

Illinois

Experience everything Illinois has to offer

Chicago:

From world-class museums to shopping along the Magnificent Mile to one-of-a-kind outdoor spaces like [Millennium Park](#), which celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2024 - there is something for everyone in Chicago. Take in a sky-high view from one of Chicago's thrilling observation decks - [Skydeck Chicago](#) or [360 CHICAGO](#). Snap a selfie at world-renowned artist Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate sculpture, commonly referred to as "The Bean." Stroll down [Chicago's Riverwalk](#), stopping for a drink along the way. Savor mouthwatering deep-dish pizza and listen to live music - including classic Chicago blues and jazz - at iconic venues. Soak in the city's spectacular skyline, vibrant art scene and inspiring architecture from an entirely new perspective during [Navy Pier's](#) all-new, nine-minute Flyover in Chicago experience.

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 Home National Historic Site](#)
- [Illinois State Capitol](#)
- [Old State Capitol](#)
- [Dana-Thomas House](#)
- [Lincoln Tomb](#)
- [Illinois Governor's Mansion](#)

(Rub Lincoln's nose for good luck!)

Big Things in a Small Town - Casey:

The small town of Casey is home to 12 of the world's largest things as certified by the Guinness Book of World Records including the World's Largest Teeter-Totter, Wind Chime, Mailbox, Rocking Chair, Barbershop Pole and more!

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:

The Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois sits between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and is filled with hiking trails that meander through canyons under forest canopies. [Garden of the Gods](#), a breathtaking overlook, offers spectacular views of towering sandstone cliffs formed millions of years ago. Experience thrilling outdoor adventures such as rock climbing, zip lining and wildlife photography tours, as well as a unique glamping experience at the newly-opened property, [Shawnee Hills Glamping](#).

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 [Great River Road](#) now offering a new [EV-friendly itinerary](#).



Get Your Kicks on Route 66:

- Experience a legendary 300-mile journey down the Mother Road starting in the heart of downtown Chicago at the iconic Route 66 "Begin" sign.
- Tour the [Old Joliet Prison](#), best known for being a favorite filming location for movies and TV shows such as The Blues Brothers and Prison Break.
- Stop in Springfield for a visit to Motorheads, a restaurant and museum that is home to the world's largest Route 66 sign and a new live entertainment venue, the Motordome!
- Experience the new [Legends Neon Sign Park](#) at the Illinois State Fairground in Springfield. The park is an homage to the incredible signs once found along the Mother Road.
- Experience Route 66 by EV using the new ["Zero Emissions"](#) road trip itinerary featuring 13 charging stations.



Route 66 Photo Opportunities:

- NEW Muffler Man and Car "Spindle" sculpture in Berwyn
- Route 66 Shield Mural located on the Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum Wall in Pontiac
- The Bunyon Giant in Atlanta
- Shea's Gas Station in Springfield - Reopening Summer 2024
- The newly renovated Doc's Just Off 66 in Girard
- Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston
- West End Service Station in Edwardsville
- World's Largest Catsup Bottle in Collinsville



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 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

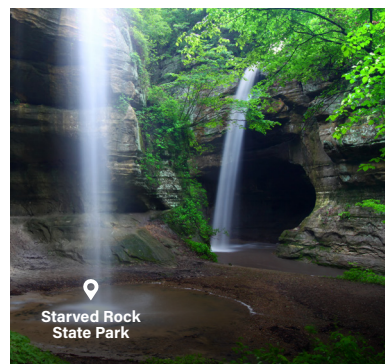
- **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site**, Collinsville
- **Frederick C. Robie House**, Chicago
- **Unity Temple**, Oak Park



Luxe by Illinois

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

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



Outdoor Adventures

Home to 70 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
- Garden of the Gods - Shawnee National Forest
- Grafton Sky Tour - Grafton
- Mississippi Palisades State Park - Savanna
- Chicago Botanic Garden - Glencoe
- Morton Arboretum - Lisle
- Anderson Japanese Gardens - Rockford
- Cave-In-Rock State Park in Cave-In-Rock

Arts, Culture & Events

Illinois is home to world-class museums, architecture and performing arts. Discover one-of-a-kind events and festivals all year long.

- Art Institute of Chicago
- Sony's Wonderverse (New) - Oak Brook
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- Chicago Architecture Center/Boat Tours
- Broadway in Chicago
- Allerton Folk School in Monticello
- IPW in Chicago - June 2025
- International Route 66 Mother Road Festival - September
- 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

