

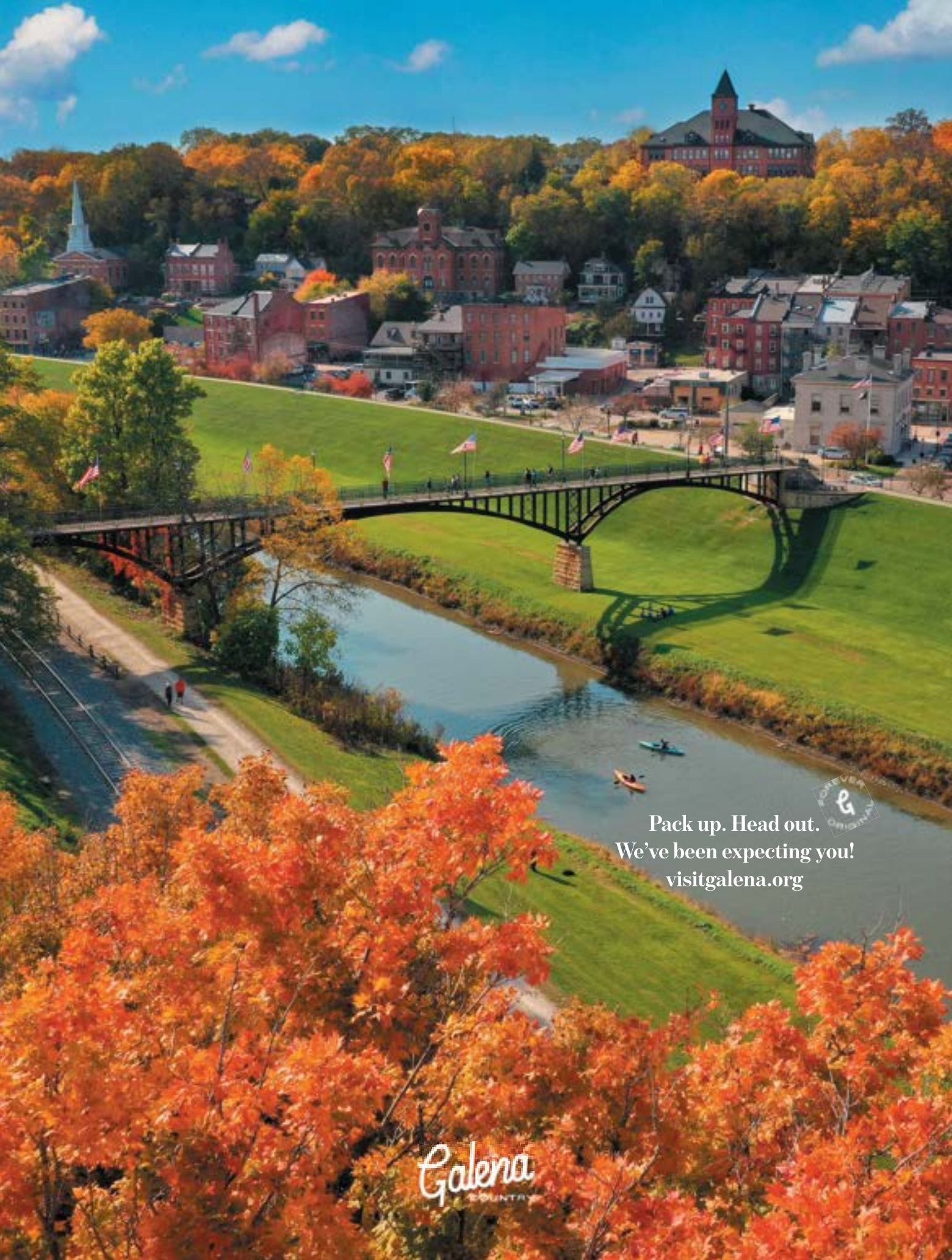
FALL/WINTER 2023-2024

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Galena
COUNTRY

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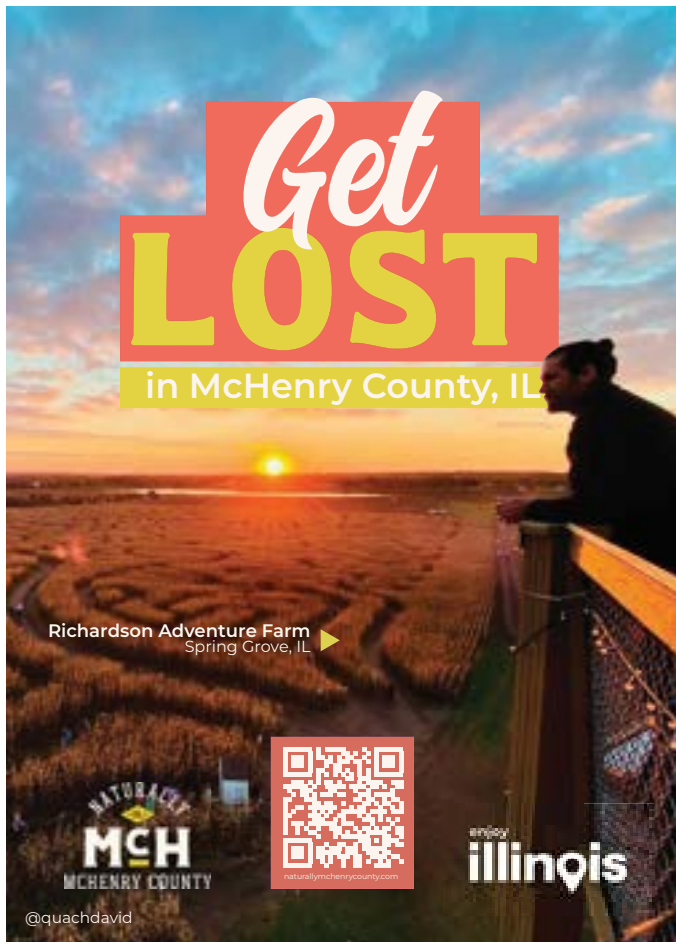
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FALL/WINTER 2023-2024

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Photo by Stephanie Timponi

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EAT, STAY & PLAY

GUIDEBOOK

FALL
WINTER
2023-2024

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EXPLORE MORE!



fall into fun

The colors, tastes and festivals of fall are fleeting. Get out and experience these iconic autumn activities at locations statewide before they disappear.

Fun Fact!

Dogs (on a leash) are welcome at Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden.



arboretums

Unearth inner peace beneath the Oak Grove canopy at the **University of Illinois Arboretum** in Urbana, during an after-hours tranquility walk at the **Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden** in Rockford, or in the center of **The Morton Arboretum Maze Garden** in Lisle.



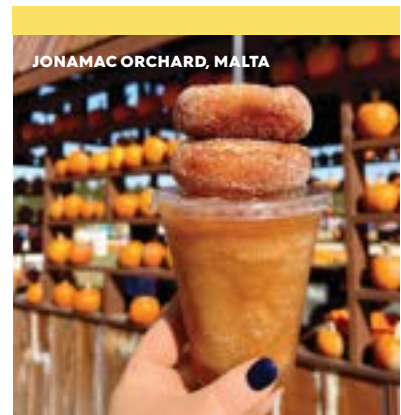
corn mazes

You'll need a flashlight for the after-dark adventure at the **Great Godfrey Maze** (September 15–October 28), but no flashlights are allowed at the **Jonamac Orchard's Haunted Corn Maze** (October 6–29, Friday and Saturday nights) in Malta. **Kroll's Fall Harvest Farm** in Waukegan enhances its corn maze with an educational game (mid-September to October 31).



AERIE'S RESORT, GRAFTON

alpine rides The dual alpine slides at **Chestnut Mountain Resort** in Galena whip riders down a 2,050-foot-long track from the treetops to the banks of the Mississippi (weekends only from Labor Day to October 22). Ride a chairlift to the top for panoramic views that include Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. The state's first alpine coaster twists above the riverbank and beautiful bluffs at **Aerie's Resort** in Grafton. The year-round coaster (yep, ride even in winter) provides thrills for the whole family (ages 3 and older) with seven hairpin turns and eight waves/twisters on a ¾-mile track.



JONAMAC ORCHARD, MALTA

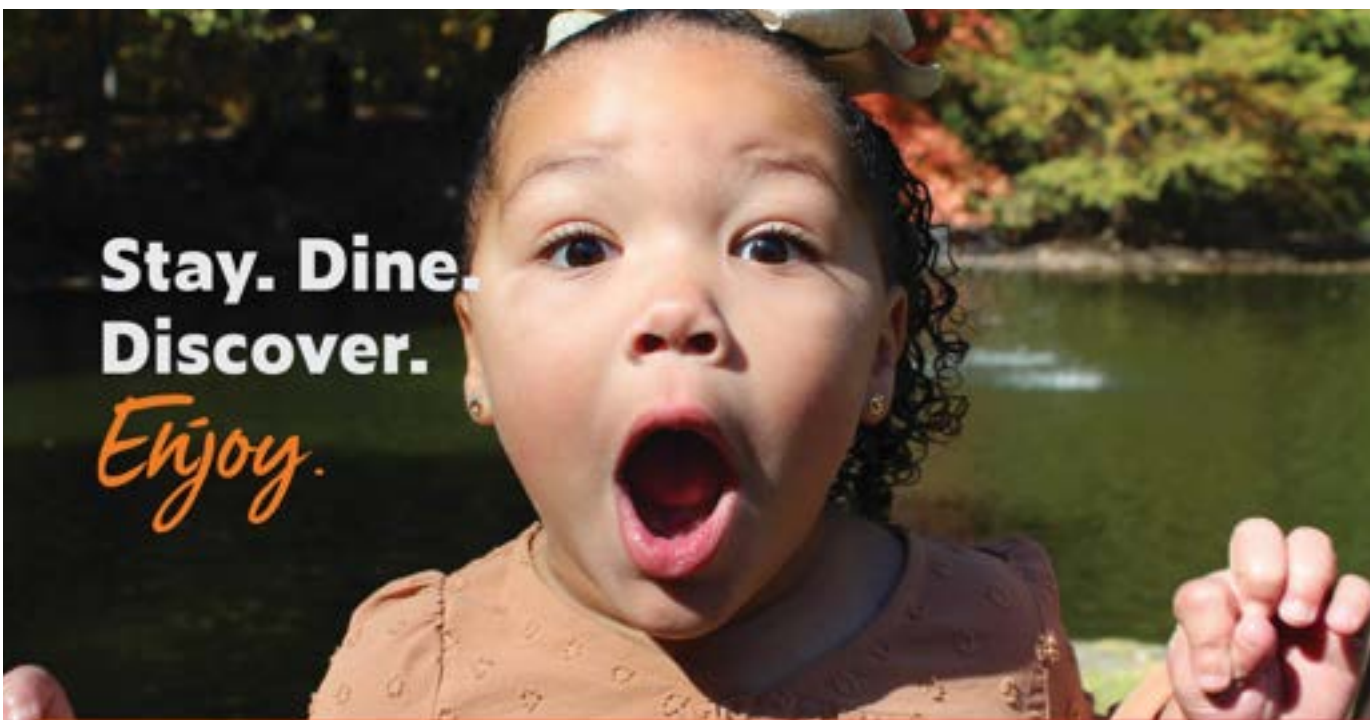


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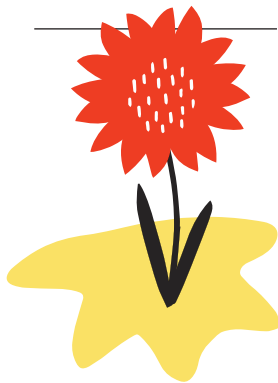
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MISSISSIPPI PALISADES STATE PARK, SAVANNA



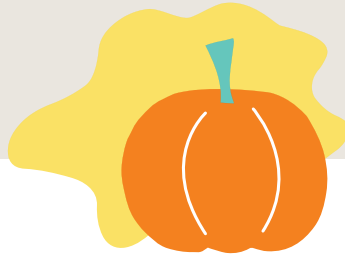
hikes

Follow trails through a bounty of autumn hues at the **Waterfall Glen** forest preserve in Darien or trek above the caves of **Mississippi Palisades State Park** near Savanna. Wander footbridges through bluffs on the **Giant City State Park Nature Trail** near Makanda.



sunflower fields

Happiness is...collecting a bouquet of mums and yellow and autumn sunflowers from U-pick fields at **Rendleman Orchards** in Alto Pass (mums August 26 to October 8; yellow sunflowers, mid-September; autumn sunflowers following two weeks after; all weather dependent). Or get lost in the sunflower maze (through mid-November), and see fields of zinnias and cosmos at **Von Bergen's Country Market** in Hebron.



pumpkin patches

Ride a wagon through **The Great Pumpkin Patch** (Wednesdays to Sundays, September 20–October 29 and October 9) in Arthur; hop on a free hayride after picking your pumpkin at Quincy's **Mill Creek Farm** (September 30–October 29, weekends); or find your pumpkin by flashlight on a weekend sunset hayride to the patch at McHenry's **Stade's Farm and Market** (September 23–24, 30; October 1, 6–9, 13–15, 20–22, 27–29).

