Chicago way—but Jane Lynch knows better than to tinker with a stellar script. The Dolton, Illinois, native didn't change a word written for her now meme-worthy role as cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester on *Glee* (which ran for six seasons on Fox). Those "perfect" lines were written by Ian Brennan, a fellow Illinoisan from Mount Prospect. On the flip side, her lines in Christopher Guest films, such as *Best in Show* and *A Mighty Wind*, were largely improvised. That fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants style was a skill Lynch aced as she toured with Chicago's *The Second City*. Her latest character, the two-faced Sophie Lennon on Amazon Prime's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, has Lynch sharing the 1950s set with fellow suburbanites Rachel Brosnahan and Alex Borstein. Though Lynch now lives in the Hollywood Hills with her partner, Jennifer; Jennifer's son; and a pair of cocker spaniel rescues, she gets back to Chicago often to visit family and sip coffee at her favorite spot. (Hint: It's in a furniture store.) We chatted with the five-time Emmy winner to learn how the city formed her, in and out of the spotlight.



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POST CARD.

VISIT
Moultrie County
FOR A DAY



THIS IS A REAL PHOTOGRAPH

Wish you were here!

"Boats, Buggies, & Broadway," Sullivan serves as the county seat of Moultrie County and is home to The Little Theatre On The Square, the only Equity (professional) theatre located between Chicago and St. Louis. In addition, the city serves as the north gateway to Lake Shelbyville and also marks the west edge of the area's largest Amish settlement.



Boats



Buggies



Broadway

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Q WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR TIME IN CHICAGO?

A I always loved going downtown, even when I was a kid. I loved the Lincoln Park area and Old Town. After graduating from Illinois State University (in Normal), I went to grad school at Cornell and then came back to Chicago. I got a little apartment in a three-story walk-up in Old Town and eventually got into The Second City's touring company. Although I didn't know that sketch comedy would be something I would want to do, I loved it. *Loved* it. From there I started doing shows at Steppenwolf Theatre, which was always something I aspired to do.

Q WHAT WAS ONE BIG TAKEAWAY FROM YOUR TIME DOING THEATER IN CHICAGO?

A At The Second City, it was really from the seat of your pants. You have to be able to make quick decisions—strong decisions—and stick with them. And that's how I work now. I rarely suffer over decisions. Any time I find myself thinking too much, I muck up the process. It's usually my first instinct that's best, and I go with that.

Q ARE THERE ANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVISED MOMENTS IN THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL?

A No. The script is a bible, and it is so well-written and so well-conceived. And they're sticklers about it too. I have asked to change words, and you see people go off in a corner discussing, then someone gets on the phone. They're usually quite open to what I want to do, but I rarely, rarely want to change a word.



"AHA, I KNEW I LIKED YOU!"

LYNCH'S REACTION WHEN SHE LEARNS SOMEONE IS FROM CHICAGO

ABOUT THOSE DOGS

Lynch and her partner, Jennifer, have rescued a number of dogs over the years—mostly seniors—including Arbuckle, an overweight mutt found abandoned in a field. Arbuckle became an Instagram sensation, attracting nearly 100,000 fans who followed his recovery and weight-loss journey before his death last year. Rumi, one of Lynch's two cocker spaniels, recently costarred in a video for the #AllInIllinois campaign. Check it out on Instagram: @janelynchofficial.



ARBUCKLE

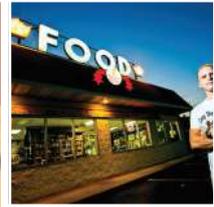


RUMI

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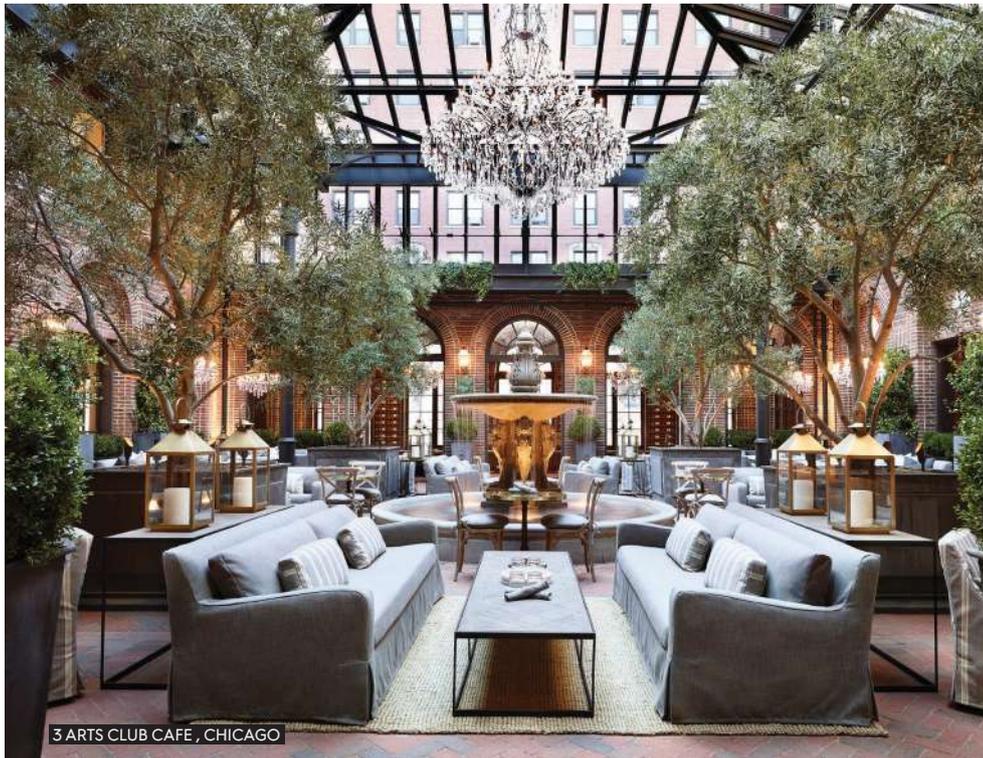
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3 ARTS CLUB CAFE, CHICAGO

Q HAVE YOU SHARED ANY CHICAGOAN BONDING MOMENTS WITH THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL COSTARS?

A Oh, yeah. We [Rachel Brosnahan, Alex Borstein and Lynch] all take pride in the fact that we grew up in a theater town. There's a respect for the process. A wardrobe designer once said to me, "I can always tell an actor from Chicago because they hang their clothes up." We take responsibility for our craft. When I find out someone's from Chicago, I'm rarely surprised. I go, "Aha, I knew I liked you!"

Q WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WHEN YOU COME BACK TO THE WINDY CITY?

A I love coffee, and they have a great coffee bar at Restoration Hardware on Dearborn Street. I could sit there all day with my computer. On my last visit, I stayed at the Soho House Chicago in the West Loop, and that is an amazing neighborhood. The architecture is basically untouched from the last century, and there are some terrific coffee shops and restaurants in that area.

Q WHERE CAN WE SEE YOU NEXT?

A Kate Flannery (Meredith on *The Office*) and I have been touring together for about seven years. We created a Christmas album called *A Swingin' Little Christmas*, and we're hoping to return to City Winery Chicago and the Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake in December. On the screen side, in addition to *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, I'm working with Cyndi Lauper on a new comedy for Netflix. It's going to be about women of a certain age, and we've become really good friends in the process. Working out who we are on this thing has been a joy.

JANE'S CHICAGO FAVES

EXPLORE THE WINDY CITY JUST LIKE LYNCH, WITH STOPS AT CAFES, THEATERS, MUSEUMS AND SWANKY-BUT-COZY HOTELS.

DO

- The iO Theater**
(1501 N. Kingsbury St.)
- Lyric Opera of Chicago**
(20 N. Upper Wacker Dr.)
- Museum of Broadcast Communications**
(360 N. State St., 2nd floor)
- Museum of Science and Industry**
(5700 S. Lake Shore Dr.)
- Steppenwolf Theatre**
(1650 N. Halsted St.)

EAT AND DRINK

- 3 Arts Club Cafe at Restoration Hardware**
(1300 N. Dearborn St.)
- Nookies Old Town**
(1746 N. Wells St.)
- RL Restaurant**
(115 E. Chicago Ave.)
- Sawada Coffee**
(112 N. Green St.)
- Swift and Sons**
(1000 W. Fulton Market)

STAY

- Claridge House**
(1244 N. Dearborn St.)
- Soho House Chicago**
(113-125 N. Green St.)



LIVING HER BEST CHICAGO LIFE

From left: Lynch (far left) with The Second City in 1989-90s. The troupe included SNL writer and Chicagoan Michael McCarthy (far right), who passed away in April. Posing in front of Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion in 2008. A city selfie with fellow *A Swingin' Little Christmas* performers Tim Davis and Kate Flannery in 2019.



PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF JANE LYNCH, (CAFE) COURTESY OF 3 ARTS CLUB CAFE, (THE SECOND CITY) JENNIFER GIRARD



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oh, my gourd

A 160-YEAR-OLD FAMILY FARM HONORS THE LAND AND EDUCATES VISITORS WITH THE HELP OF THEIR FUN FALL WONDERLAND. (DON'T MISS THE WALL O' SQUASH!)

Like other farm destinations, The Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur has wagon rides, a corn maze and, of course, U-pick patches. But the owners of this family-run agritourism enterprise work to send visitors home with even more than a few pumpkins, an afternoon of play and a belly full of farm-fresh baked goods. "There's a seasonality that's becoming extinct," says owner Mac Condill, whose family has welcomed visitors to its slice of Amish Country for six generations. "We want people to understand which produce grows during certain seasons." The knowledge turns visitors into savvy consumers, ones more connected to the land and to the food they put on their tables.

Condill is something of a squash guru. He's traveled the world studying and lecturing about sustainable farming and growing pumpkins, squash and gourds. (Viewers may have spotted him on *The Martha Stewart Show* or on DIY Network programming.) But he always returns to the family land and continues his teachings at the farm. "We hope to show people that farmers can truly grow it all," Condill says.

Visitors can attend weekend squash tastings with take-home recipes and can pick up produce to flex their culinary skills at home. Beyond the squash deep dive, however, visitors will find a maze of fall family fun.

DO

1 Shop for souvenir T-shirts, home decor, games and more in the Bridle Gift Shop. **2** Find the perfect pumpkin at the Pre-Picked Boulevard, where the heavy lifting is already done. **3** Heirloom squash, the kind your grandparents knew back in the day, line the Pumpkin Tree. **4** A vintage windmill twirls in the wind. **5** Choose green or dried gourds in all shapes and sizes for

your decor. **7** At Old McDonald's Barnyard, find a llama, sheep, chickens, roosters, turkeys and geese, plus pigs and a billy goat. **14** Cruise around the property aboard the TGPP Express Wagon while learning about the farm's history and pumpkin farming practices. **15** Find the perfect pumpkin at the U-Pick Patch. **16** On weekends and Columbus Day, race through the Great Maize Maze,

a full-acre cornfield maze with an elevated platform at the center. Other mazes include a mini one for toddlers. **17** Expressly for the faint of heart, Wanda's Haunted Crib is the mildest haunted house you'll ever encounter.

SEE

8 Once destined for demolition, the Center School, a one-room schoolhouse from 1912, was moved to the farm more than two decades ago. Inside, discover

the original wood floors and artifacts like slate chalkboards, a map case, a piano and a bust of Shakespeare. **9** Snap a photo at the centerpiece of all the activity at The Great Pumpkin Patch—the Pumpkin Tree, a 20-foot-tall structure of pumpkins shaped like an evergreen. **13** The Wall O' Squash showcases the diversity of the Cucurbitaceae family (a fancy word for plants with vines), with nearly 200 colorful

squash varieties from around the world. **11** The self-proclaimed World's Tallest Corn Shock is made from more than 1,500 corn stalks. **12** Rolled bales of straw mimic people.

EAT

6 Comfort food like cheeseburgers, barbecue pork sandwiches and fresh-cut fries await at The Pumpkin Eatery, open on weekends and Columbus Day. After your fill, savor scoops

RIDE
Climb aboard a wagon and go for a ride to learn more about the farm's history and pumpkins.



MAZES
Wind through a handful of mazes made from cornstalks, straw bales, sunflowers and broom corn.

LISTEN

Bluegrass and rock bands take the stage on September and October weekends.

SHOP

Skilled artisans create jewelry, toys, home decor and even musical instruments out of gourds.

of pumpkin ice cream at The Pumpkin Creamery, or try a made-from-scratch cinnamon roll or pumpkin bread from The Homestead Bakery.

LISTEN

Regional bands (such as Battle Creek and Mackville), plus area performers, like acoustic guitar player Jake Tatar, entertain on weekend afternoons. Whether it's bluegrass, gospel or country, chances are you'll be humming along.



The Great Pumpkin Patch

1749A CR 1900 N, Arthur

September 12-October 31 (closed Mondays, except Columbus Day)

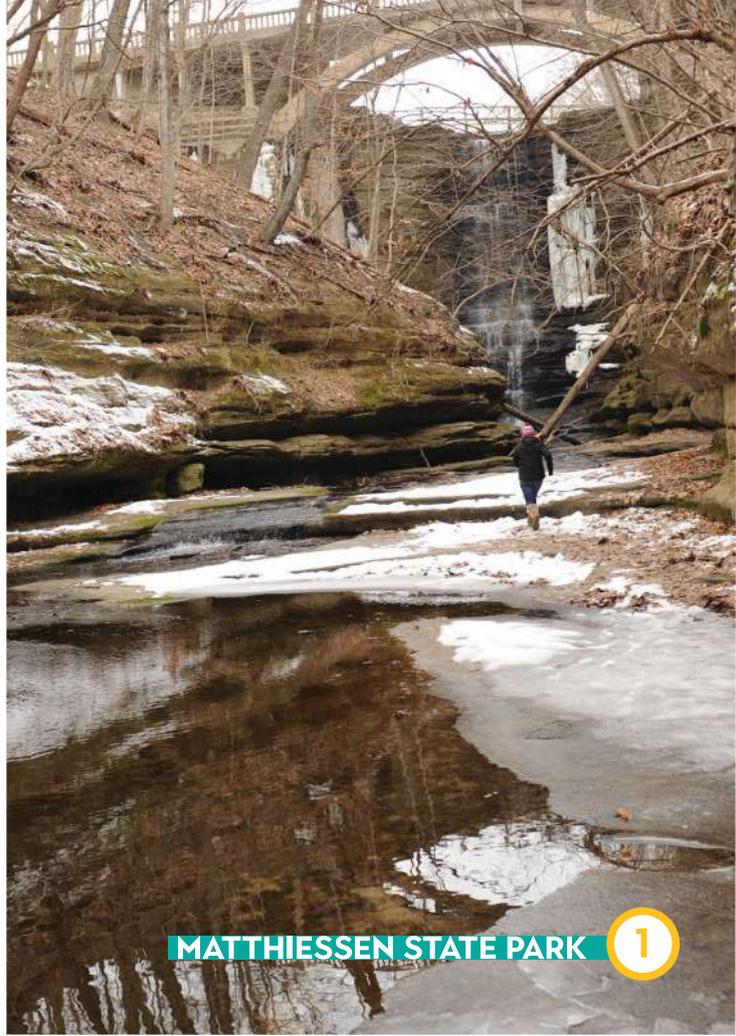




Less crowds, open trails, and quiet spaces make LaSalle County a serene destination during the weekdays. Be a Weekday Wanderer and make miles of memories!

1. Explore Mathissen Lake Falls and play in a fort.
2. Hike to sandstone canyons and seasonal waterfalls.
3. Enjoy locally-made wines at the August Hill tasting room.
 4. Where a night out with loved ones is revived.
 5. Enjoy the restaurant & artisanal hand crafted beers.
6. Experience an overnight stay in the middle of the park!
7. See historic murals, a lighted parade & go shopping.
8. Ride on a mule-pulled 1840's replica canal boat.

Find or request more information
at
EnjoyLaSalleCounty.com





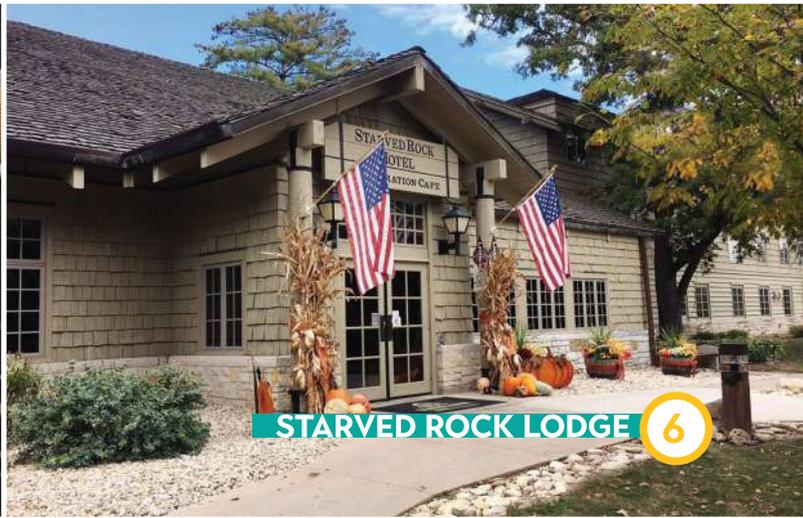
AUGUST HILL WINERY 3



DOWNTOWN OTTAWA 4



TANGLED ROOTS BREWERY 5



STARVED ROCK LODGE 6



STARVED ROCK STATE PARK 2



DOWNTOWN STREATOR 7



I & M CANAL LOCK 16 8

A large, moss-covered rock formation with a person taking a photo in the foreground. The rock face is layered and textured, with vibrant green moss and ferns growing on it. A person with a backpack is standing on a dirt path in the lower right, holding up a phone to take a picture of the rock wall. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage.

on *(and off)* the trail

HUNDREDS OF MILES OF TRAILS UNFURL ACROSS ILLINOIS AND WAIT FOR YOU TO EXPLORE. WHETHER YOU SET OUT ON FOOT, BIKE OR CANOE, THERE'S A NEARBY PUB TO REFUEL.

STARVED ROCK STATE PARK, OGLESBY



HIKE

STARVED ROCK STATE PARK, OGLESBY

ON THE TRAIL

Ice age glaciers cut through this 125-foot-high sandstone butte 1.5 hours southwest of Chicago, carving a labyrinth of 18 canyons. Water shapes them still, creating magnificent mossy walls and seasonal waterfalls most active after a heavy rain.

Thirteen miles of trails lead into the canyons and up to bluff-top overlooks. Starved Rock, known for its views across the Illinois River Valley, is where you can glimpse an eagle or frozen waterfall in the winter. Park staff lead two-hour hikes to places like Wildcat Canyon on Saturday mornings through November.

OFF THE TRAIL

At the park's Starved Rock Lodge, taps in the Back Door Lounge flow with signature brews, such as Lodge Lager from nearby Tangled Roots Brewing Company.



BIKE

TUNNEL HILL STATE TRAIL, VIENNA

ON THE TRAIL

Where railroad tracks once hauled coal from Cairo-area mines, bike tires now roll on this crushed-limestone trail between Harrisburg and Karnak. In 45 miles, it skirts a half-dozen ghost towns and soars over 23 trestles, including the 90-foot-high Breeden Trestle near Tunnel Hill. Along the way, the landscape transitions from classic Midwest field and forest to a moody, magical cypress swamp in the Cache River Natural Area that looks straight out of a Southern bayou. The Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center helps identify the chorus of birds, insects and tree frogs that hums through the preserve's dense canopy.

OFF THE TRAIL

Sample legit local flavor with catfish dinners, crawfish boils and occasional live rock music at Big Boys on the Loop in Vienna.



PADDLE

KANKAKEE RIVER NATIONAL WATER TRAIL, KANKAKEE

ON THE TRAIL

The gentle current of the Kankakee River does most of the work on this trail, carrying canoes downstream on a meandering route from the Illinois-Indiana state line to Wilmington. Particularly scenic and serene is the 11-mile stretch beginning in Kankakee, where the river flows past wooded islands and water-sculpted limestone banks in Kankakee River State Park. Bring binoculars to spy on herons and songbirds, or a fishing rod to tempt the bass, crappie and catfish abundant in the river's clear waters. Reed's Canoe Trips in Kankakee provides rentals and shuttle service.

OFF THE TRAIL

Cap off your excursion with a stop at Grapes and Hops, specializing in selections from Illinois wineries and craft breweries.

