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ON THE COVER
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
Karla Flannery

ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
Jan Kemmerling

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Lisa Link

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

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on the road again

WHEN YOU’RE READY TO ENJOY ILLINOIS, THE LAND OF LINCOLN WELCOMES TRAVELERS TO ITS GREAT OUTDOORS, CITIES AND TOWNS FULL OF RICH HISTORY AND ICONIC ATTRACTIONS. WHILE PLANNING YOUR UPCOMING TRIP, IT’S IMPORTANT TO ADHERE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES.

While many attractions have reopened, most have new operating procedures that may include advance purchase of tickets, limited capacities and/or changed hours of operation. Check the attraction’s website or call for up-to-date information.

HEALTHY GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW

If you’re not feeling well or have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, stay home. When traveling, follow the 3Ws.

WEAR
a mask or face covering over your nose and mouth.

WATCH
your distance and maintain at least 6 feet between yourself and others.

WASH
your hands with soap and water. If that’s not available, use hand sanitizer.

HOVER YOUR PHONE’S CAMERA OVER THE CODE FOR MORE PUBLIC HEALTH INFO.
PLAN A SAFE GETAWAY TO ENJOY OUR BEAUTY AND WONDER

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Start planning your Chicago experience [Onlychicago.com](http://Onlychicago.com)
weekend plans

YOU COULD SPEND THE 14 WEEKENDS BETWEEN MEMORIAL DAY AND LABOR DAY EXPLORING ILLINOIS. HERE’S A GETAWAY FOR EACH ONE.

1 SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA, GURNEE
Twist and shout on water rides like Bahama Mama and Bubba Tubba, and Hammerhead and Barracuda at Hurricane Harbor, the water park inside the theme park known for its thrilling, high-speed coasters. Purchase a day pass or get in free as a Six Flags Member or Season Pass Holder. You’ll find plenty of food and shows, and hotels near the park entrance make it easy to stay overnight.
2 CHICAGO CITY PASS Save with one ticket to five spots: Art Institute of Chicago (home to Grant Wood’s American Gothic) or Adler Planetarium, Museum of Science and Industry (one of the world’s largest) or 360 Chicago Observation Deck, Field Museum (home to a T. rex named SUE), Shedd Aquarium (sharks, beluga whales and penguins), and Skydeck Chicago (talk yourself onto the Ledge, a glass box 103 floors up).

3 SPRINGFIELD Explore the Lincoln Home (above) and historic neighborhood before taking a deeper dive into Lincoln lore at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Here, you can traverse his life from prepresidential years to the White House. Stay at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, a Doubletree by Hilton hotel.

4 CHICAGO CUBS AND WHITE SOX Wrigley Field and Guaranteed Rate Field welcome back Major League Baseball. Come for a weekend and experience Wrigleyville on the north side and Bridgeport on the south—the CTA Red Line train goes to both from downtown. Chicago Cubs fans can splurge on a stay at Hotel Zachary across the street from Wrigley.

5 CASEY Caution: Objects in this small town appear larger than normal. Guinness World Records recognizes 12 of the giant public art pieces (there are still more), including wind chimes, a golf tee, a rocking chair and a pitchfork. If it’s too big a task to see them all in a day, spend the night at the Eighteen-Ninety Sleepover, a boutique hotel in a historic building.
**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRAIL** Tour Wright properties around Chicago and downstate that are open to the public, including his Oak Park home and studio. Wright designed Rockford’s Laurent House for an owner with special access needs (below), Springfield socialite Susan Lawrence Dana’s home reflects love of Japanese aesthetics, and Kankakee features the 1900 Wright design as the beginning of the Prairie-style home.

---

**GALENA** This small town’s charm comes from a robust downtown with more than 125 shops, galleries, restaurants and wineries, and boutique hotels, inns, and B&Bs in century-old buildings. Main Street parallels the Galena River and Grant Park, named for Ulysses S. Grant, who once called Galena home. Race down an alpine slide and see the Mississippi while ziplining at nearby Chestnut Mountain Resort.

---

**I&M CANAL** Follow this historic water route through towns between Chicago and LaSalle, where you can ride the canal the old-fashioned way: in a boat pulled by a mule. (FYI, the animal walks a path on shore.) Explore Starved Rock State Park near Oglesby, kayak the Illinois River at Morris, see Joliet’s lift bridges, and marvel at Lockport’s limestone buildings.
MT. VERNON Stroll historic downtown; see the courthouse where Abe Lincoln tried a case; and shop Market Days, a summertime vendor fair. A real gem is the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, an 85-acre estate with five art galleries, a sculpture park and a music hall. Stay at Sidwell Friends Bed and Breakfast, set in an elegant 1920s Colonial home amid towering trees.

10 ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER, SKOKIE This Chicagoland institution, through its permanent and temporary exhibitions, contrasts unfathomable atrocities—the murder of 6 million Jews—with life-affirming lessons about “Upstanders,” people who speak up and act against injustice. Find further space for contemplation at the Bahá’í House of Worship, a striking domed structure in nearby Wilmette. It’s surrounded by nine gardens and fountains.

11 AMISH COUNTRY You might witness a barn raising or a horse-drawn buggy around Arcola, Arthur, Sullivan and Tuscola, the area where the state’s largest group of Old Order Amish lives. Mix and mingle with the locals as you visit shops and sample flavors. Arthur’s Country Inn features fine Amish-made furniture in every room.
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12 THE FORGE: LEMONT QUARRIES, LEMONT
The country’s largest aerial challenge course beckons adrenaline addicts to this adventure playground outside Chicago. Thrill to views from the three tallest climbing, rappelling and ziplining towers in the U.S., or go mountain biking, hiking and paddling. Nearby is the charming village of Lemont, with antiques stores, a brewery and restaurants.

13 PARKWAY BANK PARK, ROSEMONT
Bank on fun at this suburban Chicago district built around a green gathering space. Sports fans score at the interactive Big Ten Experience, and thrill-seekers fall for indoor skydiving at iFLY. Sugar Factory sparkles with its colorful array of sweets and treats. Enjoy restaurants, bars, music spots and a comedy club, plus on-site lodging at the trendy Aloft Chicago O’Hare.

14 NAUVOO
Explore the roots of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in this town along the Mississippi River. Take a horse-drawn wagon past historic sites downtown, and walk the grounds of the Nauvoo Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—only members of the church in good standing can go inside. Sleep in a four-poster bed at Hotel Nauvoo and you’ll wake to the aroma of cinnamon rolls from the breakfast buffet.
Springfield, Illinois provides a unique experience for travelers with award-winning sites, such as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, an excellent selection of hotel accommodations, hundreds of special events, culinary, wine and brewery trails, historic Route 66 and our new Explorer Passport, 20 activities in one convenient passport of fun!

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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.

