Pack up. Head out.
We’ve been expecting you!
FEATURES

36 **Exit Now**  The stops along three road trips (hello, pink elephant selfie!) provide more than a break to stretch your legs before you get back on the road.

42 **Classic Chicago**  Revisit timeless treasures on your next trip to the Windy City.

46 **Field Trip**  Discover agritourism and farm-fresh destinations that provide guests with one-of-a-kind experiences.

GUIDEBOOK
IN EVERY ISSUE

- ACTIVE p. 6
- FAMILY FUN p. 16
- ILLINOIS MADE p. 22
- INTERVIEW p. 24
- HERITAGE p. 28
- FOOD & DRINK p. 30
- DATEBOOK p. 34

RESOURCES

- **Trip Ideas**  See, savor and stay on great Illinois getaways.  p. 56
- **Traveler Resources** p. 62
- **End Note** p. 64

ON THE COVER
Grafton Zipline at Aerie’s Resort
Photographer: Ryan Donnell

TRAVEL SAFE INFORMATION

In recent times, many attractions, restaurants and other destinations have implemented new operating procedures. Before you head out, check with each for up-to-date hours, travel policies, and health and safety information.
ENJOY ILLINOIS
SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism
555 W. Monroe Street, 12th floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
312/814-4733, Fax: 312/814-6175
ceo.enjoyillinois@illinois.gov
enjoyillinois.com

GOVERNOR J.B. Pritzker

ACTING DIRECTOR
Sylvia Garcia

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
Kara Fiannery

ACTING ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
Lisa Link

LOCAL TOURISM MANAGER
Jan Kemmerling

EDITORIAL CONTENT DIRECTOR Kylee Krizmanic
EXECUTIVE EDITOR Prasana William
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Nick Crow
EDITOR, CUSTOM MEDIA Kristin Bienert
DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR John Meek
SENIOR STAFF WRITER Gary Thompson
COPY EDITOR Diane Penningroth
CONTRIBUTOR Christine Hoskin
PUBLISHER Mark Josephson
NATIONAL TRAVEL DIRECTOR Katy Hildman
ADVERTISING SALES Kim Sommerfeldt 815/341-7969

Enjoy Illinois © 2022. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

The information in Enjoy Illinois was compiled by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. The Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity has made every effort to ensure the information contained in the publication is correct. Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois.

To ensure a safe and happy trip, please call ahead to verify or visit enjoyillinois.com for the most up-to-date information.
IT’S Handmade, Homemade, and Locally Made.

IT’S ILLINOIS MADE.

Woodworking, beekeeping, whiskey distilling, glassblowing, cheesemaking, beer brewing, pie baking, alpaca sweater making, and just about every imaginable form of creating. Illinois makers are always crafting up something wonderful.

Discover local at illinoismade.com
CHICAGO VOTED
BEST BIG CITY IN THE U.S.
5 YEARS IN A ROW

As visitors from around the world return to Chicago, we couldn’t be more proud to be named the Best Big City in the U.S. by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers — making us the only city to ever win this accolade for five consecutive years.

We invite you to come experience what makes Chicago a city unlike any other, from our 77 neighborhoods and award-winning dining to iconic cultural attractions and exciting events.

Start planning your Chicago experience at choosechicago.com.
IN THIS ISSUE

ACTIVE Choose Your Adventure p. 6
FAMILY FUN 7 Ways to Water p. 16
ILLINOIS MADE The Inside Scoop p. 22
INTERVIEW LaRoyce Hawkins p. 24
HERITAGE Wright this Way p. 28
FOOD & DRINK Let’s Brunch p. 30
DATEBOOK Under the Stars p. 34
choose (your) adventure

WHETHER IT’S ZIPLINING, RAPPELLING, BOULDERING OR RIDING A ROLLER COASTER, THESE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES WILL GET YOUR ADRENALINE PUMPING.

Grafton Zipline at Aerie’s Resort, Grafton
Adventurers sail 250 feet above the treetops on this two-hour, guided canopy tour, which includes seven ziplines, two suspension bridges and a rappelling descent. For those seeking a little calmer experience, ride the Grafton SkyTour at Aerie’s Resort. Choose either the open-air chairlift or an enclosed gondola. Both aerial rides offer birds-eye views of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. Coming this fall, the resort plans to open the state’s only Alpine Coaster. Riders top speeds of 25 mph as they twist and turn through wooded bluffs.

Go Ape Zipline and Adventure Park, Western Springs
Begin with the shorter Treetop Journey (one hour) and if more time allows, monkey around on the Treetop Adventure with multiple ziplines and obstacles. Also bounce around on Treetop nets, which are like a jungle gym in the trees.

Long Hollow Canopy Tours, Galena
Warm up with three short zips on this guided Canopy Tour through the forest. The last three lines are considerably longer, topping more than 700 feet each. Level up with the nearly three dozen elements of the Challenge Course, including ziplines, ladders, tree houses and the grand finale: a dual zipline race.

Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour, Makanda
The Shawnee National Forest surrounds this eco-friendly, tree-based tour company. Choose either the two-hour tour that includes five ziplines, two aerial bridges and two hikes, or the longer tour, which adds three more zips and another hike. Both options are fun for the whole family and include digital pictures.
Discover Yourself.

Discover **Kankakee County**.

With over 50 miles of winding river and 4,000-acres of state park, Kankakee County is the perfect place to get outdoors. From kayaking to world-class fishing to scuba diving and hiking and biking trails...we're the perfect place to relax and unwind. Plus, Kankakee County is located just an hour south of Chicago so recharging your batteries has never been easier!

**Come discover what you’ve been missing.**
WHEN GOLIATH DEBUTED, IT BOASTED THREE WOODEN ROLLER COASTER WORLD RECORDS: FASTEST (72 MPH), TALLEST (180 FEET) AND STEEPEST DROP (85 DEGREES).

SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA, GURNEE

Fun-seeking families will find every level of excitement with more than 15 heart-pounding, stomach-lurching roller coasters and 30 kid-friendly rides.

The nationally known theme park boasts some of the country’s wildest rides, including Maxx Force, which launches riders from zero to 78 mph in less than two seconds, all before the world’s tallest double inversions and zero-G roll. More extreme thrills come on the Raging Bull, the world’s first hyper-twister coaster. Bigger thrill seekers can soar on X Flight, a one-of-a-kind wing coaster. Riders slice through the sky on 3,000 feet of twisted steel with extreme drops and intense fly-throughs—all with no track above your head or below your dangling feet.

There’s plenty for even the littlest of kiddos too. Enjoy the Big Easy Balloons, a spinning, gently floating ride. Live shows and plenty of food options are on hand when you’re ready to recharge before the next daring feat.

Six Flags Great America, Gurnee

Fun-seeking families will find every level of excitement with more than 15 heart-pounding, stomach-lurching roller coasters and 30 kid-friendly rides.

The nationally known theme park boasts some of the country’s wildest rides, including Maxx Force, which launches riders from zero to 78 mph in less than two seconds, all before the world’s tallest double inversions and zero-G roll. More extreme thrills come on the Raging Bull, the world’s first hyper-twister coaster. Bigger thrill seekers can soar on X Flight, a one-of-a-kind wing coaster. Riders slice through the sky on 3,000 feet of twisted steel with extreme drops and intense fly-throughs—all with no track above your head or below your dangling feet.

There’s plenty for even the littlest of kiddos too. Enjoy the Big Easy Balloons, a spinning, gently floating ride. Live shows and plenty of food options are on hand when you’re ready to recharge before the next daring feat.

When Goliath debuted, it boasted three wooden roller coaster world records: fastest (72 MPH), tallest (180 FEET) and steepest drop (85 degrees).

Six Flags Great America, Gurnee

Fun-seeking families will find every level of excitement with more than 15 heart-pounding, stomach-lurching roller coasters and 30 kid-friendly rides.

The nationally known theme park boasts some of the country’s wildest rides, including Maxx Force, which launches riders from zero to 78 mph in less than two seconds, all before the world’s tallest double inversions and zero-G roll. More extreme thrills come on the Raging Bull, the world’s first hyper-twister coaster. Bigger thrill seekers can soar on X Flight, a one-of-a-kind wing coaster. Riders slice through the sky on 3,000 feet of twisted steel with extreme drops and intense fly-throughs—all with no track above your head or below your dangling feet.

There’s plenty for even the littlest of kiddos too. Enjoy the Big Easy Balloons, a spinning, gently floating ride. Live shows and plenty of food options are on hand when you’re ready to recharge before the next daring feat.

Upper Limits, Bloomington

A 110-foot outdoor climbing wall, a large boulder and 65-foot silos with top-rope routes, lead climbing routes, and auto-belay test the limits for beginner or experienced climbers at this attraction.