STORY: TINA LASSEN. PHOTOGRAPH: RYAN DONNELL

URBAN EXPLORER

WITH MORE THAN 100 MILES OF TRAILS, CHICAGO OFFERS OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS PLENTY OF OPTIONS. FOR SOME OF THE CITY'S BEST VIEWS, START WITH THESE TOP PICKS: EACH INCLUDES A SPOT TO GRAB FOOD AND A DRINK.



HIKE

ON THE TRAIL

Converted from an elevated rail line, the 3-mile Bloomingdale Trail (part of The 606 linear park system) seems to float 17 feet above surrounding northwest neighborhoods.

A padded surface alongside the bike lane pleases hikers and runners.

OFF THE TRAIL

In Logan Square, Parson's Chicken and Fish creates a convivial backyard barbecue vibe, with plenty of picnic tables and ping-pong on an outdoor patio.

BIKE

ON THE TRAIL

From Rogers Park, the 18-mile Lakefront Trail never strays from the big blue edge of Lake Michigan as it heads south past iconic city sights—Millennium Park, Soldier Field—with plenty of beaches, parks and public art along the way.

OFF THE TRAIL

Enjoy weekend brunch or dinner at Gemini, a Lincoln Park restaurant a half-mile from the trail. On warm days, head to the patio (pups welcome) with a local beer.

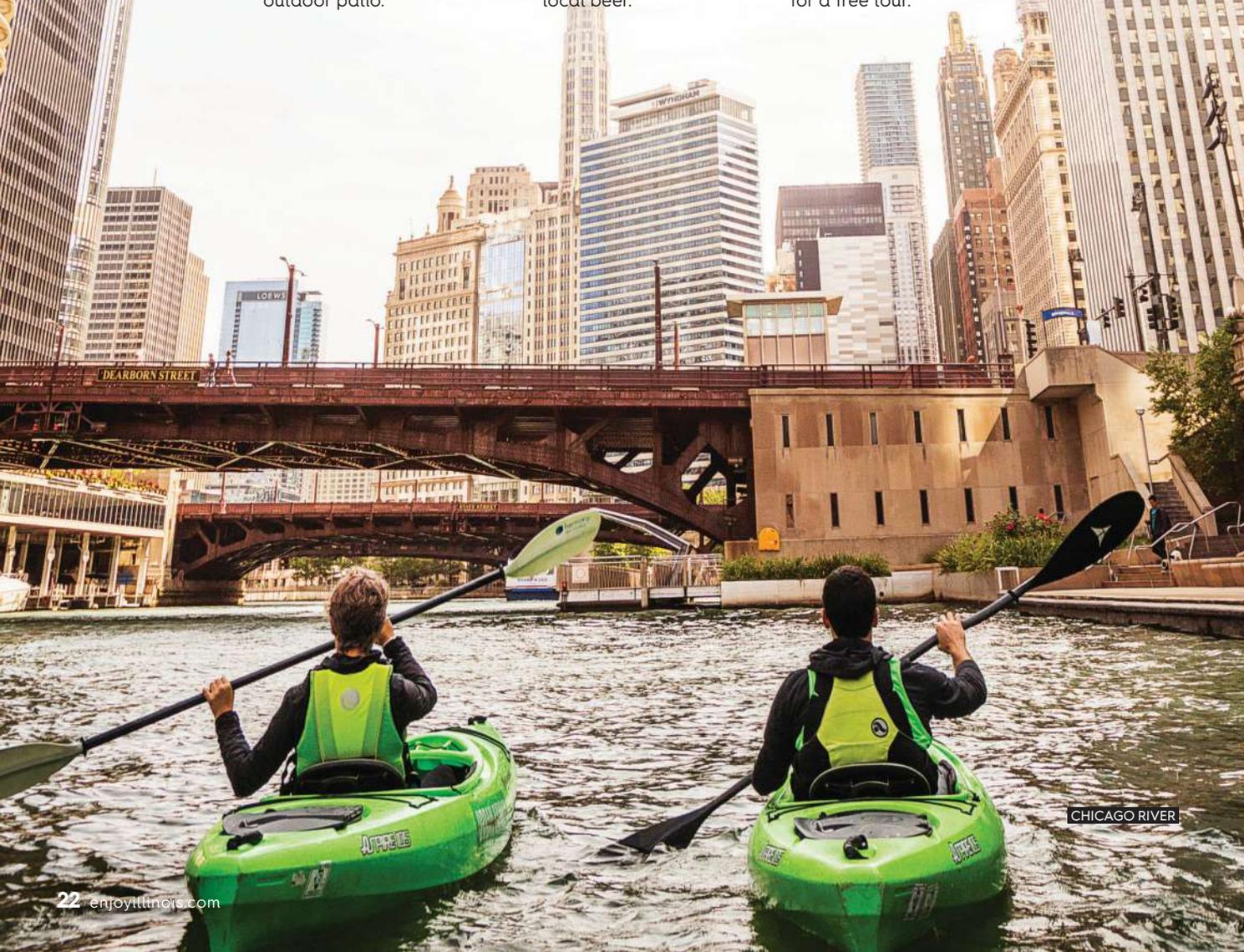
PADDLE

ON THE TRAIL

The Chicago River leads kayakers downstream from Goose Island, the ideal vantage point for admiring the city's stylish skyline. Rent or take a guided tour with Kayak Chicago.

OFF THE TRAIL

Quench your thirst at The Mousetrap, Off Color Brewing's quirky riverside taproom and beer garden in Lincoln Park. Stop by on Sunday for a free tour.



CHICAGO RIVER

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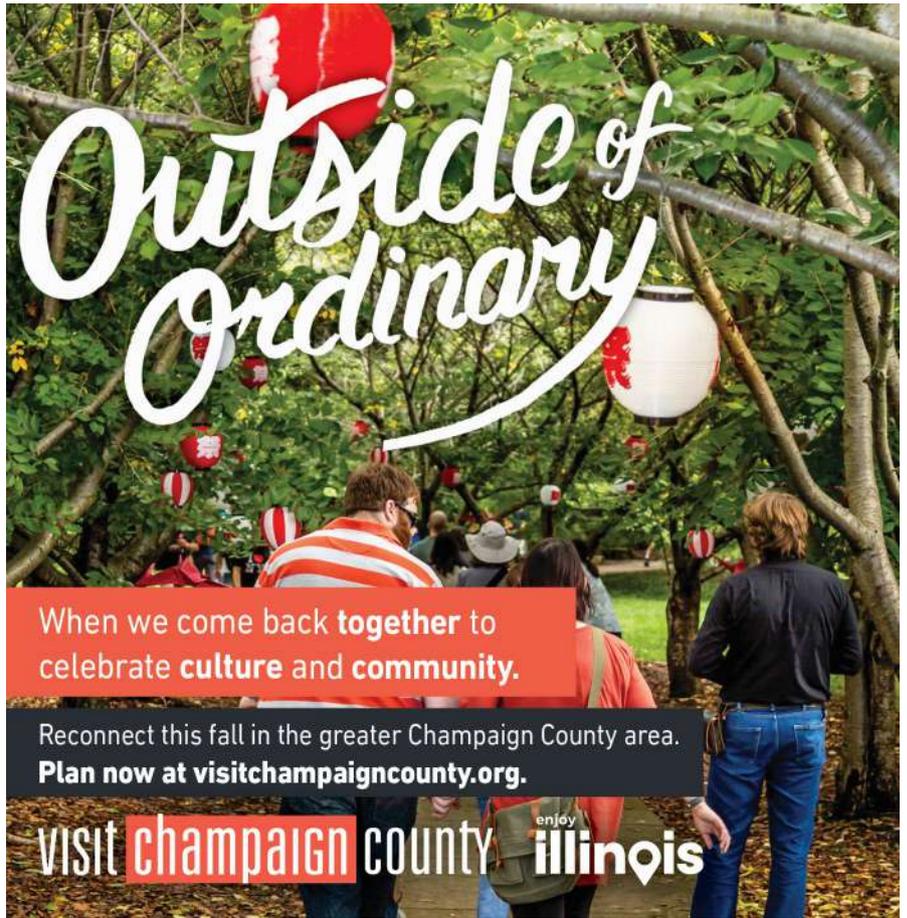
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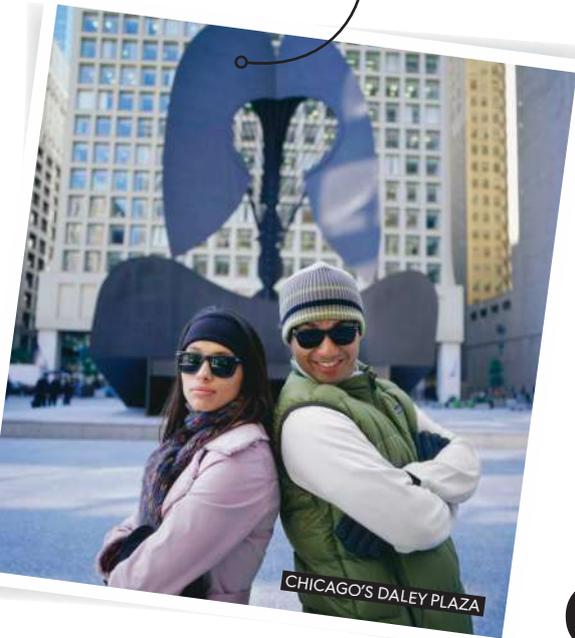


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LOCALS CALL THE MASSIVE (IT STANDS 50 FEET TALL!) ARTWORK "THE CHICAGO PICASSO," AFTER ITS NOTED CREATOR.



CHICAGO'S DALEY PLAZA



FROM THE MOVIE: RAY CHARLES AND THE BLUES BROTHERS

on location: true blues

FOUR DECADES LATER, FANS CAN CHANNEL THE SPIRIT OF JAKE AND ELWOOD AT THESE CHICAGOLAND LOCATIONS MADE FAMOUS IN THE BLUES BROTHERS. HIT IT!

NIGHT OF LAUGHTER

A Blues Brothers retrospective isn't complete without an evening at **The Second City**.



The legendary comedy club has been a launching pad for dozens of big-name comedians, including Belushi, Aykroyd and many of their *Saturday Night Live* successors. It hosts a busy lineup of sketch, improv and stand-up at seven theaters in one Chicago location (1616 N. Wells St.).

In 1980, Jake Blues (played by Humboldt Park native John Belushi) sprang out of prison and straight into the '80s pop-culture pantheon with his brother, Elwood (Dan Aykroyd).

Slide on your Wayfarers and get reacquainted with Chicago's famous duo on this 40th-anniversary tour of memorable locales from *The Blues Brothers*.

CHICAGO

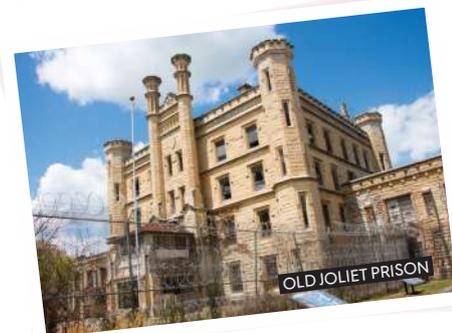
The Bluesmobile cruises over the **East Lagoon Bridge** in Jackson Park, en route to the South Side. At **300 E. 47th St.**, the fading music mural still adorns the exterior wall of the fictional Ray's Music Exchange, where the legendary Ray Charles belted "Shake a Tail Feather." (You might still score a deal

on instruments at **Shelly's Loan and Jewelry**. The shop, whose corner storefront served as Ray's in the movie, has since moved a few blocks south to 51st Street.) The over-the-top squad-car pileup occurred downtown at the **corner of Lake and LaSalle**. **Daley Plaza** and its **Picasso sculpture** get their Hollywood moment in the rousing finale, when the Bluesmobile plows through the **Richard J. Daley Center** (breakaway glass replaced normal panes) and the brothers race into the **Chicago City Hall-Cook County Building**.

JOLIET

The movie opens with Jake's release from the **Old Joliet Prison**, which housed a much more nefarious cast of villains in

real life. The Joliet Historical Society leads darkly fascinating walking tours of the castle-like facility, which served as a prison from 1858 to 2002 and was a filming location for TV's *Prison Break* in 2005. Visitors pass through the razor-wire-topped gate and into cells once occupied by Civil War prisoners and infamous criminals including Baby Face Nelson (who escaped) and mass murderer Richard Speck. No surprise that ghosts are said to haunt its halls.



OLD JOLIET PRISON

STORY: TINA LASSEN. PHOTOGRAPHS: (STATUE) LISA PREDKO PHOTOGRAPHY, (MOVIE) UNIVERSAL PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES, (SECOND CITY) KIRSTEN MICCOLI, (PRISON) RYAN DONNELL

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A lot has changed, but Chicago is still known for its welcoming spirit, shaped by our place in the heart of the country. When you're ready, we'll be here to warmly welcome you back.

We can't wait to see you.



CHICAGO

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JUST FOR TWO

Inn at Irish Hollow, Galena

Seven European-inspired cottages and suites with wood-burning fireplaces and soaking tubs (for two) make for the ideal romantic getaway in the snow-covered countryside. Enhance your stay with a couple's massage; custom floral arrangements; hand-painted chocolates; and a wine, cheese and charcuterie tray delivered to your door.



JUST FOR THREE? CHICAGO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WELCOMES DOGS!

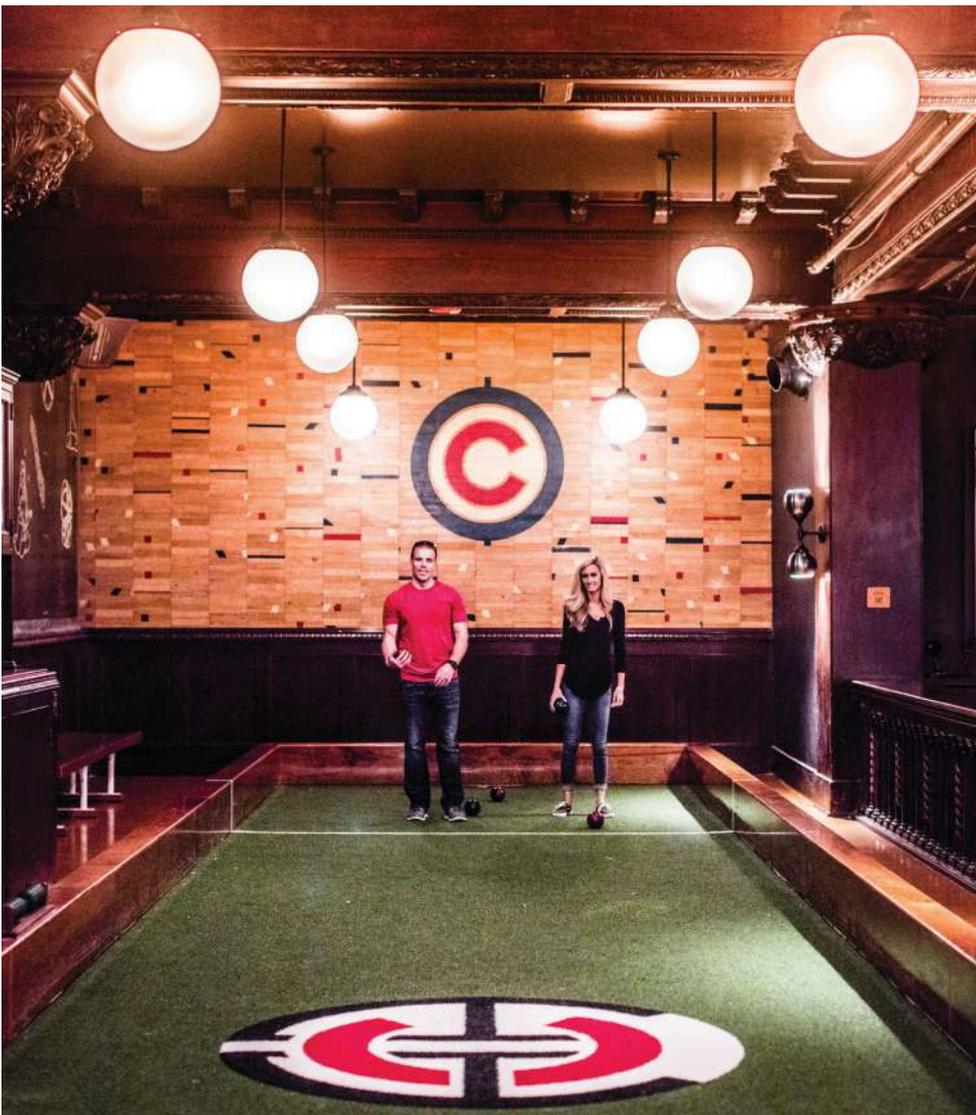
JUST FOR TWO

← **Chicago Athletic Association, Chicago**

Revel in the opulence of 19th-century Chicago architecture on a weekend getaway. Guest rooms feature vintage-inspired furnishings, marble bathrooms and minibars stocked with Chicago-made snacks. You won't even need to leave the building, thanks to **Cindy's**, a rooftop bar overlooking Millennium Park; a **Topgolf Swing Suite; Game Room** for bocce, billiards and board games; **Milk Room**, an eight-seat microbar and former speakeasy; and four additional on-site restaurants.

↓ **The Wine House and The Port House, Von Jakob Winery and Brewery, Alto Pass**

Enjoy a relaxing winter getaway at one of five bed-and-breakfast suites against the backdrop of the **Shawnee National Forest** along the **Shawnee Hills Wine Trail**. The romantic Chateau Suite, inspired by the winery's Chateau Red, offers a king-size bed, Jacuzzi tub, gas fireplace and complimentary bottle of wine. On weekends, the on-site **Grill and Pub** is the perfect spot for homemade comfort food, such as tender German Beef Brisket or Toasted Ravioli.



PHOTOGRAPHS: RYAN DONNELL, (HOTEL ROOM) COURTESY OF CHICAGO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, (WINERY) CARSON DOWNING

CHILL

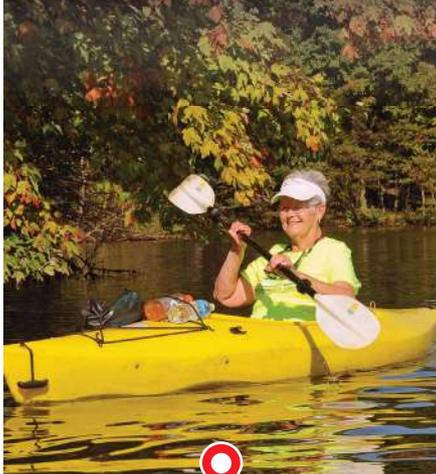
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JUST FOR THRILLS

↓ **Great Wolf Lodge, Gurnee**

Winter months are arguably the toughest for kids, so recapture the fun of summertime at this resort, where the indoor water park maintains a humid 84-degree year-round temperature. Tube slides, a lazy river and a wave pool are only a fraction of the family fun, and when adults need some chill time, cabanas are available for rent. Water-free activities at the lodge like mini golf, a climbing wall, a ropes course and a bustling arcade can also fill afternoons and evenings, along with eight bars and restaurants.

iFly, Rosemont

Experience the thrill of skydiving with none of the risk at the indoor skydiving facility at **Parkway Bank Park**. Guests don flight suits, helmets and goggles before floating over a controlled wind tunnel that simulates the feeling of skydiving—all without jumping out of a perfectly good airplane! Afterward, enjoy seasonal ice-skating at **Chicago Wolves Ice Rink** and a sweet treat at **Sugar Factory**. Make it a getaway at nearby **Embassy Suites**, perfect for families with its two-room suites, free breakfast and indoor pool.

360 Chicago Observation Deck, Tilt

Change your perspective of Chicago at the glass-paneled thrill attraction on the 94th floor of 875 North Michigan Avenue (the former John Hancock Center). **Tilt** leans out at a 30-degree angle over the **Magnificent Mile** for views from 1,030 feet up. On 360 Sunday Funday, the observation deck hosts live music and magic shows (1–3 p.m.) and **Tilt** is free for kids (9 a.m.–4 p.m.). Stay nearby at **The Drake Hotel**, where dedicated family guest rooms feature a second bathroom and two queen beds.



