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Only 48 hours in the Windy City? Here’s how to make the most of it.

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Route 66 delivers kitsch, memorabilia and more along its 411-mile run through Illinois.

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Glass balconies put you 1,353 feet and 103 floors over The Windy City!

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Downtown buildings serve as canvases in Chicago’s Wabash Arts Corridor. Find this mural, La Magia de Luzia by Gloria Talamantes, at 33 E. Congress.
Trails & Ales

Fresh air and fresh brews abound in equal measure in the historic stretch from suburban Chicago to Starved Rock State Park. Go play outside, then relax with a drink nearby.

MATTHIESSEN STATE PARK, OGLESBY
Wear sturdy footwear for scrambling up and down hundreds of steps to explore the drippy gorges, creeks and falls of this park, rich in geologic strata. Nine miles of marked mountain bike trails also snake through the woods.

TANGLED ROOTS BREWING COMPANY, OTTAWA
Find a farm-to-foam experience at the industrial-chic taproom, featuring gleaming copper brew kettles. Lagers and ales include River Raptor Pale Ale, a hoppy homage to the eagles that live in the area.
Whether you want your food from a cart or with a side of theatrics at Alinea, every taste bud is at home here. choosechicago.com/welcomehome
To find more activities along the 96-mile I&M Canal Trail, click on enjoyillinois.com.

WHAT'S THE HERITAGE CORRIDOR?
Once a key waterway linking Lake Michigan to the Illinois River, the 100-mile I&M Canal now anchors a recreational route known as the I&M Canal Heritage Corridor, its nearby communities flush with history. Visit Ottawa’s Washington Square Park, site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate, or ride part of the canal the authentic way (on a replica canal boat pulled by a mule on shore) in LaSalle.

TRAIL

STARVED ROCK STATE PARK, OGLESBY
Along 13 miles of (extremely popular) trails, find layered canyons and towering tree lines. Don’t let a little rain deter you—the park’s dozen-plus waterfalls flow best after storms or in spring when snow is melting.

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON
Paths great for hiking and biking wind through this former U.S. Army arsenal now being restored to a native prairie. You might spot the area’s bison herd. Ask at the visitors center for a hint at where the creatures have been spotted.

HIDDEN OAKS CONSERVATION AREA, BOLINGBROOK
Trails throughout this 15-acre nature sanctuary wind past a trout pond (an on-site shop sells licenses and bait), beehives, wildflowers, sculptures and more. If you need a rest, chill on the nature center’s rooftop deck.

I&M CANAL TRAIL
This state trail runs for 96 miles along the historic Illinois and Michigan Canal towpath, with sections alternately paved or groomed with crushed limestone. The flat, easy 11 miles between Lockport and Joliet take you past the Joliet Iron Works Historic Site.

ALE

THE RED DOG GRILL, OTTAWA
On a patio overlooking an Illinois River marina, sample sips from local Radium City Brewing, specializing in pale ales. If you need to cool off, the soaring-ceilinged bar offers the same serene views. Snack on a warm pretzel with beer cheese dip.

HICKORY CREEK BREWING COMPANY, NEW LENOX
Last summer, a retired engineer brought his brewing hobby out of an old milk house and into a storefront in this far-south Chicago suburb. Try inaugural brews, including a smoky, bourbon-esque porter called Whack the Beaver.

POLLYANNA BREWING COMPANY, LEMONT
Live events—like music bingo, trivia and food-truck rallies—energize most summer nights. Taste The Full Lemonty, a crisp golden ale, and tour the brewery to see experiments with local fruits and spices.

ELDER BREWING COMPANY, JOLIET
The cozy downtown spot offers free popcorn and a 1982 Millipede arcade game (also free) to enjoy with Uncle Jack’s Gris Gris, an IPA, or Poly’s Revenge, an American pale ale. Check out bands in the new music room.

PHOTOGRAPHS (TRAIL) JASON LINDSEY, (BOAT) IOT

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington
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Q&A

IL: Welcome back to Chicago!
CD: I love coming back. There’s something about that car ride or the train ride in from O’Hare, and seeing the city skyline. I instantly feel comfortable. I’m excited to walk into my apartment.

IL: What do you love about living in the West Loop?
CD: It’s a great neighborhood, close to the stages and so many places to eat. I’m pretty sure there are six or seven Michelin-starred restaurants right around us. I think one of my favorite activities in this city is eating.

IL: What’s your favorite thing to do on a weekend?
CD: All the neighborhood festivals—food, music, it’s just a blast. I’ve done Lollapalooza and some of the bigger festivals like Pitchfork, but it’s these neighborhood ones like Wicker Park Fest that are just so fun to walk around. One of the coolest things Chicago does is take advantage of the summertime.

---#AmazingILmoments---

Colin Donnell

When not starring as a fierce-but-steady surgeon on Chicago Med, this TV and stage actor chills in the Windy City, hitting the festivals, combing the shops and eating meal after unforgettable meal.

You may know him from CW’s superhero hit Arrow, where he played fan favorite Tommy Merlyn, or a Broadway run as Billy Crocker in Anything Goes. But these days, Colin Donnell has viewers gnawing their nails during his dramatic scenes as Dr. Connor Rhodes at a fictional hospital anchoring NBC’s night of Chicago TV dramas.

For much of the year, Colin lives in the city’s West Loop neighborhood while filming the show. It’s tough being apart from wife Patti Murin (who stars as Anna in Broadway’s blockbuster Frozen) and pups Petey and Milo. But his adopted neighborhood feels like home, and after four seasons on the hit show, he’s got a long list of local favorites.

You’ll spot great architecture (and maybe even a TV star!) in downtown Chicago. For more things to see and do while you’re in town, turn to page 44.

enjoyillinois.com
**IL:** What are some spots where you take in Chicago’s famed music scene?

**CD:** Thalia Hall, in Pilsen. There’s the Old Town School of Folk Music. City Winery in the West Loop has some great acts that come through.

There’s so much history, too, with Kingston Mines for blues and the Green Mill for jazz. It doesn’t get much more historic in terms of the music that came from those venues. Those places developed a specific sound that became Chicago blues and Chicago jazz. It’s really cool the places still exist; you get a history lesson just by going there.

**IL:** Where do you go when Patti visits?

**CD:** We have a couple of friends who recently opened up an amazing Pilates studio and coffee shop in Roscoe Village called Pilates + Coffee, which is two doors down from this bookstore called RoscoeBooks. One of my and Patti’s favorite things is having some coffee, taking a class, and then coming home with three or four books.

**IL:** How about for a date?

**CD:** Maude’s, which is a little French bistro in the Loop. It’s just a nice, cozy bar. It’s great to get a cocktail and some oysters and just hang out.

**IL:** So when Patti’s not in town, what do you do?

**CD:** A friend of mine and I sometimes take early-morning bike rides on the lake. That lakeshore path is so beautiful. We usually ride south, and the view from there of the city and Lake Michigan... sometimes, if the weather is nice enough, we drop the bikes, jump in the lake, sit around and talk and dry off, and then ride home.

**IL:** How about your go-to clothing shop?

**CD:** Stock Mfg., in West Town. They do such great menswear—T-shirts, flannels, jackets, sort of English vests and stuff. It’s just three guys who are local to Chicago, grew up here and started this clothing company.

