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Illinois Office of Tourism Releases Annual Fall Colors Trip Planner and Fall Color Reports to Experience the Best of the Season in Illinois

Visitors can discover new guide to "Outdoor Adventures in Illinois" in the Fall/Winter issue of Enjoy Illinois magazine

CHICAGO – As the first day of fall (Sunday, Sept. 22) approaches, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Tourism today announced the release of its highly anticipated annual [Illinois Fall Colors Trip Planner](#) and [Fall Color Reports](#), in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. These invaluable online resources will guide residents and visitors to the perfect dates and destinations across Illinois to experience the breathtaking beauty of fall foliage at its peak.

"Illinois offers world-class attractions year-round, and our fall landscapes are among the most beautiful," **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. "With the help of our annual Illinois Fall Color Reports and Fall Colors Trip Planner, we're excited to welcome visitors to explore our state's restaurants, shops and unforgettable outdoor autumn experiences."

"State parks are wonderful places to experience autumn colors in Illinois," **said Natalie Phelps Finnie, director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources**. "Visitors can enjoy the fall foliage while hiking in a forest, taking in vistas along the river bluffs, fishing on a lake, or bicycling along one of the state's many bike trails. The fall colors guide is an excellent resource for crafting the perfect autumn adventure in Illinois."

"From exploring the quaint streets of Galena to ziplining through the stunning canopies of Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest, we encourage travelers to use the Illinois Fall Colors Trip Planner to plan a fall getaway and explore the state during this special season," **said Daniel Thomas, deputy director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism**. "This interactive tool makes it easier than ever for visitors and residents to experience the beauty of Illinois' natural landscapes."

This year, visitors can also take advantage of the new "[Outdoor Adventures in Illinois](#)" guide, featured in the latest issue of Enjoy Illinois, the state's biannual magazine. The guide features the state's most scenic trails, state parks and natural areas to visit this fall. From Chicago & Beyond (Chicago and surrounding areas) to the Land of Lincoln (Central Illinois), and from Great Rivers Country (western border of Illinois) to Trails to Adventure (Southern Illinois), this resource offers top outdoor destinations in each region, including:



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- **Chicago & Beyond:** Explore the Fox River Trail's scenic 45-mile loop through areas like the Fabyan Forest Preserve or take a hike to St. Louis Canyon in Starved Rock State Park.
- **Land of Lincoln:** Experience stargazing on the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve's 24-hour Dark Sky Trail in Penfield or cycle the Constitution Trail, which stretches from Bloomington to Normal, home of Illinois State University.
- **Great Rivers Country:** Paddle along the Quad Cities Water Trails for views of the Mississippi and Rock rivers or cycle the Grand Illinois Trail through the Apple Canyon State Park.
- **Trails to Adventure:** Discover the famous hiking and biking trails of the Shawnee National Forest or enjoy a guided kayak tour on the Cache River Trail in Southern Illinois.

The Illinois Office of Tourism also unveiled its latest seasonal TV spots for the "Middle of Everything" campaign, showcasing the state's vibrant fall landscapes. Featured locations include the iconic Chicago skyline and Navy Pier, the Garden of the Phoenix in Jackson Park, historic Route 66 from Chicago to Pontiac, and the Great River Road along the Mississippi River. The new fall campaign also highlights the natural beauty of Giant City State Park and Heron Pond Preserve in Southern Illinois, the charm of Galena's Main Street, and the thrilling Alpine Coaster at Aerie's Resort in Grafton.

To view and download the new "Middle of Everything" fall campaign spots along with media assets, click [here](#).

To view online or download the Fall/Winter issue of Enjoy Illinois Magazine, including the "Outdoor Adventures in Illinois" guide, click [here](#).

To view the 2024 Fall Color Reports and to plan your fall adventure with the Illinois Fall Colors Trip Planner, visit [EnjoyIllinois.com](https://www.enjoyillinois.com).

About the Illinois Office of Tourism:

The Illinois Office of Tourism leads tourism industry efforts to inspire visitation to, and within Illinois, resulting in significant economic impact and quality-of-life benefits for all Illinois residents. We are committed to making Illinois a model of inclusivity and celebration of diversity.

Illinois is a state that embodies innovation, craft, surprise and creativity. Whether domestic and international visitors are traveling for business or leisure, the Illinois Office of Tourism is their trusted guide in crafting an unforgettable experience.



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To learn more, EnjoyIllinois.com.

About the Illinois Department of Natural Resources:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is responsible for the conservation, management, and sustainable use of Illinois' natural resources. The IDNR's mission is to protect, preserve, and promote the state's natural, recreational, and cultural resources for the long-term benefit of present and future generations. Learn more at dnr.illinois.gov.

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