PHOTOGRAPH: IOT

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

Experience the wonder of Navy Pier year-round. Enjoy a refreshing stroll along the shore before warming up with delicious Chicago bites. Explore the range of shops and attractions, or ride the heated *Centennial Wheel*. **Discover the possibilities.**

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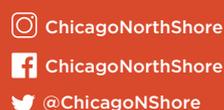
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- Illinois Holocaust Museum
- Halim Time and Glass Museum
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- Northwestern University
- Westfield Old Orchard
- Northbrook Court
- The Glen Town Center

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JUST LIKE PARADISE

→ **Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago**

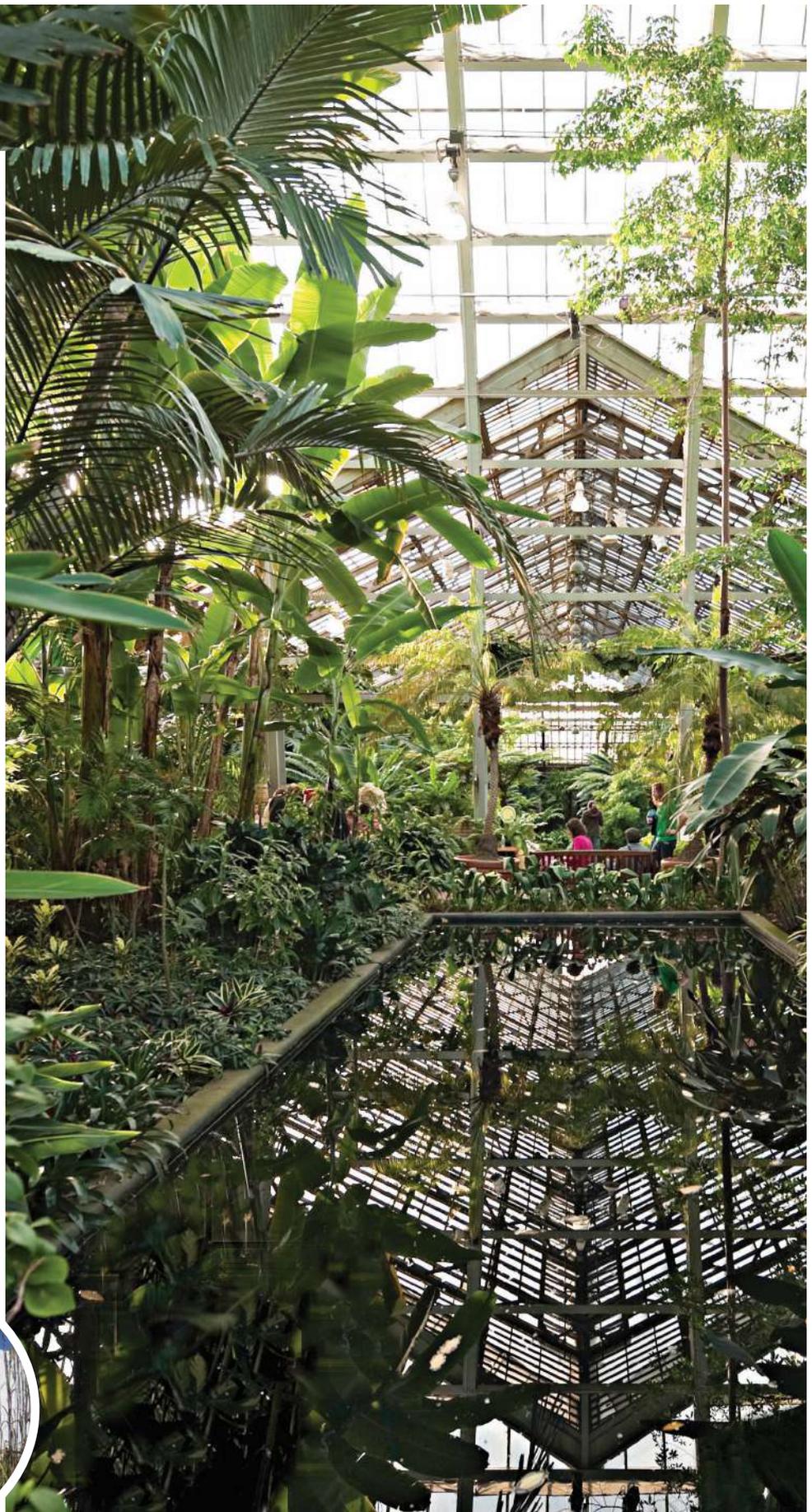
Open since 1908, this conservatory is one of the largest in the nation. Two acres of indoor space are divided into eight display houses. Be sure to visit Palm House, where more than 70 graceful palm trees transport visitors to what feels and looks like a toasty island jungle. In Aroid House, 16 glass lily pads crafted by renowned artist Dale Chihuly dot the indoor pond. Bunk down nearby at **Hotel Chicago West Loop**, a boutique hotel with in-room murals from local artists and artwork-filled hallways.

Washington Park Botanical Garden, Springfield

The grounds may be frozen, but you'll barely notice thanks to the balmy temps within the 50-foot glass-dome conservatory. Here, more than 150 diverse plant species from around the world thrive. The garden also features an indoor greenhouse. Make it an overnight trip with a stay at the **Inn at 835**, where most rooms have jetted tubs.

Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island

The nearly 6,500-square-foot Tropical Sun Garden features lush plants, a 14-foot waterfall, a stream and a Japanese koi pond. Sunlight pours through the 70-foot skylight to nurture the collection of fruit-bearing plants, including coconut, banana, vanilla, coffee and cocoa trees. (Sorry, no snacking allowed!) Stay the night in 1920s Art Deco luxury at **The Axis Hotel Moline**, a 10-minute drive from the garden.



WARM UP IN THE TROPICAL SUN GARDEN AT THE QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER.



PHOTOGRAPHS: PATRICK L. PYSZKA/CITY OF CHICAGO. (INSET) COURTESY OF QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



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Take A Stand Center

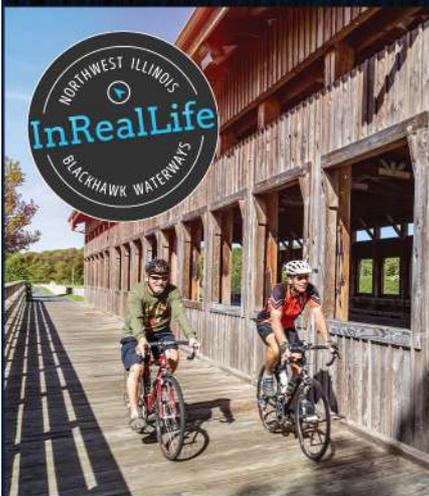
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reflection

IN THE SHADOW OF DOWNTOWN CHICAGO, ENJOY A MEDITATIVE STROLL THROUGH MARY BARTELME PARK'S SIGNATURE SCULPTURE. OR SNAP A SELFIE WITH THE ICONIC SKYLINE FROM AN IDEAL HILLTOP VANTAGE.

1

The number of square city blocks this West Loop neighborhood park occupies.

3

The number of diagonal paths that crisscross to create distinct zones, including a lawn and an off-leash dog park.

5

The number of stainless-steel arches, which double as misting fountains on hot days.

6

The height in feet of a hill that puts visitors at the perfect elevation to see the entire park and city skyline.

2010

The year the park was named for the state's first female judge. Bartelme also helped establish America's first juvenile court in the late 1890s.



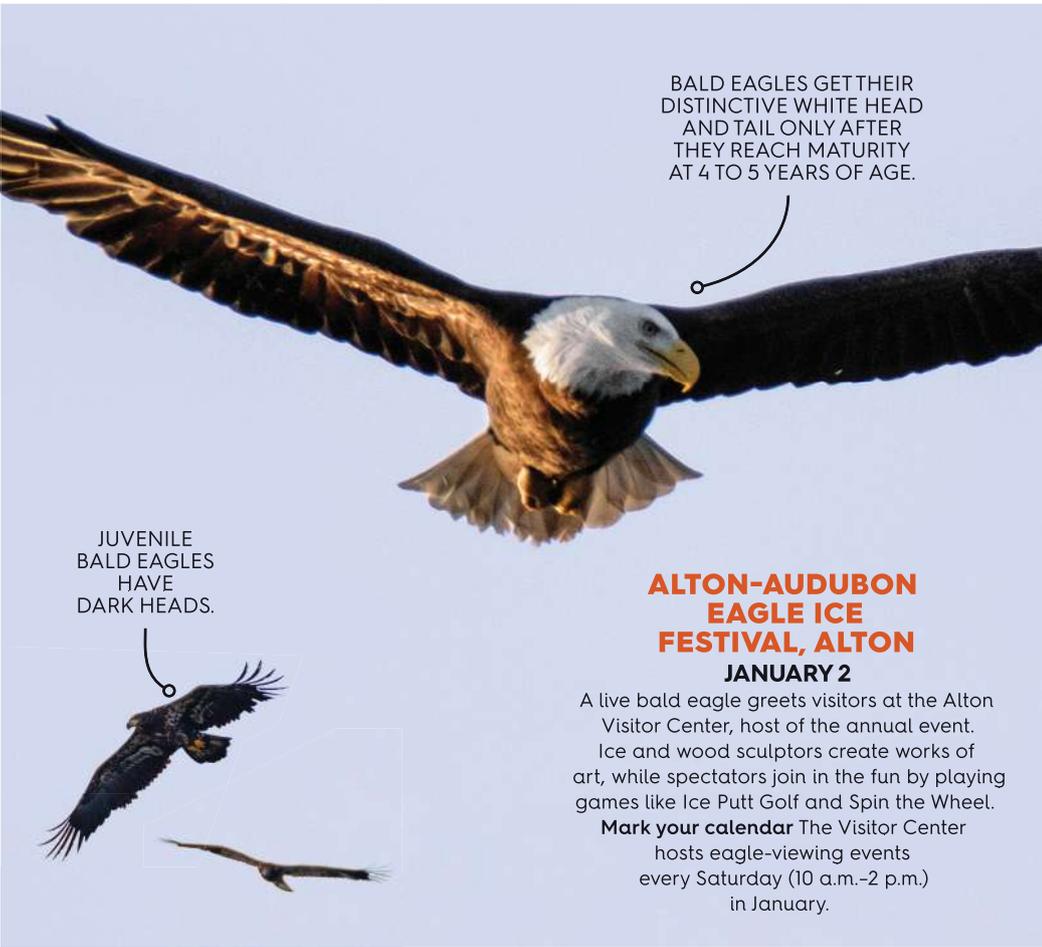
PHOTOGRAPH: BOB STEFKO



MARY BARTELME PARK, WEST LOOP, CHICAGO

america's bird

EVERY WINTER, NEARLY 3,000 BALD EAGLES MAKE THEIR WAY TO ILLINOIS FOR ITS OPEN WATER AROUND RIVERS AND LOCKS AND DAMS. SEE THESE MAJESTIC CREATURES AT AREA EVENTS AND PRIME WATCHING SPOTS.



ALTON-AUDUBON EAGLE ICE FESTIVAL, ALTON JANUARY 2

A live bald eagle greets visitors at the Alton Visitor Center, host of the annual event. Ice and wood sculptors create works of art, while spectators join in the fun by playing games like Ice Putt Golf and Spin the Wheel. **Mark your calendar** The Visitor Center hosts eagle-viewing events every Saturday (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) in January.

5 PLACES TO SPOT EAGLES

Hartford

The platforms of the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower allow for the perfect bird's-eye view above the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Carlyle

Spot eagles diving for fish along the Kaskaskia River while hiking trails between the General Dean Bridge and the Carlyle Lake Dam.



Oglesby

Owned by the Illinois Audubon Society, the Plum Island Eagle Sanctuary on the Illinois River is home to wintering bald eagles.

Rock Island Arsenal

The Mississippi River Visitor Center offers guided eagle-watching tours on Saturdays in January and February.

Mississippi River Lock and Dams

Eagles gather near open water at lock and dams in the northwest portion of the state. Popular spots to see convocations include Lock and Dam Nos. 13, 15 and 16.

PERE MARQUETTE STATE PARK BALD EAGLE DAYS, GRAFTON

JANUARY-MARCH

An observational 4-mile drive to spot bald eagles departs from the park's visitors center after a short video and presentation about our national bird. Reservations required. For a full day of activities at the state park, hike or cycle the paved trail.

BALD EAGLE DAYS AND WILDLIFE ART SHOW, ROCK ISLAND

JANUARY 8-10

During education and conservation seminars, learn about bald eagles and owls, plus other animals, such as alpacas. Bring your kids: They will love the hands-on activities and face painting. Wildlife artist John Eberhart also displays his work.

GREAT RIVER EAGLE DAYS, QUINCY

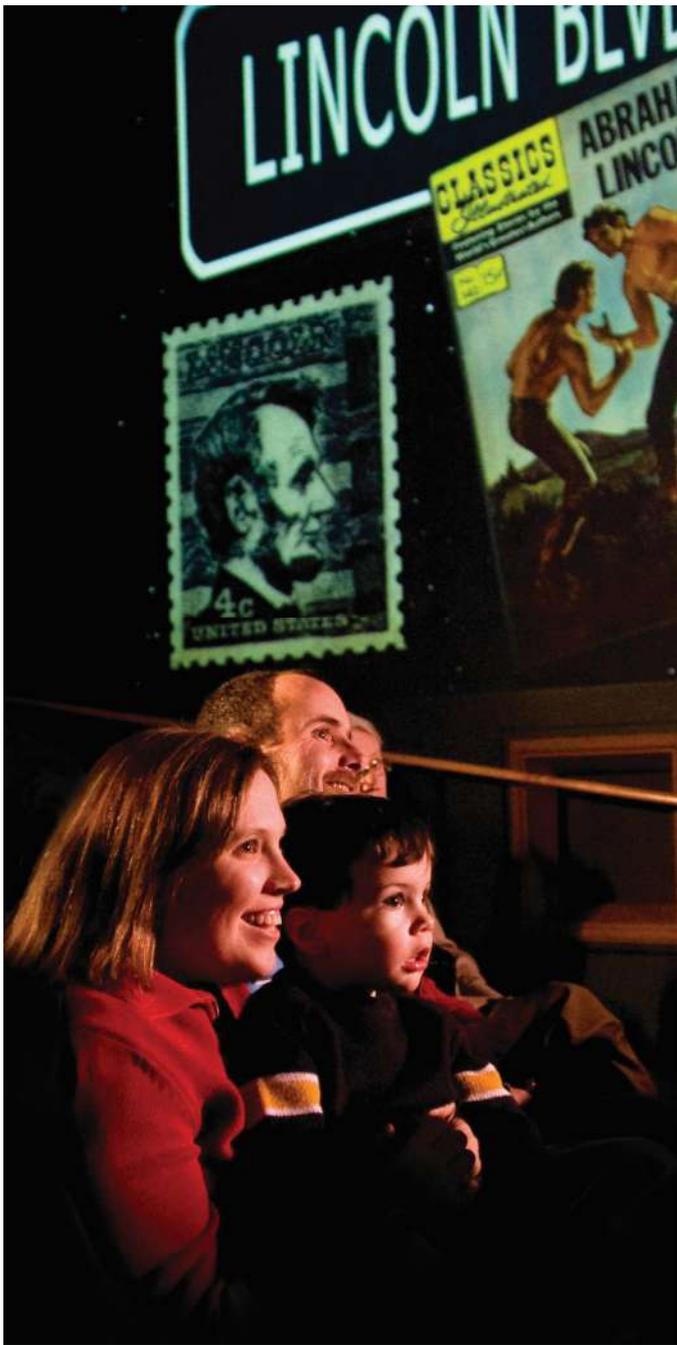
JANUARY 23-24

The Standing Bear Council hosts a weekend of entertainment with a Grand Entry, plus Native dancing, drumming and flute playing. Nosh on fry bread between demonstrations or head to Lock and Dam No. 21, where rangers offer use of spotting scopes.

BALD EAGLE WATCH WEEKEND, STARVED ROCK LODGE, OGLESBY

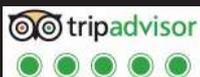
JANUARY 30-31

With more than 18 miles of trails, hike alongside park naturalists to the top of Starved Rock for an eagle-viewing tour. The two-day event includes live bird demonstrations and art and history programs throughout the area. Make it a weekend and stay at the lodge or one of the private cabins.



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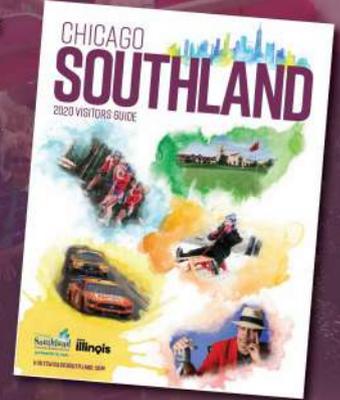
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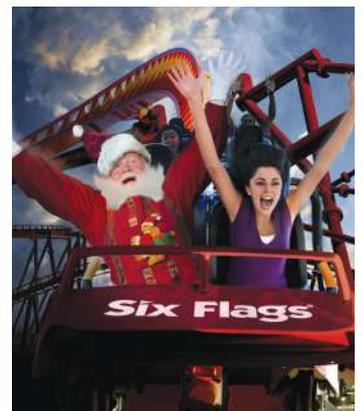
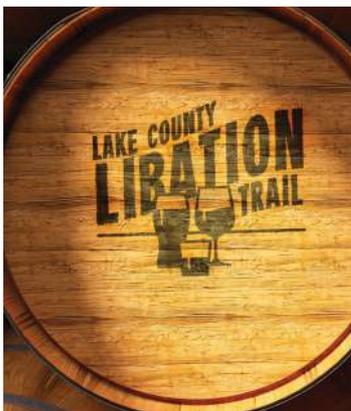


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FOODIE STAR GAZING

AN EVER-EXPANDING GALAXY OF CELEBRITY CHEFS HAS SET UP SHOP IN CHICAGO, WHERE KITCHEN CREATIVITY AND TALENT FUEL FAMED RESTAURANTS. BOOK A TRIP, SNAG SOME RESERVATIONS, AND GET READY FOR THE MOST MEMORABLE MEALS OF YOUR LIFE.

Writer **Jen Nilsson**

Chicago's food story may have begun in 1893, when the World's Columbian Exposition brought the first all-beef hot dog to the city. Today, the Chicago dog persists as a must-try tradition for any visitor. (Pro tip: Never add ketchup.) But the city's food scene has evolved to encompass not only the humble dog and other local classics, but also a long roster of world-class restaurants. These days, a city block might contain a cherished deep-dish pizzeria next to a glossy eatery brandishing a Michelin star (or two, or even three).

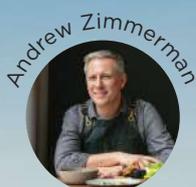
This transformation in a city that has always welcomed culinary creativity is coupled with Chicago's ideal location. The surrounding Midwestern farmlands

offer an abundance of sustainably sourced seasonal ingredients to support the farm-to-table movement. Combined with urban vigor and an influx of fresh ideas, the result is a breeding ground for chefs who have lined entire city neighborhoods with award-winning establishments.

These restaurant corridors attract more than just foodies. They lure top talent and Top Chefs—of TV fame—who bring art and science to the plate. They also bring James Beard Awards, which rain down on the city. Maybe that's why the James Beard Foundation has moved its Oscar-like awards night to Chicago through 2021. In any case, we diners win.



SMYTH AND THE LOYALIST



PROXI, SEPIA



SIENA TAVERN, BAR SIENA, PRIME AND PROVISIONS, BOMBOBAR



LEÑA BRAVA, CRUZ BLANCA BREWERY AND TAQUERIA, XOCO, FRONTERA GRILL, BAR SÓTANO, TOPOLOBAMPO



PARACHUTE, WHEREWITHALL

STARS

The Michelin Guide awards restaurants highly coveted stars based on set criteria. There are only 14 three-star restaurants in the United States.

✿ HIGH-QUALITY COOKING, WORTH THE STOP

✿✿ EXCELLENT COOKING, WORTH A DETOUR

✿✿✿ EXCEPTIONAL CUISINE, WORTH A SPECIAL JOURNEY

THE "CHEFTESTANTS"

THESE CHEFS CLAIMED FAME ON TV'S TOP CHEF BEFORE BRINGING THEIR CULINARY TALENTS TO THE WINDY CITY.



FABIO VIVIANI
Siena Tavern,
Prime and
Provisions,
Bar Siena,
BomboBar

In his adopted hometown of Chicago, Viviani's big, fan-favorite personality is on display at Siena Tavern in River North. The sprawling, club-like space is where you can find the massive Wagyu Beef Meatball, or order it at the luxe Prime and Provisions steakhouse in the Loop. In the West Loop, Bar Siena patrons dine on Italian street food served on small plates. Sweet treats await at BomboBar.