**IL:** Your show is going strong. Does the *Chicago Med* cast ever hang out outside of work?

**CD:** You know, I’m friends with a bunch of these guys, and we love going to Green Street Smoked Meats. [Enter this hidden West Loop barbecue joint down a brick alley. Just follow the music and the delicious smoky scent.]

**IL:** Which parts of Chicago do you like to show off for visitors?

**CD:** I love the architecture tour on the river. There’s no other city in the United States where you can see the city from the inside out like that. Chicago is such an architectural destination. You start to realize that every single movement in the architecture world, from the turn of the 20th century on, is represented along the river in Chicago.
Getaway

--- STARRING ON SOCIAL ---

Fast Eddie’s
Bon Air, Alton

You 100% should order a Big Elwood on a Stick (marinated tenderloin) and snap the vintage-y neon.

(Photograph) Op to It

Grab some pals and load up your feed with gorgeous (and sometimes offbeat) destinations—basically, places guaranteed to rack up the hearts.

It’s not like you go on vacation just for the pictures. But it’s certainly a bonus to blow up your social feeds with spots that feel like real discoveries, like a landlocked dive site filled with underwater set pieces. Or the Alton-Grafton area, overlooking the mighty Mississippi: Two tiny towns. Seven lovely wineries. On it.

Check out these out-of-the-way spots, with the Prairie State forming your perfect vacation backdrop.

Sip with pals in the sky (at bluff-top Aerie’s) or on the water (at Grafton Harbor Floating Winery).

#savorallday
**Submerged selfie? Check.**
Get one at this dive site in a former quarry.

**Getaway**

**MUST-SEE CITY SNAPS**

Hit all these spots for a collection of essential, only-in-Chicago social shots.

**CINDY’S**
One word about this stylish restaurant and its chill cocktail bar atop the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel: Views.

**NAVY PIER**
Day or night, the playground perched over Lake Michigan dazzles. Ride the Centennial Wheel for overhead shots.

**WABASH ARTS CORRIDOR**
Columbia College Chicago sparked a blocks-long outdoor murals gallery in the heart of the South Loop.

**CLOUD GATE (AKA THE BEAN)**
Obviously. The silvery reflective sculpture in Millennium Park makes a perfect pic in any weather.

**Get noticed! Use the tag #enjoyillinois when posting pics to Instagram.**
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It’s Clay Time

Paul Eshelman’s pottery studio brings solid symmetry to the picturesque town of Elizabeth.

For a while, Paul Eshelman seemed destined for a future shaped by the contours of his family: a career in math or science, perhaps as a professor like his father. But by his junior year of college, Paul knew that art, not engineering, tugged too insistently for him to ignore. Four decades later, it’s clear that heeding that tug was the right call. Paul has built a long career in ceramics, notable both for contemporary rigor and practicality, all in the 700-person hamlet of Elizabeth in northwest Illinois. Together with wife Laurel, who works full-time with him, Paul travels to art shows and sells at galleries, in his studio and online. A converted Ford dealership houses Eshelman Pottery, just blocks from the couple’s home.
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Unlike many potters, Paul doesn't throw his work on a wheel; instead, using woodworking tools, he carves plaster molds. “In graduate school, it became a way to differentiate my work,” he says. The method gave him more freedom to play with form. And it allowed him to use a smaller, less expensive electric kiln in his studio. In addition, the electric firing process complemented the range of hues that dominate his work—rich blues and reds, organic greens and yellows, a burnt orange clay—helping them pop against the geometry of platters, jars and other pieces.

Tastemakers took note, and Paul's pieces are now featured at a few high-end eateries, such as Chicago's Roister. Paul, a native Iowan, knew that making an artistic career work would mean accounting for the pragmatic tangibles, such as an affordable cost of living and good public schools. Pushed out of the tourist hub of Galena by high real estate prices, the Eshelmans found a studio and home 15 miles away in Elizabeth, an on-the-way location for US-20 travelers. The town already hosted a community of artists who had fled other high-priced locations.

Once settled in Elizabeth, Paul set to work shaping a successful art career. For example, while art school may have downplayed shows, Paul's participation in a large Midwest art show changed his perspective: “It was one of the first shows we did, and we sold enough to make us realize this life was actually possible.” Eshelman Pottery includes a gallery and working studio. When they aren't at art shows, they're in the studio, glazing, photographing and creating forms. “Whoever comes in, I show them around and explain what we are doing,” Paul says.

5 MUST-DOS
IN AND AROUND ELIZABETH

1. At Long Hollow Canopy Tours, zip through the forest. Guided tours start with three short zips. The final three are more than 700 feet long.

2. See the start-to-finish process of making spirits, including bourbon, vodka and moonshine, at Blaum Brothers Distilling Company in Galena.

3. Along the way to Eshelman Pottery, detour off US-20 to W. Mount Hope Road to catch Thunder Bay Falls, each tier creating a series of smaller falls.

4. Legs zonked after a day of sightseeing? Rent an e-bike from Fever River Outfitters for a spin around Galena or to follow the river trail at Chestnut Mountain.

5. Many ceramicists don't open their studios on a regular basis, but on the third weekend in October, area artists at Twenty Dirty Hands let visitors take a peek.
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Major music fests (lookin’ at you, Lollapalooza) aren’t the only sweet sounds blasting all summer long.

--- GET YOUR GROOVE ON ---

MAY 24–26
SUMMER CAMP MUSIC FESTIVAL Chillicothe
Pitch a tent to hear more than 180 artists at Three Sisters Park near Peoria over the weekend.

MAY 31–JUNE 1
CHICAGO GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL Chicago
Local and national artists perform for free at the Chicago Cultural Center and the Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

EARLY JUNE
NICKELODEON SLIMEFEST Chicago
Come dressed to play (and get slimed) at this family-friendly music bash; meet some of the show’s stars.

JUNE 7–8
LEGACY OF GIVING MUSIC FESTIVAL Springfield
Diverse acts on several stages (including one on the Old State Capitol steps) benefit 10 charities.

LATE JUNE
MAMBY ON THE BEACH Chicago
Groove to indie rock and hip-hop (and try yoga classes and body art) on Oakwood Beach.

LATE JUNE
COUNTRY LAKESHAKE FESTIVAL Chicago
Some of country music’s brightest stars light up along the Museum Campus’ lakefront.

LATE JUNE
RUIDO FEST Chicago
Check out alternative Latin American pop, rock and electronic music on multiple stages in the Pilsen neighborhood.

SEPTEMBER 13–15
RIOT FEST Chicago
Rock, punk, hip-hop and alt groups converge on Douglas Park. Plan on band reunions and guest performances.

MUST-SEE
TAILGATE N’ TALLBOYS

Country music crooners take over Riverfront Park in downtown Peoria over the summer. The music series consists of six days, two festivals and more than 30 acts (June 13–16, July 19–20 and September 14). Past performers include Old Dominion, Chase Rice and Kane Brown.
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Fulton Feast

In Chicago’s Fulton Market District, meatpacking warehouses have transformed into restaurants, galleries and cocktail lounges delivering some of the city’s most amazing meals.

1 SWIFT AND SONS
In any debate about the best steak in meat-loving Chicago, Swift and Sons always makes the list. With dishes like Japanese wagyu and a beef Wellington that serves two, the menu treats meat dishes to French-inspired preparation, all in a swanky space that honors Fulton Market’s history inside the historic 10-story Fulton Market Cold Storage building. Neighbors include the seafood-centric Cold Storage restaurant and Google’s HQ.

