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pictured: The Galena River
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Six Flags Great America, Gurnee
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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Frida Kahlo was born outside Mexico City in 1907. Inspired by her Zapotecan culture, Kahlo created 143 paintings, including 55 self-portraits that blend beauty, poise and pain—some of that pain fueled by a tumultuous marriage with noted muralist Diego Rivera. Kahlo died at age 47. Her work was largely overlooked until the late 1970s, when art historians became struck by her raw talent and independent spirit.

real frida

AN ICON OF COURAGE AND STYLE, FRIDA KAHLO’S ORIGINAL WORKS GO ON DISPLAY THIS SUMMER AT A SUBURBAN CHICAGO ART MUSEUM.

FRIDA KAHLO WAS NEVER ONE to bury her emotions; she put them on full display in her vast collection of works that have made her an ever-growing and important figure for the modern-day feminist movement.

Fans will score a huge opportunity to see more than two dozen pieces of the art icon’s original work at the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in Glen Ellyn from June 1 to August 31. The works—which include seven sketches and 19 oil paintings spanning the artist’s life—are on loan from the Dolores Olmedo Museum Collection and are part of the largest private collection of Kahlo’s works.

The exhibition will provide a rare opportunity to see such treasures as the 1927 Portrait of Alicia Galant (Kahlo’s very first portrait), along with thought-provoking pieces like The Broken Column, Without Hope and Self Portrait with Small Monkey.

In addition to the original works, the exhibition will feature 100-plus photographs from Kahlo’s life, reproductions of the artist’s clothing, a colorful children’s area and a video presentation. Outside the museum, visitors can wander a Frida Kahlo poetry garden with flowers grown and designed by Ball Horticultural Company of West Chicago.
The Heritage Corridor offers memorable experiences that are all just a short road trip from Chicago. Kayak down the I&M Canal, sky dive and zip line through the Starved Rock State Park area. Is your definition of adventure is to cruise down Route 66 to searching for new experiences? You can do that here too.

Get started at AdventureOutsideChicago.com.
WHEN YOU VISIT

AFTER YOU’VE BEEN FLOORED BY KAHLÍO, CHECK OUT OTHER MUST-SEES IN THE AREA, WEST OF THE CITY.

Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, West Chicago
Explore the artful results of this incubator for projects by Mexican artists, like Juan Chawuk’s WEST CHICAGO installation that resides outside of the center.

A Toda Madre, Glen Ellyn
The tacos here are authentically Mexican—with twists. Case in point: the pescado (fish) tacos are drizzled with a charred serrano pepper aioli.

Harrison House Bed and Breakfast, Naperville
Retreat to inspiring quarters like the Garden Room in this historic B&B, and wake up to scratch-made goodies from local DeEtta’s Bakery.

WHERE KAHLÍO MIGHT GO

LITTLE VILLAGE
Walk under the arch at 26th Street between California and Kedzie avenues to sample fare from bakeries and taquerías, and toast Chicago’s largest Mexican community.

PILSEN AND HUMBOLDT PARK NEIGHBORHOODS
Find art featuring Kahlo on a public school, a Latinx dance hall and buildings throughout these areas known for street murals reflecting Mexican, Latinx and Puerto Rican heritage.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART
In Pilsen, experience art and artifacts that explore the history, culture and identity of Mexicans in America and Latin America.

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
The Modern Wing showcases 20th- and 21st-century art, while the other galleries span 5,000 years and include world-famous works.

The National Museum of Mexican Art contains a 10,000-piece permanent collection spanning 3,000 years of history and creativity. The surrounding Pilsen neighborhood is a walk-through gallery of rich cultural street murals.

“NOTHING IS ABSOLUTE. EVERYTHING CHANGES, EVERYTHING MOVES, EVERYTHING REVOLVES, EVERYTHING FLIES AND GOES AWAY.”

FRIDA KAHLÍO
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.

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What will you ask them?

SPE\NCIAL EXHIBITION
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FEBRUARY 9
adventure quest

ALONG THE CONFLUENCE OF THE ILLINOIS, MISSOURI AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS, GRAFTON BECKONS WITH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, WINERIES AND LOCAL DELICACIES.

OUTDOOR EXPLORER

Novices and extreme sports-lovers alike will find something to suit their tastes.

- Limestone formations around Pere Marquette State Park are ideal for experienced rock climbers, while activities like fishing and bird-watching please any skill level.
- At family-friendly Grafton Zipline at Aerie’s Resort, thrill-seekers can take a two-hour, seven-zipline guided canopy tour that goes through treetop platforms and two suspension bridges before ending with a rappelling descent.
- Pedal the 20-mile Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail from Alton to Pere Marquette State Park, taking in the scenery of Great Rivers National Scenic Byway.

SIP ON THIS

Local wineries go beyond the typical wine-tasting experience.

- Accessible via Grafton Ferry or the Great River Road, visit the Grafton Harbor Floating Winery. In the tasting room, sip on fruity wine slushies or more exotic wine flavors, such as iced coffee, chocolate and mint chocolate. Traditional reds and whites come with sea-inspired names: Tipsy Mermaid, Spirits of Grafton’s Past, Pirate’s Booty and Nauti Wench.
- Take the new Grafton SkyTour aerial lift from downtown to the expansive deck of The Winery at Aerie’s Resort. Snack on flatbreads while listening to live music on weekends.
WELCOME TO OUR BACKYARD
FROM HIKING AND BIKING TO BOATING AND WAKEBOARDING. IF YOU LOVE TO PLAY OUTSIDE, YOU’LL LOVE THE ADVENTURE YOU WILL FIND IN MCHENRY COUNTY!

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PICTURE THIS

SEL-FIE GAME COMING ON STRONG
Alton’s cable-stayed Clark Bridge links Illinois and Missouri.

A trip to Collinsville is worth squeezing in to see the World’s Largest Catsup Bottle.

Cue the vintage vibes with neon signs at Alton’s Fast Eddie’s Bon Air.

DINE ON LOCAL DELICACIES
The cuisine alone is worth a trip—pack your appetite.

- It’s not called Famous Fried Chicken for nothing. This half-bird, served for lunch and dinner at Pere Marquette Lodge, comes with the fixings, including mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies, coleslaw and rolls.
- Admire the aquatic life through tableside aquariums at Fin Inn, then taste its famous turtle soup, made with rich broth and turtle meat.
- There’s nothing fancy about the fried fish from O’Jan’s or Beasley’s fish stands, but that’s the appeal: just fresh, tasty food served at picnic tables close by the river.
- The farm-to-table menu at Bakers and Hale in Godfrey changes seasonally, but the Smoked Bacon and Egg Sandwich with avocado and spicy Gouda is a constant.
- House-buttered steaks wet-aged a minimum of 21 days are the main attraction at 1818 Chophouse, an inviting steakhouse in Edwardsville.
TAKE A ROAD TRIP BACK IN TIME.

Along with world class historic sites, Springfield offers charming shops, microbreweries & wineries, street festivals, ghost walks, iconic Route 66, Frank Lloyd Wright, two state capitols and a legendary food scene. Experience historical reenactments during our premiere summer program, History Comes Alive, June-August, including moving performances from Abraham Lincoln and a cast of other historical characters.

Relax, Reconnect & Discover
hops to it

MORE THAN 200 CRAFT BREWERIES DOT THE STATE. THESE STANDOUTS WIN CHEERS FOR CREATIVITY.

BUZZ-WORTHY BREWS
CRACK THESE BEERS NOW AT THE LOCAL TAPROOM, THANK US LATER.

1. **ROLLING MEADOWS FARM BREWERY, CANTARRALL**
   - Cabin and Cottage, a nod to Abraham Lincoln, is made with local organic blue corn in collaboration with The Chicago Brewseum, a nonprofit that digs deep into the history of beer.

2. **SOLEMN OATH BREWERY, NAPERVILLE**
   - Skateboard designer and staff artist Jourdon Gullett illustrated the Ravaged by Vikings can, which depicts a sinewy Viking bracing for a storm. The caramel malt’s sweetness slays the hops’ bitterness.

3. **BRICKSTONE BREWERY, BOURBONNAIS**
   - You can practically taste the 1950s soda fountain in Milkshake IPA, a super-creamy pale ale that hints at dessert but comes in a can. The sweetness comes from mango and pineapple, plus vanilla.

4. **TANGLED ROOTS BREWING COMPANY, OTTAWA**
   - Along with barley, hyper-local hops create 108 Double Stitch Ale, the official beer of the Minor League Baseball team Kane County Cougars. Why the name? Every baseball has 108 stitches.

5. **MISKATONIC BREWING COMPANY, DARIEN**
   - Vox, an electrifyingly gold lager, boldly raises the caliber of often-overlooked American pilsners. The bitterness lingers lightly as the subtle earthy flavor comes through in an easy-to-sip brew.
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NASCAR Gander Outdoor Truck Series Race
CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY – JOLIET, IL

JUNE 19

NASCAR Xfinity Series Race
CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY – JOLIET, IL

JUNE 20

NASCAR Cup Series Race
CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY – JOLIET, IL

JUNE 21

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NASCAR SUMMER
FESTIVAL WEEKEND
RAISE A GLASS TO BREWERIES TAPPING INTO SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

GETTING CRAFTY

PUSHING LIMITS, THESE BREWERIES USE OBSCURE INGREDIENTS AND UNTRADITIONAL PROCESSES.

DESTIHL BREWERY, NORMAL AND CHAMPAIGN
This local favorite was one of the first to put sour beer in a can. And not only that: To produce the bright acidic flavors for its Wild Sour Series, Destihl harvests wild yeast and bacteria cultures unique to central Illinois. (Most breweries get cultures from a lab.) Choose from a dozen varieties, including Flanders Red, which initially tastes like tart cherry candy. Beers in the Wild Sour Series pair well with the brewery’s house-made pork and pineapple tacos, available at its restaurant locations.

OLD BAKERY BEER COMPANY, ALTON
The husband and wife behind Old Bakery Beer strive for sustainability by using certified-organic ingredients and pairing with local producers when possible. Kind of Blueberry is a nod to Alton-born Miles Davis’ smash hit “Kind of Blue.”

MOODY TONGUE BREWING COMPANY, CHICAGO
Brewmaster and chef Jared Rouben utilizes culinary techniques like dehydrating and macerating to make beer magic. For the Pressed Asian Pear Saison, his team hand-picks specially curated pears at a farm, which are pressed while raw to extract juice added post-fermenting. With a move to the South Loop, there’s now enough space to enjoy a brew alongside strip steak in the bar or lobster in the fine-dining room.

