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FEATURES

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ON THE COVER
Chestnut Mountain Resort, Galena
Courtesy of Chestnut Mountain Resort

PHOTOGRAPH: ABEL ARCINIEGA

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One of the things that makes Chicago so unique is our rich tapestry of neighborhoods ready to welcome you to the city. Each neighborhood offers a distinct history and character, providing endless opportunities for exploration and fun.

START PLANNING YOUR TRIP WITH THESE NEIGHBORHOOD ITINERARIES:

**UPTOWN**
Savor global flavors at one of the many restaurants along Asia on Argyle, such as the James Beard Award-winning Sun Wah BBQ. Or head to Demera, where chef Tigist Reda excels in Ethiopian fare. After dinner, enjoy live jazz at the iconic Green Mill cocktail lounge, which has been an Uptown staple for over a century.

**PILSEN**
Celebrate Pilsen’s rich Mexican roots with a visit to the National Museum of Mexican Art, which houses more than 18,000 pieces from early Mexico to the present day. Continue the culture fix with a concert at the historic Thalia Hall, a one-stop-shop for live music and delicious dining and drinks.

**HYDE PARK**
Immerse yourself in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Prairie-style architecture at Robie House, recognized by the American Institute of Architects as one of the 10 most significant structures of the 20th century. After working up an appetite, head to the acclaimed Virtue restaurant and bar for delicious Southern-American plates, from pimento cheese biscuits to blackened catfish.

**PULLMAN**
See history up close at the Pullman National Monument and the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum. The monument and museum tell the fascinating story of the country’s first planned industrial community and its contributions to America’s labor history. And a visit to Pullman wouldn’t be complete without a stop at Lexington Betty Smokehouse, where chef Dominique Leach serves up Chicago-style barbecue with soulful sides.
**fall color road trip**

FOR 550 MILES, THE GREAT RIVER ROAD FOLLOWS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ALONG THE WESTERN SHORE OF THE STATE.

Drive along Illinois’ stretch of the Great River Road carries you down the Mighty Mississippi and back in time. In fall, the journey is especially dazzling, as the brilliant colors of autumn light up the winding route from Galena in the north to Cairo in the south. Venture through charming small towns and state parks illuminated by vibrant foliage. Linger at Gilded Age historic sites and modern museums. And immerse the whole family in outdoor adventure with ziplining, hot-air balloon rides and more.

AUTUMN LEAVES

USE THIS CHART TO ESTIMATE PEAK COLOR

- Yellow = Minimal
- Tan = Patchy
- Orange = Partial peak
- Red-orange = Near peak
- Red = Peak

September 20–26

September 27–October 3

October 4–10

October 11–17

October 18–24

October 25–November 1
10 GREAT STOPS ALONG THE ROUTE

HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS PROVIDE JUMPING-OFF POINTS FOR A WEEKEND (OR LONGER) OF FALL FUN.

1. GALENA
   When leaves turn golden, visitors turn to this adorable community in the state’s northwest corner. A picture-perfect downtown holds 100-plus restaurants, shops, and lodgings like 305 North Main and the DeSoto House Hotel (both on Main Street), while the surrounding countryside creates the ideal backdrop for hiking, biking and more outdoor adventures. Take a hot-air balloon ride with Galena On The Fly; rent kayaks or e-bikes at Nuts Outdoors; and head to Chestnut Mountain Resort for the Soaring Eagle Zip Line, a 2,050-foot alpine slide and a pontoon river cruise. Take a longer pit stop with relaxed overnight accommodations.

2. SAVANNA
   Fifteen miles of hiking trails lead to ancient boulders, steep cliffs and rock formations jutting from striking fall colors at 2,500-acre Mississippi Palisades State Park. Watch the sunset over the river at Circa 1888, with elevated entrees like chipotle pork shoulder steak and kid-favorite buttered noodles. Your room at Savanna Inn and Suites comes with coffee and doughnuts and a complimentary to-go breakfast on weekends.

3. FULTON
   Settled on the banks of the Mississippi in 1835, Fulton is known both for its river-town history as well as its Dutch roots. Explore the 12-acre Heritage Canyon, with buildings that recall life in the 1800s; de Immigrant Windmill, where you can watch grains being milled; and Andresen Nature Center’s displays of local wildlife. The AmericInn by Wyndham Fulton-Clinton offers free breakfast and an indoor pool.

4. MOLINE/ROCK ISLAND
   Both kids and adults enjoy the hands-on experiences at John Deere Pavilion, including climbing into the cab of a combine. On Rock Island, watch freighters pass through Lock and Dam 15 at the Mississippi River Visitor Center. Your own river journey takes place on the Celebration Belle with a fall foliage or Oktoberfest cruise. Another local treat: a scoop of Mississippi Mud Revel at Whitey’s Ice Cream. Hyatt Place and Hyatt House share a mod building along the river in East Moline.

5. NAUVOO
   Joseph Smith, founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, arrived in 1839 and named the town Nauvoo, Hebrew for “beautiful place.” It lives up to its name, especially in fall. Take a horse-drawn Wagon Tour, or head to the Family Living Center to see demonstrations of candle making, rug weaving and other frontier activities. Hotel Nauvoov puts you in the heart of the shopping district with modern guest rooms in an 1841 building; five dining rooms reflecting different periods in Nauvoov’s history.
6 QUINCY
Embrace nature on the 2-mile paved Bill Klingner Trail, which starts at Front Street. For panoramic bluff-top views, visit the Villa Kathrine, a Mediterranean castle with self-guided tours. History buffs may also want to visit Quincy’s historic downtown, including Washington Park, the site of the sixth Lincoln-Douglas debate. Scotties Fun Spot is the place to go for modern family fun, like go-karts, laser tag, mini-golf, roller-skating and arcade games. An indoor pool and hot breakfast make a stay at The Atrium Hotel on Third even more appealing. After dark, enjoy the colorful light show at Bayview Bridge over the Mississippi River.

7 GRAFTON/ELSAH
Aerie’s Resort delivers thrills, including the all-new Alpine Coaster, which reaches top speeds of 25 mph (opening this fall). Then admire the bright forest canopy from above on the high wires of the Grafton Zipline and SkyTour. Clip in to zipline and float up to the terrace to catch the sunset on a “chondola,” an open-air chairlift, or an enclosed gondola. You’ll want to stay on the ground in nearby Elsah, though. The entire village of winding streets lined with turn-of-the-century stone buildings is on the National Register of Historic Places. At Pere Marquette State Park, 12 miles of trails lead to Illinois River views and a 1930s wood-and-stone lodge with cozy rooms, celebrated dining (try the fried chicken) and a winery.

8 ALTON
The 20-mile paved Sam Vadala bene Bike Trail runs along the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway. Be sure to stop at the National Great Rivers Museum for interactive exhibits that show the impact of the river on people and the land, plus free tours of Melvin Price Locks and Dam. When you need to refuel, try a slice of the popular pies at My Just Desserts or a cold one from Old Bakery Beer Company, which specializes in organic craft brews but caters to families with dishes like PB&J and a cheesy flatbread. Looking for a souvenir of your trip? You’ll find locally made stoneware pottery (and affordable prices) at Mississippi Mud Pottery. Family-friendly hotel options include chains such as Hampton Inn and Suites and Best Western Premier.

9 CHESTER
Elzie C. Segar, the creator of Popeye the Sailor Man, was born and raised in Chester. Experience that connection with the Popeye and Friends Character Trail of statues and the Popeye Museum. After you’ve had enough spinach, see a different green on the trails and waters of Randolph County State Recreation Area and Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site in Ellis Grove. Grill your own dinner or bring takeout to the picnic tables on the spacious grounds of Best Western Chester Hotel.