2 FULTON MARKET KITCHEN
Part art gallery, part lounge, Fulton Market Kitchen embodies creativity both in its ambience and on the plate. The restaurant’s warehouse-like space showcases bold colors, surprising murals and rotating artist exhibits that create a cozy, inspired atmosphere. The restaurant’s frenzy of color balances its classic dishes with unique presentations like mushroom and cheese curd-stuffed arancini with dry-aged beef Bolognese.

3 DUCK DUCK GOAT
Fulton Market was establishing a foodie-haven reputation even before celebrity chef Stephanie Izard chose the neighborhood in 2010 for her restaurant Girl and the Goat, followed by Little Goat Diner. Now, at Duck Duck Goat, she features twists on Chinese fare, including spicy goat slap noodles and richly flavored beef and bone marrow pot stickers. Dim Sum Brunch delights the weekend crowd.

4 BEATRIX
This neighborhood restaurant and coffeeshop offers a full and elaborate menu for every meal. Try a rich cappuccino and pastry from the in-house bakery, or a plateful of caramelized pork shank, complete with a cocktail made with freshly squeezed juice. During summer months, the wall-like windows swing open, welcoming in diners at all times of the day.

5 THE PUBLICAN
The Publican’s menu changes often. In fact, Saturday’s brunch menu differs from Sunday’s. One thing that never changes: sustainably and locally sourced ingredients making up comfort fare, such as cornmeal coffee cake and pork schnitzel. The open layout and long, communal tables offer a class take on a European beer hall, inspiring conversations between tables over oysters a la carte and mugs of beer from a vast international selection.
**SHOPS**

**MARS GALLERY (A)**
Staff from this hip art gallery claim that it sits atop an energy vortex that’s the source of the flourishing creativity in Fulton Market.

**NOTRE (D)**
With hard-to-find brands and limited-edition shoes, this boutique sells men’s and women’s fashion in a loft-like space.

**DRINKS**

**STUMPTOWN COFFEE ROASTERS (B)**
The roasters source beans straight from the farms of South America, Africa and East Asia.

**THE AVIARY (C)**
Bartenders at this cocktail lounge train like chefs and work like scientists.

**STAYS**

**ACE HOTEL CHICAGO (B)**
An industrial exterior and hip interior with a rooftop bar and Stumptown Coffee Roasters.

**NOBU HOTEL CHICAGO (E)**
Opening late 2019.

---

**MOMOTARO**
At this Japanese hot spot, choose from the main-floor dining room or pub-like Izakaya downstairs. Each offers separate menus and experiences. Upstairs, mix and match from the cold and hot menu, or select an array of sushi rolls and sashimi. Order craft cocktails at Izakaya’s central 30-seat bar while sharing small plates of crispy Chicken Karaage and tender skirt steak with cremini mushrooms.
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8. 17 historic Walldog murals in downtown.
Go on Location

Didn’t you see Kevin Costner or Bill Murray at these landmarks? Yep. Turn the page to match them to their film appearances and learn where to go to (literally) picture yourself in the movies.
Make some plans, grab a room & explore all that St. Charles, Illinois has to offer for spring and summer entertainment—food, art, animals, and antiquing adventures at the Fine Art Show, Kane County Fair, and the monthly Kane County Flea Market. On the weekend or during the week, there’s always something fun to do. Find out more at visitstcharles.com.
\textbf{TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON (2011)} During filming, the Chicago traffic report might have sounded like: “Steer clear of the downtown river bridges, as battling Autobots and Decepticons are causing major tie-ups.” Keep your eye on the \textbf{Jewelers Building (35 E. Wacker Dr.),} where Sentinel Prime and friends set up shop. A face-off pitting Sideswipe and Ironhide against Crankcase and Crowbar goes down on the near South Side. The \textbf{Rosenwald} apartments in Bronzeville play ghost-town buildings near Chernobyl in Ukraine.

\textbf{THE UNTOUCHABLES (1987)} One of filmdom’s most famous scenes unfolds on the stairs at Chicago’s \textbf{Union Station,} as Eliot Ness (Kevin Costner) saves a baby stroller while shooting it out with Al Capone’s henchmen. In another key scene, Ness meets cop Malone (Sean Connery) on the \textbf{Michigan Avenue Bridge.} Malone later explains “the Chicago way” to Ness at \textbf{Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica (West Jackson Boulevard at Kedzie Street).} The roof and stained-glass domes of \textbf{Chicago Cultural Center (East Washington Street)} figure prominently.

\textbf{THE BLUES BROTHERS (1980)} Don a fedora and Wayfarers and cruise sweet home Chicago locations. The big chase ends at \textbf{Daley Plaza} and the \textbf{City Hall-Cook County Building.} Filmmakers plowed the Bluesmobile through the \textbf{Richard J. Daley Center} lobby (breakaway glass replaced normal panes). The plaza’s \textbf{Picasso sculpture—}50 feet tall and weighing 160 tons—stars, too. Picture the cop car pileup at \textbf{Lake and LaSalle streets,} and stop by \textbf{Shelly’s Loan and Jewelry Company (on the South Side),} which doubled as Ray’s Music Exchange.

\textbf{GROUNDHOG DAY (1993)} In this Bill Murray classic, \textbf{Woodstock (50 miles northwest of Chicago)} plays Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Stand on the northeast corner of the \textbf{town square,} where weatherman Phil runs into insurance salesman Ned. Then check out a plaque in the street where Phil keeps stepping in a puddle. Halfway to Groundhog Day (August 2), watch a free screening and take a walking tour of film sites. Sorry, you can’t stay at the movie’s Pennsylvanian Hotel—it’s really the \textbf{Woodstock Opera House.}

\textbf{THE DARK KNIGHT (2008)} Multiple Chicago locations got screen time when the Second City morphed into Gotham City. The sprawling \textbf{Old Chicago Main Post Office plays the part of Gotham National Bank.} The \textbf{Richard J. Daley Center (Chicago’s tallest building when it was completed in 1965)} portrays the headquarters of Wayne Enterprises. The company’s boardroom is actually in the former \textbf{IBM Building,} as are the offices of Harvey Dent, district attorney-turned-Two-Face. For a look at Bruce Wayne’s penthouse, step into the lobby of the \textbf{Wynndam Grand.}

\textbf{HIGH FIDELITY (2000)} In this John Cusack comedy about a list-loving record-store owner, look for these five Chicago locales. \textbf{Biograph Theater, near Lincoln Park:} Rob rattles off a spiel about Dillinger at the theater where the bank robber died. \textbf{THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO:} This 3-day tour of Chicago destinations inspired his legendary teen films. Don’t you forget about John Hughes, whose adolescence in Chicago’s north suburbs inspired his legendary teen films \textbf{The Breakfast Club, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off and Sixteen Candles,} among others. Relive ’80s movie moments at \textbf{Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook,} featured in \textbf{Breakfast and Bueller; The Art Institute of Chicago,} where school-ski pping Ferris and friends stare at works like a dreamy Seurat; and \textbf{Glencoe Union Church, site of the wacky Sixteen Candles wedding.} Other \textbf{Bueller} stops: \textbf{333 W. Wacker Dr.,} the curved glass tower where Ferris’ dad works; \textbf{Skydeck Chicago at Willis Tower;} and the \textbf{Chicago Board of Trade Building} (tours available).
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sit in the driver’s seat of a simulator to see what it’s like to operate a bulldozer with a foot pedal and a control stick in each hand. (These aren’t cute museum toys: Actual customers can train in simulators just like these before tackling real job-site dirt.) In The Discovery Zone, kids find interactive exhibits, like ones where they compare their height to tractor tires, build bridges or make a series of gears work together.

