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ARE YOU UP FOR
AMAZING?



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INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS



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CHICAGO

EXPERIENCE THIS WORLD-CLASS CITY THAT BUZZES WITH EXCITEMENT 24/7.

A jaw-dropping skyline with soaring skyscrapers is the backdrop for bustling Chicago, set on the azure waters of Lake Michigan. Interact with the arts in a downtown cultural playground. Wander through world-renowned museums. Catch a Broadway show in a historic theatre. Ride the giant Centennial Wheel with sweeping city views. Spend the afternoon shopping luxury designer stores on a mile that can only be described as magnificent. Bike the scenic lakefront or simply sunbathe on a sandy beach. And dine on everything from famed deep-dish pizza to acclaimed Michelin-starred cuisine. Chicago offers it all.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Lake Michigan
- Lakefront Trail
- North Avenue & Oak Street Beaches
- Navy Pier
- Cloud Gate at Millennium Park
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Chicago Helicopter Experience
- Skydeck Chicago
- 360 Chicago
- The Magnificent Mile
- Chicago Riverwalk
- Buckingham Fountain
- The 606 Trail
- Maggie Daley Park



Cloud Gate at Millennium Park



Navy Pier



Skydeck Chicago



Lake Michigan

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE

SEE THE DAZZLING CITYSCAPE FROM A
NEW PERSPECTIVE.

Chicago is known worldwide for its architecture, with a stunning skyline shaped by legendary architects that include Mies van der Rohe and Daniel Burnham (who designed the first skyscraper). And there are many ways to view it up close. Sail right into the heart of the cityscape on a narrated river cruise that showcases architectural gems. Glide along the lakefront on a Segway or join a group bike hike. Command a kayak and paddle the winding Chicago River. Or board an old-fashioned trolley that lets you hop on and off at your favourite sites.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise
- Chicago Segway Tour
- Bobby's Bike Hike
- Urban Kayaks
- Chicago Trolley Tours
- Big Bus Tours Chicago
- Bike and Roll Chicago
- Shoreline Sightseeing
- Chicago Cultural Center/ Tiffany Dome
- Historic Water Tower & Pumping Station
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House



Bobby's Bike Hike



CAF River Cruise



Historic Water Tower

CHICAGO MUSEUMS

ADD THESE MUST-SEE MUSEUMS TO YOUR AGENDA.

Chicago is home to some of the world's leading museums. Admire the master works of Monet, Picasso and Warhol all in one incredible place. Discover a leafy terraced garden dotted with modern sculptures. Spend the day at a lakefront museum campus where you can watch dolphins leap in a cool blue pool, tiptoe past a fierce T. rex dinosaur and explore an Egyptian tomb, then be blasted into the cosmos from your seat in a cutting-edge sky theatre. Or ride through an underground coal mine and inspect the inner workings of a submarine at a giant science museum.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

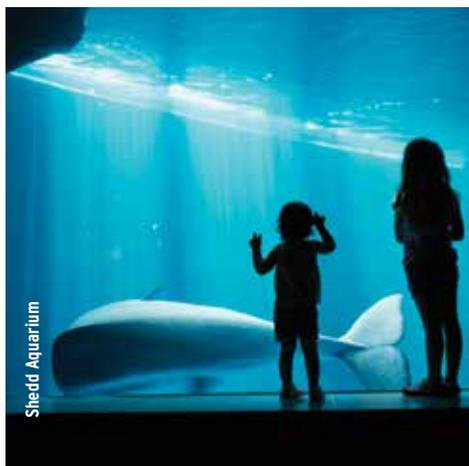
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Shedd Aquarium
- The Field Museum
- Adler Planetarium
- Museum of Science and Industry
- Chicago History Museum
- Driehaus Museum
- DuSable Museum of African American History
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- National Museum of Mexican Art
- Chicago Children's Museum
- Go Chicago Card
- CityPass Chicago



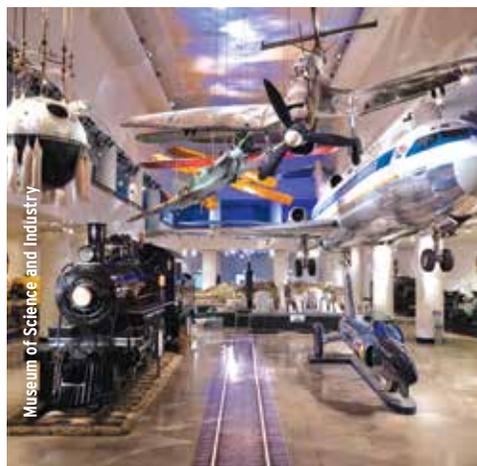
The Field Museum



Art Institute of Chicago



Shedd Aquarium



Museum of Science and Industry

CHICAGO SPORTS

CHEER ON CHICAGO'S WINNING TEAMS.

