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ON THE COVER

Shedd Aquarium, Chicago
Credit: Ackerman and Gruber

CLOUD GATE, CHICAGO

Wonderful Places

WIDE-OPEN SPACES



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EAT, STAY & PLAY GUIDEBOOK

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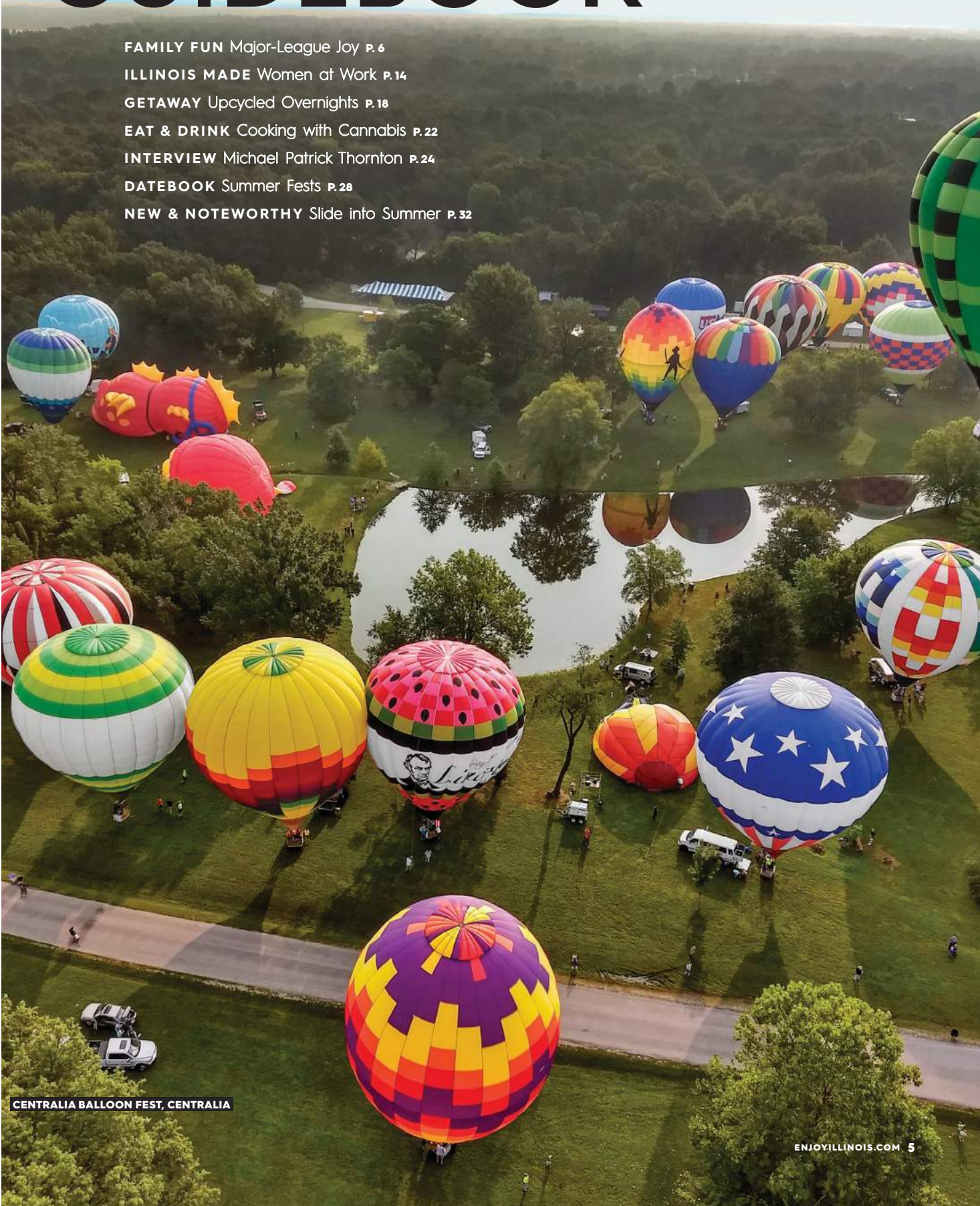
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CENTRALIA BALLOON FEST, CENTRALIA

major-league joy

Take the family out to a minor league ball game. Frequent fireworks, quirky mascots, kid-centric activities and budget-friendly promotions make it fun for everyone.



GCS CREDIT UNION BALLPARK, SAUGET

Gateway Grizzlies

Baseball's Best Burger—thick beef sandwiched by a glazed doughnut and topped with bacon and sharp cheddar—leads the nationally famous food lineup at GCS Credit Union Ballpark in Sauget (near St. Louis), where the Grizzlies host their Frontier League opponents. The Philly cheesesteak nachos hit a home run too. The season is loaded with promotions (like Crazy Game Show Night and Food Truck Night), culminating with the last home game's Greatest Night in Baseball, when fans get to TP the stadium.

Baseball season reignites passion for the national pastime in Illinois, especially among fans of the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox. But they're not the only games in town. Minor league teams play an exciting brand of ball in fun, fan-friendly venues that cater to kids. Though Major League Baseball's restructuring of the minors caused some teams to change leagues and levels, a day or night at the ballpark remains an affordable, enjoyable tradition for families.

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WINTRUST FIELD, SCHAUMBURG

Kane County Cougars

These cats with bats prowl the American Association, an independent Major League Baseball Partner League. They play their home games at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva, where a KidZone behind the right-field deck entertains young fans (and their parents) with an inflatable slide, bounce house, T-ball, basketball, soccer and other activities, plus a Snack Shack. Kids can also sign up for experiences like being a guest PA announcer or shagging balls during batting practice.

Chicago Dogs

Fireworks and theme nights on Saturdays—it's the kind of double play you'll see at Impact Field in Rosemont, home of the American

Association club named for the culinary classic. Look for weekly pyrotechnics and promotions like Family Sundays, when you and the kids can play catch on the field, get autographs, and share bottomless popcorn and pop. On Wiener Wednesdays, the Dogs become the Wieners, playing in special jerseys while fans devour \$1 hot dogs.

Peoria Chiefs

Downtown's up-and-coming Warehouse District provides a fitting setting for major league prospects to show their potential. The Chiefs, a Midwest League affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals, play at Dozer Park (named for Caterpillar). Stay for fireworks on select nights, and chuckle when the Chiefs don alt jerseys—last

season they played a few games as the Peoria Orange Barrels (in honor of roadwork season) and the Peoria Pork Tenderloins (for a fave local sandwich).

Joliet Slammers

With a name inspired by Joliet's historic Old Joliet Prison (of *The Blues Brothers* movie fame), the Slammers take no prisoners when facing Frontier League foes at Duly Health and Care Field. Friday nights at the ballpark mean post-game fireworks, while Sundays are Family Fun Day—get autographs from the team and enjoy balloon animals, face painting and yard games. On Tuesdays, fans can enjoy a game for just \$2 a ticket. Kids can also run the bases after non-fireworks games, weather permitting.

Schaumburg Boomers

Concessions at Wintrust Field go beyond peanuts and Cracker Jack. Build your own taco at the Walking Taco or indulge in the Bases Loaded Burger. No word if they'll be adding greater prairie chicken to the menu—that's the native Illinois bird (nicknamed "boomer") that inspired the team's name. The male bird makes a booming sound to assert its dominance.

Windy City ThunderBolts

Take a seat in the upper deck—one of the few in Minor League Baseball—at Ozinga Field in Crestwood to watch the Bolts battle their Frontier League rivals. Kids will love seeing a playground right as they walk into the ballpark. Parents will appreciate Family Sunday's bargain deal on tickets, concessions and souvenirs for four, plus face painting and a live in-game animal show. Everyone will ooh and ah at the post-game fireworks on Friday and Saturday nights. They're also hosting the leagues' all-star game (July 12).

BLACK BASEBALL MATTERS

Chicago helped give birth to the Negro Leagues, Black baseball players' alternative to the long-segregated major leagues. Rube Foster, a black star pitcher who became owner and manager of the Chicago American Giants—the top Black team—led the founding of the Negro National League in 1920.

Today, the American Association's Chicago Dogs host a Negro Leagues Tribute game, wearing Chicago American Giants jerseys (1922 team at right) and playing the Kansas City Monarchs, who are named for another famous Negro Leagues team.





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**OZZIE T. + ANNIE T.**

KANE COUNTY COUGARS

Ozzie T. and Annie T. are brother and sister felines (Ozzie's older), a rare sibling act among sports mascots.

Prior to joining the family biz, Annie focused on school and traveling around the country.

all-star mascots

A minor league mascot plays many positions: cheerleader, comedian, dancer and goodwill ambassador. Here's the scouting report on this lovable lineup.

**HOMER**

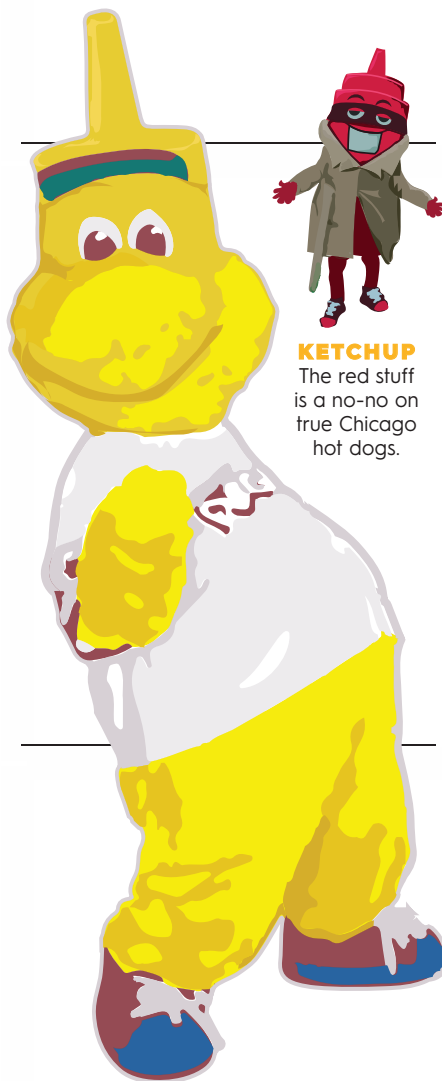
PEORIA CHIEFS

Homer the Fire Chief Dalmatian was once "suspended" for allegedly squirting an umpire with a water gun. (It was all a doggone publicity stunt.)

**IZZY**

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES

Izzy the grizzly bear's birthday is a special day at the ballpark, with Izzy choosing on-the-field games and mascot friends making appearances. Izzy turns 22 this year.

**KETCHUP**

The red stuff is a no-no on true Chicago hot dogs.

SQUEEZE

CHICAGO DOGS

Squeeze is a friendly yellowish creature who resembles a mustard bottle. You may also see the evil-looking Ketchup.

**COOP**

SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS

Coop the Boomer likes to break into his Booming Dance, a variation of the moves an actual male greater prairie chicken makes in the wild during mating season.

**J.L. BIRD + SPIKES**

JOLIET SLAMMERS

Spikes is a lovable, long-eared dog that kids adore, while J.L. Bird is a mischievous sort who wears old-school prison stripes (including a round hat). Somehow, they get along.

**BOOMER**

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS

Boomer attributes his round waist to his favorite foods: Beggar's Pizza, hot dogs and foul balls. Off the field, his favorite toy is a boomerang and he likes the TV show *Blues Clues*.

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EXPLORE

LaSalle County

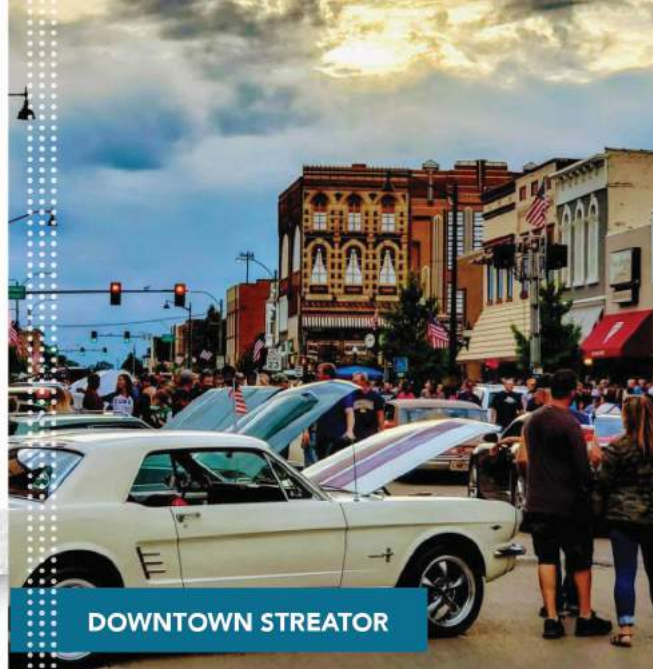
Escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life, visit LaSalle County. This oasis of unexpected natural wonders is home to the legendary Starved Rock State Park and picturesque small towns, lined with exciting eateries and boutique shopping opportunities. Whether you're looking to tour museums and mansions,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

