

Spring 2021

Explore Illinois



Find the best Hidden
Gems in Central Illinois

See the Top 10
Golf Courses

Plan your next
Illinois Roadtrip



Welcome to the Land of Lincoln

Come and explore all the amazing things Illinois has to offer! In this edition we invite you to find the hidden gems of central Illinois. From the historic capital city of Springfield to the small town Effingham, there is always something to do! The Land of Lincoln is ready to have you, so why not come down for a weekend and enjoy all it has to offer.

Illinois is a great place for anyone to discover. Whether you are a local in the state or a vacationer looking for something new to do, there is a destination perfect for you in this great state. You could visit the capital building and see where President Abraham Lincoln had resided, or may-

be visit Casey, IL home of the world's largest rocking chair, golf tee, pitch fork, and wind chimes. Come try some of the best foods the Midwest can provide such as a Horseshoe or St. Louis Style Pizza. Dive into some local bars and breweries to try some of the best

drinks in America. If you are looking for something to do, Illinois surely has it! Central Illinois is host to a number of historic and well-worth visiting towns and cities including Springfield, Decatur, Champaign, Effingham, Mattoon, Jacksonville, Salem, Mt. Vernon, Peoria, and so much more! In this edition of Explore Illinois, we will show you those hidden gems that you couldn't find

anywhere else. We will discover sites and landmarks that you need to see for you self, and tell you where the best local eats are. We will show upcoming events in the Spring and Summer.

So what are waiting for? Plan your next trip her and read further to know all you need

to know about Central Illinois. See you soon!

Signed,
Karla Flannery
Deputy Director - Illinois Office of Tourism



Photo by Miguel Bandeira

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Send Us an Email!

contact@exploreil.com



Ten Day Road Trip



Jacksonville

Day 1



Photo by Paul Sablaman

Peoria
Day 9-10



Photo by Orselli ~ Bill

Springfield
Day 2-4



Photo by artisticmc

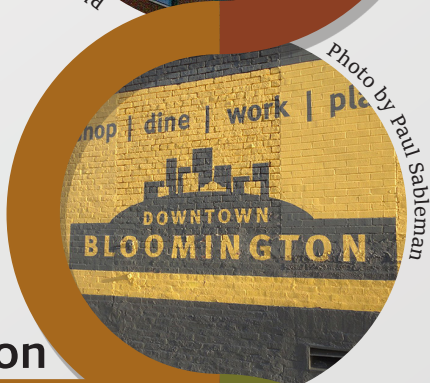


Photo by Paul Sablaman

Bloomington
Day 8

Decatur
Day 5



Photo by Randy von Liski



Photo by Beyond my Ken

Champaign
Day 6-7

The Best Stops and Sights

Photo by Travis Stansel



• Quincy

6

The Stops

1. Illinois State Fair
2. Lake Decatur
3. World's Largest Objects
4. Peoria Riverfront Museum
5. Staerkel Planetarium



Jacksonville •

7



Photo by NerdyWife

The Sights

6. Illinois State Capital Building
7. Jacksonville Civil War Memorial
8. The Cross at the Crossroads
9. Cahokia Mounds
10. David Davis Mansion





4
● Peoria

● Normal
● Bloomington

10
● Urbana

2
● Decatur

5
● Champaign

1
★ Springfield



3
● Casey

● Effingham



8

● Collinsville
9

Stops of Illinois



Illinois State Fair 801 E Sangamon Ave, Springfield, IL

1



Photo by Randy von Liski

Photo by The Bushranger



2

Lake Decatur Decatur, IL

3

World's Largest Objects Casey, IL



Photo by Duncan Rawlinson



Photo by Drew Tarvin



Photo by Jud McCranie



Photo by Coasterlover1994

Photo by David Vernon



Peoria Riverfront Museum

222 SW Washington St, Peoria, IL

4

Staerkel Planetarium

2400 W Bradley Ave,
Champaign, IL

5



Photo by Steven Pratten

6

Illinois State Capitol
401 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL



Photo by Daniel X O'Neil

Photo by Jenny Barker-Devine



7

**Jacksonville
Civil War
Memorial**
Central Park Plaza,
Jacksonville, IL

The Cross at the Crossroads
2603 S Raney St, Effingham, IL

8



Photo by Daniel Schwen



Sights of Illinois



Photo by Bryce Edwards

Cahokia Mounds

30 Ramey Street
Collinsville, IL

9

10

David Davis Mansion
1000 Monroe Dr, Bloomington, IL

Photo by Matt Turner



Best Hotels for Your Trip

Culture Boutique Hotel

445 E Commercial St. Springfield, IL



Photo by Culture Boutique Hotel

Sleep Inn

3920 E Hospitality Lane,
Decatur, IL

Drury Inn

905 West Anthony Drive,
Champaign, IL

Hawthorn Suites

1 Lyon Court, Bloomington, IL

Pere Marquette

501 Main Street Peoria, IL

Photo by Onasill ~ Bill



Compare Your Stays

Hotel	Free Breakfast	Pool	Pets Allowed	Gym	Free Parking
Culture Boutique Hotel	✓				✓
Sleep Inn	✓	✓	✓		✓
Drury Inn	✓	✓	✓		✓
Hawthorn Suites	✓	✓		✓	✓
Pere Marquette			✓	✓	

Guide

\$ Price

GF Gluten-Free Options

☞ Bar

☀ Outdoor Dining

🌐 Order Online



Photo by Hamilton Walker's

Hamilton Walker's Steakhouse & Seafood

201 N Neil St,
Champaign, IL 61820

\$\$\$

GF

☀

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🌐

Best Eats

Photo by Anna Thai



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GF

☀

Anna Thai Cuisine

Thai
253 N. Main St,
Decatur, IL 62523

\$\$\$

GF

☀

☞

🌐



Photo by Firefly Grill

Firefly Grill American Cuisine

1810 Avenue of Mid-America,
Effingham, IL 62401

\$

☀

🌐



Photo by Fort Jess Cafe

Fort Jesse Cafe American Homestyle

1531 Fort Jesse Rd,
Normal, IL 61761

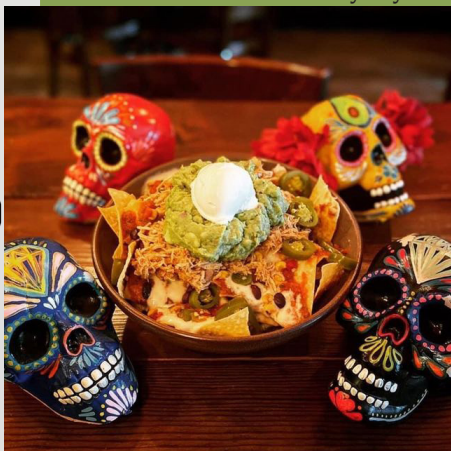


Photo by Cayenne

Cayenne

Mexican
4542 N. Prospect Rd,
Peoria Heights 61616

\$\$

☀

☞

Ten Golf Courses

you need to play at on your trip to Illinois

Weaver Ridge Golf Club

5100 N Weaverridge Blvd, Peoria

Canyata Golf Club

18240 E 2150th Rd, Marshall

Sunset Hills

Country Club

2525 S State Rte 157, Edwardsville

Turtle Run Golf Club

332 E Liberty Ln, Danville

Oak Terrace Resort

100 Beyers Lake Rd, Pana

Red Tail Run Golf Club

520 W Grove Rd, Decatur

El Paso Golf Club

2860 County Rd 600 N, El Paso

Ironhorse Golf Club

2000 Iron Horse Dr, Tuscola

Acorns Golf Links

3933 Ahne Rd, Waterloo

Lincoln Greens Golf Course

700 E Lake Shore Dr, Springfield





Photo by Gaspar Manuel Zaldo