Fun Facts!

Morton, home to Nestle's Libby's Pumpkin, hosts a four-day festival that kicks off the canning season (September 13–16). Morton is known as the Pumpkin Capital of the World.

festivals

Fall festivals are stuffed with fun! Don't miss the Halloween-themed parade (October 7) during the **Scarecrow Daze** festival in Shelbyville or the **Scarecrow Festival** (September 30) in Ottawa. Vote for your favorite handcrafted scarecrow at **Scarecrow Weekend** (October 6–8) in St. Charles.



ROYAL OAK FARM ORCHARD, HARVARD

orchards

A perky white-and-teal barn at Rockford's **Thyme and Again Farm** is filled with crunchy apples (September 16–November 1). The trees of Elizabeth's **Dittmar Farms and Orchard** are heavy and ripe for hand-picking (August 19–October 29). And the apple tree maze at Harvard's **Royal Oak Farm Orchard** stands ready to confound (August 19–October 31).

farm animals

Discover baby goats and pony rides at **Curtis Orchard** in Champaign (last weekend of August through October 31). Catch barnyard activities, plus a corn maze, apple U-picks, pumpkins and cider doughnuts at **All Seasons Orchard Amazing Adventure** in Woodstock (August 26–October 29).



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EXPLORE

LaSalle County

Escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, visit LaSalle County. This oasis of unexpected natural wonders is home to the legendary Starved Rock State Park and picturesque small towns, lined with exciting eateries and boutique shopping opportunities. Whether you're looking to tour museums and mansions, or sample locally made wine and craft beer, there's an adventure awaiting you in LaSalle County.

- **DOWNTOWN STREATOR** - Murals, boutiques, dining and more
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- **AUGUST HILL WINERY/ILLINOIS SPARKLING CO.** - Enjoy wine tastings at August Hill
- **CAMP ARAMONI** - Boutique camping accommodations
- **TANGLED ROOTS BREWING CO.** - Craft beer and food experience
- **DOWNTOWN OTTAWA** - Vibrant downtown and family-friendly fests
- **HEGELER CARUS MANSION** - Step back into history
- **STARVED ROCK STATE PARK** - 13+ miles of trails and famous ice falls
- **STARVED ROCK LODGE** - Cabins, hikes, tours, & outdoor dining

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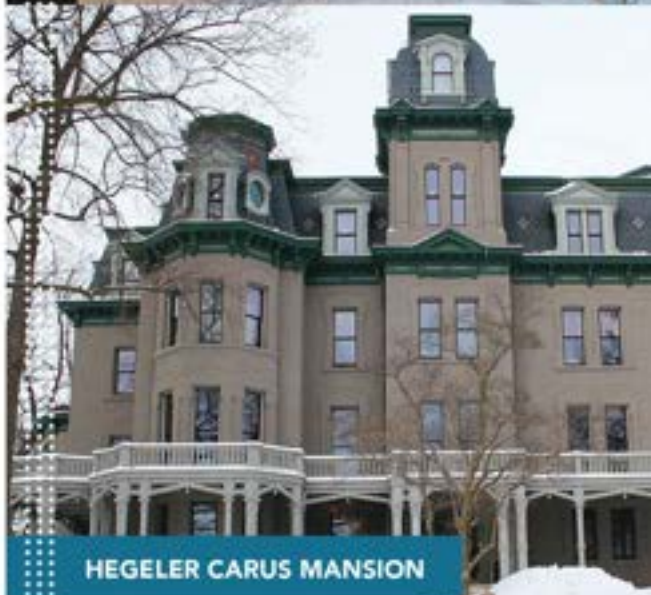
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rails-to-trails routes

More than 1,000 miles of former railroad routes crisscross Illinois, now providing a variety of mileage options on multiuse trails—with incredible scenery as a backdrop.

Bloomington to Normal

Constitution Trail

Miles 37

Trail Surface

Asphalt and concrete

This trail, with numerous branches and offshoots, links two university towns. The main route passes by the family-owned **Beer Nuts** factory, through neighborhoods and parks, and the **Uptown Normal** district, known for trendy shops and restaurants near **Illinois State University**.



It's Christmas Time in the City... of Decatur!



The Decatur area offers so much during the holiday season.

To learn about these seasonal activities and more, call 800-331-4479 or visit www.decaturcvb.com.



UNCOVER THE *Possibilities*

Experience the rich arts and culture of Jacksonville, IL... starting with an art gallery housed in a Second Empire-style mansion. Reconnect with the rustic charm of the agritourism destinations growing fresh blueberries and pumpkins. Warm up with a delectable meal from wood-fired pizza on the square to farm to table cuisine in our historic train depot. No matter what your idea of a good time is, creating your own experiences comes as easily as discovering a bit of the past.



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LAKEFRONT TRAIL

northern illinois

Oak Park

Grand Illinois Trail

Miles 535-mile loop
Trail Surface Paved and limestone screening off-road trails, plus approximately 200 paved, on-road miles (mostly quiet and rural)

The state's longest continuous bike route, including many of the state's longest off-road trails, extends from **Lake Michigan** to the **Mississippi River**, north to **Savanna** **Mississippi Palisades State Park**, and back across the northern border. Along the way, riders are treated with human-created wonders, like historic architecture in Chicago neighborhoods, as well as natural wonders—rivers, bluffs, forests and prairies. Most bicyclists tackle the trail in sections ranging from 40 to 80 miles, which helps minimize tired muscles and logistical challenges.



e-bikes

Electric pedal-assisted bikes make pedaling easier while still providing exercise and fresh air. Here's a few places to try one out:

CHICAGO

Rent a Divvy pedal-assist e-bike and pop up to **The Bloomingdale Trail**. The 606 runs almost 3 miles from Wicker Park to Humboldt Park. If you're downtown, try the **Lakefront Trail**.

GALENA

Rent a bike from **Nuts Outdoors** and cruise from downtown to **Galena Cellars Winery**, where you can enjoy a free glass of wine. A shuttle will take you and your bike back to town.

SHAWNEE HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

Shawnee Hills E-bikes in Jonesboro stocks a foldable Rad Power Bike for rent or test ride. They also deliver bikes to local bed-and-breakfasts.



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Harrisburg to Karnak

Tunnel Hill State Trail

Miles 45

Trail Surface

Mostly concrete, also crushed limestone

Slicing through the **Shawnee National Forest**, Tunnel Hill's name comes from the 543-foot-long tunnel once used by railcars. There's also 23 trestles to cross from a mere 34 feet to 450 feet long. Near Karnak, pedal past swamps with ancient cypress and tupelo trees at **Cache River State Natural Area**.

Joliet to Chicago Heights

Old Plank Road Trail

Miles 22

Trail Surface *Asphalt*

Reconnect with nature on this path as you pedal through prairies and wetlands and the southern suburbs of Chicago. Grab a bite to eat in **New Lenox** or at **Frankfort's trail namesake Old Plank Trail Tavern**. In the spring, more than 200 unique prairie plants grow alongside the trail.

Alta to Toulon

Rock Island Trail State Park

Miles 26

Trail Surface *Crushed limestone*

Ride with the wind at your back along the northern portion of this trail, pedaling south beneath a canopy of trees and through a tallgrass prairie. A trestle bridge crosses the **Spoon River**, plus there's a depot marking the spot railroad passengers frequented a century ago.

Algonquin to Aurora

Fox River Bike Trail

Miles 44

Trail Surface *Mostly asphalt and concrete*

Fuel up at **Van's Frozen Custard and Burgers** in East Dundee on this north-south route along the Fox River and through historic towns like Elgin and St. Charles. Look for eagles and herons while cruising through two forest preserves and the **Hawthorne Hill Nature Center**.

Explore Adventures

In the Elgin Area



EEA Coffee Trail



Goebbert's Farm



Nightmare on Chicago Street



Plank Road Tap Room



There's no better place to see the colder seasons than in the Elgin Area! From Nightmare on Chicago Street in October to the festivities throughout, see more at:

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handcrafted wellness

Treat yourself (and friends and family) with locally created self-care products from these Illinois Made makers.



The Mask Bar

Book a seat at Scratch Good's 44-person Mask Bar and receive guidance from staff as you experiment with handmade masks and face oils.



Natural Ingredients

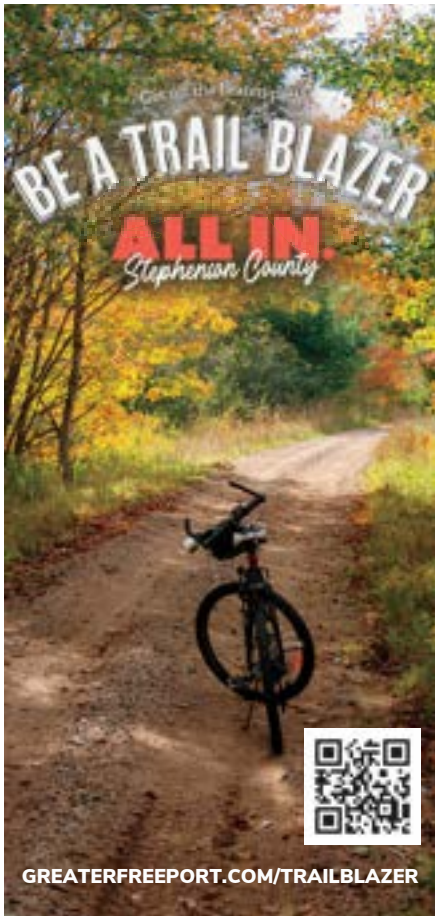
The face oils, body scrubs and soaks use edible ingredients from ethical sources, including local producers and family farms.



ELEVATE YOUR ROUTINE

"Basic, simple skin care is approachable, affordable and can be such a relaxing part of your daily ritual," says **Scratch Goods** cofounder Maureen McClure (above, right). She and Elizabeth Leipold, friends from high school, started a skin care line with locally sourced, plant-based ingredients more than a dozen years ago. From selling on Etsy to pop-ups, the two now have a permanent space in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood.

"Developing a ritual around your skin care can be very meditative. It can help clear your mind, connect with your senses and anchor your day with meaningful alone time," McClure says. Yes, please!



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100
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All in the Family
Water Sweets Soap Company founders Lisa and Alex Sutterfield, a mother-son duo, list every ingredient for all their products on their website.



PURE PLEASURES
Water Sweets Soap Company creates bath and body products free from preservatives and detergents. While natural skin care goods are a boon for all, it's especially important for people with sensitivities or skin conditions. That's why their Bare line's soaps and lotion bars are either unscented or scented with essential oils only. For a luxurious first experience, try the Bubble Scoops during your next soak. You'll find both in the Edwardsville and O'Fallon stores or online.



VISIT THE MAKERS

Scan the code to learn more about all of the Illinois Made makers.