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- **KISHAUWAW CABINS** - Family-friendly four season cabins near Starved Rock
- **STARVED ROCK COUNTRY WELCOME CENTER** - Browse brochures and the Illinois Made Gift Shoppe
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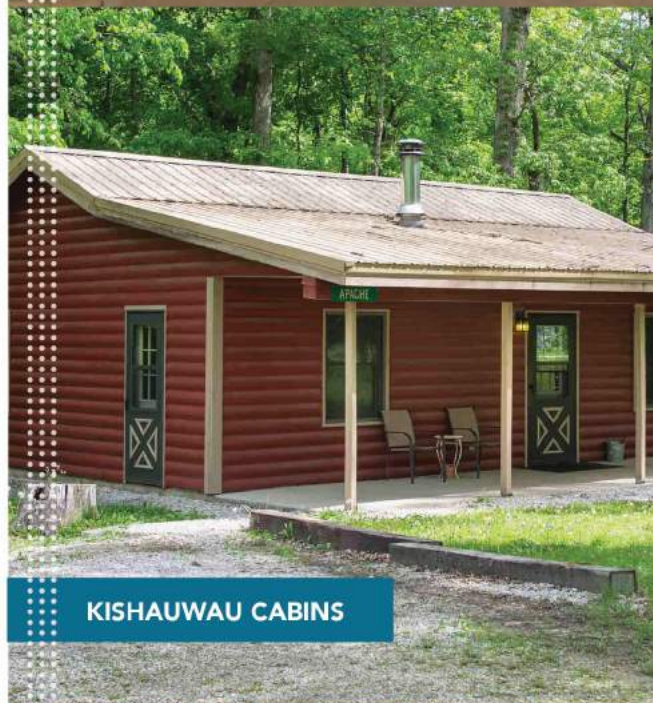
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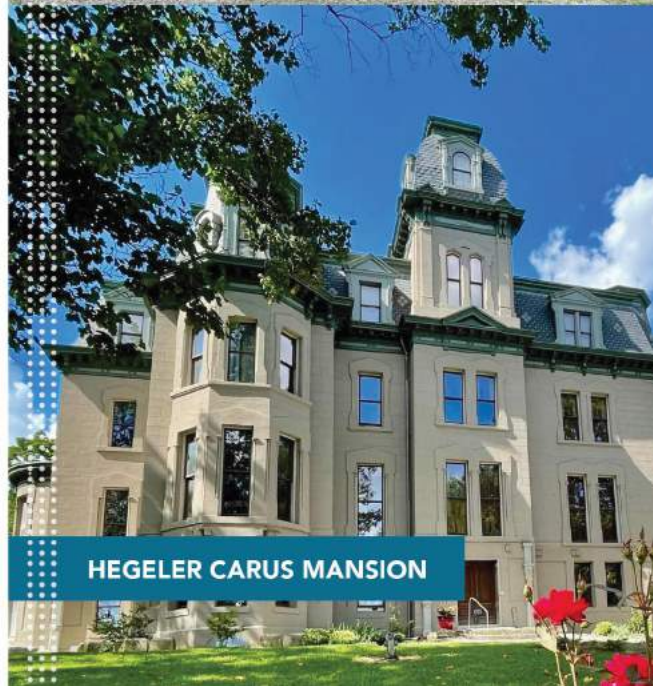
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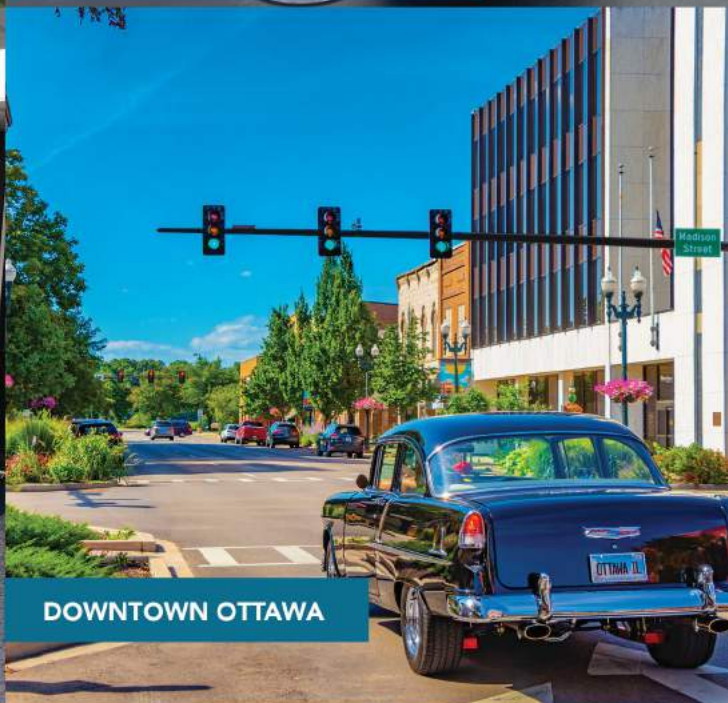
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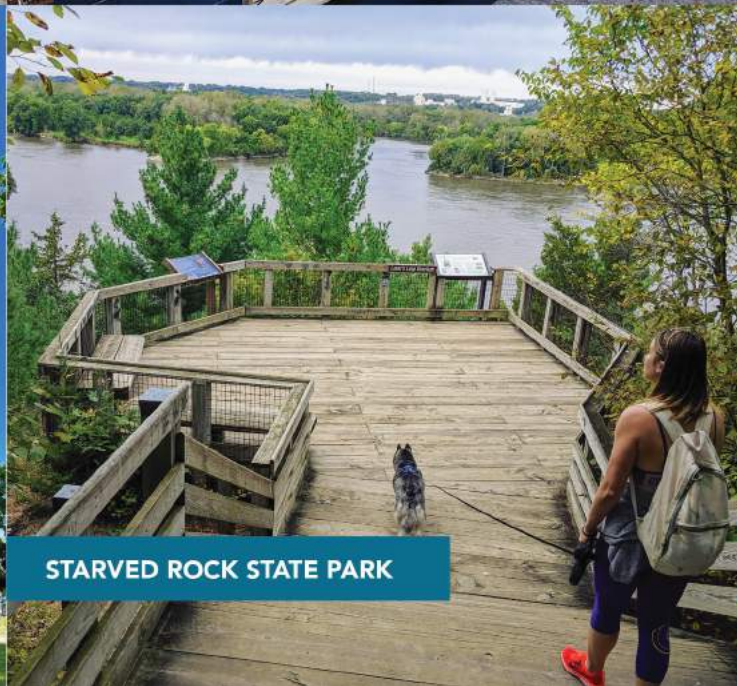
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women at work

Meet four diverse entrepreneurs who pour passion into their craft, whether that's making bread, pounding metal, raising alpacas or baking sweet treats.



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HEWN BAKERY

Co-owners Ellen King and Julie Matthei wanted to create a neighborhood bakery where everything was made fresh daily. Fast forward one decade, and the Evanston bakery still operates on a first-come, first-serve premise (or order ahead). Customers line up for the from-scratch, made-by-hand loaves starring simple ingredients like starter, flour, water and sea salt.

The duo works with local farmers to source dairy, produce and grains. "When you are getting wheat that is grown here, milled here and shipped here, it truly is unique," King says. Bread-lovers can taste the difference in loaves made with heritage grains due to their complex flavor and texture.



FIVE POINTS BLACKSMITH SHOP

Pounding hot metal into alluring and distinctive works of art, Lorelei Sims creates organic, one-of-a-kind pieces resembling things found in nature. Her custom designs include home and garden decor, furniture, and light fixtures. When not wielding a hammer, Sims writes how-to books, teaches and gives demos at her Five Points Blacksmith Shop in Charleston (95 miles southeast of Springfield). View some of her commissions at the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site (9 miles south of her shop).





ROLLING OAK ALPACA RANCH

In 2011, Morgan Stevenson, who likes to crochet, was on the hunt for softer yarn and could not find any locally. So she and her mother, Judy Hoepker, decided to embark on a mother-daughter venture: raising alpacas. Their 10-acre farm-to-fiber ranch sits just outside of Lick Creek (near Makanda). Stevenson and Hoepker offer tours of their farm (with a reservation) and teach classes. In three- to four-hour sessions, participants can learn about alpaca fiber prep, how to crochet a scarf with alpaca yarn, or heddle loom weaving basics. The gift shop sells a variety of alpaca fiber products such as scarves, hats, toys, yarn, dryer balls and felted soap.



RILEY'S VEGAN SWEETS AND EATS

Riley Greenwood offered vegan sweets occasionally when she opened her Peoria cupcake shop in 2017. But she then transitioned to all-vegan in 2018 after becoming vegan herself and seeing a major increase in demand. She's become an expert at plant-based substitutes for ingredients such as eggs.

Greenwood is known for her inventive cake flavors, like Funfetti Cookie Dough and Chocolate Cake with Strawberry Butter Cream. Fan favorites also include apple cider doughnuts and jumbo cinnamon rolls, which earned her a spot on PETA's 2022 list of Top 10 Vegan Sweet Treats in the U.S.

A second-generation entrepreneur, Greenwood looks to her mom, Rachael Parker of SweetCakes by Rachael in Peoria, for inspiration.



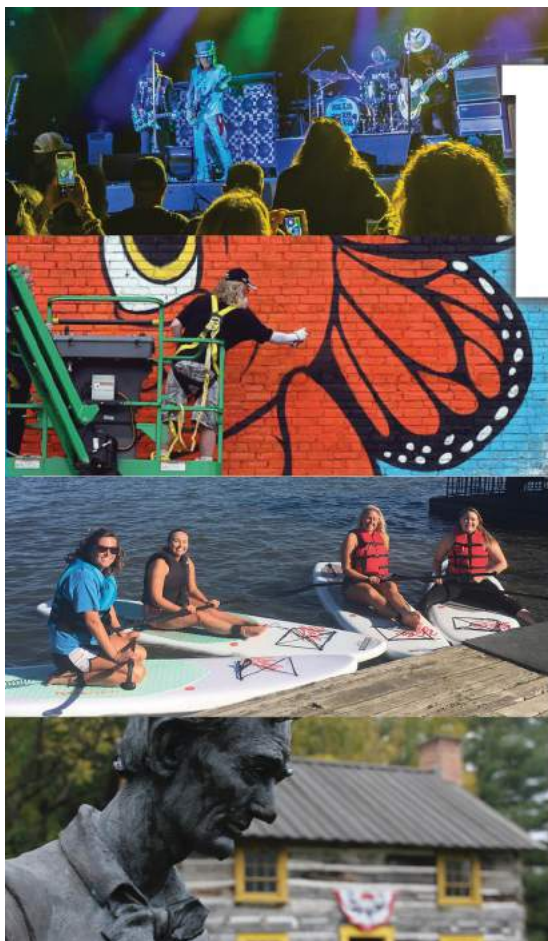


UNCOVER THE *Possibilities*

Experience the stunning outdoor spaces for biking, hiking, and fishing at Nichols Park and Lake Jacksonville. Rediscover the history of our area at the Jacksonville Area Museum or at the remarkably preserved homes like the Governor Duncan Mansion and Underground Railroad sites. Shop and dine your way through the exclusive boutiques and restaurants that line our gorgeous, historic square. 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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upcycled overnights

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The Has Bin

The 1950s grain bin comfortably sleeps two people. While on the farm, explore the flower and vegetable gardens, fish in the pond, or relax by the firepit.



GRAIN BIN

Formerly used to store grain on this working Alvin farm, **The Has Bin Guest House** now nestles people. Freshly made baked goods comfort guests, as do a sleeping loft and a claw-foot tub/shower. Stargaze from the upper deck.

TREE HOUSES

Perch in a tree house near Elizabethtown close to Shawnee National Forest with the added luxuries of air-conditioning and indoor plumbing at **Timber Ridge Outpost and Cabins**. Fill

the day with hiking, fishing, birding, grabbing ice cream from the Outpost or simply relaxing.

Inspired by a zipline platform, the handcrafted **Ten Acre Treehouses** provide an off-the-grid stay in Nauvoo. Come back down to earth by walking the trails weaving around this 28-acre property.

HOBBIT HOUSES

Two earthen shelter cabins with living grass roofs are known as **Rocky Comfort Cabins** in Makanda. Hobbit-style features include round windows and doors, and sun tunnels light the bath and living areas. Walk five minutes to Blue Sky Vineyard.

TRAIN CABOOSSES

At Peoria's Wildlife Prairie Park, three renovated red **Santa Fe Cabooses** delight train enthusiasts of all ages. Each caboose sleeps up to five, and upgrades include creature comforts like a TV, full bathroom, mini fridge and coffee maker. The park has more than 150 animals and 25 miles of hiking trails.