EXCEL BREWING COMPANY, BRESEE
A craft soda-maker since 1936, Excel spread its wings and started brewing beer in 2012. Unique soda-beer mash-ups include Radler, a combo of grapefruit soda and hoppy wheat beer. Other specialty beers, like Stay Gold, go heavy on the floral hops and get their flavors from fruits. Sugarfire Smoked Lager uses malt smoked at Sugarfire Smoke House. No matter the recipe, brewers use organic flavorings and aim for effervescence. Get a free tasting in the store.

SCRATCH BREWING COMPANY, AVA
Foragers comb the Shawnee National Forest to source nettle, elderberry, hickory and more. These natural ingredients are added to the barrel-aged brews flowing at Scratch’s farmhouse brewery nestled on the outskirts of the wilderness. Basil instead of hops provides the aroma in Basil Ale.
E is for Experience

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Fashion Outlets Chicago
With more than 130 stores, you can score a deal on Prada shades, Tory Burch shoes or a Le Creuset Dutch oven.

Rosemont Theatre
See a family-friendly show like Baby Shark Live! (May 3) or crooner Johnny Mathis (December 12).

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
The exhibition space hosts big-name events like World of Wheels (March 6–8) and Comic Con Revolution Chicago (June 12–14).

PLAY
Whether you take your family, your work team or your best buddies, everyone can find fun here. Big into sports? Block a puck at the interactive Big Ten Experience. Up for skydiving? Suit up for iFLY’s wind tunnel. Need a bike? Shop for a Harley-Davidson. And if you’re a sucker for a good story, choose from 12 screens at AMC Theatres. Then share a laugh at Zanies Comedy Club, a song at Pete’s Dueling Piano Bar or a concert at Joe’s Live, a bar and music hall.

EAT
Don’t even pretend you can get your kids past the celeb-endorsed Sugar Factory. Another draw: Kings, with its luxury bowling and patio for crowd-watching. Hofbräuhaus packs a patio, too, while a band rocks with its set list of German and rock ‘n’ roll tunes. Fogo de Chão serves steaks flame-seared, in Brazilian churrasco style. And Five Roses Pub lets you toast the town like the Irish of old Chicago. More choices: Bub City, Adobe Gila’s and Park Tavern.

STAY
Who likes fighting traffic after a day of play? Nobody, that’s who. Luckily, this fun zone comes with a trendy Marriott hotel, the Aloft Chicago O’Hare. The pet-friendly lodging boasts an indoor pool that opens to a large patio. Pre- or post-dinner, pop into W XYZ for a cocktail. Also walkable: a whole block of hotels, including a DoubleTree, Embassy Suites, Hilton, Loews and a Crowne Plaza with golf-centric Murray Bros. Caddyshack restaurant.

rosemont
PARKWAY BANK PARK ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT IN THIS CHICAGO BURB—A SORT OF GOOD-TIMEY TOWN SQUARE—SLAM-DUNKS A GROUP GETAWAY.
Keep it Rolling
The village of Rosemont packs a ton of fun into less than 2 square miles. Venture just beyond the entertainment district to extend your day into a night (or more).

Fan Up
Root for the Chicago Dogs indie baseball team at the state-of-the-art Impact Field, catch the tail end of Chicago Wolves hockey season at Allstate Arena, or discover fast-paced National Pro Fastpitch softball at a Chicago Bandits game.

Chow Down
Savor Italian favorites at Carmine’s, the suburban cousin of a Rush Street icon. For classic steakhouse fare, try Gene and Georgetti or Gibsons, another Rush Street standard. For upscale chains with a solid rep for date-night-quality service, try The Capital Grille, Morton’s, or McCormick and Schmick’s Seafood and Steaks.

Sleep In
Had enough family, friends and fun for one day? R&R in Hilton’s The Rose Hotel, a boutique property with cool art and extra-cushy pillows.

THE SCENE
ON THE GREEN
Free events pack the green space all season, starting with a Spring Fun Fest (April 11). A Memorial Day cookout opens a series of concerts by emerging talent and classic rock cover bands (on select Fridays). Throughout the week, plan on free events such as Zumba class (Mondays), Game Night (Tuesdays) and Rockin’ In the Park concerts (Thursdays). Other times, you can toss bags or steady your hand for giant Jenga.
q&a with kelly rizzo

BOUNCING BETWEEN CHICAGO, SOCAL AND THE REST OF THE WORLD FOR HER SUCCESSFUL ON-DEMAND SERIES, EAT TRAVEL ROCK, ADVENTURE-CRAVING KELLY RIZZO KEEPS HER HEART IN THE WINDY CITY.

To say Kelly Rizzo is on the move would be an understatement. The native Chicagoan buzzes around the planet, getting the dish on food, music and travel trends for her entertainment series Eat Travel Rock, now entering its sixth season. While she shares a home in Los Angeles with husband Bob Saget (of Full House fame), Kelly is no stranger to Illinois, appearing regularly on local news shows and radio broadcasts to share the latest scoop on everything, including rooftop patios and roof-raising concerts. She took a brief break from her nonstop world tour to share Chicago memories and favorite haunts.

Q WHAT ARE YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN CHICAGO?
A Oh wow, there are so many. My mom worked on weekends, so my dad would take me and my two younger sisters to all the parks around town. He would take us to Lincoln Park Zoo, and we would never want to leave. He would also take us to Montrose Beach. It was just so wonderful growing up on the lakefront because there was always so much to do.

Q WHAT WERE SOME OF THE FIRST CONCERTS YOU WENT TO?
A People my age, usually their first concert was New Kids on the Block. Mine was Nine Inch Nails at Rosemont Horizon, which is now Allstate Arena. I also saw Pearl Jam and the Grateful Dead at Soldier Field. As a kid, you’re not
HOME IS WHERE YOU FIT RIGHT IN

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going to get into clubs, right? And now that I’m a bit older, I still love to go to those places. But now I love the smaller clubs, too, like the Riviera Theatre, Vic Theatre, Byline Bank Aragon Ballroom and Metro, which hosts some of the biggest acts in the world even though it’s a small club.

Q NOW THAT YOU HELP PROMOTE CHICAGO FOR A LIVING, WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE SPOTS TO TELL PEOPLE TO VISIT?

A The museums are amazing. The Museum of Science and Industry has been a favorite since childhood. My dad always used to take us there, and there are so many things that, to this day, I can trace back and say, “I learned this because of the Museum of Science and Industry.” Especially if you’re bringing kids into town, that’s always a great place to go.

Q DID YOU INTRODUCE YOUR HUSBAND TO THE BEAUTY OF CHICAGO OR WAS HE ALREADY FAMILIAR?

A He’s been coming to Chicago for 40 years, and I can’t say he’s an expert, but he’s pretty well-versed in it. He’s always loved Gibsons Bar and Steakhouse, so he has good taste, but he definitely didn’t have the insider’s view. It’s great to show him my favorite spots. We don’t really do a lot of touristy things, because he does stand out like a sore thumb. I mean, if I took him to The Bean (the Cloud Gate sculpture) in Millennium Park, it would be selfie, selfie, selfie, selfie.

Q DON’T YOU ALSO GET RECOGNIZED?

A It’s one thing if I’m in a restaurant, because I was in the food scene for so long, so it’s more prevalent there. But if I go into a store, it’ll be like, “You really look familiar,” but they don’t know why.

Q SPEAKING OF STORES, WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?

A I enjoy the occasional run to Water Tower Place because that’s where I used to go with my mom. I mean, that’s where I got my ears pierced for the first time, so it’s very nostalgic. But I also love the shops on Damen and Milwaukee in Wicker Park and Bucktown. They have trendy boutiques and some of the more edgy stuff that I like. Wicker Park has Le Labo, a very high-end candle and perfume store that’s fantastic.

Q DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT SUMMER DAY IN CHICAGO.

A Definitely doing something along the lakefront, whether it’s renting a bike or jogging along the lake between Oak Street Beach and North Avenue Beach. If I had friends along, I’d go to the Shore Club, where you can have an amazing lunch right on Lake Michigan. And then just being outside as much as possible because we know we have to take advantage of it.

Q BEST HIDDEN GEM? BERNIE’S ROOFTOP FOR THE VIEWS AND AMAZING FOOD

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT TRAIL

PHOTOGRAPHS: (KELLY) ETHAN TALLEY, (RESTAURANT) JOHN STOFFER, (LAKEFRONT) BOB STEFKO

OLD-SCHOOL CLASSICS
Bella Notte
(1374 W. Grand Ave.)
La Scarola
(721 W. Grand Ave.)
Volare Ristorante Italiano
(201 E. Grand Ave.)

MODERN VIBES
Formento’s
(925 W. Randolph St.)
Pizzeria Portofino
(317 N. Clark St.)
RPM Italian
(52 W. Illinois St.)

SAY CIAO TO GOOD EATS

With Sicilian heritage and as an experienced foodie, Kelly can sniff out a good Italian restaurant blocks away (massive pots of simmering San Marzano tomatoes make the quest easier). Here are a few of her Chicago go-tos.
A NEW POINT OF VIEW

Fun is in full bloom at Navy Pier. Marvel at Chicago’s sparkling skyline from the Centennial Wheel then stroll the pier with a craft cocktail as the sun sets. Be sure to explore our calendar of events for free entertainment all year round. Discover the possibilities.

NAVYPIER.ORG

The scenic neighborhoods north of city center can be found twenty minutes from the heart of downtown Chicago on Chicago’s North Shore. Affordable, smart hotels provide easy access to the city and many North Shore attractions.

Hotel deals and more at visitchicagonorthshore.com
MAKE IT A WEEKEND

**The Aviary**
Bird silhouettes hover beside serving pieces that are just as artistic at this high-concept West Loop cocktail bar from James Beard Award-winning chef Grant Achatz. Your luxe drink might arrive in stemware styled as a partridge.

**Blackbird**
After more than two decades, the West Loop restaurant still soars. Order the dry-aged duck with fancy olives.

**Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel**
Playing off the Great Lake it overlooks, the wavy design of this hotel in the PETA award-winning Aqua Tower makes it a literal lifesaver for urban flocks. This bird-compassionate structure sits just steps from Millennium Park.