Jackson Falls, Shawnee National Forest

Technical climbing comes amid jaw-dropping views in the heart of the Shawnee National Forest. Here, boulderers and climbers have access to the largest number of in-state climbs, topping 425 different routes. For those looking for a challenge, many technical climbs range from 50 to 80 feet up the sandstone bluffs.

Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower, Hartford

Take the stairs to reach three levels of observation decks at 50, 100 and 150 feet for views of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The confluence of the two rivers marks the spot where explorers Lewis and Clark began their westward journey. An elevator also reaches all three levels for those looking for less of a lower-body workout.
The Forge: Lemont Quarries, Lemont

Adrenaline addicts can get their fix at the country’s largest aerial challenge course. With three levels of elements (easy, moderate and hard), there are literally hundreds of options. This adventure playground also boasts the three tallest climbing, rappelling and ziplining towers in the United States. Fans of ground-level thrills can mountain bike and hike or kayak and canoe.

Navy Pier, Chicago

For incredible views of the city skyline and Lake Michigan, take a spin on the Centennial Wheel, named for the Pier’s century anniversary. The enclosed gondolas hold eight passengers and rise nearly 200 feet in the air. Other Pier rides include the historic Carousel with 36 hand-painted animals, a drop tower-like ride with a G-force launch and the Pepsi Wave Swinger. The park is also home to a fun house maze and interactive games.
Galena on the Fly, Galena
Drift above the trees and see the countryside by the light of sunrise or sunset in a hot-air balloon (weekday rides). All rides begin at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa and end with a light touchdown (about 5 to 10 miles away). Enjoy a celebratory toast before a chase van brings participants back to the resort. For more hot-air balloon festivals and races, see page 64.

Skydive Chicago, Ottawa
Take a flying leap from an airplane and free-fall before the parachute opens for you to experience a canopy ride followed by a gentle sit-down landing. Rookies jump tandem while harnessed to a qualified instructor.

Chicago Air and Water Show, mid-August
Military and civil jets whiz over Chicago’s lakefront while performing dazzling displays of aerobatics.
Plan breaks
Leashed pets are welcome in state parks and rest areas.

Bring toys and treats
Shop local stores like Robyn’s Nest in Arlington Heights, which sells all-natural bones from Wyatt’s Dog Company. Wyatt Nelson, a teenager with Down syndrome, started making the pup treats in 2020.

Pack food and water
Leashed dogs lap up water on the patio and have the use of a dog run at Obed and Isaac’s Microbrewery in Springfield.

Confirm lodging
Some national chains, like Kimpton Hotels, welcome dogs of all sizes, weights and breeds at no extra charge. Other chains to check out: Homewood Suites, Home2 Suites, Aloft Hotels (Chicagoland) and Red Roof Inns.

Visit pup-friendly attractions
Major attractions like Navy Pier welcome four-legged friends (not in buildings). Also, try a Canine Cruise from Mercury, Chicago’s Skyline Cruiseline, and Shoreline Sightseeing’s Architecture River Tour.

THE PANDEMIC PET SURGE MEANS THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY GET TO EXPERIENCE THEIR FIRST ILLINOIS VACATION.

TIPS FOR ROAD TRIPS WITH PETS

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM

In Chicago’s backyard, there’s a place where American architecture was born: Oak Park. Explore breathtaking treasures like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio and the beautifully restored Unity Temple. Pedal along a pathway of discovery and witness the world’s largest collection of Wright’s masterpieces. Your adventure is waiting.

VISITOAKPARK.COM
Explore LaSalle County

Escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, visit LaSalle County. This oasis of unexpected natural wonders is home to the legendary Starved Rock State Park and picturesque small towns, lined with exciting eateries and boutique shopping opportunities. Whether you’re looking to tour museums and mansions, or sample locally made wine and craft beer, there’s an adventure awaiting you in LaSalle County.

- **DOWNTOWN STREATOR** - Murals, boutiques, dining and more
- **ILLINOIS RIVER** - Float past sandstone cliffs and quaint towns
- **AUGUST HILL WINERY/ILLINOIS SPARKLING CO.** - Enjoy wine tastings at August Hill
- **CAMP ARAMONI** - Boutique camping accommodations
- **TANGLED ROOTS BREWING CO.** - Craft beer and food experience
- **DOWNTOWN OTTAWA** - Vibrant downtown and family-friendly fests
- **HEGELER CARUS MANSION** - Step back into history
- **STARVED ROCK STATE PARK** - 13+ miles of scenic hiking trails
- **STARVED ROCK LODGE** - Cabins, hikes, tours, & outdoor dining

Find or request more information at [ENJOYLASALLECOUNTY.COM](http://ENJOYLASALLECOUNTY.COM)
• DOWNTOWN STREATOR - Murals, boutiques, dining and more
• ILLINOIS RIVER - Float past sandstone cliffs and quaint towns
• AUGUST HILL WINERY/ILLINOIS SPARKLING CO. - Enjoy wine tastings at August Hill
• CAMP ARAMONI - Boutique camping accommodations
• TANGLED ROOTS BREWING CO. - Craft beer and food experience
• DOWNTOWN OTTAWA - Vibrant downtown and family-friendly fests
• HEGELER CARUS MANSION - Step back into history
• STARVED ROCK STATE PARK - 13+ miles of scenic hiking trails
• STARVED ROCK LODGE - Cabins, hikes, tours, & outdoor dining

Escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, visit LaSalle County. This oasis of unexpected natural wonders is home to the legendary Starved Rock State Park and picturesque small towns, lined with exciting eateries and boutique shopping opportunities. Whether you're looking to tour museums and mansions, or sample locally made wine and craft beer, there's an adventure awaiting you in LaSalle County.

FIND OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION AT ENJOYLASALLECOUNTY.COM
Who needs an ocean coastline when major waterways like Lake Michigan and the Mississippi and Ohio rivers border the Land of Lincoln? Whether you seek high-speed thrills or leisurely exploration, Illinois overflows with inviting natural and human-made water attractions.

**SPLISH SPLASH**

Speed down Tsunami Surge (new in 2021), the world’s tallest water coaster, at Hurricane Harbor Chicago in Gurnee—adjacent to Six Flags Great America. Rockford’s Hurricane Harbor, another Six Flags property, spins and swirls riders aboard Tidal Wave. Waterslides and a wave pool delight at Knight’s Action Park in Springfield. Choose from 32 slippery slides at the state’s largest outdoor water park, Raging Waves, in Yorkville. And slide into fun with eight water attractions at Raging Rivers in Grafton. Or try cable wakeboarding at The Quarry Cable Park at Crystal Lake’s Three Oaks Recreation Area. Instead of riding behind a boat, you move along a cable system suspended in the air by towers. Lessons are available.

**DIG IN!**

Spring rains cause the Vermillion River to rise, making May to mid-July the best time to run its rapids. Vermillion River Rafting in Oglesby offers self-guided trips through 14 sets of rapids in a 9.5-mile stretch. The Marge Cline Whitewater Course on the Fox River in downtown Yorkville lets canoers, kayakers and tubers travel down a 1,100-foot-long bypass chute.
Travel along the iconic Route 66 to Springfield, this history-filled capital of Illinois. Experience one of America’s most beloved presidents, Abraham Lincoln. Pick up a complimentary “Explorer Passport” and prepare to engage all of your senses.

One city, two adventures, including twenty sites, attractions, culinary treasures and museums in one passport of memorable fun.
SOAK UP THE SANDY SHORE AT ANY OF CHICAGO’S 22 BEACHES ALONG LAKE MICHIGAN, INCLUDING OAK STREET, THE MOST POPULAR.

BEACH VIBES
Chicago makes it easy to get in a swim with 26 miles of Lake Michigan beaches open (and free) to all from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Downtown and Lincoln Park favorites include Ohio Street Beach (close to iconic Navy Pier), Oak Street Beach (which features on-site cafes and bike rentals) and ever-popular North Avenue Beach (with a beach house; restaurants and concession stands; and rentals for kayaks, Jet Skis, stand-up paddleboards, wakeboards and bicycles). Swimming is permitted when lifeguards are on duty (normally from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily).

BIG FISH
Created by the damming of Grassy Creek, Devils Kitchen Lake southwest of Marion is a deep, clear, 810-acre body of water in Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Anglers can catch channel catfish, bluegill, largemouth bass, rainbow trout and redear sunfish. Three boat ramps provide access (10-horsepower limit), plus there’s camping.
Summer fun starts here

EXPLORE QUINCY ILLINOIS
the city with 3600 structures contributing to the National Register of Historic Places

New Self-Guided Driving Tours
- Mid Mod Quincy
- Abundant Architecture with East End Walking Tour

Lake Michigan and the Chain O’Lakes

Lake County has great lakes and great things to do. Come visit.

