

# illinois

experience the  
middle of everything



Cloud Gate



Wrigley Field

## Chicago:

The city offers something for everyone: world-class museums, shopping on [the Magnificent Mile](#), Cubs games at the iconic [Wrigley Field](#) and unique outdoor spaces like [Millennium Park](#) where you can snap a selfie with Anish Kapoor's [Cloud Gate](#) sculpture. Enjoy breathtaking views from [Skydeck Chicago](#) or [360 CHICAGO](#), stroll along the [Riverwalk](#), and soak in the vibrant atmosphere of the city. Savor iconic deep-dish pizza while enjoying live music at one of Chicago's local hotspots. Experience the city's skyline, vibrant art scene, and stunning architecture from a fresh perspective with [Navy Pier's](#) new Flyover Chicago.



Historic Main Street in Galena

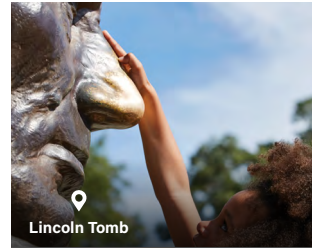
## Historic Main Street – Galena:

Nestled near the Mississippi River, the small town of Galena, celebrating its Bicentennial in 2026, makes for the perfect getaway, 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](#), which can be explored via a new [EV-friendly itinerary](#).

## 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 Illinois' most popular attractions in historic Springfield!

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

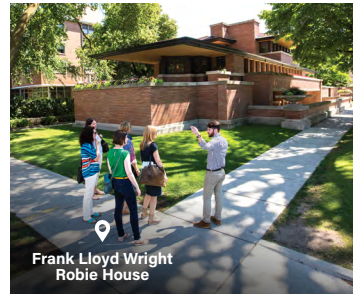


Lincoln Tomb

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

## Illinois' Frank Lloyd Wright Trail:

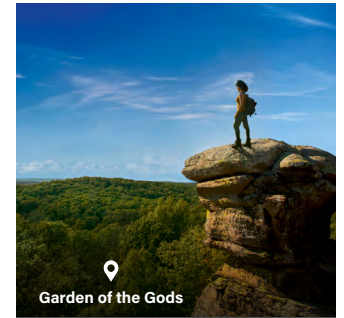
Illinois' Frank Lloyd Wright Trail is a self-guided architectural adventure featuring 12 Wright-designed buildings throughout the state, all open to the public. The [Frederick C. Robie House](#) in Chicago and [Unity Temple](#) in Oak Park are now designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites.



Frank Lloyd Wright Robie House

## Shawnee National Forest

Located 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, ziplining and wildlife photography. Spend the night relaxing in treehouses at [Timber Ridge Outpost & Cabins](#).



Garden of the Gods



Mississippi Palisades

## Great River Road:

Follow the Great River Road, one of seven Illinois scenic byways, as it stretches 2,000 miles along the Mississippi River through 10 states. This 550-mile [All-American Road](#) features stunning views, especially vibrant in the fall, and is a popular spot for eagle watching in the winter. Enjoy the views at [Mississippi Palisades State Park](#) in Savanna, and delve into the history of [John Deere](#) in the Quad Cities. Discover Quincy's architecture and visit Alton, the only place in America where the iconic Route 66 meets the Great River Road.



Route 66 – Pontiac

## Get Your Kicks on Route 66: – Celebrating 100 Years in 2026

- Start your Route 66 journey in downtown Chicago at the iconic "Begin" sign before heading south to tour the [Old Joliet Prison](#), where the popular *Blues Brothers* movie was filmed.
- Visit the [Gemini Giant](#) Muffler Man at its new location, in South Island Park, Wilmington. Be sure to check out the [Landing Pad](#), a new Route 66 souvenir shop just steps away from the Gemini Giant!
- Take a selfie in front of the [Route 66 Shield Mural](#) in Pontiac and visit the new [American Giants Museum](#) in Atlanta.
- Visit Springfield's [Motorheads](#) for the world's largest Route 66 sign and [Shea's Gas Station Museum](#), a restored Texaco service station.
- Explore the [Legends Neon Sign Park](#) in Springfield and the new [It's Electric Sign Park](#) in Granite City, showcasing historic Route 66 signs.



Enjoy Illinois Press Kit  
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## Illinois Accolades

### Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards

- Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest ranked #1 in the Midwest and #6 for Best Resort in the U.S.

### TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards

#### Travelers' Choice Awards

- Four Seasons Hotel Chicago ranked #14 for Best Hotels in the U.S.

#### Top Inns and B&Bs

- Aldrich Guest House in Galena ranked #5 in the U.S.