FUEL YOUR DAY Local artwork and a tile mural featuring an adventurous goat nibbling from a coffee tree adorn the walls at **Mad Goat Coffee**, along with a colorful sign proclaiming, "Enjoy our coffee and your community." Cofounder Sam George believes in fostering connections between customers and staff, and also among coffee-lovers. "Besides bolstering emotional health, grabbing a favorite coffee or latte provides an accessible and affordable way to treat yourself," George says. If you're in the Danville area, choose from two locations: The Flagship Cafe and Roastery on South Gilbert and The Original coffee shop on North Vermilion. Or sign up to have fresh-roasted beans shipped to your home with a coffee subscription.



Fresh from the Field
In early summer, visitors to Shawnee Hills Lavender can cut their own lavender bundles, sip lavender lemonade and peruse the gift shop.



FIELDS OF FLOWERS Cherished for its calming properties, lavender not only smells fantastic but also enhances well-being. Take a field trip to **Shawnee Hills Lavender** in June to fully experience the blooming season. The aromatic plants grow on a hillside in Cobden that's been farmed by co-owner Charlotte Clover's family for more than 200 years. She and her husband, Doug, tend 12 plant varieties and more than 1,000 plants. Teas, home accessories and a bounty of other products are available year-round at Annabelle Market in Anna and online.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (MAD GOAT COFFEE) COURTESY OF MAD GOAT COFFEE, (LAVENDER) COURTESY OF SHAWNEE HILLS LAVENDER, (WATER SWEETS) AUSTIN DAY

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Q&A

aimee garcia

Known for her roles in TV shows *Dexter* and *Lucifer*, this Latina actor is grateful for her Midwest roots—and the Chicago theater scene that started her passion.

Aimee Garcia practically grew up onstage, making her debut at the age of seven as a dancer in *Cinderella* at Chicago's iconic Auditorium Theatre, then going on to star as Clara in the Arie Crown Theater's production of *The Nutcracker*.

Shifting her talents from live performance to film and television, Garcia landed her first break-out role on the *George Lopez* show, then portrayed a variety of characters until she became dotting nanny Jamie Batista on *Dexter*. Fantasy fans then fell in love with her portrayal of indefatigable forensic scientist Ella Lopez on *Lucifer*. Last year, she channeled a similar high energy as a surprisingly down-to-earth pop star in the Netflix film *Christmas with You*, starring opposite Freddie Prinze Jr.

Garcia's latest movie, *The Cases of Mystery Lane*, currently on Hallmark Movies and Mysteries channel and streaming on Peacock, combines the comic timing of some of her best roles with clever detective work that would make Ella proud.

Though her shooting schedule keeps her busy in Los Angeles, Garcia ensures that she spends plenty of time back home in Chicago. We managed to catch up with her to discuss her favorite city restaurants, throwing out the first pitch at (several) Cubs games and her Chicago holiday traditions.

Hometown Proud
"People from Chicago are just really nice, salt of the earth, grounded, friendly people. You know once you're from there that's it. It's like you carry the city with you everywhere you go," Garcia says.



All the right notes
Aimee Garcia
sings her way
into the heart
of a music
teacher (Freddie
Prinze Jr.) in this
holiday treat.



On the case
Garcia and
Paul Campbell
star as Birdie
and Alden
Case, amateur
sleuths with
some secrets
of their own.

GARCIA
CHICAGO
HOLIDAY
TRADITIONS

MAGNIFICENT MILE

I love window shopping on Michigan Avenue and seeing families and tourists gawk at Willis Tower.

LITTLE VILLAGE

I love the Posadas, a celebration that includes street processions that end with parties at different houses.

We're a big Elvis Christmas family, so we play his music as we put out our nutcrackers and tree ornaments. Of course, tamales are a crucial part of our Mexican Christmas tradition too.

CHRISTKINDMARKET

Every year, my family visits the downtown Christkindmarket by the Picasso statue and eats (too many!) sweets and roasted walnuts. There are carolers, hot chocolate mugs, ornaments and little wooden houses.

COOLIGHTS

I love drinking hot chocolate and seeing the Christmas lights at the Lincoln Park Zoo. The bundled-up kids look adorable!

X You grew up sitting in the cheap seats at Wrigley Field. What was it like to come back and throw out the first pitch at a Cubs game?

A I've thrown the first pitch a few times. It was so cool to be in the middle of that field, because it has so much history. My dad had me go out and practice on my old little league field, and he was like: "You gotta aim for the catcher's head. You gotta practice. You gotta remember you're on a mound, so you have to aim high."

My first throw was great. I mean, it wouldn't win any awards, but it made it to the plate, and I was very excited. My second one was a bit of a grounder, but the catcher made me look good. And my third one was just...*Bad News Bears*. It's nerve-racking because you just have one shot.

X Oak Park was also a big part of your childhood. Is there something that draws you back there?

A I love trees. I'm obsessed with these beautiful oxygen makers that just instantly relax you. And birds, there are tons of birds out that way. If they're in season, you can see cardinals, which is very romantic because they're always in pairs.

X You spent much of your childhood in Little Village. What do you love about coming back to the neighborhood?

A I love Little Village because it has really preserved its cultural roots. A lot of people speak Spanish. There are quinceañera dress shops and mercados. You feel like you're in Mexico without having to get on a plane.

X We hear you are also part owner of a hometown soccer team?

A Yes, the Red Stars. I'm very proud of them. Honestly, when they approached me about part ownership, I really just wanted to support women in Chicago.

They play at the SeatGeek Stadium in Bridgeview. It's a great place to watch a game. It's very open, so everyone has a good seat and can feel like they're close to the action. These women are strong and athletic—and just total champions.

X What are some of your favorite traditions when you come home to Chicago?

A I go to Little Village and get conchas, which are Mexican sweet bread rolls, and I'll go to Casa Central to have Puerto Rican food. Then I'll hit downtown, especially the Art Institute and Jazz Showcase on Plymouth Court. They always have incredible jazz musicians, and it's very intimate. If I'm having a night out with my friends from Northwestern, I'll go to Soho House.

GARCIA'S
GO-TO
CHICAGO
EATS

SOHO HOUSE

It's so lovely to go out on the rooftop deck with friends and take in the beautiful downtown skyline.

THE PURPLE PIG

This downtown hot spot obviously has pork, but they have fancy stuff, too, like bone marrow and beef tenderloin.

GIRL AND THE GOAT

I just always have a really good experience at this restaurant in the West Loop.

BIG STAR

I highly recommend this taco place in Wicker Park.

THE WORMHOLE COFFEE

This Wicker Park spot has a replica of the DeLorean car from *Back to the Future* hanging from the ceiling.

CAFE CENTRAL

In West Town, try the plantains, which are delicious.

I'm a big fan of their arroz con gandules (rice with pigeon peas), and you will probably find me there.

EMILIO'S TAPAS

You've got to love a classic Spanish tapas bar—it's outside of Chicago, in Hillside.

Q As a founding member of Soho House Chicago, what do you think of that incredible rooftop pool?

A It's a 360-degree view. You're looking out at the Willis Tower and toward the lake. It's really nice, especially during the summer.

Q You were a triple major at Northwestern. What was it like to go to school so close to home?

A I'm a very family-oriented person so I wanted to stay close to them. We would have dinner every Sunday, and all my college friends would come. Latin families are just very warm and open, so anyone who didn't have a home, we'd take them home and feed them. It was like an extended family.

Northwestern struck me as a well-rounded school where you could be artistic and academic. I majored in economics, journalism and French, but I also played Morales in *A Chorus Line*.

Q Tell us about your production company and its Chicago ties.

A AJ Mendez (*The New York Times* bestseller author of *Crazy is My Superpower*) and I created Scrappy Heart Productions to elevate diverse voices across all media and tell the stories we didn't have growing up. AJ and I love brainstorming at The Wormhole Coffee. The 80s-inspired artwork inspires us! We wrote our first comic, *Glow*, there.

Comic relief
Aimee Garcia and AJ Mendez penned the comic based on Netflix's series *GLOW*.



Q What was it like breaking into the performing arts in Chicago at such a young age?

A I was really lucky to have a place like Lifeline Theatre. I got my theater break there, but Chicago also gave me my TV break. I did McDonald's commercials with Michael Jordan and Sammy Sosa when I was just 12 years old. I remember Jordan loved strawberry milkshakes. I got to spend 12 hours with a living legend. But Chicago keeps you humble. There's no believing your own hype when you're from the Midwest. Roll up your sleeves, focus on the work and be respectful.

GARCIA'S
RED STAR
DAY IN
BRIDGEVIEW

Start (or end the day) with a Red Stars soccer match at SeatGeek Stadium. You can go with the whole family. The venue's Branding Iron Bar and Grill is good. Nearby, there's a cute little place called Billy Jo's Drive-Thru. They have burgers, subs and butter garlic fries (definitely not diet food).



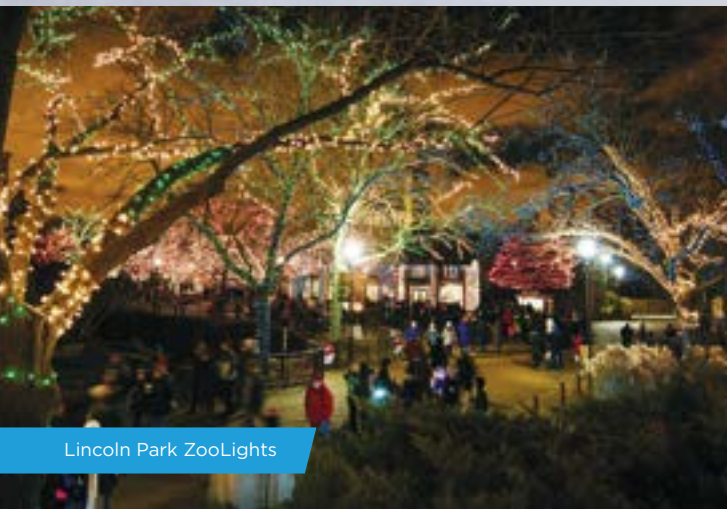
Christkindlmarket



Millennium Park Tree



Maggie Daley Park Skating Ribbon



Lincoln Park ZooLights

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- 2 MILLENNIUM PARK**
Take a spin around the ice in the shadow of The Bean or skate through a snow-covered park on the whimsical Skating Ribbon.
- 3 LINCOLN PARK ZOO**
ZooLights, a beloved winter tradition, transforms this historic zoo into a dazzling wonderland with holiday activities for the whole family.
- 4 DALEY PLAZA**
Step inside Christkindlmarket, a traditional German holiday market filled with authentic food and drinks, artisan crafts, and lots of charm. Daley Plaza is also where you'll find the giant Menorah lit up for Hanukkah.
- 5 THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY**
Don't miss the Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light exhibits, where you can discover holiday customs from all over the globe.
- 6 CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS**
The city's neighborhoods are all decked out for the holidays, with tons of local shopping and unique boutiques in Andersonville, Hyde Park, Wicker Park, Pilsen, and beyond.

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craft beer trails

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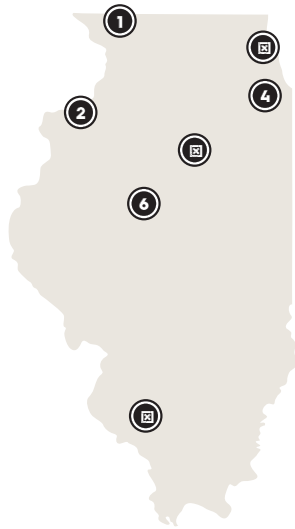


Request your free guide and plan your fall getaway to the Champaign-Urbana area.

enjoy **illinois**



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1 | Northest Illinois Ale Trail
Freeport and Galena Area

Two of the seven taprooms harness local bounty. **Generations Brewing Company** in Freeport has Pretzel City Amber Ale, which is brewed with bits of locally made pretzels. Freeport is known as Pretzel City thanks in part to German settlers and their love for the twisty snack. **Wishful Acres Farm and Brewery** grows hops, pumpkins, basil and other ingredients for its small-batch beers in Lena.