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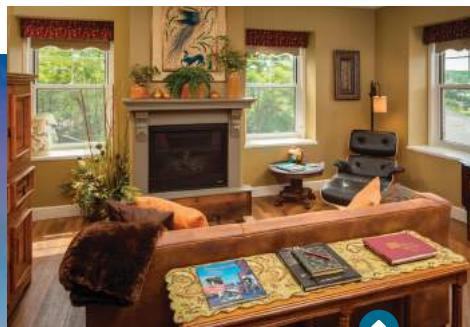
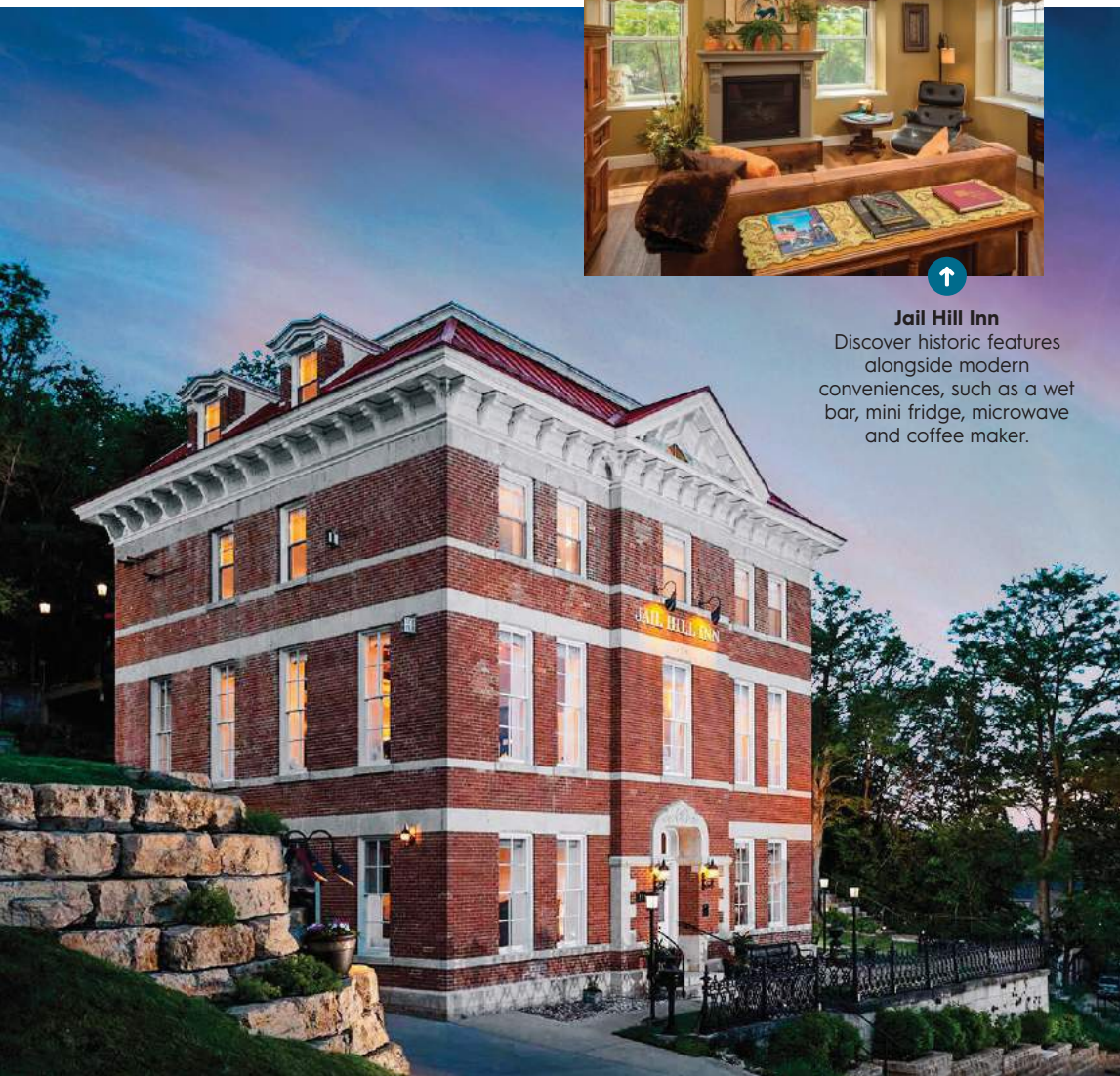
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Jail Hill Inn

Discover historic features alongside modern conveniences, such as a wet bar, mini fridge, microwave and coffee maker.

JAILHOUSE

The former Jo Daviess County Jail (built in 1878) now houses six luxurious and spacious three-room suites and welcomes those seeking a posh stay at **Jail Hill Inn**.

Days begin with a three-course breakfast and finish strong with a wine and cheese reception.

SCHOOLHOUSE

When booking a classroom-size suite at the **Davie School Inn**, select a room theme according to a school subject, like math or American history. Extracurricular activities include antiquing in and around Anna, plus hiking, biking and traveling Shawnee Hills National Forest and a wine trail.

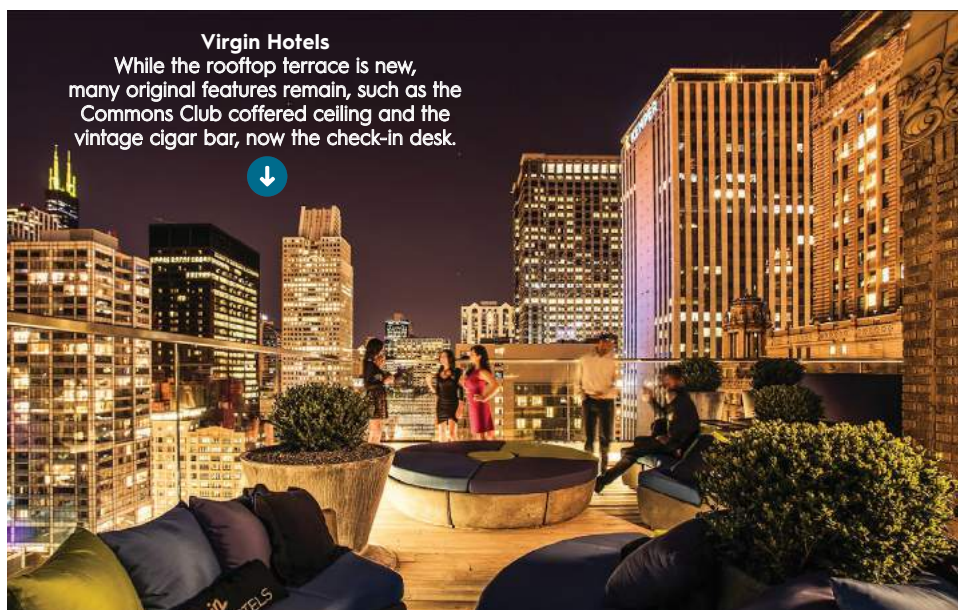
MONASTERY

Discover peace within the Windy City's bustle. At **Monastery of the Holy Cross Guesthouse**, simple accommodations welcome all "travelers and pilgrims," with only a humble suggested donation named for those able to pay. Take advantage of free off-street parking.

RESURRECTED AND RENOVATED

CHICAGO

Why simply tour a Windy City landmark when you can stay in one? **LondonHouse Chicago**, **Virgin Hotels**, the **Kimpton Gray Hotel**, the **Pendry** and the **SoHo House** all had former lives as historic office buildings. Originally the Northwest Tower, **The Robey** inhabits one of the first skyscrapers built outside of downtown in the nearby Wicker Park neighborhood. The **Cambria Hotel** occupies the same building as the James M. Nederlander Theatre, an edifice on the National Register of Historic Places.



Virgin Hotels

While the rooftop terrace is new, many original features remain, such as the Commons Club coffered ceiling and the vintage cigar bar, now the check-in desk.

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A drizzle of house-made honey butter tops the Chicken and Leaf Cakes, available throughout the day at **Sunrize Cafe**.

cooking *with* cannabis

These Chicago entrepreneurs are making the most of this new creative space in the culinary world.

Chef Rocio Vargas personalizes cocktail hours, family-style dinners and plated meals through her cannabis catering company, Planda. The menu could include Cannabutter Coconut Chicken or CBD kombucha.

Cannabis chefs Jeni Cohen and Rebecca VanderKloot, the female creatives behind Flame Princess Confections, cultivate menus that might include tomato basil spaghetti simmering in a spicy arrabiata sauce.

For a sit-down restaurant experience that will lift you up, Canna Cafe in the West Loop serves up “baked” mac and cheese and bone-in chicken wings with THC.

In the south suburb of Calumet City, Sunrize Cafe keeps the kitchen buzzing with THC soul food entrees.



RED BELLY HONEY

What's unique about this ruby-hued honey is that the hemp isn't added by human hand. Bees naturally infuse it when they feed on a patented hemp extract organic juice blend developed by Joline Rivera, the Chicago-based founder of *Kitchen Toke* magazine and Red Belly Honey.


MINDY'S EDIBLES

She is a famed Chicago restaurateur and James Beard Award-winning pastry chef, so when Mindy Segal partnered with Cresco Labs to create Mindy's Edibles brand, the result was mind-altering. Her artisanal edibles include lush black cherry gummies and dark chocolate almond toffee.


HERBAL NOTES

Chef Manny Mendoza won an episode of *Cooked with Cannabis* on Netflix with his Salvadoran short rib pupusas topped with pickled cabbage marinated in CBD chili oil. The South Side native hosts pop-up dinners and private events with cannabis-inspired tasting menus.


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Q&A

michael patrick thornton

He plays a judge in the Chicago-based TV show *61st Street*, but his real-life benchmark for success is in the difference he makes in the lives of young theater-lovers.

To the TV-watching public, he is best known as Dr. Gabriel Fife on the *Grey's Anatomy* spin-off, *Private Practice*. To the disabled community, he is best known as the actor who auditions for—and wins—roles that aren't written for disabled people.

A cofounder of The Gift Theatre (debut 2001) in his Chicago hometown Jefferson Park neighborhood and a lifelong lover of the stage, Thornton turned to performance and improv to help him heal from two spinal strokes that left him paralyzed. Now he helps to bring the healing art of theater to budding performers in a once artistically underserved area of Chicago.

We chatted with the award-winning performer about his beloved Jefferson Park neighborhood and about navigating Chicago—and the entertainment world—with a wheelchair.





SO MANY REASONS TO
EXPLORE THE ELGIN
AREA THIS SUMMER



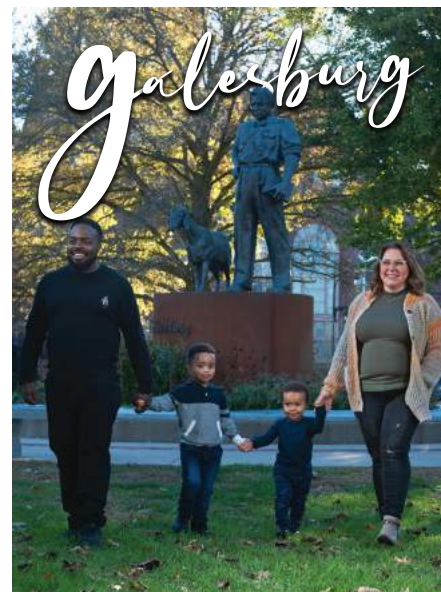
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Q You still live in the neighborhood where you grew up. What do you love about Chicago?

A I do love that Chicago is a mix of what feels like a small town and also a metropolis. There's a hustle to the city but there's also humility, and I find that a rare combination in cities. Chicago is very much a city of neighborhoods. And that means there's an identity and a culture to each neighborhood.

Q What do you love about your neighborhood?

A Jefferson Park is an interesting area. It's simultaneously a neighborhood where people have stayed for generations, with old-school charm, but with young families moving in as well—making it feel revitalized. And it's also accessible, with one of the biggest train and bus depots in the city.

Q Is that why you chose to open The Gift Theatre there?

A I grew up in an area of the city that didn't have a professional arts organization. That was a driving force for putting down roots and staying. For so many people, The Gift's 45-seat storefront

theater was their first point of contact for live theater. There are high school kids who have now gone through the two-year apprenticeship program and they're onstage with us. We've certainly changed the trajectory of some lives.

Q Can you explain the name behind your theater?

A The name "The Gift" comes from a book called *Towards a Poor Theatre* (*Per un teatro povero*) by Jerzy Grotowski. He ran an ensemble that trained together. The whole idea was that if you trained together, all the egotistical pursuits of being in the arts goes away—trying to

be famous and all that nonsense—and what you're really showing up for is to give a gift of yourself to the audience.

Q The Gift Theatre hosted your return to the stage after your strokes, right?

A I got back onstage (in 2006) three years after my strokes when I did a one-person show, *The Good Thief*, and won the Joseph Jefferson Award. The thing about a spinal stroke is that this crazy thing happens that no one has an explanation for, whatsoever, and then your life is completely changed.

Q Did your experience at The Second City help the healing process?

A I took one class at The Second City called Improv for Actors. I think improv was really salubrious, because I was able to be anyone. I didn't actually have to just be the person in the chair. I could be a pilot. I could be whatever I wanted.

Q What's it like to play a judge in the show *61st Street*?

A A judge is tricky to play because, as an actor, you have to have a point of view about everything. But as a judge,

you have to be neutral. The great thing about playing a judge is that you get to wear pajamas to work; you're wearing a robe, so why not?

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Explore Michael's favorite Jefferson Park hot spots.

Ed Paschke Art Center

The center is a wonderful artistic home and museum campus (reopening summer 2023).

Gale Street Inn

It's a classic restaurant and a complete anchor of Jefferson Park and the West Side.

Kawayan

This is a great hole-in-the-wall Filipino restaurant.

Pete's Pizza #2

Pete's is my go-to for Chicago-style deep-dish pizza.

Pho No. 1

I was mispronouncing this Vietnamese restaurant for many years. It's supposed to be pronounced "fuh."

PHOTOGRAPH: CLAIRE DEMOS, COURTESY OF MICHAEL PATRICK THORNTON



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summer fests

Mark your calendar for
must-do events from Memorial
Weekend to Labor Day.



PRIDE PARADE, CHICAGO

ENDLESS SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

RAVINIA, HIGHLAND PARK May–September

For more than 100 years, the quintessential outdoor music venue presents world-class performances across a spectrum of genres. Picnic on the lawn (bring your own chairs, food and beverages) or purchase a pavilion ticket. (Seating begins 30 minutes before the scheduled event.)