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animal attraction
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Chicago's Shedd Aquarium is a must-see destination, home to more than 32,500 creatures from around the world, all housed in an early 20th-century architectural gem alongside Lake Michigan. Stroll through a lush rainforest and meet the sea lions and dolphins as they swim the 3 million-gallon Abbott Oceanarium. See if you can spot the alligators and piranhas that lurk among the 77 habitats of the Waters of the World exhibit. The Wild Reef offers a scuba diver’s-eye view of sharks, and little aquatic explorers can pet stingrays. Don't miss virtual encounters: Go behind the scenes and meet penguins and sea otters as Shedd experts highlight their efforts to protect the world’s most vulnerable marine species.

Born in 2019, Annik, a beluga, joins the Shedd’s pod of whales at the Abbott Oceanarium.

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MINGLE WITH WILD CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

In Hanna City, spend the night on-site—in a silo, train car or cabin rental—with 150 animals native to Illinois, including Big Mike, a 1,400-pound bison, at Wildlife Prairie Park.

Say G’day to wallabies on the Australia Walk-About, watch colorful mandrill monkeys at the AFRICA! exhibit, and see if you can spot the endangered Chinese alligator lurking near the Conservation Center at the Peoria Zoo.

More than 3,000 animals live at the beautifully landscaped Brookfield Zoo. Don’t miss the grizzlies and polar bears that roam the Great Bear Wilderness exhibit, a sprawling replica of North American woodlands and prairie.

Take a whirl on the carousel and meet more than 600 animals that reside on the forest preserve at the Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley.

Little ones will love petting the goats in the children’s zoo and taking a ride on the Z.O.&O. Express Train that circles Decatur’s lakeside Scovill Zoo, home to 96 species from six continents.

Docent-led animal encounters bring guests face-to-face with spider monkeys, boa constrictors and lemurs at the Henson Robinson Zoo, where 80 species of native and exotic animals live in naturalistic exhibits circled by the Zoo Choo kids train in Springfield.

See snow monkeys frolic in the hot springs of the Regenstein Macaque Forest, or 19-foot-tall giraffes in the Regenstein African Journey, at the always-free Lincoln Park Zoo, a lakeside, urban oasis north of downtown Chicago.

Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago
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sweet success
FROM SELLING CAKE SLICES AT HAROLD’S CHICKEN TO WHIPPING UP BROWN SUGAR BAKERY IN CHICAGO’S CHATHAM NEIGHBORHOOD, STEPHANIE HART CONTINUES TO BUILD HER EMPIRE ONE SWEET TREAT AT A TIME.

Have you ever tasted something that completely changed the way you feel? That’s the goal of every baked good at Brown Sugar Bakery, where owner Stephanie Hart combines quality ingredients with a dash of love to emotionally transport customers to the happiest times of their lives. “When customers taste my cakes, I want them to feel the celebrations they enjoyed with cake,” she says. “Cake in your childhood was your birthday, holidays, happy times. I want to connect to those memories.” This drive to tap into taste memory came from her own failed quest to find a cake that mimicked her grandmother’s pineapple coconut cake. After years of searching, she perfected the recipe in her own kitchen, and it became her first best seller. “I knew I had it right when the cake took me back to my eighth birthday,” Hart says.

Demand outgrew prepackaged slices of cake at Harold’s Chicken, and business exploded after she opened a storefront on East 75th Street. She also has a location on

“CAKE IN YOUR CHILDHOOD WAS YOUR BIRTHDAY, HOLIDAYS, HAPPY TIMES. I WANT TO CONNECT TO THOSE MEMORIES.”

STEPHANIE HART
FRIDA KAHLO
TIMELESS
Works on loan from the Olmedo Museum
JUNE 5 - SEPT 6, 2021
FRIDA2021.ORG

A historic exhibition featuring 26 original works, a multimedia timeline with photographs and reproductions of Kahlo’s clothing, and a garden designed by Ball Horticultural inspired by the artist’s work.

Cleve Carney Museum of Art, McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

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Navy Pier, which opens in conjunction with the landmark’s re-opening in spring. These days, customers arrive in search of the cakes that elicit their sweetest memories, like the bestselling Caramel cake (“That’s a Chicago thing,” Hart says), which she admits was the hardest cake for her to figure out and therefore her best.

Customer favorites also include the Vanilla Cream Cheese and Caramel cake (inspired by Goetze’s Caramel Creams candies), Double Dark Chocolate, and Neapolitan cake. Her best feedback, however, has come from the Dreamsicle cake inspired by the orange sherbet and vanilla ice cream dessert. “We had a lady come in who said this piece of cake made her want to look for her skate key. The fact that the cake took her back to roller-skating as a child made me so happy,” Hart says.

Even a pandemic couldn’t slow down Brown Sugar Bakery. Last year, the company acquired the 85-year-old, Chicago-born Cupid Candies name and factory to increase cake production. As her empire grows, Hart remains committed to Chatham, working with fellow local businesses to make East 75th Street a destination for visitors to experience the South Side of Chicago.
Spend the season in Carbondale, Illinois and enjoy beer flights from local breweries, hikes at Giant City State Park and adventures in the Shawnee National Forest. Unwind with live local music and delicious cuisine downtown. Enjoy your evenings nestled in a cabin in the woods!

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summer whites

WITH A DASH OF THIS AND A SPLASH OF THAT, CLEAR SPIRITS LIKE GIN AND VODKA MAKE REFRESHING SUMMER SIPPERS. TASTE THE DIFFERENCE AT THESE CRAFT DISTILLERIES AND TAKE HOME A BOTTLE.

1 KOVAL, CHICAGO

2 STUMPY’S SPIRITS, COLUMBIA
The grain-to-glass operation uses grain grown on the land and limestone well water from under the eighth-generation family farm surrounding the distillery.

3 WHISKEY ACRES DISTILLING CO., DEKALB
Three fifth-generation farmers (Jim Walter and son Jamie, along with Nick Nagele) started the state’s first estate distillery in 2013. They grow 100 percent of the corn found in their vodka.

4 QUINCY STREET DISTILLERY, RIVERSIDE
Owner Derrick Mancini distills his QSD Vodka five times from corn and malts to achieve the smooth taste.

5 CHICAGO DISTILLING COMPANY, CHICAGO
Inspiration for the company came from Shorty, a Midwest moonshiner. Today, his granddaughter, Noelle, runs the operation with her husband, Jay, and his brother, Vic.

6 KENNAY FARMS DISTILLING, ROCHELLE
As owners of the state’s largest distillery, sixth-generation farmers Rick and Doris grow their grains. Find them in the historic Hub Theater building.

7 BLAUM BROTHERS DISTILLING COMPANY, GALENA
Brothers Mike and Matt began distilling spirits in a custom-made copper still in 2013. And, to achieve their gin’s floral notes, they distill each botanical individually.

8 RUSH CREEK DISTILLING, HARVARD
Brothers Mark and Todd Stricker, along with friends Jay Nolan and Jeff McCarthy, grew up in Harvard, home to Rush Creek’s headwaters.