- Six Flags Great America
- Marinas, rentals & fishing
- 550 miles of trails & bike ways
- 60+ hotels & resorts
- Outlets & downtown shops
- Cuisine for every taste
- Beer, wine & spirits on the Lake County Libation Trail®

EXPLORE QUINCY ILLINOIS
3600

Architecture Goes Rogue®

Call for or download your free guides
SAIL AWAY
For beginner and veteran sailors, it’s not far to paradise—Carlyle Lake, the state’s largest human-made lake, awaits in Southern Illinois. If you’re new to the sport, the Carlyle Sailing Association can steer you to a boat and lessons. Look for its free Try Sailing Day in May, when skippers answer questions and give rides.

MAKE WAVES
Boaters, start your engines—Rend Lake in Southern Illinois beckons with 19,000 acres of fresh water and 162 miles of shore managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Plentiful ramps make it easy to get on the water, plus Rend Lake Marina has boat rentals, gear and in-water slips for short-term leasing.

Pick your pleasure craft (pontoon boat, party barge and kayaks for rent) and explore the coves of Lake Shelbyville with 172 miles of shore. The full-service reservoir offers three marinas, lakeside campgrounds and a floating restaurant.

PADDED SPORT
Paddle the Chicago River past the Windy City’s skyscrapers on a trip with Urban Kayaks or Kayak Chicago. In Southern Illinois, explore the ancient Cache River Wetlands via Cache Bayou Outfitters in Ullin. The Galena River’s gentle waters allow a leisurely ride—Nuts Outdoors near downtown Galena offers shuttle service. Seasoned kayakers tackle parts of the Mississippi River, though all skill levels can enjoy its backwaters, such as Sylvan Slough in downtown Moline.

CHOOSE A CRUISE

Spirit of Peoria, Peoria
Take a one- to two-hour jaunt or a multiday cruise on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers aboard one of the nation’s few overnight paddle-wheelers.

Celebration Belle, Moline
Ride the 750-passenger paddle-wheeler for a sightseeing, luncheon or dinner cruise on the Mississippi.

Chicago’s First Lady and Chicago River Boat Architecture Cruises, Chicago
See the skyscrapers from the Chicago River and learn city lore. Some trips include cocktails, meals, live jazz and fireworks.

I&M Canal Boat Tour, LaSalle
Journey back in time aboard the Volunteer, a mule-pulled replica 1840s canal boat, as it glides along the historic Illinois and Michigan Canal.

Hakuna Matata, Grafton
No worries, just adventures on the Illinois and Mississippi. The 49-passenger tour boat features an open-air upper deck for 360-degree views.
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
inside scoop

FRESH FRUIT, SUMMER POTLUCKS. IT’S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT INSPIRE THE ICE CREAM FLAVORS MADE ON THIS ILLINOIS FARM.

MILK HOUSE, PINGREE GROVE

BROOK AND CLINT CAREY
PARENTS, KIDS AND GRANDKIDS ARE ALWAYS GAME FOR PILOT TASTINGS AND TO ENDORSE THE RECIPES THE CAREYS SERVE.

If memory has a flavor, you can find it at Milk House on a century-old family farm in Pingree Grove, near Elgin, west of Chicago’s suburbs. This is where Clint and Brook Carey combine seasonal ingredients with time-honored traditions to make ice cream to remember.

“Our flavors truly mean something to us,” Clint says about creating the unique scoops that remind him of childhood and holidays. “When people get to taste it in an ice cream form, that makes me the happiest.”

That might translate to an ice cream that recalls the flavor of lime gelatin and marshmallows from potluck dinners in Pingree Grove where Brook grew up. Or a scoop with juicy cantaloupe that reminds Clint of the fresh fruit he ate with his grandparents.

What you won’t find in the majority of these nostalgic scoops is artificial coloring. The light, natural color of the ice cream comes from farm-grown produce, like beets or kale. “The seasonal flavors reflect what we can grow,” Brook says.

From ideation to creation, the products at Milk House are a labor of love. That’s especially true for the Fourth of July sorbet inspired by the frozen Bomb Pop. It takes four people to make the Milk House treat—while one person spins, another pours the lemon sorbet, another the cherry, and another the blueberry until the familiar flavors of July are ready to savor.

This dedication extends to the restoration of the farmhouse and land that has been in Brook’s family since the 1850s. When the Careys bought the farm, everyone told them to tear down the old Milk House. Instead, they saw its potential.

The decision to preserve the structure and enhance its purpose from the storage of milk to the production of ice cream was a life-changing one for Clint, a former jewelry maker and the creative force behind Milk House, and Brook, a former trial attorney and the organizer of the operation.

“A lot of the skills I used in my legal career, including managing employees, have carried through to this,” says Brook, who never imagined being a full-time ice cream maker.

“We meet in the middle,” agrees Clint. “We’re super proud and happy.”
FANS OF NBC’S CHICAGO P.D. TUNE IN EVERY WEEK TO WATCH ACTOR LAROYCE HAWKINS AND AN ELITE SQUAD FIGHT CRIME.

Though Hawkins now calls Chicago home, the Harvey native takes pride in his south-of-Chicago hometown and gives back through his brand (and mantra) Be Powerful, which is partially responsible for the city’s Little League jerseys and a mural on the side of the Restoration Ministries building. Hawkins hopes to shine light on Harvey and put it on the map.

Q Did you always know you wanted to be an actor?
A I dreamed of being in the box [television]. I was inspired by characters from the box. It took my mom forever to get me to go outside and play. I learned how to ride my bike late because I wanted to stay in and watch TV. I learned how to work the VCR extremely early.

Q How old were you on your first TV series, Chicago Fire?
A I was 25, but I started doing stand-up at age 17. For me, I felt like I had been doing it long enough, so when I was about 25, I was literally telling myself I should be on a show somewhere.

Q How many seasons have you been on Chicago P.D., your current series?
A We’re nine seasons deep. I feel like I have the experience of a veteran now, but in some ways it still feels like the beginning.
Three mighty rivers. Four scenic byways. 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

Bordering Chicago along Lake Michigan, Chicago's North Shore provides safe accommodations with easy access to the city and North Shore attractions.
I’M ALWAYS GOING TO RAVE ABOUT ILLINOIS AND ITS RICH HISTORY.

LAROYCE HAWKINS

Q Do real-life scenarios end up on the show?
A Yes! The mayor of Harvey, a bunch of local artists and myself put our heads together to think about how to start adding light to the city. We came up with the Harvey Wall Mural and plan to paint a different wall every year. Then, on the show, my girlfriend, Celeste, and I buy a building and get kids to paint a mural.

Q What else do you do when visiting your hometown?
A The best tacos I’ve ever had, in my humble opinion, are in downtown Harvey. Leonel’s Market is technically a grocery store, but that’s not what they’re known for. You go there for steak tacos and tortas. To this day, nothing can compete.

Q When did you realize you were funny?
A In high school, a substitute teacher, who was also a playwright, thought I was a class clown and cast me in her play as Ms. Josephine. It’s one of the few times I’ve put on a dress for laughs. A bookie in the audience thought I was funny and got me a stand-up gig performing for military troops.

Q What was your mentor growing up?
A My grandfather, Grandpa John. He’s still kicking it, he’s still in the game. The acts of service and humility, honesty...those textures came from him. He was a Harvard grad, but I didn’t even know that until my little brother was accepted into West Point.

Q How exactly did that happen?
A While I was at Illinois State, I landed this random audition for a movie called The Express, about the first black Heisman Trophy winner, Ernie Davis.

Q How was your experience at Illinois State in Bloomington?
A It was far enough from home for me to feel like I was away, but also close enough to where I was still able to be there for my family. But I was also able to kick off my career.

Q Do you see stand-up in Chicago?
A Yes. The Laugh Factory is still a strong place to go. Another place I like is Riddles Comedy Club. It’s hosted by a big homie of mine, Damon Williams.

Q What about theater? Do you go in Chicago?
A The next play I’m going to is at the Goodman Theatre, where I was an understudy when I landed the role on Chicago Fire.

Q What’s next for Be Powerful?
A We’re working on a campaign called Hood Development. We want to add rhythm and relief to certain pockets around Harvey that need it. We offer opportunities and chances to kids who don’t know that it’s there.

Q How was your experience at Illinois State in Bloomington?
A It was far enough from home for me to feel like I was away, but also close enough to where I was still able to be there for my family. But I was also able to kick off my career.

Q How did you realize you were funny?
A In high school, a substitute teacher, who was also a playwright, thought I was a class clown and cast me in her play as Ms. Josephine. It’s one of the few times I’ve put on a dress for laughs. A bookie in the audience thought I was funny and got me a stand-up gig performing for military troops.

