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THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING

WELCOME.

Shorter days and cooler temperatures usher in another season of wonder—ready to be discovered. Like a warm hug from an old friend, fall in Illinois rekindles the soul with its comforting embrace. And there's so much to catch up on.

Start with a statewide trek through Illinois' ecological treasures. Wander among craggy trees, cascading waterfalls and ancient canyons for a front-row seat to the state's showstopping scenery in "Falling for Natural Beauty" (page 51).

In this issue, you'll meet two Illinois powerhouses: Bobbi Brown and Preston Jackson. A makeup artist, author and entrepreneur, Brown's Midwestern upbringing and creativity inspires her popular cosmetics line (page 28). Jackson, a renowned sculptor, painter and professor, grew up in Decatur, but you'll find his monumental works throughout the state and beyond (page 58).

If your tastes lean more toward design, the city of Quincy delivers charming boulevards and an array of architectural styles *(page 62)*. A stroll along Maine Street reveals just some of the town's structures on the National Register of Historic Places.

Celebrating the holidays in Chicago is simply magnificent. Feel the magic of the season with our whimsical wayfaring guide featuring festive traditions, can't-miss tea parties, and all the gifts and goodies you need to complete your shopping list ahead of schedule (page 40). And this year, you won't have to worry about the post-holiday blues; there's "snow" much fun to be had with an Illinois winter getaway (page 64). Cold-weather adventures—such as carving turns or shredding the slopes in Galena, catching a Broadway show in Chicago, or spotting bald eagles by a river—abound throughout the state.

This fall and winter, we invite you to experience for yourself why Illinois truly is the Middle of Everything.

Safe and happy travels!





FALL + WINTER 2025-2026

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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY,
OFFICE OF TOURISM

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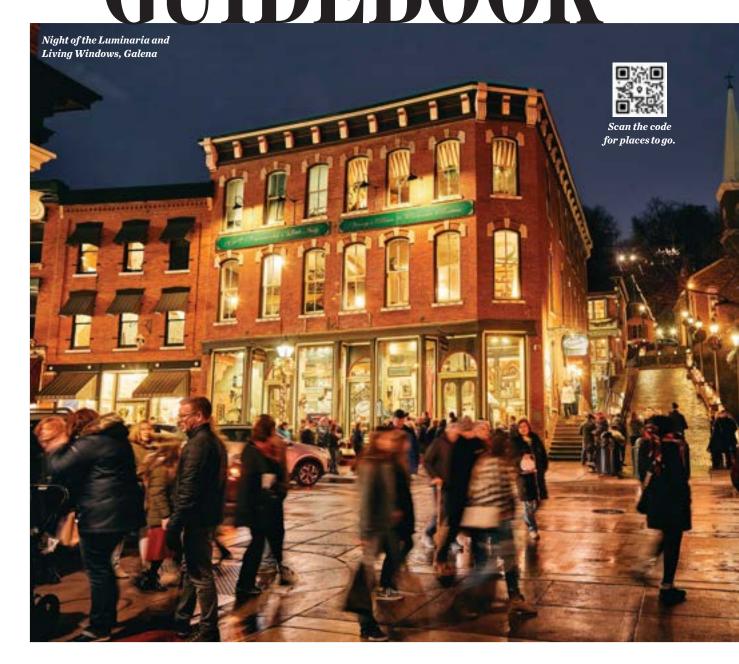
SCAN TO PLAN YOUR VISIT!







GUIDEBOOK



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ILLINOIS INSIDER The chocolate brownie was invented in 1893 by the

Palmer House Hotel, one of downtown Chicago's oldest operating hotels.

DEER PATH INN

Lake Forest

For nearly a century, this stately Tudor-style hotel on Chicago's North Shore has transported guests to an English country manor. Rooms and suites boast original art, floor-to-ceiling drapes, stone-surface baths and luxe linens. Afternoon tea in the elegant English Room is a cherished tradition. Dine there, too, in the bright and fragrant Garden Room or secluded courtyard. Borrow a bike to explore the neighborhood and enjoy cookies in the lobby each afternoon.

THE DOME AT BLUEBERRY HILL

Cobden

Find your thrill while gleefully glamping in a geodesic dome that pops up on two secluded acres along the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. The fully insulated dome (with both heat and AC) has a sitting/dining area, two queen bedrooms (one is a loft), a private bath, kitchenette, laundry space and a private patio with a hot tub. Just steps away, a barn stocked with games and activities features an attached covered picnic area adjacent to a grill.

DRAGONFLY LAKES CABINS

Dahinda

Escape to a cabin in the wilderness east of Galesburg without roughing it—these timber-frame dwellings, sustainably built from wood found on-site, are rustic yet refined. Amenities include woodburning fireplaces, fully equipped kitchens, baths with roomy showers, quality linens and bedding.

High-speed internet and a smart TV help you check in on civilization. Roast hot dogs and toast marshmallows over your private campfire, and do some serious stargazing under a super-dark sky. The fall colors here are spectacular.

THE DRAKE HOTEL

Chicago

Live like a royal in Suite 550, the Princess Diana Suite-it's where she stayed for three days in 1996, and it retains the aura of her beauty and glamour. Hold court in the 1,500-squarefoot space, which comprises a living room, kitchenette, reading room, a large bedroom and one-and-ahalf baths. Palatial windows frame majestic views of Lake Michigan and skyscrapers. Have afternoon tea at iconic Palm Court, which hosted both Diana and Queen Elizabeth II.

THE GWEN HOTEL Chicago

Sleep under the sky(scrapers) in a luxury tent pitched on a private 16th-floor terrace overlooking Michigan Avenue. The urban glamping experience is an option (through September 30) when you book the hotel's Gwen Lux Suite, which comes with a 1,000-squarefoot outdoor living space. The 16-foot-diameter Lotus Belle tent features a plush queen bed and eclectic Bohemian decor. And you're never far from the suite's

dining room, living room, wet bar and two-and-ahalf baths.

HAVISHAM HOUSE

Alto Pass

Stay your way in a charming Southern Illinois town surrounded by Shawnee National Forest. Rent the grand and spacious 1892 Main House to get a full modern kitchen, sunlit breakfast room and elegant bath (antique vanity, roomy soaking tub, glass shower enclosure and stained-glass windows). Book the adjacent Carriage House, also built in 1892 and recently renovated, for a cozy blend of old and new. Or hide out in one of two posh suites above the swanky Bourbon Bar.

INN AT IRISH HOLLOW

Galena

This pastoral paradise celebrates its 35th year. Hidden in the hills outside of town, the inn beckons with six private cottages, each generating its own vintage romantic vibe, but all blessed with gorgeous decor, focal-point fireplaces and spa-like baths. A stay includes a bountiful country breakfast (handmade with local, seasonal and natural ingredients) delivered to your door, a multicourse dinner one evening, and 500 acres of farm estate to roam-paths lead through pastures, forests, wildflower fields and wetlands. Or enjoy the view from your private screen porch.

JAIL HILL INN

Galena

Spending time in the old Jo Daviess County lockup is anything but punishment innkeeper Matthew Carroll turned the four-story brick building into a maximumamenity bed-and-breakfast. Cramped, spartan quarters for the sheriff and inmates became six spacious, stylish suites with custom king beds, fireplaces, massaging bathtubs and dual-head showers. Savor gourmet breakfast in the dining room. (Or have it delivered.) Late afternoon brings wine and a tray of goodies. Galena's historic retail district is down the hill.

THE RITZ-CARLTON

Chicago

You'll be puttin' on the ritz when you upgrade to a room or suite with Club Lounge access. The hotel's exclusive 15th-floor lounge offers complimentary food and beverages five times a day-breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, hors d'oeuvres-cocktail time, and evening desserts-cordials. Club status also earns you a dedicated concierge team to help with dinner reservations and activities, plus in-room amenities, such as a shoeshine and same-day pressing of two garments.

THE ST. REGIS CHICAGO

In 1904, the brand was first to install a telephone in every room. Today, use it to summon a personal butler who'll help you unpack, deliver free coffee and press your clothes. Dine on the terrace at Miru restaurant, share in a sunset champagne ritual and relax at The St. Regis Spa. The hotel resides in a 101-story Lakeshore East building, the world's tallest designed by a woman, Jeanne Gang. Floor-to-ceiling windows maximize views of the Chicago River, Navy Pier and Lake Michigan.

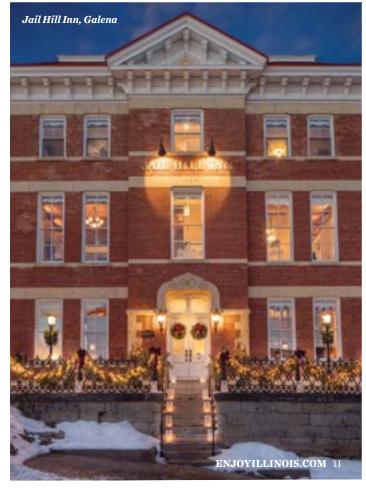


GALENA GLAM **Overlooking** the Mississippi River, Galena is known for its small-town charm, historic downtown and luxury overnights, including the Inn at Irish Hollow, the Jail Hill Inn. the Goldmoor Inn, and the Ulysses Suites.













WHERE THE MOTHER ROAD

Meets-the River Road

Celebrate 100 years of road tripping in the only place in America where the Mother Road of Route 66 meets the scenic beauty of the Great River Road. Follow the neon signs to the It's Electric Neon Sign Park, dine at historic Route 66 roadside cafes, take a walk through the river bluffs and prairies and relax with a glass of locally crafted wine beside the Mighty Mississippi River.

Your one-of-a-kind adventure begins at:

www.riversandroutes.com/things-to-do/road-trips/route-66/









Celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

America the Beautiful

July 4, 2026, marks the United States' 250th birthday. Celebrate the occasion with an enlightening tour of historic landmarks and destinations in Illinois that have contributed to the nation's story.

Iconic Architecture

CAHOKIA COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

Cahokia

The state's oldest courthouse bears a French vertical-log construction style. Exhibits detail cases decided in the 1800s.

CHICAGO HISTORIC WATER TOWER

Chicago

A Gothic Revival limestone building that once protected a standpipe now houses a gallery showing local artists' work.

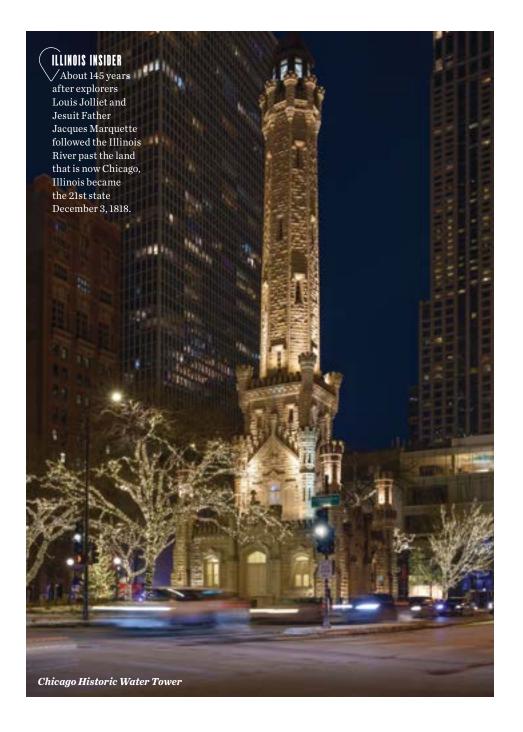
NAUVOO ILLINOIS TEMPLE

Nauvoo

Hand-painted murals adorn several rooms in this temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. This 160-foot-tall rebuilt version of an 1840s temple overlooks the Mississippi River.