SPIKED MANGO LEMONADE
Kick your vodka lemonade up a notch with the addition of mango puree and a sprig of mint.

Servings: 8

2 cups vodka
1 cup lemon juice
½ cup strained mango puree (see tip) or mango nectar
½ to ¾ cup simple syrup¹
Ice cubes
Club soda (optional)
Mint sprigs (optional)

In a small pitcher, combine vodka, lemon juice and mango puree. Sweeten to taste with simple syrup. Serve over ice and, if desired, topped with club soda and garnished with mint.

Simple syrup: In a small saucepan, combine 1 cup sugar and 1 cup water. Heat over medium just until simmering, stirring to dissolve sugar. Remove from heat. Cool. Transfer to a storage container and chill until needed or up to 2 weeks.

TIP: Seed and peel 1 fresh mango. Place the fruit in a blender or food processor. Cover and process until very smooth. Press puree through a fine-mesh sieve. You should have about ¾ cup.

*(tip) Seed and peel 1 fresh mango. Place the fruit in a blender or food processor. Cover and process until very smooth. Press puree through a fine-mesh sieve. You should have about ¾ cup.

enjoyillinois.com
NEGRONI
1 ounce Blaum Brothers Gin
1 ounce Campari
1 ounce sweet vermouth
1 orange twist
Combine gin, Campari, and vermouth into a cocktail shaker. Stir, then strain into a chilled double rocks glass filled with ice. Garnish with an orange twist.

CHERRY ON TOP
Hover your phone’s camera over the code to see how to make an Old-Fashioned cocktail with Oak Reserve Gin from Blaum Brothers in Galena.
Q&A

Christopher Jackson

THE CAIRO NATIVE’S JOURNEY TO HAMILTON PROVES THAT IF YOU WANT TO PLAY WASHINGTON, IT PAYS TO GROW UP IN THE LAND OF LINCOLN.

Musical theater history had its eyes on Christopher Jackson from a young age. The commanding 6-foot-2-inch actor ruled the stage when he originated the role of our nation’s first president in Hamilton. (See his larger-than-life performance on Disney+.) But if it wasn’t for his musical mother, empowering mentors and even a gig at a grocery store in Cairo, he admits he probably wouldn’t have made it to Broadway, beginning with an ensemble role in Disney’s The Lion King in 1997.

Being besties with Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda allowed Jackson to watch the show blossom from idea to cultural phenomenon. Jackson has since capitalized on the production’s success to move into television, including his current role as Chunk Palmer on the CBS drama Bull. But no matter where his star journey takes him next, the 45-year-old husband and father of two will always trace his success back to southern Illinois. We caught up with Jackson to talk about life before, during and after his time portraying one of America’s founding fathers on Broadway.
Visit Moultrie County
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Wish you were here!

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

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It’s what you’re craving.

Visit Effingham... *It’s what you’re craving.*
**WHAT WAS GROWING UP IN CAIRO LIKE FOR YOU?**

Growing up in a small community empowers you. I had the benefit of working at a local grocery store while I was in high school, so you know everyone, but more importantly, everyone knows you. There’s not a block that you can walk where you feel like you’re not being looked over. And cared for. I cared that people knew I was raised right and respectful and conscious. It mattered to me. And that’s something I carry with me every waking moment of the day.

**WHERE’S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT?**

Any place that makes deep-dish pizza. I’ll be first in line. People who live in Chicago have their favorites, but for me, any of the pizza spots are my favorites. Even though I live in NYC now, I’m still a deep-dish guy.

**WHO HELPED YOU DISCOVER YOUR VOICE?**

A great deal of my musicality comes from my mother and our shared love of music. But my musical journey really started at the feet of my paternal grandmother who was a funeral director. One of my first public performance scenarios was performing for funerals and in church. Local pastor Larry Potts and his wife, Sandy, also gave me a platform to be a part of the ministry at their church (now the Mighty Rivers Regional Worship Center) and do solo work. It was the foundation of everything I’m doing now.

**DID YOU EVER DO THEATER IN CHICAGO?**

Off and on. I did a show there in 2002 called *Comfortable Shoes*. That’s when I really fell in love with Chicago, and I like to go back whenever I can. I love the Magnificent Mile and walking around Millennium Park. I also love being down on the South Side. Some family members still live there and we frequent a lot of restaurants. I’ve never had a bad meal in Chicago.
WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEING A PART OF HAMILTON FROM THE BEGINNING?
A To know that I was part of Hamilton from a very early point is one of the best experiences that I’ve been able to have. To be in the room with Lin-Manuel Miranda and director Tommy Kail when things were being developed and what would become the show is a great privilege.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO PLAY SUCH A MAJESTIC ROLE AS GEORGE WASHINGTON?
A For me, it was a lot of research. I had the benefit of working off Ron Chernow’s biography of Washington. He wrote the Hamilton biography and the Washington biography, which he won the Pulitzer for. But doing eight shows a week is a hard thing to do and sometimes it does feel like going into battle. You’re battling yourself, you’re battling the elements, you’re battling the illness, you’re battling lack of sleep or just being worn out, and all of those things matter.

YOU LOOK LIKE A GIANT ONSTAGE. HOW TALL ARE YOU REALLY?
A I’m 6 foot 2, but when you’re onstage, you’re 10 feet from the audience and you look 10 feet tall. I benefit from that and also benefit from Paul Tazewell’s amazing costumes. There’s a reason generals dress the way they do with epaulets and square shoulders. It cuts a mean frame, and I’m happily the beneficiary of that.

WERE YOU ABLE TO CATCH THE BROADWAY IN CHICAGO RUN OF HAMILTON?
A Yes! The last time I was in Chicago for any amount of time, my wife and I were able to see Wayne Brady’s final performance as Aaron Burr. He’s a dear friend of ours. I haven’t made a point to see the show that often though. Playing that role took a lot out of me. It was wonderful and I would do it all over again—twice. But even watching the film last summer, I started to sweat and shake, my face was contorting in certain ways. I’m watching myself say these things and feel these things. It’s a real tricky thing.

YOU ONCE SAID THAT IF YOU COULD MEET ANY PRESIDENT, IT WOULD BE WASHINGTON, AND IF YOU COULD TAKE ONE OUT FOR COFFEE, IT WOULD BE LINCOLN. WHY’S THAT?
A I’m sure there’d be a lot of fun stories told about Lincoln’s travails, pushing logs up the river. Lincoln was a storyteller in the same traditions of my uncles, family and friends. I’d grab a thermos of coffee and we’d head down to the river in Cairo. We’d go sit by the water and let the water tell us its stories too.
When pastry chef Mindy Segal opened her eponymous Hot Chocolate shop in Chicago’s Bucktown, she tapped into a budding trend—fancying up nostalgic treats with culinary school techniques and luxe ingredients. Since Illinois legalized recreational marijuana in 2020, the James Beard Award-winner’s prescience is again on display, now with her line of edibles.