Q When did you realize you were funny?
A In high school, a substitute teacher, who was also a playwright, thought I was a class clown and cast me in her play as Ms. Josephine. It’s one of the few times I’ve put on a dress for laughs. A bookie in the audience thought I was funny and got me a stand-up gig performing for military troops.

Q When was the last time you ate at a restaurant and wanted to start painting a mural?
A Never. However, I do enjoy painting murals occasionally.

Q What’s next for Be Powerful?
A We’re working on a campaign called Hood Development. We want to add rhythm and relief to certain pockets around Harvey that need it. We offer opportunities and chances to kids who don’t know that it’s there.

OUT AND ABOUT IN CHICAGO WITH LAROYCE

Tribe
The vibe is great, the Caribbean food is amazing and there’s live music. (1239 W. Lake St.)

The Bassment
I like loud music and this place does a lot of cover stuff like hip-hop, house and jazz. (353 W. Hubbard St.; lower level)

Au Cheval
My little sister and I love it. (800 W. Randolph St.)

Juice @ 1340
This wine shop and bar is Black-owned and woman-owned; everything they do is extremely exclusive. (1340 W. Madison St.)

Leaders 1354
Near Pillars, they sell urban wear. Hot, fresh shoes; whatever is new; whatever the next wave is, they have it. (1152 W. Madison St.)
FIND A WINERY NEAR YOU

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP!

• VIP Wineries
• Illinois Wine Trails
• Gold Medal Winners
• Signature Series Rosé Wines

ILLINOISWINE.COM/APP

#ILWINE 2022 MAJOR EVENTS

• June 4-5: Rosemont Uncorked! (New)
• August 11 - 21: Illinois State Fair, Springfield
• September 17-18: 19th Annual Vintage Illinois, State’s Largest Wine Festival, N. Utica

Plus, join our email list & receive a free wine & food pairing download! illinoiswine.com

ILLINOISWINE
Illinois Grape Growers & Vintners Alliance (IGGVA)
Every time you hear the term “open concept” on HGTV, credit Frank Lloyd Wright, who pioneered the idea more than a century ago. Today, he’s considered America’s greatest architect. But when he came to Illinois in 1887 at age 20, he was a young draftsman seeking work. He found it, leaving architectural footprints all over Illinois, home to more Wright designs than any other state.

Discover 13 of them on the Frank Lloyd Wright Trail, a self-guided adventure featuring buildings open for public tours. You’ll find the largest concentration of Wright creations in Oak Park, the Chicago suburb where he lived and worked for the first 20 years of his career. Key trail stops are Unity Temple (the only surviving public building from Wright’s Prairie period) and the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, where he perfected designs...
before big reveals to clients. More than two dozen other Wright-designed buildings dot the neighborhood around his home, making Oak Park a mecca for architecture buffs. Not all the structures are open to the public, but they’re worth a walk past.

Wright’s legacy extends beyond the Chicago area. Follow the trail to the B. Harley Bradley House in Kankakee, built in 1910. It’s thought to be the first of Wright’s Prairie-style homes, known for their strong horizontal lines, low-pitched roofs, and clever use of natural materials such as brick and wood. The home sits on the Kankakee River, where you can take a 30-minute cruise past other homes along the shore, including another Wright work.

In Rockford, tour the single-story Kenneth and Phyllis Laurent House, the only building Wright ever designed for someone with disabilities. Mr. Laurent was paralyzed after surgery to remove a spinal tumor. It’s one of Wright’s Usonian homes, a 1930s style featuring practical designs, inexpensive materials and flat roofs.

In Springfield, tour the Dana-Thomas House, built for socialite and Wright patron Susan Lawrence Dana. The home reflects Japanese aesthetics and contains the largest collection of site-specific, original Wright art glass and furniture.

“FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION—THAT HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. FORM AND FUNCTION SHOULD BE ONE, JOINED IN A SPIRITUAL UNION.”

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
let’s brunch

BOTTOMLESS BEVERAGES, DIS MIXING MUSIC, PLUS SLEEPING IN (NOT TO MENTION LETTING SOMEONE ELSE COOK AND CLEAN) MAKE WEEKEND BRUNCH ALL THE MORE TASTY.

Somewhere between breakfast and lunch, there’s brunch. And no one does it better than the Windy City. Whether it’s the meal for the day, an outing with friends and family, or a cure for a hangover (which is how brunch originally came about), the list of places to dine midday is almost as endless as a bottomless mimosa. Here are some top options.

VENTEUX

Ooh la la. Inside the historic Carbide and Carbon Building (and home to hotel Pendry Chicago), Venteux welcomes patrons with a Parisian-inspired setting and magnificent windows overlooking Michigan Avenue. Settle in for bottomless mimosas or rosé while noshing on Tuna Nicoise, Croque Monsieur or any of the other nouvelle French dishes.

THE ART DECO CARBIDE AND CARBON BUILDING (HOME TO VENTEUX) RESEMBLES A GREEN CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE WITH GOLD FOIL.
Explore Elgin Area

Explore the Elgin Area's best getaway spots based on your interests. Select a themed, seasonal or niche interest itinerary and cruise in to #ExploreElgin.

Get started at ExploreElginArea.com/itineraries/

Milk House Ice Cream
Elgin Public Art Tour
Fox River Bike Trail

Fresh Air. Open Road.

Your Grand Adventure Starts Here!
FREE WiFi • Indoor Pool & Whirlpool • FREE Grand Start® Breakfast

GRANDSTAY HOTELS
HOTEL: 309.692.9200
grandstayhospitability.com 📱
34 hotels in 8 states and growing!

Experience the Historic....
...Enjoy the Contemporary!
experiencegalesburg.com
BAR SIENA
Pizza for brunch? Duh, yes! And, while you’re at this Italian-inspired West Loop eatery, add a side of CBD honey to your slice, baked in a custom-made pizza oven. They also feature build-your-own mimosas.

BATTER AND BERRIES
Locally made brioche, fresh fruit and a lot of love go into the French toast; a new special flavor debuts every week. The Lincoln Park restaurant makes most of the menu items from scratch, including the spicy pork sausage and maple butter.

BEATNIK ON THE RIVER
Global beats from well-known DJs accompany weekend brunch at this lush, tropical restaurant with an extensive patio overlooking the Chicago River. The worldly vibe and atmosphere carry through to the menu featuring arepas, Moroccan pastilla, and chicken and waffles.

BEATRIX
A healthy-ish brunch awaits an elevator ride away in the Aloft Chicago hotel in River North. Start with a fresh-squeezed cocktail or mocktail. Then choose from the extensive menu, which includes Ten Grain Oatmeal and Avocado and Jalapeno Toast with crispy quinoa. Drop the guilt and add a side of hash browns and bacon.

LARK
Sunday brunch begins with a bang in this Northalsted neighborhood gem. The “Queens of Pop” rock out while patrons sip on bottomless beverages like Bloody Marys, mimosas, bellinis and sangria. Dine on classics like eggs Benedict and steak and eggs.

TEMPO CAFE
Start with fresh-squeezed orange juice and then build your own omelet at this Gold Coast diner. Craving sweets? Add a scoop of ice cream and whipped cream to your order of pancakes, waffles or French toast.

DIY
Pick up a bottle of Illinois-made sparkling wine or bubbly for make-at-home mimosas.

Re-create your weekend getaway with easy-to-make mimosas. It’s so simple, with just two ingredients: sparkling wine and orange juice.

Here’s where to find Illinois sparkling wines:

**CHICAGOLAND**
Lynfred Winery; Roselle, Wheaton, Wheeling, Naperville
Cooper’s Hawk Winery and Restaurants; Chicago and suburbs, Springfield

**AROUND THE STATE**
Galena area
Galena Cellars Vineyard and Winery; Massbach Ridge Winery, Elizabeth
Genoa
Prairie State Winery
Nauvoo
Baxter’s Vineyards and Winery
Ulica
Illinois Sparkling Co.; August Hill Winery

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**
Blue Sky Vineyard, Makanda; Lasata Wines, Lawrenceville; The Pour Vineyard, Red Bud; Vahling Vineyards, Stewardson; Pheasant Hollow Winery, Whittington
Lincoln

Like you've never seen him before:

- 16-foot-tall living Lincoln Taper Monument
- a 10-site Lincoln Topiary Garden Tour

Open 24/7 - 365 days a year
under the stars

WARM NIGHTS. FIREFLIES. STARS OVERHEAD. MAKE THE MOST OF SUMMER AND SPEND AN EVENING (OR MORE) ENJOYING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT OPEN-AIR VENUES.

**CHICAGO AREA**

**Grant Park Music Festival**
June 15–August 17 (various dates)
Summer in the Windy City means free classical concerts at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. Seats are available or bring a lawn chair or blanket.