OLD STATE CAPITOL STATE HISTORIC SITE

Springfield
A terra-cotta-color dome caps the Greek Revival reconstruction of Illinois' mid-1800s statehouse, where Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech.





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Historic **Displays**

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Young Abe reading in a log cabin. Lincoln's inauguration. Elaborate sets re-create key moments in the 16th president's life.

THE DUSABLE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

Chicago Transatlantic slave-trade shackles, Ida B. Wells' writing desk, and Black Panther posters trace the perseverance of America's African American residents.

ILLINOIS AMISH HERITAGE CENTER

near Arthur Two traditional Amish homes and a schoolhouse show how residents at the 1865 settlement lived.

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S MANSION

[pring]eld Interpreters guide tours through the Italianate-style estate. One highlight A room with wood-blockprinted wallpaper showing scenes of early America.

ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

Visit the Chicago suburb location for a virtual reality tour of a concentration

camp. The Skokie building partially reopens in January 2026 after renovations.

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

[pring]eld Touching a giant shortfaced bear skull and walking through a model glacier tunnel illuminate Illinois' 500-million-year transformation.

JANE ADDAMS HULL-HOUSE MUSEUM

Chicago

A settlement designed for community service only has two buildings remaining. Tour them on the ⋈ niversity of Illinois Chicago campus and explore the history of social activism (free).

THE NEWBERRY

Chicago

Delve into history and the humanities at the noncirculating library. Built in 188∏, the free library offers tours four times a week.

PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM

Peoria An exhibit from guest curator ∅ en Burns brings a 1∭6 edition of the Declaration of Independence and other artifacts to Peoria for America's 250th anniversary.

PULLMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

started here.

Chicago At the visitors center in the old clock tower, learn about the Pullman Company industrial community and the labor movement that



🛮 eoria Riverfront Museum

EMMETT TILL AND MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT

Chicago

Pay your respects outside of the Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ, the location of the murdered 14-yearold's funeral.

MOUND CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

ound City The Illinois State Soldiers and Sailors Monument honors 2,63\\ unknown servicemen buried here who died during the Civil War.

TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM AND WATER WALL

Chicago

Members of the armed forces and their families relax by Lake Michigan in this bronze-cast scene by Soldier Field.



Scan the code to learn more about M merica MM Illinois events.

Legendary Routes

BRONZEVILLE WALK OF FAME

Chicago

Bronze plaques along a 10-block stretch of the neighborhood celebrate iconic residents of Chicago's ŊBlack Metropolis,Ŋincluding Nat Nat ing Cole.

CONSTITUTION TRAIL

 \center{M} loomington \center{M} ormal Bike the 40-plus-mile trail that partially follows the old Illinois Central Gulf Railroad route and was built for the 200th birthday of the N nited States.

I+M CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

 $La \boxtimes alle$

Board an 1840s, muletowed boat to discover how the canal transformed transportation by connecting Lake Michigan to the Illinois River.

LEWIS AND CLARK STATE HISTORIC SITE

 \mathbb{X} artford Peer into a life-size replica of the keelboat, in which the explorers traveled, and a camp re-created from William Clark's notes.



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Our calendar is packed with exciting events all year round. Free weekly programming includes live musical performances, fun seasonal festivities for the whole family, and enchanting holiday displays. Soar above it all in the Centennial Wheel's heated gondolas—perfect for enjoying breathtaking views in every season. Discover endless delights at Chicago's top lakefront destination.

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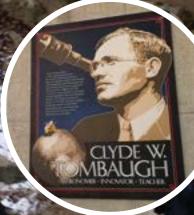
Scenic Ottawa
Explore a historic river town and shop vibrant boutiques



Hegeler Carus Mansion Explore an architectural marvel and step back in time



Camp Aramoni
Boutique accommodations
and events in a scenic setting



Streator's Arts Tour Experience Streator's history told through beautiful murals







Big Plans on Campus

You don't have to be a student, parent or alum to enjoy these Illinois college towns. Audit attractions on and off campus, including major spots to eat and drink.



⊠ni⊠ersity o⊠ Illinois ⊠r⊠ana⊠ ⊠hampaign

As you tour the sprawling, bustling campus, relax and reflect in the Aan oasis of ornamental gardens that's particularly $\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{M} \times$ its Andean, European and American art, plus its post-Modernist architecture. The Scelebrates cultures spanning the globe and historical eras, drawing on artifacts from six continents. Longtime Champaign eateries please ${\bf P} {\color{orange} \boxtimes} {\color{orange} \boxtimes}$ has served Irish fare since 1969, \mathbf{G} started dishing up Chinese cuisine in 1996, and P $\mathbf{D}(\mathbb{R}) \mathbf{P}(\mathbb{R}) \mathbf{F}(\mathbb{R})$ rolled out its first pies in 19\\(\text{O}\). I H\(\text{M}\(\tex CMMMM CMM is well situated for campus visitors, especially Fighting Illini football and basketball fans and concertgoers-it's just south of \mathbf{M} \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{Z} and $\mathbf{S}_{()}$ $\mathbf{F}_{()}$ $\mathbf{C}_{()}$ $\mathbf{C}_{()}$

FOR FOOTBALL FANS

After the Fighting Illini's historically successful 2024 season—10 wins, a bowl game victory and a national ranking—expectations for 2025 are high.

SELFIE SPOT At the west entrance to campus, take a pic with beloved [Mana Mater, a 5-ton bronze statue depicting a woman in academic robes.





Northwestern University, Evanston

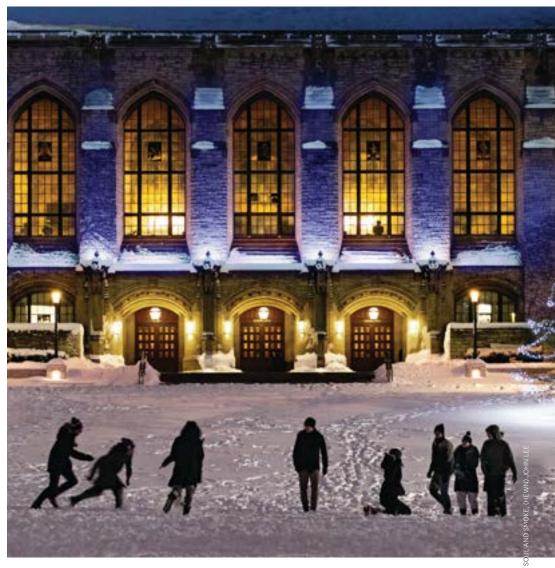
The suburban Chicago school is serious about academics—and seriously close to Lake Michigan.

A campus visit should include Alice Millar Chapel, with its spectacular stained-glass windows. Dearborn Observatory is open for tours on Friday evenings-peer through the big telescope. Students hang out at Norris University Center, where there's a bookstore, dining and a Starbucks (aka Norbucks). The Block Museum of **Art** is free and open to all Wednesdays through Sundays. Look for an exhibit on Helen Frankenthaler's experimental prints. Near campus, reflect and meditate at Bahá'í House of Worship, the only one in North America; Hewn bakery masters the art of bread, pastries and sandwiches; Soul and Smoke tempts with bold barbecue; and Stacked and Folded plates fresh takes on burgers, tacos and wraps. Graduate by Hilton Evanston provides classy accommodations.

FOR FOOTBALL FANS

While **Ryan Field** undergoes renovations, the Northwestern Wildcats will play two home games (November 15 and 22) at Chicago's **Wrigley Field.**

SELFIE SPOT That which we call a rose grows in the Shakespeare Garden, which contains plants mentioned in The Bard's works.







ILLINOIS INSIDER The state has 70-plus four-year colleges and universities. The oldest public one is / Illinois State University, founded in 1857. Abraham Lincoln drafted the bond and bill of sale documents for the property that would become the university.







Illinois Atate | Illinois Atate | IniAersity | Illinois | Illinois

The state \mathbb{N} rst public university retains a smallcampus feel that fosters a strong sense of community.

History permeates campus and nearby attractions, including the $\mathbf{D} \boxtimes \boxtimes \mathbf{D} \boxtimes \boxtimes \boxtimes$ home of Abraham Lincoln's close friend and political ally. Another impressive manor home from the 1920s, $\mathbf{E} \hspace{-0.07cm} \hspace{-0$ surrounded by lush gardens. Discover more natural beauty on a walking tour of campus—FMMAMMMM features thousands of trees. Or take a walk on \mathbf{C} 45-mile paved route through Bloomington-Normal. $\mathbf{H} \times \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{P}$ $\mathbf{B} | \hspace{-0.07cm} | \hspace{-0.07cm$ puts you close to campus and in the heart of the Uwith an eclectic menu and a 30-foot mulberry tree that's inside the restaurant. Down the street, TM Mediterranean vibe.

SELFIE SPOT Head to Redbird Plaza to find the school's Redbird mascot. It's a tradition to rub the beak.







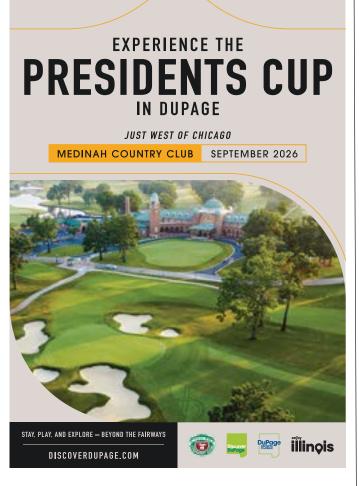
Xouthern Illinois XniXersityX XarXondale

Set near the Shawnee \(\) ational \(\) orest, SIU is an outdoor-oriented campus with a down-toearth disposition. showcases artisanal meats, local produce, innovative cocktails and craft beers—owner-butcher Josh \(\) larer grew up in Carbondale. On campus, exhibits at the \(S \) \(\) \(\) \(M \) \(M \) \(M \) \(M \) \(Cover the arts, sciences and humanities. See paintings, geological specimens, cultural artifacts and more. SI\(\) 's \(T \) \(M \) \

immersive outdoor experiences, including trails and lodging. It's a gateway to the wonders of the SNIM NAMM NAMM FAMMA.

SELFIE SPOT A statue of three Salukis, the dog breed that serves as SIM's mascot, graces Saluki Alumni Plaza, on the lawn between Pulliam and Woody halls.







18Y: BRIANNE SANCHEZ, PHOTOGRAPH: BOB STEFKO

A Day in Chicago's Little Village

Meander along this vibrant neighborhood's "Mexican Magnificent Mile" and areas nearby to encounter independent shops, cultural centers and restaurants.



ILLINOIS INSIDER Held annually, the 26th Street Mexican Independence

Day Parade (September 14) features colorful floats and lively cultural performances to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations.