10 CAIRO
The Illinois Great River Road ends in Cairo (locals pronounce it Care-O), where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers converge. Take in the history at the preserved 1872 Magnolia Manor; the Cairo Custom House Museum; and Fort Defiance State Park, where Lewis and Clark once trained members of the Corps of Discovery to use navigational equipment. Quality Inn Cairo I-57 makes a convenient base to explore the area.
Discover dazzling fall colors along our three mighty rivers, four scenic byways and hundreds of miles of bikeways. It’s no wonder southwest Illinois has become a national destination for travelers. Discover your next great adventure among the rivers and routes. Greatness Around Every Turn.

RIVERSANDROUTES.COM
Anna Chlumsky

Some of the *Inventing Anna* star’s most pivotal moments—professional and personal—came from her upbringing in the Chicago area (and her taste for tavern-style pizza.)

From her upbringing in Broadview (12 miles west of Chicago) to her start as a child model and to the *My Girl* audition that put her on the map, Illinois has played a recurring role in actress Anna Chlumsky’s life. Even when Chlumsky decided to take a six-year break from the screen, she spent her hiatus studying at The University of Chicago (where she met her husband, Shaun). Today, Anna, Shaun and their two daughters reside in Brooklyn, New York—but the Veep and *Inventing Anna* alum still finds time to make it back to her old stomping grounds. When she’s in town visiting family, you can find Chlumsky frequenting some of her favorite spots in the city: reminiscing at the Field Museum where she interned for three summers, showing her daughters around the Museum of Science and Industry, grabbing an Italian beef at Johnnie’s Beef, or taking a stroll through The University of Chicago’s beautiful campus in Hyde Park. We caught up with the six-time Emmy nominee to talk about Chicago’s formative impact on her life and career, and what she misses most about the Windy City.
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Q What was it like growing up in Broadview?
A A really nice thing was that I had a lot of other kids around, and it was diverse. It’s a more lower-income neighborhood, but we all had a house with a yard. Ours even had a raspberry patch.

Q What about your time at The University of Chicago?
A I was working at the Field Museum, and my mentor there also taught at The University of Chicago. That’s when I became aware of how great and important UChicago was. I shadowed someone who went to my grade school and went there, and I just loved the campus and all of the classes. I had no idea that such an important and historical school was right here in Chicago.

Q How did not getting a part at Steppenwolf affect your career?
A Oh, I so didn’t know what I was doing. I tanked it. That experience really catapulted me into focusing on every other part of myself and putting bookings and auditions aside, which ended up being formative and necessary for my mental health.

Q When did you decide you were ready to pursue acting again?
A It took me six years from the Steppenwolf experience—being away from show business and finishing my degree and really knowing what life was without acting—to say, “Wait! Acting’s a craft!”

Q When you think of Steppenwolf, do you ever have a “shoulda-coulda” about it?
A Only a little bit, but—this is really ironic—in the last job I had, Inventing Anna, two of the fellas I got to work with pretty closely were Terry Kinney and Jeff Perry, and they both cofounded Steppenwolf. So for weeks I just heard all of these Steppenwolf stories and would muck around with these guys. I feel like it healed that wound!

Q What do you miss most about Chicago?
A For me, missing the city is really about missing my childhood, which plays like scenes in a John Hughes movie. Basically my whole memory and the things I miss are what you see in the movies The Fugitive or Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, because they depict Chicago so well. It’s a mixed bag, but ultimately a hardy and very proud city. If you want to know what an American city is, Chicago is it.
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distinctly Illinois wines from the Chambourcin grapevines that line the property. Stay at the Feather family vineyard in the Farmhouse Cellars suite.

**HICKORY RIDGE VINEYARD**
Enjoy a glass on the quiet deck of a tasting room surrounded by the sounds of the Shawnee National Forest. The varietals from this family-owned winery and vineyard are the only ones on the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail crafted entirely from grapes grown on property.

**HONKER HILL WINERY**
With 90 acres of land positioned atop the highest point in Williamson County, you’ll love the views from the hilltop gazebo and the cozy vibes near the outdoor fireplace. Weekends bring live music acts that send lyrics into the trees of the surrounding Shawnee Hills and over the prairies of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

**POMONA WINERY**
It’s not grapes that create the pours in this tasting room deep in the woods. The wine is made from other local fruits, such as Golden Delicious apples and black currants. Dessert wines complement fruit salads and use local ingredients like strawberries and blueberries.

**KITE HILL VINEYARDS**
When the original owner bought this land with the dream of cultivating a vineyard, his wife told him to “go fly a kite.” The name stuck and so did the dream. Relax in a tasting room or on an outdoor deck while sipping the award-winning, fruit-forward wines made from the surrounding grapevines.

**OWL CREEK VINEYARD**
Navigate through flights of wine, cider and sangria at this winery and cidery, where local ingredients enhance the flavors of the artisanal libations that are produced and bottled on-site. On a weekend afternoon, when live bands perform, sip a craft-brewed cider, which also flavors the pub pretzel cheese sauce.

**PEACHBARN WINERY AND CAFE**
In a renovated barn from the 1940s, a full-service restaurant turns out seasonal selections with ingredients sourced from area farms and music from local bands. The meals are meant for pairing with the handcrafted wines made from estate-grown grapes and peaches.

**VON JAKOB WINERY AND BREWERY**
Savor a glass of full-bodied red wine or a pint of rich Chocolate Milk Stout at the only stop on the trail from the tasting room deep in the woods.

**STARVIEW VINEYARDS**
Hear sounds of laughter, live music and clinking glasses from the outdoor bar at this countryside winery perched on the edge of a pond full of koi fish and turtles. Complete your retreat with an overnight stay in a four-bedroom house just steps from the tasting room.

**ALTO VINEYARDS**
Autumn weekend afternoons are the perfect time to spend listening to live music at the oldest vineyard in Southern Illinois. Stop in at the tasting room to find a favorite wine, including the relatively new barrel-aged Cabernet Franc. Then spread your picnic blanket among the 9 acres of hills and grapevines.

**BLUE SKY VINEYARD**
Stay in a romantic suite tucked above the tasting room at this winery infused with a touch of Tuscany style. Relax on your personal balcony with a handcrafted, award-winning vintage and watch the sunset over the lake. You may even get a personal cellar tour with the winemaker.

**FEATHER HILLS VINEYARD AND WINERY**
This family-owned, boutique winery creates robust and complex wines with the perfect balance of fruit and oak. It’s the only stop on the trail from the tasting room. It’s located in the heart of the Shawnee Hills region, just steps from the Farmhouse Cellars suite.

**STARVIEW VINEYARDS, COBDEN**
**WHAT**
The state’s largest wine festival kicks off the fall season of wine tasting.

**WHERE TO STAY**
Get cozy in a cabin at Starved Rock Lodge in Oglesby, a villa at Grand Bear Resort or in a nearby B&B.

**WHAT TO BRING**
Your dancing shoes! Live music acts perform while you taste your way through the state’s best wines.

**WHERE TO EXPLORE**
After the festival, hike among the canyons and waterfalls of Starved Rock and Matthiessen state parks.

**WHAT TO EXPLORE**
After the festival, hike among the canyons and waterfalls of Starved Rock and Matthiessen state parks.

**WHEN**
September 17-18

**WHERE**
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with u-pick orchards, a corn maze and a farm market, at tanners orchard, four generations have worked to create fall memories.

spin back 75 years to 1947. that’s when john tanner, the son of an apple orchard farmer, bought his own farm: an 80-acre parcel near speer (22 miles north of peoria) with 20 acres of established apple trees.

that business continues to thrive as a fourth generation of tanners heads into the fields.

john tanner’s granddaughter, jennifer beaver, owns the farm with her brother craig tanner. their parents, richard and marilyn—now in their 70s—still help out. and jennifer is thrilled that her adult children, brenda and isaiah, have decided to join the biz full time.
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“I love that my kids want to come back and work for me,” Jennifer says. “And I’m proud that the farm has grown this much, that everybody continues to have a part in it. We’ve all worked to make it what it is and to be able to support our families.”

When Jennifer’s grandfather started the business, he peddled apples door-to-door. The family also had a roadside stand and sold produce at area farmers markets.