2 | C Ale Trail
Rock Island to Geneseo

Sure, a good pour is prize enough, but taking home a pint glass after checking off all 18 breweries along both sides of the Great River Road—wending through the Quad Cities—sweetens the pot. For a surprising sip, try one of the small-batch concoctions (and caffeine-free sodas) at **Great Revivalist Brew Lab**, or savor a peanut butter porter at **Geneseo Brewing Company**, both in Geneseo.

3 | Lake County Libation Trail
Chicago's North Suburbs

Stop by Lake County's first brewpub, **Mickey Finn's Brewery**, to try suds made on-site. (Ask about cask and growler offerings.) **Ravinia Brewing Company's** rotating taco menu and its ever-shifting craft beer offerings warrant repeat trips. Receive discounts at the nearly 30 participating breweries, wineries and distilleries during the area's Spooks and Spirits celebration in October.

4 | Dixie Highballer Trail
Chicago's South Suburbs

Thornton Distilling Company's artisanal liquor, such as Dead Drop Gin, adds another chapter to its location's already-impressive history. (It calls the building that once sheltered Al Capone's largest production facility home.) If you prefer suds over spirits, seven taprooms await, including **Blue Island Beer Company** and its refreshing shandies. In Beverly, look for **Horse Thief Hollow's** seasonal brew.

5 | Heritage Corridor Ale Trail
Chicago's South Suburbs to Starved Rock

Completed in 1848, the 96-mile I&M Canal facilitated commerce between the Illinois River and Lake Michigan. These days, rushing taps at 16 breweries along the route keep business flowing. In Shorewood, **Mad Hatchet Brewing** sports eerie decor year-round, and **RT66 Old School Brewing** sits on the Mother Road in Wilmington, minutes from the Gemini Giant.



Bring the pooch many places are dog-friendly.

7 | Southern Illinois Beer Trail
Alton to Cobden

This extensive trail with 15 taprooms is divided into three loops: red, blue and green. A few faves from each include dog-friendly **Old Bakery Beer Company** (red loop), **St. Nicholas Brewing Company** (in a Mark Twain haunt on the blue loop); and **Apple Knocker Hard Cider** (green loop), which celebrates the classic fruit.

6 | Rock Island Ale Trail
Peoria to Toulon

Cyclists may need some extra time to travel the 26-mile Rock Island State Trail connecting downtown Peoria and Toulon, thanks to the six breweries worth visiting along the way. In Peoria, change a flat tire at the bike repair station at **Obed and Isaac's**, a microbrewery housed in an 1889 church, or quaff the prickly pear cactus-spiked Desert Juice at **Bearded Owl Brewing**.



MALT ROW

In Chicago, the Ravenswood Industrial Corridor (aka Malt Row) presents its own distinctive take on the craft at 10 independent breweries. Find a grapefruit-tinged IPA at **Spiteful Brewing**, a honey-laced Blizzard of '67 pale ale at **Hop Butcher For the World**, and botanical-infused ales at **Cultivate by Forbidden Root**. Not a hop fan? Try gin or whiskey at **KOVAL**, Chicago's first after-prohibition distillery, or sip on a Cabernet Franc at **VIN312 Winery's** tasting room.

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COLD-WEATHER
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Warm up to colorful fun in Lake County

Lake County, just north of Chicago, offers countless ways to enjoy its family-friendly fun. From pumpkin patches and Halloween activities to holiday light shows and Great Wolf Lodge's amazing indoor waterpark, there's something for everyone. Book your stay at GreatWolf.com/Illinois. Plan your getaway at VisitLakeCounty.org.



COZY CABINS + MORE

EAGLE RIDGE RESORT, GALENA

Massages at Stonedrift Spa, in-room jetted bathtubs in some rooms, and a lounge with an impressive wine list lure resort guests indoors, but the opportunity to see the property's snow-dusted beauty gives The Nordic Center its own gravitational pull. Ice-skate on the new rink or go sledding on the 10th-hole's hill. Come back to experience Winter Carnival (February 16–19). The resort's festival caters to families with hayrides, ice-carving demos and hot-air balloon glows.

INN AT IRISH HOLLOW, GALENA

Listen closely to the satisfying crunch of snow under your snowshoes—or the swish of your cross-country skis—as you journey across miles of trails on the property grounds. Both sounds soothe visitors nearly as much as the bed-and-breakfast's hot stone massages and the crackling of each cottage's fireplace.

GIANT CITY STATE PARK, MAKANDA

Set out on a guided walk through Giant City and see giant icicles up close in the Shawnee National Forest. The rocky, castle-like walls of Giant City Lodge deliver a similar wow moment for hikers, who nestle in at their private cabin after ascending the 50-foot-tall observation deck (closed mid-December to February 2).



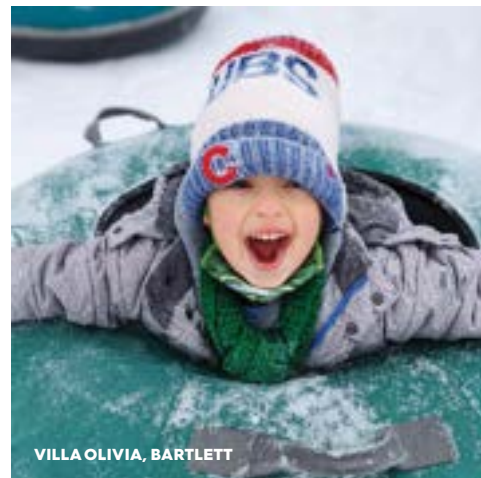
EAGLE RIDGE RESORT, GALENA

ALSO CHECK OUT

X Games aficionados practice sliding over boxes and rails at **Four Lakes Alpine Snowsports** in Lisle, while beginner trails and novice-friendly tow ropes keep DuPage County's ski area from getting too intimidating. Those ready to hop on a ski lift or take on the tubing hill can venture to **Villa Olivia** in Bartlett.

SKIING + SNOWBOARDING

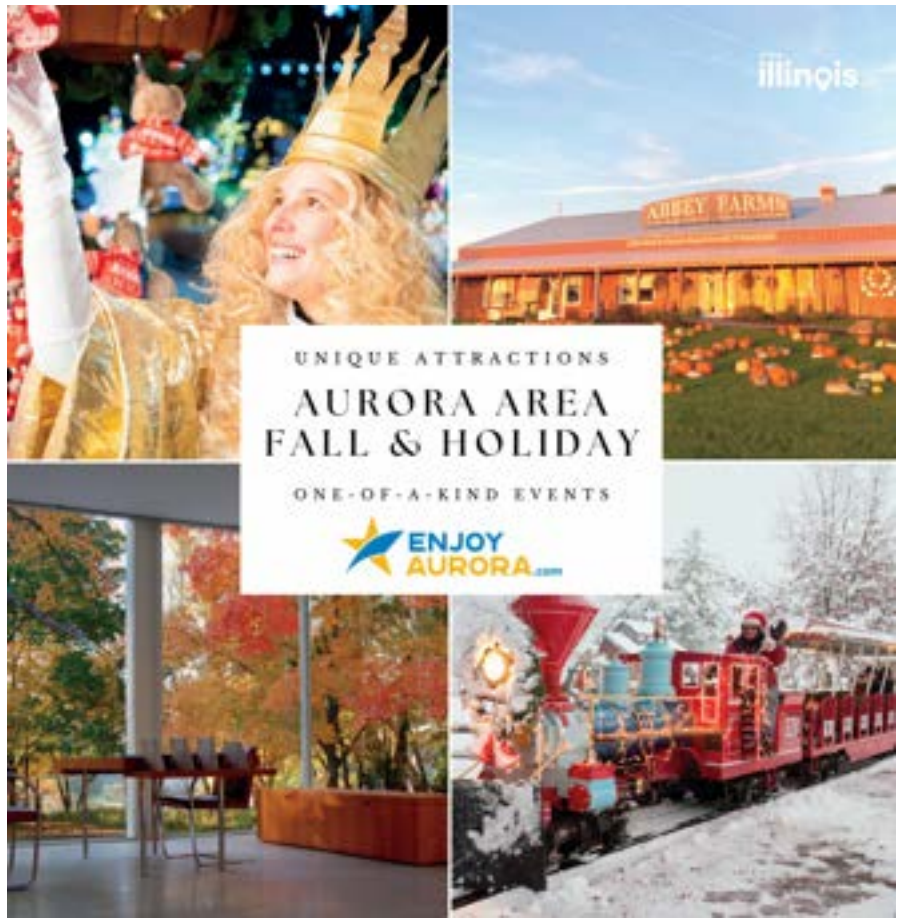
Ensure you're first in line when the ski lifts start running by booking a stay in one of the 100 rooms at **Chestnut Mountain Resort** in Galena. Thanks to 19 different runs (including meandering bunny hills and pulse-pounding black diamonds), skiers of all levels will find an area ideal for their skill set. Snowboarders head to the Farside, a terrain park packed with more than 25 trails (and its own chairlift). Off the mountain, discover miles and miles of winter hiking trails and an indoor pool.



VILLA OLIVIA, BARTLETT

PHOTOGRAPHS: (EAGLE RIDGE) COURTESY OF EAGLE RIDGE RESORT, (TUBE) JILL CODY





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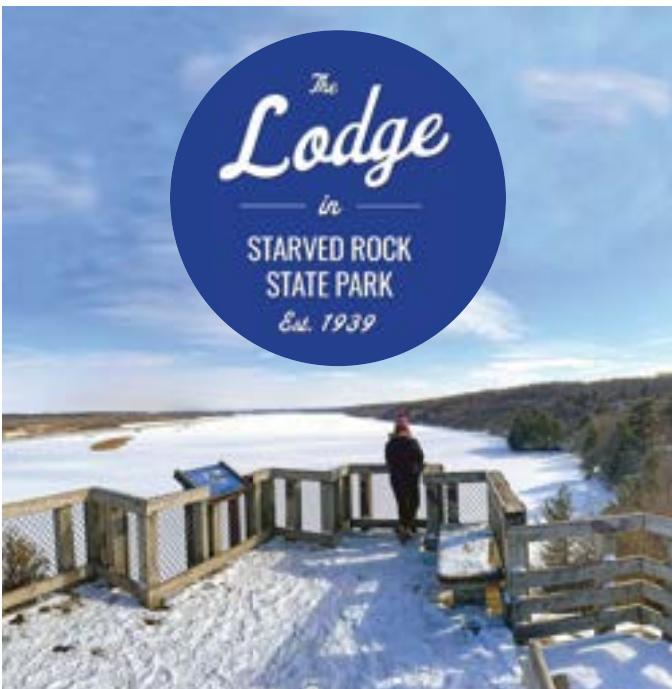
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GUIDEBOOK || WINTER



STARVED ROCK STATE PARK, OGLESBY

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EAGLE WATCHING

Interpreters at the **Alton and Grafton visitors centers** periodically show off a living bald eagle, but if you miss the meet and greet, a hike to the top of **Pere Marquette State Park's** lofty bluffs between December and March still presents an ideal vantage point for admiring the birds' 7-foot-long wingspans as they glide above the Illinois River. The 50-foot-tall vaulted ceiling of the **Pere Marquette Lodge's Great Room** does some soaring of its own, and offers the opportunity to thaw out by the quarter's 700-ton stone fireplace. Then fill up on the Lodge's famous, family-style fried chicken.

ALSO CHECK OUT
Tumultuous water flowing through locks and dams along the Mississippi River kick dazed fish up to the surface, well within striking distance of hungry eagles. Witness their hunting prowess at several spots in the Quad Cities region, including the clock tower at Rock Island's Mississippi River Visitor Center.