---

## for the birders

**BIRD SANCTUARIES**
Majestic views of Chicago’s skyline meet up with one of the city’s natural wonders at Lincoln Park’s Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary. Steps from Lake Michigan beachgoers, quiet descends on the dunes. An army of volunteers has transformed this site into a serene sanctuary for birds and city dwellers alike. A stretch of shrubs, hedges and trees attracts millions of birds, like the golden-crowned kinglets following the Lake Michigan shore as they migrate between New Orleans and Canada.

Designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted—best known for New York’s Central Park—Wooded Island in Jackson Park is a peaceful oasis. It’s also one of the few features remaining from the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. Today, more than 250 species of birds flock to this South Side sanctuary.

At the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, North Pond Nature Sanctuary attracts plenty of its own animals, including Cooper’s hawks, herons and hundreds of other types of birds.

**BIRD WALKS**
The Chicago Audubon and Ornithological societies host free bird walks:
- **Wooded Island, Jackson Park** (Saturday mornings)
- **North Park Village Nature Center** (Saturdays during migration)
- **North Pond Nature Sanctuary** (Wednesday mornings)

---

**BIRDS BY THE NUMBERS**

- **300** species include the magnificent snowy owl, often spotted on Northerly Island, the man-made peninsula adjacent to Chicago’s Museum Campus.
- **3** Great Lakes piping plovers hatched at Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary last year. About 75 pairs are left in the Great Lakes region. Celebrate Illinois’ Piping Plover Day, November 18.
- **20** osprey landing platforms built by the Cook County Forest Preserve make it the most successful urban osprey nesting program of its kind in North America.

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**STORY ANDREW GILMAN. PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY/LEIFHEIT, BLUE, (RESTAURANT) BOB STEFKO, (HOTEL) IOT**
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BATAVIA CREAMERY, BATAVIA
More than 150 flavors rotate through each year, such as carrot cake and cream cheese frosting folded into cinnamon-scat ice cream.

CARL’S ICE CREAM, BLOOMINGTON, NORMAL
Families devour the cookie dough and Oreo-studded Cookie Monster while posing with the 14-foot “big man” statue outside the Normal location.

HOMER’S ICE CREAM, WILMETTE
The family-owned institution overnights pints bursting with seasonal fruits, like Georgia peaches or raspberries, to Chicago natives dwelling far from home.

OBERWEIS DAIRY, NORTH AURORA
Confectioners pack flavors salty (Honey Butter Cashew) and sweet (Birthday Cake) into baked-daily waffle cones at the flagship location of this family-owned chain.

WHITEY’S ICE CREAM, MOLINE, EAST MOLINE, ROCK ISLAND
One baker handcrafts every cookie used for the ice cream sandwiches. Such care influences summery scoops of Super Blueberry Cheesecake and Banana Graham, as well.

THE ORIGINAL RAINBOW CONE, CHICAGO
Refreshing orange sherbet sits atop scoops of chocolate, strawberry, pistachio and Palmer House, a vanilla ice cream with cherries and walnuts.
FROZEN FADS

THESE SHOPS ESCHEW THE EXPECTED CHOCOLATE AND VANILLA IN FAVOR OF UNEXPECTED SCOPS (OR ROLLS, OR SHAKES...).

DR. JAZZ SODA FOUNTAIN AND GRILL, LEBANON
Sweet-treat enthusiasts stay overnight in the parlor’s upstairs suite and can take an owner-led class called Soda Jerk University.

JARLING’S CUSTARD CUP, CHAMPAIGN, DANVILLE
Get your ultra-creamy frozen custard served in a waffle basket or as a pie with house-made fudge on the crust.

KIMMER’S ICE CREAM, ST. CHARLES, ELMHURST, WHEATON
A little bit of magic happens before the trademarked Sparkle Cone gets its colorful, sugary glimmer (shhh... it’s a secret).

LA MICHOACANA, ROCKFORD
The mad scientists at this Mexican-style chain concoct flavors like mango sherbet with chili-lime salt.

LAUNCHING PAD, WILMINGTON
Drink your pie of choice—strawberry, apple, blueberry or cherry—blended with vanilla ice cream and garnished with crust.

LEGEND TASTY HOUSE, CHICAGO, BERWYN
As if the Thai ice cream rolls aren’t cute enough, they arrive under mounds of fruit cereal, sprinkles and mochi.

SIDNEY DAIRY BARN, SIDNEY
Cold brew from nearby Page Roasting Company infuses the Jitter Shake with its legendary buzz.
TRIPLE, RECORD-BREAKING LAUNCH COASTER MAXX FORCE

PLAN FOR FUN
FUN
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VISITLAKECOUNTY.ORG
THRILLS, SHORES, RESORTS & MORE
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

GET YOUR VISITORS GUIDE ONLINE

DISCOVER INDOOR WATER PARK
FUN AND 50+ ACTIVITIES
ALL UNDER ONE ROOF!
In far northwestern Illinois, Galena’s Main Street is a half-mile-long stretch of independent-minded shops, like Geoffrey’s River Bend Gallery. Visitors can spend hours (or days) strolling through restored buildings or sign up for walking or trolley tours. Find artwork, clothing, furniture, food, gifts and more. Hotels and inns sit within walking distance, and seasonal events draw visitors year-round.

Geoffrey Mikol hadn’t planned to move to Galena. But there the suburban Chicago native was, standing on Main Street on a warm summer day in 2015, pointing to an empty shop and telling his family, “My gallery is right here.”

It proved an argument that Paul and his wife, Deb, would find hard to object to. Ever since his first photography class in high school, dedication and talent had propelled Geoffrey, 25, to higher and higher artistic heights. Praise from one of his teachers turned into entries in juried art shows. By the time he was in his late teens, Geoffrey and his parents were spending most summer weekends traveling around the Chicagoland area, selling and staging his work and racking up awards.

Geoffrey, born with Down syndrome, had strong instincts for capturing natural scenes and subjects. “He’s always had such an eye for it, with a sense of composition and lighting that’s hard to teach,” Paul says. “People have always liked his work.”
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
Which led, eventually, to that empty storefront in Galena. On vacation, Geoffrey was pondering his options after wrapping up a community college degree. One possibility, he says, was to be a rock star. Another, opening a gallery in a pretty riverfront town with a genial population and tourists arriving in all four seasons. After much discussion, Geoffrey and Paul rented a house and set up River Bend Gallery in Galena, while Deb kept her job in Lisle for a year.

Geoffrey’s work proved so popular that after the gallery’s first anniversary, the family relocated to a bigger location notable for its sunny interior and soaring vaulted ceiling.

Today, a peek inside Geoffrey’s gallery gives an intimate view of an artist who is struck by the variety of light and fascinated by shapes in nature often hidden in plain sight. When

Geoffrey’s not at the gallery, he’s out shooting new material with his Nikon. He shoots mostly around Illinois and farther afield on trips to Colorado. Fog, rocks, caves and sunlight remain constants. With its hills and water, Galena, Geoffrey says, is his favorite place to photograph. “It’s really cool here, and I have lots of friends,” he says. And he’s branching out, too—with those rock star dreams in mind—by thinking about starting a DJ business.

Gallery visitors make a steady stream of traffic, snapping up prints such as *Embraced by Fog* and *Last Light Before Night.* “It’s really cool to have a father-son business,” Paul says. “Not everyone gets to do that. People come into the gallery and they take a piece of Illinois home. They take a piece of Geoffrey home with them too.”
Williamson County offers a small-town experience with a big city feel. Offering dining, lodging, indoor and outdoor activities, it is a perfect all-season destination. We invite you and your family to make memories with us.
Festivals

FIND FOOD, FUN AND FRIVOLITY AT SOME OF CHICAGO’S BIGGEST OUTDOOR SUMMER EVENTS.

Rock out to the biggest names during Lollapalooza (July 30–August 2) when more than 170 bands take to the stages in Grant Park. Plan on a crowd: The four-day fest packs 400,000-plus fans.

Millennium Park hosts the city’s new 17-day music festival in celebration of the Year of Chicago Music. The multiweekend fest includes the annual House Music Festival (May 21–23), Chicago Gospel Music Festival (May 26–30) and Chicago Blues Festival (June 5–7).

Bringing your appetite to Taste of Chicago (July 8–12), when food trucks and booths dish up Windy City faves like deep-dish pizza and more diverse offerings from pop-up tents in Grant Park.

Marvel as top military and civilian pilots perform daredevil tricks over North Avenue Beach (and the nearby lakefront) during the Chicago Air and Water Show (August 15–16).

Chicago Air and Water Show, Chicago (August 15–16)

The city celebrates the stone fruit with a carnival, parade and 5K run/walk.

Q-Fest, Quincy (June 26–28)

Shop the Fine and Fresh Art Show before Saturday’s street concert.

Cobden Peach Festival, Cobden (August 7–8)

The city celebrates the stone fruit with a carnival, parade and 5K run/walk.

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Taste of Champaign-Urbana, West Side Park (August 14–15)

Get a bite of local flavors from restaurant booths while artists sell their works.

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Get a bite of local flavors from restaurant booths while artists sell their works.
MAKE A SPLASH this summer

Plan your visit to Illinois’ largest waterpark at playinaurora.com
AN OUT-OF-STATE FAMILY OF FOUR HAS THREE DAYS TO SPEND IN CHICAGO. WITH SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO, THE WINDY CITY OFFERS ENDLESS KID-APPROVED STOPS. THE RESULT? AN ULTIMATE FAMILY GETAWAY IN ILLINOIS. A FEW EXTRA DAYS EXTEND THE ADVENTURE BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS—TO THE METRO AREA AND ACROSS THE STATE.

KIDS CREATE THEIR OWN WORKS OF ART IN A ROOM FOR FAMILIES; FREE ADMISSION FOR THE 14-AND-UNDER CROWD.
PHOTOGRAPHS: ALYSSA SCHUKAR, (SIX FLAGS, GURNEE) ACKERMAN + GRUBER, (LINCOLN PARK ZOO AND CONSERVATORY) KYLEE KRIZMANIC, (LINCOLN’S TOMB, NAVY PIER) IOT, (LINCOLN HOME) JASON LINDSEY

SIX FLAGS HURRICANE HARBOUR ROCKFORD

NAVY PIER, CHICAGO

LINCOLN PARK ZOO, CHICAGO

POLK BROS PARK AT NAVY PIER, CHICAGO

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, SPRINGFIELD

LINCOLN PARK CONSERVATORY, CHICAGO

NAVY PIER, CHICAGO
CITYPASS DAY

OUR CITYPASS LET US SKIP LINES AT MAJOR ATTRACTIONS AND SAVE SOME CASH TOO. THE PASSES ARE GOOD FOR NINE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, BUT WE WENT BIG, SEEING ALL IN A SINGLE DAY.