Gradually the focus began to shift to the farm itself, with the addition of a store, noon lunches, wagon rides to the orchards for 17 types of U-pick apples, a corn maze and the Back 40 Fun Acres with family activities. The Tanners called on all generations to make it happen.

“I worked here every fall growing up,” Jennifer says. “We had to start at the bottom—cleaning bathrooms (which I still do). We began raising farm animals when I was in elementary school (that was my idea), and I cleaned their pens.”

Today, about 100,000 people visit each year, mostly in September and October. They pick apples and pumpkins, drink apple slushies and cider, and eat a lot of apple cider doughnuts—more than 2 million a season.

And the farm keeps trying new things. A Sunflower Experience in August starts with breakfast in the fields. Unicorns (really!) join the llamas, goats and rabbits on fall weekends. And November means it’s time for Breakfast with Santa—as Richard Tanner reads “The Night Before Christmas.”

What’s next, as this orchard celebrates its 75th anniversary?

“My kids want to do more events in the off season,” Jennifer says. “My daughter wants to have a vendors’ fair. The kids want to expand the play area. They have a lot of ideas and a lot of energy. That will keep us going.”
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A spark of inspiration in Illinois gave us Black History Month. Return to the source and celebrate the past, present and future of Black communities.

When historian Carter G. Woodson traveled to Chicago in 1915 to honor the 50th anniversary of emancipation, he couldn’t have imagined he’d depart with an idea that would shape the nation. His hope of teaching about the African American journey over the course of a dedicated week, sparked on that trip, grew into Black History Month. This annual recognition of the culture and contributions of the Black community takes place in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Visit the landmarks and museums that tell the stories we honor and celebrate in the place where the tradition began.

BLACK HISTORY LANDMARKS AND MUSEUMS

**The DuSable Museum of African American History, Chicago**
Named for Chicago’s Haitian-born founder, Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable, this institution in historic Washington Park tells the narrative of Black culture in relevant and modern ways (think experiencing the March on Washington through virtual reality).

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield
Hear Lincoln spar with opponents and his own thoughts, read his wartime correspondence, and walk through his boyhood home. Live performances and immersive exhibits illuminate the president’s path to the decision that would change America: emancipation.
**Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, Springfield**

Explore the legacy of the Black community in the Midwest in the Illinois Freedom Project exhibit (through February), which examines the challenges Black people faced from the state’s French Colonial era to the turn of the century. Also make sure to take in the premiere of the new permanent exhibit *Something So Horrible, the Springfield Race Riot of 1908*, which explores the events that led to the formation of the NAACP.

**Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria**

Illinois native sculptor Preston Jackson creates a vast cityscape of bronze and steel figures, architecture, and jazz to tell the stories of urban centers that would shape Black migration and life during the Harlem Renaissance in *Bronzeville to Harlem: An American Story*.

---

**Owen Lovejoy Homestead, Princeton**

A National Historic Landmark, this humble house was once a stop on the Underground Railroad and home to abolitionist Owen Lovejoy. You can still see the space where Lovejoy hid enslaved people on their way to freedom.

**Bronzeville Walk of Fame, Chicago**

Black citizens seeking a better life came to the now historic neighborhood of Bronzeville, which burgeoned between the two World Wars into a center of culture, art and influence. Follow more than 90 plaques between two monuments honoring its notable residents.
Q: If you had to boil it down to one sentence, what do you love most about Chicago?

A: Chicago has a rare history that involves some of the greatest people in the world, and all the negative coverage this city receives still doesn’t stand a chance against the city’s rich history.

Q: There are endless stories to tell about the city. Which ones really draw you in as worth sharing?

A: I’m always fascinated with learning about the past developments, or lack thereof, in Chicago. Everything from the building of the railroads to the creation and demolition of the city’s housing projects.

Q: You know your city so well, but have you ever learned a Chicago fact that surprised even you?

A: I am constantly learning about Chicago, and there’s always more to know. I think what may have shocked me the most was discovering the variety of people that are from Chicago, past and present, who have had such a major influence on the world. I was surprised to learn about folks like Studs Terkel, Lorraine Hansberry and Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the first non-Indigenous settler of the city.

Follow Dilla on social media @6figga_dilla.
CHICAGO BLACK RESTAURANT WEEK
The Chicago area highlights its range of Black-owned eateries every February—but stop in for a feast any time.

Taste your way through the diverse culinary landscape Chicago Black Restaurant Week puts in the spotlight. Virtue Restaurant and Bar’s owner, Erick Williams, won best chef: Great Lakes region in the prestigious 2022 James Beard awards. His Hyde Park restaurant is known for its Southern cooking. Good to Go Jamaican in Evanston adds a brunch spin to classic dishes—try jerk chicken and waffles or top an omelet with oxtail. Homewood’s Copper Still Martini Lounge and Speakeasy may be known for its namesake drink, but the big draw is under the still in the Blind Tiger lounge (if you can find the secret entrance). Dig into the saucy shrimp and grits or crispy fried green tomatoes to sample recipes honed over two generations at Luela’s Southern Kitchen in Chicago’s Lincoln Square neighborhood.

Go for the heat at Hidden Manna Cafe in Matteson—whether that’s in the form of the spicy creole and Cajun dishes (like jambalaya) or hot java and teas from the coffee bar. If caffeine is on your mind, head to Afro Joe’s Coffee & Tea in Chicago’s South Side, where the sandwiches are named after predominantly Black neighborhoods. Live events, including open mic nights, put the community in the spotlight. Explore the vibrant influence of immigrant culture at Demera, an Ethiopian restaurant in Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood. They serve up family-style stews and veggies with a soft, spongy flatbread called injera.
on the road with jane

JANE LYNCH, A NATIVE OF CHICAGO’S SOUTH SIDE SUBURBS AND ONE OF THE STATE’S FUNNIEST PERFORMERS, SHARES SOME OF HER FAVORITE STOPS ON A ONE-DAY TOUR THROUGH THE WINDY CITY.

As the spokesperson for the Illinois “Middle of Everything” campaign (where she even directed some of the commercials), Jane Lynch gushes about the West Loop’s architecture; the theater community; and her former apartment in Old Town, where she lived when she joined The Second City. Thank the Chicago improvisation troupe for Lynch’s “fly by the seat of my pants” acting, which has earned her an Emmy for The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel and made her Glee villain Sue Sylvester so hilariously acerbic.

“It has served me so much,” Lynch says. “I rarely suffer over decisions.” And with her itinerary for seeing the Windy City, visitors won’t have to either.

9:30 A.M.
BREAK YOUR FAST
The cooks at the Old Town location of Nookies, the all-day breakfast joint, flip blueberry pancakes and fold omelets bursting with bacon and vegetables. Try the crunchy brioche French toast, which owes its satisfying crackle to a cornflakes coating.

10 A.M.
CELEBRATE BROADCAST MEDIA
River North’s Museum of Broadcast Communications celebrates the best of broadcast media. Learn about touch points—like early radio operators and presidential debates—and see items from shows filmed in Chicago, such as Bozo’s Circus and The Oprah Winfrey Show.

NOON
DINE IN STYLE
You may know Ralph Lauren best for the designer’s polo shirts, but his foray into the city’s culinary tradition is also worth investigating at RL Chicago on the Magnificent Mile. Dine on filet mignon and lemony Dover sole from your seat at the luxe leather booths.

3:30 P.M.
GEEK OUT
Hyde Park’s Museum of Science and Industry, the largest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, earns the love of Lynch and countless others thanks to its mind-blowing displays, like the Henry Crown Space Center’s Apollo 8 module, the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon.
Arcola, Arthur, Sullivan, and Tuscola invite you to travel back. Travel back to a simpler time, where craftsmen and artisans create beauty with their hands. Travel back for heirloom antiques and unique shops. Travel back for one-of-a-kind recreation and dining experiences that will appeal to your whole family.

For more information call 1.877.368.4527 or visit amishcountryofillinois.com
4:30 P.M.
SIP AND SHOP
Lynch, a coffee aficionado, says 3 Arts Club Cafe at RH Chicago serves one of her favorite brews in a historic Gold Coast building. Lounge with a mug near the garden fountain and admire the intricate chandelier before perusing the wares.