ICE CLIMBING

Climbing the fragile sandstone walls at **Starved Rock State Park** is prohibited, but once the waterfalls pouring down the rock walls freeze over, those with a penchant for ascending ice can pack their crampons and ropes out to one of three areas—Wildcat, LaSalle and Ottawa canyons—to shimmy up 20- and 35-foot-tall sheets and columns looming higher than 90 feet in Oglesby. Refuel with beer-batter fried walleye at the **Lodge Restaurant** at **Starved Rock Lodge**, or soothe tired muscles in the hot tub in the pool room before settling down in a 1930s-era cabin built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

MORE IN GALENA

If you opt to spend the day shopping along **Galena's Main Street** instead of playing in the snow, white cheddar cheese curds and hearty chicken, bacon and ranch pizza await when you meet up with the rest of your adrenaline-seeking crew at **The Summit Food and Spirits** at **Chestnut Mountain Resort**.



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8

WEEKEND GETAWAYS

**SOAK UP THE SUNNY DAYS AND
CRISP NIGHTS OF AUTUMN
WITH WEEKEND ESCAPES THAT
INCLUDE LEAF-PEEPING, APPLE
PICKING AND WINE TASTING.**

WRITER JEN NILSSON

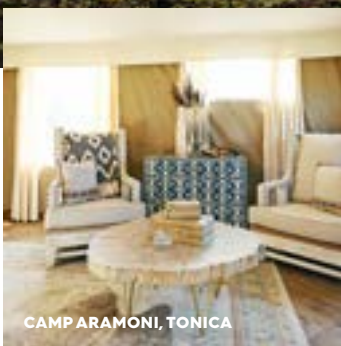


1

BACK TO SCHOOL

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Strike up the Marching Illini band's fight song. If a homecoming weekend of nostalgic fun is on your agenda, then be sure to sneak in some of these experiences between the tailgates and parades. Stay at the **Champaign Garden Inn** to explore downtown with ease, or camp at **Middle Fork River Forest Preserve** to see the stars at the state's only International Dark Sky Park. View your old stomping grounds in a new light by following the **Champaign County African American Heritage Trail** or the public art walk that includes a sentimental stroll down Green Street where the *Alma Mater* statue welcomes you to **Campustown**. Drop by the **Rose Bowl Tavern** for live music. Gain firsthand knowledge of Champaign-Urbana's explosion onto the culinary scene with a locally sourced steak at **Hamilton Walker's** or a slab of double-smoked ribs at **Wood N' Hog BBQ**. Find one of the food trucks making the area famous for cuisine on wheels or head for the fields and the farm-fresh goat cheese and gelato at **Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery**.



Dark wood, leather banquettes and a 1940s Hollywood vibe welcome patrons at Hamilton Walker's, known for its steak and cocktails.

2

FRIENDS' GETAWAY

Starved Rock State Park area

Everyone in the group deserves to be pampered, and that's exactly what's on the all-inclusive menu at **Camp Aramoni** in Tonica. Reserve a lavish, safari-style tent for yourself and five of your besties and relax into a weekend of leisure beneath the stars. Catch up over specialty cocktails and a seasonal (locally sourced) dinner served at **The Barn** before gathering around your personal bonfire to roast gourmet s'mores.

After your à la carte breakfast, plan for a group outing to nearby **Starved Rock State Park**, where 13 miles of trails meander through stunning canyons with waterfalls that sparkle in the autumn sunshine. For a guided adventure, book a **Fall Colors Trolley Tour** that includes lunch at **Starved Rock Lodge** followed by a scenic hike to Council Overhang and Ottawa Canyon.

Spend the late afternoon exploring the boutiques of downtown Utica, where a visit to the tasting room of **August Hill Winery** is a must. Choose your favorite wine and share a bottle on the patio—local musicians often jam on the weekends. Then catch the sunset back at camp. The surrounding forest comes to life, and the soothing sounds of the Vermilion River will lull you to sleep in the tent's luxury linens.



Starved Rock State Park sits between two nearby visit-worthy state parks: Matthiessen (with waterfalls and rock formations) and Buffalo Rock (with views of the Illinois River and three resident bison).



GREAT WOLF LODGE, GURNEE

Splash, play and stay at Gurnee's Great Wolf Lodge. The indoor water park includes tube rides and a lazy river, while Howlers Peak Ropes Course offers an aerial adventure as you climb through obstacles.



RICHARDSON ADVENTURE FARM, SPRING GROVE

4

YOU PICK THE FUN

Grafton

The fresh, apple-scented orchard air is calling. Snag your field access pass to Eckert's Grafton Farm and fill a pail with homegrown apples. Before you leave for a scenic drive along the Mississippi bluffs, grab a family-size bag of Eckert's famous kettle corn.

On your way to downtown Grafton, you'll pass the vineyards of Grafton Winery and Brewhaus. Stop for lunch on the outdoor patio with live music on weekends and river views.

Check in at Aerie's Resort before sunset so you can hop on the SkyTour, an open-air chair or gondola that glides above the golden and yellow trees to your hilltop hotel. Take in the setting sun and views of the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers from Aerie's Winery and Terrace before soaking in the jetted tub in your cozy suite.

The morning breeze brings the anticipation of airborne adventure. Hop on Aerie's Alpine Coaster, Illinois' first-ever, and ride its 4,000 feet of hairpin turns and twists. Then explore the treetop canopies high above the bluffs with the Grafton Zipline tour before riding the SkyTour back to the downtown streets.

3

FAMILY GETAWAY

Northeast Illinois

The kids will talk about this weekend for years. Start at the Richardson Adventure Farm in Spring Grove, where the family will get delightfully lost inside a corn maze. Take a private hayride around the farm and try Zorbing (rolling down a hill while running inside of a huge, 11-foot-diameter ball). Because you'll likely need to unwind after that experience, fear not—there is a beer-and-wine tent next to the live pig races. Relax at a picnic table while the kids take on a 150-foot-long slide and a 750-foot-long zipline.

Then it's on to the Great Wolf Lodge in Gurnee. Water-lovers will splash away the day in the indoor water park with four-story waterslides and a lazy river. Land-lovers will be entertained by the minigolf course, climbing wall and arcade. Dine at one of the on-site restaurants before hibernating in your wolf den-themed suite. The fun doesn't stop there. Just down the road, Six Flags Great America awaits. The theme park has 16 roller coasters to put the cherry on top of this weekend filled with thrills.



Ride in style on the Grafton SkyTour. Both the enclosed gondolas and chairlifts take passengers from the confluence of two rivers to Aerie's Resort.



BLUE SKY VINEYARD, MAKANDA

5

FALL INTO HARVEST

Shawnee National Forest

The slopes of **Shawnee National Forest** are dotted with tasting rooms that offer generous pours and gorgeous views. Relax on the grass at **Alto Vineyards** in Alto Pass for an afternoon of live music, then dine at **Peachbarn Winery and Cafe**, where locally sourced food is paired with wine from the vines. Because no wine trail tour is complete without an overnight stay, see the stars from your deck at the **Bed and Breakfast Cottages** of the **Von Jakob Winery and Brewery**.

Wake up early for a “flight” through the treetops with **Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour** in Makanda. Enjoy fresh sandwiches in the Tuscan-inspired winery and tasting room at **Blue Sky Vineyard** or nosh on apps in the late afternoon while listening to local musicians. Try a flight of Vintner’s Reserve at **Feather Hills Vineyard and Winery**, then enjoy a vineyard picnic at **Owl Creek Vineyard** in Cobden.

Save time for a glass of rosé or a dessert wine at **Hickory Ridge Vineyard** in Pomona. The view of Shawnee Hills is magnificent.



Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Tour provides a thrilling ride on eight ziplines and three suspension bridges through a forest.

WINE TRAIL PASSPORT

Collect stamps and receive deals and discounts as you taste your way through the harvest season with the **Shawnee Hills Wine Trail Passport (\$20)**.

6

ROAD TRIP!

Great River Road National Scenic Byway

Your journey begins along the Mississippi River with a stroll down Galena's red-bricked Main Street before driving south to Fulton and the 100-foot-tall **de Immigrant Windmill** that celebrates the town's Dutch heritage. At the **John Deere Pavilion** in Moline, many pieces of equipment are on display for visitors to sit in the driver's seat. Quench your thirst at a Nauvoo tasting room: **Baxter's Vineyards** is Illinois' oldest winery. Then fuel up on pizza and cheese plates at the winery's bar, the **Wine Barrel**, before settling in for the night at **Ten Acre Treehouses**.

After breakfast at family-owned **Thyme Square Bakery and Cafe** in Quincy, take a drive along towering bluffs. Photo ops include Alton's **Robert Wadlow Statue** (the world's tallest man), the **World's Largest Catsup Bottle** in Collinsville, and the **Popeye the Sailor Man** statue in Chester. Relax for the night in Anna at the **Davie School Inn** with luxury amenities and complimentary breakfast in a converted schoolhouse located near Shawnee National Forest.



A trek through the corn maze at **Jonamac Orchard** takes 30 to 45 minutes. On Saturday nights in September, stay for drinks and music during **Cider House After Hours**. On Friday and Saturday nights in October, the maze is haunted!



SMALL TOWNS, BIG CHARM

Rock River Valley

Trade in city lights for night skies when you explore the eco-friendly farms and small-town delights of the **Rock River Valley**. In Malta, the tasting room of **Jonamac Orchard Cider House** lets you sample apple wines and hard ciders on a garden patio that overlooks the 105-acre farm.

Check in to the **Lincoln Way** in Franklin Grove, where a crackling fire awaits. The inn offers a dinner kit filled with locally sourced meat and produce, and you can grill your meal in the garden pagoda. Schedule a morning tour of the inn's orchard and apiary and stock up on jars of prairie-wildflower honey made from the hives of the bees you will visit. Continue your outdoor exploration with a visit to **Nachusa Grasslands**. A half-mile trail from the visitors center offers views of the prairie, woodlands and wetlands beyond. If you're lucky, you'll even spy a herd of bison.

Stop at the **Franklin Creek Grist Mill** to see how cornmeal and flour were produced in the 1800s, then hop on the historic Lincoln Highway. Visit the **Lincoln Monument** in Dixon before fueling up at **The Rusty Fox Wine and Alehouse** in Sterling.

A road trip along the southern portion of the 550-mile-long **Great River Road** takes leaf-peeping to the next level.





Millennium Park's most notable features include **Cloud Gate**, aka **The Bean**; the **Jay Pritzker Pavilion**; **Crown Fountain**; and **Lurie Garden**.

8

SPORTS-LOVERS' GETAWAY

Chicago

Home base for this weekend of sports and sightseeing is the **Chicago Athletic Association**. Its Venetian Gothic halls pay homage to the hotel's history as an exclusive club. Today, the space is open to all and, it's a good thing, too, because it's across from Chicago's **Millennium Park**.

Check in and head to the second floor for a lunch of double smashburgers at the **Game Room**. You and your crew can rekindle the competition over shuffleboard and bocce ball. Cross the street to see **The Bean** and the spitting faces of **Crown Fountain** before heading south past the iconic lions of the **Art Institute of Chicago** and through **Grant Park**.

Work up an appetite with an afternoon exploring any of the museums at **Museum Campus** along the banks of Lake Michigan before going out for steaks and chops at **Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse**.

Football Sunday means it's time to "Bear Down." Find your way to **Soldier Field** to partake in the pregame tailgate or book a behind-the-scenes stadium tour.



After saying hello to (and capturing a selfie with) **Máximo**, the world's largest titanosaur, at the **Field Museum**, wander through ancient Egypt and a replica earth lodge.

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SPOOKY SPIRITS

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AND MORE OTHERWORLDLY DESTINATIONS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE STATE.

WRITER SHAYLA MARTIN



SCARY STAYS?

If you're unafraid of things that go bump in the night, check into these hotels known for notorious guests and paranormal happenings.

CONGRESS PLAZA HOTEL

Chicago

You'll be in infamous company when you overnite here, where notable villains like Al Capone and America's first serial killer, Dr. H.H. Holmes, were guests. Capone's ghost is rumored to roam the halls, along with Peg Leg Johnny, a hobo ghost with a penchant for causing electrical disruptions.