CITYPASS ADMISSION INCLUDES: SHEDD AQUARIUM, SKYDECK CHICAGO AND FIELD MUSEUM; ADLER PLANETARIUM OR THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO; MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY OR 360 CHICAGO OBSERVATION DECK. ADULTS ARE $108; KIDS $89. TO PURCHASE, VISIT CITYPASS.COM.

FIELD MUSEUM

SHEDD AQUARIUM

FIELD MUSEUM

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

1

CHICAGO DAY

SHEDD AQUARIUM We started at the Polar Play Zone, where the girls took turns playing submarine captain in an interactive miniature submarine (above). While they were strategizing, we were laughing at a lively colony of waddling, bouncing penguins.

FIELD MUSEUM It was a short but pleasant walk through Chicago’s lakeside Museum Campus to the sprawling Field Museum, where we explored the world of Máximo, the toothy titanosaur skeleton that towers over the fossils of other creatures of her time.

CREATE A STORY-DRIVEN SCAVENGER HUNT WITH JOURNEYMKAER AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO.
ADLER PLANETARIUM OR THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

We opted for the Art Institute, where the girls nurtured their inner artists in the Ryan Learning Center. The girls sat on wooden drawing horses to sketch before moving to a collage studio, where they made creations that became part of the Children’s Gallery Show. Based on the girls’ answers to questions about their favorite art, a digital kiosk printed individualized scavenger hunts (left). The program ensured a great tour through the museum—my husband and I got to see the art because the girls were incredibly engaged with the hunt.

360 CHICAGO OBSERVATION DECK OR MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

We took the Red Line train and then a cab to 875 North Michigan Avenue, formerly the John Hancock Center. On the 94th floor, the Tilt attraction leaned us over Michigan Avenue. Even my husband gasped at the view from 1,030 feet up.

WORTH THE DETOUR

Just beyond the lion-flanked doors of the Art Institute of Chicago, find Millennium Park with Cloud Gate (the sculpture better known as The Bean) and Crown Fountain.

WILLIS TOWER’S SKYDECK CHICAGO

A 15-minute cab ride and we were again standing above Chicago (above). This time our view was from the Ledge, a glass-encased balcony 103 floors up. The girls were amazed by the views and telescopes.

WORTH THE DETOUR

If you opt to use CityPass for the Museum of Science and Industry instead of 360 Chicago, catch the DuSable Museum of African American History just 2 miles away.

“THE BOATS ON THE WATER LOOK LIKE BATHTUB TOYS!”

OUR 4-YEAR-OLD
ULTIMATE KID DAY

SQUEAL-INDUCING ANIMALS. HIGH-FLYING RIDES. AND KEEPSAKE DOLLS CHOSEN WITH METICULOUS CARE. BASICALLY, A TOTAL DREAM ITINERARY FOR YOUNGSTERS.

LINCOLN PARK ZOO AND PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM
It wasn’t only the animals (especially the zebras) that we loved about the zoo. It was the play spaces at what seemed like every turn. After a short walk through the park, the girls were dancing among the free-flying butterflies in an enormous greenhouse at the nature museum.

AMERICAN GIRL AT WATER TOWER PLACE
This was a trip highlight made even more magical by our prebooked (and free) personal shopper, who patiently helped the girls peruse the entire store, covering every inch of wall-to-wall pink carpet.

THE GIRLS WANTED TO RIDE THE PEPSI WAVE SWINGER AGAIN AND AGAIN AND SAID IT WAS BETTER THAN THE RIDES AT DISNEY.

NAVY PIER
We hopped a free ride on the seasonal Navy Pier trolley and then explored our way down the pier. Before long, the girls were holding tight to their new dolls as we rose nearly 200 feet in the air on the Centennial Wheel, towering above the Chicago Children’s Museum and Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

Then we sat down for afternoon tea (parents can order beer or a cocktail) with treats and little sandwiches. The dolls sat next to the girls in their own chairs clipped to the table, complete with little plates and place settings. Each napkin came wrapped with a pink-bow hair tie, free to take.

THE LINCOLN PARK ZOO IS OPEN 365 DAYS A YEAR AND ALWAYS FREE.
WHERE TO EAT AND STAY IN CHICAGO

IN ONE OF THE BEST CITIES IN THE WORLD FOR FOOD AND LODGING, HERE ARE JUST A FEW SPOTS THAT KIDS (AND THEIR PARENTS) WILL LOVE.

★ EAT ★

BREAKFAST
Legendary diner food at Lou Mitchell’s; simple doughnuts at Do-Rite Donuts; decadent ones at Stan’s Donuts; a locally sourced meal at Beatriz; a coffee flight from the world’s largest roastery, Starbucks Reserve Roastery.

MAIN MEAL
A ‘70s diner vibe at R.J. Grunts; a Chicago-style hot dog at Portillo’s; the Italian-style food hall Eataly; an Insta-famous cheeseburger from Au Cheval or Small Cheval; a burger and shake from Shake Shack.

PIZZA
Chicago deep-dish pizza from Giordano’s, Lou Malnati’s or Uno Pizzeria and Grill; a pizza pot pie from Chicago Pizza and Oven Grinder Company.

SWEET TREATS
A world-class chocolate selection at Ghirardelli; a mix-and-match bag of candy from Dylan’s Candy Bar; center-filled cupcakes at Molly’s Cupcakes; the iconic cheese and caramel mix from Garrett Popcorn.

★ STAY ★

The rooftop track at Radisson Blu Aqua; the ice cream cart at Four Seasons; the rooftop pool at DoubleTree by Hilton Magnificent Mile; the candy cart at Ritz-Carlton; the front door to Michigan Avenue at InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile.

FAMILY VACATION

STUFF FOR PARENTS DAY
AFTER A DAY OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED FOR KIDS, IT WAS TIME FOR A DAY OF SOPHISTICATION, WHICH THE KIDS ALSO LOVED.

ARCHITECTURE AND HOP-ON-HOP-OFF TOURS
We used Chicago Trolley and Double Decker Company to get around, hopping on near our hotel and hopping off near the Chicago Riverwalk. There we strolled until we boarded a boat with Chicago’s First Lady Cruises, where a volunteer docent wowed us with knowledge.

SEE A MATINEE
Many Chicago theaters perform family-friendly shows in an intimate environment, like Broadway in Chicago’s upcoming plans for Frozen starting October 2020. In our case, we took the trolley to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, which performs the Bard and more. We saw The Wizard of Oz.

AFTERNOON TEA
The Peninsula’s high tea in the lobby welcomes children. Dainty sandwiches and scones fill multilayered china plates. It’s just the right combination of posh and practical. We were torn: Apple Tatin Lollipops or Almond Coconut Puffs?

A CARRIAGE RIDE
We topped off the day with a horse-drawn open carriage ride along Michigan Avenue. The 30- to 60-minute rides start and end near the historic Water Tower. Afterward, everyone found their perfect meal at Foodlife, an urban food hall.

WORTH THE DETOUR
The wintertime skating ribbon at Maggie Daley Park turns into a walking and in-line skating haven in summer.
**OUTSIDE THE CITY**

JUST BEYOND THE CHICAGO LOOP, FIND A WORLD OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, AMUSEMENT PARKS AND MIDSIZE MUSEUMS TO EXPLORE.

- **Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield**  
  A 30-minute Metra ride from Chicago, this is the place to watch dolphins leap, feed parakeets and goats, or splurge on a meet-and-greet with an adorable penguin.

- **Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe**  
  A living museum along the lakeshore, it’s hard to believe that the seemingly endless greenery here is just 30 minutes from Chicago. Don’t miss the bonsai collection.

- **DuPage Children’s Museum, Naperville**  
  This is a creative playground for all ages, with an interactive exploration of physics and exhibits that encourage kids and adults to compose music together.

- **Great Wolf Lodge, Gurnee**  
  This indoor water park resort puts an emphasis on resort. Everything a family needs for fun is under one roof in the newly renovated lodge, which includes mini golf and rock climbing.

- **Gurnee Mills, Gurnee**  
  Stock up at this shopping mall located near major family-friendly attractions. Take a break from shopping with arcade games and laser tag.

- **Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Skokie**  
  Explore life in Europe before and during the Nazi regime, view a train car like those used in mass deportations, and listen to survivor testimony through hologram imagery.

- **Kohl Children’s Museum, Glenview**  
  A 2-acre outdoor sensory trail is the cornerstone here, where visitors are encouraged to go on a bug hunt and to get (temporarily) lost in a prairie-grass maze.

- **Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire**  
  The performances here are entertaining for all ages but directed toward the engagement of young audiences. This is an ideal introduction to performance art and theater.

- **The Morton Arboretum, Lisle**  
  With 1,700 acres of land filled with plants and trees, there is plenty of space for a sprawling Maze Garden, a Children’s Garden... and trolls. Go on an adventure to find the behemoth beasts (15- to 30-feet tall) lurking in the forest.

- **Raging Waves, Yorkville**  
  Choose from more than a dozen rides and attractions like the wave pool, a giant sandbox and a group waterslide with a 40-foot drop at this family-owned park.

- **Six Flags Great America/Hurricane Harbor, Gurnee**  
  With rides featuring 180-degree zero-G roll twists, this is for the thrill-seeking family. Both the amusement and water parks have kid rides for the mini thrill-seeker too.

- **Tempel Farms, Old Mill Creek**  
  Performing ballet-like dressage moves, white Tempel Lipizzan stallions do shows from June to September.
ROAD TRIP!
WITH ROUTE 66 CROSsing the state, ILLINOIS IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN ROAD-TRIP DESTINATIONS. EXPLORE SMALL TOWNS WITH BIG ATTRACTIONS STATEWIDE.

- Big Things in a Small Town, Casey
  Check out the world’s largest golf tee or the world’s largest fully functional mailbox. This little town stands tall with eight Guinness-certified titles for the world’s largest objects.

- John Deere Pavilion, Moline
  John Deere is known for making big green and yellow machines, and now kids can climb on the massive tractors and dozers, or go for a (simulated) joy ride.

- Knight’s Action Park and Splash Kingdom, Springfield
  With waterslides, bumper boats, go-karts, batting cages, drive-in theaters and more, this is the one-stop shop for family fun in central Illinois.