**Ravinia Festival**
June–September (various dates)
For more than a century, Ravinia has hosted world-class artists almost every night during the season. The Highland Park venue offers multiple options when it comes to seats, food and transportation.

**STARLIGHT THEATRE, ROCKFORD**

Just like a flower in bloom, the roof opens to reveal a stage and 1,000-plus seats. The lineup includes The Little Mermaid (June 8–11, July 13–17); Disaster! (June 15–18, July 20–24); Dream Girls (June 22–25, July 27–31); Hello Dolly (June 29–July 2, August 3–7); How I Became a Pirate (August 11–13).

**THE MUNI, SPRINGFIELD**

An all-star season will feature Nickelodeon’s The SpongeBob Musical (May 27–29; June 1–5); Ragtime (June 17–19, 22–26); Disney’s Newsies (July 8–10, 13–17); and Matilda (July 29–31, August 3–7).

**THEATRE IN THE PARK, PETERSBURG**
The amphitheatre at Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site hosts A Little Princess (June 10–12, 16–18); Company (July 1–3, 7–9); Babes in Arms (July 22–24, 28–30); and Inherit the Wind (August 12–14, 18–20).

**ILLINOIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, BLOOMINGTON**

It’s a trifecta of the Bard with a modern fave, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged], (June 3–12); a comedy, Much Ado About Nothing, (July 1–August 5); and a tragedy, King Lear, (July 8–August 4).
From amazing hotels, fine to casual dining and endless entertainment, Rosemont is your one-stop destination for fun in Illinois!

FASHION, FOOD & ENDLESS FUN! VISIT ROSEMONT.COM

Free outdoor concerts at Parkway Bank Park • Comfortable world-class hotels • Extraordinary restaurants • 130+ shops at Fashion Outlets of Chicago • Chicago Dogs baseball all Summer long • Live Events & Tradeshows • And so much more!
America’s Main Street. The Mother Road. The dream road trip. Route 66 (on I-55) carves a diagonal path across the heart of Illinois, beckoning you with larger-than-life roadside attractions, classic diners with flashing neon lights, and sweet mom-and-pop shops that pour ice cream cones and make homemade fudge. Nurture your nostalgia beneath a 30-foot Muffler Man holding a rocket ship, a throwback to the towering advertising props that dominated the roadides of 1960s America. Visit the state capital, home of President Abraham Lincoln, and soak up the history with a thick slice of toast topped with meat, crispy French fries and a generous serving of homemade cheese sauce. This traditional Illinois sandwich, a Horseshoe, is just a taste of the many new memories you will make while exploring this historic road.

Join the time-honored tradition of kitschy pit stops, where the “world’s largest” memories are always made with these classic road trips.
Reasons to Exit

Joliet Snag a root beer float at the retro Rich and Creamy ice cream shop, where the Blues Brothers dance on the roof.

Wilmington Snap your pic with the Gemini Giant, the Muffler Man who presides over a bygone era at the Launching Pad Drive-In.

Springfield The state capital is home to the original Horseshoe Sandwich. Build your signature “Shoe” at the countertop of Charlie Parker’s Diner.

Livingston You can’t miss the aptly named Pink Elephant Antique Mall with the enormous brightly colored pachyderm just waiting for a picture.

Collinsville The World’s Largest Catsup Bottle is the perfect roadside attraction to top off your trip with a final flourish of classic Americana.

ROADSIDE TRIVIA

Known as Muffler Men, these up to 30-foot-tall fiberglass statues with outstretched arms once dotted Route 66. Besides the Gemini Giant, there’s Paul Bunyon (spelled with an “o” to avoid copyright issues) holding a hot dog in Atlanta and Lauterbach waving an American flag in Springfield.

South of downtown Collinsville, the World’s Largest Catsup Bottle stands 170 feet tall. The water tower mimics a bottle of Old Original Catsup from former Brooks Tomato Products Company.
Crossroad to Confluence

From outdoor artwork sculpted by artists to magnificent rock formations sculpted by Mother Nature, this is the trip where nature meets the road. Take I-57 from Chicago to the southernmost tip of Illinois, stopping to explore unforgettable outdoor spaces along the way. Your path includes a wildflower garden, a sculpture garden and even a garden named for the gods. You’ll also see one of the largest crosses in America, erected over the crossroads of two major interstates. This trip ends at the “great confluence,” where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers meet and where Lewis and Clark trained members of the Corps of Discovery to use their navigational equipment. You won’t regret navigating your own journey down this roadway.

Reasons to Exit

Kankakee Stretch those legs at the Willowhaven Park and Nature Center, where you’ll find hiking trails, a playground and wildflower garden.

Champaign/Urbana See artwork on the prairie. Wander through the Wandell Sculpture Garden that sits among 22 acres of Illinois tallgrass prairie at Meadowbrook Park.

Effingham Cross at the Crossroads is 180 tons of steel reaching nearly 200 feet over the junction of Interstates 57 and 70.

Marion Fuel up with craft coffee and a toaster pop made from scratch at Crown Brew Coffee Co.

Herod This Shawnee National Forest stop is one of the most photographed places in Illinois. Don’t miss your shot of the Garden of Gods Recreation Area.

Cairo Fort Defiance State Park sits on the southernmost tip in Illinois, simply called the point. It’s where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers converge.
ROADSIDE TRIVIA
Soaring 150 feet in the air, the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower provides visitors with a birds-eye view of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.
Heavy Metal Ride

Follow I-74 from the Mississippi River to the center of the state. This big road trip has a little something for everyone. For the kids (and kids at heart), clamber aboard heavy-duty machinery at the John Deere Pavilion in Moline. The Pavilion features stories of innovation and technology highlighted through interactive equipment, displays and colorful tributes. For small-town charm, there are quaint downtowns to explore, including Uptown Normal district in Normal, where, near the town center known as The Circle, local rock and roll is celebrated at a vintage record store. In Galesburg, metal is bent into artwork found in the Seminary Street Historic Downtown District. You won’t want to miss the 2.5-mile stretch of road in Peoria Heights that President Theodore Roosevelt referred to as the “world’s most beautiful drive,” or the historic cantilever bridge that forever changed the cityscape of Peoria.

Reasons to Exit

Moline Go big: Sit inside the green tractor at the John Deere Pavilion. Go small: Visitors can buy new and used LEGO sets plus bulk LEGO bricks by the pound to build their own creation.

Galesburg See the end result of what happens when recycled farm equipment becomes artwork in the hands of a metal worker at Stray Cat Art.

Peoria Take in views of the Illinois River valley from the historic Grandview Drive in Peoria Heights before crossing the landmark Murray Baker Bridge.

Normal Dig through the vintage vinyl collection at North Street Records. Pull in late? Insomnia Cookies delivers until 3 a.m!
ROADSIDE TRIVIA
The half-mile-long Murray Baker Bridge over the Illinois River connects Peoria and East Peoria. The night lights change color based on the occasion, such as holidays, events and local sports team victories.

ROADSIDE TRIVIA
In the heart of Uptown Normal, the Uptown Circle draws locals and tourists to its urban park, which hosts annual events and festivals.
Iconic flavors, famous museums, one spectacular skyline and more:
Go back to those timeless treasures that make a visit to the Windy City like no other trip.

Writer Kristin Bienert
CHICAGO CITYPASS
Save on admission to iconic spots with the original or all-new Chicago C3 CityPASS, which is ideal for shorter stays and weekend visits. The original pass covers prepaid admission to five attractions: Skydeck Chicago, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum and your choice of two of the following: The Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Science and Industry, 360 Chicago Observation Deck, or Adler Planetarium.

The Chicago C3 CityPASS ticket covers discounted entry to three of any of these attractions: Shedd Aquarium, Skydeck Chicago, Museum of Science and Industry, Shoreline Sightseeing Architecture River Tour and the Centennial Wheel at Navy Pier.

MUSEUM CAMPUS
With an emphasis on the natural sciences, Adler Planetarium, Field Museum and Shedd Aquarium make up the city’s 57-acre park near Lake Michigan.

MUSEUMS
The Art Institute of Chicago
Inside the lion-flanked doors, see works from artists like Vincent van Gogh, Georges Seurat and Grant Wood.

Adler Planetarium
Explore the planets, launch a Stomp Rocket and see a stunning sky show.

Field Museum
Máximo, the titanosaur skeleton (below) towers over other fossils, plus unwrap mummy mysteries and more.

Museum of Science and Industry
Climb aboard a plane, train and sub in the country’s largest science museum.

Shedd Aquarium
Touch a sea star, watch penguins frolic, hear beluga whales and see aquatic life from across the globe.