THE DRAKE HOTEL

Chicago

Take your chances on the 10th floor, where the "Lady in Red," a woman who leapt from a window in 1920, has been said to wander the floor. In celebration of Halloween, the hotel offers a Palm Court Spooky Afternoon Tea with devilish delights (October 5-31).



THE MESOTO HOUSE

Galena

You may see a "Lady in Black" disappear into the wall. And don't be surprised if items unexpectedly move.

REBEL HOTEL

Grafton

A young girl from the 1800s named Abigail has been heard walking in the hallways.

THE ROSE HOTEL

Elizabethtown

The reflection of a former servant named Tote has been spotted in mirrors.

HOTEL BAKER

St. Charles

Moaning noises have been heard from the top floor of this boutique hotel. Other notable past guests include John F. Kennedy and Gerald Ford.

HOTEL KASKASKIA

La Salle

Phantom footsteps and an elevator door that randomly opens are a couple of the reported mysterious happenings.

↑
Chicago has hotels like Congress Plaza that are likely to thrill ghost hunters.

←
The 6th floor penthouse at Hotel Baker is rumored to be haunted.

FEAR FACTOR
Use these icons as an age-appropriate guide.



ANY AGE



AGES 7 AND OLDER



PG-13
Parental discretion strongly advised



21 AND OLDER

IF YOU DARE...

You can give yourself a fright by visiting one of the most haunted small towns in America.

ALTON

Alton's sordid past of war, murder, disease and destruction makes the presence of ghosts nearly inescapable. Learn more at the Old Alton Prison, where more than 1,400 Confederate soldiers died from smallpox. Numerous area hauntings involve basements, including the First Unitarian Church, where the preacher died mysteriously in 1934. People have heard voices

in the basement ever since. The Jacoby Arts Center basement once housed a morgue, and the Piasa Masonic's is said to be haunted by the spirit of a Confederate soldier. Get all the details with a guided tour by Alton Odyssey Tours. The three-hour trolley tour includes the famous McPike Mansion, the Stratford Hotel and Milton School.



The Old Joliet Prison housed prisoners from 1858 to 2002.



GRACELAND CEMETERY AND ARBORETUM Chicago

This cemetery features some especially creepy grave sites, like the Dexter Graves monument, which is rumored to give you visions of your own death if you look the statue, *Eternal Silence*, in its eyes.





After dark,
ghosts may
join you on
the Six Flags
Carousel.



GHOSTLY GATHERINGS

Get together with other fans of spine-tingling specters throughout the haunting season at these attractions.

GHOST STORY TRAIN

South Elgin
Hop a creepy trolley down to the haunted forest preserve for an evening of family-friendly ghost stories (October 7, 14, and 21).

SIX FLAGS KIDS BOO FEST

Gurnee
During the day, it's slightly spooky fun! Families can take a spin on roller coasters, enjoy a hay maze and get treats on a trail (select days, September 16–October 29).

THE OLD JOLIET HAUNTED PRISON

Joliet
The former women's prison annex transforms into a truly terrifying house of horrors at night (select nights, September 29–November 5).

SIX FLAGS FRIGHT FEST

Gurnee
As the sun sets and the moon rises, be ready to shriek: haunted houses, heart-pounding roller coasters and spine-chilling shows (select nights, September 16–October 29).

GHOST TOURS

Experience
supernatural adventure
with a dash of history.



FREE TOURS BY FOOT

Chicago

Popular stops on this name-your-own-price tour include the Congress Hotel and “Death Alley” near the former Iroquois Theatre (weekends through October).



MATTHEW'S HAUNTED PUB CRAWL

Galena

Sip spirits among the spirits (March to October, every day; Fridays and Saturdays the rest of the year).



MINERAL SPRINGS HOTEL

Alton

Managers Dave and Donna Nunnally give guided tours of the defunct hotel (now revitalized as a shopping venue with their store, It's Raining Zen, and the Soul Asylum Museum) with known spirits Lou Harwood and Pearl Sans.



AMELIA'S GALENA GHOST TOURS

Galena

Both shuttle and walking tours take patrons to the most haunted places (year-round).



LINCOLN'S GHOST WALK: LEGENDS AND LORE

Springfield

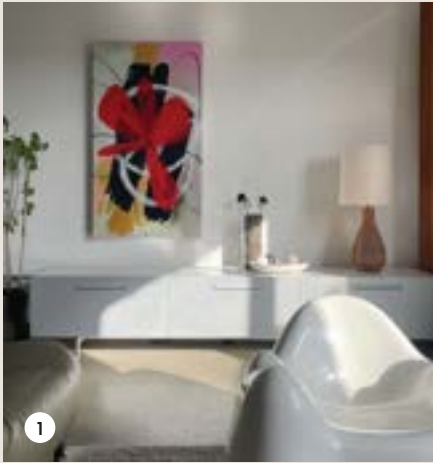
Go on a 10-block walking tour with bizarre stories at various Lincoln-related locations, discussing his life and death (through September, weekends only in October).



OLD JOLIET PRISON TOUR

Joliet

Take a self-guided walking tour during the day (through mid-November).



1



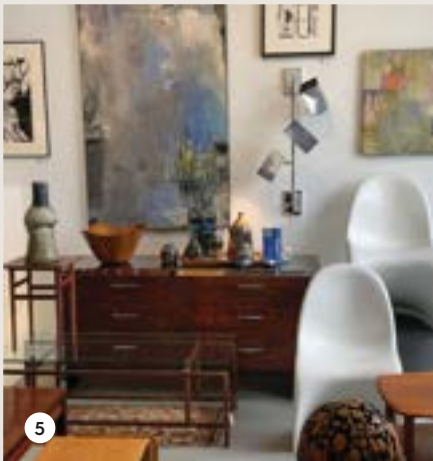
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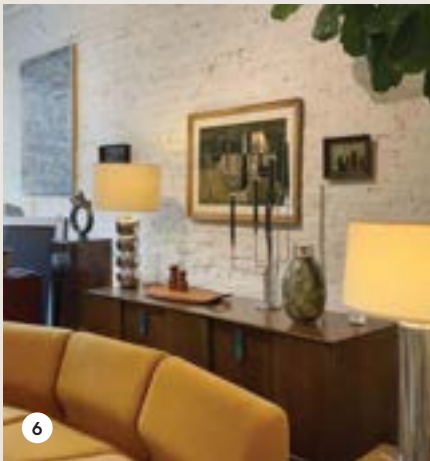
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© Circa Modern and © Modern Libe

MIDCENTURY MODERN

If clean lines, sophisticated scale and curved statement pieces are your vibe, chances are you're a midcentury modern design fan. At **Modern Vibe** in Evanston, you'll find stunning American- and Scandinavian-designed furniture, including teak tables, shapely recliners and sleek credenzas. **Circa Modern** in Chicago specializes in elegant modular sofas, whimsical chairs, showstopping lighting and original art. Husband and wife Erick and Kayla Pausz own and operate **Spaced Out Studio** in Chicago's North Park neighborhood. Discover vintage midcentury modern Scandinavian gems imported from Denmark and modern handmade pieces.

←
Midcentury pieces date from about 1945 to 1965. Many shops also sell more recent pieces that mix well.

MI-MO SHOPPING TIPS

ERSTAN THE MARKET
Don't expect big discounts. Given its popularity and limited inventory, prices for midcentury furniture are often higher and less flexible than comparable items from other eras.

MAKE IT A HABIT
Visit shops or their websites regularly (we're talking weekly or even daily) to learn what's new and what's in demand.

THE RESEARCH
Learn the details and brand markers of genuine midcentury manufacturers by reading blogs, online discussion groups, and books on designs and designers you admire.

QUESTION THAT BARGAIN
Lower-priced midcentury pieces are often restorations or reproductions. (Some reproductions are as old as the originals.) If you love a well-made reproduction piece, go ahead and add it to your home. Just be sure you're paying an appropriate price.



←
Customers can select the wood and stain for products like the Aries Credenza at Kauffman's.

HAN-CRAFTE

Amish-made furniture is known for its custom construction and attention to detail. You'll find traditional- and contemporary-style bedroom, dining and living room sets, all with lifetime guarantees, at **Kauffman Amish Furniture Outlet** in Arcola. For more than 25 years, David Stine has grown, harvested and milled wood on his family's fourth-generation farm in Dow for his line of custom creations at **David Stine Furniture** (showroom by appointment).



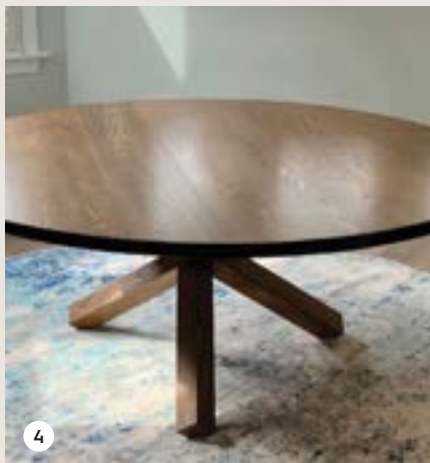
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4

and Sangamon Reclaimed and Square Nail

RUSTIC AND RECLAIMED

If farmhouse style gives you all the feels, create your own look with furniture crafted from reclaimed lumber and other elements. (Bonus: Reusing and repurposing wood and other materials keeps them out of landfills.) Check out **Sangamon Reclaimed** in Springfield for dining tables and cutting boards from walnut and pine. **Square Nail** (a custom furniture and woodworking company in Chicago) specializes in solid lumber and reclaimed materials. **Born Again Barns and Lumber Company** dismantles barns, salvages wood and builds custom pieces in Antioch. They specialize in live-edge slabs and craft mantels, desks, tables and bookshelves. Woman-owned **Urban Wood Goods** in Gurnee makes custom tables from sustainably reclaimed wood.

RUSTIC SHOPPING TIPS

HEFTY AND STRONG

Reclaimed wood and furniture made from it can be surprisingly heavy.

SEEK DESIGN HELP

Transforming vintage materials into furniture takes knowledge and vision. Ask shop owners to guide you through their inventory and furniture-building processes. Learn up-front what aspects you can customize to suit your style and space.

EMBRACE IRREGULARITY

The grain and details of reclaimed wood can vary widely, even when two boards are the same species. Think of this as character you fall in love with, not a flaw you need to hide or fix.

ENJOY THE WAIT

Custom furniture takes time. Ask for a finish date but stay flexible.



Art on **MART** is the largest permanent digital art projection in the world and showcases contemporary artwork nightly on the building's facade (through December).



FLEA MARKET TIPS

TAKE TWO PASSES

Avoid overwhelm by walking the entire shop, market or event space quickly—then going back and spending quality time with the booths that caught your attention.

PREPARE TO DIG

Many markets are dusty affairs. Wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty.

CASH OUT

You'll get the best deals if you pay in cash. And have smaller bills on hand if you'll be buying bits and baubles from multiple vendors.

GROUP TO SAVE

This strategy almost always works: Offer to purchase two or more items but pay a lower price than the total on the price tags.

COME AGAIN

Returning to a booth, shop or market builds rapport with sellers, clues them into your interests—and often leads to lower prices.

THE MART

Visited by nearly 30,000 people a day, THE MART is the world's largest commercial building and design destination with more than 250 premier design showrooms. Connect with a designer to craft a custom piece or check out one of many design events open to the public. One of a Kind (early December) is a popular four-day show that features more than 500 outstanding artists, makers and designers of handmade ceramics, clothing, jewelry, paper goods and home decor. It's the perfect destination for exceptional holiday gifts! Every spring, the show returns for a three-day iteration of the classic event.