STEPHANIE IZARD
Girl and the Goat,
Duck Duck Goat,
Little Goat Diner,
Cabra Cevicheria

She was the first female to win *Top Chef* and the first to open four establishments in the well-fed West Loop. Try the oven-roasted pig face at Girl and the Goat, share the family-style Peking duck at Duck Duck Goat, keep it casual with goat chili at Little Goat Diner, or snag a seat at the ceviche bar at Cabra atop the Hoxton Hotel.

SARAH GRUENEBERG
Monteverde
Restaurant and
Pastificio

She was a runner-up on *Top Chef*, but now she's whipping up winning recipes in the West Loop with traditional Italian dishes, like wok-fried arrabbiata, made with modern methods.

TAKASHI YAGIHASHI
Tabo Sushi

For an affordable lunch from a *Top Chef Masters* alum, find this restaurateur creating a next-level dragon roll in the culinary collective that is the food hall at Wells Street Market.

DISHED BY THE
NEXT STAR CHEF?

Four of the chefs who earned 2019 James Beard Awards learned their craft at Chicago's Kendall College at National Louis University. In the suburbs, one of only 65 Certified Master Chefs in the world teaches future cooks in the Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts Program. Both campuses have student-run restaurants. Reserve ahead.



BEVERLY KIM AND
JOHNNY CLARK

Parachute
Wherewithall

Pass the Seoul food at Parachute, an intimate Avondale establishment serving shared plates of Korean-American dishes from the open kitchen of this *Top Chef* alumna and her chef husband. A few doors down at Wherewithall, where the menu changes daily, the couple interprets Chicago's ever-morphing diversity with prix fixe four-course dinners.

CUTLEFISH WITH GOCHUJANG AND CRISPY RICE

THE PERSONALITIES

PURE INGREDIENTS AND PURE CHARISMA HELPED THESE CHEFS MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES IN THE CULINARY WORLD.

LENA BRAVA

FREE-FORM TART



RICK BAYLESS
Leña Brava,
Cruz Blanca
Brewery and
Taqueria, Xoco,
Frontera Grill,
Bar Sótano,
Topolobampo®

From O'Hare Airport to Willis Tower and the West Loop to River North, you can find this chef's famous take on authentic Mexican cuisine. Leña Brava, in the West Loop, pays tribute to Baja California. Flames from the wood-fired kitchen create the fire of his fire-and-ice-theme dinners. At Cruz Blanca Brewery and Taqueria next door, Oaxacan street food gets piled high on beer trays. But it's in River North where he built an empire. At Xoco, grab a chorizo-and-egg empanada to go. For fewer food and more drink options, ask to be escorted downstairs to Bar Sótano, or use the alley entrance (think speakeasy). Topolobampo offers a tasting menu of classic dishes, including dry-aged beef ribeye and braised short rib.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (LENA BRAVA) JOSE OLGUIN, (RICK BAYLESS) GALDONES PHOTOGRAPHY, (PROX) KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX



GRANT ACHATZ

Alinea***, **Next***,
Roister, **St. Clair
Supper Club**, **The
Aviary**, **The Office**

A pioneer of molecular gastronomy—the chemistry behind ingredient transformation—this restaurateur mixes science and art to create dining experiences. Lincoln Park’s Alinea is one of 14 restaurants in America with a three-star Michelin rating. The West Loop’s Next invents artful dishes for themed, prix fixe meals influenced by world cities, regions and historic cooking traditions. Next door at Roister, an open kitchen reigns and music rules. Dishes like the Fried Chicken Sandwich are homey yet hip: Togarashi hot sauce and chamomile spike the mayo. Downstairs at St. Clair Supper Club, the menu distills fine dining with always medium-rare prime rib. Two doors down, the drama that defines drinks at The Aviary carries over to this cocktail bar’s bites menu—think foie gras with rhubarb, pumpernickel and lavender. Cocktail pairings are bigger at The Office, a speakeasy in the basement. Secure tables with Tock, the worldwide reservation system that’s the brainchild of Nick Kokonas, Chef Achatz’s business partner.

PAUL KAHAN

Blackbird®, **Avec**,
Big Star, **Dove’s
Luncheonette**, **Cafe
Cancale**, **Pacific
Standard Time**,
**Publican Quality
Meats**, **The Publican**

As executive chef of one of the city’s trailblazing restaurant groups, this Chicagoan collaborates with kitchen teams across a map of acclaimed hot spots. In Wrigleyville and Wicker Park, Big

Star pairs tacos with whiskey. Next door to the Wicker Park spot, Dove’s Luncheonette perches diners on stools to eat Southern-inspired Mexican fare. Walk around the corner to Kahan’s newest restaurant, Cafe Cancale, which stars oysters. In River North, Pacific Standard Time brings California-inspired dishes. In Fulton Market, don’t miss the oyster po’ boy

at Publican Quality Meats, the butcher shop, bakery and cafe neighboring the communal tables of The Publican, a European-influenced beer hall specializing in pork and oysters. At West Loop’s Blackbird, tradition meets elegance in dishes like caramelized mussels. Midwestern-influenced Mediterranean plates are for sharing at Avec, next door.



ANDREW
ZIMMERMAN

Sepia®, **Proxi**

This former musician now spins dishes at the West Loop’s Sepia that will make you sing. The 1890 print shop-turned-restaurant perfectly encapsulates his vintage recipes balanced with modern flair, like scallops and black pudding. Next door, the menu at Proxi is inspired by street food the chef discovered during his travels around the world.

MORE PERSONALITIES

ART SMITH

Blue Door Kitchen and Garden

Once the personal chef for Oprah Winfrey, this restaurateur brings sustainable ingredients from Winfrey's former farm in nearby Indiana to Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood. Midwestern flavor mixes with Southern traditions, like fried chicken and waffles and shrimp and grits.

CARLOS GAYTÁN

Tzucó

A Mexican theme pervades the former *Top Chef's* River North restaurant. Grab-and-go pastries make for an on-the-go brunch. Carne asada, chile relleno and other traditional Mexican favorites are made with a French technique he brought back from Mexico.

PAUL VIRANT

Vie, Vistro, Gaijin The bounty of Midwestern farms takes center stage year-round in the suburbs, where the canning and pickling innovations of this acclaimed chef shine at Vie in Western Springs and Vistro in Hinsdale. Virant's newest venture is Gaijin, which means foreigner in Japanese. The West Loop spot is all about a pancake called *okonomiyaki*.



JOHN SHIELDS AND KAREN URIE SHIELDS

Smyth and The Loyalist

This culinary couple met in the kitchen and remain united in locally sourced cuisine. At Smyth and The Loyalist, a dual-concept restaurant in the West Loop, the ingredients for the tasting menu and the cocktails come from a partner farm an hour south of Chicago.

RESTAURANT CORRIDORS

THESE CITY BLOCKS DEFINE "HOT" FOR THE FOOD SCENE. FIND A WEEKEND'S WORTH OF UNFORGETTABLE MENUS WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

WEST LOOP

This area is bursting with so many buzzy eateries that locals have dubbed Randolph Street "Restaurant Row." Once home to warehouses, today the loft-like spaces are filled with food, music and Chicago's Google headquarters.

RIVER NORTH

It's Chicago's date scene and the place to be seen. Within a three-block radius, you can find the city's premier steakhouses and speakeasies, as well as a supper club with a champagne lounge.

PILSEN

Where public art is celebrated and plates of carnitas are hallowed, Pilsen's 18th Street is a cornucopia of dining stops that are influenced by the neighborhood's history as a home to European and Mexican immigrants.

LINCOLN PARK

There is only one neighborhood where you can find both a three-star Michelin restaurant and a joint called The Wieners Circle. Lincoln Park is known as much for its variety as for its abundance.

LOGAN SQUARE

Eclectic eateries and craft-cocktail outposts line bustling Milwaukee Avenue in this northwest-side neighborhood known for artists, musicians and bike-friendly boulevards. Diversey Avenue booms with options too.

THE LEGENDS

THEIR NAMES ARE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
NOW THEIR RESTAURANTS ARE TOO.



RPM Italian, RPM Steak, RPM Seafood, Pizza Portofino

TV celebrities Bill and Giuliana Rancic are the “R” in these hot spots that serve up sophisticated fare at approachable prices and attract celebrity clientele. In collaboration with Chicago-based mega restaurant group Lettuce Entertain You, the Rancics are also behind Pizzeria Portofino, a riverfront spot where Fried Zucchini Flowers star alongside craft pie and grilled seafood.

Michael Jordan’s Steak House

He is basketball’s greatest of all time, so you can bet that Michael Jordan’s Steak House serves its steak elevated. Try MJ’s Prime Delmonico, which is dry-aged for 45 days.

Harry Caray’s Italian Steakhouse, River North

Holy cow! The late baseball broadcaster behind the name of this restaurant never saw the Cubs win the World Series, but he did oversee some of the best prime steaks and chops in town. For an extra inning, check out his sister tavern on Navy Pier, and 7th Inning Stretch in Water Tower Place.

Buddy Guy’s Legends

The stage is rocking seven nights a week at this South Side club and soul-food restaurant where the blues come alive. Throughout January, Buddy Guy himself takes the stage.

BONE-IN SWORDFISH RIBEYE



RPM SEAFOOD

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

FOUR PRESIDENTS HAVE TAKEN ROUTES TO THE WHITE HOUSE THAT INCLUDED ILLINOIS. UP YOUR POTUS IQ AT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE COMMANDERS IN CHIEF. Writer Gary Thompson



Abraham Lincoln
16th President
1861-1865
A SPRINGFIELD



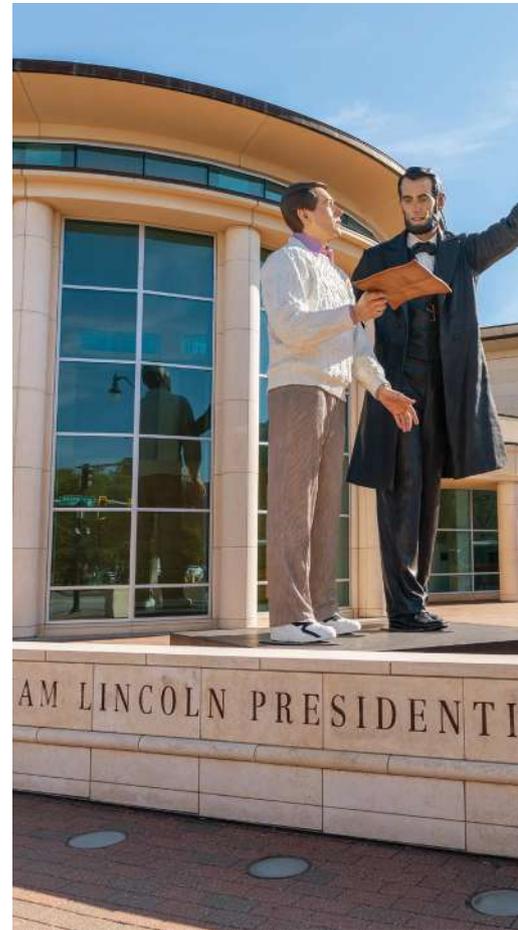
Ulysses S. Grant
18th President
1869-1877
B GALENA



Ronald Reagan
40th President
1981-1989
C DIXON



Barack Obama
44th President
2009-2017
D CHICAGO



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

As you'd expect, the Land of Lincoln offers many ways to experience Lincoln's legacy. For a closer look at his young adult years, visit **Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site**, about 20 miles northwest of Springfield. It re-creates the village where he worked as a store clerk, rail-splitter, postmaster and deputy surveyor. He failed as a



"MY FRIENDS,
NO ONE,
NOT IN MY
SITUATION,
CAN
APPRECIATE
MY FEELING
OF SADNESS
AT THIS
PARTING. TO
THIS PLACE
AND THE
KINDNESS
OF THESE
PEOPLE,
I OWE
EVERYTHING."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IN HIS FAREWELL
ADDRESS IN SPRINGFIELD
BEFORE DEPARTING FOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
AND MUSEUM, SPRINGFIELD

businessman there but won election to the Illinois General Assembly. In Springfield itself, tour the **Old State Capitol**, where Lincoln served as a state legislator, argued cases before the Illinois Supreme Court and delivered his famous "House Divided" speech. It's also where Lincoln's body lay in state after his assassination.

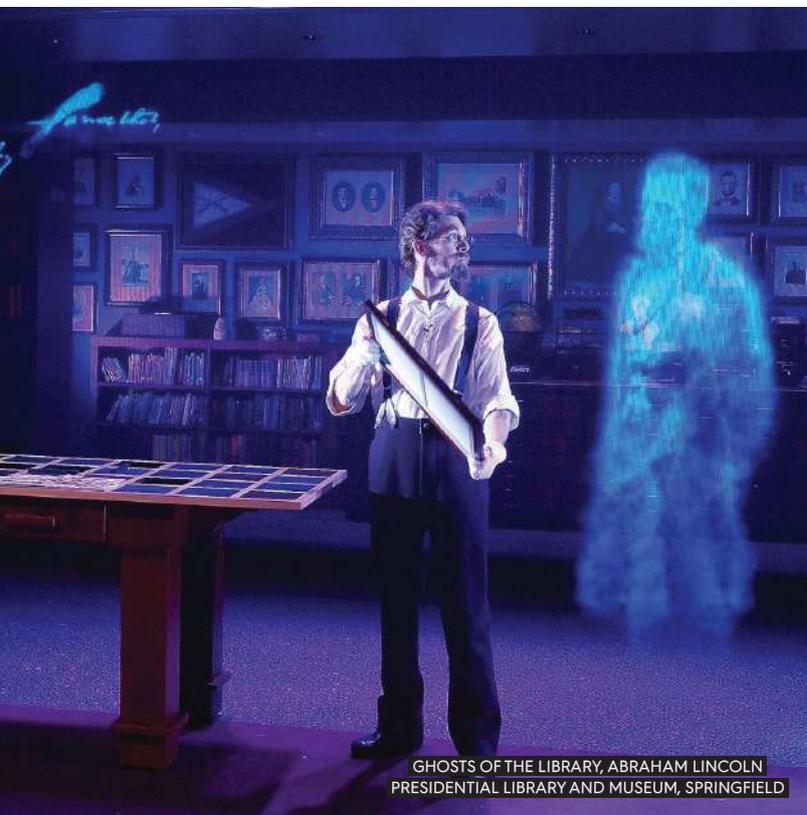
OTHER LINCOLN STOPS IN SPRINGFIELD

» The **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** provides an engaging overview of the 16th president's life. The dramatic *Ghosts of the Library* Holavision feature is a must-see.

» Lincoln spent nearly 25 years as a lawyer, working out of various buildings in Springfield. The last one standing is the **Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices** on the south side of the town square.



FRITZ KLEIN, ABRAHAM LINCOLN PORTRAYER,
OLD STATE CAPITOL, SPRINGFIELD



GHOSTS OF THE LIBRARY, ABRAHAM LINCOLN
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, SPRINGFIELD

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

- » Learn more about Honest Abe's domestic life at the **Lincoln Home National Historic Site**, the downtown Springfield home he and Mary Todd Lincoln lived in for 17 years. It's the only residence Lincoln ever owned.
- » Stop at **The Lincoln Depot** to see where President-elect Lincoln boarded a train for Washington, D.C., in 1861. More than 1,000 people gathered to bid him farewell.
- » Pay respects at the **Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site**. It's the final resting place for Lincoln, wife Mary and three of the couple's four sons.
- » And if you're not afraid of the dark side, go on **Lincoln's Ghost Walk**, a 90-minute lantern-lit tour that uses Lincoln sites as the backdrop for stories about his life and death.



In Pittsfield, take the **Abe Lincoln's Talking Houses Tour**, a self-guided driving and walking tour that includes 14 buildings with ties to Lincoln.

LINCOLN'S SHADOW SPREADS TO OTHER ILLINOIS TOWNS

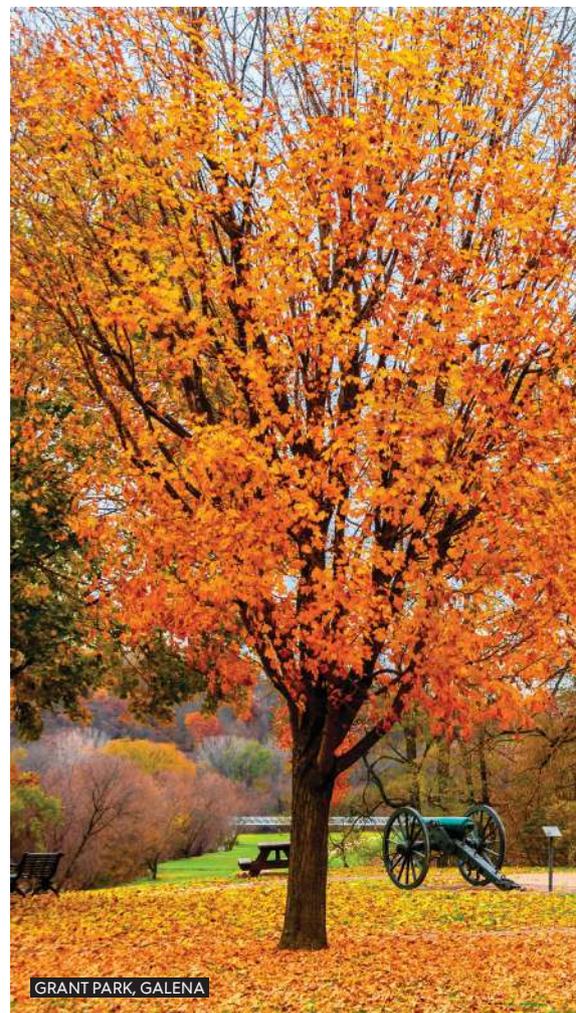
- » In Lincoln, 34 miles northeast of Springfield, see the **Postville Courthouse State Historic Site**, in a replica of the building where Abe tried cases in the 1840s as a circuit lawyer. And view rare Lincoln artifacts (like a lock of his hair) in the **Lincoln Heritage Museum at Lincoln College**.
- » After Abe went his own way in the world, his father and stepmother, Thomas and Sarah Lincoln, built a log cabin near the town of Lerna, about 100 miles southeast of Springfield. The **Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site** includes a replica of the Lincolns' two-room cabin built on the original spot. The site is part of the 42-county **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area** coordinated by the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition.
- » On the **Lincoln and Civil War Legacy Trail** in Alton, bronze sculptures depict Lincoln and Douglas at the site of their final debate.
- » Quincy also hosted one of the famous debates. See the **Lincoln-Douglas Memorial** in Washington Park and the **Lincoln-Douglas Debate Interpretive Center**.



GRANT PARK, GALENA

ULYSSES S. GRANT

After retiring from the army in 1854, Grant struggled in the business world. Hoping to change his luck, he moved his family to Galena in 1860, to work in his father's store. When the Civil War broke out, Grant rejoined the military, spending time in Springfield (where he mustered volunteers) and Cairo, where he commanded Union forces along the strategically important Mississippi River. He went on to lead the entire Union Army to victory. Returning to Galena a hero, Grant



GRANT PARK, GALENA

received the gift of a stately brick Italianate home. Today, the **Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historic Site** provides a glimpse of the 18th president's family and 19th-century living.

OTHER GRANT STOPS IN GALENA

» The **Elihu B. Washburne House** reflects the status of the attorney and U.S. congressman it was named for, one of Grant's closest political advisors. Under President Grant, Washburne served as an ambassador to France. The home features a temple-like front portico with pillars, as well as furnishings befitting a well-to-do Victorian. Guided tours include the library, where Grant got the news (via telegraph) that he'd been elected president.