5 P.M.
STAY FOR AWHILE
When she’s in town to work or visit family, Lynch often stays at Claridge House, a Gold Coast hotel conveniently located near Navy Pier and the Lakefront Trail. The pillow-top beds are a draw, though Lynch admits she’s partially in it for the good coffee.

6:30 P.M.
A CUT ABOVE
The staff at Gibsons Bar and Steakhouse in River North carefully tracks each cut of meat from pasture to table, working with farmers and meat-packers to ensure every bite of prime rib and marinated skirt steak delivers umami goodness. Sweet-tooth fans know to save room for dessert—like the delicious towering carrot cake.

8 P.M.
THE FUTURE OF COMEDY
Once upon a time, Lynch was yucking it up in Old Town at The Second City as part of the Touring Company and some of the most-renowned improvisation troupes, which means the performers you see on stage may one day be the next big thing. Spot the talent on these stages: The Second City Mainstage and UP Comedy Club.

RUSH STREET IN RIVER NORTH IS HOME TO WELL-KNOWN RESTAURANTS, SUCH AS GIBSONS BAR AND STEAKHOUSE.
Explore the Elgin Area

Pack your bags and head to the Elgin area for an adventure that spans a full weekend. Located close to Chicago, load the car or hop on the Metra for a quick trip to your next getaway. Visit our website for itineraries made with you in mind. Like a family retreat, an escape into nature, architectural tours and delve into the underground arts that only Elgin has to offer. Plan with ease online at www.ExploreElginArea.com

Effingham

VISIT

LUCIA’S ITALIAN KITCHEN
VISITEFFINGHAMIL.COM

McHenry County

FALL IN LOVE with McHenry County

Learn more
WITH HINTS OF RYE AND TOASTED MALT, SCENIC DRIVES, AND COOL BUT COZY NIGHTS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, FALL IN ILLINOIS CLOSES THE YEAR WITH A CURTAIN CALL FOR THE SENSES. THESE AUTUMNAL EXPERIENCES MAKE THE MOST OF A GRAND FINALE.

Writers Jennifer Nilsson and Ginger Crichton

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS, ROCKFORD
When the trees around the Sukiya-style teahouse don the purples and reds of the season, a new feeling of calm is sure to find you here too. Wander past waterfalls and over delicate bridges arching above golden koi-dappled ponds to see how the gardens transform.

ALLERTON PARK AND RETREAT CENTER, MONTICELLO
The genteel grounds include 14 gardens and 10,000 feet of perfectly pruned hedges evocative of the style of the day when the Georgian manor house was built in 1900. Relax in one of the mansion’s 17 guest rooms after exploring the sculpture gardens, meadows and hiking trails.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ARBORETUM, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
The arboretum is a living laboratory for learning, with 160 acres of sunken gardens, crab apple trees and flower beds filled with fall color. Area master gardeners tend the Idea Garden, a place for home gardeners to pick up inspiration, trends and tips.
AUGUST HILL WINERY AND VINEYARD, PERU AND UTICA
Wine on the Hill weekends in Peru mean picnicking with flights of vino to sounds of live music drifting up the winery’s namesake slopes. Schedule a tasting in the wine cave to enhance the experience. Or pop by the winery’s tasting room in downtown Utica to enjoy a glass and lingering warm weather on the covered patio.

GALENA CELLARS VINEYARD AND WINERY, GALENA
A weekend of wine-focused activities celebrates the release of the Nouveau wine (November 18–19). While Galena Cellars started the tradition, special events (a parade, tours, tastings and live music) are held throughout the community.

PRAIRIE STREET BREWING COMPANY, ROCKFORD
The handcraft theme runs deep at the state’s oldest brewery. Besides the locally sourced products, like McKenna Farms pork and craft beer, some of the furniture was made from the building’s original reclaimed timbers.

GOOSE ISLAND BEER COMPANY, CHICAGO
Come to the historic Goose Island Clybourn Brewhouse for seasonal beers like the malty Oktoberfest, year-round craft beers and one-of-a-kind brews made on-site. Pub fare—baked pretzels, fish tacos, lobster mac—pairs well with Goose Island classics like the flagship IPA (a six-time medal-winner at the Great American Beer Festival) and the barrel-aged Bourbon County Stout.
DID YOU KNOW?

PRAIRIE STREET BREWING’S REDBRICK BUILDING ALONG THE ROCK RIVER ALSO BEGAN AS A BREWERY IN 1849, USING THE SAME METHODS TO BREW BEER AS THOSE USED TODAY.

GOOSE ISLAND BEER COMPANY, CHICAGO

SLIDE INTO FALL

CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RESORT, GALENA
Fall weekends are fast-tracked with a thrilling 2,000-foot alpine slide that whisks you down the mountain on a lightning-fast sled. Enjoy panoramic views of three states while the wind whips through your hair.

AERIE’S RESORT, GRAFTON
High above the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, 3,000 feet of stainless-steel tracks wind through fall-tinged treetops to form the alpine coaster at Aerie’s Resort. Cruise by limestone outcroppings on a car that reaches speeds of 25 mph.

SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA, GURNEE
Step into DC Universe, the new comic book-inspired area home to three reimagined rides—The Flash: Vertical Velocity, Aquaman Splashdown, and DC Super-Villains Swing. And don’t miss longtime faves Batman: The Ride and The Joker Free-flying Coaster.
UNDER THE STARS

CAMP ARAMONI, TONICA
Gather around a crackling bonfire next to a retro-fitted Airstream that now serves as a bar at this luxury boutique campground on the Vermillion River. Safari-style tents are equipped with personal firepits so you can create gourmet s’mores beneath the stars.

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK AT MIDDLE FORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
As warm days soften into cool evenings, the skies beckon with a natural light show. Middle Fork River Forest Preserve is a designated International Dark Sky Park, thanks to its exceptionally starry nights. Here, light pollution is minimal, ensuring the stars shine brilliant and bright.

SANKOTY LAKES, SPRING BAY
Climate-controlled glamping tents and cabins give front-row seats to the clean, clear waters of the Sankoty Aquifer. After a day of fishing, kayaking, bird-watching or hiking, catch spectacular Sankoty sunsets from The Woolly Bugger patio before taking in the moonlight dancing off the lakes.

AUTUMN DRIVES

TPC DEERE RUN, SILVIS
Book a tee time where the pros play. Home of the John Deere Classic, TPC Deere Run is a public course that welcomes visitors to a round of golf on the same perfectly groomed greens seen on television. The course was even designed by former PGA Tour professional D.A. Weibring, an Illinois native.
**EAGLE RIDGE GOLF RESORT AND SPA, NEAR GALENA**

Take a swing in beautiful Galena, where four award-winning courses and 63 holes of golf are carved into the rolling hills. Lake Galena sparkles at tee off from the North Course No. 8. Take advantage of late-season deals and twilight-hour savings to schedule your tee time for less.

**METAMORA FIELDS GOLF CLUB, METAMORA**

This links-style 18-hole course in central Illinois (16 miles northeast of Peoria) offers challenges for all skill levels. The layout winds through lakes, ponds and creeks, and lots of bunkers. Heads up on the signature No. 3, a 523-yard par-5 hole. You’ll negotiate a creek to get to the green.

**STONEWALL ORCHARD GOLF CLUB, GRAYSLAKE**

The Arthur Hills-designed course delivers tough but fair play in Lake County. More than 65,000 trees, rolling hills, wetlands and even an apple orchard provide a beautiful backdrop. You’ll need skillful aim to make par on hole No. 5, shooting between two oak trees and across water.
HOME TO PUBLIC ART AND INCREDIBLE ARCHITECTURE, THE 1.25-MILE CHICAGO RIVERWALK OFFERS SEVEN OUTDOOR RESTAURANTS AND CAFES, KAYAK AND E-BOAT RENTALS, AND A MUSEUM.