Woolly Mammoth Chicago

ECLECTIC ANTI-FLEA

Illinois has multiple spots where you can snag truly one-of-a-kind home decor. **Woolly Mammoth Chicago** brims with unusual finds like antique taxidermy, skeletons and science lab equipment. Score quality knickknacks and fuel your hunt with homemade fudge, burgers and ice cream at **Pink Elephant Antique Mall** in Livingston. At **Kane County Flea Market** in St. Charles, peruse vinyl records and sports collectibles on the first Sunday of each month and the preceding Saturday (March through December). And on Sundays, don't miss **Wolff's Flea Market** in Rosemont, where hundreds of vendors fill the parking lot of Allstate Arena with antiques, books, art, video games, tools and more (from late April through October 29).



EXPLORE DISCOVER ENJOY

Magic of the Season

Memories are waiting to be made in the Chicagoland area beneath the glittering lights that illuminate window displays, theater marquees, skating rinks and outdoor gardens. Create your new favorite holiday traditions here.

WRITER ANGELA FHEIL

sparkle & shine



LIGHTSCAPE AT CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN GLENCOE

Salute the season with a resplendent outdoor experience. Walk through an enchanting, after-dark, illuminated all-new path that winds by favorite artistic installations along with inventive new works November 10 January

FOOLIGHTS AT LINCOLN PARK

What could be better than an engaging light show and an ice-carving spectacle? Seeing it all from the top of a Ferris wheel that soars above the event. Afterward, wander the grounds, say hello to the animals and meet Santa November 1 January

THE WINTREST MAGNIFICENT MILE LIGHTS FESTIVAL

Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse from Walt Disney Resort lead a music-filled parade that passes by 100 illuminated trees on an iconic American street. Kick off the holiday season with festive performances and awe-inspiring fireworks November 1

WINTER WONDERS AT THE ROBERTSON ARBORETUM LISLE

Roast s'mores while surrounded by a symphony of wooded lights. A mile-long pathway leads you through a captivating forest and past two outdoor sculptures and a festival of lanterns November 1 January

ice-skate around

SKATING RIBBON AT MAGGIE DALEY PARK

When you glide along this curvy quarter-mile track, you feel like you're skating on the surface of a frozen river as the ice slopes slightly up and down and winds around the climbing wall at one of Chicago's most beloved parks.



MCCORMICK TRIBUNE ICE RINK AT MILLENNIUM PARK

There's nothing like skating beneath the holiday lights of the Chicago skyline while you catch your reflection in the famous *Cloud Gate* sculpture known as The Bean. The best part? Admission is free; reservations required.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (ICE-SKATING) BOB STERKO, (STARBUCKS) COURTESY OF STARBUCKS MEDIA RELATIONS, (CHRISTKINDMARKET) JOT



merry & bright shopping

MACY'S HOLIDAY WINDOWS AND TREE

It's a Chicago holiday tradition. Every year, the windows of Macy's State Street tell a new story through interconnected and intricately decorated displays. Don't miss the 45-foot-tall tree that hangs from the 7th-floor Walnut Room ceiling.

MAGNIFICENT MILE

Find a gift for every person on your list along this stretch of Michigan Avenue, known globally for its shopping, hotels and attractions—plus restaurants and cafes like Starbucks Reserve Roastery, one of only six and the largest Starbucks in the world. Warm up with a dark chocolate mocha or a classic hot chocolate.

CHRISTKINDLMARKET, DALEY PLAZA, WRIGLEYVILLE AND AURORA

Styled after the original Nuremberg Christmas market, Chicago hosts multiple markets with vendors from around the world selling international and local foods, drinks, and handmade artisan products (mid-November to December 24).

holiday express train

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY TRAIN

Unable to hitch a ride on Santa's sleigh this year? Your next best option might be catching the festively decorated holiday train (and bus) that crisscrosses Chicago, bringing joy to the neighborhoods. Track Santa's transit schedule on the CTA website.

weekend getaways

GALENA

Welcoming inns and wineries dot the hills, while whimsical boutiques and candy shops line Main Street. Holiday Fire in the Sky is one of Galena's seasonal festivities with fireworks (December 2). Night of the Luminaria and Living Windows sets the town aglow with more than 5,000 lights flickering alongside festive window displays (December 9).

ROCKFORD

The great outdoors beckons. Go tubing at Alpine Hills Adventure Park or wander through the twinkling trees and pagodas during the Illuminated experience at Anderson Japanese Gardens. The holiday season kicks off here with the annual Stroll on State Street (November 25), complete with a parade, fireworks and tree-lighting ceremony.



up on the rooftop

WINTER WONDERLAND AT IIO GODFREY

Thanks to the year-round portico with retractable roof, outdoor firepits and heated igloos, guests can sip on cocktails while taking in city views.

CURLING AND COCKTAILS, UPSTAIRS AT THE GWEN

Test your talent for the sport of curling on the luxury rooftop terrace. Take the competition up a level with winter cocktails.

ICE-SKATING AT THE PENINSULA CHICAGO

Glide beneath the stars on the Sky Rink, four floors above the Magnificent Mile.

jolly good times

FROSTY'S CHRISTMAS BAR

This just might be where Santa comes to write his naughty list! Eggnog cocktails are served next to life-size toy soldiers in a three-level, seasonal pop-up experience that keeps the festivities flowing until 4 a.m.

BUTCH MCGUIRE'S

This family-owned pub is the cornerstone of the legendary nightlife surrounding Rush and Division streets. That scene heats up for the holidays when nearly every inch of the ceiling is strung in garlands of light, and two double-decker trains run throughout the bar.

WRIGLEYVILLE WONDERLAND

Known as a shrine to baseball during the summer, this North Side neighborhood turns into the North Pole in winter. It's a pop-up extravaganza with holiday-themed rides, a Christkindlmarket and dozens of pubs.

'tis the season onstage

THE NUTCRACKER BY THE JOFFREY BALLET

Mix holiday tradition and cutting-edge choreography with the city's premiere ballet company. The Joffrey's mesmerizing take on a Christmas classic finds the Nutcracker Prince and a young Marie dancing through Chicago's 1893 World's Fair (December 2-27).

BROADWAY IN CHICAGO

With five world-class theaters dotting the downtown district, Broadway in Chicago brings the spirit of the holidays to center stage. Festive productions light up historic marquees from the Magnificent Mile to State Street and beyond.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL, GOODMAN THEATRE

You know the holidays are here when Chicago's oldest not-for-profit theater rolls out the red carpet for Ebenezer Scrooge and the Christmas spirit(s). For admirers young and old, the season is incomplete without the Goodman's annual performance of this classic (November 18-December 31).





PHOTOGRAPHS: (BAR) COURTESY OF THE GWEN, (IGLOO) STARBOARD AND PORT

**MEET US WHERE THE
CREATURES ARE STIRRING**



With more than 200 acres where both humans and peacocks can freely roam, Brookfield Zoo is open to endless adventures. It is easy to spend an entire day here with over 500 species calling the Zoo home. Here, family fun takes a walk on the wild side.

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- Swinging walking bridges over the Vermilion River

HERITAGE CORRIDOR DESTINATIONS



TRIP IDEAS AROUND THE STATE

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



CEDARHURST CENTER FOR THE ARTS, MT. VERNON



JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, DECATUR



FOX RIVER, GENEVA



NAUVOO ILLINOIS TEMPLE, NAUVOO



FOX RIVER, GENEVA

Chicago & Beyond

Geneva keeps a low profile in the western suburbs, but it's a real gem awaiting discovery, especially for shoppers and fans of river-based rec.

About an hour west of downtown Chicago, IL-31 follows the curve of the Fox River as it flows through Geneva, a suburb of about 20,000 that flies a bit under the radar. Point your GPS in the city's direction and you'll pick up strong signals from its many attractions, especially the shopping areas. The historic downtown district offers 100-plus specialty shops, many set in charming Victorian-style homes. (Check out Third Street.) The cornerstone is The Little Traveler, a Italianate Victorian mansion (now more than a century old) that has expanded to include 36 rooms of gifts for your home, friends and family. Its contemporary counterpart is Geneva

Commons, an open-air mall featuring more than 60 national brand and specialty shops, plus restaurants and a central parklike space for gatherings and events. More green space beckons in places like Island Park and Fabyan Forest Preserve, home to a five-story Dutch windmill. Both connect to the Fox River Trail, which lets hikers and bikers follow the water for 40 miles. Paddlers can take to the Fabulous Fox Water Trail, while bird-watchers may spot eagles, great blue herons and cormorants that fish the river. Or keep your eye on the ball at Northwestern Medicine Field, home of the Kane County Cougars, an independent professional baseball team.

DO

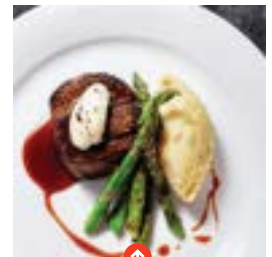
GENEVA HISTORY MUSEUM

An exhibit displays the restored dragon head and tail of a replica Viking ship from the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The ship has resided at Good Templar Park for almost 30 years.

EAT

PENROSE BREWING COMPANY

Hop on over to the taproom for a taste of small-batch beers, including hazy IPAs, American lagers, fruited sours and imperial stouts. Take a tour and purchase a growler to go.



ATWATER'S RESTAURANT

Seasonal farm-to-table cuisine comes with views of the Fox River on the patio or inside with white tablecloths and high-backed chairs. For a private meal, rent the riverfront gazebo.

STAY

THE HERRINGTON INN AND SPA

Milk and cookies at bedtime is an apt amenity at the inn, a former creamery. Also soothing are the Fox River vistas, whirlpool tubs and spa massages.

THE OSCAR SWAN

Built in 1902, the country mansion has become a bed-and-breakfast. The four rooms and three suites have a cozy, vintage vibe and decor that pays homage to the estate's original owning family.



NAUVOO ILLINOIS TEMPLE

Walk around the limestone temple, which glows on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. What stands is a replica of the 1840s original, which was destroyed by arson. The temple is open only to Latter-day Saints.

EAT

THE REFRONT

Stop by the restaurant for breakfast sandwiches with even more offerings—pancakes and French toast—on weekends, and come back later for burgers and hot dogs.

BARBERS

BAXTER'S

Get a free tour and tasting at Illinois' oldest winery—established in 1844 and run by the same family for five generations. The Wine Barrel, an on-site bar, serves apps and local wines by the glass.

STAY

THE NAUVOO GRAN

Built in 1844 on the site of an old Mormon homestead, the bed-and-breakfast provides Victorian-style elegance amid lush orchards and grape groves—Baxter's Vineyards is across the street.



HOTEL NAUVOO HISTORIC INN

Climb a winding walnut staircase to rooms at the inn, an 1844 building restored to period elegance and grace. The inn is a famously sumptuous buffet.



NAUVOO ILLINOIS TEMPLE

Great Rivers Country

A church with more than 8 million members worldwide retains roots in a Nauvoo, a Mississippi River town with rich history and abundant natural beauty.

In 1831 religious leader Joseph Smith brought his Latter-day Saints out of persecution in Missouri and into western Illinois. They bought a town and renamed it Nauvoo—Hebrew for “beautiful place.” Eventually, more than 10,000 Mormons called Nauvoo home, briefly making it the largest city in Illinois. However, trouble followed the Mormons, and in 1846 they migrated again, this time to Utah.

Today, though Nauvoo's population is less than 1,000, the town fulfills the long-ago vision of a beautiful place—and historic sites resound with echoes of the Mormon era. You'll find monuments honoring Smith and other figures among downtown's restored

shops, homes and buildings from the 1840s. Get the lay of the land at the Nauvoo Visitors' Center, where you can browse artifacts and displays, including a large relief map of 1846 Nauvoo. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride past more than 30 historic sites downtown, or do a walking tour of trade buildings such as a bakery, tin shop and gunsmith.

At the Joseph Smith Historic Site, tour several original structures. The reconstructed Red Brick Store re-creates an 1840s general store. The Nauvoo Family Living Center offers a look at 1840s domestic life. Gain hands-on rope- and candle-making skills, watch guides weave rugs, and taste wheat bread from a brick oven.



JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, DECATUR

Land of Lincoln

The air in Decatur is so thick with history—especially Lincoln’s—that you can taste it. Other local sights and flavors stimulate your senses too.