- Main Street and Chestnut Mountain Resort, Galena
  Zoom down 2,050 feet of winding alpine slides on Chestnut Mountain (total adrenaline rush), or glide through the trees on the zipline. Then peruse the boutiques and candy shops on Galena’s famous Main Street.

- Peoria Riverfront Museum and Wildlife Prairie Park, Peoria
  Wander through the interactive galleries of the riverfront museum before heading outside to take to the trails and see the bison, elk and bobcats of the prairie park.

- Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island
  Kids can check out a Discovery Backpack containing hands-on activities as they explore the children’s garden with a mini Mississippi River.

- Riverfront Museum Park, Rockford
  Explore Discovery Center Museum’s planetarium before going next door to the Burpee Museum of Natural History. Stare up in wonder at the skeleton of Jane, a juvenile T. rex, and Homer, a teenage triceratops.
Shawnee National Forest/Garden of the Gods Recreation Area Visit one of the most photographed places in the state at Garden of the Gods. Hike among rock formations and stay in a luxury tree house in Karbers Ridge.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Rockford Swirl and spin down Tidal Wave, the newest ride at the park formerly known as Magic Waters. The park’s dozen wet rides also include the 75-foot vertical Double Dare Drop and Tsunami Bay (the state’s largest wave pool).

Starved Rock State Park and Grand Bear Resort at Starved Rock, Utica With 13 miles of trails through canyons and tumbling waterfalls, Starved Rock is an outdoor amusement park. The fun continues at the indoor water park at Grand Bear Resort at Starved Rock.

Super Museum, Metropolis The proud hometown of Superman, Metropolis pays homage to its hometown hero with a huge Superman statue and a museum brimming with memorabilia on Superman Square.
AN EVER-ROTATING TROVE OF TREASURES OFFERS AN IRRESISTIBLE LURE TO VISIT THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

Writer Kelly Roberson
Photographer Ryan Donnell

enjoyillinois.com
It would take several lifetimes to wade through the 18,000 books on President Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM). Save time and visit the immersive Museum and Library in Springfield.

The downtown ALPLM campus covers almost all of three square blocks. It’s just steps from the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln tried some of his most notable cases as a lawyer and where he kept his presidential campaign headquarters for the 1860 election.

Inside the Museum, exhibits and displays detail the life of Springfield’s most famous resident and our nation’s 16th president. The Library contains an extensive collection of documents, objects and books relating to his life.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2020. Get a peek into just a few of its treasured archives and artifacts that you may find on display.

Lincoln historian and author Christian McWhirter shares some items and their significance.

**THE EARLIEST KNOWN LINCOLN DOCUMENT**

A tattered, double-sided page from a math book shows Lincoln’s work as he solved the math problems.

Growing up in rural areas, Lincoln had limited education. Seeing his handwriting on the book’s pages, Christian says, is a really powerful thing—and emphasizes that Lincoln was a self-motivator.

The Slave Auction exhibit at the Museum depicts the atrocity of a family being torn apart.
In 1858, two years before Lincoln ran for president, he sent a letter to a friend in the Republican Party. The recently formed party opposed the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed the westward expansion of slavery. Some Republicans were trying to lure Democrats, especially the leading moderate Democrat and sponsor of the act, Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, into the Republican Party. Lincoln’s letter described his objection to changes in the party and its original principles.

**LINCOLN’S SHAVING MIRROR**
The mirror from Lincoln’s home before he became president likely is the mirror he used as his beard grew. “If you look in that glass, you’re looking in the same glass he did,” Christian says.

**A HANDWRITTEN GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**
After Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address, he hand-wrote several copies, each slightly different. The Museum’s version—one of only five known to survive—is the first copy to include the words “under God,” among other small changes. Christian calls it the crown jewel of the Museum. “When you show it to people, some burst into tears,” he says. “As a historian, I rarely see items with that kind of power.”

**A COPY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**
The original Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln’s executive order freeing slaves, was lost in the 1871 Great Chicago Fire. Just over half of the 48 copies signed by Lincoln (and sold during the Civil War to raise money to support Union soldiers) are known to exist, Christian says.
WHILE YOU’RE IN SPRINGFIELD

Make time to visit the Dana-Thomas House. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902, this gem brims with original art glass and furniture. Stop into the recently renovated Governor’s Mansion, now known as the People’s House. And check out the Old State Capitol, plus three more Lincoln sites: The Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices.

IT’S A THING. RUB ABE’S NOSE FOR LUCK AT THE LINCOLN TOMB.
One of the best things about Chicago during warm months is the incredible alfresco meals. Welcome to patio season.

Writer: Kelsey Ogletree
ABA
Plenty of greenery muffles the Fulton Market District street noise below this rooftop, which evokes a Mediterranean summer in both design and menu.

CABRA CEVICHERIA
Atop the Hoxton Hotel in Fulton Market, delight in seasonal seafood sliced and diced at this Peruvian brainchild of star chef Stephanie Izard.

CINDY’S
Book early to score an outdoor table with the city’s best views of Millennium Park plus apothecary-style cocktails and apps for a group.

ETTA
An eclectic wine list (with bottomless rosé) and flavorful wood-fired cuisine like lamb and branzino complement energetic Wicker Park vibes.
THE HAMPTON SOCIAL
A covered terrace at the Streeterville location makes for year-round fun on dual spacious patios with East Coast-inspired decor and its lauded Frosé.

NOYANE
Atop Conrad Chicago, a Japanese-focused Peruvian menu—Nikkei—is paired with Michigan Avenue views, firepits and spiked Snowballs for dessert.

OFFSHORE ROOFTOP AND BAR
The world’s largest rooftop, on the third floor of Festival Hall at Navy Pier, offers panoramic lake views and sea-inspired tapas.

TANTA
Pisco sour in hand and twinkling lights overhead make happy hour at this Peruvian restaurant in River North truly blissful.

VU ROOFTOP BAR
Get a unique perspective on the skyline and relax in a comfy lounge setting from 22 floors up in the South Loop.

RIVERWALK
RESTAURANTS (AND RECREATION) LINE THE 1¼-MILE PATH ALONG THE CHICAGO RIVER.

BEATNIK ON THE RIVER
Tucked along the riverfront, this urban oasis is adorned with colorful Indonesian daybeds for enjoying boozy slushies and addicting spreads.

CITY WINERY
Sample wine and beer while noshing on small plates at outdoor tables.

GIBSONS ITALIA
Along the west bank, the city’s well-known steakhouse has an Italian flair with house-made pasta, sauces and plenty of seafood.

ISLAND PARTY HUT
Sip mai tais and more at this Caribbean-inspired restaurant with outdoor games and live music.

LILLIE’S PARK GRILL AND CAFE
Choose from Chicago-style dogs and Polish sausages.

THE NORTHMAN
At the riverwalk sibling of Chicago’s first cider pub, discover hard-to-find varieties of beer and cider, along with döner kebabs and other shareable bites from the Lincoln Square pub.

O’BRIENS RIVERWALK CAFE
Try the house favorite corned beef and cabbage rolls, or go traditional with a burger and salad.

PIZZERIA PORTOFINO
Get a slice of the Italian Riviera at this cozy spot dishing up pasta, pizza and grilled seafood.

SWEET HOME GELATO
Four of the 12 gelato flavors rotate weekly, so you may have to circle back for Strawberries and Cream. But chocolate, pistachio and vanilla are staples.

TINY TAPP AND CAFE
There’s nothing tiny about the menu: coffee and fresh pastries, sandwiches and snacks, plus cocktails and craft beer.
**SIDEWALK**

**ABOUT LAST KNIFE**
It’s all about the beef at this steak bar inside the Hotel Julian. Grab a slice of beef Wellington and enjoy the energy near Millennium Park.

**CODA DI VOLPE**
Wood-fired thin-crust pizzas, handmade pastas and Aperol spritzes star at this friendly Italian spot in the quaint Southport Corridor.

**FAIRGROUNDS COFFEE AND TEA**
At Millennium Park, sample dozens of craft roasts and specialty teas at the brew bar, or try healthy seasonal elixirs, plus all-day breakfast.

**LE SUD**
Look for the blue building in Roscoe Village, where you’ll feel like a local while enjoying French cuisine and sipping wine alfresco.

**MACHINE**
Pups are welcome at this Wicker Park newcomer, which serves a dog menu during Waggy Hour from 5 to 7 p.m. every summer weekday.

**PATIO**

**BIG STAR**
Kick back with a tasty margarita while waiting for tacos at this no-frills taco joint in Wicker Park. Or, grab a to-go order from the walk-up window.

**DAISIES**
Sip on a vegetable cocktail flight and feast on seasonally driven dishes surrounded by lush wall plants in Logan Square.

**THE LUNCHROOM AT SPACE 519**
Enjoy a healthful lunch with locally sourced ingredients on the tree-lined, dog-friendly Gold Coast patio.

**PICCOLO SOGNO**
In River West, tiny tables nestled beneath foliage strung with bistro lights make for a romantic night sharing pasta and pizza.

**SOMERSET**
The street-level Gold Coast patio outside Viceroy Chicago hotel is open all day and is a prime spot for people-watching.
Beyond the Big City, find entertaining (and delicious) eats aplenty.

Dine on the Locavore Farm in Grant Park
Farmers team up with chefs to fill a 107-foot table with a five-course field-to-fire feast (48 miles south of Chicago). Before dinner, tour the farm and after, listen to live music.

Enjoy beers at Sipyard in Urbana
The only beer garden in central Illinois that operates out of a shipping container, this eclectic downtown spot shares space with an outdoor graffiti gallery.

Sample street food in Aurora
During outdoor concerts and First Fridays, visitors to downtown can dine at multiple food trucks, including Holy Pierogi and Grumpy Gaucho.

Have an outdoor pizza party in Normal
The two-level space at Medici, known for craft beers, includes a rooftop patio with views of a petrified mulberry tree in the restaurant. Try the artisanal stone pies.
SPORTS

MLB: NATIONAL LEAGUE CENTRAL DIVISION
CHICAGO CUBS

THE NORTH SIDERS ENDED A 108-YEAR DROUGHT BY WINNING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL’S WORLD SERIES IN 2016, PUSHING PASSION FOR THE TEAM TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH.

SEE THE ACTION Wrigley Field, at Clark and Addison streets, is the second-oldest ballpark in the majors. Opened in 1914, The Friendly Confines is famous for its ivied walls, manual scoreboard and neighborhood setting—nearby rooftops offer game views. Upgrades have modernized the park while keeping its character. During the seventh-inning stretch, join in “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” with a guest conductor. Cookie Monster did it once during the 2019 season.