CITY WINERY AT THE CHICAGO RIVERWALK, CHICAGO
Toast the end-of-season sun, casting off the skyline and into the sparkling waves of the Chicago River, with a glass of wine made right in the West Loop. People-watch from the walk-up garden bar and waterside restaurant.

O’BRIEN’S RIVERWALK CAFE, CHICAGO
Fall foliage frames the Chicago River and city skyline from the expansive outdoor dining area at this restaurant just east of Wabash Bridge. Snack on fried cheese curds and shoestring fries or try heartier fare: a steak sandwich, half-pound hamburger, black bean burger or summer salad. (Diners especially love the Cobb.)

FIREFLY GRILL, EFFINGHAM
Dine alfresco near the pond that waters the sustainable gardens that, in turn, supply the fresh food on your plate. Nosh veggie-forward favorites like butternut-squash soup and sip on a chai-infused apple martini with apples from a nearby farm.

THE LOADING DOCK, GRAFTON
It’s all about the fresh air at The Loading Dock, where a sprawling riverside deck and open-air restaurant offer breathtaking views of the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Fall weekends on the dock mean cool evenings filled with live music while you eat.
OPEN-AIR RIDES

SPOON RIVER VALLEY, FULTON COUNTY
Join the slow-traffic parade of cars and wind through the countryside on your way to Canton and surrounding communities. Fall Festival weekends (October 1-2, 8-9) are a can’t-miss experience with flea markets, antiques sales and historic reenactments along the 140-mile route.

GRANDVIEW DRIVE, PEORIA
During a visit in 1910, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed this 2.5-mile length of scenic road the “world’s most beautiful drive.” The stretch offers gorgeous views of the Illinois River Valley, plus magnificent historic homes. Put the top down or opt for a two-wheel pleasure ride.

SHERIDAN ROAD, EVANSTON TO GLENCOE
This short but seriously memorable drive calls for the wind-in-your-hair joy found on a motorcycle. Trace the shoreline of Lake Michigan and boundary of Northwestern University’s campus before reaching the sprawling living museum that is the Chicago Botanical Garden.
THE GREAT
CHICAGO FIRE
OF 1871

When the flames were finally extinguished, one-third of Chicago’s residents were left homeless. And yet, rebuilding began with the resolve and resilience that would come to epitomize the city.

WRITER Jennifer Nilsson
Was it kids sneaking a smoke in the neighborhood barn? Was it a meteor that fell from the sky? Or was it really an ill-fated lantern and a kick from a dairy cow named Daisy?

Historical records show the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 began in the city’s southwest side in the barn of Patrick and Catherine O’Leary, and the cause of that first spark remains a mystery. What we do know, however, is all that came after.

The fire raged for three days, spreading north and east and through the central business district. The inferno leapt over the Chicago River twice, destroying more than 17,000 buildings across 3.5 square miles. But then, just 22 years after the blaze, a rebuilt Chicago hosted the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition, unveiling modern innovations like the Ferris wheel and the skyscraper.

The fire fundamentally changed the architectural landscape of Chicago and the world.

FOLLOW THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION

Wooden buildings and sidewalks coupled with an unseasonably dry summer and strong winds spread the flames. The fire was eventually extinguished by heavy rainfall.
SYMBOLS OF SURVIVAL

Fewer than a dozen buildings in its path survived the Great Chicago Fire. These are the structures you can still see today.

ARCHITECT WILLIAM W. BOYINGTON DESIGNED THE BELLINGER HOME, WATER TOWER AND THE MICHIGAN AVENUE PUMPING STATION. THE BUILDINGS ARE A TRIFECTA OF SURVIVAL.

BELLINGER HOME
2121 N. HUDSON AVE.
Like the city that grew around it, the Bellinger Home stands on a legendary foundation. The story goes that police officer Richard Bellinger saved his Lincoln Park home by removing the wooden sidewalk and fence and putting wet blankets on the roof. When the well ran dry, Bellinger turned to his storage of cider to douse the flames. He and his brother-in-law remained vigilant and put out sparks as they landed.

ARCHITECT WILLIAM W. BOYINGTON DESIGNED THE BELLINGER HOME, WATER TOWER AND THE MICHIGAN AVENUE PUMPING STATION. THE BUILDINGS ARE A TRIFECTA OF SURVIVAL.

CLARKE HOUSE
1827 S. INDIANA AVE.
Built in 1836, the Clarke House is the oldest surviving building within Chicago’s original city limits. A year after the fire bypassed the house, the Chrimes family purchased the home from the Clarkes and physically moved it 28 blocks south for fear of another fire. In 1977, the city of Chicago moved the house again, placing it near Soldier Field. Today it is a museum that interprets life in Chicago before the Civil War.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
1080 W. ROOSEVELT RD.
Church of the Holy Family was founded by Fr. Arnold Damen in 1857 and served as a home away from home for Catholic immigrants in the city. As legend has it, Fr. Damen was preaching in Brooklyn when he heard of the fire near his parish. He prayed all night, promising to light seven candles that would burn forever if the church was spared. Today, seven candles still burn (albeit electrically).

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL
65 E. HURON ST.
The ringing bell of St. James warned of the disaster raging toward the historic structure where President Abraham Lincoln had prayed shortly after he was inaugurated. Most of the building was destroyed, but the bell tower survived, along with the stone walls and the Civil War Memorial built to honor the 10 St. James members who died in the war. Today, the restored bell tower presides over St. James Cathedral and the trendy River North neighborhood.
ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
1633 N. CLEVELAND AVE.
As the fire ripped through Chicago, people rushed to St. Michael Church, crowding beneath the 200-foot steeple that was dedicated just two years before. The steeple made the church even taller than the water tower, which was a point of pride for the German immigrants who worshipped there. As the fire approached, priests heaped treasures and artifacts into an oxcart and ran. Only the stone walls of the church survived. St. Michael Church was rebuilt and rededicated in 1873.

OLD ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH
700 W. ADAMS ST.
The flames missed Old St. Patrick’s Church in the West Loop by just two blocks. Founded in 1846 by Irish immigrants, the Romanesque-style church is the oldest public building in Chicago. When the cornerstone of Old St. Pat’s was laid in 1853, the church was already thriving as the cornerstone of Chicago’s Irish community.

UNITY CHURCH
955 N. DEARBORN
Only the limestone walls of Unity Church on Washington Square Park were left standing. Nevertheless, on the first Sunday after the fire, Rev. Robert Collyer addressed his congregation in the shell of his church and vowed to rebuild. An illustration of Rev. Collyer standing in the ruins of Unity Church graced the cover of Harper’s Weekly and became an enduring image of Chicago’s resiliency. Today the rebuilt church houses Harvest Bible Chapel’s Chicago Cathedral.

CHICAGO WATER TOWER AND PUMPING STATION
806 N. MICHIGAN AVE.
After the fire, these two Gothic Revival structures made from Joliet limestone stood tall over an obliterated neighborhood. They became the symbol of survival for a city that would literally rise from the ashes. Formerly called Chicago Water Works, the pumping station supplied the city with water while the tower hid a simple standpipe within its ornate curves. Today, the two buildings anchor the Magnificent Mile and house the Lookingglass Theatre.

Thomas O’Shaughnessy created and installed the 15 stained-glass windows still seen at Old St. Pat’s.
RESTORATION. RENEWAL. REBIRTH.

Though brought to its knees, Chicago brimmed with a communal resolve to rebuild. These significant structures came to symbolize the city’s resilience.

**The First Skyscraper**

The competition to build the world’s first skyscraper was fierce. It simmered across Chicago and stretched all the way to New York City, but it was the 10-story Home Insurance Building located on the corner of Adams and LaSalle streets that cemented the honor for Chicago. It was designed by William Le Baron Jenney with a revolutionary steel frame, and construction was completed in 1885. It was demolished in 1931 to make room for the 45-story Field Building, now the LaSalle Bank Building.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In a twist of fate, Patrick and Catherine O’Leary, owners of the notorious but eventually exonerated cow, were parishioners of the Church of the Holy Family. At least three O’Leary children were baptized at the church.