Segal began working with Illinois’ Cresco Labs in 2014, feeding the team dessert inspirations (sorbets, pies) to model how flavors should unfold. That sophistication shines through in bites like the Glazed Clementine Orange gummy that recalls West Coast citrus, and the Lush Black Cherry with port wine undertones. One note not on the menu? Earthy marijuana flower. Instead, Mindy’s Chef Led Artisanal Edibles uses near-tasteless cannabis distillate in its 5-milligram and 2-milligram gummies, and in its taffies, hard sweets and chocolates.

Segal’s early voyage proved profitable. She’s not alone: Grassroots, a cannabis cultivator, sells gummies and granola bites via a network of dispensaries. The team at Chicago-based CBD Infused Edibles bakes goodies, such as coconut chocolate chip cookies, with full-spectrum hemp oil and sells them at shops and markets throughout the area. And while Segal can’t sell her edibles at her new Mindy’s Bakery, shoppers can stop by Wake-N-Bakery in Lakeview for CBD cinnamon muffins and THC-laced scones. (For consumption laws, turn to page 63.)

RENOWNED PASTRY CHEF MINDY SEGAL’S EDIBLES LINE PROVIDES A TASTY GATEWAY TO ILLINOIS’ NEW RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA MARKET.
Tell Us What You Think
ABOUT THIS ISSUE OF ENJOY ILLINOIS MAGAZINE

As a special thank you, we are offering a chance to win a $10,000 cash prize in our annual sweepstakes!

Survey participation is not necessary to enter or win our sweepstakes, but we do hope you will share your opinions.*

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NATIONALLY, ILLINOIS TOPS THE AGRICULTURE CHARTS ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO PUMPKINS AND OTHER FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROPS. VISIT A FARMERS MARKET FOR A TASTE OF LOCAL FLAVORS.

**AURORA FARMERS MARKET**
The state’s oldest market celebrates its 109th season. Join the Saturday festivities when local purveyors and artisans fill Water Street Square. On Wednesday afternoons, shop the West Market.

**CARBONDALE FARMERS MARKET**
Support local farmers and vendors who sell gluten-free baked goods, eggs and seafood every Saturday at the Westowne Shopping Center.

**DOWNTOWN EVANSTON FARMERS MARKET**
Less than a mile from Lake Michigan, local vendors go beyond produce and also sell cheese, jelly, jams, plants and pastries.

**GREEN CITY MARKET, CHICAGO**
More than 100 chefs and restaurateurs shop the all-local market, where 50-plus vendors sell sustainably grown produce, protein and prepared foods. Shop two locations: West Loop and Lincoln Park.

**MARKET AT THE SQUARE, URBANA**
With more than 100 vendors, this market ranks as one of the state’s largest. Shop for homemade arts and crafts, flowers, honey, beer and wine, dairy, and meat.

**OLD CAPITOL FARMERS MARKET, DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD**
Popular shops such as Three Twigs Bakery, Custom Cup and Buzz Bomb Brewing got their start here; open Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

**WOODSTOCK FARMER’S MARKET**
All purchases support the community at this twice-weekly market (Tuesday and Saturday) on Woodstock Square, where products sold are locally grown, produced or made.
WHAT’S IN SEASON

**SPRING** MAY TO MID-JUNE
- ASPARAGUS, BROCCOLI, PEAS, RADISHES, RHUBARB, SALAD GREENS, SOUR CHERRIES, SPINACH, STRAWBERRIES

**SUMMER** LATE JUNE TO EARLY AUGUST
- BEETS, BLACKBERRIES, BLUEBERRIES, CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER, COLLARDS, CUCUMBERS, EGGPLANT, GRAPES, GREEN BEANS, LEEKS, MELONS, OKRA, PEARS, PEPPERS, RASPBERRIES, SUMMER SQUASH AND ZUCCHINI, SWEET CORN, TOMATOES, WATERMELON

FARM-TO-TABLE RESTAURANTS

Many ingredients used at Firefly Grill in Effingham come straight from the on-site farm, or are sourced from local farmers, foragers and fishermen. Summer flavors shine with just-picked veggies in the Firefly Farm Fried Green Tomatoes and the Squash Blossoms.

Honey bees buzz at chef-owner Michael Higgins’ rooftop garden of herbs at Maldaner’s Restaurant and Catering, a downtown Springfield institution since 1884.

Tomatoes and chilies grow on the rooftop garden at Xoco, one of Rick Bayless’ many Chicago restaurants. Bayless also makes use of a larger garden found along The 606 trail in Bucktown.

### ONLINE TICKETS REQUIRED
[ilholocaustmuseum.org/mandela](http://ilholocaustmuseum.org/mandela)

**ILINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM PRESENTS**

**MANDELA**

Struggle for Freedom

OPENS FEBRUARY 20

Abe & Ida Cooper Survivor Stories Experience

Interactive 3D Survivor Holograms

What will you ask them?

*Online tickets required: ihm.ec/tickets*

**GREEN CITY MARKET, CHICAGO**

**GET OUTSIDE AT LITCHFIELD’S LAKE LOU YAAGER**

This 1,357-acre, 5.5-mile long lake is the centerpiece of Litchfield’s bustling outdoors culture. In addition to boating and fishing, the surrounding 4,641 acres offers a public beach, campgrounds, conservation area, and hiking-biking-and horse trails!

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ROAD TRIP!
Hover your phone’s camera over the code for road trip itineraries. Not sure where to go? Pick a theme like off-grid stays or choose by length of getaway.
it's time to drive

SCENIC BYWAYS AND HISTORIC HIGHWAYS ABOUND IN ILLINOIS. PACK UP THE CAR, BECAUSE IT'S TIME FOR A ROAD TRIP!

Writer: Jennifer Nilsson
The mighty Mississippi River traces the western border of Illinois for 550 majestic miles. A road trip along the Great River Road means following along the banks of the famed river, where history and nature collide to create guaranteed adventure.

Start in Galena’s Grant Park and stroll over a bridge to the boutique shops, galleries and restaurants that line the downtown near the restored home of President Ulysses S. Grant. Nuts Outdoors rents electric bikes, or you can explore more of the Galena River on a kayak or stand-up paddleboard. In Savanna, hike in the wooded wonderland of the Mississippi Palisades State Park before spending a night at the Ecology Inn on Main Street. Sip a local pale ale at the Bent River Brewing Company in Moline. Farther south, wander through Nauvoo, considered one of the most accurately restored historic districts in the country. Stroll the brick-lined streets of Alton near the confluence of three major rivers, and stop by the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower in Hartford.

**Bird’s Eye**

More than 325 species of birds embark on a round-trip migration each year along the Mississippi Flyway, making the Great River Road one of the premier bird-watching destinations in the world. Grab your binoculars and see if you can spot a red-shouldered hawk or a Kentucky warbler.
THE MIGHTY MISS

THE GREAT RIVER ROAD Follows The Mississippi, The Nation’s Second-Longest River.