LIVE ON THE LAKE!, CHICAGO May–September

Local and national acts perform every Saturday and Sunday at the Navy Pier Beer Garden.

ILLINOIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, BLOOMINGTON June–August

A Shakespearean summer: *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Book of Will* and *The Tempest*.

MILLENNIUM PARK SUMMER MUSIC SERIES, CHICAGO June–August

Head to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion for free music on Monday and Thursday nights.

SUMMERDANCE, CHICAGO July–September

Join the group dance lesson (led by professional instructors) before practicing your moves.

MAY

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

26–28 SUMMER CAMP MUSIC FESTIVAL, CHILLICOTHE

It's a weekend to remember as more than 150 acts perform. Most fans camp out at Three Sisters Park.

27 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, CHICAGO

Spectators line State Street as the parade honors all who died in defense of the United States.

27–28 FINE ART SHOW, ST. CHARLES

Juried works of art from more than 90 artists line Riverside Avenue along with fun activities for the kids.

27–28 SUEÑOS MUSIC FESTIVAL, CHICAGO

One of the Windy City's largest Latin celebrations takes over Grant Park as more than 20 artists perform.

JUNE

2–3 BLOOMINGTON GOLD, NORMAL

Corvette and Camaro owners show off their Gold-certified vehicles at the 50th annual show.

3 BREWERS FESTIVAL, MT. VERNON

Sip home-brewed beer alongside craft beer made by the pros. Also enjoy local music and food.

3–4 57TH STREET ART FAIR, CHICAGO

In Hyde Park, the Midwest's oldest juried art fair features 200 artists, food and live music by Buddy Guy's Legends.

4 ENJOY ILLINOIS 300, MADISON

The 300-mile NASCAR Cup zips long the 1.25-mile track at the World Wide Technology Raceway.

8–11 CHICAGO BLUES FESTIVAL, CHICAGO

Blues legends and emerging artists fill the stages at Millennium Park during this free festival.

9–11 ROUTE 66 GARAGE SALE DAYS, LOGAN COUNTY

Discover unique finds and kitschy treasures from more than 100 individual sellers along Route 66.

14–17 TAILGATES N' TALLBOYS, BLOOMINGTON

One of the state's largest country music fests includes camping at the fairgrounds.

MID-JUNE SUPERMAN CELEBRATION, METROPOLIS

Celebrity guests visit the Man of Steel's hometown party and also meet comic book artists and writers.

16–18 GREAT GALENA BALLOON RACE

Look to the sky as more than 20 hot-air balloons ascend. On the ground, meet local artists and wander among classic cars.



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ENJOY ILLINOIS 300, MADISON

**21-25 73RD ANNUAL
SWEDISH DAYS
FESTIVAL, GENEVA**

Immerse yourself in Scandinavian culture, food and entertainment.

**25 PRIDE PARADE,
CHICAGO**

The colorful parade caps off a month of Pride celebrations as more than 1 million spectators watch.

AUGUST

**3-6 LOLLAPALOOZA,
CHICAGO**

One of the country's largest music fests takes over Grant Park with 170 bands.

**10-12 PORT BYRON
TUG FEST, PORT
BYRON**

Illinois looks to defend its title against Iowa as 11 teams on each side pull a 2,700-foot-long rope across the Mississippi River.

**10-20 ILLINOIS STATE
FAIR, SPRINGFIELD**

While the state's blue ribbon event focuses on agriculture, there's also big-name entertainers, carnival rides and food.

**19-20 CHICAGO AIR
AND WATER SHOW,
CHICAGO**

Military and civilian jets buzz downtown and the lakefront.

**19-21 CENTRALIA
BALLOON FEST,
CENTRALIA**

Cruise in for the hot-air balloons, stay for the car and motorcycle show and food and craft fair.

JULY

**1-2 NASCAR CHICAGO
STREET RACE
WEEKEND, CHICAGO**

In a first-ever NASCAR Cup Series street race, stock cars zip along the lake and downtown.

**6-9 JOHN DEERE
CLASSIC PGA TOUR,
SILVIS**

TPC Deere Run hosts the annual PGA tournament drawing big names.

**28-29 MERCHANT
STREET MUSICFEST,
KANKAKEE**

Rock out as local, regional and national bands take center stage in downtown's historic square.

**29-30 GENEVA ARTS
FAIR, GENEVA**

Works of art from more than 120 juried artists line Third Street. Children have a dedicated art area.

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**26 BROOKFIELD ZOO'S
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Say hello to your favorite animals while sampling craft beer from more than 20 breweries.

**25-26 BALLOONS OVER 66,
LINCOLN**

At dusk and dawn, hot-air balloons launch from multiple sites, while dock dogs catch air competing for Big Air and Extreme Vertical wins.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

**AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 3
CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL,
CHICAGO**

Join the tradition of listening to all kinds of jazz, including local musicians and world-class artists, at Millennium Park.



**ANDY WARHOL
PORTFOLIOS:
A LIFE IN POP**

GLEN ELLYN

June 3-September 10

The works of the top pop culture artist, Andy Warhol (1928-1987), come to the Cleve Carney Museum of Art. This special exhibit includes 94 of his works, plus more than 150 Polaroids and black-and-white photos taken by Warhol. Learn more about the artist through a timeline, interactive mural and Studio 54 experience.

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ASA IL Pro/AM • June 29 – July 2

Hometown Celebration • July 1

Super City Brew Fest • Sept. 9

Fort Massac Encampment • Oct. 21 - 22

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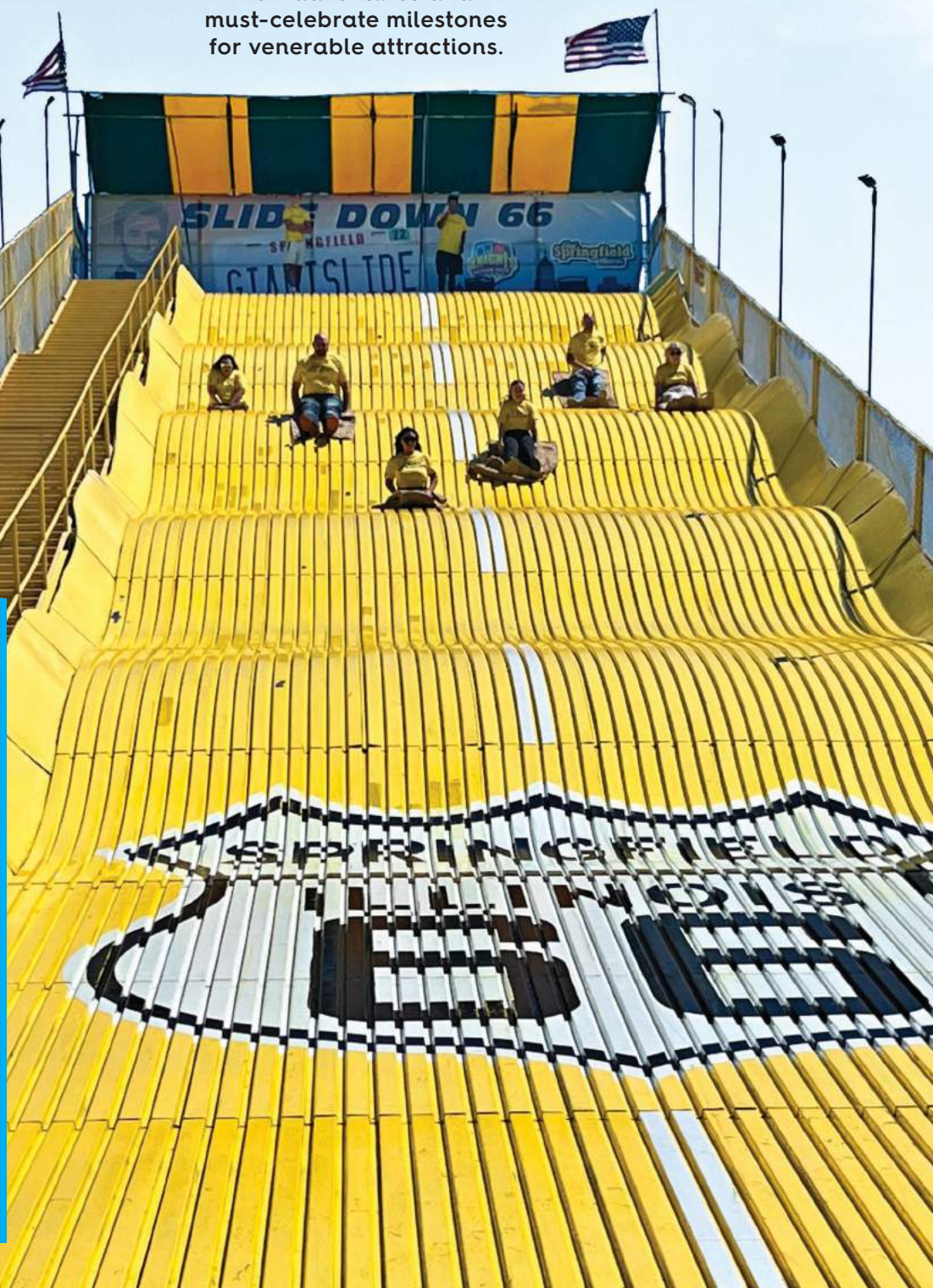


slide into summer

The Illinois State Fair anchors a season of must-try new adventures and must-celebrate milestones for venerable attractions.

Illinois
State Fair
170
YEARS
Springfield

The first Illinois State Fair was held in 1853 at a site on the west side of Springfield. Admission was 25 cents. Various cities hosted the event until 1894, when Springfield became the permanent home. In 2022, a record 636,700 people attended the 11-day celebration. This year's fair is August 10-20.



Experience

UPTOWN NORMAL

Dine Play Shop Stay

A memorable stop along historic Route 66, Uptown Normal combines world-class cultural attractions, vibrant events, eclectic restaurants, boutique retail shops, premier lodging and state-of-the-art transit with historic main street charm and warm midwestern hospitality.

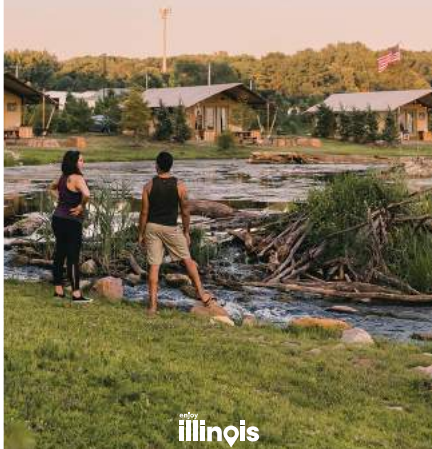
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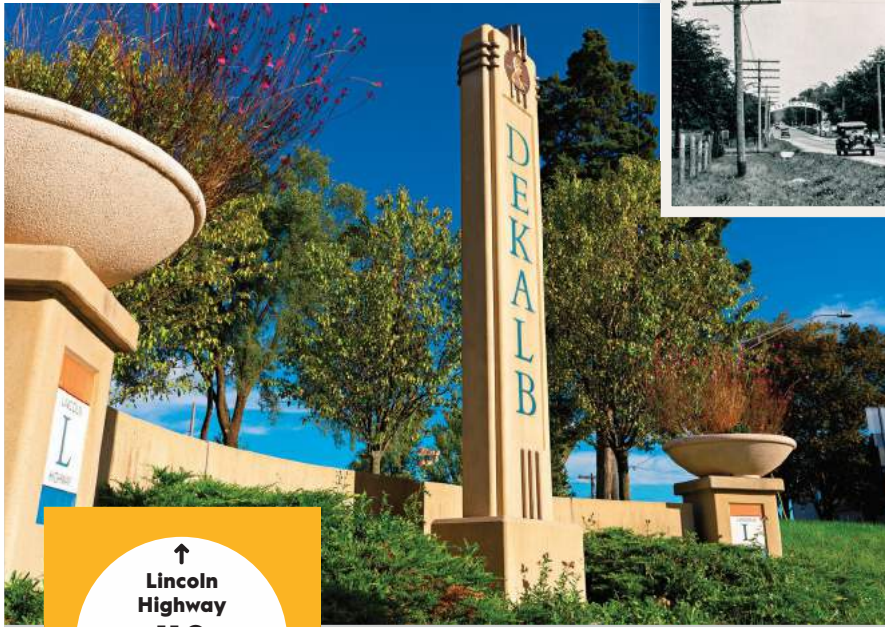
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↑
Lincoln Highway
110 YEARS
Illinois

The Lincoln Highway, which stretches from New York City to San Francisco, was the first U.S. transcontinental road built for cars. While traveling US-30 through Illinois, plan to overnight at Lincoln Way, a posh inn in Franklin Grove.



The mural in Oswego honors the Boy Scouts, who placed 3,000 markers across the entire route.

→
Locavore Farm
Grant Park

The latest ag adventure from regenerative-farm Locavore Farm (about an hour south of downtown Chicago in Kankakee County) will host Dine on the Land dinners and educational experiences, along with overnight retreats, glamping and extended stays in its historic farm cottage.



↑
Knack Brewing and Fermentations
Kankakee

This new nanobrewery has an artistic bent (just see the walls) and a knack for crafting highly quaffable lagers and ales, like flagship Honey Biscuit, plus a rotating menu of eight to 10 beers.



