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DeKalb County Features a Variety of Roadtrip Options

New interactive map helps with planning

(DeKalb, Ill.) Whether you seek a staycation or a good stopping place for a road trip in the Midwest, DeKalb County is a great choice for your getaway. Featuring a variety of activities throughout the summer – including the area’s many farmers’ markets, park concerts, community festivals and celebrations – DeKalb County offers indoor and outdoor options for all ages.

According to Debbie Armstrong, executive director of the [DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau \(CVB\)](#), “Summer in DeKalb County is filled with festivals, live music under the stars, art exhibits, muscle cars and more. Travelers will appreciate several large art fairs that feature a variety of juried artists who travel from Illinois and surrounding states to display their unique creations for purchase. They will also enjoy shopping at one of our farmers’ markets for healthy choices and some of the area’s award-winning wines.”

Interactive Map & Guide Make Advance Planning Easier

Armstrong recommended travelers use the CVB’s interactive tools to make planning easier and avoid missing popular events. The recently launched [interactive map \(iMap\)](#) allows travelers to see locations and plan itineraries online via a computer or mobile device, with pop-up points of interest that include images, videos and links. The [CVB’s interactive visitors guide](#) also aids with planning.

“Our new interactive map makes it easy for visitors to plan their trip to DeKalb County,” Armstrong explained. “The iMap highlights over 500 local points of interest, provides driving directions, maps out your route and allows you to create and share itineraries with friends and family. Checking our Calendar of Events before planning your trip is also a good idea because we update the calendar weekly.”

Upcoming Activities

Depending on the timing of your trip, the following activities may be of special interest:

- **Northern Illinois Art Show (June 6-7)** – With more than 60 vendors from artists across the Midwest, the 44th Annual Arts/Crafts Show is presented by the Kishwaukee Valley Art League.
- **Hopkins Park Celebration & Sycamore Park’s Celebration (July 4)** – Among the area’s many 4th of July events, these two celebrate our nation’s independence with live music in the beautiful outdoor band shelter at Hopkins Park or as part of the Summer Concert Series at Sycamore Park – bring chairs, blankets and games to enjoy the day with family or friends. Fireworks at dusk will be a highlight of the day’s festivities.



- **Kingston Fest & Kardboard Regatta (July 18)** – Children’s games, rides, crafts, food, a 5K run and a regatta consisting of full-size boats made entirely out of cardboard will be fun to watch as they paddle down the Kishwaukee River.
- **Kishwaukee Fest (July 18-26)** – Celebrate music all week with concerts and other activities.
- **Downtown DeKalb “Parade of Parades” (July 24)** – Part of the Kishwaukee Fest, this twilight parade goes through downtown DeKalb.
- **Turning Back Time Weekend in Sycamore (July 24-26)** – Experience the 50s in Sycamore with vintage rides, classic cars, live entertainment, a free outdoor movie on the big screen and more.
- **Art Fair & Ice Cream Social at Ellwood House (August 2)** – The Ellwood House Museum combines two popular traditions with art and ice cream on the grounds of this historic mansion. Paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, photography, jewelry and fiber arts, along with the DeKalb Municipal Band will be featured as part of the festivities on the museum’s terrace.
- **Cortland Summer Fest (August 7-8)** – This nearby town features several bands, a car show, food vendors and Friday night fireworks.
- **DeKalb Barn Tour (August 8)** – A one-day driving tour of select barn sites within DeKalb County, the Barn Tour is jointly hosted by the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center and the DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association (DAAHA). Drivers receive a map and guide book containing hand-drawn sketches of each barn and the story of each barn’s history, style and use. Drive to each location, in any order, for a guided tour of the barn(s).
- **Sycamore Steam Show & Threshing Bee (August 13-16)** – Threshing with steam engines and gas tractors is featured at this event, along with an operating sawmill, a shingle mill next to the sawmill, barrel train rides, a mule team and wagon for rides, live music, a large gas engine display (over 275 types and sizes) and more.
- **Corn Fest (August 28-30)** – Now in its 37th year, the Corn Fest is one of the last, free summer music festivals in Illinois. More than 100,000 people from across the Midwest enjoy live music, corn on the cob, carnival rides, games, large inflatables and a beer garden during the three-day weekend.

Top It Off with the Kite Fest

The 10th Anniversary Kite Fest, held September 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., is a great way to conclude the summer, with high-flying kites that are over 90 feet in length. Giant inflatable kites, dancing kites and fighting kites are flown high up in the sky. “Some of these kites have to be seen to be believed,” Armstrong said. “Our Kite Fest is a must-see that attracts people from the region and surrounding states. Some bring their own kites, while others purchase one at the event.”

About DeKalb County

Nestled in the heart of Illinois (just 60 miles west of Chicago), DeKalb County is rich in history, shopping, arts and culture, dining and recreation for all four seasons. Cortland, DeKalb, Genoa, Hinckley, Kingston, Kirkland, Lee, Malta, Maple Park, Sandwich, Shabbona, Somonauk, Sycamore and Waterman are the communities included in the DeKalb County area. Many other opportunities to enjoy holidays, as well as the coming months, are available – check DeKalbCountyCVB.com for more information and dates. Or call 877-335-2521 for assistance planning travel for groups and families.

For more information or an interview, contact:

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– or –

check the media/galleries at: <http://dekalbcountycvb.com/media/>.

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