FOSSILS AT THE FIELD
SUE, A T-REX, IS 40 FEET LONG WITH SHARP TEETH; MÁXIMO IS 122 FEET LONG WITH TINY TEETH.
Green Spaces

Grant Park
Along Lake Michigan, Grant Park is proudly known as Chicago’s Front Yard. It’s home to Millennium Park and Cloud Gate, the sculpture better known as The Bean, Maggie Daley Park, Buckingham Fountain, the Art Institute of Chicago (and start of Route 66), Museum Campus, and numerous festivals and events.

Mary Bartleme Park
Walk under stainless-steel arches and snap selfies of the city’s skyline from this West Loop gem.

Wrigley Field
Major League Baseball’s second-oldest stadium welcomes fans to its ivied walls for tours and to watch the Cubs play. Pre- and post game, hang in Lakeview.

Guaranteed Rate Field
In this two-team town, head to the South Side to watch the White Sox. For an interleague game, the White Sox take on the Chicago Cubs (May 28-29).

Pathways

Chicago Riverwalk
A hip vibe and lively atmosphere greet pedestrians looking for a place to eat, drink and explore along the 125-mile path with waterside restaurants and museums.

Lakefront Trail
Follow the 18-mile multipurpose path that squeezes between Lake Michigan and the city’s skyscrapers. Along the way, discover beaches and restaurants and direct access to the lake.

The 606
The city converted a stretch of abandoned elevated train tracks into a pedestrian-friendly path. Runners and walkers follow the 2.7-mile stretch through Wicker Park, Bucktown, Logan Square and Humboldt Park.

Great Views

Tilt at 360 Chicago
On the 94th floor of the former John Hancock Center, the glass-enclosed attraction leans visitors over Michigan Avenue.

Skydeck Chicago at Willis Tower
Walk out onto the Ledge, a glass-encased balcony that extends out 4 feet and 103 floors above the ground.

Centennial Wheel, Navy Pier
With stunning views of Lake Michigan and the city, the Centennial Wheel rises nearly 200 feet in the air.

Rooftop Bars and Restaurants
Sip and savor the view from a rooftop, like Cindy's Rooftop (above) in the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel.

Iconic Chicago Foods & Chefs

Deep-Dish Pizza
Layers of cheese and toppings cover a crust with sauce on top. Try Chicago-style pizza at Uno Pizzeria, Lou Malnati’s and others.

Chicago Dog
It’s a meal in a poppy seed bun with an all-beef hot dog, yellow mustard, white onion, a dill pickle spear, green relish and sliced tomato. No ketchup!

Popcorn
The famous Garrett Popcorn Mix comes from combining two customer favorites, cheese and caramel, into one bag. It’s worth the wait in line.

Italian Beef
Choose wet or dry, as sweet peppers and giardiniera are given on the thinly shaved roast beef sandwich tucked in a bread roll.
THE BEAN-SHAPE SCULPTURE’S NAME, CLOUD GATE, IS DERIVED FROM THE REFLECTIONS IT PROJECTS FROM THE SKY.

TOURS

Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise
Docsents share the history behind the city’s skyline aboard Chicago’s First Lady as you cruise the river.

Mercury Cruises
Choose your tour and cruise on an open-top deck or inside. Have an urban adventure by day or see the city at night. Take your furry friends along or watch the fireworks. Or simply enjoy the downtown view from Lake Michigan—it’s an attraction itself.

Shoreline Sightseeing
During an architecture cruise, learn about the birthplace of the skyscraper, see fireworks or grab a water taxi.

Wendella Boats
Since 1935, this family-owned and family-operated company has been sharing the city’s architectural history found along the Chicago River and Lake Michigan. Other cruises include curated foodie outings and water taxi rides.

SHOWS

Broadway in Chicago
See the hottest hits, like Jersey Boys (May 3–8), Fiddler on the Roof (May 17–22) and My Fair Lady (June 28–July 10).

The Second City
Laugh it up at the famous comedy club and theater with sketch and improv shows seven nights a week in Old Town.

SAGANAKI
When dining in Greektown on the Near West Side, tableside flaming cheese is a prerequisite. Be prepared to ooh and ahh and shout Opa!

CHEESECAKE
Regional ingredients and a hot, fast bake make Eli’s Cheesecake slices supersoft and creamy. Choose from more than 40 products.

BROWNIES
Thank Hilton’s Palmer House (actually, Mrs. Palmer) for inventing the chocolaty goodness for the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition.

CELEBRITY CHEFS
In the culinary world, chefs like Grant Achatz (Alinea), Rick Bayless (Frontera Grill), Stephanie Izard (Girl and the Goat), Paul Kahan (avec), Beverly Kim and Johnny Clark (Wherewithall), and John Shields and Karen Urie Shields (Smyth and The Loyalist) make a name for themselves.
FIELD TRIP

WRITER Jennifer Nilsson
THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO GET TO KNOW A PLACE THAN TO EAT FROM ITS SOIL AND TO LEARN FROM ITS LAND. THESE AGRITOURISM AND FARM-FRESH DESTINATIONS OFFER EVEN MORE THAN DINNER BENEATH THE STARS OR QUIET NIGHTS SPENT IN A TREE HOUSE. THESE ARE ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCES WITH THE FARMERS, BREWERS, CHEESE-MAKERS, GARDENERS AND CHEFS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT CONNECTING THEIR GUESTS WITH THEIR HOMES.
HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE

These family-owned agritourism destinations offer overnight experiences with an opportunity to learn about the land.

KINNIKINNICK FARM
Caledonia

The family behind this family farm stands ready to welcome you and yours into the fold. Your kids will join right in with morning and afternoon chores, helping Farmer David collect eggs, feed the pigs, chickens and donkeys, and even milk the goats. Use the long twilight hours to cook dinner on the wood-burning stove while the kids chase fireflies in the pastures before retiring to the candlelight of your family-size tent. Don’t miss the communal make-your-own pizza on Saturday night.
ARROWHEAD TREEHOUSE, DITTMAR FARMS AND ORCHARD

Elizabeth

Tucked into the rolling hills that make up the quiet countryside of northwest Illinois, a luxurious tree house experience awaits. It’s a place that calls for lazy mornings fishing in the creek and relaxing afternoons lounging in the hammock with a book. Spend nights by the campfire roasting marshmallows beneath the stars or toasting the good life with a glass of local wine on the wraparound deck overlooking a stream, with an apple orchard nearby.

THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Elizabeth

Leave city life behind during a weekend at the Amstutz Family Farm Camp. With 3½ acres to roam and a 100-year-old barn (featuring a modern-day disco ball), the kids will delight in meeting the goats, donkeys, chickens and rabbits that live on the farm. Plenty of hammocks, lawn games, a fishing pond and paved 1-mile walking path means the adults, too, can enjoy the fresh air and country way of life. Communal meals and wood-fired pizzas are made fresh on the farm. Choose between a handful of cozy cabins or a glamping tent.

CAMP ARAMONI

Tonica

Camping and indulgence seamlessly unite beneath canopies of sprawling safari-style tents that come complete with comfy beds, private restrooms and personal bonfires. Located near the treetop canopies and limestone canyons of Starved Rock State Park, this luxury campground encourages stargazing with a side of wine tasting. The experience includes daily sustainably sourced breakfast and dinner prepared by former Chicago chef and now Director of Hospitality Cleetus Friedman. Save room for the nightly gourmet s’mores.

U-PICK APPLES

Visit in August to pick Galas, Honeycrisps, Zestars and other varieties from more than 800 trees at Dittmar Farms and Orchard.
FRESH FROM THE FIELD

Whether we’re talking farm-to-table or farm-to-foam, these unique experiences in dining and imbibing bring together hospitality and nature.

FIREFLY GRILL →
Effingham

The farm outside Firefly Grill supplies the herbs and produce found inside the exhibition kitchen, where you can watch chef Niall Campbell cook up his sustainable innovations. He works alongside his wife and partner, Kristie, who ensures guests feel comfortable in a space designed to mimic home. Campbell family photos welcome you into this fine-dining experience, where the menu changes with the seasons and fresh ingredients are sourced locally.

“WE GROW MORE THAN TWO DOZEN VARIETIES OF HEIRLOOM TOMATOES, AS THE FRIED GREEN TOMATOES ARE OUR MOST POPULAR ITEM. THEY ARE ENHANCED WITH SWEET CORN THAT’S SO SWEET WE MAKE AN ICE CREAM WITH IT.”

KIRSTIE CAMPBELL
straight to the source? Each month, Heritage Prairie Farm hosts a family-style dining experience that is shaped by the season. Enjoy dinner on the farm, sitting in the very fields where the ingredients were harvested for your meal. For a casual dining experience, try the summer Pizza Nights series (Wednesdays, June-August).

