

illinois

Fall-o-ween in Illinois



spellbound in the suburbs

Experience all you love about fall just outside Chicago

As you go past the city limits during fall, the skyscrapers give way to apple orchards & pumpkin patches. The air smells of kettle corn and apple cider donuts. Trees burst with captivating gold, red, and orange. And after dark, even a few ghosts roam the streets looking to enjoy the season, too.



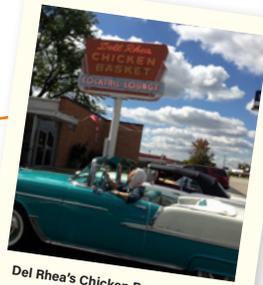
3 days
181mi
(Approx)

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Bengtson's Pumpkin Farm



Del Rhea's Chicken Basket



Zombie Apocalypse Tactical Laser Tag at The Forge

Many attractions have reopened with limited capacity or different operating hours. Inquire with attractions ahead of time for up-to-date travel policies and health and safety information.

📍 Day 1 Plainfield, Homer Glen, Justice, Lemont, Joliet, and Lockport

As you breathe in the crisp air of this idyllic autumn morning, it's tough to imagine the ghostly frights and supernatural mysteries you'll encounter once night rolls around. But push that out of your mind for now – you need to decide how you'll start your day.

From hayrides to pumpkin and apple picking, you'll have your hands full at **Bronkberry Farms** in Plainfield. If you stop here, make sure to grab some freshly grown veggies on the way out.

Or perhaps you'd rather check out **Bengtson's Pumpkin Farm** in Homer Glen. This delightful farm-carnival hybrid offers ample attractions to fill an entire day, so you'll need to be strategic. Which rousing ride looks most exhilarating, the Rockin' Rabbits, Rooster Rodeo or Cow Coaster? Do you dare for a scare in the Haunted Barn, or fancy a ride on a pretty pony?

It's still early, but you've been quite the busy body – it's time for a pit stop. Head to Willowbrook for lunch at **Del Rhea's Chicken Basket**, a nostalgia-inspiring Route 66 mainstay that was featured on the hit show *Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives*.

Across the Des Plaines River in Justice, you'll find Chet's Melody Lounge – and the **spooky tradition** it's known for. If you visit on Sunday, you'll notice that the staff leaves a Bloody Mary at the end of the bar, seemingly for no one in particular. In fact, it's intended for Resurrection Mary, the ghost who has haunted that stretch of Archer Avenue since the 1930s. Stop by, and maybe you'll witness the first time Mary stops in to claim her cocktail.

Whew, that was disconcerting. Get the blood circulating again with **Zombie Apocalypse Tactical Laser Tag** at **The Forge: Lemont Quarries Adventure Park**. During October, you can courageously enter this post-apocalyptic world and battle a horde of the undead to prevent them from overtaking the world. No pressure, though.

Surviving a zombie revolution can be draining – you've earned a drink, a snack and a break from the chaos at **Corner Stone Tavern** a couple blocks away.

The journey resumes with a drive to Joliet, where you'll check into the **Hollywood Casino Hotel**. If you have some time, feel free to dabble in table games or place a wager at the onsite sportsbook. Reserve a table for dinner at **Final Cut Steakhouse**, which is located within the hotel.

After a brief respite, the ghoulish tour continues. Not far from the hotel, you'll discover **Haunted Trails**, a Halloween-themed park with endless opportunities for family fun, including go-karts, miniature golf, and batting cages. If it's chilly outside, step into the Monsters' Tomb Game Room and take aim at winning a huge selection of prizes.

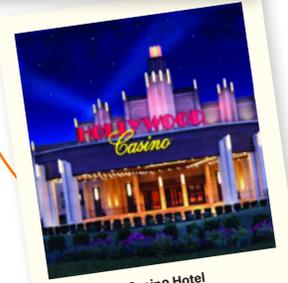
Does an ominous, 19th century prison sound more appealing than a theme park? If so, opt for a tour of **Old Joliet Prison** instead, where you'll be regaled with grim stories and chilling rumors of nefarious criminals who spent hard time locked within its walls. Keep in mind that haunted tours happen on Fridays.

If **HellsGate Haunted House** sounds creepy and foreboding, well...that's because it is. Within this isolated mansion deep in the Lockport woods, you'll have to brave secret passages, giant slides, and shocking surprises while attempting to keep a clear head to finish the journey. Remember to book your adventure in advance.