If you aim to find Lincoln lore, you’ll hit the bull’s-eye in Decatur—it’s in the middle of the state and a target-rich environment for Abe aficionados. Start with 15 wayside exhibits that highlight the 16th president’s ties to the area. Each contains a medallion you can rub off onto paper as a souvenir. Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park and Memorial features a bronze plaque near the site of the Lincoln family’s first Illinois home; in 1830, they settled about 10 miles west of town on the Sangamon River. The river’s importance was the subject of Lincoln’s first political speech, which he delivered in Decatur (age 21 and barefoot). A statue downtown commemorates the milestone. And Decatur also hosted the

1860 Illinois Republican Convention, where Abe received his first endorsement as a candidate for president.

It’s not all about Abe here, though. Visit the downtown Madden Arts Center to see exhibits of local and regional works or attend programs and classes from the Decatur Area Arts Council. Sites on the National Register of Historic Places include the Governor Richard J. Oglesby Mansion, a beautifully restored Victorian home; the 1896 Transfer House, once a hub for electric streetcars and interurban trains; and James Millikin Homestead, a stately brick mansion built in 1876 by a prominent banker who founded local Millikin University. A downtown trolley will take you by significant sites for free.

DO

LAKESHORE LANDING

This one-stop family fun spot on Lake Decatur includes an adventure park (water park, ropes course, minigolf), a pier (boating, paddling, dining), zoo, children’s museum and amphitheater.

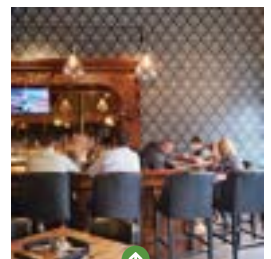
EAT

DEL’S POPCORN SHOP

When it’s crunch time, Del’s Popcorn, founded in 1934, delivers some of the best snacking around. They heat kernels right in the store, using gleaming copper kettles for a nostalgic touch.

TAPROOT

Plates of creative dishes take on comfort-food classics. Faves include the Drunken Pork Chop (there’s whiskey involved) and the Hot Rock (sliced beef tenderloin served on a sizzling river rock).



THE GIN MILL

Every drink comes with a chaser of history—the 23-foot-long wooden bar is from the 1880s.

Savor fine steaks and seafood dishes in a swanky Prohibition-era atmosphere.

STAY

DECATUR CONFERENCE CENTER AND HOTEL

Find rest and recreation here. Enjoy an indoor pool and fitness center, and a huge outdoor space with a fishing pond and spots to play hoops, volleyball, disc golf and horseshoes. (Gear is available at the front desk.)



W

WAYNE FITZGERRELL STATE RECREATION AREA

On Rend Lake, this rec area makes an ideal gateway to the great outdoors. Fishing, boating, camping, horseback riding, hiking and other adventures abound.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Step back in time as you walk through the pioneer-era structures: log homes, a church, mill, one-room school, working blacksmith and print shops, and a general store.

EAT

THE WAFFLE COMPANY

Start your day with a fluffy, country omelet or a s'mores waffle. This small place is a hot spot for breakfast and lunch.

THE FROSTY MUG BAR AND GRILL

The smoked beef brisket and house-made pub chips get high marks from diners.



RARE CHOP HOUSE

Experience dining well done. The Cajun Shrimp comes with a chipotle aioli. Or try to slay the Beast Burger—it's bulked up with boar, elk, bison and Wagyu beef.

STAY

EMBLETREE BY HILTON

Lodge close to all the popular attractions. The hotel has an on-site restaurant and lounge, and the spacious lobby features a 30-foot-tall water fountain.



CECILIA ARHART CENTER FOR THE ARTS, MT. VERNON

Trails to Adventure

Mt. Vernon's history is linked to two men on Mount Rushmore, but the town also has strong ties to the arts and the outdoors.

History and creativity abound in Mt. Vernon, which sits on high ground—a once swampy, thickly forested area—between Casey Fork and the Big Muddy River. Named for George Washington's Virginia estate, Mt. Vernon boasts a link to another legendary Pictis: In 1858, Abraham Lincoln argued a famous tax case at the town's Greek Revival-Italianate 1858 Appellate Courthouse. But there's more history to the building. In 1888, American Red Cross founder Clara Barton used it as a makeshift hospital after a tornado hit the town. You can tour the courthouse (it's still in use), but call in advance. There's no need for an appointment at the annual Mt. Vernon Fall Festival (September 28-30). Come early to

get a spot for the parade and enjoy the live entertainment, food and classic cars.

Relax and reflect at Veterans Park, where a memorial honors those who've served in all U.S. conflicts. There's an island gazebo, plus courts for games and paths for walking. Allow plenty of time to explore Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, an 80-plus-acre estate with four galleries, a museum, an interactive family learning center, a performance hall, two historic homes and the Goldman-Venez Sculpture Park with more than 60 pieces. See a show at The Granada Theatre, an Art Deco venue built in 1929 and long known as the Crown Jewel of Southern Illinois. Now restored to its former glamour, the theater hosts concerts and special events.



travel resources

VISITORS BUREAUS

Chicago & Beyond

Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/678-2108, 630/256-3190, enjoyaurora.com

Lackhawick Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com

Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau 888/895-8233, 708/895-8200, visitchicagosouthland.com

Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau 847/763-0011, visitchicagonorthshore.com

Choose Chicago 312/567-8500, choosechicago.com

DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau 877/335-2521, 815/756-1336, dekalbcountycvb.com

Discover Dupage Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/232-0502, 630/575-8070, discoverdupage.com

Elgin Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/217-5362, 847/695-7540, exploreelginarea.com

Heritage Corridor Destinations 844/944-2282, 800/926-2262, heritagecorridorcvb.com

Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau 815/935-7390, visitkankakeecounty.com

Meet Chicago Northwest 800/847-4849, 847/490-1010, chicagonorthwest.com

Natural McHenry County 815/893-6280, naturallymchenrycounty.com

Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/521-0849, 815/963-8111, gorockford.com

Rosemont Convention and Tourism Bureau 847/823-2100, rosemont.com

Visit Lake County 847/662-2700, visitlakecounty.org

Visit Oak Park 708/524-7800, visitoakpark.com

Tourism Info Center

Turtle Creek I-90, rest area southbound, South Beloit

Great Rivers Country

Lackhawick Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com

Galena County Tourism 815/776-9200, visitgalena.org

Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau 309/343-2485, experiencegalesburg.com

Great Rivers and Routes of Southwest Illinois 800/258-6645, 618/465-6676, riversandroutes.com

Illinois South Tourism 618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org

Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 309/833-1315, visitforgottonia.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

Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau 800/248-4373, 618/833-9928, southernmostillinois.com

Visit Quad Cities 800/747-7800, visitquadcities.com

Land o' Lincoln

Boonville 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

Elgin Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/772-0750, 217/342-5310, visitelginhamil.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 County Tourism 800/874-3529, 217/774-2244, lakeshelbyville.com

Logan County Tourism Bureau 217/732-8687, destinationlogancountyil.com

Visit Champaign County 800/369-6151, 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 Lettle I-74, rest area westbound, Oakwood

Trails to Adventure

Illinois South Tourism 618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org

Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau 618/242-3151, enjoymtvernon.com

Shawnee Forest County Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau 800/248-4373, 618/833-9928, southernmostillinois.com

Visit Springfield 800/433-7399, 618/997-3690, visitsi.com

Tourism Info Centers

Fort Massac 5402 Hwy. 45 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 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-Pass system.

Drivers who miss tolls have 14 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 in Illinois

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 each 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 CTA Trains or Trains to 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 to get 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

Land 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.



Twelve casinos operate throughout the state; some of these are riverboat casinos.



The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act legalizes the lawful use of cannabis for adults 21 years and older.



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

For more Illinois government information, visit illinois.gov

Commanding an entire block across from Millennium Park, the Chicago Cultural Center features dozens of windows set in 3-foot-thick exterior walls.



then&now

CHICAGO'S FIRST CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY, COMPLETED IN 1897, IS NOW THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER. THIS GLORIOUSLY RESTORED BEAUX ARTS GEM IS OPEN DAILY AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC. JOIN A DOCENT-LED TOUR EVERY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (1:15 P.M.) OR ATTEND A FREE PERFORMANCE OR EXHIBITION.



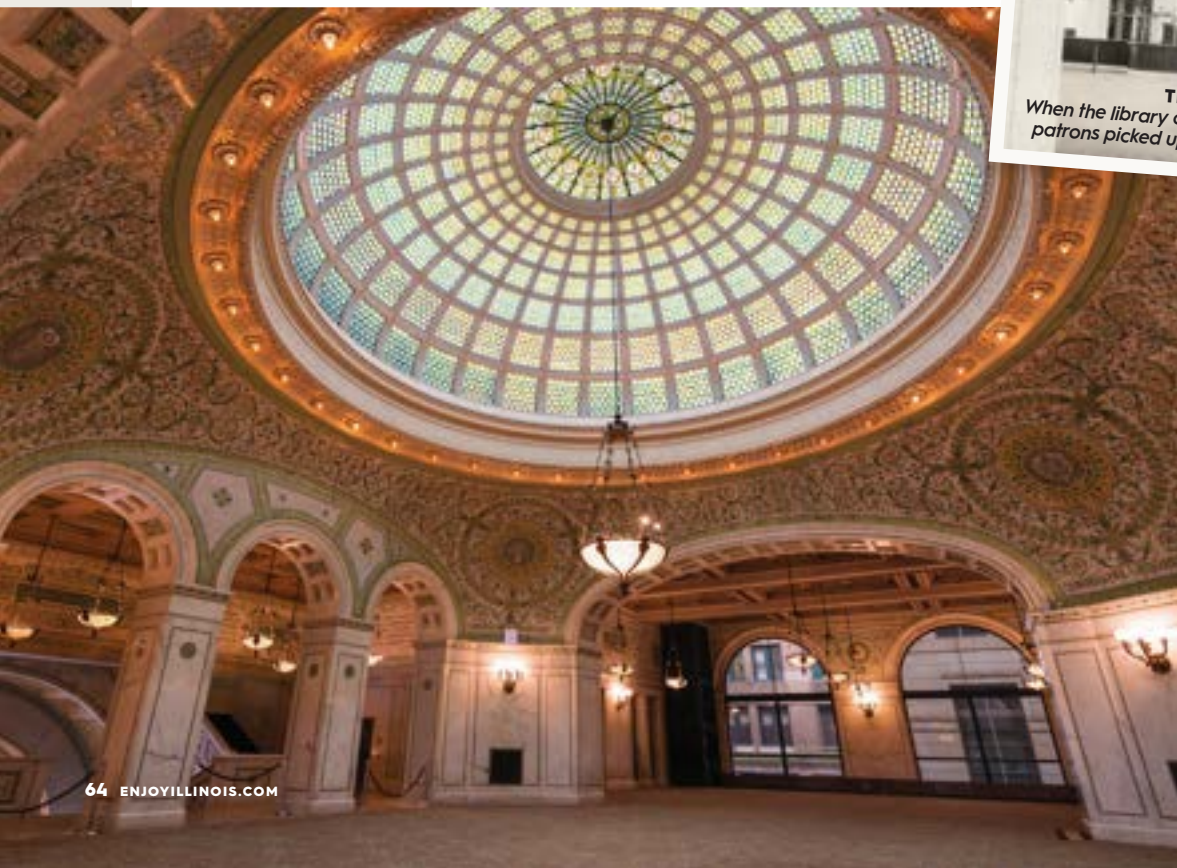
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The Chicago Cultural Center hosts more than 1,000 programs, events and exhibits every year, including some especially for children.



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When the library opened, this is where patrons picked up requested books.

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Pictured
Top - Starved Rock State Park (Oglesby)
Bottom Left to Right - Lincoln Landings (Lockport),
Heritage Quarries Recreation Area (Lemont),
Final Cut Steakhouse at Hollywood Casino (Joliet)



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