Spanning West 26th Street with a welcoming *Bienvenidos*, the Little Village Arch announces a bustling commercial corridor. Hundreds of locally owned businesses, many rooted in the area's Latino heritage, make La Villita a shopping and dining destination for Spanish and English speakers alike. Often called the Mexico of the Midwest, neighborhood murals and spaces, like the Manuel Perez Jr. Memorial Plaza, celebrate community culture. Explore on your own or reserve a guided group walking tour, free through the Chicago Greeter program.

- 10:15 a.m. Chilaquiles stand out on the La Catedral Cafe and Restaurant menu, which features 16 varieties spanning spice levels. Toppings include scrambled eggs and chicken. On the sunny side? Brunch with an omelette poblano on Mi Tierra's expansive patio.
- 11 a.m. Fortified by fried tortillas, it's time to shop. Marvel at bedazzled quinceañera gowns on display at Alborada, or browse instruments and equipment at Ceasar's Music of Illinois. Hunt for deals on traditional embroidered fashions and jewelry at Discount Mall.
- 1:30 p.m. Sweet tooths should pop into Dulcelandia and fill a piñata with candies to savor later. Find Chicago's best conchas (Mexican sweet bread) at Rosy's Bakery. Popular El Churro Shop pairs fried churros with milkshakes and more.
- 2 p.m. Nonprofits like Open Center for the Arts cultivate creativity. The gallery hosts community workshops. Pick up an array of local handicrafts, including Day of the Dead accessories, at Artesanías Elena near the Manuel Perez Jr. Memorial Plaza.
- 3:30 p.m. Collections at nearby Pilsen's
 National Museum of Mexican Art (free!)
 represent both sides of the border, from preCuauhtémoc Meso-American artifacts to
 contemporary works that include paintings,
 textiles, photography, sculpture and
 performance art.
- 6 p.m. Back in Little Village at Nuevo
 Leon Restaurant, Laura Gutierrez-Ramos
 continues a family tradition of warm service
 and fresh flour tortillas made from nearby
 El Milagro. Order the legendary refried
 beans, vegan-friendly from the restaurant,
 which opened in 1977.
- 8 p.m. Start the party with a pitcher of El Palomaso at Osito's Tap, a modern Latinx speakeasy. Then, shimmy to La Cueva Nightclub, Chicago's oldest Latino drag bar. Recover with rice and bean burritos from Yolanda's Restaurant, open 24/7.









Recognized for her groundbreaking beauty brands, this creative visionary traces her unfussy aesthetic and global success to core values instilled during her suburban Chicago upbringing.

When Bobbi Brown asks women, "What do you see when you look in the mirror?" the cosmetics founder hopes responses go more than skin deep. Her compelling question invites real, honest reflection. Brown wants to know what gives women confidence.

Whether chatting with notable guests for her Jones Road Beauty YouTube television series, *IAm Me*, or developing revolutionary products, Brown seeks opportunities to learn and grow. Since launching her first lipstick line in 1990, her quest has empowered generations to embrace a natural look.

Now 68, the Wilmette native tells her story in her memoir, *Still Bobbi*, out this September. Brown's "Midwest nice" attitude advances her inspirational journey to becoming a makeup artist, mother of three grown boys and multi-hyphenate entrepreneur. Friendly conversations connected Brown with a chemist, press coverage and distribution opportunities that eventually established her as an icon in the industry.

Brown now lives in New Jersey, where she and her husband, Steven Plofker, renovated The George, a boutique hotel. Her career recently came full circle with a brick-and-mortar store, Jones Road Beauty, opening in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood. We asked Brown where her passion for beauty was born, who served as early mentors and what's ahead for her.



FALL IN LOVE WITH BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL





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BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL AREA



A Style Icon's Chicago

Family ties: Bobbi Brown (right) with her sister and their dad.

Q Are your Chicago roots still strong?

A My whole family is still in Chicago, so I visit often. I loved growing up in Wilmette. There were tons of kids in my neighborhood, lots of green space, and we were still minutes away from the city. It was the ideal place to grow up. Chicago is a critical part of my origin story. No matter where my life or career has taken me, I've always tried to remain down-to-earth and authentic to who I am. I'm still Bobbi, a 5-foot-tall Jewish girl from the Chicago suburbs.

Q Were you always interested in cosmetics?

A My mom, Sandra, was the most glamorous woman. She dressed perfectly, and her dark hair was always beautifully coiffed. When she and my dad were getting ready to go out, I would watch her get dressed and do her makeup. She sparked my passion for teaching women how to use makeup-not only to make themselves look more beautiful, but so they feel more confident.

O How did you turn that early fascination into your influential career?

A I was not a great student. I was struggling to find my way at a traditional college. When I was home one summer complaining that I didn't want to go back to school, my mom asked me: If it was your birthday and you could do anything you wanted to do, what would it be?

> Give your face an all-over glow with Miracle Balm.



I answered that I wanted to go and play with the makeup in the beauty department of Marshall Field's. I loved to watch the sales associates and makeup artists working with customers. I paid close attention to how they spoke to women and the way they taught them how to use products.

My mom suggested I find a college that would allow me to study makeup. Emerson College in Boston let me create my own major. I studied photography and theatrical makeup there.

Q What beauty looks did you embrace as a teen?

A When I was growing up in the '60s and '70s, the ideal was actresses and models who were all tall, blonde and blue-eyed. Then in 1970 came Ali MacGraw in Love Story. She was a beautiful, dark-haired girl with full eyebrows and natural makeup. It was the first time I saw someone who looked like me, with my aesthetic, portrayed in popular culture.

O If you could give your younger self in Wilmette advice, what would you tell her?

A Breathe. Go slowly because nothing changes overnight. Find your small posse of friends who will hype you up or give you honest feedback when you

Q Although you haven't lived in Chicago for decades, do you feel its influence?

A I think it's important for people to realize that you are where you came from, and I'm proud that I'm from Chicago. Chicago is bursting with art, incredible architecture and a strong sense of community. You find beauty everywhere you look. It also has a clean, almost industrial feel, which has inspired my design aesthetic. My style is like Chicago: clean and simple with a pop of color. The best part of Chicago, though, is the people. Midwesterners are authentic, approachable and

practical. That approach to life and work has guided me. To me, beauty should be easy and effective. Makeup should make you look like yourself on your very best day.

Who were your early mentors?

A My family. Our Midwestern values of being authentic, honest and keeping things simple have informed my life and career. My grandfather, Papa Sam, had car dealerships throughout Chicago. Everyone called him Cadillac Sam. I consider him to be the best businessman and entrepreneur I've known. My Dad, Joe, retired from law to become a children's author. Now in his 90s, he's still writing and takes boxing lessons twice a week. My Aunt Alice has been my go-to person throughout my career. I even gave her an advice column when I was the editor of Yahoo Beauty.

Q Tell us about your fragrance line.

A Our first scent, Shower, smells so clean and fresh. BKLYN, our second fragrance, gives off an air of casual confidence with notes of lemon, neroli oil and sandalwood. Brooklyn-a borough of Manhattan known for being cool without trying-is the inspiration.

Q You've written nine books. What made you want to write your memoir, Still Bobbi?

A I absolutely love the process of creating content that helps women look and feel better about themselves. I have always shared tidbits about my life and career on my social media channels, but my previous books have all been instructional. I haven't told my full story all in one place until now. I'm hoping Still Bobbi urges readers to embrace their own potential and pursue their dreams with confidence and clarity of purpose.

Go-Tos

When Bobbi Brown visits Chicago, the beauty entrepreneur soaks up the skyline and immerses $herself in \, good \, design.$

RL CHICAGO

115 E. Chicago Ave.

Brown says Ralph Lauren's refined restaurant serves the best Dover sole in town.

SOHO HOUSE CHICAGO

113-125 N. Green St.

Brown calls this private club her "home away from home" when she visits. The former belt factory has an industrial-chic feel.

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

111 S. Michigan Ave.

Find inspiration with a selfguided tour of the galleries or linger to appreciate the museum's vast collection.

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT TRAIL

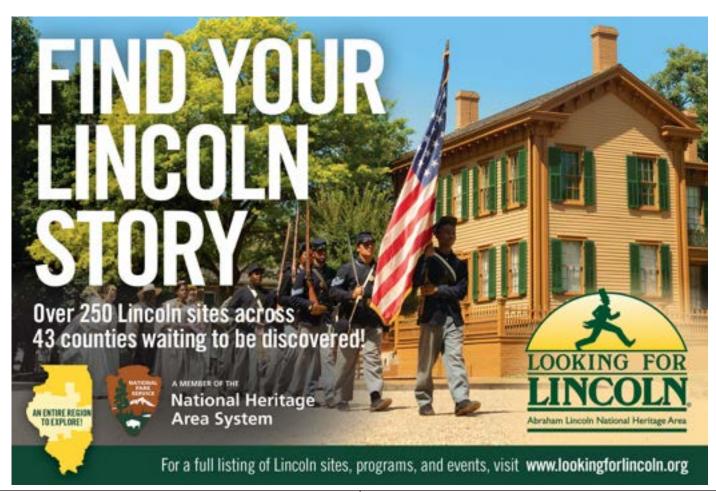
Ardmore Ave. south to 71st St.

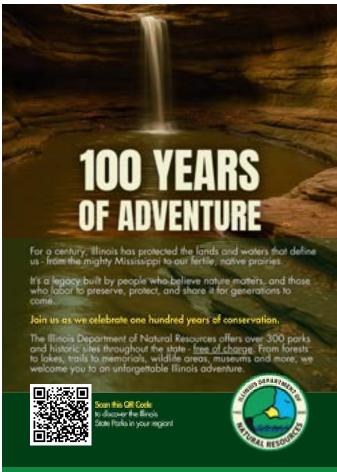
Brown starts her day with a walk along the 19-mile paved path that hugs Lake Michigan.

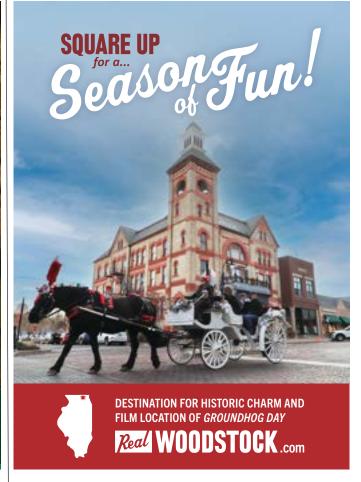
JONES ROAD BUCKTOWN

1655 N. Damen Ave.

Brown fell in love with the cool vibe and neighborhood feel of Bucktown.









Dinner and a Show

Dinner theater has bolstered Illinois communities for decades, and you can still revel in their comedy, music and even acrobatics as you en of you a gourmet multicourse meal. At this motley mix of venues, the show does, indeed, go on.



Speakeasy-Style

In downtown Galena, Amelia's Under the **Lamplight Dinner**

Theater pairs a supper-club atmosphere with interactive entertainment. Comedy shows fill weekend nights with laughter and intrigue, and everyone is a suspect during the themed murder mystery dinners. After dessert, stick around for a ghost tour.

Rebuilt Red Cattle Barn

Goodfield has enjoyed decades of cornfield-adjacent performances, a history that dates back to Halloween 1975, when the fledgling dinner theater's tables were built mere hours before the debut production. The latest iteration of its venue, The Barn III, is an ideal

spot for a birthday or anniversary-celebrations that earn you a classic, whipped-cream-covered barn cake. Plan your visit for productions of Arsenic and Old Lace (October 3-November 2) and Plaid Tidings (November 15-December 31).