Congratulations, you made it through. You've made it this far – there's no going back now. Head to the hotel, get some sleep, and brace yourself for round two.



Corner Stone Tavern



Hollywood Casino Hotel



Haunted Trails



Old Joliet Prison



HellsGate Haunted House

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📍 Day 2 Lisle, Lincolnshire, and Gurnee

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so this is a big decision: **The Southern Cafe** in nearby Crest Hill, or **Egg Harbor Cafe** a bit further up the road in Naperville? Both menus offer a wide range of wholesome American breakfast dishes, and each includes fun pancake flavors fit for the season – s’mores at The Southern, and pumpkin at Egg Harbor.

The **Morton Arboretum** in Lisle is a wondrous sight to behold any time of year, but in the autumn, it’s truly spectacular. See the vivid fall colors at its **Maple Collection**, vote for your favorite handmade scarecrow on the **Scarecrow Trail**, and peruse (and purchase) striking, glass-blown art at the **Glass Pumpkin Patch**.

Next, you’ll hit the road, traveling from the western suburbs to the equally charming northwest suburbs. At **Didier Farms** in Lincolnshire, you’ll discover yourself in the middle of Pumpkinfest, where you can tackle a corn maze and experience the exotic zoo.

For your midday meal, make a choice between two Libertyville favorites: **Clucker’s Charcoal Kitchen** and **The Picnic Basket**. At Clucker’s, it’s all things chicken – tender wings, crispy sandwiches, juicy breasts...you get the picture. Or, grab some grub at The Picnic Basket, including giant sandwiches and steaming homemade chili.

Hopefully you’re thirsty, because the **Lake County Libation Trail** – and its 20+ breweries, wineries and distilleries – eagerly awaits your exploration. If your journey takes you through Wheeling, you can stop at **Lynfred Winery**, a satellite location for Illinois’ oldest and largest winery.

If at any point you find yourself within striking distance of Spring Grove, do yourself a favor and check out **Richardson Adventure Farm**. With so many fun activities at your fingertips, it’d be impossible to list them all here. That being said, how many farms feature a 700-foot zipline and the ability to ride inside a giant, 11-foot rolling ball?

Dessert lovers will rejoice at **The Chocolate Sanctuary** in Gurnee, but the dinner menu is nothing to scoff at. Follow up a delicious entree with chocolate caramel mousse, rich chocolate cake, or sweet and airy beignets.

Few destinations both endear and instill fear simultaneously, but **Six Flags Fright Fest** pulls it off with aplomb. Once night falls, the rousing theme park transforms into a ghoulish entertainment extravaganza, delivering intense thrills, spooky shows and unnervingly realistic haunted houses.

At long last, it’s time to retire to the safety of your hotel. History enthusiasts may want to lodge in Lake Forest at **The Forester Hyatt Place** (the first hotel to open in the community since 1929), where you’ll appreciate the scenic lakefront setting and convenient modern amenities. Or opt for the **Hampton Inn Chicago/Waukegan**, conveniently located just a few miles from Six Flags.

📍 Day 3 Glencoe and Brookfield

You’re on the home stretch, but there’s still time to squeeze some final morsels of fun out of the trip. Head to the **Chicago Botanic Garden** to stroll through a natural oasis unlike any other in the area, then dine at the onsite **Garden View Cafe** as you continue to bask in your serene surroundings.

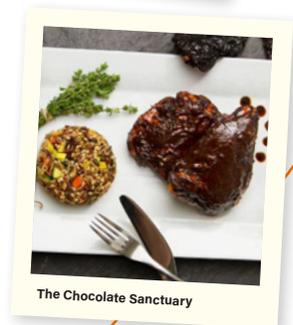
If you’d rather mingle with bats and bears, you can instead visit **Spirit Elephant** in Winnetka for an organic, plant-based breakfast before driving to **Brookfield Zoo**. On weekends leading up to Halloween, **Boo at the Zoo** will be in full swing, where you can pose for photos with creepy crawlers and keep your eyes peeled for roaming werewolves.



Morton Arboretum



Richardson Adventure Farm



The Chocolate Sanctuary



Six Flags Fright Fest



Chicago Botanic Garden



Boo at the Zoo