If you're a sports fan, you've landed in the right city. You'll see superhuman home runs and light-up-the-sky fireworks during baseball games played at the opposite ends of the city by Chicago's two winning Major League teams. Head to the United Center to witness the extraordinary athletics of a basketball game or the lightning-quick moves of an ice hockey team, depending on the evening. Catch American football action on the turf of an impressive lakefront stadium. And cheer a fast-paced soccer match played with a home field advantage.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Chicago Cubs Baseball
- Chicago White Sox Baseball
- Chicago Bulls Basketball
- Chicago Blackhawks Hockey
- Chicago Bears Football
- Chicago Fire Soccer
- Auto Racing at Chicagoland Speedway



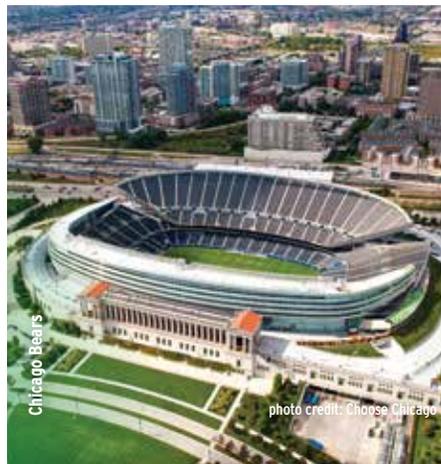
Chicago Cubs

photo credit: Choose Chicago



Chicago Blackhawks

photo credit: Chicago Blackhawks



Chicago Bears

photo credit: Choose Chicago



Chicago Bulls

photo credit: Chicago Bulls

CHICAGO ENTERTAINMENT

EXPLORE THE CITY'S NIGHTLIFE SCENE.

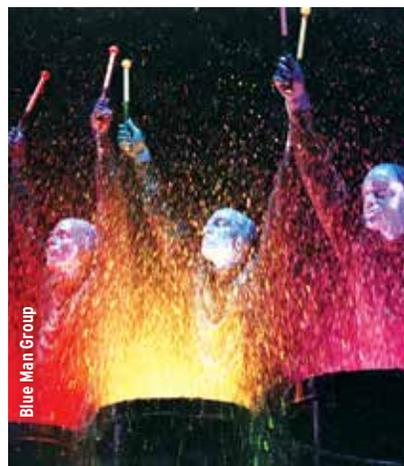
You'll never be bored in Chicago, where entertainment venues are lit up seven nights a week. See a hit Broadway show in the historic downtown theatre district. Laugh at the quick-witted improv of tomorrow's comedy stars. Be surprised by the unexpected antics of a trio of bald blue men, and don't sit in the front row without a rain poncho (trust us!). Listen to some of the best live blues music in the country. Or steal away to hear sultry cabaret singers in an intimate jazz club with a notorious Prohibition Era past.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Broadway in Chicago
- The Chicago Theatre
- The Second City
- Blue Man Group
- Buddy Guy's Legends
- House of Blues
- Kingston Mines
- B.L.U.E.S.
- Blue Chicago
- Green Mill Jazz Club
- Andy's Jazz Club & Restaurant
- Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club
- Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- Lyric Opera of Chicago



Michigan Avenue



Blue Man Group



The Chicago Theatre

photo credit: Choose Chicago

CHICAGO DINING

TASTE YOUR WAY AROUND THE CITY.

Chicago is a foodie's paradise. Dine on remarkable meals that show off the talents of the city's Michelin-star chefs who are at the top of their culinary games. Dig into deliciously thick and cheesy deep-dish pizza, which was invented right here in Chicago. Snack on hot dogs that have been elevated to an art form, trimmed with onions, relish, tomatoes, a pickle spear, sport peppers and mustard (never ketchup). And get in line to grab a bag of fresh-popped popcorn; try the melt-in-your-mouth mix of sweet caramel and salty cheddar cheese.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Alinea
- Au Cheval
- Berghoff Restaurant
- Blackbird
- Boka
- Garrett Popcorn Shops
- Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse
- Gino's East
- Giordano's
- Girl & the Goat
- Grace
- Longman & Eagle
- Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
- Lula Cafe
- North Pond
- Pequod's Pizza
- Piccolo Sogno
- Pizzeria Uno
- Portillo's
- The Publican
- Shanghai Terrace
- Spiaggia
- Topolobampo
- Tru



Shanghai Terrace



The Publican



Lou Malnati's Pizzeria

photo credit: Choose Chicago



Lula Cafe

CHICAGO SHOPPING

SHOP CHIC CITY BOUTIQUES AND DESIGNER BARGAINS.