Ornate Historic Venue

The three-story Art Deco Fort Armstrong Theatre opened in 1921, originally as a downtown movie house for silent films, in Rock Island. More than a century later, Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse calls the grand theater home, hosting more than 250 productions since it took over in 1977. The best part? Along with dinner, your ticket actually

earns two performances: a preshow from the singing waitstaff, the Bootleggers, and the main production. Upcoming shows include several Broadway favorites, including Come From Away (September 10-November 1).

Upscale Circus Atmosphere

Teatro ZinZanni's eyecatching, circus-inspired spectacle awaits inside an antique Belgian Spiegeltent (a large tent with mirrors) in Chicago's Theatre District. Don't miss a moment as you savor your four-course meal: a trapeze duo soaring overhead and an aerial artist keeping multiple hoops spinning as she ascends toward the ceiling. Back on the ground, acclaimed singers, dancers and improvisational artists do their part to deliver a show you won't soon forget.

State Park Wood-Beam Lodge

Tunes from your favorite bands and artists have drawn crowds to the White Pines Lodge Playhouse Theater since 1989 in Mount Morris, and this year is no different. Pair a lunch buffet with tribute acts performing the best of Barry Manilow and Johnny Cash. In December, catch matinee or evening performances of a White Pines tradition: \(\overline{\pi}\) crooge the Comedy, an outlandish, comical take on the Dickens classic that relies on audience participation.



Eat XX an XX e XX y

andcrafted whiskey, cuddly alpaca wovens and decorate them yourself sugar cookies are ust three memorable ways to banish winter's chill with feel good delights from Illinois artisans.

O EATS

MITH STREET BBM

Murphysboro
An order of baby back ribs
might be the epitome of feelgood food. The legendary
racks are pit-cooked for
six hours in the smoke of
cherrywood and applewood,
then sprinkled with the
restaurant's own Magic
Dust seasoning. Amateur pit
masters can purchase the
seasoning mix along with
sauces for at-home smoking.

INCREDIBLY DELICIOUS

Mpring Meld
For the joy and nostalgia of decorating sugar cookies without the hassle of rolling, cutting out and baking, stop by this French-inspired bakery-cafe on the first floor of a historic mansion.
Owner, pastry chef and Springfield native Patrick Groth creates holiday DIY kits with all the essentials (baked cookies, frosting, colorful sprinkles and other decorative flourishes).

VOIL \(\) MACARONS

Peoria

Owner Diana Natale creates art you can eat, some only for the over-21 crowd. Spiked buttercream and ganache sits between crunchy-on-the-outside yet chewy-on-the-inside colorful macarons. Choose from brunch-worthy flavors (mimosa, peach bellini), classics (French vanilla, chocolate), or standouts (pi\square\text{\text{g}} a colada, Guinness).









ILLINOIS MADE

⊠S⊠O⊠ER LO⊠AL



↑ Learn more about co @ ee while roasting a batch of beans on a @ -minute tour at Mad Goat Co @ ee.

O RINS

BLAUM BROS. DISTILLING COMPANY

Galena

Siblings Matt and Mike Blaum channeled their passion for craft distilling into a full-time business more than 10 years ago. Other spirits vie for attention, but their bourbon reigns supreme. Breathe in notes of buttered cornbread, vanilla and clove before sipping hints of toffee, caramel and cinnamon-laced cherry.

MAD GOAT COFFEE

Danville and Champaign
Co-owner and manager Sam
George brews craft-roasted
beans and community at
Mad Goat. Grab a bag of
Fireside Blend for decadent
chocolate notes and serious
warming vibes. Meep your java
hot in a retro ceramic logo mug
or take your joe to go in an
insulated tumbler.

ALTO VINEYARDS

Alto Pass and Champaign
Prohibition halted wine
production in Southern
Illinois, but Guy Renzaglia
brought it back to the region
in 1982. Generations later,
Renzaglia's family enriches
the tradition with new
skills and cultivars. Sweet
ros Heartland Blush,
and the sparkling version,
Heartland Buzz, pair well with
charcuterie boards.

← THE IRIE CUP

untley

Irie, a Jamaican phrase expressing contentment and well-being, describes how the married duo Joseph and LaShanda Lewis hope you feel when sipping custom fusions at their tea shop. Steep your way through their fall collection, starting with black apple spice tea.

Метгоралія

JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Treat yourself to a living tour of history at Fort Massac Encampment on Oct. 18th - 19th, 2025, only in Metropolis, Illinois.

enjey

METROPOLISTOURISM.COM







for more Illinois Made Makers.



Discover handcrafted, head-to-toe body products at \(\) ater Sweets Soap Company.

O O FORTS

WATER SWEETS SOAP COMPANY

The mother-son company uses the fewest and simplest ingredients to make vegan skin-care products designed to soothe seasonal discomforts. Winter blues are no match for their citruspacked energy bath bomb and sugar scrub.

PRAIRIE FRUITS FARM AND CREAMERY

Champaign
Herbs from the garden
scent goat-milk soap prized
for its moisturizing powers.
Lather your way through
unusual scents, including
Pine Scotch, Mint and
Mocha, Lemongrass, Coffee

MAGIC MEADOWS ALPACAS

Wonder Lake

Entrepreneurs Sally and Mike Azanis collaborate with a local mill to transform what they dub the Fiber of the Gods into wearable art. Silkysoft headbands and hats snuggle your ears. Decycled sweaters become one-of-akind double-layered mittens.

$C \boxtimes S \ B E E S$

Anna

Crystal Housman, a retired educator, now indulges her fascination with bees and their keeping by integrating local beeswax from Minion County into her products. Handmade lip balms in flavors like mulled wine and rosemary-lemon keep lips sweetly moisturized.

HEMPSTOCK PHARMS

Woodstock

This organic farm grows hemp, found in all of its small-batch CBD products, which helps promote relaxation. The popular buttery-smooth Hard Caramel, taken half an hour before bed, melts in your mouth as you drift off to sleep.

MAGIC MEADOWS

Goats happily

produce enough milk for both cheese

and small-batch soaps at \\ rairie \\ ruits \\ arm.

Scrub, and Sage.







CHIGAN AVE.



workshop for irresistible

holiday spirit.

Chicago's Magnificent

Mile rivals Santa's

the North Pole this year?

Don't sweat it.

Couldn't book a trip to



dancers and marching bands perform alongside floats shepherding characters from Walt Disney night of November 22, but don't wait for dark to celebrate. National ids fash toothy grins as they pose and its fireworks-filled grand finale arrive the with Santa and decorate cheesecake at Lights Festival Lane (opens at 11 a.m.). At 5\B0 p.m., World Resort down Michigan Avenue.

Xolly Lodgings

Chicago⁴room, with add-ons like \stuffed curling court. Skate beneath skyscrapers Chicago's Christmas dining experience.⁵ Boozy hot chocolate warms you from the or cannonball into the indoor pool filled in-room snow fort (upon request). Gaze inside out on The Gwen Hotel's rooftop cheer suffuses your Four Seasons Hotel on The Peninsula Chicago's Sky Rink,² upon Lake Michigan during Park Hyatt snowballs\for indoor tossing and an Intercontinental Chicago.3 Seasonal with holiday-themed floaties at the

Xtores Ar Maryone on Xour List

Begin with a boost of caffeine from Starbuck's Starbucks. Pick up Lego kits for your kiddos at Water Tower Place, and peruse stores at which sells luscious body product stocking stuffers. At Nike's flagship, 9 snag a pair of a Topgolf session at 900 North Michigan Air Jordans for your sporty boo-before The Shops at North Bridge, like Aesop, 8 Begone, holiday shopping overwhelms. Reserve Roastery,6 the world's largest Shops. (That's a stop just for you!

Magical Memories

making session and salon visit for your little Personal shoppers at American Girl Chicago The Ritz-Carlton Chicago, or The Peninsula tailoring. Wear your new outfit to afternoon Party, or Sofitel Chicago Magnificent Mile's at Water Tower Place¹⁰ can schedule a dollone. Those at Bloomingdale's and Neiman Marcus curate wardrobes and coordinate champagne service¹² for a boozy affair. tea at The Drake Hotel's Palm Court, 11 Chicago. Or try The Gwen's Tipsy Tea







Explore a shopper's paradise filled with style, sparkle, and surprises. From iconic fashion at Woodfield Mall to charming boutiques tucked into vibrant downtowns, Chicago Northwest makes holiday shopping feel like a getaway.



For more Chicago Northwest inspiration beyond the skyline, visit **CHICAGONORTHWEST.COM.**



SNOWY CELEBRATIONS





ATE

WINTER GLOW

The Land of Lincoln glitters and glows during the holiday season. Mere's how to en by the lights, festivals and more.

November-December
HARDY'S
REINDEER
RANCH
REINDEER
EXPERIENCE

Mantoul
Meet Dancer and
Prancer look-alikes at
this farmstead, where
reindeer from Alaska
hoof it around barns
made of reclaimed
century-old wood.

Early Novemberlate December MACY'S STATE STREET HOLIDAY WINDOWS

Chicago
Part of the holiday season since 190 and originally introduced by Marshall Field's, the festively decorated windows entice you to check off items from your gift list.

Mid-Novemberearly December THE POLAR EXPRESS

Monticello
Put on your PJs and be
enthralled by a reading
of the beloved children's
book about the train
departing from the
Monticello Railway
Museum. Santa has a
ticket too.

Mid-Novemberearly January ILLUMINATION: TREE LIGHTS AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM

Lisle
Getyour Fitbit ready∰he
1-mile trail jaunt gets you
clocking around 2,500
steps. Music and lights
pump up the drama.

Mid-Novemberearly January LIGHTSCAPE, CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Glencoe
Walk through a tunnel
of lights reminiscent of
a cathedral and emerge
ready to see the garden in
its winter glory.

Mid-Novemberearly January ZOOLIGHTS

Chicago Lights ta

Lights take the form of animals at the Lincoln Park Moo—and the result is wild. Some animal exhibits stay open late, offering a great chance to catch big cats during non-napping hours.

November 28-30, December 6-7 JULMARKNAD *ishop ill*

Encounter folkloric Swedish characters like Tomten (elves), as they roam a holiday market, and delight in the antics of Julbock the Christmas Goat.

Late November
LIGHTING ON
THE COMMONS

M oline

Meet the jolly guy in red and hop on a horsedrawn carriage before a tree-lighting ceremony and fireworks display kick off the holidays.

Late November THE WINTRUST MAGNIFICENT MILE LIGHTS FESTIVAL

Chicago
Mickey Mouse and
Minnie Mouse wave to
spectators and marching
bands play as 1 million
lights give the Mag Mile a

Late Novemberlate December CHRISTKINDL-MARKET

holiday glow-up.

Chicago and Aurora
Bratwursts sizzle on
the grill at this outdoor
bazaar, where vendors
in timber cabins sell
German-style wares
and crack walnuts in toy
soldier nutcrackers.

Late Novemberlate December CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Alton

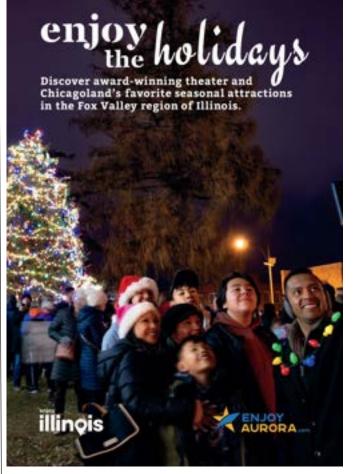
A jewel on the Great River Road, Rock Spring Park dazzles with a drive-through display of 4 million lights.