To learn more about the river and see barges up close, add these stops to your trip.

- Mississippi River Visitor Center at Lock and Dam 15 on the Rock Island Arsenal
- Observation Deck of Lock and Dam 21, Quincy
- National Great Rivers Museum next to the Melvin Price Lock and Dam, Alton
Illinois is home to almost 300 miles of that legendary piece of American lore called Route 66 or the “Main Street of America.” An adventure on this bucket-list trip begins near the Clarence F. Buckingham Memorial Fountain in Chicago, and then proceeds through quaint towns dotted with the kitschy roadside attractions, retro diners and legendary stories that have long lined the route.

Make sure to stop for a tour at the Old Joliet Prison where *The Blues Brothers* movie was filmed, then pose with the replica Blues Brothers statue in the nearby Route 66 Welcome Center. Don’t miss the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac, where a huge mural sits above original bricks from the road. See the world’s largest covered wagon in Lincoln; visit Henry’s Rabbit Ranch, which boasts both real rabbits and the VW kind, in Staunton; then marvel at Madison’s Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, the original crossing point over the Mississippi.

### RETRO EATS

REV UP THE NOSTALGIA WITH THESE ROUTE 66 DINING EXPERIENCES.

- **Dell Rhea’s Chicken Basket** in Willowbrook uses the original fried chicken recipe from the 1940s.

Look for the cars perched on the roof of the **Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum** in Springfield.

Find the original corn dog at Springfield’s **Cozy Dog Drive In**.
Oversized statues rule the mother road. Here are a few of our faves.

Find Muffler Men such as the Gemini Giant in Wilmington and Paul Bunyon holding a hot dog in Atlanta.

Livingston’s Pink Elephant Antique Mall is home to a pink elephant.

Brooks Cat’sup Bottle Water Tower stands in Collinsville.
The Lincoln Highway was one of America’s first coast-to-coast roads. And Illinois was the first state to pave the entirety of its 179-mile-long section that begins near Chicago and travels west to the Mississippi River. Today, road-trippers can cruise along the Lincoln Highway and Illinois Route 38, delighting in the charming towns, country villages and roadside murals that commemorate the highway’s history.

Pull over at the opulent Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, coined A Palace for the People when it was built in 1926. Murals on sides of buildings and gazebos like those in and around Aurora share the highway’s history. See the vintage gas pumps from 1918 at the Standard Oil Filling Station in Rochelle. Then check in at Franklin Grove’s eco-friendly Lincoln Way Inn. You’ll also want to explore Fulton’s authentic Dutch windmill on the banks of the Mississippi.

More than 40 murals and 16 interpretive gazebos line the Illinois stretch of one of America’s first coast-to-coast highways. The murals share the highway’s heritage and history. The mural of the Van Buren sisters tells how, in 1916, they biked the entire road on motorcycles, then were cited for wearing men’s clothes.

A must-have for warm days, Oberweis Dairy’s Black Raspberry Chocolate Chunk combines two faves. Get a scoop (or two) in the baked-daily waffle cones at the flagship location of this family-owned chain.
Bored Games

No road trip is complete without playing a few car games with the family. Stow the electronics and laugh your way through Illinois.

A Few Favorites

20 Questions

I spy with my little eye...

Alphabet: Use both road signs and billboards

License Plates: Who can find the most U.S. states?
WHETHER IT’S ON A BIKE, ON A HIKE, ON THE ROCKS OR ON THE WATER (OR GO FOR A COMBO!), THE GREAT OUTDOORS OFFER PLENTY OF PLACES TO GET OUT AND GET ACTIVE. HERE ARE SOME FRESH-AIR OPTIONS TO EXPLORE IN ILLINOIS.

Writer Jennifer Nilsson
ON THE WATER
FIND AQUATIC ADVENTURES ON A RECLAIMED QUARRY, AT A NATURAL WILDLIFE REFUGE OR ON FRESHWATER LAKES WITH STRETCHING SHORELINES.

THE QUARRY CABLE PARK, CRYSTAL LAKE
Located within Three Oaks Recreation Area, this former mining quarry is now a 32-acre cable wake park. Rent a wakeboard (or bring your own) and launch off the jump features. If you’re not quite ready to go airborne, take a lesson from the experienced quarry instructors. Afterward, lounge by the firepit with a much-deserved burger and beverage from the Lakeside Quarry Bar and Grille. For a slower-paced lake experience play bean bag toss or just hang out on the sand.

LAKE SHELBYVILLE, SHELBYVILLE
With 172 miles of shoreline, this place is built for lake-lovers. Choose from one of three full-service marinas and join a community on the water. Stay near the water in a suite complete with a firepit, or opt for a cozy cabin or lakeside campground. Rent kayaks, pontoon boats or even a party barge, and explore the coves of Lake Shelbyville. Lunch on the water, you ask? Just cruise by Nessie’s, the floating restaurant.

SOUTH SANDUSKY RECREATION AREA, BENTON
Swimming at South Sandusky Beach, one of the best sandy shores in Southern Illinois, means gliding through the sprawling waters of Rend Lake. The recreation area is part outdoor playground and part wildlife refuge. After a dip in the lake and a picnic in the shade, see if you can break a local fishing record by catching one of the enormous crappie, catfish or largemouth bass hiding in the brush, banks and off-shore stumps of the lake.
ON A BIKE
ONCE THE CENTER OF AMERICA’S RAILWAY BOOM, ILLINOIS IS NOW A HUB FOR RAIL-TRAILS THAT ARE PERFECT FOR BIKING.

LAKEFRONT TRAIL AND THE BLOOMINGDALE TRAIL PARK, AKA THE 606, CHICAGO
There aren’t that many places in the world where you can ride along a path beside water stretching as far as the eye can see on one side and with buildings reaching higher than the clouds on the other. That’s the setting of the iconic 19-mile Lakefront Trail along Lake Michigan in Chicago. Farther west, a reclaimed railway line is now a 2.7-mile trail with green spaces, outdoor artwork and a neighborhood vibe with access points to Wicker Park, Bucktown, Logan Square and Humboldt Park.

TUNNEL HILL STATE TRAIL,
HARRISBURG TO KARNAK
This trail traces the route of the legendary Pullman train cars that once rumbled through these ravines. With more than 45 miles of well-maintained surface that passes through seven Southern Illinois towns and over bridges where train whistles once echoed, this is a destination trail for bike-lovers. The highlight of the trail is the long and narrow passageway in the aptly named town of Tunnel Hill. It’s almost impossible to resist the photo opportunity.