If you're on a shopping mission, look no further than Chicago and its nearby suburbs. Spend a day on North Michigan Avenue, better known as The Magnificent Mile. Stroll block after block of this beautiful boulevard lined with impressive flagship stores, and upscale malls featuring chic boutiques and major department stores. Just steps from the Magnificent Mile is Oak Street, home to some of the biggest names in fashion. State Street offers trendy shops housed in historic downtown buildings. For unbelievable designer deals, head beyond the city to some of the area's biggest outlet malls.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- The Magnificent Mile
- Oak Street
- State Street
- Water Tower Place
- 900 North Michigan Shops
- The Shops at North Bridge
- Gurnee Mills, Gurnee
- Westfield Old Orchard, Skokie
- Woodfield Mall, Schaumburg
- Fashion Outlets of Chicago, Rosemont
- Chicago Premium Outlets, Aurora



Macy's State Street

photo credit: Choose Chicago



The Magnificent Mile

photo credit: Choose Chicago



Fashion Outlets of Chicago

BEYOND CHICAGO

DISCOVER A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS.

Marvel at the beauty of the season at blooming botanic gardens, or hike wooded state park trails and explore sparkling waterfalls. Spend the day riding wild roller coasters, splashing in a giant water park or cheering race cars as they whip around a speedway. Tour historic homes designed by esteemed architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe. Encounter dinosaurs in a riverside museum. Discover the I&M Canal, America's first National Heritage Area. At night, catch a concert or try your luck at an exciting casino.

Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford



MAKE IT AMAZING:

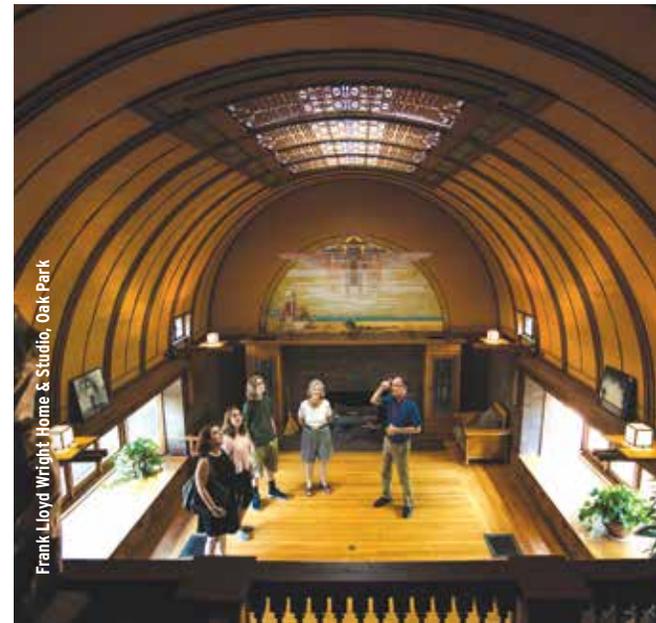
- Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford
- Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Laurent House, Rockford
- Six Flags Great America & Hurricane Harbor, Gurnee
- KeyLime Cove Indoor Waterpark Resort, Gurnee
- Ravinia Festival, Highland Park
- Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe
- Baha'i House of Worship, Wilmette
- Rivers Casino, Des Plaines
- MB Financial Park at Rosemont, Rosemont
- Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio, Oak Park
- Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield
- The Morton Arboretum, Lisle
- Farnsworth House, Plano
- Chicagoland Speedway & Route 66 Raceway, Joliet
- I&M Canal National Heritage Area
- Starved Rock State Park, Utica
- Skydive Chicago, Ottawa



Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe



Farnsworth House, Plano



Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio, Oak Park

ROUTE 66

TRAVEL HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FOR A NOSTALGIC SLICE OF AMERICANA.