Next door, The John Deere Store sells an enormous selection of branded gear, including clothing and hats, housewares, books, and toys.

DEERE & COMPANY WORLD HEADQUARTERS SPEND 1 HR
Amid pressure in the 1950s to move its headquarters to a bigger city, the company opted to remain in Moline—and doubled down on a distinctive office space on 1,400 green acres. Enter architect Eero Saarinen (noted midcentury master behind the Gateway Arch in St. Louis), whose weathering steel design honors the company’s rugged image. Inside, explore antique machines and memorabilia, plus a 180-foot-long, 3-D mural detailing the company’s history. Walk the display floor to see samples of the newest Deere offerings.

FACTORY TOURS SPEND 1.5 HRS
Hop aboard a tram (pulled by a John Deere, naturally) to see combines go from sheet metal to finished product at John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline. Tours fill quickly and are first come, first served; call 800/765-9588 at least 48 hours in advance to book your spot. (Ages 13 and up.)

FORE
TPC DEERE RUN
Home of the PGA’s annual John Deere Classic (July 8–14), this public golf course in Silvis stretches over the hills of a former Arabian horse farm. The terrain—shaped by the nearby Rock River—features lush rough and glassy greens to test shot-making skill.

MORE
JOHN DEERE HISTORIC SITE
On a side trip to Grand Detour (70 miles northeast of Moline), visit a replica of John Deere’s blacksmith shop, where in 1837, he forged the plow that launched his legacy. See a blacksmith demo and explore the six-room home.
SLOW DOWN

Take a break and enjoy the moments along the Great River Road in Illinois

greatriverroad-illinois.com

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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.

Visit Moultrie County

www.visitmoultrieil.com – (217) 728-4223 –
Gliding over Grafton

Here’s a new way to see Grafton… on a “chondola,” an open-air chairlift and enclosed gondola on the same lift linking Main Street with Aerie’s Resort and Winery. Pass over downtown as you take in bird’s-eye views of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers during the seven-minute Grafton Sky Tour. Make it a round-trip (tickets around $10), or spend the afternoon at Aerie’s, which features a winery and zipline. During a two-hour tour, Grafton Zipline adventurers soar 250 feet above the river valley.

When you’re done, head to town for:

**LOCAL WINE AND BEER**
A handful of wineries line downtown, including Grafton Winery and Brewhaus. Sample a variety with a flight.

**GREAT FOOD**
Start with the Dock Salsa, a house fave at The Loading Dock, featuring a massive patio. Weekends bring live entertainment.

**CUTE SHOPS**
Local artist Greg Brummett fills his shop, Buena Vista Art, with jewelry and industrial tables and lamps.

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### ALL NEW IN CHICAGOLAND

**HAMILTON: THE EXHIBITION**
Northerly Island, Chicago, opening April 6
The hottest show on Broadway debuts its latest incarnation. In this world premiere, creator and star Lin-Manuel Miranda’s audio tour takes visitors on a deep dive into early American history and the life of founding father Alexander Hamilton. Artifacts include Hamilton’s desk and George Washington’s war tent, plus replicas of 1776 New York.

**MAXX FORCE**
Six Flags Great America, Gurnee, coming in 2019
Go from 0 to 78 mph in two seconds on the park’s newest roller coaster, Maxx Force. It offers thrill-seekers the world’s fastest inversion and tallest double inversion.

**REI CO-OP**
Chicago, opening early 2019
Expect the usual assortment of outdoor gear from the national retailer, but this location brings new opportunities. Rent kayaks and SUPs to ply the Chicago River, where the store sits on the North Branch.
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IN THE LOOP

SHOPPING • DINING • ENTERTAINMENT
In a nation of overcrowded parks, southern Illinois’ Shawnee National Forest and its surrounds provide an under-the-radar outdoor mecca loaded with après options, including wine trails, cold-press coffee and one of the most scenic breweries ever.

Writer Beth Eslinger • Photographer Ryan Donnell
Attention, work-hard, play-hard types: Illinois’ southern tip has your back. With seven wilderness areas and nine state parks, plus lakes, rivers, waterfalls and even a swamp to explore, the gorgeously green area around Shawnee National Forest offers all the ways to unplug and reconnect through recreation.

The area’s main play spots hug the Ohio River, which forms the eastern and southern borders, and the Mississippi River, which marks the western edge. The area covers more than 400 square miles, but you can drive between the rivers in less than 90 minutes on the interior roads, stopping in small towns and rural retreats for coffee shops, restaurants and wine tastings. Or cruise the riverbanks on national drives—the 550-mile Great River Road through Illinois and the 188-mile Ohio River Scenic Byway, both of which rim the Shawnee region.
NATURE THRILLS
Get a flying fix among the sandstone bluffs. Zip through the trees near Makanda with Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour. Test your balance on a 180-foot suspension bridge and cruise hands-free on one of eight lines, the longest zip (1,100 feet). Shorter treks traverse five lines in about two hours. One Saturday a month in summer, fly like Batman on a full-moon tour.

For boulderers and climbers, Jackson Falls in Shawnee offers the largest number of climbing routes in Illinois, including 50-foot technical climbs up the sandstone bluffs. If you’re new to climbing, guides found through Egyptian Hills Resort in Creal Springs or Vertical Heartland Climbing School in Buncombe can teach you the ropes.

PADDOLE PURSUITS
Have big fun on the bayou in the middle of the Midwest. In the Cache River State Natural Area, J-stroke through emerald green duckweed and around 1,000-year-old cypress trees growing out of a swamp carved by glacial floodwater of the Ohio River. On your paddle of 3 to 6 miles, look for the state champion 73-foot-tall bald cypress tree with a 34-foot trunk circumference. Ullin’s White Crane Canoe Rentals and Guide Service offers gear and trips.

Near Giant City State Park, Little Grassy Lake pampers paddlers with 31 miles of shoreline to explore. Rent canoes, kayaks and paddleboards at the marina. You can camp there, too, plus fish for bass, crappie and catfish. For more lake-based camping, boating and swimming, stop by Pounds Hollow Recreation Area in Harrisburg and Lake Glendale Recreation Area near Golconda.

SCENIC RIDES
Cruise the forest’s heart on two wheels along the Tunnel Hill State Trail, a 45-mile path connecting Harrisburg to Karnak. Ride over 23 trestles and through a 543-foot-long tunnel. Pass through farmland in the north, forest and bluffs in the central stretch, and the Cache River at the south. Stop by Henry Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center to learn about the swamp. If you need a bike, check out Sandburn Junction in Vienna.

If horseback riding is on your summer to-do list, saddle up at Giant City Stables in Makanda for one-hour trail rides. Small kids can ride ponies with a wrangler’s assist, while anyone head-over-hooves in love can sign up for equestrian day camp.