Though later demolished, the O’Leary home survived the fire. The Chicago History Museum has cowbells in its collection that are said to be discovered in the barn after the blaze.

In 1956, the Chicago Fire Academy (558 W. DeKoven St.) was built on the site where the legendary barn once stood. Today it remains a training academy for new firefighters.

**MONTAUK BUILDING**

115 MONROE ST.

Construction on the 10-story Montauk Building began in 1882 and didn’t halt for winter or nightfall. For the first time, electric lighting made it possible to build during the evening. This was also one of the world’s first high-rise buildings, and the first commercial structure produced by the famed architectural firm Burnham and Root. Though torn down in 1902, the Montauk was built to withstand fire, laying the groundwork for future construction standards.
At the age of 21, Frank Lloyd Wright was hired by Adler and Sullivan in 1888. He served as a draftsman for the Auditorium Building before going on to become an American architectural legend.

The Rookery
209 S. LaSalle St.
Burnham and Root missed out on creating the world’s first official skyscraper by just a few years. However, the Rookery, completed in 1888, still stands in ornate glory on LaSalle Street in the Chicago Loop, making it one of the oldest standing skyscrapers in Chicago and, perhaps, the grandest of all the early high-rise buildings worldwide. An innovative light court constructed to provide natural light to interior spaces was updated and modernized in 1905 by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Palmer House
17 E. Monroe St.
The Palmer House opened its doors in 1873, making it one of the first buildings to emerge from the ashes. The original luxury hotel opened just 13 days before the fire destroyed it. The story is that Palmer House architect, John M. Van Osdel, saved the hotel’s blueprints from the flames by burying them in sand and clay. This inspired him to rebuild with the fireproof terra-cotta that would become the primary material for many future Chicago buildings.

For the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition, Bertha Honoré Palmer asked the hotel chefs to create a filling but transportable treat, and the brownie was born.

Field Museum
1400 S. Dusable Lake Shore Dr.
After the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition, a museum was needed to house the artifacts and exhibits displayed at the fair. Architect Daniel Burnham proposed a sprawling building in the center of Grant Park, but opponents resisted building on the green space. After nearly six years of construction, the Field Museum, with its white Georgian marble, opened in 1921 outside park boundaries. Today, it comprises more than 480,000 square feet on the famed Chicago Museum Campus.

There were more than 600 miles of wooden sidewalks and nearly 55 miles of wood-paved streets, as well as tens of thousands of wooden or wood-trimmed structures in pre-fire Chicago.

Rubble and debris from the fire were dumped in Lake Michigan, creating a huge trash heap that was covered over with soil. Ultimately this became Grant Park (337 E. Randolph St.), which is known today as Chicago’s Front Yard.
10 reasons to love winter

THRILLING ADVENTURES, SNUG SLUMBERS AND HOLIDAY MOMENTS THAT WARM YOUR HEART—EVEN AS THE TIP OF YOUR NOSE GROWS COLD—AWAIT WHEN THE CHILLIEST SEASON COMES TO ILLINOIS.

WRITER Angela Ufheil

LIGHTSCAPE, CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN GLENCOE
Stroll the 1.25-mile winding illuminated path through the garden’s holiday event to see thousands of twinkling lights sculpted into a towering cathedral, flickering torches, and artistic installations set to music from Chicago-based and international artists (November 11-January 8).
1 Cozy Cabins

STARVED ROCK LODGE
OGLESBY
Wrap up in a colorful quilt to while away the evening in a 1930s-era log cabin following active hours of scenic walks and swimming in the heated, indoor pool. Kick back and play board games borrowed from the front desk, unless the jaunty jazz piano and crooning carolers lure you to the Great Hall.

PERE MARQUETTE LODGE
GRAFTON
If a dinner of family-style fried chicken and gooey butter cake served warm with a side of berries fails to banish winter’s chill, a game of life-size chess in front of the 700-ton fireplace certainly will. Try both before retiring to a private room in one of the property’s historical cabins.

GIANT CITY LODGE
MAKANDA
The twelve Historic Cabins constructed by President Roosevelt’s Civilian Conservation Corps received a full rebuild in 1985, but visitors can still lounge on the original maple and white oak furniture crafted by the team in the lodge. Book one of the larger Bluff Cabins for a private electric fireplace.

INN AT IRISH HOLLOW
GALENA
No matter which of the five cabins you choose, expect to be treated to a special blend of luxury and homeyness. Relax in a plush robe beside the fireplace on overstuffed furniture or soak away cares in a whirlpool tub.

EAGLE RIDGE RESORT AND SPA
NEAR GALENA
After a day of sledding and snowshoeing, unwind on the private patio or deck that comes with each of the 100-plus homes and villas offered by the resort. Take in the sprawling acres of snow-dusted rolling hills and golf courses. When the chill hits you, warm up by the lobby fireplace.

2 Ski Resorts

CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RESORT
GALENA
Whether you’re a beginner getting the hang of the six chairlifts or an aficionado ready to shred on the black diamond known as Warpath, the 19 runs carving over the mountain present plenty of terrain. Those especially eager to show off can visit the 7-acre Farside Terrain Park to practice ollies and nose grabs.
AFTER A DAY ON THE SLOPES, THE SUNSET GRILLE DECK OFFERS THE PERFECT APRÈS-SKI WITH SPIRITS, SALADS, PIZZA AND BURGERS, PLUS SPECTACULAR PANORAMIC VIEWS.

Cross-Country Trails

WATERFALL GLEN FOREST PRESERVE
DUPAGE COUNTY
The water rushing over the Rocky Glen Waterfall may slow to a babble as it ices over, but a cross-country skier or snowshoer can still explore nearly 11 miles of trails within the 2,503-acre preserve. Make sure to peer out over snow-covered prairies from the scenic overlook.

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE
LAKE COUNTY
If there’s snow, most forest preserves, like this one, welcome all levels of cross-country skiers. The trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Wild Beauty

BALD EAGLES
ALTON AND ROCK ISLAND
Come mid-December, bald eagles migrate to southern Illinois, where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers meet. Follow their lead to spots like Rock Island to witness the predators feast on fish near the locks and dams dotting the confluence. Or drive the Great River Road National Scenic Byway to Alton’s visitors center, which hosts an annual Eagle Meet and Greet (Saturdays in January).
Light Festivals

HOLIDAY MAGIC, BROOKFIELD ZOO
BROOKFIELD
More than 2 million LED bulbs unite, casting a festive glow over Illinois’ most animal-filled zoo during the annual Holiday Magic event. The twinkling lights nearly seem as alive as the antelopes and lions, especially at the 600-foot-long Tunnel of Lights, where they flicker on and off to the beat of holiday music.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
EAST PEORIA
Near the end of November each year, this series of holiday celebrations kicks off with the LED-covered floats of the Parade of Lights (November 19). Last year, a 95-foot Chinese dragon puffed smoke into the air as it traveled down the 2-mile route. Those who miss the parade can still see the glistening creations until January at Folepi’s Winter Wonderland drive-through.

ZOOLIGHTS, LINCOLN PARK ZOO
CHICAGO
Once you’ve finished navigating the Light Maze’s winding path and exploring fairy-tale-like toadstools and flowers in the Enchanted Forest, snack on s’mores at the pop-up bar. Animals stay up past their bedtimes during this yearly display, meaning you’ll see giraffes, rhinoceroses and more in an all-new light.

ILLUMINATION: TREE LIGHTS, THE MORTON ARBORETUM
LISLE
The arboretum’s yearly show eschews typical string lights in favor of casting luminescent beams onto trees, capturing the complex artistry of branches and pine needles. Firepits along the 1-mile walking path, where guests can make s’mores, warm up chilly revelers. Find hot chocolate and other beverages and snacks, including s’mores kits, from concession tents.