←
Hotel Baker
95 YEARS
St. Charles

Relax in luxury and history along the scenic Fox River. Marble-accented baths, custom drapes, plush carpeting and period furnishings—many original to the 1928 downtown landmark—adorn the 53 guest rooms.





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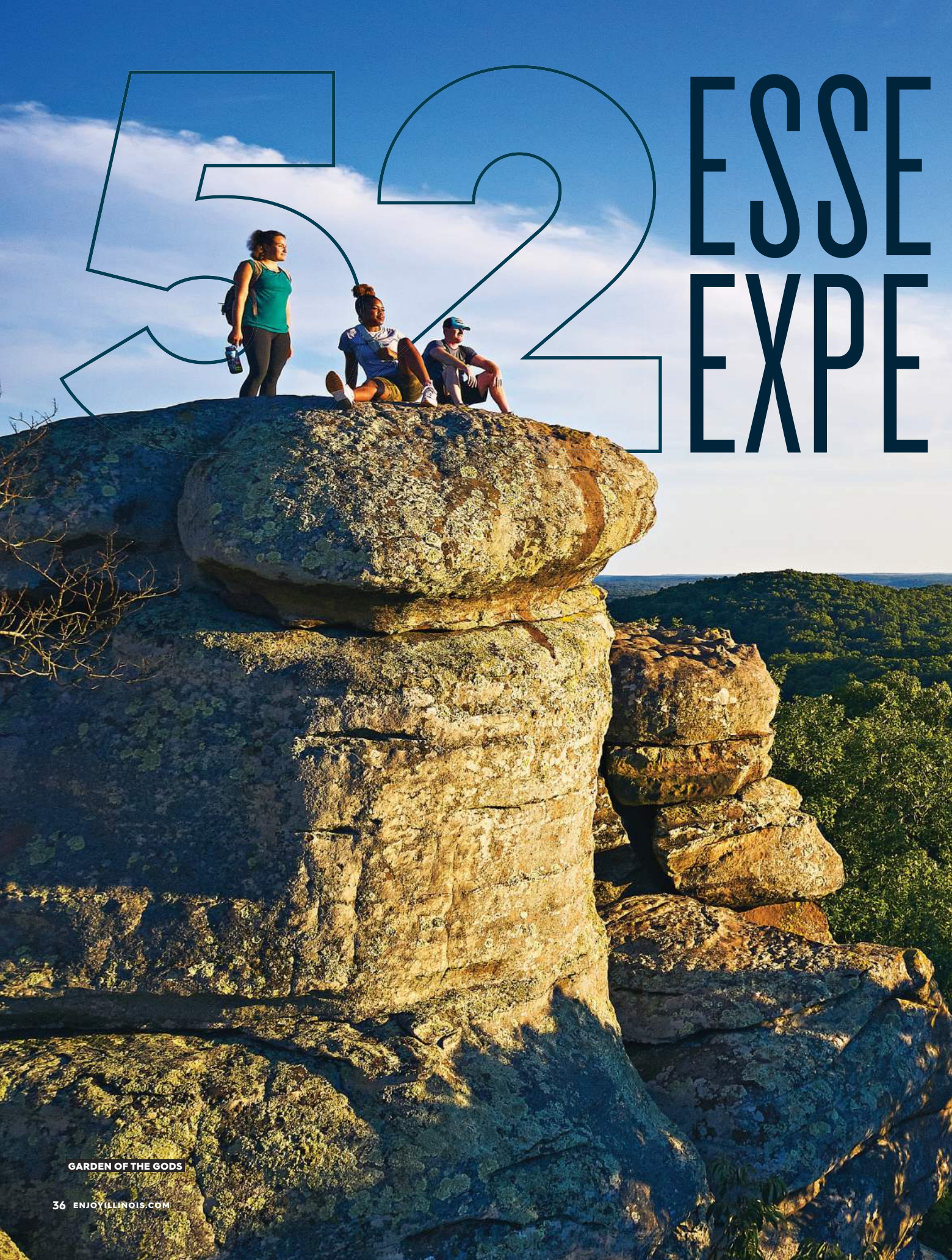
Lake County, just north of Chicago, offers countless ways to enjoy its family-friendly waters. From dozens of delightful lakes to Great Wolf Lodge's amazing indoor water park, there's something for everyone.

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LAKE COUNTY
ILLINOIS

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**GREAT
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ESSE EXPE

GARDEN OF THE GODS

NTIAL SUMMER RIENCES

Get a jump on your warm-weather vacation planning with this to-do list, which includes more than 50 experiences, destinations and events throughout Illinois, plus a roundup of free things to see and do around the Prairie State.

CHICAGO

1 Take a spin on Navy Pier's Centennial Wheel.

2 Step out on The Ledge at Skydeck Chicago. 3 Go full Tilt over the city at 360 Chicago. 4 Swim in Lake Michigan at the Oak Street and North Avenue beaches. 5 Eat a Chicago dog during an afternoon White Sox game. 6 Snap a pic of the outfield ivy at Wrigley Field. 7 Pet a stingray at Shedd Aquarium. 8 Watch fireworks over Lake Michigan

on the Chicago River Boat Architecture Tour. 9 Sleep in at Emil Bach House, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home in Rogers Park. 10 Go gaga over Vincent van Gogh at the Art Institute of Chicago.

11 See the largest dino (Máximo) that ever walked the earth at Field Museum.

12 Discover Bronzeville and other neighborhoods with Chicago Historian Dilla on a Chicago Mahogany Tour.

13 Meet Pilipili, an African lion cub at Lincoln Park Zoo, one of the most established zoos in the country.



SKYDECK CHICAGO

BEYOND CHICAGO

14 Picnic on the lawn during **Ravinia** in Highland Park. **15** Go airborne in a wind tunnel at **iFly** in Rosemont, Lincoln Park and Naperville. **16** Listen as Holocaust survivors share their stories at the **Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center** in Skokie. **17** Meditate in **Bahá'í House of Worship**, an architectural wonder in Wilmette. **18** See stunning white stallions at **Tempel Farms** at Old Mill Creek in Lake County. **19** Rappel from a platform 120 feet in the air at **The Forge: Lemont Quarries** in Lemont. **20** View the cell houses in Joliet at the **Old**

Joliet Prison. **21** Encounter a penguin and feed a giraffe at **Brookfield Zoo** in Brookfield. **22** Go from 0 to 78 mph in 2 seconds on **Maxx Force** at **Six Flags Great America** in Gurnee. **23** Watch a flick from the comfort of your car at the **McHenry Outdoor Theater** in McHenry. **24** Ride on a boat pulled by Moe the mule along the **I&M Canal** in LaSalle. **25** Skim across the water while doing tricks on a wakeboard at **Quarry Cable Park** in Crystal Lake. **26** Cruise the Rock River aboard *The Pride of Oregon* in Oregon. **27** Go where the bison roam at **Nachusa Grasslands** in Franklin Grove. **28** Feel small next to a Gemini Giant along **Route 66** in Wilmington.



LAND OF LINCOLN

23 Rub Lincoln's nose for good luck at the **Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site** in Springfield. **24** Send greetings from a 32-foot-tall mailbox, part of **Big Things Small Town** in Casey. **25** Wave hello to a pink elephant at the **Pink Elephant Antique Mall** in Livingston. **26** Ride a scaled replica steam train at the **Scovill Zoo** in Decatur. **27** In Amish Country, dine on

broasted chicken and egg noodles at **Yoder's Kitchen** in Arthur. **28** Sit under the stars and hear the Bard during the **Illinois Shakespeare Festival** (June–August) in Bloomington. **29** Meet Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln portrayals at various historic sites during **History Comes Alive** in Springfield. **30** Discover the artwork and public gardens of **Allerton Park and Retreat Center**; make it a weekend and stay at the on-site mansion in Monticello. **31** Learn how historic **Woodlawn Farm** in Jacksonville became an Underground Railroad site.



LINCOLN'S TOMB, SPRINGFIELD

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

❶ Go to great lengths and heights on the Grafton Alpine

Coaster, SkyTour and Zipline at Aerie's Resort in Grafton.

❷ Climb into the cab of a combine at John Deere Pavilion in Moline. ❸ Eat and drink on a Flavor Tour while exploring Quincy, a historic river town. ❹ Watch as dozens of hot-air balloons race over Galena during the Great Galena Balloon Race (June 16-18) or see the sun set while drifting over the

trees with Galena on the Fly. ❺ Gaze at preserved earthen mounds built by early Native Americans at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Collinsville. ❻ Eat an old-fashioned hot fudge sundae at Lagomarcino's, a century-old soda fountain in Moline. Ⓚ At the Mississippi River Visitor Center, see freighters roll through the world's largest roller dam at Locks and Dam 15 in Rock Island. Ⓛ Stand in the area where Lewis and Clark began their journey at the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower in Hartford.



GREAT GALENA BALLOON RACE, GALENA

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

1. Rappel off sandstone cliffs in **Giant City State Park** in Makanda. 2. Snap a selfie while scuba diving in **Mermet Springs** in Belknap. 3. Get a taste of small-town Americana at the **Cobden Peach Festival** (early to mid-August). 4. Paddle past 1,000-year-old cypress trees in the **Cache River State Natural Area** in Belknap. 5. Squeeze between massive

rock walls at **Giant City State Park** in the Shawnee National Forest. 6. In late May and June, pick aromatic lavender at **Shawnee Hills Lavender** in Anna. 7. Follow a quarter-mile-long trail to towering sandstone rock formations at **Garden of the Gods** in Shawnee National Forest.



CACHE RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA, BELKNAP



CHICAGO

Chicago Cultural Center

Built as the city's first library in 1897, the cultural center boasts two stained-glass domes, including the world's largest Louis Comfort Tiffany dome. Enjoy complimentary events such as concerts, performances, films and art exhibits.

Chicago Greeter

Let a knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteer take you on a tour! On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, InstaGreeters take visitors on a one-hour tour of downtown (no registration required). With advance notice (10 days), schedule a two- to four-hour tour based on your interests, neighborhood and language.

Grant Park

Along Lake Michigan, Grant Park is known as Chicago's Front Yard. Iconic attractions within the park include the Art Institute of Chicago, Buckingham Fountain, Maggie Daley Park, Millennium Park (see below) and the Museum Campus: Adler Planetarium, Field Museum of Natural History, and Shedd Aquarium.

Millennium Park

The almost 25-acre space is home to *Cloud Gate* (aka the Bean), Crown Fountain, cultural activities and concerts at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, and Lurie Garden.

Garfield Park Conservatory

Step inside a 1908 glass-domed, world-class garden with 10,000 plant varieties.

Lincoln Park Conservatory

Discover ancient ferns, tropical palms, orchids and rotating exhibits within four display houses.

Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool

From the Lincoln Park Conservatory, it's less than a five-minute walk to this hidden outdoor oasis.

National Museum of Mexican Art

This cultural treasure, the nation's only nationally accredited museum dedicated to Mexican art and culture, showcases 3,600 years of creativity from both sides of the border, exemplifying the diversity of Mexican culture in the Pilsen neighborhood.

GARDENS

University of Illinois Arboretum, Champaign

In the spring, cherry tree blossoms create a beautiful canopy. For inspiration, visit the Idea Garden, where master gardeners showcase the latest trends, tips and tricks (and provide resources) for backyard DIYers.

LINCOLN

Lincoln and Civil War Legacy Trail, Alton

Bronze sculptures depict Lincoln and Douglas at the site of their final debate. It's one of 10 stops on a self-guided tour of Civil War-era adventures. Nab a trail guide from the Alton visitors center or download the Great Rivers and Routes experience pass for the Walk with Lincoln and Civil War Legacy Tour.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield

Visit the downtown Greek Revival home where Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln lived for 17 years. This is the only home Lincoln ever owned. Tickets are free, but required; pick them up at the nearby Lincoln Home Visitor Center.

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg

Visit a reconstruction of the town where Lincoln lived during his early adulthood. Start at the Visitors Center and then wander through a dozen log homes; 10 workshops, including a blacksmith shop; a tavern; stores; and one-room school.

The Lincoln Depot, Springfield

See where President-elect Lincoln boarded a train headed to Washington, D.C., in 1861.

MUSEUMS

Carl Sandburg State Historic Site, Galesburg

Walk in the garden surrounding this Pulitzer Prize-winner's house and view the final resting place of Carl and his wife, Lilian.

Livingston County War Museum, Pontiac

This hands-on museum features artifacts, weaponry and stories from every U.S. war from WWI to Afghanistan.

Historic Wagner Farm, Glenview

Experience life on a working dairy farm with activities like collecting eggs, observing livestock and helping with chores at the farmhouse. Plus see a two-story silo and 1930s grocery store.

Krannert Art Museum, Champaign

On the University of Illinois campus, this fine arts museum houses nearly 11,000 works from ancient Egyptian to contemporary, including *Marilyn*, a 1971 Andy Warhol, and *No. 13* by Mark Rothko.

National Great Rivers Museum, Alton

Visitors learn about the Mississippi and other rivers through 20 exhibits, such as an indoor simulator that lets visitors guide a barge. After, see the real deal on a 45-minute walking tour of the adjacent Melvin Price Locks and Dam 26 along the Great Rivers Scenic Byway.

PARKS

Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Galena

On the bluffs of the Mississippi River, burial mounds and a 1,000-year-old Thunderbird effigy mound draw history-lovers, while migrating birds and easy hiking paths attract nature fans.