The Illinois leg of this storied byway, which begins in Chicago and stretches across the country to Santa Monica, is delightfully frozen in time. Explore the Mother Road and you'll discover friendly devotees who keep the spirit of 66 alive with quirky roadside attractions, like a smiling spaceman and a giant catsup bottle (which make for perfect selfies). Step into museums filled with amazing memorabilia. Settle into a booth at delicious diners that still serve up homemade specials. And listen to legendary tales of an era when road trips were the way to see America.

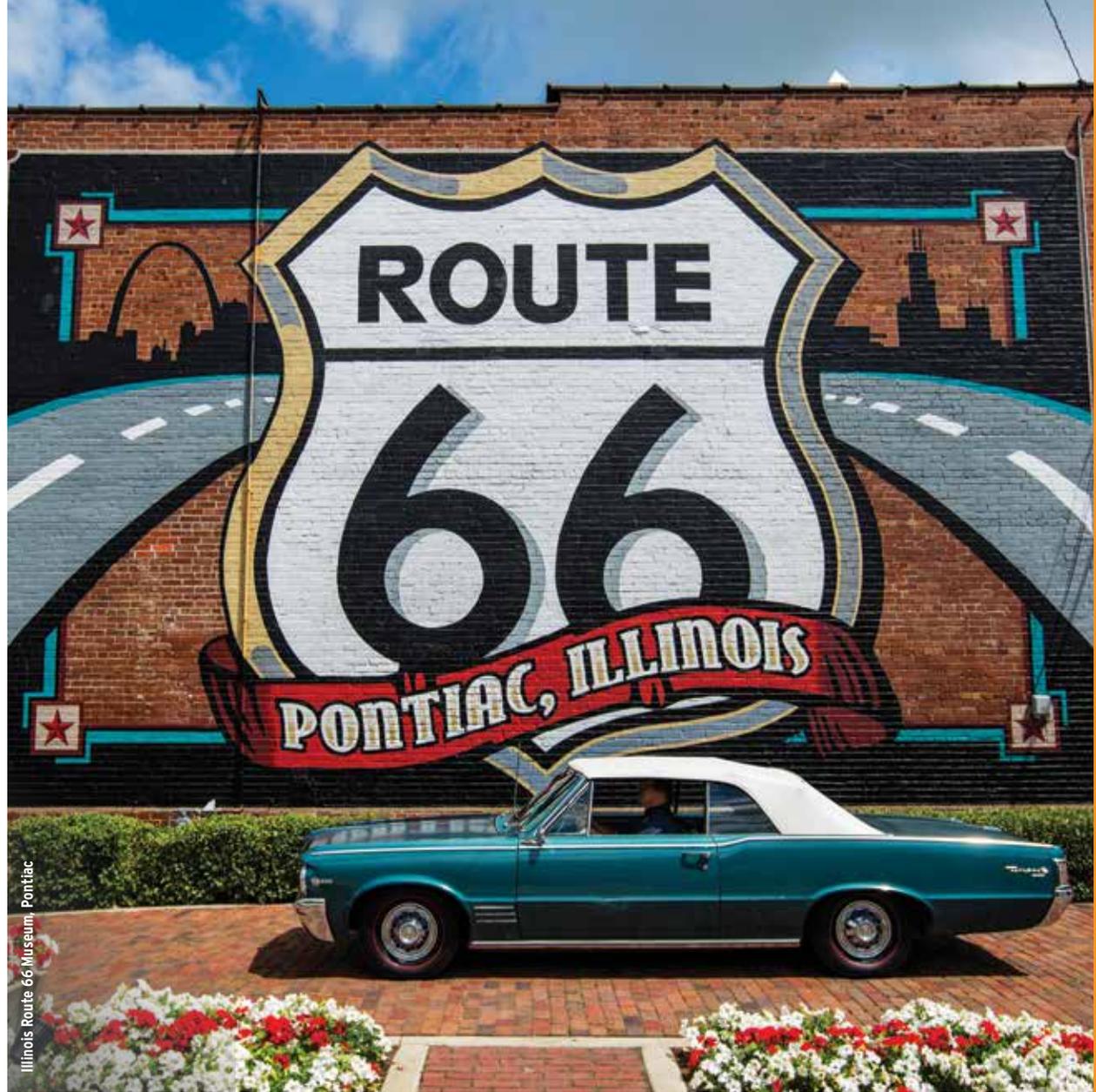




Cozy Dog Drive In, Springfield

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Historic Route 66
- Buckingham Fountain, Chicago
- Lou Mitchell's Restaurant, Chicago
- Joliet Area Historical Museum, Joliet
- Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet
- Gemini Giant, Wilmington
- Ambler's Texaco Gas Station, Dwight
- Standard Oil Gas Station, Odell
- Illinois Route 66 Association Hall of Fame & Museum, Pontiac
- Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum, Pontiac
- Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center, Bloomington
- The Palms Grill Cafe, Atlanta
- Paul Bunyon Hot Dog Statue, Atlanta
- World's Largest Covered Wagon, Lincoln
- Cozy Dog Drive In, Springfield
- Original Brick Road, Auburn
- Ariston Cafe, Litchfield
- Henry's Rabbit Ranch, Staunton
- World's Largest Catsup Bottle, Collinsville
- Chain of Rocks Bridge, Madison



