

2015 SPRING SEASONAL EVENTS



Illinois springs to life, as travelers can enjoy the season at world-renowned gardens, baseball's opening day, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's 10th Anniversary and an array of magnificent art, culture, food and wine festivals. Countless attractions offer plenty of inspiring ways to explore Illinois this spring, including these events from around the state.

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CHICAGO & BEYOND



Six Flags Great America Season Opening

Gurnee | May 2

Celebrate "40 Seasons of Thrills" at Six Flags Great America's season opening on May 2. It's fun for the whole family, offering guests 14 heart-pounding roller coasters, including Goliath, the world's tallest, steepest and fastest wooden roller coaster. Don't forget Hurricane Harbor, opening May 23, with more than 30 water slides.



Chicago Flower & Garden Show

Chicago | March 14 – 22

Nature lovers can flock to the Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Chicago's iconic Navy Pier, which takes place this year from March 14-22. The event showcases the sights and scents of 20 beautiful gardens developed by top floral designers. The spring spectacle also features gourmet chefs, children's activities and the ultimate marketplace shopping experience.



Chicago Baseball Opening Day

Chicago | April 5 & April 10

Chicago's North side baseball team, the Chicago Cubs, will kick off their spring season April 5 at historic Wrigley Field. As one of the most storied teams in Major League Baseball, the Cubs' rich history and celebrated ballpark make opening day an annual event to remember. Chicago White Sox fans can celebrate the start of the season April 10 at U.S. Cellular Field. Fans can revel at the ballpark's impressive façade, famous fireworks and appreciate action-packed professional baseball.



Lilac Times Festival

Lombard | May 2 – 17

From May 2-17, travelers and locals can admire a stunning 8.5-acre horticultural display with 800 breathtaking lilacs and 25,000 eye-catching tulips at the Lilac Time Festival in Lombard. Guests can take tours, shop the art and craft fair and indulge in delicious local food while taking in beautiful spring sights.



Long Grove Chocolate Festival

Long Grove | May 15 – 17

Back by popular demand, the annual Long Grove Chocolate Festival will take place May 15-17. Families can fill a day – or entire weekend – with chocolate treats, live music, great food and unique shopping in charming Long Grove. Chocolate demonstrations and workshops, wine pairings and children's activities will be offered as well.



Uncork Illinois Wine Festival

Oak Park | May 30

Wine aficionados flock to Oak Park every spring to enjoy the town's Uncork Illinois Wine Festival. On May 30, guests will have a unique opportunity to sample over 150 wines from more than 15 local wineries and taste locally-produced artisan foods.

LAND OF LINCOLN



[2015 Boneyard Arts Festival](#)

Champaign | April 9 – 12

Champaign's flourishing creative community will celebrate the arts at the Boneyard Arts Festival April 9-12. More than a traditional arts walk, Champaign's showcase will take place at more than 100 venues throughout the town and feature the work of local sculptors, weavers, painters and photographers, as well as musicians, actors and dancers.



[17th Annual Ebertfest](#)

Champaign | April 15 – 19

Movie buffs can celebrate the magic of film at the 17th Annual Ebertfest, April 15-19, in Champaign. Founded by the late great film critic, Roger Ebert, a native of Champaign, this popular five-day festival will feature more than a dozen films. Patrons can purchase festival passes or tickets for individual showings.



[Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum: 10th Anniversary](#)

Springfield | April 19

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary on April 19 in Springfield. With free admission, travelers can expect a day filled with inspiring moments and history-making experiences. An Evening With The Creators Series, Family Days and the Civil War Ball are just a few of many featured exhibits.



[1th Annual Spores N More Mushroom Festival](#)

Shelbyville | April 24 – 25

The 12th Annual Spores N More Mushroom Festival will be happening April 24-25 in Shelbyville. Outdoor adventurers and culinary enthusiasts can revel in the thrill of the hunt for the elusive morel mushroom or bid for a winning batch to take home.



[Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment](#)

Springfield | May 1 – 3

The 150th Anniversary Commemoration of Lincoln's Funeral will take place May 1-3 at Benedictine University, 3rd Street Amtrak Station and Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Open to the public, Lincoln appreciators can participate in an opening ceremony, candlelight vigil, eulogy, speeches and salutes dedicated to our nation's 16th president.



[Red Carpet Corridor Festival](#)

Pontiac | May 2 – 3

Ninety miles of family fun awaits road trip enthusiasts at the Red Carpet Corridor Festival May 2-3. Participants can spend the weekend on a self-guided driving tour of towns and rural areas along the "Mother Road." Each town produces its own event, allowing guests to enjoy live performances, art shows and children's activities while on the road.

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY



[QCCA Flower & Garden Show](#)

Rock Island | March 26 – 29

The Quad Cities Flower and Garden show will take place March 21-23 in bustling Rock Island. Both seasoned and novice gardeners, as well as nature lovers, will be awed by the blooming displays by hundreds of vendors at the QCCA Expo Center.



[Galena Wine Lovers' Weekend](#)

Galena | March 27 – 29

Galena Wine Lovers' Weekend, one of the largest indoor wine tasting events in Illinois, will take place March 27-29. Wine enthusiasts can enjoy special wine tastings, winemaker dinners, shopping and local winery tours.



[Spring Indian Market Days](#)

Collinsville | April 17 – 19

Spring Indian Market Days in Collinsville will allow visitors to appreciate the rich history of Native American culture. From April 17-19, guests can purchase and admire Native American crafts, artwork, clothing, jewelry and more at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site.



[Dogwood Festival](#)

Quincy | May 2 – 3

The Dogwood Festival is a beloved annual tradition in Quincy that will be taking place May 2-3 this year. Families can enjoy a parade, contests, vendors and carnival rides, all while appreciating the Dogwood trees lining Maine St.



[Fulton Dutch Days Festival](#)

Fulton | May 2 – 3

Fulton Dutch Days Festival will celebrate Dutch heritage May 2-3. The festival includes windmill tours, quilt shows and a traditional street scrubbing. Visitors can also enjoy Dutch dancing, a fashion show and authentic Dutch costumes.



[Bishop Hill Civil War Day](#)

Bishop Hill | May 9

Civil War fanatics can experience a living history camp of infantry, cavalry and battle re-enactments on May 9. The one-time event also features an embalming exhibit and lecture, a hospital tent and an evening dance in period costumes.

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE



[St. Patrick's Day Festival](#)

Murphysboro | March 21

Murphysboro's St. Patrick's Day Festival transports people to the land of the Irish on March 21. Food vendors serve up traditional corned beef and cabbage, green beer, and a craft brew selection, offering festivalgoers a delicious taste of Irish heritage. The daylong event also includes a bocce tournament, 5K run/walk and parade.



[Tractor Show](#)

Golconda | April 11

The annual Tractor Show in Golconda will offer its guests a one-of-a-kind experience on April 11. Held along with a farmer's market, visitors can learn about the wide variety of tractors on display.



[Blessing of the Bikes](#)

Alto Pass | April 26

Thousands of motorcyclists travel to Bald Knob Mountain, the highest point in Southern Illinois, for the Blessing of the Bikes in Alto Pass. On April 26, bikers can flock to the Bald Knob Cross of Peace to have their bikes blessed for the spring riding season.



[Cache River Nature Festival](#)

Cypress | May 9

Nature lovers can take in the beauty of spring at the Cache River Nature Festival May 9 in Cypress. Visitors can appreciate and learn more about Mother Nature by exploring an interactive diorama of a bald cypress-water tupelo swamp and changing landscaping themes. Festival activities also include guided field trips, canoe tours and live bird demonstrations.



[Superman Celebration](#)

Metropolis | June 11 – 14

Metropolis, Home of Superman, will celebrate the "Man of Steel" June 11-14. Fans will be treated to a weekend of contests, music, food and fun, as well as a comic book and artist show, fan films, street vendors and a Super Car Show.