For epic forest and river views, drive the 188-mile Ohio River National Scenic Byway from Cave-in-Rock State Park to Cairo. Spend a day exploring river towns and natural sights, including the 55-foot-wide limestone cave at Cave-in-Rock State Park and Garden of the Gods. You’ll also find frontier history at Metropolis’ Fort Massac State Park, the first Illinois state park. Learn about the fort’s history (it dates to 1757) and see a replica of the 1802 structure. Extend the drive on the Great River Road in Cairo to loop up the Shawnee’s eastern section.
If roughing it doesn’t ruffle your feathers, the Shawnee region offers multiple camping spots to pitch a tent or pull in an RV. Also find cabins, vacation rentals and lodges for overnights.

**TIMBER RIDGE OUTPOST AND CABINS**
Stay in a log cabin dating to 1852 or up in a tree house at this Elizabethtown complex.

**HAVISHAM HOUSE**
Groups up to six find upscale decor in a French Victorian in Alto Pass. Families can also rent the Carriage House.

**GIANT CITY LODGE**
While at the Makanda park, enjoy dinner or drinks in the lodge, a sandstone and white oak timber structure built in the ‘30s.
The region’s terrain recalls the southern Appalachians, with rocky bluffs and dense woods of oak-hickory. You may even see a few cold-hardy palm trees.
Discover historic small towns and rural retreats on your Shawnee tour.

Put your mouth where the money was at The Vault Cafe on the Square in Marion. Set in a corner bank, you can eat in the vault. Come early for omelets and Hawaiian bread French toast.

Further east in Harrisburg, the Steam Cafe dishes hot combos like classic sandwiches (grilled cheese and paninis) with coffee; the downtown eatery also features breakfast all day.

Sip craft espressos and cold-press coffees at Crown Brew Coffee Company in Carterville. The Illinois Made artisans brew their thing downtown in the historic Irons in the Fire building; check out local artists’ works next door.

Oh-so-close to the Ohio River in Golconda, Diver Down fries all-you-can-eat catfish on Friday nights. Start with to-die-for stuffed mushrooms.

Near Cave-in-Rock State Park, The Red Onion in Equality caters to carnivores with prime rib and hand-cut black Angus steaks. Start with apps like crab cakes, alligator bites and corn nuggets.

Taste the best ribs in the country (per Bon Appétit) at 17th Street BBQ in Murphysboro. You can also order pork and ribeye steak with a side of brisket-seasoned green beans and fried okra.
ADVENTURE TRAILS

Four hundred miles of trails spoil hikers in the Shawnee region. You could spend several weeks in silence on the 160-mile River to River Trail connecting the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, crossing five wilderness areas and several state parks. Bring a map for your all-day hike. If you want to overnight, backcountry gear is a must. For shorter treks, try one of these trails:

**Burden Falls** Located in the Burden Falls Wilderness near Eddyville, the 1-mile loop crosses bedrock to the falls, a series of upper and lower cascades (and one of Illinois’ largest). Explore the side trails to spot barred owls and other birds, and do some bouldering (climbing low rocks without ropes). Visit after a rain for the best waterfall views.

**Garden of the Gods** It’s one of the national forest’s most-visited spots, thanks to stop-in-your-tracks scenery—100-foot limestone bluffs formed into shapes like those of Camel, Mushroom and Anvil rocks. Stroll by rock slabs and surrounding valley overlooks on the Indian Point Trail, a 2-mile loop. Find the wilderness area near Herod.

**Giant City State Park** Squeeze between massive sandstone walls on the 1-mile Giant City Nature Trail at this Makanda-area park; for a real challenge, try climbing the crevices. The 12-mile Red Cedar Hiking Trail loops through the woods, crossing a stream and accessing a waterfall for explorers looking for a full day trip or overnight backpack.

**Jackson Falls** From the trailhead, it’s an easy quarter-mile trek to the top of seasonal falls, dependent on rain for flow. For more of a challenge, descend into the canyon to the base of the falls. The 3.25-mile loop follows a rocky path with plenty of roots through the national forest and towering sandstone bluffs.

**Little Grand Canyon** This 3.6-mile loop near Murphysboro leads trekkers through bluffs and forest, then a scramble up a 365-foot rocky creek bed for a view of the Big Muddy and Mississippi rivers. Enjoy the quiet on this lightly trafficked route.

**Rim Rock Trail** The almost 1-mile loop follows the rim of a rock escarpment. Interpretative signs share the area’s history as hikers pass the remains of a 1,500-year-old stone wall. Stairs lead to Ox-Lot Cave, once a shelter used by Native Americans.

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After the Shawnee National Forest was established in the 1930s, a massive reforestation effort repaired eroded terrain and brought trees back to weary fields.
WINE TRAILS  Alto Vineyards in Alto Pass cork-started the region’s wine cred in the 1980s. Winner of more than 500 national and international awards, Alto produces 25 varietals, including signature Chambourcin, a dry red table wine. Savor tastings on the back patio before embarking on a journey to 10 other wineries on the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. If you hit the Cache River, visit three nearby wineries, part of the Southern Illinois Wine Trail.

SCRATCH BREWING COMPANY  Make sure to add this microbrewery near Ava to your itinerary. The farm crafts brews using ingredients (like mushrooms or flowers) grown or foraged nearby. Try a brew and a pizza on the patio—one of the most beautiful places in the world to drink a beer, per All About Beer magazine.

MUST-TRY  Epic Toasts  Celebrate your adventure along two wine trails or at a scenic microbrewery.
A Whirlwind Weekend in the Windy City

Mix and match a stop from each category to create your own must-do lineup.

The best part? Next time you visit, you can mix it again to create a whole new adventure.

Writer Jen Nilsson
Choose an Iconic Chicago Experience

- **MICHIGAN AVENUE/OAK STREET SHOPPING**
  Famed storefronts and unique boutiques line this shopper’s paradise.

- **WRIGLEY FIELD**
  Catch a Cubs game and snap a pic with the famed marquee.

- **WABASH ARTS CORRIDOR**
  Murals abound in this South Loop enclave, where public space is an urban canvas.

- **SKYDECK CHICAGO**
  Step out onto The Ledge in Willis Tower to see the city from 1,353 feet up.

- **BEACH**
  Play on the shores of Lake Michigan.

- **NAVY PIER**
  With stunning views and a children’s museum, the city’s playground juts into Lake Michigan.

- **LINCOLN PARK ZOO**
  A free oasis of wildlife and green space sits among skyscrapers.

- **THEATERS**
  Improv comedy, Shakespeare, Broadway shows—the stage is set.

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**Your weekend will include:**

- **AN ICONIC CHICAGO EXPERIENCE**
- **A UNIQUE FOOD OUTING**
- **A WORLD-CLASS MUSEUM**
- **AN ARCHITECTURE TOUR**
- **MILLENNIUM PARK**
DEEP-DISH PIZZA
The joke goes that it’s not pizza unless it’s thicker than the table. For tangy-sweet sauce, dive into the classic pie at a Lou Malnati’s.

CHICAGO DOG
This delicacy comes loaded with trimmings, including peppers, tomato and a pickle, but never, ever ketchup. For an authentic experience, try the Jumbo Hot Dog at a Portillo’s restaurant.

CELEBRITY CHEFS
Sample the scene and the grilled pork belly at Stephanie Izard’s Girl and the Goat, or ceviche and anything with mole at Rick Bayless’ Frontera Grill.