PREGAME Take your pick of Wrigleyville hangouts. Get there early if you want a seat—and expect wall-to-wall people, at least until first pitch. Old favorites include Murphy’s Bleachers, at Waveland and Sheffield avenues, right across from Wrigley’s bleacher gate. A sign outside often throws shade on the visiting team.

The Cubby Bear, kitty-corner from Wrigley’s famous marquee sign, is a good choice for lunch before a 1:20 p.m. start. (Though Wrigley added lights in 1988, the Cubs still play many afternoon games.) Try the garlic fries.

POSTGAME After (hopefully!) flying W flags and singing “Go, Cubs, Go!” (two post-win rites), head to Gallagher Way on the Clark Street side of Wrigley for game-day gathering spaces and year-round dining, nightlife and lodging. Modernly luxurious Hotel Zachary, named for Wrigley Field architect Zachary Taylor Davis, offers rooms and suites, many with ballpark views, plus street-level food and drink spots. Farther south on Clark, The Wheelhouse Hotel is smaller and blends into the neighborhood, its 21 rooms carved out of a late 19th-century greystone. Spaces feature plenty of sports decor, like a baseball bat art installation spanning the lobby.

HOME RUN A behind-the-scenes tour of Wrigley Field reveals more of the park than you can see with even the best game tickets. Walk through the upper and lower decks, into the press box, out to the bleachers, inside the renovated visitors’ clubhouse (not on game days), and into the Cubs dugout. You may even get to walk onto the field for pictures. Pay a little more for a photo op in front of the ivy.

CUBS SLUGGER ANTHONY RIZZO CAN PLAY DEFENSE, TOO. IN 2019, THE FIRST BASEMAN WON HIS THIRD GOLD GLOVE. IN 2018, HE EVEN PITCHED, RETIRING THE ONLY BATTER HE FACED.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (CUBS) GETTY/DAVID BANKS, (WHITE SOX) GETTY/RON VESELY
ELOY JIMENEZ OF THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX HITS A THREE-RUN HOME RUN. HE CAME TO THE SOX FROM THE CUBS IN A 2017 TRADE.

SEE THE ACTION While Cubs fans rhapsodize about iconic Wrigley Field, Sox fans argue that much-newer Guaranteed Rate Field (it opened in 1991) is a more comfortable and affordable place to watch a game—especially for families. Look for special promotions like Family Sundays, postgame fireworks and Dog Days, when you can sit with your pooch.

PRE- AND POSTGAME Stop by Cork and Kerry at the Park, just a couple of blocks north of Guaranteed Rate Field, to grab a Guinness or a Goose Island and some Irish egg rolls. The former Jimbo’s Lounge space is big enough to hold a game-day crowd. Turtle’s Bar and Grill, also close to the park, will hook you up with brews, big burgers and garlic Parm fries. Salads too.

HOME RUN Sox fans brag about the food at Guaranteed Rate Field. It’s a melting-pot menu: Polish pierogies, Cuban sandwiches, Irish Fries (nachos with French fries instead of chips), tamales, elote (Mexican grilled corn), Italian beef, deep-dish pizza and flavors from local Antique Taco. An old standby is the Comiskey Dog, a Vienna Beef frank on a poppy seed bun. Just think twice before adding ketchup—this is Chicago, you know.

HARRY CARAY’S ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE In River North, it’s the flagship of a restaurant lineup started by the late Cubs and Sox broadcaster. Expect white tablecloths and major-league service.

MLB: AMERICAN LEAGUE CENTRAL DIVISION
CHICAGO WHITE SOX

IN A TWO-TEAM TOWN, THE SOX MORE THAN HOLD THEIR OWN. THE SOUTH SIDERS WON THE WORLD SERIES IN 2005 AND ARE REBUILDING FOR ANOTHER POSTSEASON RUN. INTERLEAGUE GAMES LET THE SOX AND CUBS PLAY FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS.

ALL-STAR EATS
NBA: EASTERN CONFERENCE CENTRAL DIVISION

CHICAGO BULLS

MICHAEL JORDAN MADE THE BULLS A PRO HOOPS DYNASTY IN THE 1990S, LEADING THEM TO SIX NBA TITLES—IN TWO SEPARATE THREE-PEATS. AFTER RECENT UP-AND-DOWN SEASONS, THE TEAM LOOKS TO REBOUND.

SEE THE ACTION Watch the Bulls at the United Center (aka Madhouse on Madison or The House that Jordan Built), which opened on the near west side in 1994. It’s considered the largest arena (by physical size) in the United States. Look for MJ’s statue, known as The Spirit, on the east side of the building. The Bulls pioneered now-standard dramatic pregame player introductions (lights off, cue soaring Alan Parsons Project music).

PRE- AND POSTGAME The beer garden at Kaiser Tiger feels as big as a basketball court. And it doesn’t shut down come winter, thanks to heaters, firepits and curling. Catch a shuttle from here to the United Center. Monteverde Restaurant and Pastificio dishes up serious Italian food on West Madison Street, a mile straight east of the arena. Chef Sarah Grueneberg is famous for her pasta—from a seat at the bar, see fresh-made noodles hanging out to dry. And the United Center is just minutes from the West Loop’s famed Restaurant Row, a cluster of cuisine on West Randolph Street between Halsted Street and Ogden Avenue. Anchors include celebrity chef Stephanie Izard’s Girl and The Goat.

FREE THROW Benny the Bull, team mascot since 1969, is a pro sports legend. From acrobatic dunking to popcorn dumping (on unsuspecting fans), Benny’s creative antics keep the crowd roaring.

BULLS POWER FORWARD DANIEL GAFFORD, A 6’11” ROOKIE, CAN THROW DOWN SOME MONSTER DUNKS.

ALL-STAR EATS

MICHAEL JORDAN’S STEAK HOUSE

On the Mag Mile, it strives for the excellence of His Airness. Splurge on a seat at Table 23 (MJ’s uniform number) or a slice of 23-layer chocolate cake.

ON THE MAG MILE, IT STRIVES FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF HIS AIRNESS. SPLURGE ON A SEAT AT TABLE 23 (MJ’S UNIFORM NUMBER) OR A SLICE OF 23-LAYER CHOCOLATE CAKE.
SEE THE ACTION With its loud, loyal fans and fickle Lake Michigan weather (cold, snow, fog, wind, you name it) Soldier Field gives the Bears a huge home-field advantage. Brace for an air-raid siren before big plays on defense, and join in “Bear Down, Chicago Bears” after the team scores a TD. Pregame tailgating is a big deal, and it happens no matter the weather. Surface lots open four hours before the game, plus tailgating is allowed on the top level of the Waldron Deck parking garage. Outside the stadium, look for new statues of Bears legends Walter Payton and George Halas.

PRE- AND POSTGAME Timothy O’Toole’s Pub downtown indulges fans of Bears and beers, with 47 on tap. It also offers a round-trip shuttle to home games, plus team swag. Last season, the pub featured a pop-up bar called Swerski’s, an homage to the classic Saturday Night Live skit about Da Bears. Cactus Bar and Grill on South Wells offers a free shuttle to Soldier Field, plus it scores points for its burgers, paninis and margaritas. O’Neil’s on Wells will get you to and from the game too. Feed on oversize slices from Reggie’s Pizza Express.

TOUCHDOWN Go the whole 100 yards on a tour of historic Soldier Field. Stops include the iconic 1924 colonnades, the south courtyard, the doughboy statue, the posh Skyline Suite, the visitors locker room and the field where sports legends like Jesse Owens, Jack Dempsey, David Beckham and Walter Payton competed.

EXTRA POINT The Bears come out of hibernation in late July and early August at the Chicago Bears Training Camp at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais (about 55 miles south of Chicago). Watch the team practice, plus enjoy entertainment, games and giveaways. Tickets are free.

NFL: NFC NORTH DIVISION
CHICAGO BEARS

THE STORIED MONSTERS OF THE MIDWAY, WHO ONCE RELIED ON DEFENSE, ARE NOW BUILDING AN OFFENSE WITH A RISING-STAR QB IN HOPES OF GETTING BACK TO THE SUPER BOWL.

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CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

FOUNDED IN 1926 AS ONE OF THE “ORIGINAL SIX” NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE TEAMS, THE BLACKHAWKS HAVE WON THE STANLEY CUP SIX TIMES, INCLUDING THREE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS.

SEE THE ACTION. Home ice is the United Center, west of downtown. Get there early to experience the pregame skate and warm-up music, and a raucous national anthem—fans cheer wildly as Jim Cornelison sings. Speaking of music, you’ll hear “Chelsea Dagger” by The Fratellis after every Blackhawks goal.

PRE- AND POSTGAME. WestEnd opens early on game nights, so net some boneless wings and beer before taking its shuttle to the game (track its arrival on your phone). The cocktail menu includes a hat trick of takes on an Old-Fashioned—American, Canadian and Mexican. The Pony Inn packs in hockey fans on game nights with food and drink specials, a deep roster of craft beers, and a free shuttle bus to the game. Frosty mugs get you ready for ice ambience. The closest sports bar to the United Center, The Ogden Chicago, offers valet parking on game days and table reservations (recommended). Try the garlic buffalo wings, animal fries and Madhouse Margarita. You’ll hear “Chelsea Dagger” a few times here too.

POWER PLAY. The United Center’s scoreboard (installed last season) is the largest in any arena that hosts an NBA and NHL team. The 8,600 square feet of display space nearly quadruples that of the old one.

MANY HOCKEY EXPERTS SAY BLACKHAWK RIGHT-WINGER AND SCORING MACHINE PATRICK KANE IS THE BEST U.S.-BORN PLAYER IN NHL HISTORY.
SEEN OTHER PRO TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS IN YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS THROUGHOUT CHICAGOLAND.

MLS: EASTERN CONFERENCE

CHICAGO FIRE

FOUNDED IN 1997 ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE, THE MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER TEAM CLAIMED THE MLS CUP IN ITS FIRST SEASON AND IS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WINNING ERA.

SEE THE ACTION After playing home matches at Bridgeview's SeatGeek Stadium, the Fire is planning a return to Soldier Field, its original home, in 2020.

PREGAME Get your kicks at Fire Fest, a place to relax with music, games, giveaways and more before heading into the stadium. A beer garden offers brews, patio seating, lawn games and foosball. Street Style Soccer lets kids test their passing, dribbling and shooting.