Flutter and Float

GREAT WOLF LODGE
GURNEE
Whooshing down the slides at the property’s 84-degree indoor water park provides such a potent dose of summer vacation vibes, you’ll forget about the blizzard outside. Come down from the adrenaline rush of the 40-foot drop on the Coyote Canyon vortex slide with a trip on the Crooked Creek lazy river.

IFLY
LINCOLN PARK, NAPERVILLE, ROSEMONT
Don a Top Gun-esque jumpsuit and step inside a wind tunnel circulating air as fast as 164 mph. With the help of an instructor, you’ll learn the basics of indoor skydiving. Strike a flying squirrel pose and experience the force just like you would on an outdoor dive.

GREAT WOLF LODGE, GURNEE
Holiday Shopping

MAGNIFICENT MILE
CHICAGO
It doesn’t matter who you’re shopping for—the lineup of 450-plus stores in this walkable shopping district makes finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list easier than waiting for Santa. Munch on Garrett Popcorn to keep your energy up as you peruse Cartier, Nike and the 900 North Michigan Shops.

CHRISTKINDLMARKET
DALEY PLAZA AND WRIGLEYVILLE, CHICAGO; AURORA
At a German-style outdoor market with red-and-white-striped wooden booths imported from Europe, discover ornaments; mugs and steins; scarves; clocks; and traditional foods such as sausages, strudel and potato pancakes (mid-November to mid-December).

CHICAGO’S LARGEST OPEN-AIR HOLIDAY FESTIVAL TAKES OVER DALEY PLAZA. VISIT TO EXPERIENCE EUROPEAN TRADITIONS.
Outdoor Rinks

MAGGIE DALEY PARK
CHICAGO
Add a twist to your winter recreation—a quarter-mile ribbon of ice bends and curves through the landscape of this Grant Park institution. Rent a pair of skates and glide by evergreens draped in icicles while admiring the Windy City’s skyline.

THE GWEN’S CURLING RINK
CHICAGO
Pull yourself away from the glow of your firepit to try curling. It’s hosted by Upstairs at the Gwen Terrace, the Art Deco hotel’s rooftop bar. Players practice sliding stones down the iceless rink toward a target during 45-minute sessions that come with a complimentary cocktail.

THE PENINSULA CHICAGO
CHICAGO
The city’s clamor will seem miles away as you skim over the ice rink installed on the Terrace each winter. Sky Rink sits four stories above the Mag Mile. Swing by in the evening, when its twinkling lights pair with the glowing windows of nearby skyscrapers and the hot chocolate helps keep you toasty.
Snow Days

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD AND HOLIDAYS OF LIGHT, MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

CHICAGO

Each year since 1942, the staff at this Hyde Park neighborhood museum has decorated an evergreen for the holidays. The celebration, however, now involves worldwide flair, thanks to volunteers who adorn a fleet of 50-plus trees with accoutrements from holiday festivals around the globe. The trees surround a four-story pine strung with twinkling lights.

Tropical Escapes

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

GLENCOE

When you need a break from Illinois’ winter weather, pay a visit to the three greenhouses stationed at the Chicago Botanic Garden. View colorful orchids and other humidity-loving varieties in the tropical environment, wonder at the cactus flowers blooming in the desert-climate enclosure, and see flowers from around the world in the semitropical greenhouse.

CHECK INTO

CHICAGO

If all you do is sleep at your hotel, you’re likely missing out on a smorgasbord of fun and surprising add-ons that can turn your accommodations into an adventure.

THE GODFREY HOTEL

In River North, peek out at the city lights through the clear walls of your private, heated igloo on the rooftop lounge.

THE PENINSULA HOTEL

Delight in afternoon tea service in the lobby on weekends. Nibble on small bites, such as scones, at this luxe hotel near the Mag Mile.

INTERCONTINENTAL CHICAGO MAGNIFICENT MILE

The junior-size Olympic pool features a hand-carved terra-cotta fountain of Neptune with hand-painted tiles.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST

Eleven spacious rooms (including two extra-large suites) and a homemade breakfast await guests in the West Loop neighborhood.
TRIP

RAUE CENTER FOR THE ARTS, CRYSTAL LAKE

CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RESORT, GALENA
IDEAS AROUND THE STATE

GARDEN OF THE GODS, SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST

BROOMCORN FESTIVAL, ARCOLA

CHICAGO & BEYOND
GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY
LAND OF LINCOLN
TRAILS TO ADVENTURE
DO
Farmers Market at the Dole
In Crystal Lake, find local produce, flowers and art; kids’ attractions, live music; and food trucks at the year-round indoor-outdoor market.

The Quarry Cable Park
Rent a wakeboard and launch off the jump features. Or enjoy burgers, beer, live music and special events at The Quarry Cable Park, one of Three Oaks Recreation Area’s park partners.

EAT
1776 Restaurant
Locally sourced ingredients flavor dishes like pork tomahawk with fennel and apple slaw at this Crystal Lake restaurant.

D.C. Cobb’s Burgers and Brews
Indulge in a gourmet burger (try The Groundhog with cheddar cheese, hash browns, bacon and a fried egg) and wash it down with an IPA at the Woodstock or McHenry location.

STAY
Cherry Tree Inn Bed and Breakfast
Enjoy the same view you know and love from Groundhog Day in the Magnolia Suite.

RavenStone Castle
A knight in armor watches over one of the three themed guest rooms at this eclectic Harvard home. Savor a European-style breakfast each morning.

The bustle of Chicagoland fades away in McHenry County, where mid-size towns like Crystal Lake, Woodstock, McHenry and Harvard dot a landscape of parks and farms.

Two state parks—Moraine Hills and Chain O’Lakes—combine with land protected by the McHenry County Conservation District and other open spaces to provide miles of hiking and biking trails, plus fishing, campgrounds, and canoeing. The county’s green space also means an abundance of agritourism, such as U-pick destinations and festivals at spots like Stade’s Farm and Market in McHenry, Royal Oak Farm Orchard, and Von Bergen’s Country Market in Hebron.

And then there are the communities. Boutiques and farm-to-table restaurants, sure—but also arts destinations to explore. Rock the block with musical tributes at Crystal Lake’s Raue Center for the Arts; the Woodstock Opera House; and the new, live music venue, The Vixen in McHenry. Attend art shows, meet regional artists and listen to live music at 4th Friday Art Events and festivals on the grounds of the Dole mansion, also home to a new year-round farmers market. Or take the family for a double feature at the McHenry Outdoor Theater, showing movies under the stars since the 1950s. Celebrate another classic, *Groundhog Day*, which was filmed in town and has an annual festival (February 1–5).
DO

**Amelia’s Galena Ghost Tours**
Of course a town this old has to have a ghost (or two). Check out shuttle bus or ghost walk tours, as well as a murder mystery dinner show at Amelia’s Under the Lamplight Dinner Theater.

**Twenty Dirty Hands**
The self-guided pottery tour during prime leaf-changing season (October 14–16) combines fall landscapes and art. This year’s tour features three spots in Galena and four within a 30- to 40-minute drive.

EAT

**Otto’s Place Café**
All-day breakfast means treats like banana bread French toast or egg tacos. Ingredients are locally sourced when possible.

**Fried Green Tomatoes**
Elegant dinners in an 1854 building focus on Italian and comfort-food dishes like free-range chicken piccata. But don’t overlook the namesake appetizer.

STAY

**Goldmoor Inn**
Indulge like royalty during a stay in suites, cabins or cottages. Most rooms overlook the Mississippi, and the two-story turret suite sets the mood for romance.

**Jail Hill Inn**
Galena native Matthew Carroll opened the inn in 2016, and it’s gained a rep as one of the best bed-and-breakfasts in the country.

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

**In Galena, a town built on lead, a special alchemy happens in autumn. Come to mine the downtown shops, then escape to the country for active adventures.**

Galena was named after a lead mineral abundant beneath the town’s surface. Almost five decades after the last mine shut down, the town is rich in other ways. More than 125 mostly 19th-century buildings line Main Street, now home to shops, restaurants and lodgings.