ROCK ISLAND TRAIL STATE PARK,
ALTA TO TOULON
Ride beside a tallgrass prairie, through fields of wildflowers and over a trestle bridge on this 26-mile trail that serves as a path through history. Once a main corridor for rail traffic, Rock Island Trail is now a place for solitude and for nature to reclaim its space. Check out the railroad museum at the renovated Wyoming Rail Station with its original red paint. It serves as the park headquarters and visitors center.
ON A HIKE
WITH LIMESTONE CLIFFS AND PRAIRIE GRASSES, HIKING TRAILS ARE AS DIVERSE AS THEY ARE PLENTIFUL.

FERNE CLYFFE STATE PARK, GOREVILLE
Hike beneath the shelter of some of the largest natural bluffs in the state in this Southern Illinois park with 18 trails. Explore the base of a waterfall on Bork’s Waterfall Trail, challenge yourself with an overnight stay in the remote campsite on Happy Hollow Backpack Trail, or weave through rare plants on the 1-mile Round Bluff Nature Preserve Trail. Trails range from easy to moderately difficult, so there is an option for all levels of hiking skills.

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON
The Joliet Army Ammunition Plant once powered the United States Army in WWII, but today the space has been reclaimed for the first national tallgrass prairie in the country. This huge restoration site offers more than 30 miles of hiking trails through a natural prairie south of Chicago. Walk through two former farmsteads near the Iron Bridge Trailhead or go bird-watching on the Henslow Trail, named for the Henslow’s sparrows that can be seen along with eastern meadowlarks, dickcissels and bobolinks.

WATERFALL GLEN FOREST PRESERVE, DARIEN
There are 11 miles of mapped trails crisscrossing the limestone bluffs of this 2,500-acre forest preserve with 740 native plant species. Take the permanently marked orienteering course to learn how to navigate trails with a map and compass. The mapped course takes you by the tiered Rocky Glen waterfall and Sawmill Creek bluff overlook. Hikers well-versed in trail navigation are invited to explore the many unmarked paths of Waterfall Glen.
ON THE ROCKS
PICNIC ON A BLUFF THAT WAS ONCE AN ISLAND OR DISCOVER A CAVE THAT WAS A STOP ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST: JACKSON FALLS, GARDEN OF THE GODS, RIM ROCK NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL
This forest has roots in nine different counties in Southern Illinois. And there is no shortage of wonders within its real estate. Jackson Falls provides some of the best rock climbing in the state, while Garden of the Gods offers some of the best views from atop jaw-dropping natural rock formations. The Upper Rim Rock Trail circles a dramatic rock escarpment, while the Lower Trail descends to a rock overhang known as Ox-lot Cave.

GIANT CITY STATE PARK, MAKANDA
It takes only a moment of meandering through the narrow path cut between the towering sandstone cliffs of the Giant City Nature Trail to understand that the “Giant City Streets” here have nothing to do with man-made skyscrapers and everything to do with the power of nature. Among cliffs carved 12,000 years ago, you are sure to feel small here. But you will also feel mighty after an epic day of rappelling these cliffs in Southern Illinois.

STARVED ROCK AND MATTHIESEN STATE PARKS, OGLESBY; BUFFALO ROCK STATE PARK, OTTAWA
Three state parks lie within 10 miles of one another, and each park has enough natural attractions to fill a week. The waterfalls at Starved Rock dot 13 miles of rock-lined trails, while the mineral springs tucked into Matthiessen are framed by plunging canyons leading to the Vermillion River. At Buffalo Rock, you can stand on a bluff that was once an island in the middle of the Illinois River. There is no better place for a picnic.
THE art of conversation

EXPLORE SOCIALLY RELEVANT THEMES AND POWERFUL MOMENTS IN HISTORY AT THESE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ART EXHIBITS IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA.

Writer Kristin Bienert

Barack Obama by Kehinde Wiley, oil on canvas, 2018. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. The National Portrait Gallery is grateful to the following lead donors for their support of the Obama portraits: Kate Capshaw and Steven Spielberg; Judith Kern and Kent Whealy; Tommie L. Pegues and Donald A. Capoccia. © 2018 Kehinde Wiley

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama by Amy Sherald, oil on linen, 2018. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. The National Portrait Gallery is grateful to the following lead donors for their support of the Obama portraits: Kate Capshaw and Steven Spielberg; Judith Kern and Kent Whealy; Tommie L. Pegues and Donald A. Capoccia.

ART FOR A LIMITED TIME

THE OBAMA PORTRAITS
Art Institute of Chicago
JUNE 18–AUGUST 15
Michelle and Barack Obama’s first date was at the Art Institute, the first stop for the couple’s portraits on a five-city tour. The portraits, on loan from the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery, were created by Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald.

FRIDA KAHLO: TIMELESS
Cleve Carney Museum of Art,
Glen Ellyn
JUNE 5–SEPTEMBER 6
Blending beauty, poise and pain, Frida Kahlo put much of her life on canvas—143 paintings, including 55 self-portraits. This summer, see more than two dozen original works of art, such as Self Portrait with Small Monkey (right) and the 1927 Portrait of Alicia Galant, (one of Kahlo’s first portraits) and 150 photographs. The art, on loan from the Museo Dolores Olmedo, is part of the largest private collection of Kahlo’s works.
**HUMAN+NATURE**
The Morton Arboretum, Lisle
**OPENS APRIL 9**
Five massive sculptures (20 to 25 feet tall), created by South African artist Daniel Popper, whose Venta a la Luz is shown above, welcome guests to explore the connection between people and trees.

**LATINXAMERICAN**
DePaul Art Museum, Chicago
**NOW THROUGH AUGUST 15**
Photographs, paintings and other works of art by nearly 40 Latinx artists occupy all of the museum’s galleries.

**MANDELA: STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM**
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Skokie
**NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12**
The dramatic exhibit explores topics such as justice and human dignity in South Africa and its relevance in today’s world. Step into an 8x7-foot room, which represents the size of the prison cell of Nelson Mandela, a Nobel Peace Prize-winner and first democratically elected South African president.

**ART FOR OUTSIDE**

Artists Melissa Leandra, Jenelle Esparza and Dianna Frid gathered at the Remember Where You Are exhibition at DePaul Art Museum, 2019. (DePaul Art Museum/Madeline Rosemurgy)
CHICAGO’S FRONT YARD

Writer Kristin Bienert
SITTING ON A PRIME STRETCH OF LAND ALONG LAKE MICHIGAN, **GRANT PARK** ENCOMPASSES OTHER NOTABLE PARKS AND ATTRACTIONS. AND, THANKS TO CHICAGOANS WHO ADVOCATED TO PROTECT IT IN 1835, THE OPEN-SPACE OASIS WILL FOREVER REMAIN FREE OF BUILDINGS.

**ICONIC GRANT PARK ATTRACTIONS**
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Buckingham Fountain
- Maggie Daley Park
- Millennium Park
- Museum Campus
A GUIDE TO GRANT PARK

THE PARK CLAIMS MORE THAN 300 ACRES BETWEEN THE CITY’S SKYLINE AND LAKE MICHIGAN IN DOWNTOWN’S LOOP. DISCOVER WIDE-OPEN SPACES, PAVED PATHS AND MUST-SEE LANDMARKS FOR PHOTO-OP BACKGROUNDS.