POSTGAME The Globe Pub in North Center (not far from Wrigleyville) puts some English on the sports bar experience with pub-style pints, fish and chips, bangers and mash, and TVs tuned to live Euro football early in the morning on weekends. A.J. Hudson's Public House in Lakeview is another soccer-centric spot. Try the British BLT and add some "extra time" for choosing from the vast list of beers. The Galway Arms in Lakeview may be a basement bar, but it has top-tier Irish cred, including 10 different Irish whiskeys, live Irish music and a James Joyce Room.

FREE KICK By moving back into Chicago proper, the Fire hope to follow the lead of other MLS teams (like Atlanta and Seattle) that have found success sharing NFL stadiums.

MIDFIELDER/DEFENDER

RAHEEM EDWARDS

HEADED TO THE FIRE AFTER PLAYING IN HIS NATIVE CANADA.

CHICAGO SPORTS MUSEUM

At this interactive heaven for fans of all ages, compare your vertical leap to Michael Jordan’s—betcha he beats you—and take on Hall of Fame White Sox slugger Frank Thomas in a VR home run derby. Holy cow! Guests of adjacent Harry Caray’s 7th Inning Stretch restaurant get in free.

MORE LIVE PHOTOS: (BLACKHAWKS) GETTY/JONATHAN DANIEL, (FIRE) GETTY/ICON SPORTSWIRE

SPORTS
ULTIMATE THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN ILLINOIS

Whether your trip begins in the Windy City, follows Route 66 or winds through Abe’s hometown on your way south to the Shawnee National Forest, the prairie state offers an abundance of things to see and do. To start, use our ultimate list as you choose your own must-see destinations and memories.

Writers Gary Thompson and Kristin Bienert
CHICAGO & BEYOND

1–20 IN CHICAGO

1. Tilt at 360 Chicago
A glass enclosure—94 floors above Michigan Avenue—tips out from the building.

2. American Writers Museum
Read works, write a story, play word games and create a custom bookmark in this celebration of literature.

3. The Art Institute of Chicago
Immerse yourself in art from ancient days to today.

4. Broadway in Chicago
See the hottest hits, like Dear Evan Hansen (July 7–September 27, CIBC Theatre) and Jesus Christ Superstar (August 11–23, Cadillac Palace Theatre).

5. Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady
Cruise the river as docents share the history behind the skyline.

6. Chicago Cultural Center
Come for the dazzling architecture and free arts events.

7. Chicago History Museum
Even locals learn something new at the city’s oldest cultural institution.

8. Chinatown
Pass the Chinatown Gate on your way to taste dim sum, chop suey and more.

9. Cloud Gate at Millennium Park
It’s like a town square, home of the sculpture officially named Cloud Gate—aka The Bean.

10. DuSable Museum of African American History
Meet a lifelike robotic replica of Harold Washington, first African American Chicago mayor.

11. Jazz and blues clubs
Live performances light up local clubs nightly.

12. Lincoln Park Zoo
Walk on the wild side—from aardvark to zebra—in the shadows of the city’s skyline. It’s free.

13. The Magnificent Mile
From the Chicago River to Oak Street, Michigan Avenue delivers shops, restaurants, hotels and national landmarks.

14. Museum Campus
Watch the stunning sky show at Adler Planetarium; travel through time at the Field Museum and meet Máximo, a titanosaur; and see more than 32,000 underwater animals at Shedd Aquarium.

15. Museum of Contemporary Art
Andy Warhol, Alexander Calder, Jasper Johns, Takashi Murakami—see the greats; tours offered daily.

16. Museum of Science and Industry
Sandwich yourself into a real submarine or delve into the human body and mind.

17. National Museum of Mexican Art
The 10,000-piece collection in the heart of the city’s Mexican community is a cultural treasure.

18. Navy Pier
With stunning views and a children’s museum, the city’s playground juts into Lake Michigan.

19. The Second City
The comedy club and theater has a funny way of launching acting careers.

20. Skydeck Chicago at Willis Tower
Step onto The Ledge, a glass balcony that juts out 4 feet from the side of the skyscraper.
31-40
GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

31. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville
See preserved earthen mounds built by prehistoric Native Americans.

32. Caterpillar Visitors Center, Peoria
Climb into a simulator to experience what it’s like to operate actual equipment.

33. De Immigrant Windmill, Fulton
At 100 feet tall, the Dutch structure towers over the Mississippi River.

34. Historic Nauvoo
Explore more than 30 sites associated with the 1840s Latter-day Saint settlement of this Mississippi River town.

35. John Deere Pavilion, Moline
Plow through hands-on farming history. Kids can “drive” heavy-equipment simulators.

36. Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower, Hartford
The structure marks the spot where

CHICAGO & BEYOND
21-30 BEYOND CHICAGO

Stone, water and plants create natural art that calms, renews and invigorates.

22. Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield
Among 3,000 animals, you’re bound to spot a fave; open 365 days.

23. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe
Roam 385 acres—that’s about 290 football fields—of gardens and natural areas set around nine islands.

24. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Skokie
This poignant place recalls a dark past so that the future may be transformed.

25. Illinois’ Frank Lloyd Wright Trail, Oak Park
Tour the famed architect’s private residence and design studio from the first 20 years of his career before following the trail to Chicago, Kankakee, Springfield, Dwight, Rockford, Hampshire, Belvidere and Geneva.

26. Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, Schaumburg
Knights joust as spectators dine on a four-course meal without utensils.

27. The Morton Arboretum, Lisle
Rent a bike and pedal past the tree collections.

28. Route 66, Chicago to Collinsville
Get your kitsch on the 300-mile stretch through Illinois.

29. Six Flags Great America, Gurnee
Rides like the wooden Goliath and deep-drop Demon thrill.

30. Starved Rock State Park, Utica
Take a guided hike through the canyons or a trolley tour and pontoon ride on the Illinois River.

46. Cache River State Natural Area, Belknap
Kayak through the bayou and around 1,000-year-old cypress trees growing out of a swamp carved by glacial floodwater.
Lewis and Clark began their westward journey.

37. Main Street, Galena
More than 100 shops, restaurants and galleries fill the quaint downtown.

38. National Great Rivers Museum, East Alton
Get a bird’s-eye view as barges navigate the lock and dam.

39. Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton
Hike 12 miles of trails for bluff-top views near the Illinois River.

40. Riverfront Museum, Peoria
Inside the massive complex, discover fun interactive exhibits, fish native to the Illinois River, a planetarium and Giant Screen Theater that’s five by seven stories tall!

41. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield
Like Abe, this place is reflective and sometimes somber, but it knows how to tell a good tale. Lifelike vignettes tell Abe’s story from his humble beginnings in a log cabin to his assassination. Must-see artifacts include his Bible and official seal.

42. Elijah Iles House, Springfield
The city’s oldest intact home once belonged to one of Abe Lincoln’s friends.

43. Governor’s Mansion, Springfield
Known as the People’s House, the governor’s residence welcomes visitors for tours of the 165-year-old mansion. The fully accessible building includes works from Illinois artists.

44. Illinois Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum, Pontiac
Take a pic with the world’s largest painted Route 66 shield mural.

45. Old State Capitol, Springfield
Explore the site of many career cases and triumphs for Lincoln, including his famed “House Divided” speech on slavery. Interpreters lead 30-minute tours.

47. Giant City State Park, Makanda
Squeeze between massive sandstone walls on the 1-mile Giant City Nature Trail. Stop by the visitors center for park history.

48. Shawnee National Forest
Seven wilderness and nine nearby state-owned areas, plus lakes, rivers and waterfalls make this far-south forest worthy of exploration.

49. Garden of the Gods Recreation Area, Shawnee National Forest
The scenery wows with 100-foot limestone bluffs formed into shapes, like Camel rock.

50. Shawnee Hills Wine Trail, Shawnee National Forest
Almost a dozen wineries, such as the area’s oldest—Alto Vineyards in Alto Pass—make up the wine trail.
IDEAS AROUND THE STATE
A distinctive downtown and riverfront with the gleaming Cloud Gate sculpture in Millennium Park is only the beginning of this region, which also includes the diverse districts of Northern Illinois.

Whether embarking on the ultimate family vacation, a girls’ getaway or a romantic holiday for two, Chicago offers a travel experience that is easily tailored for every visitor—and for every palate. Delight in the world-class cuisine of a city that is famous for its deep-dish pizza and known for its foodie-pleasing neighborhoods with celebrity chefs. Beyond the bustling city sidewalks, there is an entire other world to explore—one with stomach-flipping roller coasters, woodsy hiking trails, tumbling waterfalls, craft breweries and local artisan shops. Just a quick drive or Metra ride from Chicago, main streets welcome boutique shoppers, while cozy log cabins beckon from Starved Rock State Park, and serene beauty awaits at the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford.

SEE
- Illinois’ Frank Lloyd Wright Trail, statewide
  Start with the Robie House in Chicago before exploring the Oak Park studio where the famed architect worked.
- Old Joliet Prison, Joliet
  This once notorious prison-turned-Hollywood landmark (think The Blues Brothers!) is now open for tours.
- I&M Canal Mule-Pulled Boat Rides, La Salle
  Coast down the historic canal on a mule-pulled boat just like they did in the 1840s.

SAVOR
- McDonald’s Global Headquarters, Chicago’s West Loop
  Taste worldwide faves like the Stroopwafel McFurry (Netherlands) at the company’s on-site restaurant.
- Tangled Roots Brewing Company, Ottawa
  Locally grown hops and barley create Forty 1 Eighty, the brewery’s signature beer.

STAY
- Great Wolf Lodge, Gurnee
  Slide into a fun day at the indoor water park.
- Harrah’s Joliet, Joliet
  Stay and play at this hotel and casino on the banks of the Des Plaines River.
  Harrah’s Joliet, Joliet
  Stay and play at this hotel and casino on the banks of the Des Plaines River.

Photographs: (Water Park)Courtesy of Great Wolf Lodge, (Boat) Ryan Donnell, (Harrah’s) Courtesy of Harrah’s Joliet
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TRIP IDEAS

DESTINATION

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

HOME TO LIMESTONE CLIFFS TOWERING ABOVE MIGHTY RIVERS (INCLUDING THE MISSISSIPPI) AND QUAIN TOWNS WITH WATER-CARVED HISTORIES.

A drive along the Illinois portion of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway is just one of the ways to tour this region that winds its way along the Mississippi River. Cruise the rolling hills and vineyards of Galena, clamber over the mammoth farm machines at the John Deere Pavilion in Moline, stop to shop in Quincy, and stare up at a life-size statue of the world’s tallest man in Alton.