Illinois Route 66 Museum, Pontiac



Standard Oil Gas Station, Odell



Gemini Giant, Wilmington

ILLINOIS MADE

MEET THE CREATORS, MAKERS
AND ARTISANS OF ILLINOIS.

Get a firsthand look at the maker spirit in Illinois as you explore one-of-a-kind restaurants, breweries, and artisans of all types around the state. Sip handcrafted beer and small batch bourbon. Watch a glassblower create a stunning vase. Savour dishes crafted by a chef who personally harvests the ingredients by hand. Browse the oversized works of an artist who believes bigger is better (think world's largest wind chime and rocking chair, for starters). And visit a canoe maker just a few steps away from the Mississippi River who uses old world techniques to create floating works of art.



Toraason Glass, Peoria



Steve Meadows Folk Art Gallery, Palestine



MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Blaum Bros. Distilling Co., Galena
- Rockford Art Deli, Rockford
- Whiskey Acres Distilling Co., DeKalb
- Heritage Bicycles, Chicago
- Revolution Brewing, Chicago
- Navarro Canoe Co., Rock Island
- Tangled Roots Brewing Company, Ottawa
- Illinois Sparkling Co., Utica
- Toraason Glass, Peoria
- Epiphany Farms, Bloomington
- Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup, Shirley
- Custom Cup Coffee, Springfield
- Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Springfield & Peoria
- Big Things in a Small Town, Casey
- Firefly Grill, Effingham
- Steve Meadows Folk Art Gallery, Palestine
- Mississippi Mud Pottery, Alton
- Scratch Brewing Company, Ava



Tangled Roots Brewing Company, Ottawa



Firefly Grill, Effingham



Scratch Brewing Company, Ava

SPRINGFIELD

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HISTORY-CHANGING U.S. PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Learn about Lincoln's remarkable life at Springfield's presidential museum that traces his roots from his days as a travelling lawyer to the office of the White House through lifelike vignettes, dazzling special effects and rare artefacts. See the frontier town where a young Lincoln began his career come to life with costumed villagers. Wander the halls of the imposing state building where he tried cases and gave inspiring speeches. Tour the Lincoln family home that looks virtually unchanged from the 1800s. And pay your respects at the president's monumental tomb.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
- Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- Lincoln Tomb
- Old State Capitol State Historic Site
- Illinois State Capitol
- Dana-Thomas House
- Illinois State Museum
- Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site
- Lincoln's Ghost Walk Tour
- History Comes Alive
- Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg

Lincoln Tomb



Lincoln Home National Historic Site



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum



GALENA

GET SWEEPED UP IN THE HISTORY OF THIS QUAIN T RIVER TOWN.

Galena's Main Street has been heralded as one of the best in the U.S., thanks to its striking Civil War-era architecture that now houses more than 125 charming shops, galleries and restaurants. Stroll winding Main Street and discover local finds such as handcrafted pottery and artisan-made chocolates. Or head to the countryside and sample award-winning wines at picturesque vineyards. Stay the night in a mansion bed and breakfast nestled in the hills above Galena, or opt for a sprawling resort complete with championship golf courses.

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Main Street Galena
- Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa
- Galena on the Fly
- Galena Trolley Tours
- Fever River Outfitters
- Galena Brewing Company
- Miss Kitty's Grape Escape
- Galena Cellars Vineyard & Winery
- Massbach Ridge Winery, Elizabeth
- Rocky Waters Vineyard & Winery, Hanover
- Segway Tours at Chestnut Mountain Resort
- Soaring Eagle Zipline at Chestnut Mountain Resort
- Long Hollow Canopy Tours
- Ulysses S. Grant Home