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

For a deeper dive, download the museum’s mobile app to learn about the master works of art.

BUCKINGHAM FOUNTAIN

Dedicated in 1927, the fountain—one of the world’s largest—is the park’s focal point.

MUSEUM CAMPUS

Spend the day at three of the city’s best-known museums: Adler Planetarium, Field Museum of Natural History and Shedd Aquarium (1 mile south of Buckingham Fountain).
MILLENNIUM PARK
Cloud Gate (aka The Bean), Crown Fountain and the Lurie Garden call Millennium Park home.

PETRILLO MUSIC SHELL
The outdoor amphitheater hosts music performances during annual festivals, such as Chicago's jazz and blues fests and Lollapalooza.

MAGGIE DALEY PARK
Scoot or skate through the ribbon, which becomes an ice skating rink come late winter. Or test your strength and stamina on the climbing wall late spring to early fall.

LAKEFRONT TRAIL
Pedestrians, joggers and bicyclers share the paved, almost 19-mile-long path along the lake.

MARINAS AND HARBORS
The Monroe and DuSable harbors are home to the Chicago and Columbia yacht clubs, where more than 1,000 boats dock every year.
Family reunions, single family vacations or romantic couples getaways

17 well spaced cabins in varying sizes spread throughout 65 acres of wooded property, all just a 10 minute drive from Starved Rock & Matthiessen State Parks. 12 of our cabins offer huge double sized whirlpool tubs for the perfect romantic getaway. Family owned and operated for over 30 years. Our cabins all offer central air & heat, full kitchens, personal outdoor bonfire pits, picnic tables & grills. Come enjoy the quiet nature getaway Kishauwau offers today. We look forward to speaking with you soon.

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IDEAS AROUND THE STATE

PHOTOGRAPHS: (DRIVE) IOT, (ART MUSEUM) JASON LINDSEY, (VINEYARD) JOHN NOLTNER, (HOTEL) BOB STEFKO

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

GREAT RIVER ROAD, ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

KRANNERT ART MUSEUM, CHAMPAIGN

OWL CREEK VINEYARD, COBDEN

HOTEL BAKER, ST. CHARLES
CHICAGO & BEYOND

THE CITY OF THE BIG SHOULDERS STRETCHES ITS ARMS NORTH TO BURBS ON LAKE MICHIGAN AND WEST TO THE FOX RIVER VALLEY.

With a skyline of world-class architecture creating major curb appeal, Lake Michigan providing a huge backyard water park, and nearly 10 million people to call neighbors, it’s no wonder so many people call Chicagoland home—and it’s no surprise why others come to visit. The third-largest metropolitan area in the U.S. is a center of trade and culture. Diverse urban neighborhoods spread their distinctive sights, sounds and flavors throughout the city’s north, south and west sides, while the suburbs offer their own personalities and attractions.

North Shore communities like Northbrook and Evanston, though less than 30 miles north of downtown, seem farther from the Windy City bustle, thanks to abundant green spaces and proximity to the lake. Settled by former city dwellers seeking a quieter lifestyle, the North Shore still feels like an escape. In the western suburbs, the Fox River flows from Wisconsin, past towns with energetic downtowns like Algonquin and St. Charles before curving southwest on its way to meet the Illinois River in Ottawa. Explore the Fox River Valley to find fun on and off the water.

EAT

Vintage 53, St. Charles
Enjoy wine, cheese and charcuterie at this cozy downtown bar with a rustic-industrial feel. Live music on weekends.

Allgauer’s on the Riverfront, Northbrook
Come to the Hilton for Sunday champagne brunch and a patio by the Des Plaines River.

DO

Fox River Trail
Walk or bike this 45-mile, mostly limestone path connecting Algonquin to Aurora, crossing prairies, streams and wetlands.

Lake Bluff Golf Club, Lake Bluff
Play a public course with private-club amenities like state-of-the-art irrigation.

STAY

Margarita European Inn, Ascend Hotel Collection, Evanston
Relax in a historic property with Old World touches like a cage Otis elevator, parlor, library and rooftop terrace.

Hotel Baker, St. Charles
Marble-accented baths and original pieces from the 1928 hotel create elegance in a scenic riverside setting.
The Mississippi and Illinois rivers frame Great Rivers Country, a region of 33 counties known for scenic drives, abundant wildlife and outdoor recreation. It’s a place to taste farm-fresh food, relax at a retreat, explore historic towns and, come winter, watch bald eagles. One idyllic spot is Galesburg, set about halfway between the two great rivers. Galesburg mixes a rich literary history (writer and poet Carl Sandburg was born here) with contemporary campus-town culture (Knox College). More than 1,000 town buildings appear on the National Register of Historic Places, and Galesburg is still a rail hub—120 trains pass through each day, including Amtrak passenger service. Peoria, hugging the Illinois River, was the first European settlement in Illinois, and one of the earliest in the Midwest. Native Americans lived here for centuries, no doubt appreciating the commanding views from a stretch of high ground that became Grandview Drive. The route and adjacent park (with trails) look out over the river valley, with vistas stretching more than 30 miles on a clear day. During a post-presidency visit in 1910, Teddy Roosevelt called it the world’s most beautiful drive.
Land Of Lincoln

Honest Abe’s legacy lives on around his old stomping grounds, while college campuses invigorate two mid-sized metro areas with youthful energy.

Rich with presidential history and prairie farmland, this central Illinois region represents the heart of the state. Smaller towns celebrate their heritage with museums and festivals, while bigger cities buzz with arts, shopping, dining and nightlife. Seemingly all the region’s roads lead to the twin cities of Bloomington-Normal, a metro area crisscrossed by Interstates 39, 55 and 74, as well as historic Route 66. It’s a hub for higher education, home to Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, Heartland Community College and Lincoln College-Normal. Insurance giant State Farm keeps its headquarters in Bloomington. About an hour down the road, Champaign-Urbana is a campus town, too, home to the University of Illinois. It also boasts a State Farm connection—the Fighting Illini basketball teams play at State Farm Center (formerly Assembly Hall), a 15,500-seat arena that serves as a site for big-name concerts and Broadway shows. The campus is known for its fine arts and performing arts venues, plus an arboretum. Off-campus spots offer opportunities to sample craft beer and sophisticated cuisine.

EAT

Destihl Restaurant and Brew Works, Normal
Come for the beer and stay for the food. Or vice versa. Sunday brings fried chicken.

Black Dog Smoke and Ale House, Urbana and Champaign
Savor house-smoked barbecue and craft beers. Get there early for the hot-selling burnt ends.

DO

Children’s Discovery Museum, Normal
Three floors of interactive exhibits allow hands-on learning through play. Pint-sized Picassos love the art studio.

Krannert Art Museum, Champaign
See edgy exhibits like a celebration of home spaces designed by Black girls and women (through July 3).