**EPIPHANY FARMS RESTAURANTS**
**Bloomington**
Using regenerative agriculture techniques, the Epiphany Farms Estate grows sustainable crops on a 70-acre farm. These ingredients provide the seed-to-table inspiration for the seasonal selections found at Epiphany Farms restaurant locations across Bloomington. Dine on hearty entrees like braised pork shoulder with roasted farm vegetables at the Epiphany Farms main dining room, share a plate of hand-rolled sushi upstairs at Anju Above, or reserve a tabletop grill at Harmony Korean Bar-B-Que.

**HERITAGE PRAIRIE FARM**
**Elburn**
The microgreens and produce gracing the plates of many Chicago restaurants are sourced from this organic farm an hour outside the city. So why not go straight to the source? Each month, Heritage Prairie Farm hosts a family-style dining experience that is shaped by the season. Enjoy dinner on the farm, sitting in the very fields where the ingredients were harvested for your meal. For a casual dining experience, try the summer Pizza Nights series (Wednesdays, June-August).

**LOCAVORE FARM**
**Grant Park**
A 100-foot farm table stretches under the stars and strains beneath the weight of a multicourse meal featuring foods inspired by the bounty of the surrounding pastures. This is the Dine on the Land experience created by the Jones family. Local chefs and farmers make the communal dinner, harvesting ingredients hours before it’s time to dine. The evening includes live music and a bonfire for roasting marshmallows.

**SCRATCH BREWING COMPANY**
**Ava**
Sip a pint enhanced with the flavors of the forest amid surroundings so pristine that All About Beer magazine dubbed Scratch one of the most beautiful places in the world to drink beer. On the edge of the Shawnee National Forest, co-owners Aaron Kleidon and Marika Josephson brew beer using homegrown or foraged ingredients. Unique additions like wild cherry bark and sassafras leaves infuse Scratch beers with the taste of the terrain.

**THE LONE BUFFALO BY TANGED ROOTS BREWING COMPANY**
**Ottawa**
The concept is farm to foam. The result is refreshingly homegrown. Head brewer Mike Billy uses hops and barley grown on the Tangled Roots farms to create a distinctly local pale ale that pairs well with seasonal food served at The Lone Buffalo brewpub. At the gateway to the outdoor adventures of Starved Rock State Park, this Ottawa restaurant and on-site brewery makes for a perfect stop after a hike between the waterfalls.

**FIELD GUIDE**
**OKTOBERFEST**
Be sure to get to Scratch in October for the handmade ceramic steins and beers served in traditional German casks.

**SCRATCH BREWING COMPANY**
**Ava**
Sip a pint enhanced with the flavors of the forest amid surroundings so pristine that All About Beer magazine dubbed Scratch one of the most beautiful places in the world to drink beer. On the edge of the Shawnee National Forest, co-owners Aaron Kleidon and Marika Josephson brew beer using homegrown or foraged ingredients. Unique additions like wild cherry bark and sassafras leaves infuse Scratch beers with the taste of the terrain.

**THE LONE BUFFALO BY TANGED ROOTS BREWING COMPANY**
**Ottawa**
The concept is farm to foam. The result is refreshingly homegrown. Head brewer Mike Billy uses hops and barley grown on the Tangled Roots farms to create a distinctly local pale ale that pairs well with seasonal food served at The Lone Buffalo brewpub. At the gateway to the outdoor adventures of Starved Rock State Park, this Ottawa restaurant and on-site brewery makes for a perfect stop after a hike between the waterfalls.
IN THE FIELD

Say cheese! Tasting and touring your way through any of these dairy farms and creameries make an ideal day.

PRAIRIE FRUITS FARM AND CREAMERY
Champaign

A trip to this Grade A goat dairy and creamery means walking around the farm, visiting the super-friendly goats, seeing cheese being made and sampling the award-winning cheeses when they are ready. It also means a visit to the farm store and Farm Barn, where you can pair a glass of biodynamic wine with a curated local cheese and charcuterie board.

STATE FAIR

The premier showcase of Illinois agriculture comes to the state fairgrounds in Springfield (August 11–21). Don’t miss the Butter Cow, 500 pounds of sculpted butter.
MARCOOT JERSEY CREAMERY
Greenville
Swing by this sustainable creamery to taste garlic-herb cheese curds or smoked Gouda among 20 varieties made on the farm and naturally aged in an on-site, underground cave. Guests can also buy ice cream, pasture-raised beef and local items. Sisters Amy and Beth Marcoot are the seventh generation of farmers to continue the tradition of raising Jersey cows, and they are happy to offer your family a prescheduled or self-guided tour of the farm and a behind-the-scenes peek into the cheese-making process. Make sure to visit the calves housed next to the creamery and the robotic milking parlor.

ROPP JERSEY CHEESE
Normal
When Ken Ropp joined his father, Ray, in the fields, he became the seventh generation of proud farmers to look after the herds and curds of the Ropp Dairy operation. It’s a tradition of high-quality cheese making that the Ropp family loves to share with their guests. Tour the cow barn and meet the calves, learn how to make cheese, and try some of the 45 varieties made on the farm.
FIELD YOUR OWN

Stain your fingers with the juice of berries fresh from the vine and bring a taste of Illinois home.

ECKERT’S COUNTRY STORE AND FARMS
Belleville
Pick blackberries, strawberries and peaches by the pound. Seasonal vegetables are also available for picking by the box. Bonus: Try the homemade fudge at the farm bakery or the hard cider that launched last year.

HEIDER’S BERRY FARM
Woodstock
Pick your own strawberries, red, purple and black raspberries, and tart cherries. Or take home prepicked cherries, rhubarb and more. Extra credit: Check out the woodshop for handmade furniture, bowls and cutting boards.
GREEN CITY MARKET
Chicago
For sustainable farmers, chefs and brewers to continue producing their goods, there must be a marketplace to support their passion. Green City Market is more than a place to bring together conscious consumers with local producers. It’s a community with a mission to support Illinois growers. (Wednesdays and Saturdays in Lincoln Park and Saturdays at the Mary Bartelme Park in West Loop.)

OLIVE BERRY ACRES
Mazon
Head to this family-owned farm for your pick of berry-delicious berries. Fill your bags with strawberries and raspberries plucked from the rows. Asparagus and rhubarb are also available for picking.

RUSTIC ROAD FARM
Elburn
It all started with a dream and a few raspberry bushes and apple trees. Today chef Marc Bernard and his husband and partner, Luis, farm 25 acres of sweet corn, heirloom tomatoes and other produce, alongside their pigs, chickens, goats and honey-producing beehives. Stop by the farm to meet the goats, pick up a jar of raw honey or sample farm-fresh soups prepared by Chef Marc. (Saturdays year-round; Wednesdays and Fridays seasonally.)

STADE’S FARM MARKET
McHenry
At Stade’s, U-pick your way through the season’s bounty of strawberries, sugar snap peas, raspberries, peppers and more. Must-ride: the children-only Ferris wheel and 100-year old carousel.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO VISIT JULY INTO OCTOBER AT VON BERGEN’S COUNTRY MARKET IN HEBRON TO CATCH THE SUNFLOWER MAZE THAT WINDS THROUGH THE FIELD.
IDEAS AROUND THE STATE

CHICAGO & BEYOND
GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY
LAND OF LINCOLN
TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

MISSISSIPPI PALISADES STATE PARK, SAVANNA

KICKAPOO STATE RECREATION AREA, OAKWOOD

enjoyillinois.com 57
The same lake proximity, green spaces and sense of escape that originally drew city-weary Chicagoans to quieter lifestyles in the North Shore continue to cast a spell on residents and visitors. Though not far removed from downtown’s bustle, the North Shore feels like a secret garden in the city’s backyard. It helps that there are so many actual gardens, like the 385-acre Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe. This outdoor plant museum features 28 display gardens set like flowering jewels among lakes, prairie and woodland settings. Also stroll-worthy is the Shakespeare Garden on Northwestern University’s ivied lakefront campus in Evanston. Look for plants and trees famously referenced by the Bard, such as that which we call a rose.

The North Shore backyard comes with a big pool—aka Lake Michigan—so take time to dip your toes in the sand and water at area beaches, including those in Evanston, Glencoe and Winnetka. A backyard feel also pervades Ravinia, North America’s oldest music festival, held throughout the summer in Highland Park. Bring a picnic and enjoy a concert on the sprawling lawn.

The same lake proximity, green spaces and sense of escape that originally drew city-weary Chicagoans to quieter lifestyles in the North Shore continue to cast a spell on residents and visitors. Though not far removed from downtown’s bustle, the North Shore feels like a secret garden in the city’s backyard. It helps that there are so many actual gardens, like the 385-acre Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe. This outdoor plant museum features 28 display gardens set like flowering jewels among lakes, prairie and woodland settings. Also stroll-worthy is the Shakespeare Garden on Northwestern University’s ivied lakefront campus in Evanston. Look for plants and trees famously referenced by the Bard, such as that which we call a rose.

