

illinois

Experience
everything Illinois
has to offer



Mississippi
Palisades



Galena
Quincy
Alton
Carbondale

Great River Road:

Follow the Great River Road, one of seven scenic byways, as it stretches 2,000 miles along the Mississippi River through 10 states. In Illinois, this 550-mile [All-American Road](#) offers striking vistas, especially scenic in the fall, and is a popular spot for eagle watching in winter. Explore 125 unique shops on [Galena's Historic Main Street](#), enjoy views at [Mississippi Palisades State Park](#), and delve into the history of John Deere in the Quad Cities. Discover Quincy's art and architecture, and visit Alton, where two scenic byways and three great rivers meet. Along the road, experience ziplining, gondola rides, Illinois wines, paddlewheel boat cruises, and historic sites like [Cahokia Mounds](#) and [Ulysses S. Grant's home](#). The journey reveals towering bluffs, rolling hills, and river communities, offering a deeper look into the life and industry of the Mississippi River.



Galena

Historic Main Street – Galena:

Nestled near the Mississippi River, Galena is said to resemble a Hallmark town no matter the season. Galena's Historic Main Street boasts more than 125 independently owned shops and restaurants. Visitors can glide along the Galena River in a kayak or enjoy skiing at [Chestnut Mountain Resort](#) in the winter. The town is located along the [Great River Road](#), now offering a new [EV-friendly itinerary](#).



Chicago



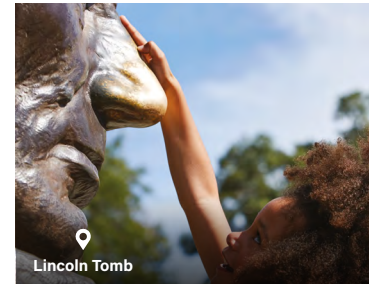
Wrigley Field

Chicago:

The city offers something for everyone: world-class museums, shopping on **The Magnificent Mile**, and unique outdoor spaces like **Millennium Park**. Enjoy breathtaking views from **Skydeck Chicago** or **360 CHICAGO**, snap a selfie with Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate, stroll the Riverwalk with a drink, and savor deep-dish pizza while enjoying live music. Experience the city's skyline, vibrant art scene, and stunning architecture from a fresh perspective with **Navy Pier's** new Flyover Chicago.

Historic Springfield:

Illinois' capital, Springfield, is located along Route 66 and is home to numerous historic attractions, including the [Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum](#) – voted one of the top experiences in the world by TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards. Visit several of Springfield's most historic sites for free!



Lincoln Tomb

- [Lincoln Home National Historic Site](#)
- [Old State Capitol](#)
- [Lincoln Tomb](#)
(Rub Lincoln's nose for good luck!)

- [Illinois State Capitol](#)
- [Dana–Thomas House](#)
- [Illinois Governor's Mansion](#)



Frank Lloyd Wright
Dana Thomas House

Illinois' Frank Lloyd Wright Trail:

The Illinois' Frank Lloyd Wright Trail is a self-guided architectural adventure featuring 13 Wright-designed buildings throughout the state, all open to the public. The [Frederick C. Robie House](#) in Chicago and [Unity Temple](#) in Oak Park are now designated UNESCO World Heritage sites

Shawnee National Forest:

In Southern Illinois, nestled between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, Shawnee National Forest features hiking trails through canyons and forest canopies. Enjoy stunning views at [Garden of the Gods](#) and experience thrilling activities including rock climbing, zip lining and wildlife photography, as well as a unique glamping experience at [Shawnee Hills Glamping](#).



Camel Rock
Shawnee National Forest



Get Your Kicks on Route 66:

- Start your Route 66 journey in downtown Chicago at the iconic "Begin" sign.
- Tour [Old Joliet Prison](#), a popular filming location for The Blues Brothers and Prison Break.
- Visit Springfield's Motorheads for the world's largest [Route 66 sign](#) and the new Motordome entertainment venue.
- Explore the [Legends Neon Sign Park](#) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, celebrating historic Route 66 signs.
- Visit the West End Service Station in Edwardsville.



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Illinois Accolades

TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards

Travelers' Choice Awards

- **Deer Path Inn** in Lake Forest ranks #25 for Top Hotels in the U.S.
- **CitizenM** in Chicago ranks #4 for Hottest New Hotels in the U.S.

Top Inns and B&Bs

- **Aldrich Guest House** in Galena ranks #16 in the U.S.

U.S. News and World Report

Top 10 Hotels in the U.S.

- The Peninsula Chicago ranked #1
- The Langham, Chicago ranked #8

Best Weekend Getaways in the Midwest

- **Chicago** ranked #1

Best Foodie Cities in the U.S.

- **Chicago** ranked #3

USA Today 10 Best

Best New Hotel

- The **St. Regis Hotel** in Chicago

Best Small Town for Adventure

- Savanna, IL

Best Boat Tour

- **Chicago Architecture Foundation** ranked #2

Condé Nast Traveler

- **Chicago** ranks #1 in the Reader's Choice list of Best Big Cities in the U.S. for the 7th consecutive year

Michelin Guide Chicago

- **Chicago** is home to 22 Michelin-starred restaurants and 47 Bib Gourmand rated restaurants

Big 7 Travel

- Chicago's **Christkindlmarket** ranked #1 in the country and #3 in the world

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site**, Collinsville
- **Frederick C. Robie House**, Chicago
- **Unity Temple**, Oak Park



Photo credit: Tom Simpson Photography

Luxe by Illinois

Discover unparalleled luxury experiences in Illinois, including these award-winning hotels and spas.

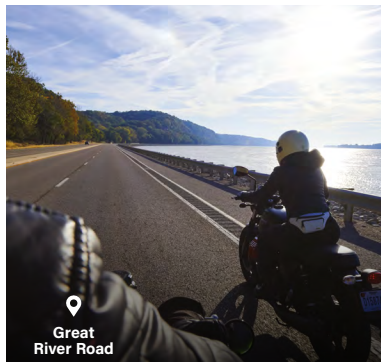
- Goldmoor Inn – Galena
- Inn at Irish Hollow – Galena
- Jail Hill Inn – Galena
- Deer Path Inn – Lake Forest
- Aire Ancient Baths – Chicago
- Kohler Waters Spa – Chicago, Burr Ridge
- Langham Hotel – Chicago
- Peninsula Hotel – Chicago
- St. Regis Hotel (New) – Chicago



Outdoor Adventures

Home to 64 state parks and recreation areas, 2,900 lakes and seven national scenic byways, there is no shortage of outdoor adventure in Illinois.

- Starved Rock State Park – Oglesby
- Galena on the Fly – Galena
- Hoof it Goat Treks – Galena
- Nuts Outdoors – Galena
- Great River Trail – 60 mile bike trail from Rock Island to Savanna
- Mississippi Palisades State Park – Savanna
- Aerie's Resort, Sky Tour & Alpine Coaster – Grafton
- Pere Marquette State Park – Grafton
- Garden of the Gods – Shawnee National Forest



Events

Discover one-of-a-kind events and festivals all year long.

- Great River Eagle Days, Quincy - Winter
- Bald Eagle Days, Rock Island - January
- Art on the Square, Belleville - May
- Great Galena Balloon Race - June
- Tug Fest, Port Byron - August
- International Route 66 Mother Road Festival - September
- Galena Country Fair - October
- Shawnee Hills Wine Trail 30th Anniversary - 2025
- Route 66 Centennial - 2026
- USA's 250th Birthday - 2026
- Barack Obama Presidential Center - 2026
- Presidents Cup, Medinah Country Club - September 2026