Mississippi Palisades State Park, Savanna

Near the confluence of the Mississippi and Apple rivers, this 2,500-acre park caters to outdoors enthusiasts. Fifteen miles of trails wind to overlooks with bird's-eye views of the Mississippi, rock formations and wooded ravines.

Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton

Twelve miles of trails lead to Illinois River views in unglaciated terrain in the 8,500-acre park, 5 miles north of Grafton. The park's 1930s wood-and-stone lodge serves specialties like fried chicken and catfish; stay in one of the rooms.

Starved Rock State Park, Utica

A state park since 1911, this land offers a surprising change of scenery from the farmland around it: eight accessible canyons with seasonal waterfalls and more than 13 miles of trails. There's also a lodge, guided hikes (fee) and 90-minute trolley tours (fee).

Around the State

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources manages more than 130 state parks.

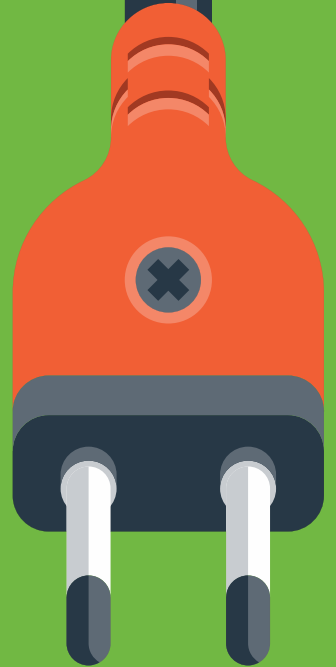
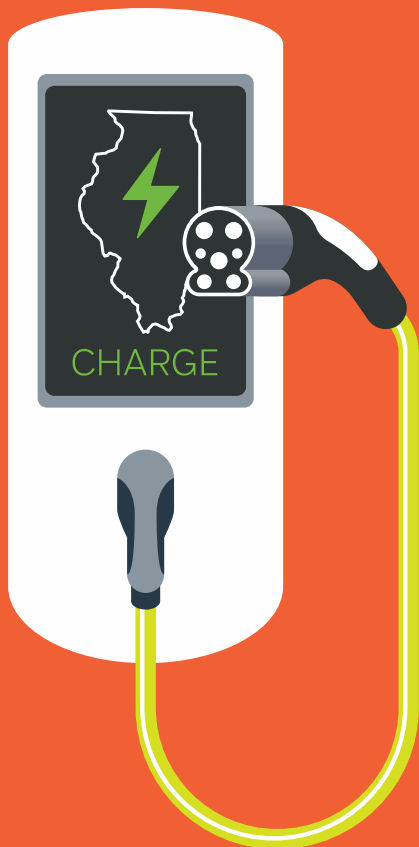


MORE TO EXPLORE!

Hover your phone's camera over the code for more things to see and do in Illinois.

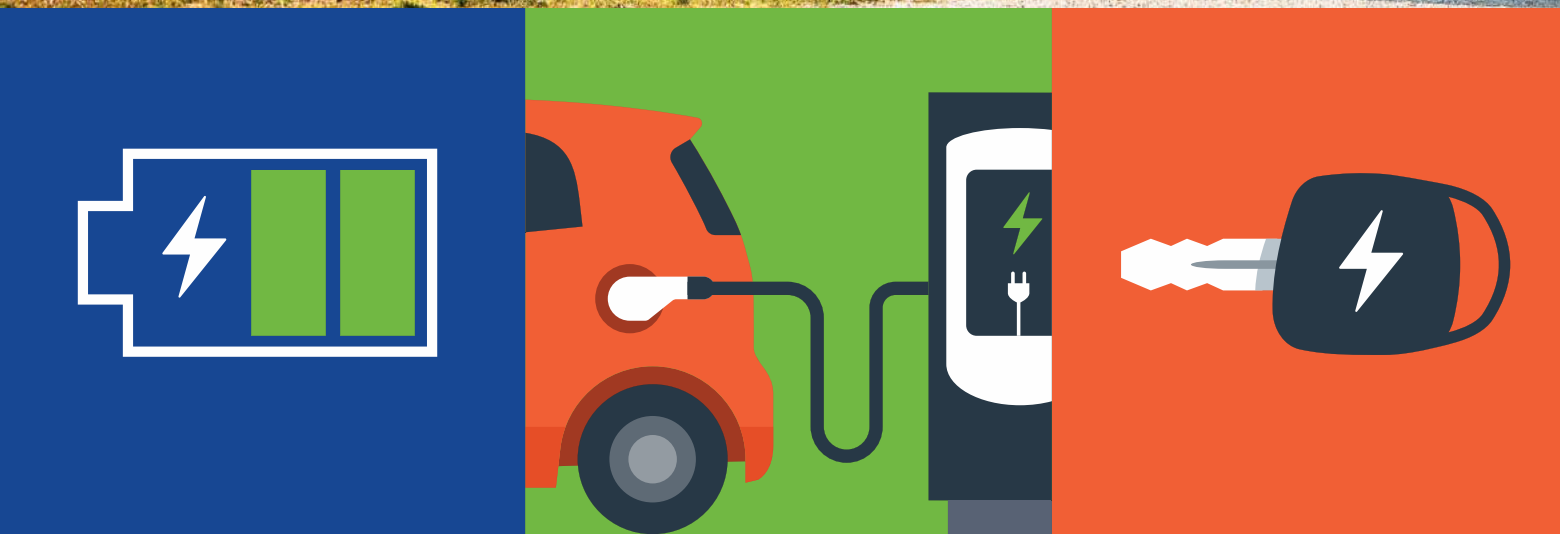
PLUG INTO THE MOTHER ROAD

WRITER
Ginger Crichton



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TRY A NEW WAY OF TRAVELING A HISTORIC ROAD:
NETWORK OF EV CHARGING STATIONS MEANS



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YOU CAN DRIVE ROUTE 66 FULLY POWERED FOR FUN.



EV CHARGING STATIONS EVERY 40 TO 60 MILES MAKE IT EASY TO PLOT A TRIP.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Sure, those early Route 66 travelers needed actual gasoline—no EV options for them. And legacy gas stations are now one of the road's most photographed attractions. Restored 1930s service stations have taken on a new life as visitors centers at **Ambler's Texaco Gas Station** in Dwight and **Standard Oil Gas Station** in Odell. Visitors centers also are being imagined for the 1931 **Sprague's Super Service** in Normal and the 1927 **West End Service Station** in Edwardsville. Snap pics of the green dinosaur, symbol of Sinclair Oil, on top of the former **Sinclair Service Station** (now BTI Tire and Alignment) in Wilmington, and of the canopy architecture at Mount Olive's 1926 **Soulsby Service Station** (which may have a future life as a museum). **Mahan's Phillips Filling Station**, one of the state's earliest gas stations, formerly part of Shea's Gas Station and Museum, stands next to Fulgenzi's Pizza and Pasta in Springfield. A neon Vic Suhling Gas for Less sign points to Mother Road nostalgia at **Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center**.

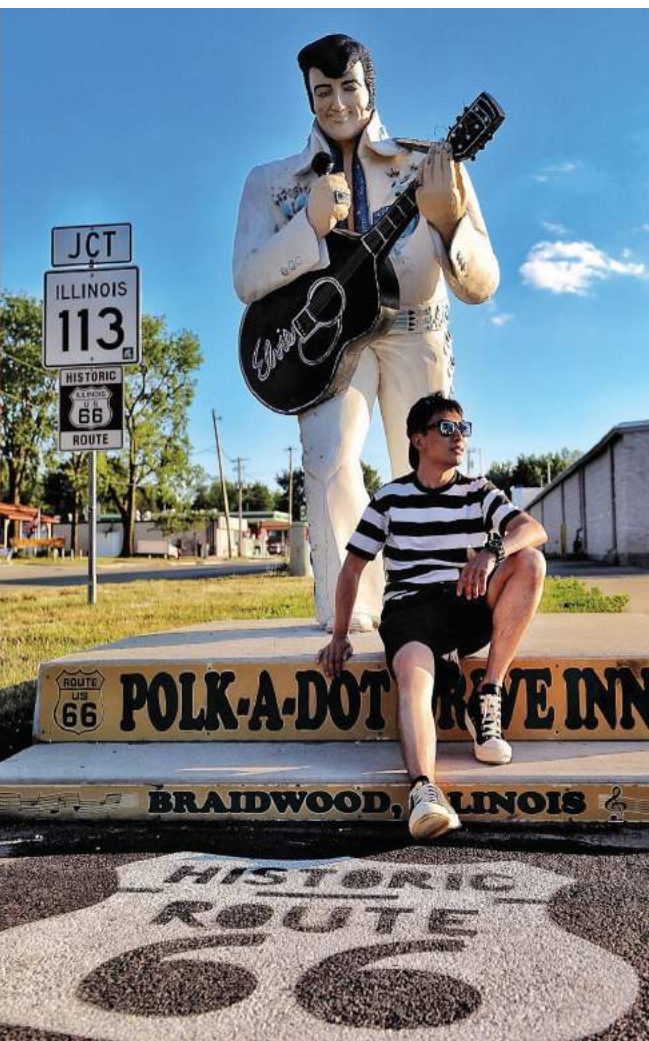
DINERS, DRIVE-INS AND DEPOTS

Fuel up on history, comfort food and kitsch along Illinois' 305-mile stretch of Route 66, a road that carried a nation from Chicago to Los Angeles starting in 1926. While its highway days ended in 1985, the allure of Route 66 remains at stops like Braidwood's **Polk-a-Dot Drive In** (with an Elvis statue and others outside); Wilmington's **Launching Pad** and its landmark Gemini Giant statue; Springfield's throwback **Route 66 Twin Drive In** theater; and historic train depots in Dwight, Divernon and Springfield.

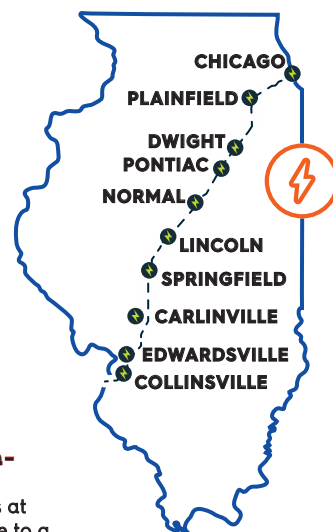
GO GREEN

Reflect on your Mother Road journey at Chicago's **Grant Park** (the start of Route 66), then head to the **Route 66 Park** in Joliet. Also in town: the Blues Brothers dance on the roof of the Rich and Creamy ice cream shop, and a path leads to an overlook of the Old Joliet Prison. In Pontiac, cross one of the town's three swinging bridges at **Humiston-Riverside Park**.





WHERE TO GET A CHARGE— AND MORE— ON **ROUTE 66.**



Chicago

Route 66 begins near the Art Institute of Chicago. Before heading out, check out some of the city's famous destinations: Millennium Park; *Cloud Gate*, aka The Bean; Navy Pier; and Wrigley Field.

Plainfield

Browse restaurants and shops in the pedestrian-friendly Downtown Historic District.

Dwight

Strike a pose by old yellow Shell pumps in front of a Ferrari mural.

Pontiac

The global art group Walldogs painted many of the town's 23 colorful outdoor murals.

Bloomington-Normal

Stretch your legs at Miller Park, home to a zoo and minigolf.

Lincoln

The Mill Museum on 66, which dates to 1929, holds Route 66 memorabilia.

Springfield

Crunch into a corn dog with a side of nostalgia at Cozy Dog Drive In.

Carlinville

The "Million Dollar Courthouse" is famous both for its architecture and tales of corruption.

Edwardsville

Check out the Route 66 mural on South Main, part of a new Mural Trail in Southern Illinois.

Collinsville

Home to the World's Largest Catsup Bottle, Collinsville's water tower can't be missed. Refuel at the Old Herald Brewery and Distillery. After dining, wander around to look at memorabilia in the former newspaper building.