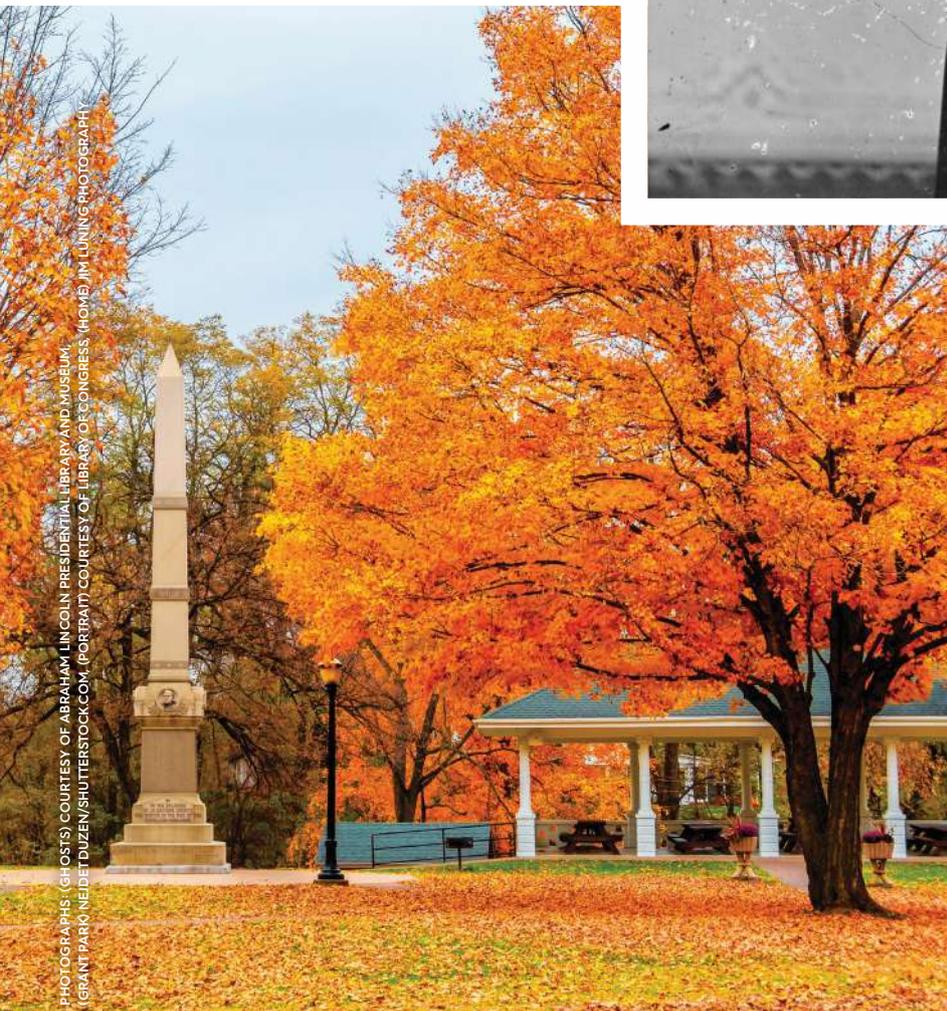
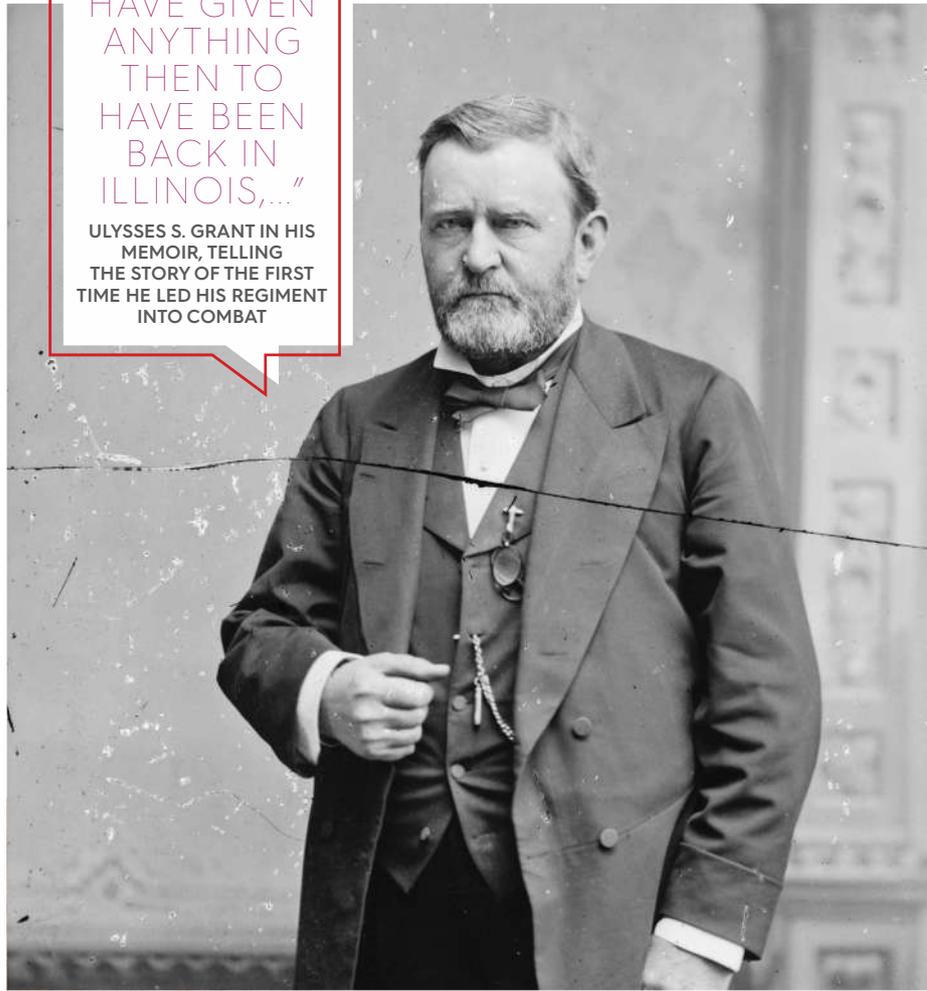
» The **DeSoto House Hotel** carries a doubly presidential pedigree. Abraham Lincoln gave a speech from the balcony, and it served as presidential campaign headquarters for Grant. You can still book a room there.

» If you stop for a meal at **Fried Green Tomatoes** on Main Street, you'll be in the same building where Jesse R. Grant (Ulysses' father) once owned a leather store.

» Historic cannons and a monument pay tribute to Grant in **Grant Park** along the river.

"... I WOULD HAVE GIVEN ANYTHING THEN TO HAVE BEEN BACK IN ILLINOIS,..."

ULYSSES S. GRANT IN HIS MEMOIR, TELLING THE STORY OF THE FIRST TIME HE LED HIS REGIMENT INTO COMBAT



PHOTOGRAPHS (GHOSTS) COURTESY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM. (GRANT PARK) NED DEDUZEN/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. (PORTRAIT) COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. (HOME) JIM LUNING PHOTOGRAPHY



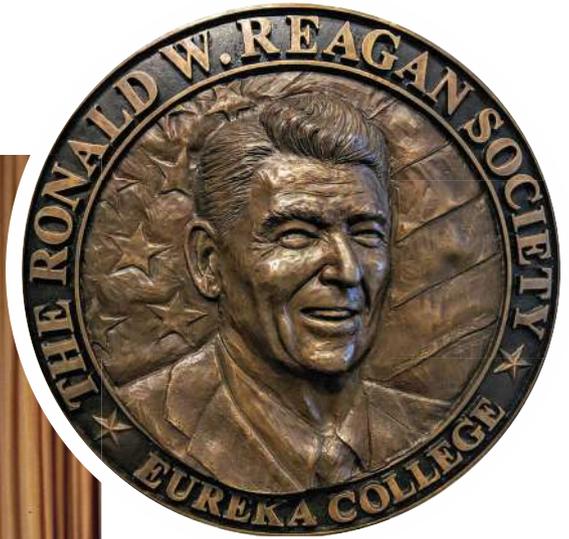
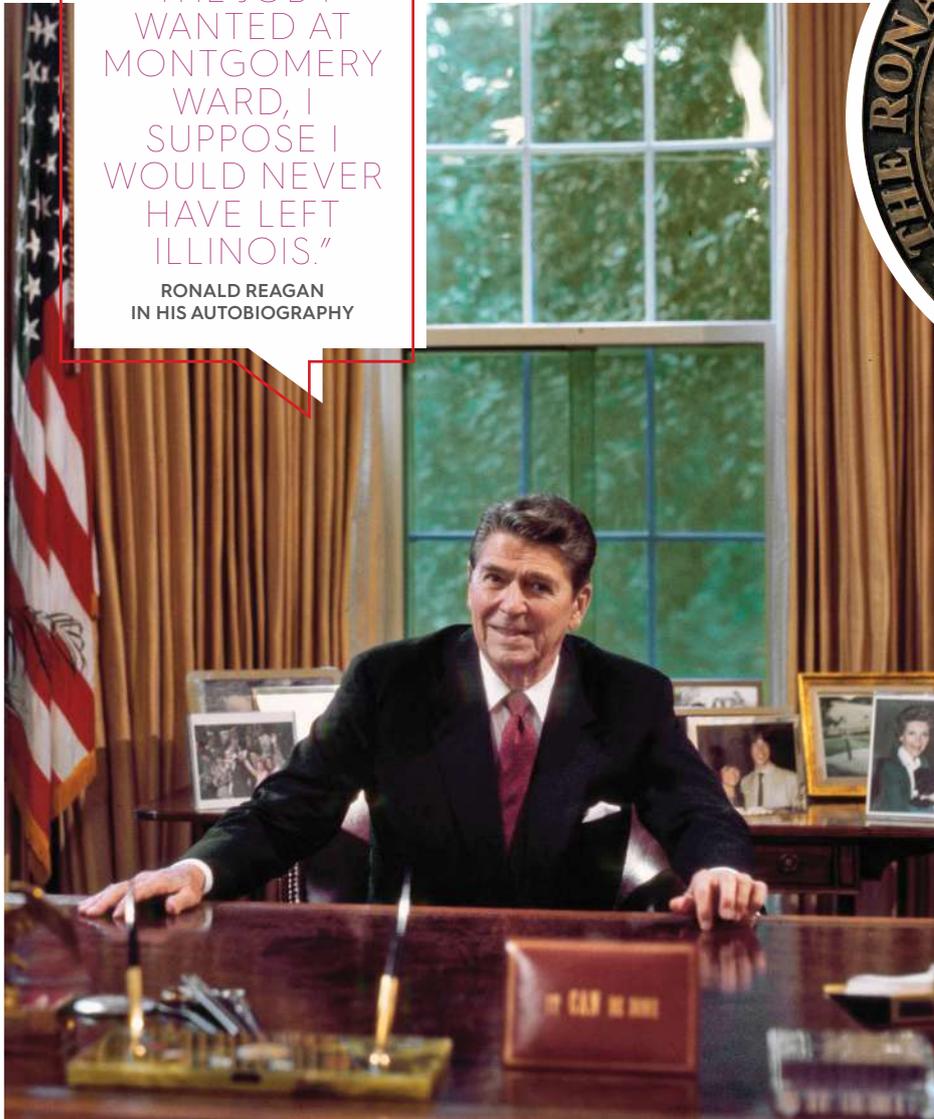
ULYSSES S. GRANT HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE, GALENA



See Grant's boot, bow tie and cigar on display at the Galena and U.S. Grant Museum.

"IF I'D
GOTTEN
THE JOB I
WANTED AT
MONTGOMERY
WARD, I
SUPPOSE I
WOULD NEVER
HAVE LEFT
ILLINOIS."

RONALD REAGAN
IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY



A BUST WITH QUOTES FROM REAGAN'S 1982 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT HIS ALMA MATER SITS IN THE REAGAN PEACE GARDEN AT EUREKA COLLEGE.



RONALD REAGAN

The only president born in Illinois, "Dutch" grew up in small towns east of the Quad Cities, attending local schools and going to college in the state. The **Historic Ronald Reagan Trail**, a self-guided driving tour, takes you through these formative communities. The route includes the **Ronald Reagan Birthplace** in Tampico, the restored apartment where the 40th president was born—above a bakery-turned-bank. The building's interior once again looks like a bank from the early 1900s. At the **Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home**, a National Register of Historic Places stop in Dixon, tour the two-story white home on Hennepin Street where Reagan lived in the early 1920s.

OTHER REAGAN STOPS

» In Dixon, Reagan worked as a lifeguard at **Lowell Park**. The woodland along the Rock River is still a popular getaway, offering hiking trails, picnic shelters and a nature center.

» **Reagan Peace Park** in Dixon marks the end of the Cold War with a replica piece of the Berlin Wall, murals depicting Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech and a marble sculpture called *Wings of Peace and Freedom*.

» Reagan graduated from **Eureka College** in Eureka, about 20 miles east of Peoria. On campus, the **Ronald Reagan Museum** houses artifacts from his Hollywood and political careers, while the **Reagan Peace Garden** displays a real piece of the Berlin Wall. The future president gave his first speech in the school's chapel.

RONALD REAGAN BOYHOOD HOME, DIXON



In Galesburg, pick up a driving brochure, which includes points of interest, like Reagan's house and the home of wife Nancy's grandparents.

"ALL THE STRANDS OF MY LIFE CAME TOGETHER AND I REALLY BECAME A MAN WHEN I MOVED TO CHICAGO."

BARACK OBAMA
ANNOUNCING THE LOCATION
OF HIS PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

BARACK OBAMA

The 44th president has deep personal and political roots in Chicago and Springfield. As a Harvard Law School student, Obama interned for a prestigious Chicago law firm (then located in Chase Tower downtown), where he met his future wife, Chicago native Michelle Robinson. Obama later worked as a community organizer and taught at the **University of Chicago Law School**, a campus that offers self-guided and audio tours on weekdays. Obama's favorite classroom was Room V, the Harry A. Bigelow Lecture Hall. The planned **Barack Obama Presidential Center**, set to break ground later this year, will rise from **Jackson Park** on Chicago's South Side.



OLD STATE CAPITOL, SPRINGFIELD

OTHER OBAMA STOPS

» In Springfield, Obama served in the Illinois Senate (his first elected office), which convenes at the **Illinois State Capitol**. Later, as a U.S. senator, he returned to Springfield to announce his presidential candidacy at the **Old State Capitol**.

» In 1992, Barack and Michelle married, holding their wedding reception at Chicago's **South Shore Cultural Center**, once site of the South Shore Country Club. The Chicago Park District had bought the building in the 1970s and restored it as a historic landmark.

» Following Obama's election as president in November 2008, a crowd estimated at more than 200,000 gathered in **Grant Park** downtown to celebrate and hear the winner's victory speech. Grant Park, named for Ulysses S. Grant, includes **Millennium Park**, one of the most-visited destinations in the city (and the Midwest).

» Though the family does not live there currently, the Obamas still own a home in Chicago's Kenwood neighborhood. It's adjacent to Hyde Park, home to the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 and Frederick C. Robie House, a Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece.

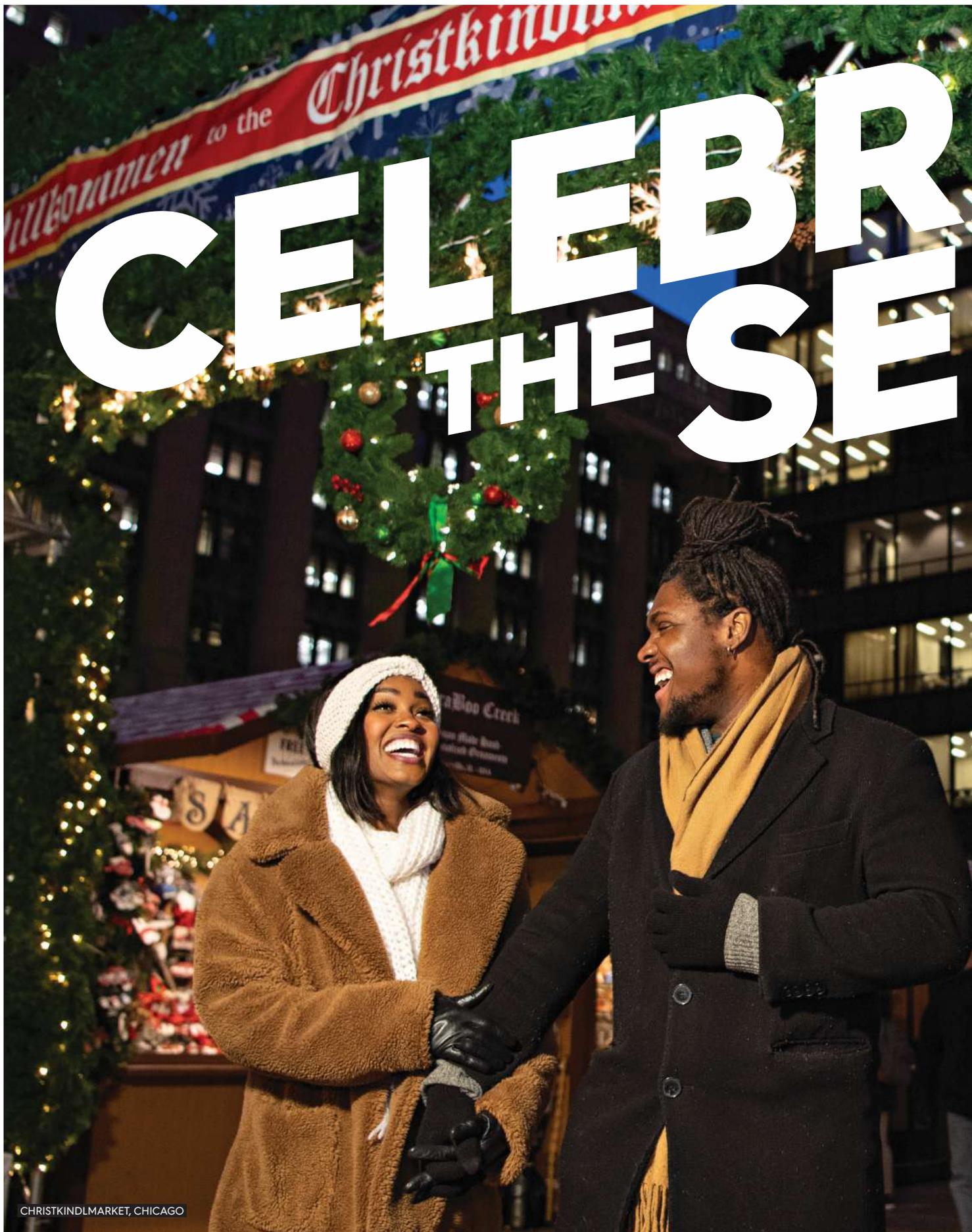


PHOTOGRAPHS: (REAGAN, OBAMA) LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, (BUST) EUREKA COLLEGE, (CAPITOL) JASON LINDSEY



Need a haircut—or just a brush with history? Stop by the Hyde Park Hair Salon to see Obama's favorite chair (autographed by him). Get the Obama Cut for \$30.

CELEBRATE THESE



CHRISTKINDLMARKET, CHICAGO

ATE ASON

BUILD A WEEKEND OF MEMORIES AROUND A ONCE-IN-A-SEASON EVENT TO CREATE A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE.

Writer **Jen Nilsson**

HOLIDAY

COME FOR

CHRISTKINDLMARKET, CHICAGO

MID-NOVEMBER TO CHRISTMAS EVE

The Windy City's largest open-air holiday festival brings German and European traditions to Daley Plaza.

STAY FOR

A WEEKEND WITH INTERNATIONAL FLAIR

Let the warm, mulled wine fuel your pursuit of a European-style weekend. Enjoy authentic Wiener schnitzel at **The Berghoff** before heading for Lincoln Square, where a slab from the Berlin Wall inside the **Western Brown Line "L" CTA station** stands in tribute to the neighborhood's German influence. Walk shop-lined Lincoln Avenue to **Giddings Plaza** to see the huge holiday tree atop the fountain. Stay at **The Talbott Hotel**, a former jazz club-turned-boutique hotel with old-world charm.

COME FOR

JULMARKNAD, BISHOP HILL

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1 AND DECEMBER 7-8

Residents, many descendants of Swedish settlers, welcome visitors to a Swedish Christmas market.

STAY FOR

SWEDISH HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

This former colony goes all out for the holidays. Visit the seasonal exhibit at the **1854 Bishop Hill Steeple Building**. Then explore the **Colony Store** and **Creative Commons** to learn about the commune's immigrants from Sweden and to see their influence on the village today. Feast on a lunch of Swedish meatballs at **P L Johnson's Restaurant**, then claim a guest room at **The Gallery Inn** in the colony's former Administration Building.



HOLIDAY

COME FOR

FOLEPI'S WINTER WONDERLAND, EAST PEORIA

MID-NOVEMBER TO LATE DECEMBER

See sparkling floats and other lit displays along the drive-through route.

STAY FOR

A WEEKEND WITH THE STARS

Continue a night of light beneath the real-time sky of Peoria's **Dome Planetarium**. Remain beneath the heavens at the converted church-turned-microbrewery of **Obed and Isaac's**, where you can sip a Peoria Skyline IPA. Visit the newest star at **Peoria Zoo**, a baby boy gazelle named Sue, then listen to the live music of up-and-coming stars over a dry-aged cut at **Jim's Steak House**. End the evening in front of the oak fireplace at **Mark Twain Hotel**.