### U.S. News and World Report

#### Top 10 Hotels in the U.S.

- The Peninsula Chicago ranked #10
- The Langham in Chicago ranked #21

#### Best Weekend Getaways in the Midwest

- Chicago ranked #3

#### Best Foodie Cities in the U.S.

- Chicago ranked #3

### USA Today 10 Best

#### Best New Hotel

- The L7 CHICAGO by LOTTE Hotel ranked #9

#### Best New Attractions

- Chicago Flyover ranked #3

#### Best Scenic Drive in the U.S.

- Great River Road ranked #1
- Route 66 ranked #5

### Condé Nast Traveler

- Chicago ranked #1 in the Reader's Choice list of Best Big Cities in the U.S. for the 8th consecutive year

### Culinary

- Chicago's culinary scene offers something for everyone, from iconic deep-dish pizza to Michelin-starred dining. The city is home to **20 Michelin-starred restaurants** and **38 Bib Gourmand rated restaurants**.
- Cariño**, celebrated for its Mexican and Central American tasting menu
- Kasama**, the first ever Filipino restaurant in the world to receive a Michelin-star
- Indienne**, Chicago's first Michelin-star Indian restaurant

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites

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

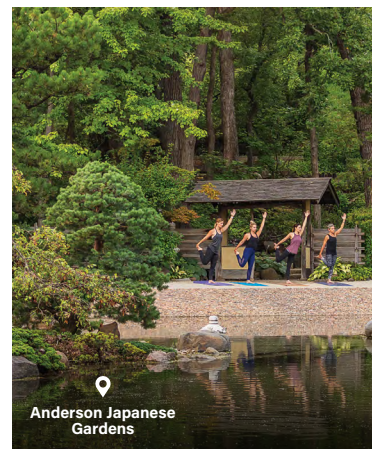


Aerie's Alpine Coaster

## Outdoor Experiences

Home to 290 state parks and recreation areas, 2,900 lakes, and seven national scenic byways, Illinois offers no shortage of outdoor adventure.

- Dark Sky Park Trail, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve – Penfield
- Aerie's Resort: Sky Tour, Alpine Coaster & new Byway Flyway Zipline – Grafton
- Sahara Woods State Recreational Area, Off-Highway Vehicle Park – Harrisburg
- Chicago Botanic Garden – Glencoe
- Illinois Beach State Park – Zion
- Morton Arboretum – Lisle
- Starved Rock State Park – Oglesby
- Anderson Japanese Gardens – Rockford



Anderson Japanese Gardens

## Pride in Illinois

Illinois offers LGBTQIA+ travelers a warm welcome with vibrant culture, rich history, and inclusive experiences across the state.

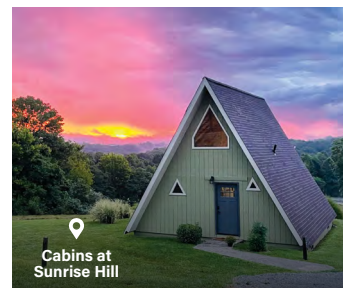


Pride Parade

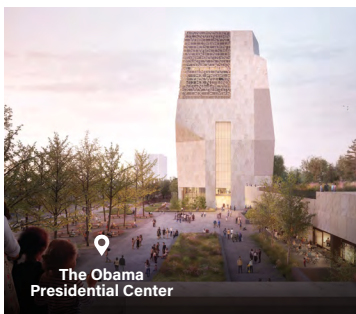
- In 2025, Chicago was ranked the safest U.S. city for LGBTQIA+ travelers by the misterb&b Queer Safety Index.
- Discover Northalsted, Chicago's vibrant LGBTQIA+ neighborhood, and stroll the Legacy Walk—the world's only outdoor museum celebrating LGBTQIA+ history and achievements.
- Celebrate Pride Month in June at Chicago Pride Fest and the iconic Pride Parade, and experience Pride events statewide in cities like Rockford, Aurora, Springfield, Peoria, and Galena.

## New & Noteworthy Stays

- L7 CHICAGO by LOTTE Hotel – Chicago
- Victory Cruise Line Sets Sail from Navy Pier – Chicago
- Duke of Wells Hotel – Chicago
- Treehouses at Starved Rock – Ottawa
- The Cabins at Sunrise Hill – Makanda
- Havisham House and Bourbon Bar – Alto Pass
- New Farm Stays: Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery – Champaign; Rendleman Orchards – Alto Pass



Cabins at Sunrise Hill



The Obama Presidential Center

## What's Ahead

- Route 66 Centennial – 2026
- Great Race, Springfield – 2026
- USA's 250th Birthday – 2026
- The Obama Presidential Center – 2026
- UNESCO's International Jazz Day, Chicago – April 2026
- America 250: A Musical Journey, Chicago Symphony Orchestra – June 2026
- Presidents Cup, Medinah Country Club – September 2026