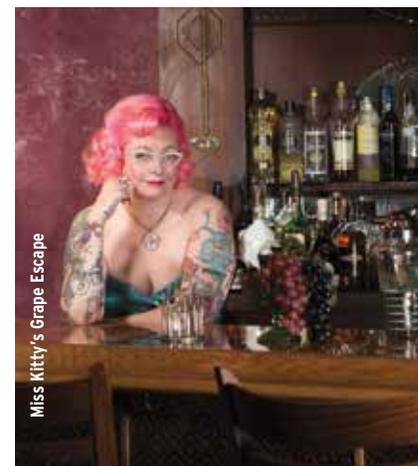


Main Street Galena

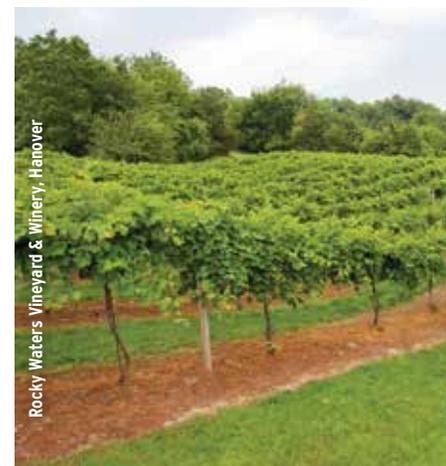
photo credit: Robert Keeling



Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa



Miss Kitty's Grape Escape



Rocky Waters Vineyard & Winery, Hanover

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

**CRUISE ALONG THE WATERWAYS THAT
LINK THIS SCENIC REGION.**

Drive the scenic Great River Road and have your camera ready to snap shots of the mighty Mississippi River. Hike forested state parks that are home to bald eagles that nest among the bluffs in the winter. Get a bird's eye view on an adrenaline-pumping zipline ride through the woods. Learn about the explorers and innovators who put Illinois on the world map. Climb mysterious mounds that were once home to an ancient Native American culture. Or just soak up the scenery from the deck of a relaxing riverboat cruise.





Spirit of Peoria, Peoria

MAKE IT AMAZING:

- Mississippi Palisades State Park, Savanna
- De Immigrant Windmill, Fulton
- John Deere Pavilion, Moline
- Celebration River Cruises, Moline
- Caterpillar Visitors Center, Peoria
- Spirit of Peoria, Peoria
- Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton
- Grafton Zipline, Grafton
- Mississippi River Bluffs, Alton
- National Great Rivers Museum, Alton
- Melvin Price Locks & Dam, Alton
- Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower, Hartford
- Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, Hartford
- Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville



Tara Point Inn & Cottages, Grafton



John Deere Pavilion, Moline



Grafton Zipline, Grafton



ILLINOIS ANNUAL EVENTS

MARK THESE FUN FESTIVALS AND EVENTS ON
YOUR TRAVEL CALENDAR.

SUMMER (June/July/August)

- Chicago Blues Festival (Chicago)
- Chicago Pride Festival & Parade (Chicago)
- Superman Celebration (Metropolis)
- Blues on the Fox Festival (Aurora)
- Taste of Chicago (Chicago)
- World's Largest Catsup Bottle Festival (Collinsville)
- Illinois State Fair (Springfield)
- Lollapalooza (Chicago)
- Chicago Air & Water Show (Chicago)
- Chicago Jazz Festival (Chicago)

AUTUMN (Sept./Oct./Nov.)

- Chicago Gourmet (Chicago)
- Chicago Architecture Biennial (Chicago)
- International Route 66 Mother Road Festival (Springfield)
- Morton Pumpkin Festival (Morton)
- Nascar Sprint Cup Weekend at Chicagoland Speedway (Joliet)
- Bank of America Chicago Marathon (Chicago)
- Nouveau Wine Weekend (Galena)
- Magnificent Mile Lights Festival (Chicago)
- East Peoria Festival of Lights (East Peoria)

WINTER (Dec./Jan./Feb.)

- Christkindlmarket (Chicago)
- Chi-Town Rising (Chicago)
- Bald Eagle Trolley Tours at Starved Rock (Utica)
- Bald Eagle Days at Pere Marquette State Park (Grafton)
- Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition (Rockford)
- Chinese New Year (Chicago)
- Chicago Restaurant Week (Chicago)

SPRING (March/April/May)

- Sock Monkey Madness Festival at Midway Village Museum (Rockford)
- St. Patrick's Day Parade (Chicago)
- Wine Lovers Weekend (Galena)
- Dutch Days Festival (Fulton)
- Illinois Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival (Joliet to Towanda)
- Funks Grove Maple Syrup Experience (McLean)