COME FOR

BMO HARRIS BANK MAGNIFICENT MILE LIGHTS FESTIVAL, CHICAGO

NOVEMBER 20-21

Enjoy free family activities before Mickey and Minnie Mouse light 200-plus trees along Michigan Avenue.

STAY FOR

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY WEEKEND

Let the Magnificent Mile light your way. Start (and finish!) your shopping between the **900 North Michigan Shops** and the **American Girl Store**, where afternoon tea will start a new holiday tradition. Play for an afternoon at the **Chicago Children's Museum** on **Navy Pier** before milkshakes and gingerbread at **Stan's Donuts**. Stay at **Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park** hotel, where the Elf on the Shelf Package delights kids with an elf hidden in your luxury guest room.



MAGNIFICENT MILE LIGHTS PARADE, CHICAGO

FOLEPI'S WINTER WONDERLAND, EAST PEORIA

2020 CONTENDER FOR ABC'S **THE GREAT CHRISTMAS LIGHT FIGHT**



PHOTOGRAPHS: IOT, (PARADE) COURTESY OF EAST PEORIA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

COME FOR

**LIGHTSCAPE, CHICAGO
BOTANIC GARDEN,
GLENCOE**

**MID-NOVEMBER
THROUGH EARLY JANUARY**

Experience an enchanting evening of light, sound and imagination as you wander along a 1-mile path.

STAY FOR

**AN ENLIGHTENING
WEEKEND**

Shine a light on history at the **Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center** in Skokie before meditating in the spiritual space designed for all faiths at **Baha'i House of Worship** in Wilmette. Celebrate a global artistic perspective at **Block Museum of Art** on the Evanston campus of **Northwestern University**, then discuss it all over farm-to-table comfort food at **Farmhouse Evanston**. Settle in for the night in front of a wood-burning fireplace at nearby **Margarita European Inn**.



LIGHTSCAPE, GLENCOE

FOOD & WINE

COME FOR

GALENA NOUVEAU WINE WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 20-21

Toast the release of Galena's version of France's Beaujolais Nouveau, a young, red celebration wine and the first wine of the harvest.

STAY FOR

A HARVEST WEEKEND

Take a stroll down Galena's Main Street, where more than 100 restaurants, shops and wineries entice visitors with sips and samples. Try the fused olive oils at **Galena Garlic Company**, then sit back as **Galena Trolley Tours** guides you through the area's history. Watch the sun's last light from **Sunset Pavilion** at **LeFevre Inn and Resort**. An on-site path connects to the 6-mile Galena River Trail.



COME FOR

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, SHAWNEE HILLS WINE TRAIL

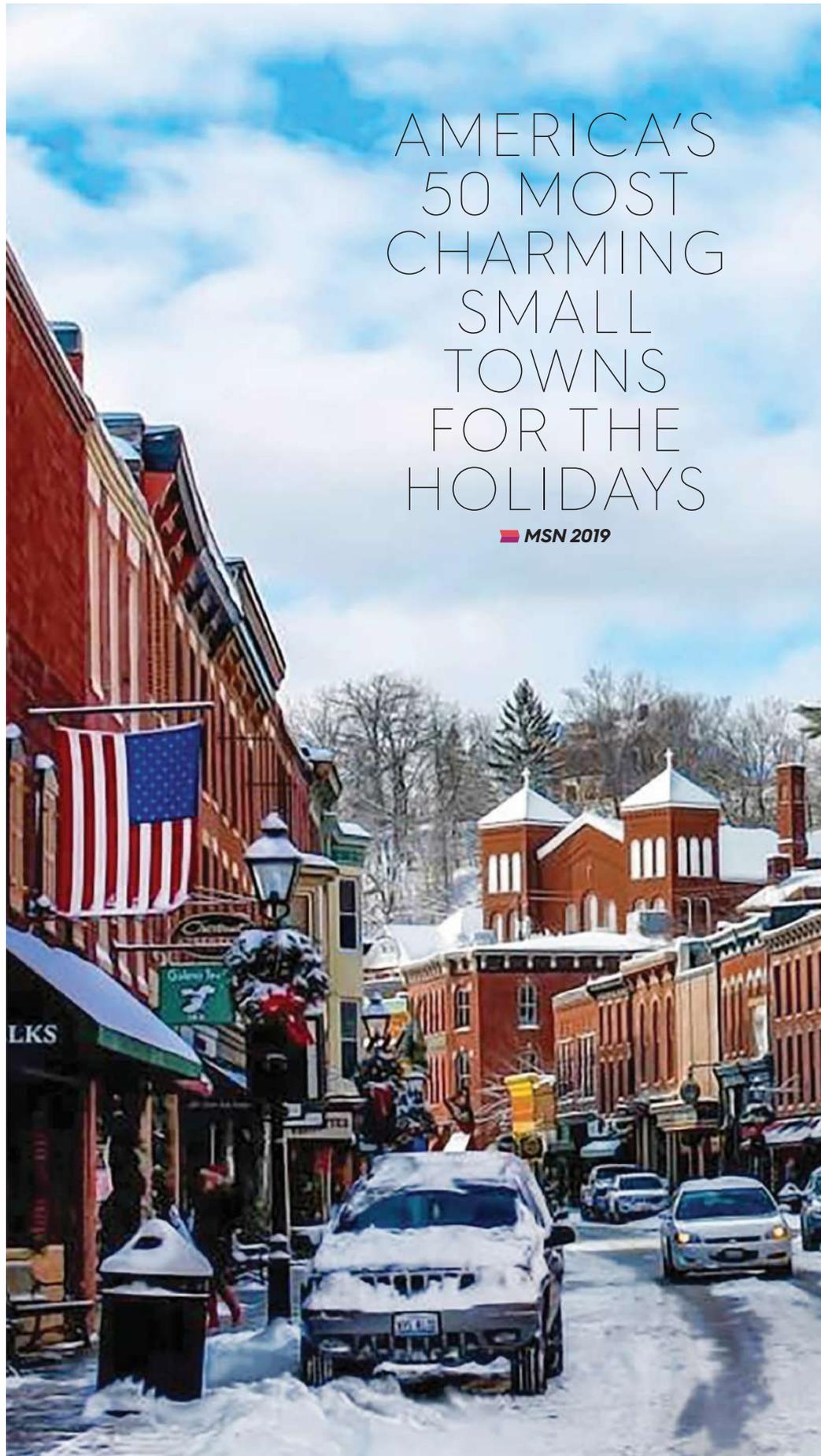
THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Listen to live music, nosh on appetizers, and sample sips at 11 wineries along the 40-mile trail through Shawnee National Forest.

STAY FOR

A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY

Earn your wine with an outdoor adventure. Leave the hustle behind at **Giant City State Park**, where the "main street" is a trail bordered by towering sandstone bluffs. Go hiking above the **Garden of the Gods** before a cozy dinner at **Peachbarn Cafe and Winery** at the former **Hedman Vineyards**. Tuck in for a cozy night among the vines in the barn suite.



AMERICA'S 50 MOST CHARMING SMALL TOWNS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

MSN 2019



PHOTOGRAPH: DELILAH PHOTOGRAPHY

MAIN STREET, GALENA



PERFORMANCES

COME FOR

DISNEY'S FROZEN

NOVEMBER 18, 2021-
JANUARY 23, 2022

Broadway in Chicago brings the box-office smash to Cadillac Palace Theatre.

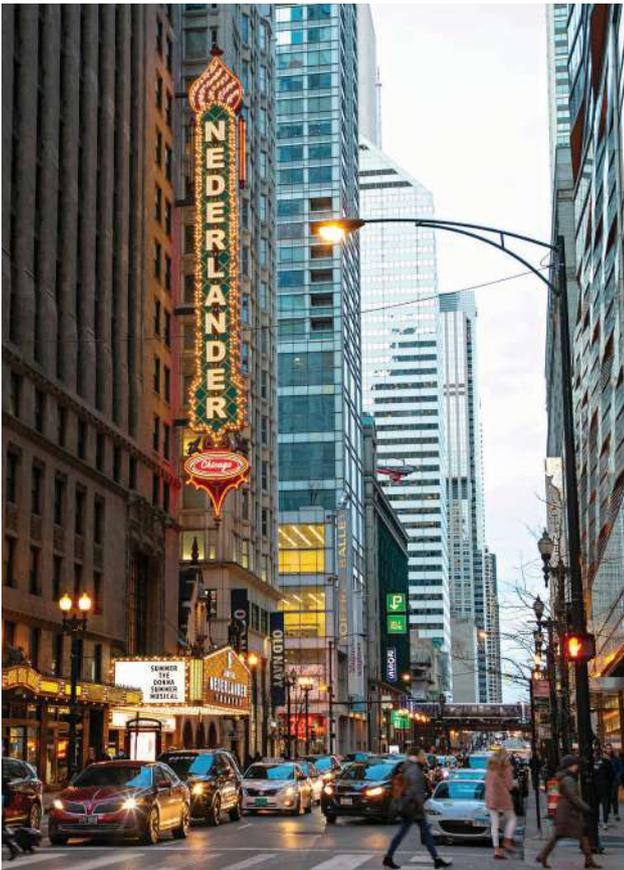
STAY FOR

AN ENCHANTED WEEKEND

While Elsa the Snow Queen takes center stage inside, outside the theater, the city presents a winter wonderland. View the winter sky from **Adler Planetarium**, then step out into that same sky at Skydeck Chicago at Willis Tower's **The Ledge**, a glass box suspended 103 stories above the ground. See the city skyline while winding along the **Maggie Daley Park Ice Skating Ribbon**, and warm up with the hospitality of **The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago**, where a candy cart with sours, gummies and more goodies makes in-room stops.

PLAN AHEAD

Mark your calendar for next year!



COME FOR

**MOULIN ROUGE!
THE MUSICAL**

DECEMBER 17, 2020-
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

The James M. Nederlander Theatre sparkles with grandeur at this Broadway in Chicago performance.

STAY FOR

**A WEEKEND OF
EXTRAVAGANT
ROMANCE**

Shop the posh showrooms and storefronts of **River North Design District** and **Michigan Avenue** before sipping cocktails at **Watershed**, the speakeasy hidden beneath **Pops for Champagne**. Indulge in a seven-course tasting menu while surrounded by the lights of the city from the 40th-floor dining room of **Everest**. Book a Skylight Swim Package with the spa for a couple's massage, private access to the pool and a bottle of champagne—at **Four Seasons Hotel Chicago**.

COME FOR

**THROWBACK ROCK
BAND KANSAS**

OCTOBER 2

Hear radio classics like "Dust in the Wind" and B-side faves at Effingham Performance Center in central Illinois.

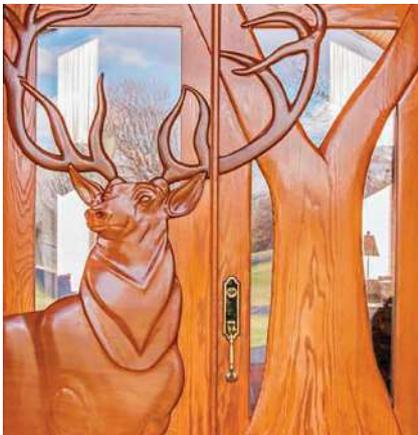
STAY FOR

A FOODIE WEEKEND

Start with a preshow dinner at **Firefly Grill**, where the locally sourced, made-from-scratch menu changes with the seasons. If you're lucky, the season will call for the delectable butternut squash ravioli with scallops. Enjoy a postshow toast at **Tuscan Hills Winery**, and continue your progressive tasting experience with a nightcap alongside live music or karaoke at **Effing Brew Company**. Stay at the **McGrady Inn**, a former church in nearby Charleston.



MAGGIE DALEY PARK ICE SKATING RIBBON, CHICAGO



ON THE HUNT

WHETHER YOUR PASSION IS STALKING TROPHY WHITETAILS OR CHASING PHEASANTS, ILLINOIS IS A HUNTER'S PARADISE. OUTFITTERS LIKE HARPOLE'S HEARTLAND LODGE UP THE GAME.

Writer **Tim Tebeau**

Where the hardwood forests of the East meet the western prairie, an abundance of species roam a vast, varying Illinois landscape, drawing hunters from across the country. Come fall, flooded bean and millet fields fill with migrating ducks and geese. Upland hunters will need plenty of shells for autumn afternoons chasing wild rooster pheasants and coveys of bobwhite quail through cornfields and rolling prairie grasses.

Mention Illinois as a destination to most hunters, though, and the conversation quickly turns to trophy whitetail deer. Home to some of the Midwest's most diverse and productive farm country, Illinois also grows many of the country's biggest bucks. Pike County, on the state's western border, consistently ranks as one of the top counties in the nation for the highest quantity of trophy whitetails harvested each year.

If you're unfamiliar with the state, consider an outfitter such as Harpole's Heartland Lodge, offering more than 5,000 acres of prime hunting land, plus lodges, ATV trails and more in Nebo (83 miles southwest of Springfield).

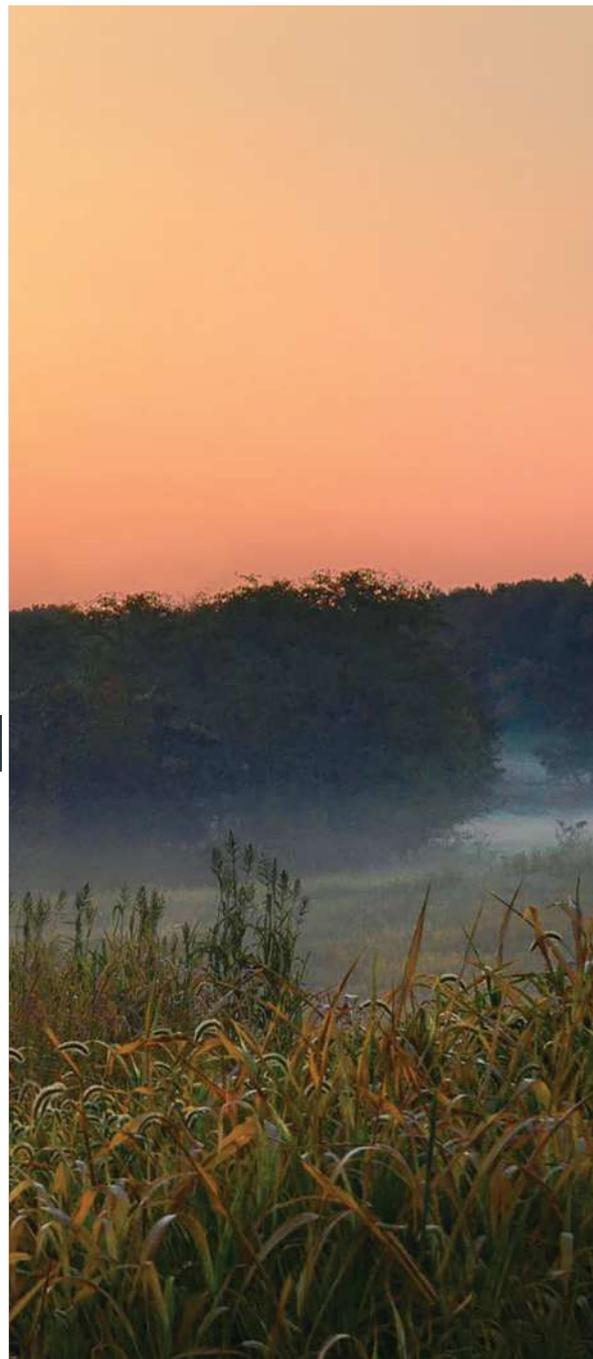
**OPPOSITE, FROM
BOTTOM LEFT**

An upland bird and waterfowl theme prevails in the Prairie Ridge Lodge at Harpole's Heartland Lodge.

All seven suites, each unique, come with a hot tub, fireplace and mini fridge. A hand-carved elk graces the Sunset Valley Lodge door.

Snow geese hunters enjoy a hot breakfast in the heated pit blind.

RIGHT The Sunset Valley Lodge, with seven suites and rooms, sits on its own 52 acres (less than a mile from the main resort).





ABOVE Four luxury cabins, each with a unique theme, feature 15-foot vaulted ceilings and fully functional kitchens.

RIGHT Relax in the Great Room in The Original Lodge, which boasts solid oak walls, a hand-carved mantle and two Frederic Remington bronze statues.

BELOW AND LEFT Groups of one to four hunt with a professional guide. Hunters can bring their own dogs; most of the pro guides use pointing dogs.



BEFORE YOU GO



Hunting licenses are available online through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Hunters born after January 1, 1980, must pass an Illinois Hunter Safety course to purchase a license or they may purchase a one-time apprentice license.



ON THE HUNT AT HARPOLE'S

GEAR UP

Harpole's staff of professional upland and waterfowl guides outfit hunters with shotgun rentals, plenty of shells and seasoned bird dogs to enjoy an array of wing-shooting opportunities.

HEAD OUT

Heartland Lodge is not just for hunters, as the resort is home to first-class riding stables, a 15-station sporting clays course and a pistol range. An ATV park (the state's largest) offers off-road enthusiasts sweeping river-bluff vistas, mud holes and technical timber trails.

DIG IN

Hungry hunters and vacationers gather in the dining hall of the Prairie Ridge Lodge for Harpole's sumptuous homemade family-style brunch and dinner service. Feast on Belgian waffles, roast pork loin with apricot sauce, and a spread of scratch-made breads and desserts, like blackberry cobbler. Meal plans include a one-hour hayride along the river bluffs and a bonfire complete with s'mores.

SETTLE DOWN

Get a good night's sleep after a day afield in Harpole's three soaring timber lodges, with comfy triple-sheeted beds, game rooms and luxe whirlpool suites, or one of five fully equipped private luxury cabins, including the 4,800-square-foot Heavenly View cabin.

Local Sights

➔ Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower, Hartford

Dedicated to the famous duo that charted the American West, the tower lifts visitors up 150 feet via an elevator (or stairs) for a panoramic view of swirling waters where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers converge.

National Great Rivers Museum, Alton

Located next to the Melvin Price Locks and Dam, the National Great Rivers Museum tells the story of the mighty Mississippi River. Interactive, kid-friendly exhibits invite visitors to steer a barge through the locks, measure their own water consumption and lock eyes with native river fish in a 500-gallon aquarium.

The Quincy Museum, Quincy

With its lavish upholstery, ornate furniture and fully restored carved woodwork with 14-karat gold leaf, this former millionaire's mansion offers an authentic look at 19th-century bling and a host of rotating historical exhibits.





ULTIMATE THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN ILLINOIS

Writer **Kelly Aiglon**

WHETHER YOU'RE ADMIRING A MONET AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, HIKING THE ILLINOIS RIVER BLUFFS OR CRUISING ROUTE 66, ONE THING IS CERTAIN: YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THE MOMENT. ILLINOIS LEAVES A REMARKABLE IMPRESSION, ESPECIALLY IF YOU SEEK OUT ITS MOST UNIQUE EXPERIENCES. CHECK OFF OUR BUCKET LIST AND HAVE A BLAST.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (MAGNIFICENT MILE) DAVID ORNDORF, (CEILING) BOB STEFKO

CHICAGO & BEYOND

1-20

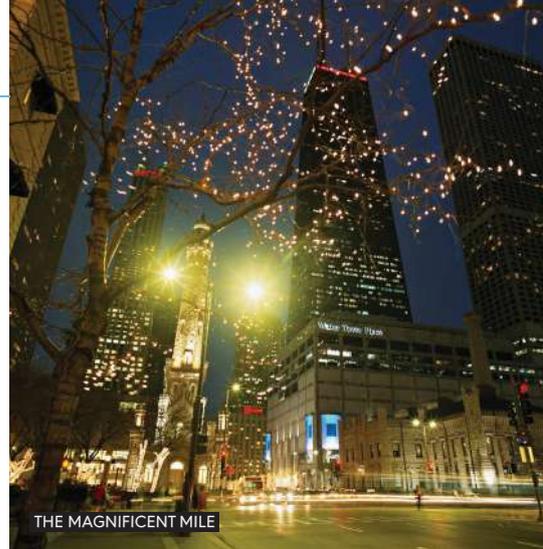
IN CHICAGO



- 1. American Writers Museum** Get into the mind of a storyteller as you explore exhibits about famous authors, play word games and pen your own piece of literature.
- 2. The Art Institute of Chicago** Explore a world of artistic treasures, from ancient Asian artifacts to Impressionist paintings to pop art.
- 3. Broadway in Chicago** See big hits under the stage lights, like *Six* (November 24–March 21, Broadway Theater) and *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* (December 1–6, CIBC Theatre).
- 4. Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady** Learn the stories behind the skyline as docents float their city wisdom.
- 5. Chicago Cultural Center** Come for the

marvelous Tiffany dome, free arts events and maze of galleries.