Scan the code for more winter events and festivals.







Late Novemberlate December HOLIDAY FIREWORKS

Chicago
Enjoy boom-and-crackle
brilliance on Saturday
nights at Navy Pier. Don
your coziest coat and
watch from the pier or from
nearby beaches along the
Lakefront Trail.

Late Novemberlate December THE LIGHTS AN EM HIBITION OF HOLIDAY MAGIC

Late Novemberlate December SANTA SROCK N LIGHTS

Geneva
Drive through 1 mile of lights dancing to music. See 3D light sculptures like dinos, polar bears and reindeer.

Late Novemberearly January FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS WINTER WONDERLAND

Mast Peoria
Drive or take a horse-drawn
wagon ride through an
electric park with lit-up
candy canes and dinosaurs
on display.

The area's longest-running lights festival, featuring more than 2 million twinkling LED lights and a 3D gingerbread house, almost outshines the animals at Brookfield Moo Chicago.

Late Novemberearly March ICE SKATING RIBBON

Chicago
Take surprising twists
and turns at Maggie Daley
Park's quarter-mile
ice path with skyline
views. Rentals available
reservations required.

Late Novemberearly March MCCORMICK TRIBUNE ICE RINK

Chicago
Glide past Millennium
Park's iconic Cloud Gate
sculpture in the shadow
of skyscrapers at this free
rink (reservations required
rental skate fee).

December ILLUMINATED

Mockford
Stone paths weave past
a 40-foot-tall waterfall
and a Sukiya-style tea hut
at Anderson Japanese
Gardens, festively decorated
with lights.

December-March EAGLE WATCHING

Gladstone and Alton
Bald eagles migrate to
Illinois to fish the open
waters around locks and
dams. See the majestic birds
at Lock and Dam 18 near
Gladstone and Melvin Price
Lock and Dam in Alton.

December 1-February 28 GNOME ROAM

December 5–28 $TH \boxtimes UTCR \boxtimes C \boxtimes R$ Chicago

The Joffrey Ballet dancers leap through the timeless tale, which is set against the backdrop of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair for a magical, local historical flavor.



December 6 HOLIDAY FIRE IN THE SKY

Galena
Fireworks whirl and burst
in the sky, oM cially kicking
off the holiday season in
the historic town on the
Mississippi River.

December 13 NIGHT OF THE LUMINARIA AND LIVING WINDOWS

Galena

More than 3,500 luminaria and animated store window displays turn the streets into something reminiscent of a Charles Dickens novel.

January-February SNOW TUBING

Mockford
Snowmakers keep the
white fluffy stuff going for
tube rides at Alpine Hills
Adventure Park.

Late January ILLINOIS SNOW SCULPTING COMPETITION

Spectators can walk or drive through Sinnissippi Park, where teams from across the state take chippers to icy blocks to create fantastical sculptures. The frozen creations last until the weather turns warm or wet.

Late January-early February GROUNDHOG DAYS

Woodstock

Celebrating the town's role as the filming location for the movie *Groundhog Day*, this event brings out Woodstock Willie to predict a late or early spring.

Early February POLARPALOOZA WINTER FESTIVAL

De∑alb

Hardworking sled dogs strut their stuff, pulling sleds, while tractors pull up to offer hayrides through scenic Hopkins Park. Don't miss the snowman bowling.

Mid-February ICE JAM AT THE DAM

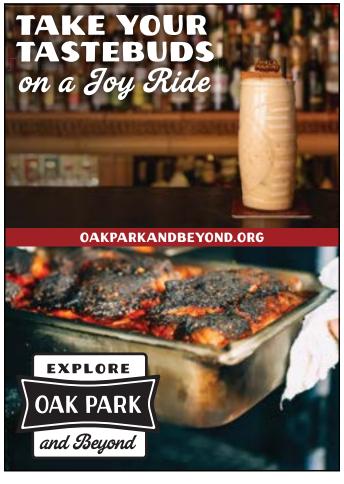
Mast Alton
Explore the Melvin Price
Locks and Damon a guided
tour, and look up for bald eagles.
Meet and greet live animals
before roasting s'mores.

Mid-February WINTER CARNIVAL

Galena

Illuminated hot-air balloons glow in the night sky at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa. A Sasquatch Shu\(\mathbb{I}\) e and a handcarved ice bar make holiday stress vanish.







Painting Nature's Canvas

A Chicago millionaire channeled his inheritance and love of art into a Monticello landscape that inspires natural and aesthetic contemplation today.











illingis

ELGIN



*Rate Restrictions: Valid only for Choice Privileges members (program enrollment is free). The reservation must be made on ChoiceHotels. com at participating hotels and must be made at least 7, 14, 21 or 30 days in advance, which will vary based on the hotel for which a reservation is being made. Subject to availability, the rate starts at 15% off Best Available Rate, is non-cancellable, non-changeable and non-refundable. Your credit card will be charged for the total reservation amount within 24-48 hours of booking. This rate has a seven (7) night maximum length of stay. Rooms at this discount are limited. Offer is not available to groups and cannot be combined with any other discount. Choice Hotels reserves the right to change or discontinue this offer at any time. Eligibility restricted to U.S. and Canadian residents. Members must book direct at ChoiceHotels.com/Explore/Illinois or call 1-877-424-6423. All Choice Hotels properties are independently owned and operated. **Guarantee applies to Third Party Website standard rates for a Choice single or double occupancy room that are at least 1% and \$1.00 less than the Choice rate. Claims must be submitted within 24 hours of booking and 48+ hours prior to 6 PM checkin time the day of hotel arrival. Other terms also apply; see www.choicehotels.com/legal/best-rate-rules for full terms and conditions. ©2024 Choice Hotels International. All rights reserved.

HALLING FOR SPIRIT—AND CONSIDER A LOCUTO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE THESE OPEN-AIR ILLINOIS TREASURES HAVE MASS APPEAL. BRING AN ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT—AND CONSIDER A LOCAL GUIDE—

WRITER BRIANNE SANCHEM

TO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE MAGIC.



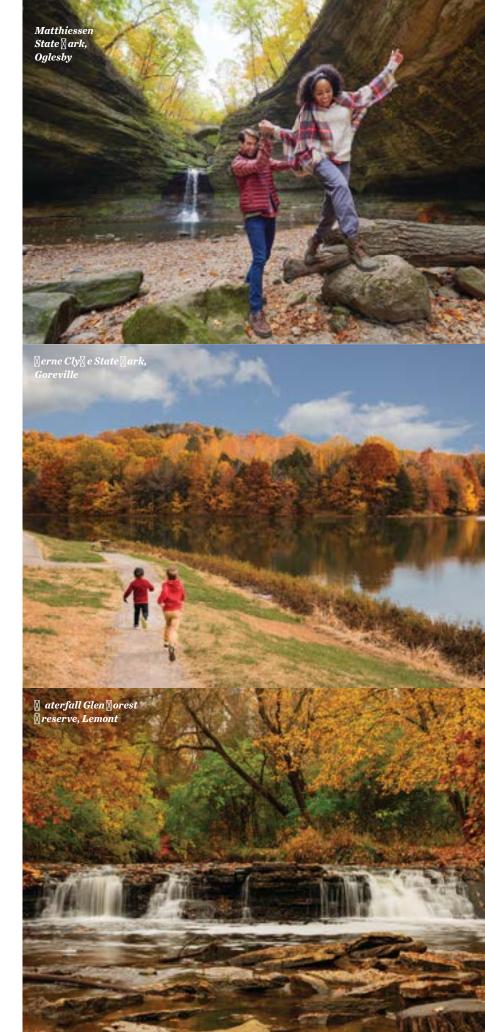
MISTY MARVELS

Thirsty for nature and movement \(\mathbb{\text{\tikt{\text{\tikt{\text{\tikt{\text{\tikt{\text{\tikt{\text{\text{\text{\tikit}\xint{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\texi{\text{\texi}\text{\texitit{\text{\text{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texit{\texi{\text{

A little leg work can make a waterfall all the more rewarding. In FMMM CMM SMMM PMMM a spectrum of lush moss paints the rocky perimeter of a 60-foot intermittent cascade. You can find more than M00 species of plants along the trails in this protected nook in Southern Illinois. Also in the region, the sandstone gorge of JMMMM FMMM lures hikers, horseback riders and technical rock climbers for day trips and camping. Contact HMMMM MM SMMM M for in-depth, guided excursions pairing local wisdom with scenic wonder across the Shawnee Hills region.

Let the water-carved contours in stone lead you to French Canyon or 1½ other captivating canyons at SWMMM RWW SWWM PWW in Oglesby. At least 10 of the canyons feature seasonal waterfalls in Illinois' most popular park. Early risers find stillness among the birds and trickling waters tracing new paths through rock. Book a Fall Color Trolley Tour at SWMWW RWW LWWW for a hot lunch, trolley ride and guided walk to a few iconic park features. Or try the Ghost Tours (October) for a rare after-dark experience with a guide sharing paranormal history and lore.

Giant's Bathtub, Lake Falls and Cascade Falls each make stunning destinations along the 1-mile-long canyon in Management Section 1. Management of the sandstone geological wonderland, which is divided between an upper and a lower section. Visitors can traverse the dynamic terrain on foot, horseback or mountain bikes via 9 miles of multiuse trails.

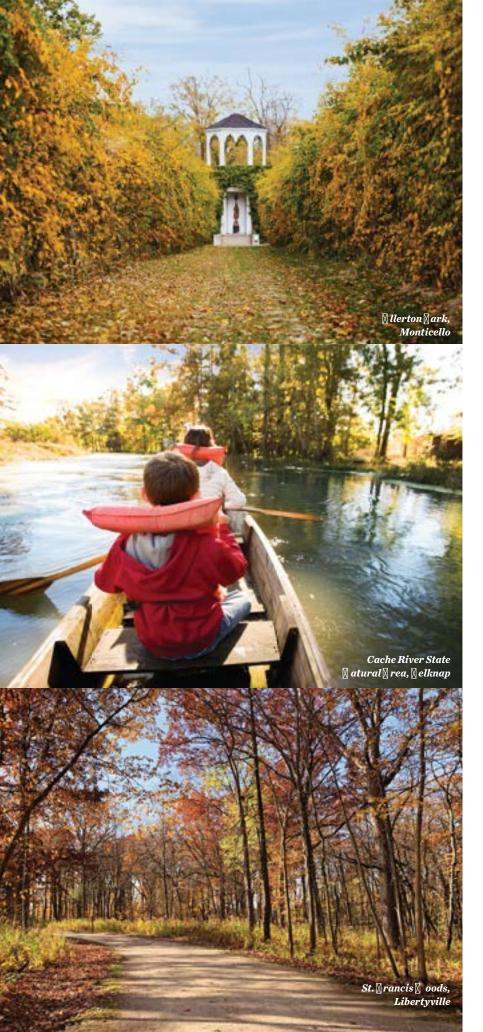












WOODED

These ancient forest destinations promise to make you slow down and look up, learning from sturdy giants that started growing before we had electricity.