A downtown stroll goes past tempting stops, such as The Grateful Gourmet for Galena Roasters Coffee and all things kitchen-related; Galena Apothecary for personal care products, artisan-made jewelry, artwork and accessories; and Galena Book and Paper for a well-curated selection of books and stationery products.

You can linger in town, relaxing over lunch at spots like Embe’s (don’t skip the bread pudding dessert) or experiencing the process of handcrafting spirits with a tour at Blaum Bros. Distilling Company. But autumn beckons you to the countryside: Cyclists ride 8 miles (one way) on the Galena River Trail and 20 miles of paved trails at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa. Bird-watchers like the 85-acre Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve, where 51 Native American mounds have been documented. Soar through the trees at Long Hollow Canopy Tours.

For something different, try Galena Goat Yoga at Silver Linings Farm, which is the perfect balance of zen and “kid” play. For thigh-burning hikes, plan a 40-minute drive southeast to Mississippi Palisades State Park. In town, enjoy the view overlooking the city of Galena as seen from the Italianate-style Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historic Site.
Fall moves at its own pace—sometimes at horse-and-buggy pace—in Amish Country. Come to pick apples, sample hearty Amish cooking and browse shops in downtown buildings that date to the 1800s.

A leisurely drive down country roads leads to Okaw Valley Orchard northwest of Sullivan, a third-generation, family-run orchard, where visitors can pick fruit from among 35 varieties of apples. If mum’s your word, head to Buxton’s Garden and Flower Shop in Sullivan for more than 60 varieties of the classic fall blooms.

In Amish towns, stores like Yoder’s Homestead Shop in Arcola or The Woodloft in Arthur feature Amish-made furniture, gifts and foods. The Vault Art Gallery, in a historic former bank building in Tuscola, showcases the work of independent artists. More art arrives every fall in downtown Arcola, where decorated brooms make a seasonal appearance.

If the timing is right, catch these events: Arcola’s Broomcorn Festival (September 9-11); The Great Pumpkin Patch, Arthur (September 21–October 31); and The Annual Arthur Pumpkin House, where nearly 300 jack-o’-lanterns flicker the last week of October.

**DO**

**Illinois Amish Heritage Center**
See the 1865 Moses Yoder House, the oldest Amish house in Illinois, plus the 1882 Daniel Schrock House. Both houses have exhibits on Amish life in Arthur.

**Lake Shelbyville**
Recreate on water or land at this lake bordered by two state parks—Wolf Creek and Eagle Creek—and eight public campgrounds. The 7-mile General Dacey Trail gives walkers, runners and bikers scenic views of the lake.

**EAT**

**Yoder’s Kitchen**
Broasted chicken and egg noodles star at all-you-can-eat lunch and dinner buffets in Arthur. Diners also rave about the homemade cinnamon rolls, grilled pot roast melt and coconut pie.

**Flesor’s Candy Kitchen**
Bite into a candy apple for a true taste of fall, or try hand-dipped chocolates, house-made ice cream and soda fountain treats in the 1871 Tuscola building.

**STAY**

**Best Western Plus Green Mill Village Hotel and Suites Convention Center**
After a day in Amish Country, enjoy the heated indoor pool at this Arcola hotel—and a complimentary hot breakfast.

**Lithia Resort**
Cabins and a lodge provide comfy accommodations near Lake Shelbyville, golf courses, wineries and hiking trails.
TRAILS TO ADVENTURE
THE ANCIENT SANDSTONE CLIFFS AND TOWERING ROCK FORMATIONS OF GARDEN OF THE GODS HIGHLIGHT A FALL GETAWAY TO THE SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST.

DO

Bell Smith Springs Scenic Area
Eight miles of trails lead to clear streams fed by cool springs, scenic overlooks, sandstone cliffs and a natural rock bridge, all part of Shawnee National Forest (28 miles from Garden of the Gods).

Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour
Soar above the changing colors of fall on a three-hour tour with eight ziplines, three suspension bridges and three short hikes near Makanda.

EAT

17th Street Barbecue
In Murphysboro and Marion, order the legendary pork ribs. And don’t skimp on the appetizers—fried pickles, wings and onion straws will disappear just as quickly as your BBQ.

Scratch Brewing Company
Sip farmhouse beers brewed with foraged ingredients, such as juniper, elderberry and chanterelle mushrooms, in Ava. Wood-fired pizzas make the most of local ingredients like goat cheese and sausage.

STAY

Giant City State Park Lodge
In Makanda, stay in a historic prairie or bluff cabin and dine in the sandstone-and-white-oak lodge, which dates to the 1930s. The four bluff cabins are the largest and most stylish.

In autumn, oak and hickory foliage creates a vast tapestry of color across the Shawnee National Forest. Get the best overlook from Garden of the Gods Recreation Area, where a short uphill walk (with some benches) leads to six-story-tall sandstone formations and endless views.

Parks, lakes and trails promise more active adventures in or near the forest. See towering rock formations and mossy sandstone tunnels at Giant City State Park in Makanda, paddle around 1,000-year-old cypress trees in the Cache River State Natural Area, or bike the 45-mile Tunnel Hill State Trail from Harrisburg to Karnak.

To make pedaling easier, pick up an e-bike at Shawnee Hills eBike Rentals in Jonesboro. Another option for explorers: zipline views with Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour.

At day’s end, wind down at breweries, restaurants and lodgings in towns across the area. Murphysboro, Makanda and the college town of Carbondale anchor the western swath of the Shawnee National Forest. Garden of the Gods is in the less-developed eastern half, but still close to a few accommodations—including a tree house at Timber Ridge Outpost and Cabins in Elizabethtown.
## TRAVEL RESOURCES

### VISITORS BUREAUS

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<td>Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/678-2108, 815/966-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>309/434-2485, experiencegalesburg.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Rivers and Routes of Southwest Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/258-6645, 618/465-6676, riversandroutes.com</td>
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<td>ILLINOISouth Tourism</td>
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<td>618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org</td>
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<td>Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>309/833-1315, visitmacomb.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/747-0302, 309/676-0303, peoria.org</td>
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<td>Quincy Area Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/978-4748, 217/214-3700, seequincy.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visit Galena Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>815/776-9200, visitgalena.org</td>
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<td>Visit Quad Cities</td>
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<td>800/747-7800, visitquadcities.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomington—Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>800/433-8226, 309/665-0033, visitbn.org</td>
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<td>Danville Area Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>800/383-4586, 217/442-2096, visitdanvillearea.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>630/256-3190, enjoyaurora.com</td>
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<td>Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>800/678-2108, 815/966-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>888/895-8233, 708/895-8200, visitchicagonorthshore.com</td>
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<td>Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>847/765-0011, visitchicagonorthshore.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose Chicago</td>
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<td>312/567-8500, choosechicago.com</td>
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<td>DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>815/756-1336, dekalbcountycvb.com</td>
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<td>DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/232-0502, 630/575-8070, discoverdupage.com</td>
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<td>Explore Elgin Area</td>
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<td>800/747-0302, 309/676-0303, peoria.org</td>
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<td>Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>815/965-2282, heritagecorridorcvb.com</td>
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<td>Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>815/935-7390, visitkankakeecounty.com</td>
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<td>Meet Chicago Northwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/847-4849, 847/490-1010, chicagonorthwest.com</td>
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<td>618/529-4451, carbondaletourism.org</td>
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<td>618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org</td>
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<td>Mount Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>618/242-3151, enjoymtvernon.com</td>
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<td>Shawnee Forest Country/Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/248-4373, 618/835-9928, southernmostillinois.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visit SI</td>
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<td>800/433-7399, 618/997-3690, visitis.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>800/772-0750, 217/342-5310, visiteffingham.com</td>
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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 EZ Pass system.

Drivers who miss tolls have 14 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, Marion, 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 CTA Trains or Trains to 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 to get 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 rtachicago.org

Amtrak runs trains to 29 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.

Ten casinos operate throughout the state, some of these are riverboat casinos.

The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act allows recreational use of marijuana in the state.

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

For more Illinois government information, visit illinois.gov
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