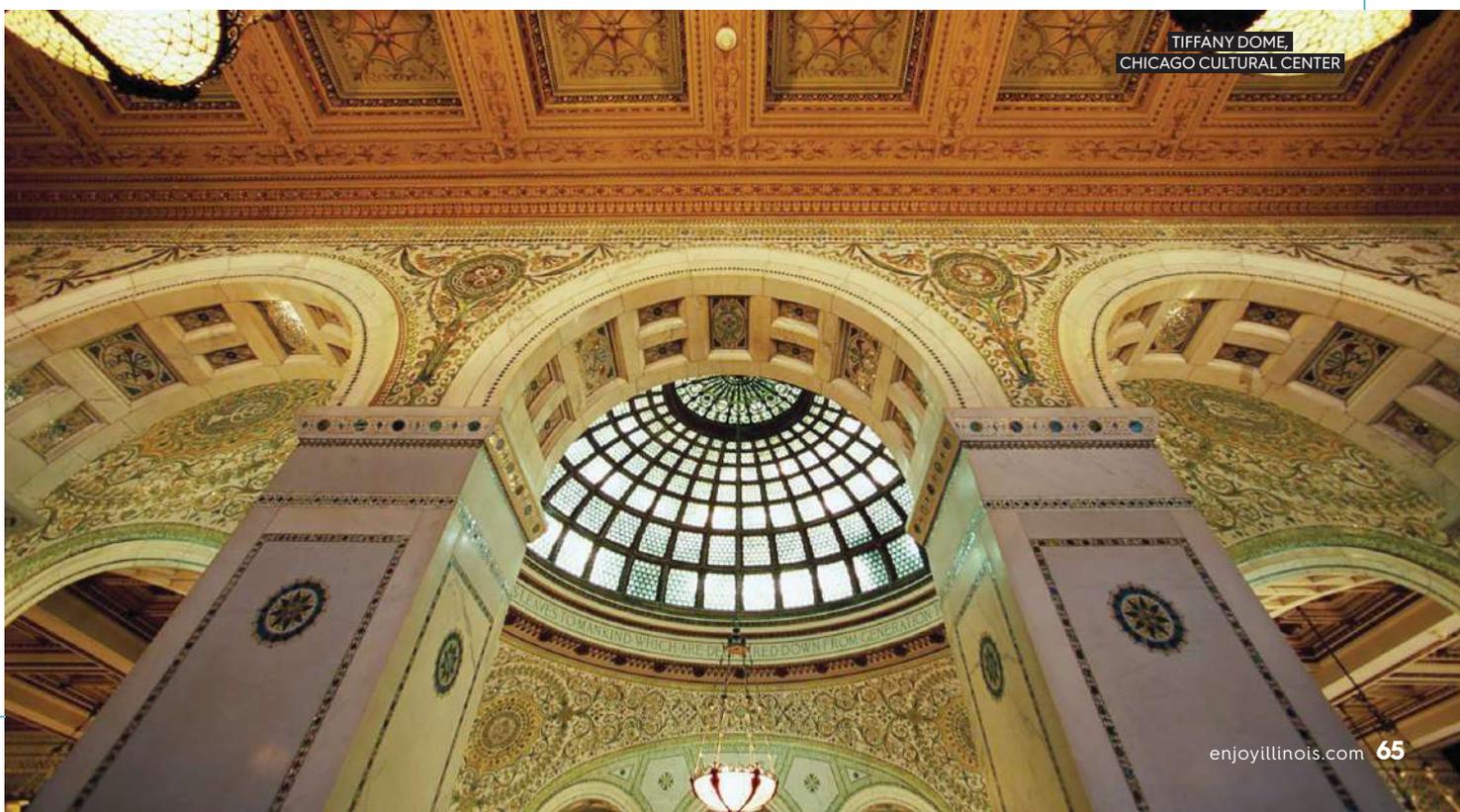
- 6. Chinatown** Explore tea shops, dig into dim sum and climb pagoda towers.
- 7. Cloud Gate at Millennium Park** Take a picture of your reflection in the mirror-like sculpture that locals lovingly call The Bean.
- 8. DuSable Museum of African American History** A robotic replica of Harold Washington, Chicago's first African American mayor, greets guests.
- 9. Jazz and blues clubs** Let the moody rhythm of the bass guitar and saxophone move you as night falls.
- 10. Lincoln Park Zoo** Roam with the wild things (hello, Chilean flamingos and pygmy hippos) at one of the nation's only remaining free zoos.
- 11. The Magnificent Mile** Shoppers flock to Michigan Avenue, from the Chicago River north to Oak Street.
- 12. Museum Campus** Soar into the cosmos at an
- 13. Museum of Contemporary Art** Discover artists who dared to break boundaries—think Andy Warhol, Alexander Calder and Takashi Murakami—on a daily tour.
- 14. Museum of Science and Industry** Walk into an oversize replica of the human heart, and make yourself at home in an actual U-505 submarine.
- 15. National Museum of Mexican Art** Witness a vibrant culture through a 10,000-piece collection that includes items such as pre-Cuahtémoc art and traditional textiles.
- 16. Navy Pier** While the kids burn off energy in the children's museum, adults escape to the tropics, see a Shakespeare play or dine overlooking Lake Michigan.
- 17. Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site** Fuel your



THE MAGNIFICENT MILE

knowledge of the iconic neighborhood that was home to the inventor of the Pullman railcar.

- 18. The Second City** You never know which famous comedian might take the stage when you catch a late-night improv show at the storied school.
- 19. Skydeck Chicago at Willis Tower** Overcome your fear of heights on The Ledge, a glass balcony that juts out 4 feet from the side of the skyscraper.
- 20. Tilt at 360 Chicago** See the city in a moving glass observation deck that tips out from the building 94 floors above Michigan Avenue.



TIFFANY DOME
CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER, SKOKIE

CHICAGO & BEYOND

21-30 BEYOND CHICAGO



- 21. Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford**
Winding stone paths lead seemingly to the other side of the world, where koi ponds and stone sculptures have a calming effect (open through October).
- 22. Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield** Hang out with more than 2,000 animals at this lush zoo that never takes a day off.
- 23. Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford** Kids love meeting Jane, the world's most complete juvenile *T. rex*.
- 24. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe** Some 385 acres—covered with flower gardens, natural areas and islands—inspire your own green thumb.
- 25. Illinois' Frank Lloyd Wright Trail, Oak Park** Delve into the famed architect's private residence and design studio from the

first 20 years of his career before hitting the trail to Chicago, Kankakee, Springfield, Dwight, Rockford, Hampshire, Belvidere and Geneva.

- 26. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Skokie** This museum boldly speaks to a dark history, but also empowers guests to change the future.
- 27. The Morton Arboretum, Lisle** Follow a multitude of trails into the woods and wetlands of this bike-friendly attraction.
- 28. Route 66, Chicago to Collinsville** Get your kitsch on the almost 300-mile stretch of the iconic road through Illinois.
- 29. Six Flags Great Escape, Gurnee** Zombies, ghouls and other creeps dominate the park during Fright Fest (select days, September 26–November 1).
- 30. Starved Rock State Park, Oglesby** Climb bluffs, explore canyons or follow trails to waterfalls.

LAND OF LINCOLN



31-40

- 31. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield**
Honest Abe's humble history can be viewed through vignettes that trace his modest beginnings in a log cabin to his political career to his assassination.
- 32. Allerton Park and Retreat Center, Monticello** This former artist's mansion—now open to the public for tours—encompasses 1,500 acres of woodland and prairie, sculpture gardens, and a reflecting pool.
- 33. Amish Country** Trundle down country roads on a local-led horse-and-buggy ride in Tuscola and Arthur.
- 34. Children's Museum of Illinois, Decatur** Spark imaginations with water play, painting projects and shopping in a faux grocery store.
- 35. Governor's Mansion, Springfield** Works from in-state artists fill the restored People's House, the governor's residence built more than 165 years ago.
- 36. Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, Champaign**
More than 10,000 artworks, dating from the 4th century B.C. to the present, are on display at this second-largest general fine arts museum in the state.
- 37. Lake Shelbyville**
Set up camp and go bass fishing, hike scenic trails, and take a swim at this reservoir with 120 miles of shoreline.
- 38. Marshall Visitors Center, Marshall** Start your journey through the charming eastern Illinois small town at its restored log cabin.
- 39. McClean County Museum of History, Bloomington** Local history is revealed through exhibits about farming in the Corn Belt and President Lincoln's early work as an attorney.
- 40. Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, Vandalia** Imagine early laws coming to pass in the fourth—and oldest-remaining—capitol building in the state, a Greek Revival-style landmark.



ALLERTON PARK AND RETREAT CENTER, MONTICELLO



RIVERFRONT MUSEUM, PEORIA

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY



41-45

- 41. Caterpillar Visitors Center, Peoria**
Take a virtual ride in the bed of a two-and-a-half-story mining truck, plus climb on actual equipment.
- 42. Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower, Hartford** Channel your spirit of adventure as you stand on the exact spot where the famed explorers began their westward journey.
- 43. Main Street, Galena** Go antiques shopping, taste wine, tour galleries and grab a bite in a quaint downtown that's pure Americana.
- 44. Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton** Stand on a bluff and marvel at the forest and Illinois River spreading out before you along 12 miles of trails.
- 45. Riverfront Museum, Peoria**
Art, history and science are interlaced with hands-on exhibits, planetarium shows and a 3-D Giant Screen Theater.

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE



46-50

- 46. Bald Knob Cross of Peace, Alto Pass** Steal a moment of serenity in front of the 111-foot-tall structure on the cusp of the Shawnee National Forest.
- 47. Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mount Vernon**
Discover American paintings from renowned artists like Mary Cassatt and Robert Henri before wandering through the Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park.
- 48. Giant City State Park, Makanda** Rappel a sandstone bluff, pony up for a trail ride or bring your own horse—there's an equestrian campground.
- 49. Shawnee Hills Wine Trail, Shawnee National Forest** Sip your way through nearly a dozen woodlands-flanked wineries, including the area's oldest, Alto Vineyards.
- 50. Shawnee National Forest** Nine state parks and seven distinct wilderness areas encompass the national park with more than 400 miles of trails that wind by lakes and waterfalls.



CEDARHURST CENTER FOR THE ARTS, MOUNT VERNON

CHICAGO & BEYOND

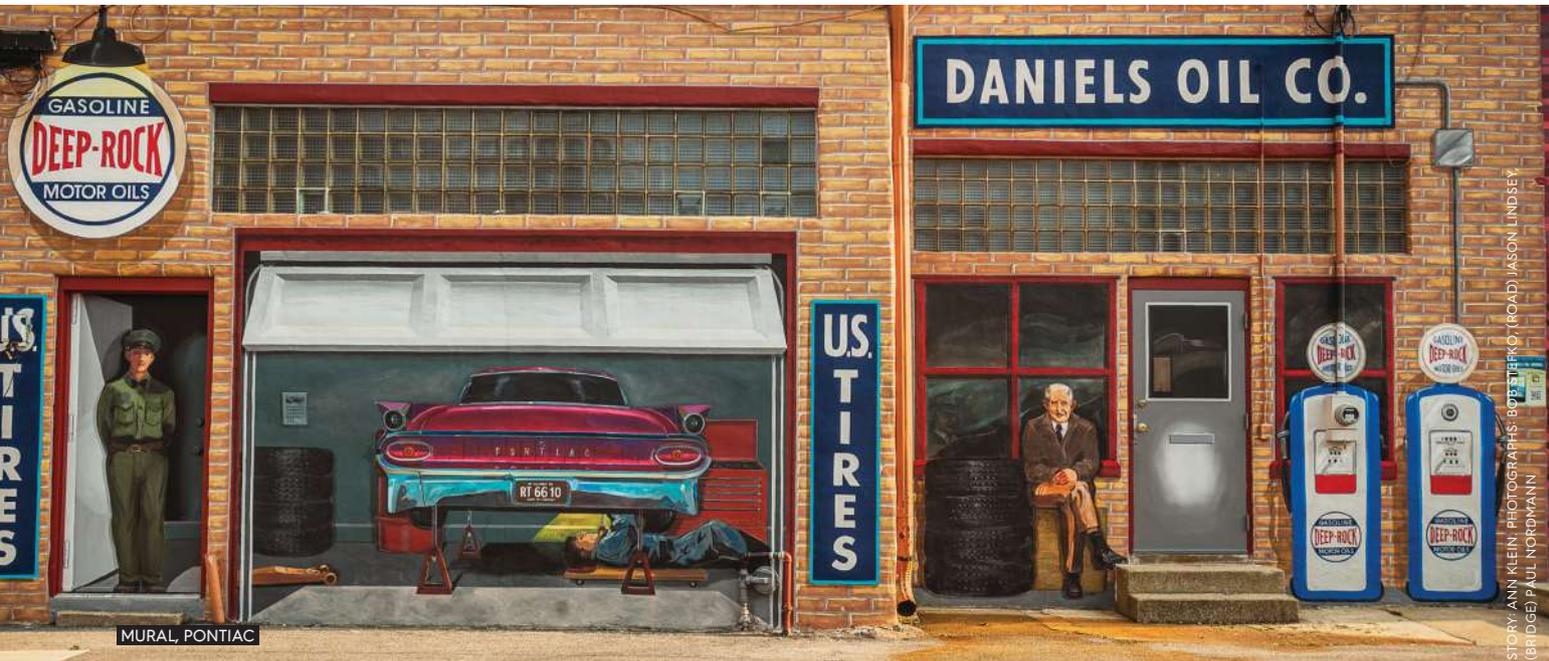
GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

LAND OF LINCOLN

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE



GREAT RIVER ROAD



MURAL, PONTIAC

STORY: ANN KLEIN; PHOTOGRAPHS: BOB EBERK (ROAD), JASON LINDSEY (BRIDGE); PAUL NORDMANN

IDEAS

AROUND THE STATE



TRIP





DESTINATION
CHICAGO & BEYOND

TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TOWNS—BUILT WITH NATIVE LIMESTONE AND GREAT LAKES LUMBER—DOT THE RIVERS THREADING THROUGH THE PRAIRIES AND FORESTS THAT RING CHICAGO.



STROLL ON STATE, ROCKFORD

The Fox and Vermilion rivers, both winding tributaries of the Illinois River, feed into the 273-mile river near Starved Rock State Park. A half hour southeast, rent a canoe in Streator and dip a paddle beneath a canopy of trees over the Vermilion River, also a migration highway for some of the world's most melodic commuters. Follow the Fox River northeast of Starved Rock to the Fox River Bike Trail. The former rail-trail connects Oswego and Elgin. Pedal all or a portion of the 40-mile paved path; it's flat enough for the whole family. Or click into cross-country skis and wind your way along

trails through Rock Cut State Park (which also rents gear) on the Rock River northeast of Rockford.

Warm up with friends around a terrace firepit at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. In nearby Geneva, stroll the historic downtown with more than 100 quaint shops. Later, unwind with a Swedish hot-rock sauna at The Herrington Inn and Spa.

Ten miles downriver in Aurora, see a Broadway hit (*Rock of Ages*, September 2 to October 18 and *Cinderella*, November 11 to January 17) at the restored 1930s Paramount Theatre. For behind-the-scenes views and fascinating details of the elaborate restoration, book a tour.

SEE



Paramount Theatre, Aurora

Catch a musical in the 1,885-seat venue or a drama at the Paramount's newly remodeled Copley Theatre.

Canoe the Vermilion, Streator

Experienced outfitters set you up to see fall's best from a canoe on the cliff-lined Vermilion River.

Stroll on State, Rockford

A parade, tree lighting, fireworks and visits with Santa kick off the holiday season (November 28).

SAVOR

Two Brothers

Roundhouse, Aurora

Enjoy artisan beer and live music in a limestone structure that used to store locomotives.

The Bullpen, Streator

This neighborhood bar serves barbecue with sides like Maple Bourbon Pecan Sweet Potato Casserole.

Rockford Roasting

Company, Rockford

Food Network host Alton Brown put this joint in his top eight favorite coffee shops.

STAY

The Herrington Inn and Spa, Geneva

Relax by an in-room fireplace at this limestone stunner, a restored creamery overlooking the Fox River.

Baldwin House, Streator

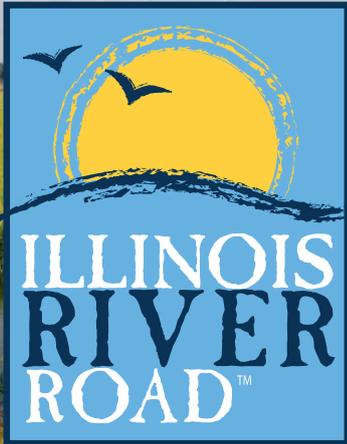
Rent a two-bedroom 1880 house 22 miles southeast of Starved Rock State Park.

Cliffbreakers Riverview Inn and Suites, Rockford

This place along the Rock River welcomes furry friends.

For warm, Midwestern
hospitality & authentic
experiences

FOLLOW 
THE RIVER...



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beats true and strong in the
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the chance to
share it all
with you!

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Chillicothe
Spring Bay
Bay View Gardens
Peoria
Peoria Heights
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Canton
Pekin
Lewistown
Manito
Havana



IllinoisRiverRoad.org



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FAR FROM ORDINARY!

If you haven't been to Geneva lately... come! You'll discover this charming town, nestled on the banks of the Fox River, is home to some Chicagoland's finest restaurants, wine tasting and craft breweries. Geneva is also home to an award-winning distillery – the oldest in Kane County. Come for an out-of-the-ordinary evening. Or better yet, stay the weekend. *Plan your adventure at visitgenevail.com.*

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DESTINATION

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

GO BIG—AND GO HOMEY—ON AUTUMN ADVENTURES ALONG THE GREAT RIVER ROAD, WHICH FOLLOWS THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI ALONG ILLINOIS' WESTERN BORDER.



JOHN DEERE PAVILION, MOLINE

Casinos pulse with light, and historic sites whisper their stories across the prairie on Illinois' western border.

Stay the night at Jumer's Casino and Hotel, an elevator ride away from the blackjack tables in Rock Island. Learn about past, present and future farm machinery at the John Deere Pavilion in Moline. Then wind your way south along the Mississippi River to Nauvoo Historic Sites, an 1800s Latter-day Saints settlement. Tour restored homes and businesses along Main Street or catch a ride on a horse-drawn wagon; kids take a short ride in an oxen-drawn wagon.

Farther south at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, earthen mounds hold pottery, copper, wood and stone engraved with symbols from a Native American city believed to have been home to up to 20,000 people.

In East Alton, tour guides with the National Great Rivers Museum, next to the Melvin Price Locks and Dam, will show you the working locks and tell how natural—and more recently, human—forces have impacted the Mississippi over millions of years.

Follow the Great River Road 19 miles north to Grafton, which sits at the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

SEE

John Deere Pavilion, Moline

Excavate a virtual reality or climb up into a real machine built to move land, cut trees or harvest crops.

Mulholland Street

business district, Nauvoo

See more than 25 scarecrows on display (September 26–October 24).

Cahokia Mounds State

Historic Site, Collinsville

Self-guided tours take visitors through ancient history at this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

SAVOR

Lagomarcino's, Moline

Say hello to a hot fudge sundae and take home sponge candy, made only in cool, low-humidity seasons.

Grandpa John's Cafe, Nauvoo

Housed in a former movie theater, the cafe serves burgers and ice cream.

Old Bakery Beer Company,

Alton

Toast the season with Carrot Cake Brown Ale, brewed with aromatics and local carrots.

STAY



Jumer's Casino and Hotel,

Rock Island

Go for a Vegas vibe with gaming and weekend buffets with crab legs and prime rib.

The Nauvoo Grand Bed and

Breakfast, Nauvoo

Relax small-town-style and cross the street for sips at Baxter's, the state's oldest vineyard and winery.