FOOD EMPORIUM
Eataly Chicago, a two-story market and high-end food court, celebrates Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. Swing by to taste Sicilian cannoli or see burrata made.

POPCORN
Get the Garrett Mix, a combo of cheddar cheese with buttery caramel, at Garrett Popcorn Shops.
Visit a World-Class Museum

☐ THE FIELD MUSEUM
Peer up at Máximo, a titanosaur. He’s not only the biggest dinosaur but the largest land animal—ever—on the planet.

☐ MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY
Tap into your inner explorer at the Western Hemisphere’s largest science museum, complete with a tour of the German U-505 submarine captured during WWII.

☐ SHEDD AQUARIUM
See more than 32,000 animals from the Great Lakes to the deepest reaches of the Amazon. In a special exhibit, Underwater Beauty, jellyfish pulse and eels change colors.

☐ ADLER PLANETARIUM
Cast your eyes to the sky and view celestial objects trillions of miles away at the Adler’s Doane Observatory.

☐ ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
Immerse yourself in art from ancient days to today at the Art Institute, where a pair of bronze lions famously flank the entryway.
Go on an Architecture Tour

- **BY BOAT**
  Join the volunteer docents of the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard *Chicago’s First Lady* to learn the history behind the city’s famous skyline.

- **BY BUS**
  Catch a lift with the knowledgeable guides of a hop-on, hop-off, double-decker bus tour to hit the city’s downtown attractions at your own pace.

- **BY TRAIN**
  All aboard the elevated train—or the L, as locals call it—for a top-down perspective on the city’s must-see sights, courtesy of Chicago Architecture Center guides.

- **BY FOOT**
  Chicago is known for groundbreaking architecture and trendsetting neighborhoods. To see both in one trip, tour with an expert from Inside Chicago Walking Tours.

- **BY EXHIBIT**
  Visit the Chicago Architecture Center above the Riverwalk to explore a model of the city and visit a skyscraper gallery.

SEE THE CITY
It’s the next best thing to having a friend take you around the city: a Chicago Greeter walking tour. Free tours of Millennium Park leave twice a day. Or sign up 10 days in advance to be paired with a volunteer who’ll tailor a sightseeing tour to your interests, whether you’re into architecture, food, kid stuff, ethnic neighborhoods, LGBTQ-friendly stops or anything else. And just like with a friend, it’s all free.
Take a Trip to Millennium Park

To mark the turn of the century, the city transformed a rail yard and sea of parking lots into a 25-acre gem. Completed in 2004, the park offers a quintessential city experience, making our must-list with its views, public art, gardens, performances and more.

- **CLOUD GATE**
  Gaze at your reflection—and the skyline’s—in this 110-ton seamless steel sculpture affectionately dubbed The Bean.

- **BOEING GALLERIES**
  For a walk that is never the same twice, stroll through these outdoor galleries that house temporary modern art exhibitions, including large-scale sculptures.

- **BP BRIDGE**
  Wind along a ribbon-like path framed in glittering stainless-steel panels to earn a full view of Millennium Park.

- **CROWN FOUNTAIN**
  Splash in the reflective pool between two 50-foot glass towers that project the diverse faces of Chicago’s citizens.

- **LURIE GARDEN**
  Stroll this sanctuary where plants rise taller than people.

- **JAY PRITZKER PAVILION**
  Take in a concert or film beneath a trellis of stainless-steel beams designed for both acoustics and aesthetics.

- **MCDONALD’S CYCLE CENTER**
  Rent or store a bike at this facility built to encourage travel on two wheels.
The People’s House

Any day of the week, you’re welcome to walk right into the governor’s home in Springfield. Illinois’ Governor’s Mansion really is a residence, but it also opens to the public seven days a week for tours between 1–4 p.m. And these days, the place is looking really, really nice.

Last summer, the 164-year-old mansion reopened after extensive renovations, thanks to a private fundraising campaign spearheaded by former first lady Diana Rauner. The home had fallen into disrepair, but today gleams with art and other state treasures now safe to display. The fully accessible mansion also includes an education center.

Docent-led tours begin at the Jackson Street gate and include stories of visitors, such as Frederick Douglass, Ulysses S. Grant and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Guides also talk about Chicago’s 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. Works from Illinois artists adorn the 48,000-square-foot building. Exhibits rotate annually; art enthusiasts can join an exhibition tour daily at 3 p.m.

A grand staircase leads to four suites, including the Lincoln Room. (No, the 16th president never slept here, but he did visit.)
When You Visit

Grab a bite and explore Abraham Lincoln sites.

Obed & Isaac’s Microbrewery
The Lincoln-era home houses a restaurant and beer garden.

Loukinen’s on 4th
After touring the Governor’s Mansion, cross the street for lunch or dinner.

Old State Capitol
Lincoln tried cases and wrote his famous “House Divided” speech here. Interpreters lead 30-minute tours.

Long 9 Junction
Feast on a daily special of half of a roast chicken.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
Abe’s story comes to life at this museum, where areas commemorate the “Gettysburg Address” and Lincoln’s casket.

Elijah Iles House
The city’s oldest surviving home once belonged to one of Abe’s friends. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m.

Artwork
Harold Gregor’s Flatscape #106 shows farmland as a vivid and complex landscape.

Chandeliers
The three fixtures are 200 years old.

Statue
Chicago artist Marion Perkins carved Skywatcher after WWII. The figure’s head looks back, as if scanning the sky for possible threats.

Gold-Leaf Mirror
A gift from Richard Yates, governor during the Civil War. A matching mirror adorns the opposite wall.

Punch Bowl
A gift from the Navy includes a punch bowl and candelabras made for the WWII battleship USS Illinois, which was never completed.

Enjoyillinois.com 51
ON THE ILLINOIS STRETCH OF ROUTE 66.

GET YOUR KITSCH ON THE ILLINOIS STRETCH OF ROUTE 66.

The Palms Grill Cafe, Atlanta
Right in the heart of downtown Chicago sits the start line of the most famous road in America. During its official life from 1926 to 1985, Route 66 carried a nation on the move, through Illinois and all the way to the Santa Monica Pier in California. Especially after WWII, Americans found themselves flush with optimism, eager to see new country and obsessed with the automobile. The road west beckoned. Illinois’ stretch of the route, now designated a National Scenic Byway, grew rich with history as generations motored through.

Though the interstate highway system replaced it as the nation’s thoroughfare, the route’s siren song still echoes. Start in downtown Chicago. From there, find your way through a patchwork of urban areas and wide-open spaces, collecting slice after nostalgic slice of vintage Americana, including oddball sights that’ll light up your social feed and meals that’ll send your eyes rolling in delight.

Journey the state’s entire 411-mile stretch, or choose a section covering your own must-do’s. Either way, with more than a weekend’s worth of stuff to see, set aside ample time to buckle in and head out on the highway.

• The Gemini Giant, an old-timey Muffler Man statue sporting a space helmet and rocket ship in Wilmington.
• Odell’s 1932 Standard Oil Gas Station.
• The shield mural outside Pontiac’s Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum.
• The brick-paved original stretch of the route, near Auburn.
• Henry’s Rabbit Ranch, featuring live bunnies, a yard full of neon motel signs and a giant rabbit statue in Staunton.
• Brightly hued elephant statues adorning the Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston.