The North Shore backyard comes with a big pool—aka Lake Michigan—so take time to dip your toes in the sand and water at area beaches, including those in Evanston, Glencoe and Winnetka. A backyard feel also pervades Ravinia, North America’s oldest music festival, held throughout the summer in Highland Park. Bring a picnic and enjoy a concert on the sprawling lawn.
DO

**Mississippi Palisades State Park**
Ozzie’s Point, Louis’ Point and Lookout Point, all accessible via short trails, allow stunning river views. While only 1 mile, Sentinel Trail is a tough hike.

**TRIP IDEAS**

**DESTINATION**

**GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY**

WHERE YOU’RE HIGH ABOVE THE MISSISSIPPI OR RIGHT DOWN IN THE WATER, YOU’LL FIND BIG ADVENTURE IN THE SMALL TOWN OF SAVANNA.

**TASTE**

**Manny’s Pizza**
Super-crispy thin-crust pies and a menu of Mexican fare (including margaritas) keep folks coming back to this local institution.

**Poopy’s Pub and Grub**
Bikers, beer, burgers, breakfast—you’ll find them all at this bar that’s been a motorcycle mecca for 25 years. The kitchen opens early and goes full throttle until late.

**STAY**

**Ecology Inn**
The whole-house rental along the river downtown works like an apartment, with four private bedrooms and shared living, dining and kitchen spaces. Two decks overlook the Mississippi.

**Savanna Inn and Suites**
A downtown location makes it a good base camp for adventures. Amenities include an indoor pool, hot tub, fitness center and outdoor gathering spaces, with free breakfast on weekends.

Perched along the banks of the Mississippi River amid ruggedly picturesque bluffs in northwest Illinois, Savanna beckons with history, character and natural beauty. It’s paradise for outdoors-lovers—hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, tubing and golfing are all big here, thanks to the iconic river and the area’s signature attraction, Mississippi Palisades State Park. The 2,100-acre park sits near the confluence of the Mississippi and Apple rivers, where Native Americans carved out paths thousands of years ago. There are more intimate green spaces to enjoy, too, such as Old Mill Park, where families picnic and kids play. No wonder USA Today readers voted Savanna the Best Small Town for Adventure in 2021.

With its rolling hills, wide-open byways, and location along the Great River Road, Savanna is a magnet for motorcyclists. They flock to downtown pubs for food, music and camaraderie. Downtown also offers retail options, such as restaurants and an antique store with a connection to American Pickers. Overnight lodgers will find a growing list of accommodations, including bed-and-breakfasts, motels and campsites.
Abraham Lincoln and Mother Nature both made lasting impressions in the Danville area for visitors to explore. Lincoln spent time here as a young lawyer, trying more than 200 cases and sharing a law office in town during a stint with the Eighth Judicial Circuit. After Lincoln was elected president in 1860, he made a stop in Danville to say goodbye to old friends and supporters.

Nature’s legacy includes 15,000 acres of outdoor spaces in Danville and Vermilion County, including Kickapoo State Recreation Area and the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, a nationally designated scenic river corridor. Adventurers will find a challenging 18-mile mountain bike trail, 100 miles of hiking trails and 35 miles of equestrian trails, plus lakes and ponds to fish. All offer close encounters with many species of flowers, trees and wildlife.

In town, experience Danville’s historic homes and buildings, an arts scene, shopping and dining options, and a bit of baseball history: The Danville Dans, the local Prospect League team, takes the field in Danville Stadium, where barrier-breaking Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers played an exhibition game in 1947.
TRIP IDEAS

DESTINATION

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

GO SOUTH, YOUNG TRAVELER (OLDER ONES, TOO), AND DISCOVER FRESH SIDES OF ILLINOIS: THE LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE AND VIBE SHIFT WHEN YOU HEAD DEEP DOWNSTATE.

Superman Celebration, Metropolis (June 9–12)
Help the town celebrate 80 years as the DC Comics Man of Steel’s official home. It’s a weekend of costumes, contests and celebrities.

Fort Massac State Park, Metropolis
Illinois’ first state park overlooks the Ohio River from a commanding site that was once a frontier outpost. Come for the history and the outdoor rec.

TASTE

E-Town River Restaurant, Elizabethtown
Open spring through fall, this eatery floats at a dock on the Ohio River, serving freshly caught catfish. Look for river excursions in 2022.

Hogg Hollow Winery, Golconda
Sip wine or juice, stroll the grounds, and feed the farm animals at this small, family-owned operation.

STAY

The Jones Building, Metropolis
Industrial loft-like suites in this renovated office building put you steps from the Superman statue and downtown eateries.

Timber Ridge Outpost and Cabins, Elizabethtown
Still prefer some social distance? Stay in a luxury tree house, log cabin or private modern home near Shawnee National Forest.

Southernmost Illinois is Shawnee National Forest country, a region tucked between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers that surprises and delights. Rolling hills, dense forests, lakes, creeks and rugged bluffs light up the faces of hikers, climbers and other outdoors types. Must-dos include Garden of the Gods Recreation Area and the Rim Rock National Recreation Trail, known for spectacular woodland flowers in spring. Relative mild weather lets you enjoy nature comfortably in all seasons, plus the climate is great for grapes—just follow the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail.

Small towns decorate the region like a string of pearls, each a gem to discover. Metropolis, on the Ohio River, claims Superman as its adopted son. Golconda, also on the Ohio, is one of Illinois’ oldest towns—all buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. Elizabethtown boasts one of state’s oldest structures—the Historic Rose Hotel, built in 1832, and one of the oldest churches, First Baptist, founded in 1838. Upriver from Elizabethtown, Cave-in-Rock and a nearby state park are both named for a cavern carved out of limestone by water thousands of years ago.
TRAVEL RESOURCES

VISITORS BUREAUS

CHICAGO & BEYOND
Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
630/256-3190, enjoyaurora.com
Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/678-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com
Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau
888/895-8233, visitchicagosouthland.com
Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau
847/765-0011, 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
844/944-2282, 800/926-2262, heritagecorridorcvb.com
Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau
815/935-7390, visitkankakeecounty.com
Meet Chicago Northwest
800/847-4849, 847/90-1010, chicagonorthwest.com

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY
Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/678-2108, 815/966-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com
Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau
309/343-2485, experiencegalesburg.com
Great Rivers and Routes of Southwest Illinois
800/258-6645, 618/465-6676, riversandroutes.com
ILLINOISouth Tourism
618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org
Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
309/833-1315, visitfortottonia.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 Galena Country
815/776-9200, visitgalena.org
Visit Quad Cities
800/747-7800, visitquadcities.com

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
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
800/874-3529, 217/774-2244, lakeshelbyville.com
Logan County Tourism Bureau
217/732-8687, destinationlogancountyil.com
Visit Champaign County
800/569-6151, 217/351-4133, visitchampaigncounty.org
Visit Springfield
800/545-7300, 217/789-2360, visitillinois.org

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 618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org
Mount 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 800/433-7399, 618/997-5690, 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 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 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 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.

Since January 1, 2020, the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act allows for 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
DIRECT YOUR EYES TO THE SKY AS DOZENS OF HOT-AIR BALLOONS FLOAT THROUGH THE CLOUDS DURING SUMMER FESTIVALS AND RACES. MAKE IT A WEEKEND: MOST DAYS END WITH SPECTACULAR NIGHT GLOWS.

HIGH-FLYING WORKS OF ART

Great Galena Balloon Race, Galena
JUNE 17–19
At predawn, watch balloons launch, then take in bands, a classic car and art show, and inflatables for kids.

Balloons Over Vermilion, Danville
JULY 8–9
Two all-accessible balloons offer tethered rides. A carnival and kids zone entertain.

The Great Balloon Race, Galesburg
JULY 22–24
Cheer on balloonists aiming for targets while you enjoy homemade crafts and food.

Centralia Balloon Fest, Centralia
AUGUST 19–21
Live music, craft booths, a car show and tethered rides fill the weekend.

Balloons Over 66, Lincoln
LATE AUGUST
Discover downtown, along with live music, as balloons launch from various sites.
The Mother Road. America’s Main Street.

From classic roadside attractions to nostalgic “Mom and Pop” diners, the ultimate road trip awaits.

Start in Chicago, buckle up, put on your sunglasses, and blaze your own trail on Route 66!

Get more information at 844-94-HCCVB (42282) or TheFirstHundredMiles.com
With plenty of elbow room, the Chicago Northwest suburbs have many spaces to explore including Topgolf Schaumburg.

View more of our Chicago Northwest inspiration and tap into your inner explorer on your next adventure at ChicagoNorthwest.com!

Free Parking Everywhere | Over 400 Restaurants | Outstanding Attractions