STAY

Vrooman Mansion, Bloomington
Sink into 1900s-style luxury and eat where Woodrow Wilson and William Jennings Bryan once dined.

Allerton Park and Retreat Center, Monticello
Peace and magic await at the 1900 mansion and wooded estate of artist and philanthropist Robert Allerton.

PHOTOGRAPHS (UI, ALLERTON) JASON LINDSEY, (FRIED CHICKEN) DESTIHL, (TOM’S PLACE) COURTESY OF TOM’S PLACE, (LODGE) JOHN NOLTNER, (GARDEN OF THE GODS) RYAN DONNELL
TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

SOME OF MOTHER NATURE’S SWEETEST EYE CANDY
AND THE FRUITS OF HUMAN LABOR STIMULATE
THE SENSES IN ILLINOIS’ GARDEN SPOT.

Southernmost Illinois offers a sprawling playground
for outdoors-lovers. The big attraction is vast Shawnee
National Forest, which wows locals and visitors alike with
displays of nature’s sheer power. Garden of the Gods, a stretch
of ancient sandstone cliffs and rock formations, is one of the most
photographed places in Illinois. Bikers, golfers and anglers will
also find much to love in the region’s other wilderness areas,
parks, lakes and trails. And if sipping a glass of wine on a
to your idea of outdoor

recreation, the Shawnee Hills
Wine Trail hits 11 stops on a
40-mile route. The best way to
explore this area is to toss a
pair of hiking boots in the back
seat, so you can pop out for
treks while driving between the
towns of Carbondale, Makanda,
Anna, Pomona and Murphysboro.
Carbondale provides a base
camp for adventures in nature, but
it’s a cultural center, too—home to
Southern Illinois University and its
arts venues, the University Museum
and McLeod Theater. Downtown
Carbondale anchors a diverse
dining, shopping and music scene.

DO

Tom’s Place, DeSoto
Enjoy a fine-dining experience at this century-old restaurant.

17th Street Barbecue, Murphysboro and Marion
Legendary Pitmaster Mike Mills cooks his dry-rub baby-back ribs
over an open pit of cherry and apple woods.

Pomona Natural Bridge, Pomona
A short but sweet trail leads to this walkable arch carved into the sandstone
by rushing water.

Makanda Boardwalk, Makanda
In the gateway town to Giant City State Park,
find this artists’ haven lined with studios selling
local works.

Owl Creek Vineyard and Apple Knocker Hard Cider, Cobden
Sip a Chardonowl or Owl’s Leap (dry red) or try a hard cider like Hard Knocks on the deck.

STAY

Giant City Lodge, Makanda
Check out the massive stone fireplace in this rustic spot.

EAT

Tom’s Place, DeSoto
Enjoy a fine-dining experience at this century-old restaurant.

17th Street Barbecue, Murphysboro and Marion
Legendary Pitmaster Mike Mills cooks his dry-rub baby-back ribs
over an open pit of cherry and apple woods.

DESTINATION

Tom’s Place, DeSoto
Enjoy a fine-dining experience at this century-old restaurant.

17th Street Barbecue, Murphysboro and Marion
Legendary Pitmaster Mike Mills cooks his dry-rub baby-back ribs
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A short but sweet trail leads to this walkable arch carved into the sandstone
by rushing water.

Makanda Boardwalk, Makanda
In the gateway town to Giant City State Park,
find this artists’ haven lined with studios selling
local works.

Owl Creek Vineyard and Apple Knocker Hard Cider, Cobden
Sip a Chardonowl or Owl’s Leap (dry red) or try a hard cider like Hard Knocks on the deck.

Giant City Lodge, Makanda
Check out the massive stone fireplace in this rustic spot.

enjoyillinois.com 61
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, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestil.com
Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau
888/895-8233, 708/895-8200, visitchicagosouthland.com
Chicago’s North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau
847/763-0011, visitchicagonorthshore.com
Choose Chicago
312/567-8500, choosechicago.com
DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau
877/335-2521, 815/756-1336, dekalbcountrycvb.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, 815/216-9960, heritagecorridorcvb.com
Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau
815/935-7390, visitkankakeecounty.com
Meet Chicago Northwest
800/847-6869, 847/490-1010, chicagonorthwest.com

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY
Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau
800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestil.com
Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau
309/343-2485, experiencegalesburg.com
Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau of Southwest Illinois
800/258-6645, 618/465-6676, riversandroutes.com
Henry County Tourism Bureau
309/761-8473, visithenrycounty.com
ILLINOISouth Tourism
618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org
Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
309/833-1315, visitfortgottenia.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
ILLINOIS South 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
217/789-2360, 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, visitspringfieldillinois.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS
Cumberland Road I-70, rest area westbound, Marshall
Salt Kettle I-74, rest area westbound, Oakwood

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE
Carbondale Tourist Information Center
618/529-4451, carbondaletourism.org
ILLINOIS South 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, 618/997-3690, visitsi.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS
Fort Massac
5402 Hwy. 65 S, Metropolis
Rend Lake North I-57, rest area northbound, Whittington
Rend Lake South I-57, rest area southbound, Whittington
TRAVELER INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARRIVING BY PLANE
Domestic travelers can fly direct to destinations including Belleville, Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, 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 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 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.

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
For more than 85 years, drive-in theaters have provided an ideal venue for outdoor entertainment. While the number of Illinois theaters has dwindled from more than 120 to fewer than 10 today, drive-ins are experiencing a resurgence. And, pop-up drive-ins are appearing in neighborhoods too. Pack up the kiddos (most also welcome pets) and watch family-friendly flicks from the comfort of your car.

1. Route 34 Drive-In Theater 4468 E. 12th Rd., Earlville
2. Drive 'N Theatre 16045 E. Hwy. 33, Newton
3. Skyview Drive In 5700 N. Belt W, Belleville
4. Blue Moonlight Drive-In Theatre 2875 W. Main St, Galesburg
5. McHenry Outdoor Theater 1510 N. Chapel Hill Rd, McHenry
6. Midway Drive-In Theatre 91 Palmyra Rd., Sterling
7. Litchfield Skyview Drive In 1500 Old Rte 66 N, Litchfield
8. Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Theatre 1175 S. Sangamon Ave, Gibson City
9. Route 66 Drive In Theatre 1700 Recreation Dr, Springfield
BLAZ YOUR ON TRAIL

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

Joliet Area Historical Museum
Joliet

Old Joliet Prison
Joliet

The Gemini Giant
Wilmington

Illinois Route 66 Hall of Fame
Pontiac

Heritage Corridor
convention & visitors bureau

CANAL TOWNS
ROUTE 66
STARVED ROCK

enjoy illinois
With plenty of elbow room, the Chicago Northwest suburbs have the places to explore the outdoors. View some of our Chicago Northwest inspiration and get creative on your next outdoor adventure!

847.490.1010 | ChicagoNorthwest.com/inspiration