Find our essential Route 66 soundtrack (including tracks from a few amazing Illinois artists) at enjoyillinois.com/route66. Need even more kicks? Visit enjoyillinois.com for Route 66 itineraries and suggestions for tackling your Mother Road trip.

#ENJOYILLINOIS

enjoyillinois.com
GET A PRINTED MAP (yes, really!)

Some of Route 66 is marked, but it’s easy to wander from the original road. Learn some history and preview your trip at the Route 66 Experience at Joliet Area Historical Museum. Then check for printed maps and more to help you navigate. Plan a detour to tour the Old Joliet Prison. You’ll recognize the iconic limestone fortress from the film *The Blues Brothers*, TV’s *Prison Break* series, and others.

Start your trip in

CHICAGO

Begin at the beginning: Buckingham Fountain in downtown’s Grant Park. Grab a selfie with one of the commemorative Route 66 signs nearby. Then stop for a diner breakfast at Lou Mitchell’s, a Chicago landmark that opened on Jackson Boulevard three years before Route 66. Enjoy a free doughnut hole and orange slice, and order an omelet or some pillowy pancakes.

Pull Over in

PONTIAC

In and around downtown Pontiac, find a growing number of murals—many by painters from the global art group Walldogs—that celebrate outdoor advertising’s early days. An iconic Route 66 shield mural adorns an outside wall of the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, which traces the route’s history and offers up a slew of artifacts. Don’t miss artist and ultimate road-tripper Bob Waldmire’s converted 1972 orange VW Microbus (the inspiration for Fillmore, of *Cars* movie fame) and his Ultimate Hippie RV Road Yacht.

Fill up at Edinger’s Filling Station, serving melty sandwiches, salads and appetizers like bacon-laced, buffalo-sauced Sloppy Fries. Then see a shiny 1931 Oakland, plus vintage dealer promotional items and lots of nice muscle from the ’60s and ’70s at the Pontiac-Oakland Museum and Resource Center. Admission is free, but $5 buys you a behind-the-scenes tour with the owner to see treasures not on display.

Pull Over in

ATLANTA

A water tower painted with a smiley face welcomes road-trippers to Atlanta, its vintage downtown packed full of fun. Admission is free at the Route 66 Arcade Museum, where many of the vintage games, dating from the 1930s to the 1980s, cost a mere quarter. Which means that if you’re an ace at *Pac-Man* or pinball, your money will last awhile. Step outside and grab a pic of the towering fiberglass *Paul Bunyon statue*. Yes, he’s holding a hot dog instead of an axe. No, there’s no blue ox anywhere. Just go with it. Across the street, the restored storefront of The Palms Grill Cafe looks uncannily as it did when the place opened in 1934. It still dishes comforting classics like patty melts and open-face horseshoe sandwiches (hamburger patty on thick bread smothered in fries and cheese sauce). Groove to the 1940s soundtrack as you lift your first swoon-tastic forkful of coconut cream pie.
**Pull Over in SPRINGFIELD**

In the capital city, meet your food-on-a-stick quota at Cozy Dog Drive In, a mainstay dating from the 1940s. Ed Waldmire Jr. created a batter-dipped hot dog on a stick, now known as your standard state fair corn dog. While at the drive-in, be sure to wander the Route 66 memorabilia collection.

Then head over to Abe Lincoln’s stomping grounds. Check out the Old State Capitol to see where Lincoln served as a legislator and delivered his famed “House Divided” speech on slavery. Examine the vast artifact collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Pay respects at his tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery—for good luck, rub the well-worn nose of the bronze Lincoln bust.

Visit cutely compact Mahan’s Filling Station at its home outside Fulgenzi’s Pizza and Pasta. It’s about 100 years old and believed to be one of few such examples still standing. And cap your day with a throwback jaunt to the friendly (and affordable) Route 66 Twin Drive-In movie theater, which shows outdoor double features every summer night.

**End your trip at CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE**

If you drive the entire Illinois stretch from Chicago, your journey may conclude at Chain of Rocks Bridge. The mile-long span famous for its 30-degree bend once carried Route 66 drivers over the Mississippi River. Now open only to cyclists and pedestrians, the bridge proves an apt (if not particularly subtle) symbol of where we’ve been, how we got there and where we’ll head to next. Which, really, is the essential magic of Route 66.

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**See the world’s largest catsup bottle (really a historic water tower near Collinsville)!

**PEDAL TRIP**

Prefer a motor-free trip? You can ride Illinois’ Route 66 Bike Trail—369 miles of rural roads and trails that mirror the signed Route 66 auto route when possible.

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**REVVED-UP EVENTS**

**CHEER American Flat Track** motorcycle races run over Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends at the historic Route 66 Mother Road Festival, Springfield.
Ryburn Place at Sprague’s Super Service Stop into the historic Tudor-Revival building in Normal (a former Route 66 cafe and garage) for T-shirts, cards and more.

Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup Pick up jars of local syrup, handmade candies and maple cream at the farm that’s been tapping trees in Shirley for almost 200 years.

Harley-Davidson Springfield Mile. Both short- and mile-track races fill the bill.

PARTY The Countryside, Illinois, Harley-Davidson dealership holds its third

Sturgis on Route 66 (early August). Come for the entertainment, drinks and food, raffles, and a whole lot of bikes. It also hosts monthly Route 66 Car and Bike Cruise-Ins for enthusiasts to show off hardware.

SEE Ogle 500-plus vintage and custom cars, trucks, and motorcycles at the free Berwyn Route 66 Car Show August 24. Expect live music, flame-throwing cars and more.

CELEBRATE Plan on Springfield’s International Route 66 Mother Road Festival (September 27–29).
In 1907, Spencer and Powers designed the Edward W. McCready House in Wright's Prairie School style, where the home mimics the flat, expansive landscape of a prairie.
Only 10 miles from downtown Chicago, the western suburb of Oak Park feels like a fresh breath of green, abundant in both park space and charm. It also boasts the world’s largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed homes and buildings. Prairie-style gems fill the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District, best explored by foot or bicycle. Pay homage to the famed architect at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, where Wright spent the first 20 (and most prolific) years of his career, from 1889 to 1909. Guided tours daily.
SPOTLIGHT ON

OAK PARK AREA

SEE
► Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway was born in a second-floor bedroom of 339 N. Oak Park Ave. Tour the Queen Anne Ernest Hemingway Birthplace Home Museum (1), where he spent his first six years.
► Mingle with 2,000-plus plants at the Oak Park Conservatory (3).
► Pedal past 21 Frank Lloyd Wright-designed structures, popping off to snap pics of the Nathan G. Moore House during a two-hour guided bicycle tour (2) with the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust.
► Pack a picnic and head to the idyllic Austin Gardens to catch an open-air performance at summer favorite Oak Park Festival Theatre. Expect the likes of Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and Tennessee Williams.
► Touch spiders at Amazing Arachnids, one of newest exhibits at Brookfield Zoo (4), home to more than 3,500 animals (7 miles southwest of Oak Park).
► Hunt for clothing, art and more around North Marion Street between Lake Street and North Boulevard downtown.

SAVOR
► Enjoy wild mushroom tostadas (5) and handcrafted margaritas and habanero-spiked cocktails on the lively patio at festive Maya Del Sol.
► Breakfast classics, including Benedicts and brioche French toast, delight all day at Delia’s Kitchen.
► Classic French dishes like Mussels à la Marinère and Grilled Steak Frites recall a Parisian feast at the elegant Hemmingway’s Bistro. Sunday’s brunch buffet features live jazz.
► Prairie Bread Kitchen bakes up seven different types of bread, while also dishing soups, salads and sandwiches.