Alternatively, ditch the car and bike all or a portion of the Great River Trail. The 66-mile trail stretches from Rock Island to Savanna on the northern end. In Grafton, near the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, hike in Pere Marquette State Park. Make it a weekend and stay in the Pere Marquette Lodge, built by hand by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

After exploring the river communities of the Mississippi, head east to tour the Illinois River and the Peoria riverfront by way of a private ride on a sailing sloop or an overnight cruise on the Spirit of Peoria, a true paddle-wheeler.

SEE

The District, Quincy
Shops, restaurants and museums fill buildings with impressive architecture.

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site, Hartford
Explore the site where the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped before sailing up the Missouri River.

The Pride of Oregon, Oregon
Cruise the Rock River aboard a paddle-wheeler.

SAVOR

Cleveland-Heath, Edwardsville
Local farms contribute to the menu’s lineup of comfort food with a gourmet twist.

One Eleven Main, Galena
Dip veggies and bread in the Beer Cheese Fondue, or choose from other upscale American fare.

Barley and Rye Bistro, Moline
This farm-to-table bistro also specializes in bourbon, with more than 400 on the list.

STAY

Ten Acre Treehouse, Nauvoo
Climb into a two-story tree house complete with a kitchen, grilling deck and small library.

Jail Hill Inn, Galena
Once a jail, the 1878 inn now serves up gourmet three-course breakfasts.

Tara Point Inn and Cottages, Grafton
Along the Great River Road, the inn overlooks the Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

PHOTOGRAPHS: PADDLE-WHEELER JASON DONNELLY; FOOD RYAN DOWELL (TREEHOUSE); PAUL NORMAN

enjoyillinois.com 72
Tonight, I’ll dream of Peoria
Nostalgia is the hallmark of this region where Route 66 slices through the state, and the historic haunts of the 16th president dot the landscape. A visit here means a road trip with a stop in the vast Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac, a walk past the educational kiosks spread over 1.6 miles of the Mother Road near Bloomington-Normal, and a mandatory photo op with a dose of Americana at iconic roadside attractions like the Muffler Man holding a hot dog in Atlanta.

Route 66 intersects history in Springfield, where President Abraham Lincoln lived and worked. The interactive Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is walking distance from the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln gave his famed “House Divided” speech. Stay overnight near the only home Lincoln ever owned and take a tour through the same narrow hallways and staircases where he walked. “Looking for Lincoln” signs are posted throughout the city to provide more details of the president’s life.

**DESTINATION**

**LAND OF LINCOLN**

HOME TO THE OLD STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, WHERE A YOUNG ABRAHAM LINCOLN LEARNED TO LEGISLATE, PLUS THE QUIRKY TOWNS AND ATTRACTIONS OF ROUTE 66.

**SEE**

- **Amish Country, Arcola/Arthur/Sullivan/Tuscola**
  Explore the antiques shops and handmade goods of Illinois Amish Country.

- **Casey**
  "Big Things in a Small Town" includes eight oversize objects recognized by Guinness World Records.

- **Epiphany Farms, Bloomington**
  After a guided tour of the farm, dine on Corn Flake Chicken and pickled vegetables.

- **Firefly Grill, Effingham**
  Grown-on-the-farm peppers, heirloom tomatoes and other seasonal veggies fill plates.

**SAVOR**

- **Obed and Isaac’s Microbrewery and Eatery, Springfield**
  Take on the Horseshoe, an open-face sandwich piled high with meat, cheese and fries. It’s an Illinois delicacy.

- **Allerton Park and Retreat Center, Monticello**
  Get off the grid in a 17-room mansion secluded within 1,500 acres of woodland.

- **The Senator’s Inn, Savoy**
  Quaint, quiet and comfy describe this home-turned-extended stay inn.

**STAY**

- **Inn at 835, Springfield**
  Find serenity over a book and complimentary glass of wine in a turn-of-the-century sitting room.
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TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

HOME TO THE RAZORBACK RIDGES AND CAREENING CANYONS OF SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST AND THE SPARKLING HOSPITALITY OF SHAWNEE HILLS WINE TRAIL.

From the banks of the Ohio River to the banks of the Mississippi, the sprawling Shawnee National Forest connects six natural ecological regions and brings locals and visitors together in mutual respect of nature’s pure power.

The best way to explore this area is to toss a pair of hiking boots in the car, so you can pop out for a trek while on a scenic drive. Start at the forest’s gateway in the artists’ haven of Makanda, where a boardwalk connects studios selling artwork from resident artists. Then set off for one of the most photographed places in Illinois: the iconic rock formations of the Garden of the Gods. Hike along Rim Rock Trail near Karber’s Ridge or to the top of Jackson Falls near Ozark.

Dotting the rolling hills of the region are 11 wineries that comprise the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. Tucked into quaint towns like Cobden, each winery is a welcoming place to end a day of wandering with a glass of wine. Stay overnight at one of the wineries offering on-site lodging.

Savor

17th Street Barbecue, Murphysboro
Chow down on baby-back ribs slow-cooked over apple and cherry woods.

Rare Chop House, Mt. Vernon
Sip among more than 1,000 bottles of wine on display in a glass-encased wine cellar.

Alto Vineyards and Winery, Alto Pass
Enjoy wine tasting with a view from a rooftop deck that overlooks rolling hills.

Stay

Rocky Comfort Cabins, Makanda
Unwind in Hobbit-style cabins with a private path to Blue Sky Vineyard.

Makanda Inn and Cottages, Makanda
Go green at this eco-chic B&B located along the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail.
Where else can you rappel down sandstone cliffs within a national forest, enjoy fine cuisine and craft beer at a trendy local bistro, and wind down the night with live music at sunset?

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VISITORS BUREAUS

CHICAGO & BEYOND
Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
650/256-3190, enjoyaurora.com
Blackhawk Waterways Convention
and Visitors Bureau 800/678-2108,
815/966-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com
Chicago Southland Convention
and Visitors Bureau 888/895-8233,
708/895-8200, visitchicagosouthland.com
Chicago’s North Shore Convention
and Visitors Bureau 847/763-0011,
visitchicagornorthshore.com
Choose Chicago 312/567-8500,
choosechicago.com
DeKalb County Convention
and Visitors Bureau 877/335-2521,
815/756-1336, dekalbcounty.org
DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/232-0502, 630/575-8070,
discoverdupage.com
Explore Elgin Area 800/217-5362,
847/695-7540, explorelginarea.com
Heritage Corridor Convention
and Visitors Bureau 815/216-9960,
heritagecorridor.org
Kankakee County Convention
and Visitors Bureau 815/935-7390,
visitkankakeecounty.com
Meet Chicago Northwest
800/847-4849, 847/490-1010,
chicagonorthwest.com
Rockford Area Convention and Visitors
Bureau 800/521-0849, 815/963-8111,
gorockford.com
Rosemont Convention and Tourism Bureau
847/823-2100, rosemont.com
Visit Lake County
800/525-3669, 847/662-2700,
visitlakecounty.org
Visit McHenry County
815/893-6280, visitmchenrycounty.com
Visit Oak Park
708/524-7800, visitoakpark.com
TOURISM INFO CENTERS
Macy's on State Street 111 N. State St.,
first floor (Randolph/Wabash corner),
Chicago, 312/781-4483
Prairie View North 1-57, rest area northbound,
Monee, 309/255-9389
Prairie View South 1-57, rest area southbound,
Monee
Turtle Creek 1-90, rest area southbound,
South Beloit, 815/389-4134

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, visitgalesburg.com
Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau of
Southwest Illinois 800/258-6645,
618/665-4676, riversandroutes.com
Henry County Tourism Bureau
309/761-8473, visithenrycounty.com
ILLINOISouth Tourism
800/442-1488, 618/257-1488,
illinoisouth.org
Macomb Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau 309/833-1315,
makeitmacomb.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
TOURISM INFO CENTERS
Homestead 1-55, rest area northbound,
Hamel, 618/633-1875
Silver Lake 1-70, rest area eastbound,
Highland, 618/654-6597

LAND OF LINCOLN
Bloomington–Normal Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau 800/453-8226,
309/665-0033, visitbn.org
Danville Area Visitors Bureau
800/383-4386, 217/442-2096,
danvillearea.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,
visit effinghamil.com
ILLINOISouth Tourism
800/442-1488, 618/257-1488,
illinoisouth.org
Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors
Bureau 800/595-5678, 217/243-5678,
jacksonvilleil.org
Lake Shelbyville Area CVB/Shelby
County Tourism 217/774-2244,
lakeshelbyville.com
Logan County Tourism Bureau
217-772-8667, destinationlogancountyil.com
Visit Champaign County
800/369-6151, 217/351-4133,
visitchampaign.org
Visit Springfield 800/565-7300,
217/789-2360, visitspringfieldillinois.com
TOURISM INFO CENTERS
Cumberland Road I-70, rest area westbound,
Marshall, 217/826-3400
Salt Kettle I-74, rest area westbound,
Oakwood, 309/255-6366

TRAITS TO ADVENTURE
Carbondale Tourism 618/529-4451,
carbondale.org
ILLINOISouth Tourism
800/442-1488, 618/257-1488,
illinoisouth.org
Mount Vernon Convention and Visitors
Bureau 618/242-3151, enjoymtvernon.com
Shawnee Forest County/Southernmost Illinois
Tourism Bureau 800/248-4373, 618/853-9928,
southernmostillinois.com
Visit SI 816/997-3690, visitisi.com
TOURISM INFO CENTERS
Fort Massac 5402 Hwy. 65 S, Metropolis
Rend Lake North 1-57, rest area northbound,
Whittington, 618/435-4155
Rend Lake South 1-57, rest area southbound,
Whittington, 618/435-4155
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 65 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Utica  Minooka
Spring Valley  Manteno
Depeue  East Peoria
Henry  Peoria
Lacon  Peoria Heights
Sparland  East Peoria
Chillicothe  Peoria
Spring Bay  Havana
Bay View Gardens  Ottawa
Peoria  Illinois
Peoria  Moline
East Peoria  Quincy

IllinoisRiverRoad.org
MURAL: LOVE LANGUAGE

LOCATION: 801 S. WABASH AVE., CHICAGO  ARTIST: KASHINK  CURATOR: CHICAGO TRUBORN

The Parisian street artist-activist is known for her bright colors, four-eyed characters and bold lines.
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