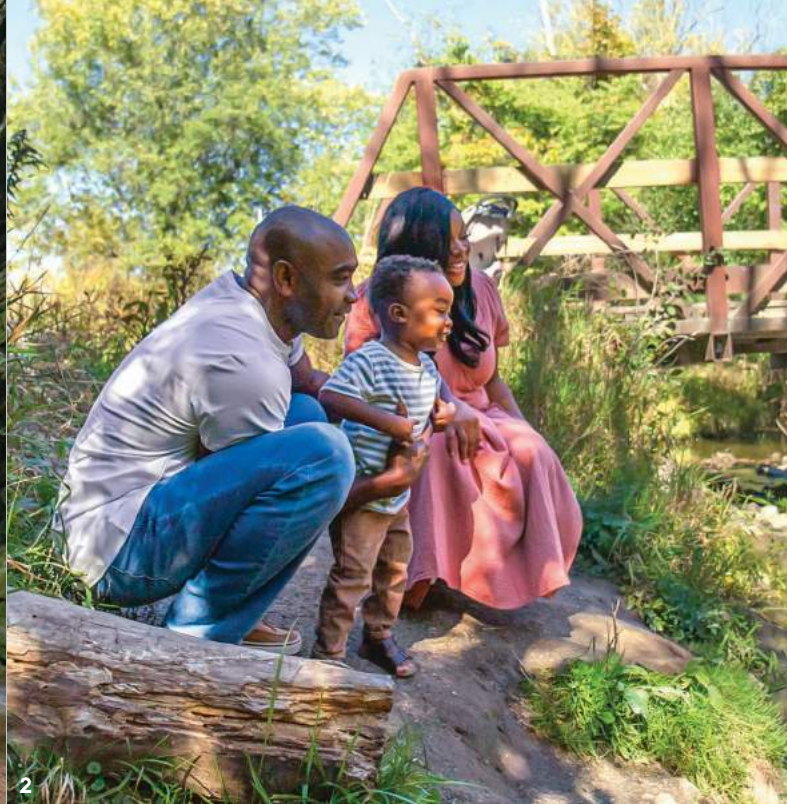
CAR CULTURE

For another obligatory Mother Road pic, park your ride in front of the Shield Mural at Pontiac's **Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum**. Take time to explore both the Route 66 museum, which traces the storied road's history, as well as the nearby **Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum and Resource Center**, where a changing lineup reveals vehicles from rare Pontiac Buggies to Pontiac automobiles of every vintage, including iconic GTOs and Firebirds. Car buffs will also want to make an appointment to admire the pristine Corvair cars, vans and trucks at the **Corvair Museum** in Glenarm. In the mood for something a little quirkier? In Staunton, hop to **Henry's Rabbit Ranch**, where a row of VW Rabbits juts out of the ground, styled after Cadillac Ranch on the Texas stretch of Route 66. Henry's is also home to a vintage Volkswagen once owned by Route 66 legend Bob Waldmire, founder of the **Cozy Dog Drive In** in Springfield and occasional guest at the ranch. And yes, you'll find actual rabbits on the grounds too.



TAKE A
MODERN **ROAD**
TRIP ALONG
ILLINOIS'
MOST **ICONIC**
HIGHWAY.





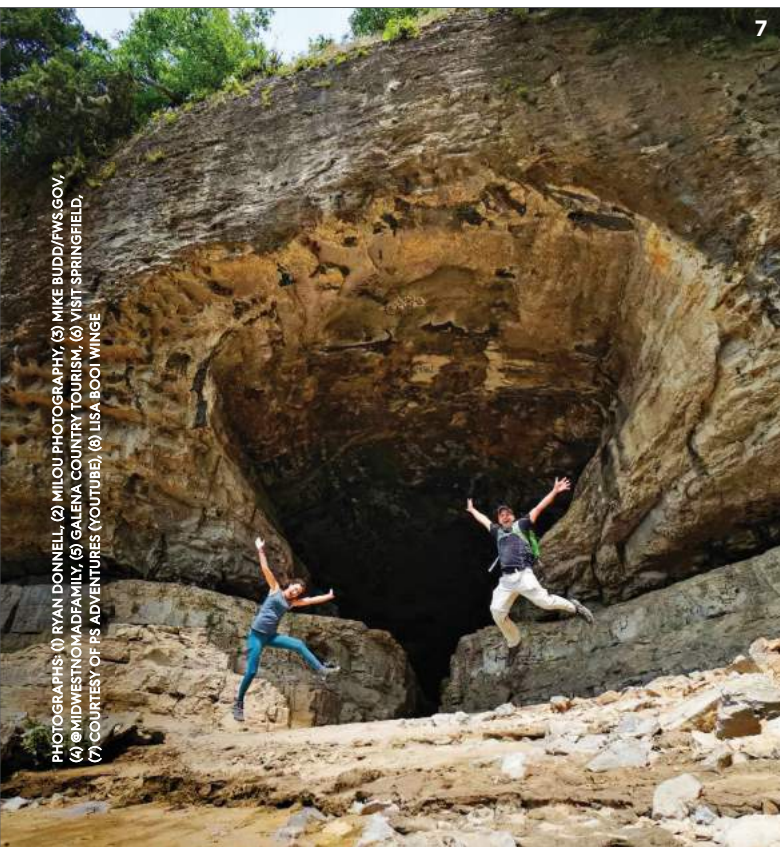
ADVENTURE

The word "ADVENTURE" is written in large, teal, block letters. The word "outdoor" is written in a black, cursive script font, overlapping the letter "A" of "ADVENTURE".





1 Starved Rock State Park The waterfall at French Canyon, one of eight you can hike to, sits less than a half-mile from the visitors center in Oglesby. **2 Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve** Discover 11 miles of trails open to hikers, bikers and horseback riders, plus Rocky Glen Waterfall and a bluff overlook in Lemont. **3 Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge** During migration season, open water, wetlands and abundant food draw thousands of white pelicans and other birds to this refuge in Havana. **4 Grafton Lighthouse** The 47-foot-tall structure was erected as a symbol of resilience after a 1993 Mississippi River flood damaged most of Grafton. **5 Grant Park** Plan a picnic, play basketball or walk your pet; the park named for hometown son—the 18th U.S. president—sits alongside the Galena River in downtown Galena. **6 Lake Springfield** Anglers, boaters, swimmers (in designated areas) and water sport enthusiasts enjoy this central Illinois lake with 57 miles of shoreline. **7 Cave-In-Rock State Park** In addition to the 55-foot-wide cave carved by water thousands of years ago, the wooded park has moderate to difficult hiking trails along the Ohio River in Southern Illinois. **8 Island Park** A footbridge over the Kankakee River connects Maple Street to the wooded park in Momence.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (1) RYAN DONNELL, (2) MILOU PHOTOGRAPHY, (3) MIKE BUDD/FWS.GOV, (4) @MIDWESTNOWADAFAMILY, (5) GALENA COUNTRY TOURISM, (6) VISIT SPRINGFIELD, (7) COURTESY OF ITS ADVENTURES (YOUTUBE), (8) LISA BOOI WINGE



restore + RENEW

WRITER
Jen Nilsson

Decompress with mindful walks in the woods,
slow yoga sessions surrounded by gardens
and meditative laps in rooftop pools.

HOOF IT GOAT TREKS, GALENA



nature strolls

**Rejuvenate the soul
and the soles with these
walks in the woods.**

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe

With 385 acres of blooming landscape, this is one of the largest public gardens in the world. Walk among wildflowers and native plants while crisscrossing the arching bridges of nine interconnected islands.

Hoof It Goat Treks, Galena

Wander through woods and prairies on a guided trek with friendly bleating goats. The hike takes about 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the goats' energy, which improves with hand-fed treats.

The Morton Arboretum, Lisle

Lose yourself in a winding maze garden lined with fragrant arborvitae hedges. Feel the satisfying crunch of gravel beneath your feet as you meander toward the giant sycamore tree at the center of this 1-acre puzzle in nature.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington

Once a U.S. Army arsenal, this restored site boasts 30 miles of hiking trails through the largest tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi. Bring binoculars to spot a herd of 70-plus bison or hike to the preserve's bison overlook.



BASK IN THE
SERENE SOUND OF
FALLING WATER.



waterfalls

Listening to the sound of water as it tumbles over rocks is magical.

Bell Smith Springs Recreation Area, Ozark

Descend a stone staircase to discover this network of cool streams and striking rock formations tucked into Shawnee National Forest. Follow a trail that traces a sandstone cliff to see beautiful Boulder Falls.

Starved Rock State Park, Oglesby

The 18 towering canyons—eight of which you can hike to—are dotted with seasonal waterfalls. Explore the 13 miles of well-marked trails solo or join a guided group hike.

Matthiessen State Park, Utica

Walk through a mile-long canyon to Lake Falls, where the water plunges 45 feet into the Lower Dells and then Cascade Falls. Notice the colorful patterns on the surrounding sandstone cliffs made by minerals in the water.

Jackson Falls, Shawnee National Forest

The trail winds from the top of Jackson Falls to the bottom, where a quiet ravine awaits with a welcoming pool and stunning view of the soaring bluffs above.

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Lemont

Among the prairies, savannas and tree-lined trails sits a fascinating tiered waterfall created in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



MIDDLE FORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE, PENFIELD

night skies

Stay where the stars are the main event.



Camp Aramoni, Tonica

This is where cozy and luxury are inextricably intertwined. Expansive safari-style tents with soft beds covered in luxury linens invite comfortable nights beneath the stars. Cook gourmet s'mores at your private bonfire while the cool breeze brought by the nearby Vermilion River stokes the flames.

Kinnikinnick Farm, Caledonia

The family behind this farmstead is passionate about providing a weekend of serenity for guests of the popular farm-stay program. Kids collect eggs,

feed chickens and pigs, and milk goats. Adults master the fine art of unwinding and brewing morning coffee over a woodstove while the kids do the farm chores.

Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield

By day, this is an outdoor wonderland, where wildflowers abound on restored prairies. By night, this is the first International Dark Sky Park designated in Illinois. Gather around the campfire at the Harry L. Swartz Campground to experience the enduring sparkle of a sky untouched by city lights.



farm-to-table dinners

**Dine surrounded by
the fields and crops
that define the menu.**

Firefly Grill, Effingham

Named for the fireflies that cofounder Kristie Campbell once chased around the Effingham backyard of her grandparents, this restaurant stays true to its symbol. Firefly is a beacon of nourishment for customers, staff members, and the surrounding sustainable crops and farmlands that supply the kitchen.

Epiphany Farms, Downs

With 75 acres of farmland, orchards and vineyards, and with a team dedicated to regenerative farming techniques, it's the crops grown here that sustain four restaurants (Epiphany Farms Restaurant, Anju Above, Bakery and Pickle, and Harmony) in nearby Bloomington. Visit one of those sustainable dining rooms or swing by the farm for an interactive tour and a family-style dinner.

Locavore Farm, Grant Park

Only 43 miles south of Chicago, this family-owned farmstead feels a world away. A four-hour Dine on the Land experience brings guests together at a 107-foot-long table in the garden. The evening is augmented with live music, dancing in the grass and roasted marshmallows.



**FIND INNER CALM
WITH MOVING MEDITATIONS
THAT INSPIRE MINDFULNESS.**



fitness

**Nurture your soul
and let nature inspire
your workout.**

Anderson Japanese Gardens, Rockford

Find balance and serenity on the mat (and in life) with slow-moving yoga sequences surrounded by the beauty of the gardens. You can also take a tai chi class or embark on an awareness walk.

Goat Yoga, Galena

"Baaa-maste" is the mantra at the family-run Silver Linings Farm, where you can roll out your yoga mat among friendly goats on a historical property. The farmhouse was an original redbrick stagecoach stop.

Magic Meadows Alpacas, Wonder Lake

Mingle with the calming energy of alpacas in a guided Yogapaca class. Bring the whole crew for a family-style experience, or join for yoga and a glass of wine at Wine(d) Down Wednesdays.

Viceroy Chicago, Chicago

Hotel guests can jump into a quiet morning swim in a rooftop pool with panoramic views. Enjoy cocktails and small bites with a view at Devereaux, the rooftop lounge.

Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, Chicago

The Olympic-size, rooftop pool is surrounded by the city skyline and welcomes guests for a cool and meditative swim. Sun soakers will enjoy the poolside cabanas.



PRESENTS

OPEN
DAILY

Experience The Excitement

FREE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

A year full of memories are ready to be made at Navy Pier.

There is something for everyone to enjoy at Chicago's top lakefront destination. Our calendar is packed with exciting events all year. Free weekly programming includes live music, DJs, movies, workouts and dance performances. For a special end to your evening, don't miss Navy Pier's iconic fireworks display that lights up the sky every Wednesday and Saturday all Summer long.

View our full calendar and plan your visit at navypier.org.



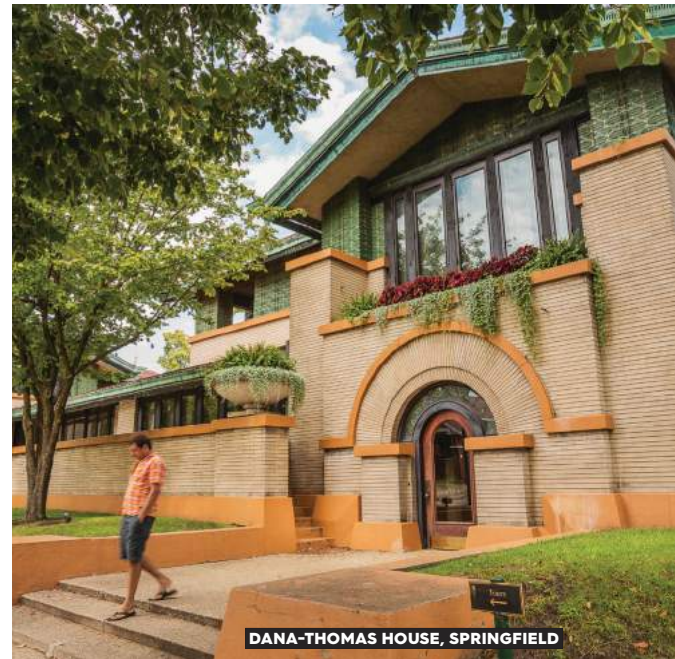
SCAN HERE
to plan your visit

TRIP IDEAS AROUND THE STATE

DEVIL'S BACKBONE, BELL SMITH SPRINGS, OZARK



SHEDD AQUARIUM, CHICAGO



DANA-THOMAS HOUSE, SPRINGFIELD



HIGHWAY 20 BREWING COMPANY, ELIZABETH



CHICAGO
& BEYOND

GREAT
RIVERS
COUNTRY

TRAILS TO
ADVENTURE

LAND OF
LINCOLN



Chicago & Beyond

Home to the team that inspired *A League of Their Own*, Rockford scores with Peaches history and more: gardens, outdoor thrills and a vibrant riverfront.