Aerie's Resort &

Winery, Grafton

Celebrate whiskey, wine and winter holidays with an overnight at the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

Tonight, I'll dream of Peoria



 Rocky Glen Park

DISCOVER 
PEORIA

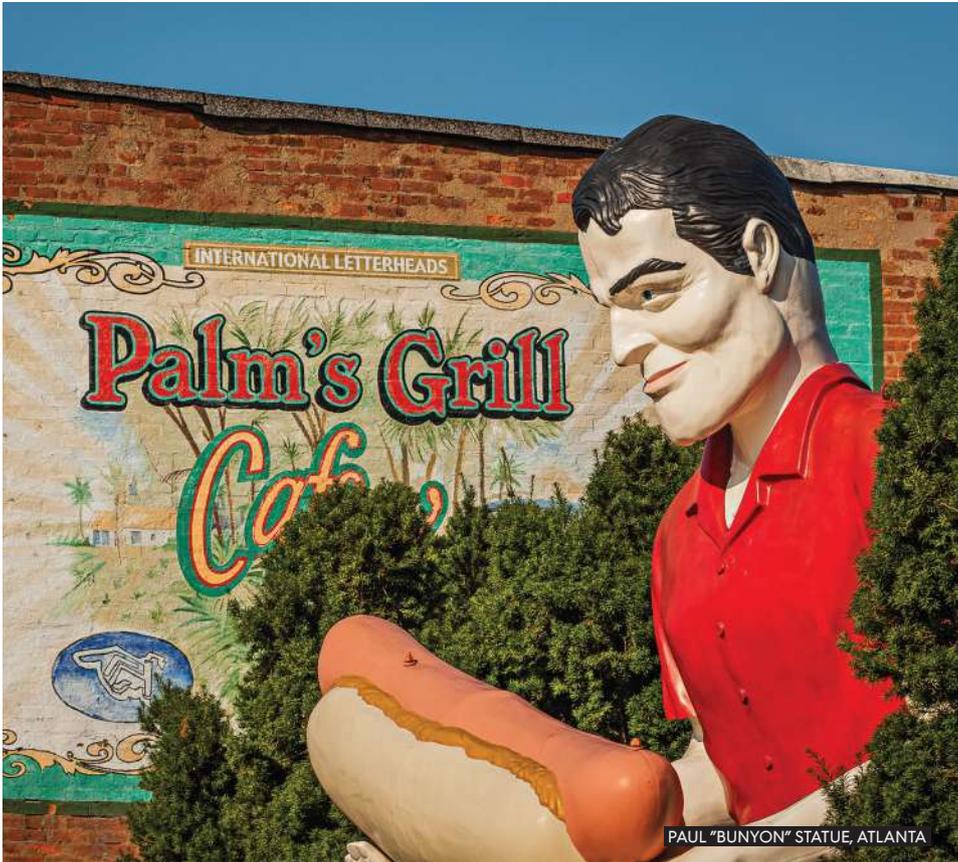
[DISCOVERPEORIA.COM](https://discoverpeoria.com)

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DESTINATION
LAND OF LINCOLN

BUILT IN THE 1920S AND '30S TO LINK CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES, ROUTE 66 BISECTS THE STATE'S CENTER, NAMED FOR ITS TIES TO HONEST ABE. FOLLOW THE MOTHER ROAD FOR CAR-HAPPY HISTORY.



PAUL "BUNYON" STATUE, ATLANTA

It's a playground on wheels for grown-ups: 300 miles of real and re-created nostalgia around the original American road trip through Illinois. You could drive it in a day if not for all the quirky museums, nostalgic cafes and vintage gas stations. And that's the point.

Take it on in sections so you can admire the World's Largest Catsup Bottle in Collinsville (a short side trip), or compare notes with fellow travelers around a Formica-topped diner table. You'll find one in almost any town along the way, including Cozy Dog Drive In in Springfield, the state capital and Abe's hometown.

One place you'll hear a lot about: Pontiac, where modern painters have created murals in the style of traveling artists known as Walldogs—possibly for their work ethic and the leash-like tethers they used to scale the buildings they adorned with ads in the '20-'40s.

Bring something to the table yourself by researching the origins of the giant fiberglass Muffler Man statues. Named for an early iteration that posed with a car muffler, these big guys hold various curiosities in their outstretched hands—in Illinois, an American flag (Springfield), a space rocket (Wilmington) and a hot dog (Atlanta).

SEE

Ryburn Place at Sprague's Super Service, Normal

Pick up T-shirts, cards and more in this former Route 66 cafe and garage.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum, Pontiac

Glimpse history in old-time gas pumps, a motel sign and more in a former fire station.

Paul "Bunyon" Statue, Atlanta

Behold Tall Paul, still holding the frankfurter that once drew customers to a hot dog stand in Cicero.

SAVOR



Funks Grove Pure Maple Syrup, Shirley

Stock up on jars of maple syrup from a farm that's been tapping trees for almost 200 years.

Edinger's Filling Station, Pontiac

This downtown cafe serves breakfast all day. Or go for a burger and fries with house-made cheese sauce.

Palms Grill Cafe, Atlanta

Come for the from-scratch pie (and scoop of ice cream!) and stay for the Glenn Miller soundtrack.

STAY

Inn at 835, Springfield

Enjoy complimentary wine and breakfast at this local landmark.

Three Roses Bed and Breakfast, Pontiac

Sleep tight in a family-owned Victorian.

The Colaw Rooming House, Atlanta

Whether it's one or three bedrooms, you get the whole Victorian all to yourself.

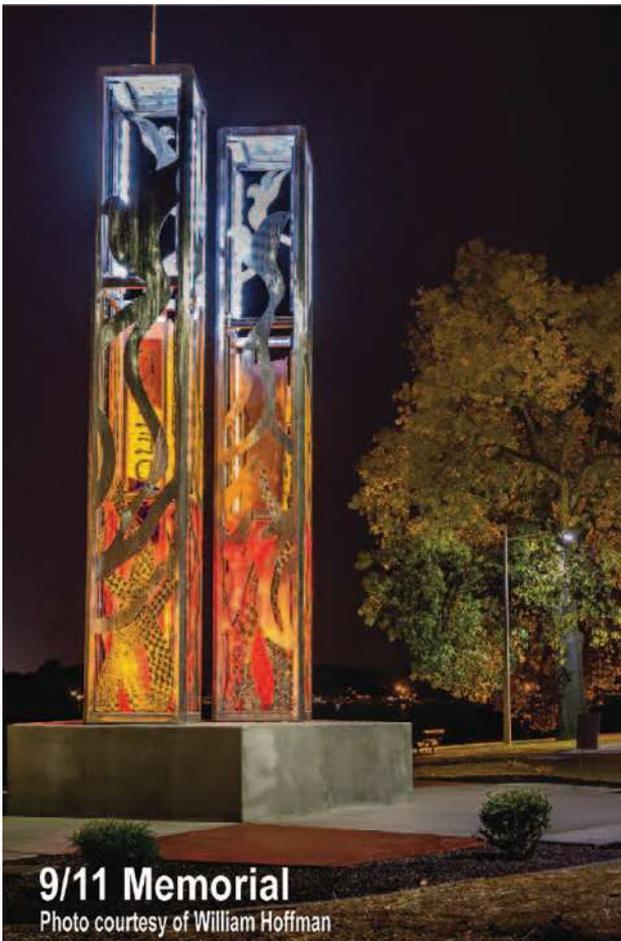


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9/11 Memorial
Photo courtesy of William Hoffman



Santa's House
Central Park
Decatur, Illinois



Scovill Sculpture Park



Black Bart's Pumpkin Patch

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DESTINATION

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

SPOT THE SEASONS ON FOOT, ON AN ELECTRIC BIKE OR FROM A ZIPLINE IN ILLINOIS' VAST, RUGGED SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST.



GARDEN OF THE GODS, NEAR KARBERS RIDGE

Take your hiking shoes, take your dog on a leash—even take your horse to try one of its designated equestrian trails. And take your camera, because the Shawnee National Forest's oak and hickory foliage creates a fall tapestry that stretches from sunrise on the Ohio River to sunset on the Mississippi River.

In addition to hiking and riding, you can see the Shawnee from a zipline year-round, courtesy of Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour. Or sit back and enjoy the view with a glass in hand along the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. Explore 11 wineries

on a 40-mile stretch. Or see the region from the seat of an e-bike, which makes the pedaling easier. Pick one up on the trail at Shawnee Hills eBike Rentals in Jonesboro.

At day's end, warm up in a cabin with a hot tub at Cedar Rock Cabins near Goreville, located between the forest's west half (more creature comforts) and east half (wilder, with dramatic rock formations in the Garden of the Gods area). Up for something really out there? Stay among the squirrels in a heated tree house at Timber Ridge Outpost and Cabins in Karbers Ridge.

SEE

Village of Makanda, Makanda

Browse metalwork, sculptures, fiber art and more at shops throughout the village, and witness a jaw-dropping migration during Vulture Fest (October 17-18).

Garden of the Gods, near Karbers Ridge

Hike among sandstone formations six stories high and see fall color from bluff-top observation points.

Pomona Natural Bridge, Pomona

Blaze a trail through the forest to a breathtaking 90-foot-long bridge created from eroded sandstone.

SAVOR

Blue Sky Vineyard, Makanda

Step into a Tuscan-inspired space with stucco walls and carved doors for wine and cheesy, crispy pizza.



17th Street BBQ, Murphysboro

Famed pit master Mike Mills slow-cooks baby back ribs over apple and cherry woods.

Alto Vineyards, Alto Pass

Taste a spicy, full-bodied Norton wine.

STAY

Giant City State Park Lodge, Makanda

Stay in a woodland cabin and dine in the sandstone-and-white-oak lodge.

Timber Ridge Outpost and Cabins, Karbers Ridge

Bunk in an 1852 log cabin or a tree house in a centuries-old oak tree.

Havisham House, Alto Pass

There's room for 12 in this restored French Victorian and carriage house.



Where else can you take a wilderness hike through a national forest at dawn, enjoy delectable coffee and pastries at a trendy cafe for lunch, peruse a local record store for some fresh vinyl, and catch an evening art exhibit to wind down the evening... all without traveling more than a few miles?

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TRAVEL RESOURCES

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CHICAGO & BEYOND

Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
630/256-3190, enjoyaurora.com

Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com

Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau
888/895-8233, 708/895-8200, visitchicagosouthland.com

Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau 847/763-0011, visitchicagonorthshore.com

Choose Chicago 312/567-8500, choosechicago.com

DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau
877/335-2521, 815/756-1336, dekalbcountycvb.com

DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/232-0502, 630/575-8070, discoverdupage.com

Explore Elgin Area
800/217-5362, 847/695-7540, exploreelginarea.com

Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau 815/216-9960, heritagecorridorcvb.com

Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau
815/935-7390, visitkankakeecounty.com

Meet Chicago Northwest
800/847-4849, 847/490-1010, chicagonorthwest.com

Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/521-0849, 815/963-8111, gorockford.com

Rosemont Convention and Tourism Bureau
847/823-2100, rosemont.com

Visit Lake County
800/525-3669, 847/662-2700, visitlakecounty.org

Visit McHenry County
815/893-6280, visitmchenrycounty.com

Visit Oak Park
708/524-7800, visitoakpark.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Macy's on State Street 111 N. State St., first floor (Randolph/Wabash corner), Chicago

Prairie View North I-57, rest area northbound, Monee

Prairie View South I-57, rest area southbound, Monee

Turtle Creek I-90, rest area southbound, South Beloit

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com

Galena Country Tourism
815/776-9200, visitgalena.org

Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau
309/343-2485, visitgalesburgil.com

Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau of Southwest Illinois
800/258-6645, 618/465-6676, riversandroutes.com

Henry County Tourism Bureau
309/761-8473, visithenrycounty.com

ILLINOISouth Tourism
800/442-1488, 618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org

Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
309/833-1315, visitforgottonia.com

Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/747-0302, 309/676-0303, peoria.org

Quincy Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/978-4748, 217/214-3700, seequincy.com

Visit Quad Cities 800/747-7800, visitquadcities.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Homestead I-55, rest area northbound, Hamel

Silver Lake I-70, rest area eastbound, Highland

LAND OF LINCOLN

Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/433-8226, 309/665-0033, visitbn.org

Danville Area Visitors Bureau
800/383-4386, 217/442-2096, visitdanvillearea.com

Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/331-4479, 217/423-7000, decaturcvb.com

Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/772-0750, 217/342-5310, visiteffinghamil.com

ILLINOISouth Tourism
800/442-1488, 618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org

Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/593-5678, 217/243-5678, jacksonvilleil.org

Lake Shelbyville Area CVB/Shelby County Tourism 217/774-2244, lakeshelbyville.com

Logan County Tourism Bureau
217/732-8687, destinationlogancountyil.com

Visit Champaign County
800/369-6151, 217/351-4133, visitchampaigncounty.org

Visit Springfield 800/545-7300, 217/789-2360, visitspringfieldillinois.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Cumberland Road I-70, rest area westbound, Marshall

Salt Kettle I-74 rest area westbound, Oakwood

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

Carbondale Tourism 618/529-4451, carbondaletourism.org

ILLINOISouth Tourism 800/442-1488, 618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org

Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau
618/242-3151, enjoymtvernon.com

Shawnee Forest Country/Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau 800/248-4373, 618/833-9928, southernmostillinois.com

Visit SI 618/997-3690, visitsi.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Fort Massac 5402 Hwy. 45 S, Metropolis

Rend Lake North I-57, rest area northbound, Whittington

Rend Lake South I-57, rest area southbound, Whittington

TRAVELER INFORMATION

DRIVING IN ILLINOIS

Illinois highways and roads are well-maintained and provide posted signage for drivers, so taking a road trip is a breeze. Chicago is a day's drive or less from major cities including Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Toronto.

State law requires you to wear a seatbelt when traveling by car. Speed limits are posted in miles per hour (mph) and vary between 70 mph on rural interstates and freeways and 45 mph on urban interstates and freeways.

You may not use your cell phone for texting while driving, and you must use hands-free technology to make calls.

For construction updates, maps, seasonal road conditions and other information, visit gettingaroundillinois.com.

ILLINOIS TOLLWAYS

Some northern Illinois highways require tolls for use. Rates vary; not all toll plazas have attendants. Electronic toll collection is available through I-PASS or any transponder that's part of the E-Z Pass system.

Drivers who miss tolls have seven days to pay online. Note the date, time and locations of unpaid tolls—that information will be required when submitting payments online.

For maps, rates, online payment options and other info, visit illinoistollway.com.

REST AREAS AND WELCOME CENTERS

The state of Illinois serves drivers with 30 rest areas and 11 welcome centers, located on highways throughout the state. Open 24 hours a day, they offer restroom facilities, picnic areas, lighted walkways, maps, security cameras and parking for recreational vehicles, among other services. For locations, visit idot.illinois.gov.

ARRIVING BY PLANE

Domestic travelers can fly direct to destinations including Belleville, Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, Moline, Peoria, Quincy, Rockford and Springfield, as well as Chicago.

Once you land at either of Chicago's two major airports, Chicago Transit Authority trains can get you downtown. For info, go to transitchicago.com.

Regular shuttles to many Chicago downtown hotels leave from the airport. You can also get a taxi or rideshare. For more information on getting to and from Chicago's airports (including renting vehicles or arranging car services), visit flychicago.com.

From O'Hare International Airport The Blue Line elevated train (known as the L) takes passengers to downtown Chicago in about 45 minutes. Follow the Trains to the City signs at the airport. If you arrive at the international terminal, follow the signs to the Airport Transit System, where you can get a free ride to Terminal 2 and then catch the L into the city.

From Chicago Midway International Airport The CTA Orange Line L train takes about 25 minutes from Midway to downtown Chicago.

OTHER TRANSIT AROUND CHICAGO

Metra runs commuter rail services from downtown Chicago to outlying suburbs and surrounding cities. For maps, schedules, alerts and more, visit metrarail.com.

The Regional Transportation Authority serves Chicago and its many suburbs. Its RTA Trip Planner can help you figure out how to get where you want to go. Visit rtchicago.org.

Amtrak runs trains to 30 cities in Illinois, and Greyhound Lines serves most major Illinois cities. Go to amtrak.com or greyhound.com.

21 AND OLDER

LEGAL STATEWIDE,
ALCOHOL,
GAMBLING
AND OTHER
SUBSTANCE USE
BY ADULTS MAY
VARY BY CITY OR
MUNICIPALITY.



If you drink, don't drive. Instead, hail a cab or use a rideshare app. The state's legal limit for blood alcohol is .08. isp.state.il.us/traffic/drnkdriving.cfm



Ten casinos operate throughout the state; some of these are riverboat casinos. igb.illinois.gov



Since January 1, 2020, the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act allows for recreational use of marijuana in the state. www2.illinois.gov/cannabis



The Smoke-Free Illinois Act prohibits smoking in most public places, including theaters, museums, casinos, restaurants and bars. www.smoke-free.illinois.gov

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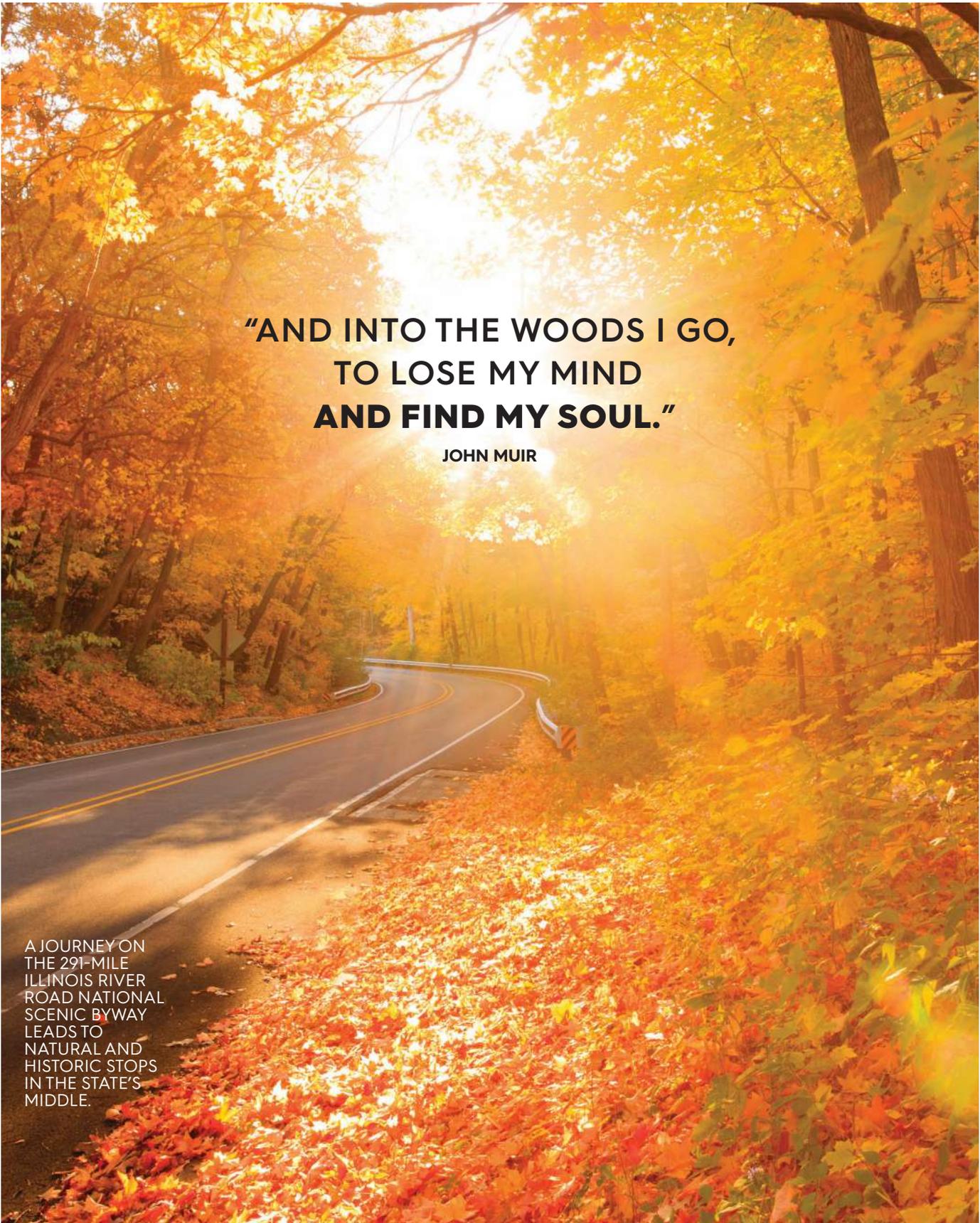
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**“AND INTO THE WOODS I GO,
TO LOSE MY MIND
AND FIND MY SOUL.”**

JOHN MUIR

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THE 291-MILE
ILLINOIS RIVER
ROAD NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY
LEADS TO
NATURAL AND
HISTORIC STOPS
IN THE STATE'S
MIDDLE.

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