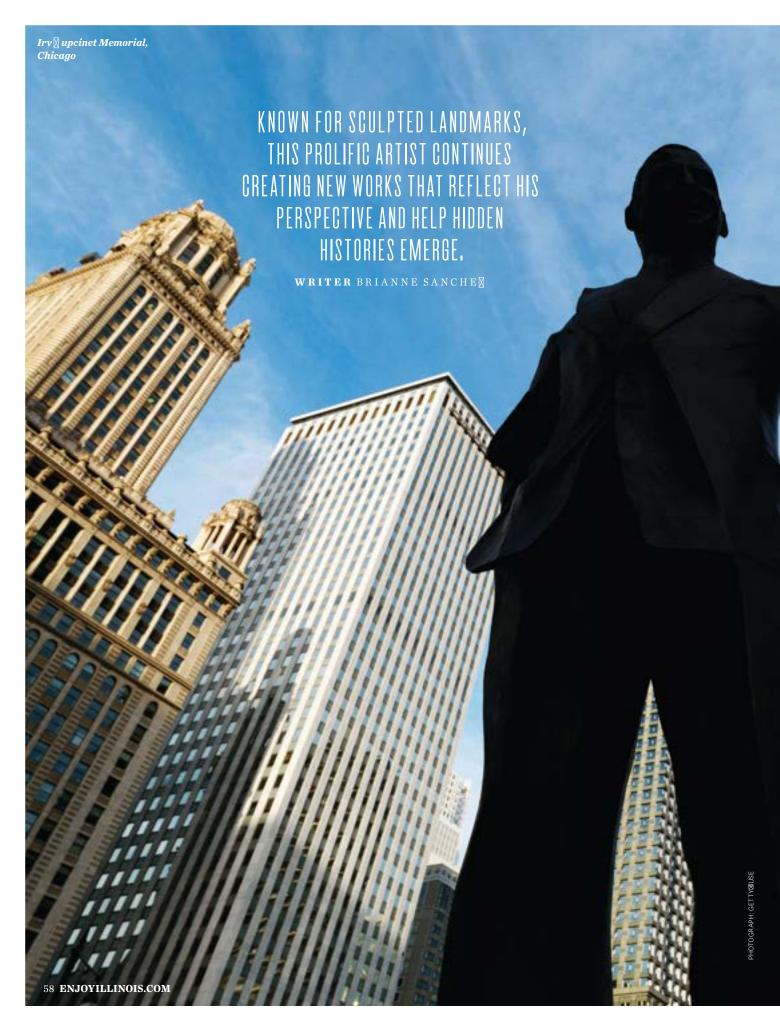
Forest- and water-lovers get the best of both Here in Southern Illinois, ancient cypress trees grow straight out of the river. This stretch of the Cache River claims North America's northernmost cypress forest, while marking the start of the Gulf Coastal Plainspanning 500-plus miles to the Gulf. Get up close and personal with the towering giants on a guided trip with CXXXX BXXXX OXXXX (through November) if you want to be sure to meet the oldest, dazzling cypress, estimated at more than 1,000 years old.

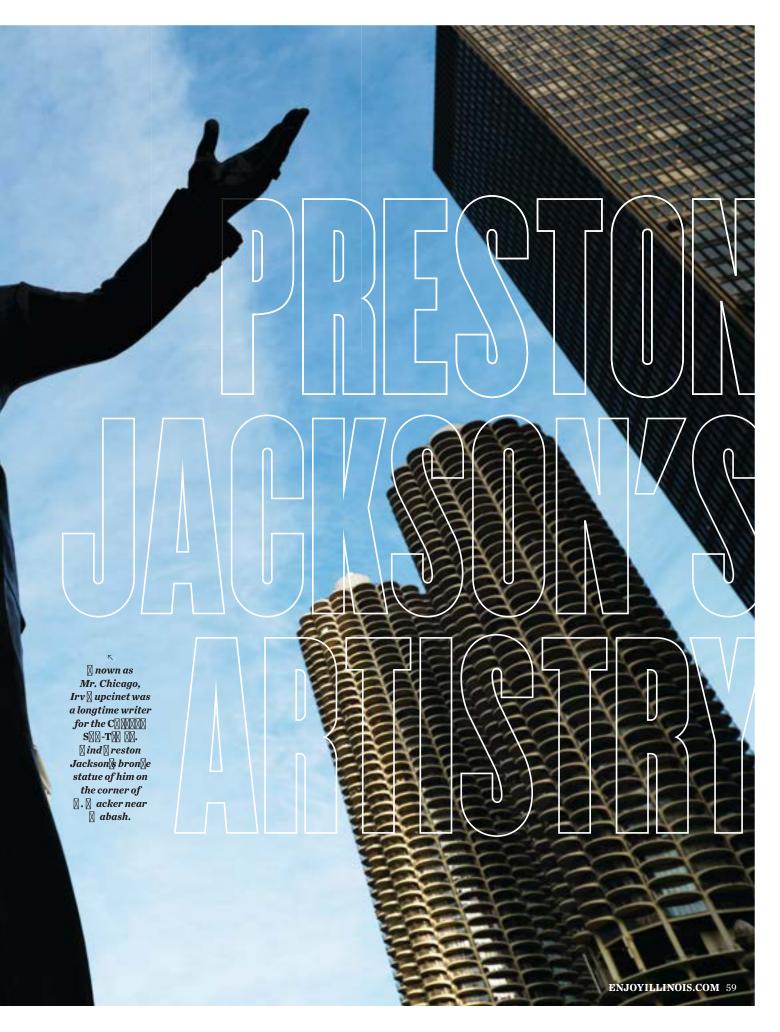
Precious few tracts of old-growth forest remain in the ∅.S. east of the Mississippi River. $\mathbf{B}(M) \otimes \mathbf{W}(M) \otimes \mathbf{S}(M) \otimes \mathbf{P}(M)$ preserves one of them along the banks of the Wabash River near Mount Carmel. The so-called Ŋ niversity of Trees shows off its hickories, bottomland oaks and other supersized deciduous hardwoods year-round.

At another Illinois old-growth tract, oaks that sprouted before the birth of the M.S. Combined with a colorful lineup of other beloved natives, the trees create a gorgeous backdrop to the park's lake, part of the Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville.

Try some forest bathing beneath a canopy of American sycamores, shagbarks, oaks and silver maples in \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} . This old-growth beacon near Monticello shares parkland with intricate gardens and a historic mansion, where visitors can spend the night. The forest is part of the homelands of several Indigenous tribes.

Learning the basics of plant identification, frog behavior or maple sugaring takes on immersive (and delicious) layers at PWWW PMM NMM CMMM in Joliet. The log cabin education center is just the entry point alongside unique old-growth forests, miles of trails and Native American mounds.







urrounded by brightly colored canvases, Preston Jackson exudes creative energy. The renowned artist and performer is back in his studio after refreshing one of his most celebrated works, Mronzeville to Marlem An American Mory. Muthink of it as a living piece Jackson says of the sculptural installation at Peoria Riverfront Museum. Mut's like it's talking to me, and each season seems to be a different kind of conversation.

The small-scale cityscape features hundreds of unique bronze and steel buildings, figures and fixtures. Each is carefully positioned to suggest stories found in urban centers, from the Midwest to Manhattan. Jackson's own family moved to central Illinois as part of the Great Migration (1910\(\frac{M}{19} \) (0). The characters that spring from his imagination share his ancestors' struggle for equality and hope for the future.

As a young boy growing up in Decatur, Jackson's artistic talents helped him stand out among 10 siblings. Yet he wasn't always certain he could financially sustain himself with his artwork. He recalls following in his father's footsteps as a foundry worker before eventually graduating with his M.F.A. from the \(\) niversity of Illinois. \(\) began to grow intellectually, \(\) he says. \(\) That's something I take pride in, because growth of that type leaves an open door so you can go even further.\(\)

Landing faculty roles at Western Illinois ∑ niversity and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago also widened

Jackson's rising recognition and influence afforded him more opportunities, which he paid forward to his local creative community. In 1995, he opened The Raven Gallery and founded the Contemporary Art Center in Peoria. Three years later, Jackson was selected as a laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois for his creative contributions. But he isn't resting on those laurels.

At 81, the career artist and educator continues seeking new experiences. He strives to make a statement and share his dreams through massive works and layered paintings. Also an accomplished guitarist, Jackson takes a jazz musician's approach across mediums. He likens his curiosity to a hungry cat. 《It's all creativity. 《Jackson says. 《Poetry and music, to me, are very close. They're woven together. 《

Often commissioned to design commemorative public art in Illinois and beyond, he's known for creating works that reflect his perspective and help reveal forgotten stories. He aims to distill complex ideas into geometric shapes and organic forms people can understand and interpret.



Midcentury mod. Craftsman. Queen Anne. Greek Revival. If an architectural style was built between the Civil War and the early 20th century, you'll likely find an example of it in historic Quincy.

This Mississippi River town includes four National Register Historic Districts and more than 3,600 structures on the National Register of Historic Places. One intersection (16th and Maine) captures four worldclass architectural styles, including Richardsonian Romanesque. The style, named for architect Henry Hobson Richardson, conveys a sense of grandeur through the use of rough-cut stone, rounded arches, contrasting colors and medieval-inspired embellishments. A prime example is the Newcomb-Stillwell Mansion, which now houses The Quincy Museum (shown).

Explore the magnificent 20,800-square-foot home's first floor before heading upstairs to discover dinosaurs, Mississippi wildlife and Native American exhibits. The museum and about a dozen other significant structures are part of the self-guided Maine Street Mile: Quincy's Most Notable Thoroughfare tour. Check out other neighborhoods on a bike; the first two hours are free though Bike Quincy.

STORY: KRISTIN HAGENSON. PHOTOGRAPH: JASON DONNELLY





WINTER





SNOW FUN

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, GALENA

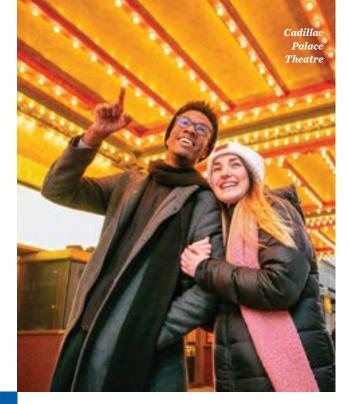
The hills surrounding Galena, in the northwestern tip of the state, are home to two family-friendly resorts that shine in winter. Skiers and snowboarders will find plenty of downhill thrills at Chestnut Mountain Resort, and novices can build their skills in group, private and kid-centric "Powder Pups" lessons. The on-site Summit Food and Spirits has hearty après-ski fare, local craft beers and views of the Mississippi. Fifteen miles north, at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa, there's sledding, an outdoor iceskating rink and snowshoe trails along the shores of Lake Galena, as well as Swedish massages and Hydrafacials at the recently remodeled Stonedrift Spa.