In this Rock River city 90 miles northwest of Chicago, a fan trail tells the story of the Rockford Peaches, the tenacious 1940s women's baseball team that inspired both a movie and a hit series. Explore *The Girls of Summer* exhibit at Midway Village Museum. Afterward, picnic at Sinnissippi Park, once known for Peaches' pickup games and now for its band shell and concerts (many of them free) under the stars.

Whether you're looking for passive or active activities, Rockford delivers. Stroll through Anderson Japanese Gardens or Klehm Arboretum. Walk, run or road-bike along the Rock River

Recreation Path. Or amp up the adrenaline while wakeboarding at Levings Lake, mountain biking at Atwood Park and horseback riding at Lockwood Park.

In the revitalized downtown, discover a restored brewery that survived Prohibition, a cabinet-hardware factory that's now a hotel, plus shops and restaurants. Culinary artisans wow with cuisine ranging from Thai to Filipino to Peruvian. At an emerging food hall, scratch-made cruffins are a go-to.

In mid-April, downtown businesses—including the Laurent House, the only building Frank Lloyd Wright designed for wheelchairs—celebrate local artists.

DO

BURPEE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Exhibits include *Jane: A Diary of a Dinosaur* and *Homer's Odyssey*, the saga of a "teenage" triceratops.

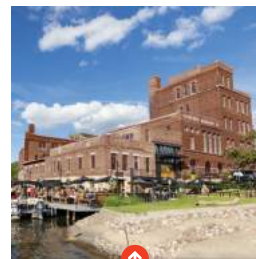
NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY AND GARDENS

At the crown jewel of the Rock River Recreation Path, check out tropical plants, sculptures and a rose garden.

DISCOVERY CENTER MUSEUM

Find more than 300 hands-on displays inside, and the nation's first community-built science park outside. Kids love the secret garden

EAT



PRAIRIE STREET BREWING COMPANY

In Illinois' oldest brewery, try the Rockford Burger (topped with habanero pepper Jack, applewood bacon, guac and more) and a Screw City lager.

LIMAMAR RESTAURANT AND COCKTAIL BAR

Chef Rossana dazzles in a chic ode to her native Peru. Amid luxe decor, pair tasty Lomo Saltado (wok-fried beef) with a passion fruit pisco sour.

STAY

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON ROCKFORD RIVERFRONT

Spotlighting the city's industrial roots, this downtown hotel features a rooftop patio facing the Rock River; most rooms have views of the water.

**DO****PEORIA
RIVERFRONT
MUSEUM**

Picasso, Pluto and Frank Lloyd Wright play parts in this Smithsonian affiliate's mash-up of art, science and history. There's also a planetarium and a giant-screen theater.

**CATERPILLAR
VISITORS CENTER**

Take a virtual ride in a two-and-a-half story mining truck, design your own Cat machine and test your skills on a simulator.

EAT**JIM'S STEAK HOUSE**

A downtown stalwart, it's a classic steak place—white tablecloths, candlelight, piano bar and blue-ribbon beef. Dine here before a show at the nearby Civic Center.

**BLACK BAND
DISTILLERY**

The craft distillery carries on Peoria's Whiskey City legacy from a century-old building. Their seasonal food menu stresses farm-to-fork items.

**THYME KITCHEN
AND CRAFT BEER**

An eclectic menu includes apps and burgers, plus a tuna poke bowl and more than 250 bourbons and 40 craft beers in the Warehouse District.

STAY**PEORIA MARRIOTT
PERE MARQUETTE**

The historic hotel has hosted Hollywood stars and presidents. Renovated rooms and spaces project an aura of glamour.

**CATERPILLAR VISITORS CENTER, PEORIA**

Great Rivers Country

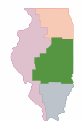
Play in Peoria, a river city with a scenic lookout that will improve your outlook and attractions that honor a spirited past.

Halfway between Chicago and St. Louis, Peoria is the largest city on the Illinois River, anchoring a metro area of more than 400,000 people.

Peoria surprises visitors with its skyline, cosmopolitan cuisine and refined riverfront attractions. While not the tallest skyline building, the Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette neon sign shines bright. Another spot with a commanding view comes from a stretch of high ground that's now Grandview Drive. The 2.5-mile route and adjacent park look out over the river valley, providing vistas that stretch more than 30 miles on a clear day. It's a beautiful drive, bike ride or walk.

Before Prohibition, Peoria was known as the Whiskey Capital of the World for its production of bourbon. It was also an important stop for vaudeville acts, giving rise to the famous question, "Will it play in Peoria?"

The city became a hub of industry and innovation as the home of Caterpillar Inc. Today, you'll find reminders of that history in places such as Black Band Distillery, the Caterpillar Visitors Center and the Peoria Riverfront Museum. The riverfront hosts festivals and celebrations, and the revitalized Warehouse District is attracting shops, restaurants, artists and urban dwellers.



LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, SPRINGFIELD

Land of Lincoln

Springfield offers everything you've always wanted to know about Abe, plus ties to Barack Obama, Frank Lloyd Wright and Route 66.

Rich history lures visitors to Springfield. Abraham Lincoln is the big draw: He moved here in 1837, and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site preserves the only home he ever owned. (Abe later lived in government housing, aka the White House.) But it's not all about the 16th president. Another POTUS, Barack Obama, spent his early political career in the Illinois State Capitol and launched his first presidential campaign from the Old State Capitol. Both striking buildings are open for free tours.

Though Frank Lloyd Wright didn't design either capitol, he left Springfield a piece of his architectural legacy: the

Dana-Thomas House. And Springfield was a stop on Route 66, the iconic Mother Road that motorists followed between Chicago and Los Angeles before the interstate highway system dominated. Get your kicks and fix of nostalgia at the Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum.

Springfield offers way more history than you can absorb in a day. Dining and lodging options make it easy to extend a stay. While in town, try an iconic horseshoe sandwich and watch for Fritz Klein, the commander in chief of Lincoln reenactors, who not only looks like Abe, but also captures his humor and humanity—did you know Lincoln loved cats?

DO

DANA-THOMAS HOUSE

Tour the 1904 home that Frank Lloyd Wright designed for Susan Lawrence Dana. Highlights include stained glass, chapel-like balconies and a one-lane bowling alley.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Today Abe is considered a saintly statesman, but he was a sometimes unpopular president.

Walk through the Whispering Gallery to hear derogatory comments.



EAT

OBED AND ISAAC'S

Sip microbrews in the beer garden and try the famous horseshoe sandwich: an open-face pile of protein smothered with cheese sauce and fries.

MALDANER'S

Owner-chef Michael Higgins uses herbs he grows on the roof of this downtown restaurant that opened in 1884.

STAY

INN AT 835

Sip wine in the front room or relax on a private balcony of this elegant boutique hotel.

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD

This downtown hotel is close to Lincoln attractions. The Globe Tavern (on-site) is named for the boardinghouse where Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln lived.

DO**BELL SMITH SPRINGS
RECREATION AREA**

Hike 8 miles of interconnected trails past rock formations and water features, such as Boulder Falls, one of Shawnee National Forest's most beautiful cascades.

**GARDEN OF
THE GODS**

See Devil's Smokestack, a now 30-foot-tall sandstone pillar that was once buried more than a mile deep.

EAT**MURPHY'S PIT BBQ,
OZARK**

Stop by John and Phyllis Murphy's red shack for a rib plate (available on Thursdays) and Phyllis' pie.

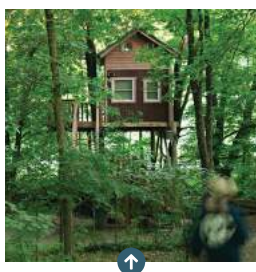
**THE GAP BAR AND
GRILL, HEROD**

Come to this friendly, unpretentious place for beer, burgers and fried sides—like their popular dill pickles. Or load up on the loaded beer-cheese fries.

STAY**VON JAKOB BED
AND BREAKFAST,
ALTO PASS**

Choose The Wine or The Port house—both overlook Shawnee National Forest.

Each of the five suites comes fully furnished and with a complimentary bottle of wine.

**TIMBER RIDGE
OUTPOST AND
CABINS,
KARBERS RIDGE**

Rent a real log cabin (with kitchen) or a tree house in the oaks near Shawnee National Forest. All units are air-conditioned.



GARDEN OF THE GODS, HEROD

Trails to Adventure

Shawnee National Forest is destination central in Southern Illinois. When you're done exploring, sleep amid nature and indulge in barbecue and wine.

Think of Southern Illinois as the state's backyard—a mostly secluded expanse where you can let your hair down and have fun. And with Shawnee National Forest in your backyard, there's a lot of fun to be had. Covering 289,000 acres between the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, the forest teems with natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor rec among its tree-dense hills, soaring bluffs, sandstone canyons, ancient cypress swamps, hidden waterfalls, and languid lakes and creeks. It's a playground for hikers, bikers, anglers and wildlife-lovers.

Forest highlights include Garden of the Gods, a stretch of striking rock

formations that nature started sculpting more than 320 million years ago. It's one of the state's most photographed spots. Another favorite is Bell Smith Springs Recreation Area, a string of streams and canyons framed by sandstone cliffs.

Like any good backyard, Southern Illinois is also a place to eat, drink and be merry. The region shares cultural DNA with the South, including great barbecue. You can find some in charming towns such as Ozark. Southern Illinois is also fertile grape-growing territory—taste the proof at any of the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail's 11 stops on a 40-mile route.



travel resources

VISITORS BUREAUS

Naturally 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

Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau

800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com

Galena Country 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

ILLINOISouth 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 of Lincoln

Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

800/433-8226, 309/665-0033, visitbn.org

Danville Area Visitors Bureau

800/383-4386, 217/442-2096, visitdanvillearea.com

Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

800/331-4479, 217/423-7000, decaturcvb.com

Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau

800/772-0750, 217/342-5310, visiteffinghamil.com

ILLINOISouth Tourism

618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org

Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

800/593-5678, 217/243-5678, jacksonvilleil.org

Lake Shelbyville Area CVB/Shelby County Tourism

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 Kettle I-74, rest area westbound, Oakwood

Trails to Adventure

Carbondale Tourism 618/529-4451, carbondaletourism.org

ILLINOISouth Tourism 618/257-1488, illinoisouth.org

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

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

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

Tourism Info Centers

Fort Massac 5402 Hwy. 45 S, Metropolis

Rend Lake North I-57, rest area northbound, Whittington

Rend Lake South I-57, rest area southbound, Whittington

Chicago & Beyond

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

Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau 800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com

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

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, exploreeelginarea.com

Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau 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

traveler information

Driving in Illinois

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

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

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

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

Illinois Tollways

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

Drivers who miss tolls have 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 by Plane

Domestic travelers can fly direct to destinations including Belleville, Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, Marion, Moline, Peoria, Quincy, Rockford and Springfield, as well as Chicago.

Once you land at either of Chicago's two major airports, Chicago Transit Authority trains can get you downtown. For info, go to transitchicago.com

Regular shuttles to many Chicago downtown hotels leave from 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

21 and older

LEGAL STATEWIDE,
ALCOHOL,
GAMBLING
AND OTHER
SUBSTANCE USE
BY ADULTS MAY
VARY BY CITY OR
MUNICIPALITY.



If you drink, don't drive. Instead, hail a cab or use a rideshare app. The state's legal limit for blood alcohol is .08.



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



The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act allows for recreational use of marijuana in the state.



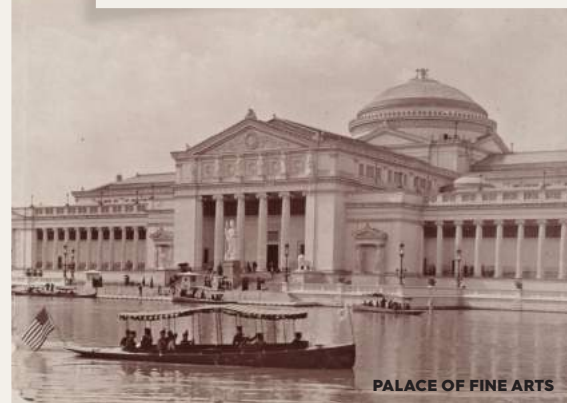
The Smoke-Free Illinois Act prohibits smoking in most public places, including theaters, museums, casinos, restaurants and bars.

For more Illinois government information, visit illinois.gov

then&now

IN 1893, CHICAGO HOSTED THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION IN JACKSON PARK. OVER THE COURSE OF SIX MONTHS, MORE THAN 27 MILLION VISITORS CAME TO SEE AND EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S NEWEST IDEAS, INNOVATIONS AND INVENTIONS, INCLUDING THE FERRIS WHEEL, THE CLASP LOCKER (NOW CALLED A ZIPPER), CRACKER JACK, WRIGLEY'S JUICY FRUIT AND CHOCOLATE FUDGE BROWNIES.

CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR OF 1893,
THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION



PALACE OF FINE ARTS



MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, CHICAGO



Then and Now

Built for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the fair's Palace of Fine Arts is now the Museum of Science and Industry, home to the captured German U-505 submarine, plus other permanent exhibits like *Numbers in Nature: A Mirror Maze* (which explores hidden patterns) and *Genetics and the Baby Chick Hatchery*.

BLAZE YOUR N TRAIL



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Joliet Area Historical Museum
Joliet



Old Joliet Prison
Joliet



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Wilmington



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