STAY
► Opened in 1928, the historic The Carleton of Oak Park boasts vintage architectural details.
► Request the Jimmy Stewart Suite at the Harvey House B&B and delight in the in-room fireplace and king whirlpool.
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With its rolling terrain, state parks and preserves traversed by the mighty Rock and Mississippi rivers, and biking and hiking trails crisscrossing the area, the Blackhawk Waterways region of northwest Illinois promises outdoor recreation bliss. Anchored by the serene, 385-acre White Pines Forest State Park, the region helped shape the childhood of our 40th president. Walk in the footsteps of a young Ronald Reagan, whose boyhood home opens its doors to visitors.
In the Blackhawk Waterways area, cruise the Rock River aboard The Pride of Oregon. The boat docks at Maxson’s Riverboat and Riverside Restaurant in Oregon.
BLACKHAWK WATERWAYS

SEE
► Thousands of petunias line the town’s main streets during The Dixon Petunia Festival (1), July 3–7. Enjoy arts and crafts demos, wacky competitions, a parade, a carnival, live music, and more along the downtown riverfront.
► Once a piano factory, Conover Square Merchant Mall in Oregon now houses an indoor mall with a variety of merchants, including Slip and Slurry Pottery.
► Tour the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home in Dixon. You’ll be transported to the 1920s, when the country’s 40th president and his family called this stately Queen Anne home.
► Mingle with the vintage cars and tractors that reside at Barnacopia (3), a three-story museum with an in-house ice cream parlor, in Polo.
► The Mount Carroll resident stock theater company at the historic Timber Lake Playhouse stages shows, including Shakespeare and Broadway musicals.
► Tour the 1830s family home and observe blacksmith demos at the John Deere Historic Site (4) in Grand Detour.

SAVOR
► Take your pick from more than 130 wines and 100 different martinis at Dixon’s spirited and stone-walled Crystal Cork Wine Shoppe.
► Gourmet comfort food highlights locally grown produce at Örôm in Dixon.
► Come for the craft beer, stay for the wings—served baked, fried or grilled, and then sauced—at Aero Ale House (2) in Byron.

STAY
► For a cozy weekend in the woods, stay at White Pines Resort (5), a rustic lodge dating from 1927. Twenty-five log cabins sit in White Pines Forest State Park.
► Just around the corner from the historic Lincoln Highway, the eco-friendly Lincoln Way Inn in Franklin Grove offers boldly designed guest rooms and gourmet breakfast fare.
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Take it slow on country lanes near Arcola and Tuscola—this is Amish Country, where you'll share the roads with horses and buggies.
Travel back to simpler times in the area around Arcola, Arthur, Sullivan and Tuscola, where it’s not uncommon to witness a barn raising or spot a horse-drawn buggy on a rural road. The state’s largest group of Old Order Amish lives in this serene area of Illinois. Mix and mingle with Amish people when items as varied as cows and cars hit the auction block at Arcola’s Tri-County Auctions. Or say hello at Beachy’s Bulk Foods near Arthur, where a full line of spices, flours, nuts, dried fruits and candies are sourced for many of the fresh, Amish-made pies found in area bakeries.
SPOTLIGHT ON

AMISH COUNTRY

SEE
► Amish Adventures and Stellar Tours (1) offers personalized guided tours of Amish homes (including a meal), a woodworking shop and the countryside.
► Bordered by two state parks—Wolf Creek and Eagle Creek—and five federal campgrounds, Lake Shelbyville (5) offers fishing, boating, swimming and sandcastle building on the shoreline.
► Browse hundreds of locally sewn, hand-stitched quilts in a rainbow of colors at The Woodloft in Arthur.
► The Vault Art Gallery, housed in a historic former bank building in Tuscola, showcases the masterpieces of independent artists.
► In 2012, 130 artists from around the world, known as the Walldogs, descended upon downtown Arcola, leaving behind 15 noteworthy Walldog Murals (4).

SAVOR
► Delight in the broasted chicken and egg noodles at the hearty Amish buffet at Yoder’s Kitchen in Arthur.
► The Homestead Bakery (2), adjacent to a U-pick pumpkin patch in Arthur, bakes up classic Amish goodies, including caramel-iced cinnamon rolls and signature angel food cakes.
► Venture back to the days when the soda jerk was king at Dicks Pharmacy in downtown Arthur.
► Chat over chai, craft beers, cocktails or wine at 5 West Coffee and Wine Lounge (3) in Sullivan.

STAY
► For an outdoor-oriented stay, book the Firefly Lodge, a three-level log cabin on Lake Shelbyville.
► Arthur’s Country Inn resides near an Amish woodshop, coffee shop and cheese shop, and features fine Amish-made furniture in every room.
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Photo Credit: Emily Magers Photography | Allerton Park

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
Cedarhurst Center for the Arts stays open until 8 p.m. Thursdays during summer for live-music events.
Creativity rules in the southern Illinois town of Mt. Vernon. While you’ll want to stroll the historic downtown along Ninth Street with lights twinkling overhead, plan plenty of time for the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, an 85-acre estate that includes the Mitchell Museum and the Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park. Immerse yourself in art through the center’s changing gallery exhibitions and performances that include chamber music, concerts, programs and educational opportunities.
**SPOTLIGHT ON**

**MT. VERNON**

**SEE**
- Call ahead for a tour of the Greek Revival 1857 **Appellate Courthouse (1)**, a working courthouse where Honest Abe once tried a case.
- Search for treasures at **Market Days**, now an indoor (new in 2019) and outdoor flea market and vendor fair held the first Saturday of every month between May and September.
- King City Books promises good books, good coffee and good people in a warm and inviting space that highlights local authors.
- Outdoor adventures—fishing, water sports, horseback riding, hiking—abound at **Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area**, a 3,300-acre state park bordering picture-perfect Rend Lake near Benton.
- Search the stacks of vinyl at **Main Street Records (2)** for your next best find. George Harrison is said to have bought his 1962 Rickenbacker guitar from Fenton’s Music store, which used to occupy this space.

**SAVOR**
- Double-seasoned and charred ribs satisfy alongside Texas brisket at **A Fine Swine BBQ and Pizza (3)**.
- The wet-aged 14-ounce New York strip complemented with creamed spinach stands out at **Rare Chop House**.
- Zesty barbecue served by the basket or on nachos, plus ice-cold beers, star at **The Frosty Mug Bar and Grill (4)**.
- Fluffy, three-egg omelets and malted waffles topped with syrup make **The Waffle Company** a breakfast must.
- Bugsy’s Chicago Dog dresses up its Vienna Beef hot dogs with relish, sport peppers, onion, tomato, mustard and cucumber. It also serves Chicago faves, including Italian beef sandwiches.

**STAY**
- Set in an elegant 1920s Colonial home, the five-star **Sidwell Friends Bed and Breakfast (5)** holds court among Mt. Vernon’s stately homes and towering trees, just a couple of blocks from the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts.
Where else... can you enjoy brunch at a local cafe & bakery, take to the trails of a national forest for an afternoon hike, and top off the evening at a historic movie theater... all without traveling more than a few miles?

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