Downtown Galena's well-preserved, 19thcentury redbrick storefronts are filled with inviting specialty shops. Browse for women's clothes; grab a cup of coffee and homemade gelato at Elle and Becks Lifestyle Boutique; pick up Organic Lavender Hand and Body Wash or Patchouli Hand and Body Wash at Galena Apothecary; and check out gifts and home decor at Isabella's Ltd. and kitchenware at The Grateful Gourmet. When happy hour hits, head to the threestory Galena Cellars to taste Cabernet Franc, honey mead and sparkling wines made at the family-run vineyard outside of town. European dishes star on the menus of two of the town's most popular restaurants: Fritz and Frites features German schnitzel and French roast chicken, and Fried Green Tomatoes is known for its lasagna and seafood pasta, served in the 1826 redbrick Dowling House, the oldest house in Galena.











LIVE THEATER, CHICAGO

Chicago is known for its vibrant theater and live-performance scene, and the upcoming season is no exception. A Beautiful Noise, about singer Neil Diamond, is playing at the Cadillac Palace Theatre (November 1–30), plus Phantom of the Opera (December 11–February 1) and The Outsiders (February 10–22). The Joffrey Ballet company presents holiday favorite The Nutcracker at Lyric Opera House (December 5–28). Comedylovers can catch a show nearly every night, whether they're in the mood for improv at The Second City or fine-tuned stand-up acts at Zanies Comedy Club Chicago.

There are opportunities to stand on center stage yourself as well. You can go behind the scenes on tours of **The Chicago Theatre**, where the six-story-high marquee has beckoned visitors since 1921, and **The Auditorium**, an 1889 National Historic Landmark that's hosted U.S. presidents

Teddy Roosevelt and Bill Clinton, and stars like Jimi Hendrix and Aretha Franklin.

Centrally located between these two historic auditoriums—and just two blocks from the Art Institute of Chicago and Millennium Park—the Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel makes a good base camp for seeing shows. The Palmer House is the country's longest continuously operating hotel. Nearby Petterino's is an Italian-American mainstay, while The Grillroom Chophouse and Winebar specializes in steak.

ILLINOIS INSIDER You can score discounted / tickets to Broadway musicals, comedy shows and more through Hot Tix, a service that supports the nonprofit League of Chicago Theatres. This is a great option for last-minute Chicago trips, as tickets often become available for week-of shows.

EYES ON EAGLES

BIRD-WATCHING, ALTON AND GRAFTON

Every winter, just north of St. Louis, a set of Illinois River towns welcomes a skyful of celebrity guests. Hundreds of American bald eagles, as well as trumpeter swans, snowy owls, ducks and geese, migrate here from December through early March.

Pere Marquette Lodge offers a special eagle package that includes meals (the on-site restaurant is beloved for its fried chicken), overnight accommodation and access to

12 miles of wooded trails where eagles often nest nearby. Another good bet for spying the birds of prey is walking across the mile-long, pedestrians-only **Chain of Rocks Bridge** from Granite City over the Mississippi. If you'd rather bird-watch by car, cruise the riverside **Great River Road**, where eagles' 8-foot wingspans are often visible overhead. For a closer look, visit the free **TreeHouse Wildlife Center**, home to five rescued bald eagles, along with foxes, bobcats and snakes.

If all of this puts you in the mood to fly through the air yourself, head to **Aerie's Resort** in Grafton, where you can zoom down hairpin turns on the 4,000-footlong Alpine Coaster. **The Terrace at**

Aerie's Resort has river-bluff views for a great lodging and dining experience. In Alton, Old Bakery Beer Company pours a North American lager they dub Eagle Beer.



Mark your calendar for the free Alton Eagle Ice Festival (mid-January), an annual twoday celebration with live music, an eagle meet and greet, food trucks and an ice-carving competition.







ILLINOIS INSIDER

Sample the distinctive reds, whites and rosés at bucolic wineries during weekends along the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail around Cobden. You can arrange a safe ride with Shawnee Shuttle or Wrightway Transportation before you go.



Giant City Nature Trail, part of the River to River Trail, Shawnee National Forest

SPLISH SPLASH

WATER PARK AND SHOPPING, GURNEE

In the winter, any place in the Midwest that's kept at a balmy 84 degrees is going to be appealing. Add in waterslides, a lazy river and a kid-friendly wave pool, and **Great Wolf Lodge** in Gurnee is a clear family favorite. The suites are spacious and on-site, so you can maximize time exploring the water park.

Nearby, **Gurnee Mills** is the biggest outlet mall in the state, with some 200 stores, including Bass Pro Shops, Nike and Lego. And it's far from just a shopping hub. You'll also find an indoor ice-skating rink, an escape room and the Rainforest Cafe, a kid-centric restaurant with animatronic jungle creatures and a talking tree named Tracy who greets guests. **Launch Family Entertainment**, an indoor trampoline park, is just down the road.

A local hot spot, **Primo Italian American Cuisine**, charbroils steaks in an
1,800-degree oven; the steaks are seasoned
with homemade lavender garlic sea salt. The
extensive menu also features Italian classics
and seafood—save room for the flourless
chocolate cake. Steak and seafood are the
focus at **Stevens**, a local family-owned
option with live music on weekends.



RUSTIC RAMBLE

NATURE, MAKANDA

The River to River Trail spans 160 miles across Southern Illinois, from the Ohio to the Mississippi rivers, through the Shawnee National Forest. You can trek one of its most scenic stretches outside the town of Makanda, where a wooded 3-mile portion of the trail connects two tranquil lodges—both ideal for a weekend retreat.

The **Makanda Inn** sits on 18 acres of peaceful forest, with a creek running nearby. Known as an eco-retreat, the property was made using sustainable materials and methods. The spacious lodge has a 32-foothigh stone fireplace, knotty-pine ceiling and five guest suites. Three standalone cottages

have living roofs with grass and plants, plus plenty of creature comforts: king-size beds, 600-thread-count sheets and soaking tubs. Breakfast is included, and children under 13 aren't permitted at the inn.

At the other end of the hike, you'll find the Giant City Nature Trail and the Giant City Lodge, built from sandstone and white-oak timber in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The lodge has 34 cabins available to rent seasonally, from the first Friday of February through mid-December, along with on-site restaurant Bald Knob Dining Room, which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. The hearty meals seem

designed with long-haul hikers in mind the fried-chicken dinner, hickory-smoked barbecue chicken feast, Friday fish fry and family-style breakfast are all-you-can-eat.

The old-fashioned and friendly vibe extends to Makanda, where the 1890-era Makanda Boardwalk is lined with art galleries and a country store. You'll find more food-and-drink options in nearby Carbondale. Buckwater Brew Works and Whiskey House has live music and more than 300 whiskeys and scotches to sample, while Branch Cafe and Bakery specializes in house-made scones, cakes and muffins, and some vegetarian and vegan options.



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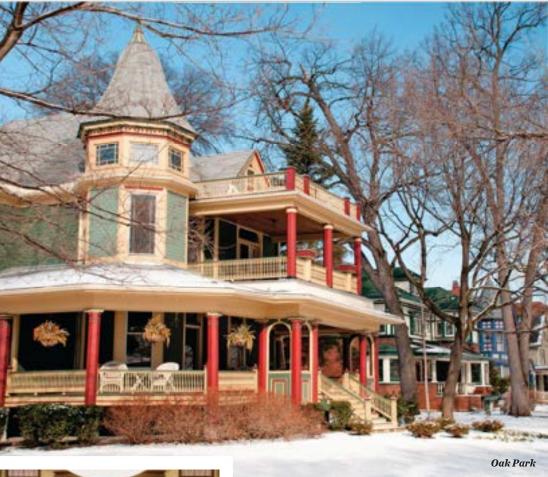


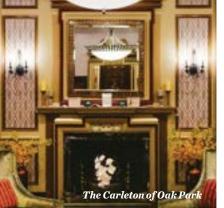
CHICAGO

BEYOND
GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY
LAND OF LINCOLN
TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

IX SIMIE







Oak Park Area

With its world-famous architecture and storied past, Oak Park-Chicago's longtime next-door neighbor—has the "Wright" stuff for a getaway focused on connecting with history and nature.

Oak Park borders Chicago on the west, 9 miles from downtown. The

Great Chicago Fire of 1871 played an important role in the village's growth and history, as it pushed people into the suburbs. For a young architect named Frank Lloyd Wright, he felt it offered a balance between urban life and nature. Wright built a home in Oak Park, and also designed more than two dozen structures around town, including the pioneering Laura Gale House, which foreshadowed his iconic Fallingwater in Pennsylvania. In 1898, Wright built his studio in Oak Park. One year later and half a mile away, Ernest Hemingway was born.

Today, the Oak Park area beckons Chicago visitors for a side trip that's easy to make by car, L train (Green Line) or Metra train. In addition to visiting Wright-designed buildings, architecture aficionados and history buffs can explore Riverside, a planned community designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, and take a There Goes the Neighbor Hood bus tour of gangsters' homes in Oak Park and River Forest. Families gravitate to Brookfield Zoo Chicago in nearby Brookfield for animal adventures, and nature-lovers take their pick of parks and trails. In the Oak Park Arts **District**, art appreciators find galleries and boutiques with a creative bent.



The new James and Elizabeth Bramsen Tropical Forests habitat at **Brookfield Zoo Chicago** mimics the natural homes of gorillas, orangutans and monkeys.

What kind of home does a renowned architect design for his family? See for yourself at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio. Wright's Unity Temple, a concrete church, is nearby.

At the Ernest Hemingway Birthplace Museum, tour the Queen Anne Victorian home where "Papa" was born to his mama, Grace.

EAT

In a renovated 1919 bank with a rooftop terrace, One Lake Brewing crafts beers (like imperial stout Been Czar, Done That) and elevated pub bites.

Invoking Oak Park's original name (Joseph and Betty Kettlestrings settled the area), Kettlestrings **Grove** evokes a speakeasy spirit with its cocktails, charcuterie and small plates.

STAY

For a boutique hotel experience close to historical attractions. book The Carleton of Oak Park. They also offer an economical Motor Inn adjacent to the hotel.

ILLINOIS INSIDER

Exotic plants and native flora vie for eyes at Oak Park Conservatory, an urban oasis. Tour the Mediterranean Room, Tropical Room and Desert Room, plus outdoor gardens.

POPULATION 52,947

OF NOTE

Oak Park was long a dry town, banning the sale of alcohol from 1872 until 1973.



CHICAGO № BEYOND GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY LAND OF LINCOLN TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

ILLINOIS INSIDER

Bask in the Tropical Sun Garden at the Quad City Botanical Center. An atrium with a 0-foot-tall skylight nurtures fruitbearing plants like cacao, banana and coffee.

DO

Plow through a hands-on history of farming at the \mathbf{J} in Moline. Sit in the cab of machines big and small and drive heavy equipment simulators. Cruise the Mississippi River aboard the Celebration | elle, a paddle-wheeler that departs from Moline (through October).

EAT

Indulge in a hot fudge ice cream parlor in Molineit's been downtown since 1908. They make chocolates in-house and serve deli sandwiches too. Coffeeinfused ∅ ncommon Stout is a fave at **B** \mathbf{B} Moline and Rock Island. Pair their craft beer with a Get Bent burger, BBQ wings or fried pickle chips.

STAY

Timeless character and modern comforts merge in T A H Which offers boutique rooms in Moline's ornate 192∑ Fifth Avenue Building. Experience open-concept, eco-friendly design at EMM MMMMM set in a 191\ warehouse. Rooms feature kitchens, high-end beds and spa baths. Get your game-and glamon at **B** Rock Island. Swank suites suit high rollers.



A river runs through the \mathbb{N} uad Cities, a storied region straddling two states. The Illinois side holds military and ag history, plus outdoor rec and tempting flavors.



Anchored by an east-west bend in the Mississippi River, the Quad Cities region includes the Illinois towns of Rock Island, Moline and East Moline. With Interstate-₩4, I-80 and I-88 converging in the area, it's easy to reach by car. Rock Island is the namesake of the river's largest isle, now called Arsenal Island, as well as the famed Rock Island Line railroad. Arsenal Island is home to the **R**XXX **I**XXXX **A**XXXXX **A**XXXX a large and active \(\) .S. Army installation that provides equipment and services to all the armed forces. The island also encompasses several historic buildings, military cemeteries and a museum. The Arsenal's golf course,

dating to 189 recently reopened after a six-year hiatus. You'll need a visitor pass (available on-site) to play. At the island's MWWWWW R V V C W watch barges navigate Lock and Dam 15.

Moline is headquarters for farm equipment giant John Deere. Take a new self-guided tour, the JMM DMMM TMM to explore the company's local heritage. With help from your phone, you can stop and interact with more than a dozen sites connected to Deere and Company. Also worth following is the 62-mile **G** TWW Hop on it from Rock Island's Swhere spectacular views await.

POPULATION

98,903 (Rock Island, Moline and East Moline)

OF NOTE

The name and likeness of Black Hawk, a Sauk leader, are ingrained in local culture, including Rock Island's Black Hawk State Historic Site, dedicated to his memory.



OF NOTE

Due to their religious beliefs, most Amish prefer you don't take photos showing their faces.

ILLINOIS INSIDER

Family fun and free food samples are part of the Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival, held every Labor Day weekend. Watch (or enter) the National Cheese Eating Championships.



In Illinois Amish Country, members of the ultratraditional faith community coexist peacefully with modern society, the two worlds sharing an appreciation for handcrafted furniture and small entrepreneurial businesses.

Time travel isn't science fiction in Illinois Amish Country. Amish folks live, farm and work in the countryside surrounding the village of Arthur. Visiting here takes you back to an era when farmers worked the land with teams of horses, artisans crafted beautiful things with their hands, and horse-drawn buggies carried people from place to place. The Amish community surrounding Arthur is the oldest and largest in Illinois. Started in 1865 by a few families, it has grown to include more than 4,500 people. The nearby towns of Arcola, Sullivan and Tuscola serve as gateways to the Amish area.

Farming is still the main way of life for the Amish, but they've also developed cottage industries like baking and furniture making. In Arthur, you can buy handcrafted Amish furniture at TMM WMM LXXX and in Arcola, shop YXXXX \mathbf{H} A K K F K K Along with Amish farms and businesses on the outskirts, you'll find shops and restaurants in downtown Arthur. Just be careful As you drive in Amish Country, watch out for black buggies, farm equipment and bicycles. Slow down and enjoy your journey back in time.





DO

Pick and grin at TMM GMMM
PMM MMM PMMMSouth of
Arthur, where 300 global
varieties of pumpkins,
squash and gourds grow
on a family farm. Navigate
mazes and eat pumpkin
ice cream. See the oldest
Amish dwelling in Illinois,
the 1865 Moses Yoder
House, and other historic
structures at the IMMMM
AMM HMMMMM CMMMM
east of Arthur. A new
museum is in the works.

EAT

Hand-dipped chocolates and homemade ice cream satisfy sweet tooths at FINAL CAND KAND IN TUSCOLA, founded in 1901 and reopened in 2004.

Anna Herschberger, owner of YIMM KAND in Arthur, was raised in an Amish home and learned to cook from her mother. Enjoy a hearty buffet.

STAY

GXXXX MXXXVIIIX HXXXXXIIIX SAMAXXIIIIX IN Arcola, part of the BW Signature Collection, offers free breakfast, a heated indoor pool and a 24-hour exercise facility. Right off I-5X the HXXXIIX IX EXMIXIX in Tuscola provides the same modern comforts, plus it's pet-friendly.



CHICAGO № BEYOND GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY LAND OF LINCOLN TRAILS TO ADVENTURE



Shop for handmade pottery Grimmer's Alto Pass studio and showroom. He fires his pieces in a wood-burning kiln. For a taste of the 1800s, visit **S** $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{M}) (\mathbf{M}) \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{M}) (\mathbf{M}) \mathbf{M} (\mathbf{M}) (\mathbf{M})$ in Harrisburg, where historic structures include cabins, a Quaker church, a post o∑ ce and a jail.

EAT

BXXXX HXXX GXXXX in Anna promises affordable upscale dining. Build a meal around fried catfish fillets with lemon-caper aioli or hand-cut grilled pork chops with goat cheese butter. Dutch babies are a fave at TM IMM WMMM a breakfast and lunch spot in Cobden. The puffed pancakes, cooked in an iron skillet, are a cross between omelettes and crepes.

STAY

Suites at \mathbf{D} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{S} in Anna feature king beds, whirlpool tubs, kitchenettes and chalkboards from the building's former life. T S S S rental near Vienna, packs a living room, dining area, full bed and bath (with shower) into a school bus parked near Shawnee National Forest.



Go back to school in Nouthern Illinois Nyou'll learn a lot, but no grades or homework, and you can spend recess exploring a giant natural playground.

Getting schooled is actually fun in Southern Illinois, where recreation and education meet at several of the region's top attractions. The longtime Alto Pass Grade School, built in 1928, now houses pottery studio A CON W

A field trip to \mathbf{S} V M M M in Harrisburg is an engaging introductory course on local history. The site includes a one-room schoolhouse. **D** Anna offers luxury stays in a 1910 building that served elementary students for nearly 90 years. And the **S**∭∭∭ near Vienna is a Blue Bird school bus converted into an A-plus Airbnb.

The region has working schools, too, most notably **S** cultural curriculum for visitors includes art at the SMMM MMMMM M drama in **M L T T** concerts at \mathbf{S} botany at **M** and phys ed (D1 college sports) in SIU AMM. At recess time, play in nearby **S**MM MM **N**MMMMFMMMM with bluffs, waterfalls and lakes beloved by hikers, anglers and wildlife watchers. A highlight is Garden of the Gods, a stretch of rock formations nature started sculpting more than 320 million years ago.

ILLINOIS INSIDER

Drink a Chambourcin, Chocolate Milk Stout or Vienna Lager at Von Jakob Winery and Brewery in Alto Pass, along the Shawnee Wine Trail. Enjoy lunch and dinner (weekends) too.



POPULATION 36,31

OF NOTE

Actor-comedian Jim Belushi is among the more famous graduates of Southern Illinois ∑ niversity in Carbondale.

EXPLORE

Check out these inspiring places across Illinois.



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DRIVING IN ILLINOIS

Illinois highways and roads are well maintained and provide posted signage for drivers, so taking a road trip is a breeze. Chicago is a day's drive or less from major cities including Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, ⋈ ansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Toronto.

State law requires you to wear a seatbelt when traveling by car. Speed limits are posted in miles per hour (mph) and vary between 300 mph on rural interstates and freeways and 45 mph on urban interstates and freeways.

You may not use your cell phone for texting while driving, and you must use hands-free technology to make calls.

For construction updates, maps, seasonal road conditions and other information, visit gettingaroundillinois.com

ILLINOIS TOLLWAYS

Some northern Illinois highways require tolls for use. Rates vary⊠ not all toll plazas have attendants. Electronic toll collection is available through I-PASS or any transponder that's part of the E-⊠ Pass system.

Drivers who miss tolls have 14 days to pay online. Note the license plate number, date, time and locations of unpaid tolls—that information will be required when submitting payments online.

For maps, rates, online payment options and other info, visit *illinoistollway.com*

REST AREAS AND WELCOME CENTERS

The state of Illinois serves drivers with 53 rest areas and 11 welcome centers, located on highways throughout the state. Open 24 hours a day, they offer restroom facilities, picnic areas, lighted walkways, maps, security cameras and parking for recreational vehicles, among other services. For locations, visit *idot.illinois.gov*

ARRIVING BY PLANE

Domestic travelers can fly direct to destinations including Belleville, Bloomington-Normal, Champaign™ rbana, Decatur, Marion, Moline, Peoria, Quincy, Rockford and Springfield, as well as Chicago.

Once you land at either of Chicago's two major airports, Chicago Transit Authority trains can get you downtown. For info, go to *transitchicago.com*

Regular shuttles to many Chicago downtown hotels leave from each airport. You can also get a taxi or rideshare. For more information on getting to and from Chicago's airports (including renting vehicles or arranging car services), visit flychicago.com

FMM OMHMM IMMMMMMMMMA
AMMMMMthe Blue Line elevated train (known as the L) takes passengers to downtown Chicago in about 45 minutes. Follow the CTA Trains or Trains to City signs at the airport. If you arrive at the international terminal, follow the signs to the Airport Transit System, where you can

FMM CMMMM MMM MM IMMMMMMMMMMMMMM CTA Orange Line L train

then catch the Linto the city.

get a free ride to Terminal 2 and

CTA Orange Line L train takes about 25 minutes to get to downtown Chicago.

OTHER TRANSIT AROUND CHICAGO

Metra runs commuter rail services from downtown Chicago to outlying suburbs and surrounding cities. For maps, schedules, alerts and more, visit *metra.com*

The Regional Transportation Authority serves Chicago and its many suburbs. Its RTA trip planner can help you figure out how to get where you want to go. Visit *rtachicago.org*

Amtrak runs trains to 31 cities in Illinois, and Greyhound Lines serves most major Illinois cities. Go to *amtrak.com* or *greyhound.com*

AN OL ER

Legal statewide, alcohol, gambling and other substance use by adults may vary by city or municipality.



If you drink, don't drive. Instead, hail a cab or use a rideshare app. The state's legal limit for blood alcohol is 0.08.



Fifteen casinos operate throughout the state some of these are riverboat casinos.



The Cannabis
Regulation and Tax Act
legalizes the lawful
use of cannabis for adults
(21 years and older).

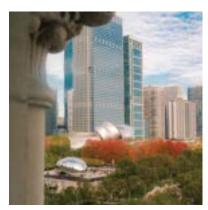


The Smoke-Free Illinois Act prohibits smoking, including e-cigarettes and vaping, in most public places, including theaters, museums, casinos, restaurants and bars.



#ENJOYILLINOIS

Follow @enjoyillinois on Instagram to see pics from around the state. Tag #enjoyillinois for your chance to be featured.















CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT → Pink Elephant Antique Mall, Livingston @jerzy.co; Millennium Park, Chicago @dametraveler; Rock Guardians, Rockford @karakoudas_helen; Legends Neon Sign Park at the Illinois State Fair Route 66 Experience, Springfield @carol_highsmith_america; Superman Statue, Metropolis @supermanmuseum; Leaning Tower of Niles @brittwithintent; Railsplitter Covered Wagon, Lincoln @tourloco; Barbershop Pole, Casey @theknottybun_



OVERNIGHT IN THE HEORT OF ILLINOIS! DO TO THE HEORY OF 16 66 (1)

Dozens of Route 66 sites, attractions, murals, wayfinding exhibits and culinary delights, all nestled around world-class Abraham Lincoln sites.

LEGENDARY SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS=











VISIT OUR WEBSITE:





