

The Illinois Scenic Byway

ROAD TRIP

Great River Road • Historic National Road • Historic Route 66 • Illinois Lincoln Highway
Illinois River Road • Meeting of the Great Rivers • Ohio River Scenic Byway



AMERICA'S BYWAYS™



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

Illinois Lincoln Highway



Illinois River Road



Great River Road



Historic Route 66



Historic National Road



Meeting of the Great Rivers



Great River Road



Ohio River Scenic Byway



THE ROAD TRIP.

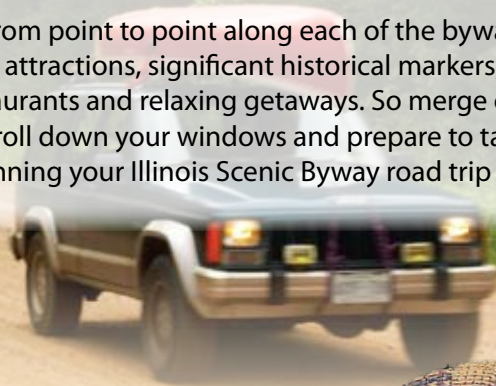
It's an American tradition, a rite of passage—stretching back to the days following World War II, when the family automobile became a staple in most households, a spirit of adventure gripped a nation emerging from war and highways began to connect nearly every corner of this vast country. Before the construction of the interstate highway system, many of these journeys took place on two-lane roads that meandered through America's small towns and over its incredibly diverse topography.

In the nation's heartland, seven such roads led travelers to their destinations, winding alongside great rivers, stretching across grassy plains and fields of grain and retracing the steps of ancient cultures, European explorers and American pioneers. Today, these roads are known as the America's Byways®. From the northwestern corner of Illinois to its southern tip, from the bustling city of Chicago to the smallest rural villages, the byways serve as gateways to adventure, trips back in time and journeys into the heart and soul of America.

This guide takes you from point to point along each of the byways, highlighting must-see attractions, significant historical markers, outdoor adventures, tasty restaurants and relaxing getaways. So merge out of the fast lane, grab a map, roll down your windows and prepare to take the scenic route. Start planning your Illinois Scenic Byway road trip today!

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ABOUT AMERICA'S BYWAYS® • One hundred and twenty-five distinct, diverse roads in 44 states have been recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as the most significant routes throughout the country based on their scenery, natural, culture, history, archaeology and recreational opportunities.

THE NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM • The vision of the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program is "To create a distinctive collection of American roads, their stories and treasured places." Our mission is to provide resources to the byway community in creating a unique travel experience and enhanced local quality of life through efforts to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities of designated byways.

The National Scenic Byways (NSB) Program was established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, and reauthorized by the federal transportation bills of 1998 and 2005. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. There are 125 such designated Byways in 44 states. The Federal Highway Administration promotes the collection as the America's Byways®.

This program is founded upon the strength of the leaders for individual Byways. It is a voluntary, grassroots program. It recognizes and supports outstanding roads. It provides resources to help manage the intrinsic qualities within the broader Byway corridor to be treasured and shared. Perhaps one of the underlying principles for the program has been articulated best by the Byway leader who said, "the program is about recognition, not regulation."



Content provided by:

www.byways.org

GREAT RIVER ROAD



Home to an ancient civilization. Birthplace of a president. Supply channel during the Civil War. Migration route for waterfowl.

No river has shaped America's past or its natural landscape like the Mighty Mississippi—and there's no better place to learn the story than from traveling the Great River Road in Illinois. Following the river's path along the western border of Illinois through the nation's heartland, this scenic journey brings you majestic banks and bluffs, fertile fields and prairies, wildlife-abundant waterways and century upon century of American history.

Whether you're sipping local wine, watching wintering bald eagles, exploring prehistoric cultures, touring historic forts or merely enjoying the scenic drive along the bluffs and valleys, you'll find the true heart of America along the Great River Road.



Web: www.greatriverroad-illinois.org
Email: info@greatriverroad-illinois.org
Phone: 877-477-7007





Plan your ROAD TRIP

NORTHWESTERN REGION

Step back in time in hilly, European-style Galena, where fine mansions and commercial buildings are home to quaint bed and breakfasts, antique shops and restaurants. Tour the Ulysses S. Grant home or venture to Chestnut Mountain ski resort, featuring 19 ski trails in winter and an alpine slide in summer.



Chestnut Mountain, Galena

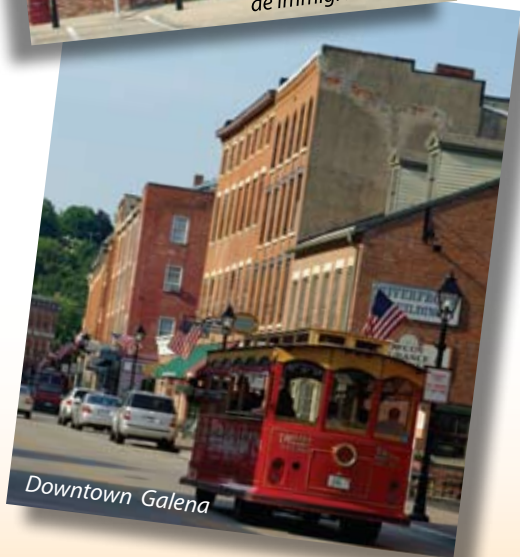


Lace up your hiking boots for a trip through Mississippi Palisades State Park, three miles north of Savanna—a nature lover’s paradise offering picnicking, hiking, camping and scenic views of the river. In Thomson, discover more about the river and its wildlife at the Ingersall Wetlands Learning Center, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Don’t miss Fulton’s famous “de Immigrant,” the only working Dutch windmill in Illinois and one of only two in the nation. Engineered and built in the Netherlands, it was shipped to America in pieces and assembled by Dutch workers atop the levee here. In Albany, hike the tall prairie grass trail to discover the Indian burial grounds dating back to 2000 B.C.



de Immigrant, Fulton



Downtown Galena



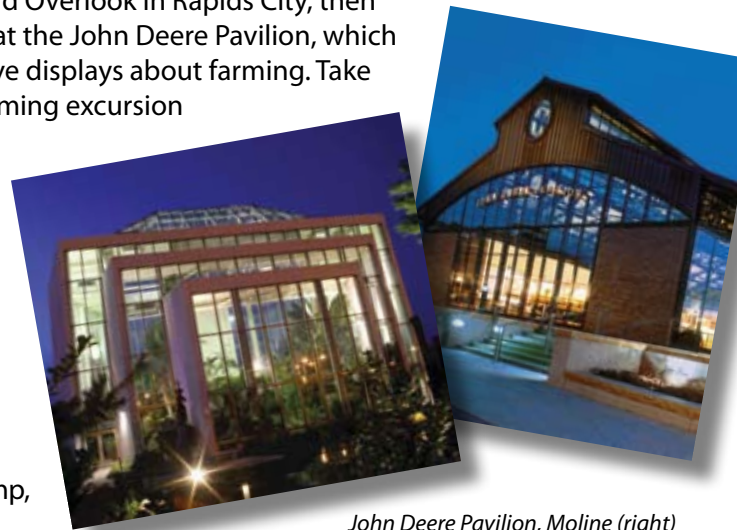
QUAD CITIES REGION

Few areas provide better views of the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River plays a huge part in the Quad Cities as a modern and historical natural resource and site for recreation. Bike paths, picnic areas, sailing and other kinds of recreational boating, water-skiing, charter boats, sculptures and community-built art pieces, parks and much more can be found all along the river.

The treacherous Rock Island Rapids made commercial traffic impossible here until the large rocks that formed the rapids were blasted out; the navigation channel was widened and deepened, and Lock and Dam 15 was built.

Start your visit at the Mississippi Rapids Information Center and Overlook in Rapids City, then head to Moline to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage at the John Deere Pavilion, which showcases modern-day and vintage equipment and interactive displays about farming. Take a sightseeing trip on the Celebration Belle, the largest non-gaming excursion vessel on the Upper Mississippi.

In Rock Island, visit the arsenal for its military museum and an excellent view of the river, lock and dam operations and bald eagles that nest here during winter. Then tour the Black Hawk State Historic Site, a wooded area closely identified with the Sauk nation and named one of Illinois' seven wonders. Another highlight is the Quad City Botanical Center with its 6,444-square-foot Sun Gardens, tropical trees and plants, 14-foot waterfall and reflecting pools. As you head south, visit the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve in Illinois City, where you can camp, picnic, rent a boat or trek along the river and horse trails.



John Deere Pavilion, Moline (right)
Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island (left)

Nauvoo Temple, Nauvoo



HEARTLAND REGION

Pioneer days on the river and the tumultuous history of Joseph Smith and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints both live on in Nauvoo's many museums and exhibits. Don't miss the majestic Mormon Temple or the town's numerous craft shops, restaurants and winery.

In Quincy, architectural appreciation is on the agenda. Visit the John Wood Mansion, the Villa Kathrine, the historic districts of grand homes from the 1850s and the Clat Adams riverfront park.

You'll find a World Heritage Site on your trip through Collinsville. Cahokia Mounds contains the remains of an ancient city founded by a Mississippian culture that flourished from 700 to 1400 A.D., then vanished. Visitors will enjoy interactive displays in the state-of-the-art interpretive center, a screening theater, ipod tours, and climbing Monk's Mound.



I SPY



- A statue of Popeye (along with Wimpy, Olive Oil, Sweet Pea and Brutus) in Chester's Segar Park.
- Numerous family farms, roadside fruit and vegetable stands, u pick 'em orchards and local wineries.



- 550 miles long
- Follows U.S. Route 20 and Illinois Routes 3, 84, 92, and 96 and 111.
- Named a National Scenic Byway in 2000
- Part of a seven-state byway that also includes Wisconsin, Missouri, Mississippi, Minnesota, Iowa & Arkansas



Look for the Great River Road informational kiosks on your journey.

SOUTHERN REGION

Chester, perched on the bluffs above the Mississippi River, shows off its brick storefronts and historic downtown featuring a small Popeye museum and a Popeye memorabilia store.

In Ellis Grove, find the footprint of the fort built to protect Kaskaskia—which became Illinois’ first state capital—from the British in the Revolutionary War. Visit the home of the state’s first lieutenant governor, Pierre Menard, a classic example of French colonial architecture. Travel to nearby Prairie du Rocher to tour Fort de Chartres, built in 1753 as the seat of government for the French colony in Illinois. Each year, the fort hosts a kids’ day, a Spring and Winter Rendezvous and a French and Indian war encampment.

In Grand Tower, stop at Devil’s Backbone Park to view the unusual rock ridge that runs along the Mississippi River. At Horseshoe Lake in Olive Branch, camp, boat, fish, duck hunt or watch for Canadian geese and wintering bald eagles. Cypress and tupelo trees crowd the shoreline to create a bayou-like atmosphere. While in this area, check out the beautiful Shawnee National Forest which offers wilderness hiking trails and camping sites.

End your journey in Cairo, where the harbor played a critical role during the Civil War, supplying the Western Campaign with soldiers and supplies. The Mississippi and Ohio rivers meet here at the Ft. Defiance State Historic Site. Visit the Custom House, Stafford Library and Magnolia Mansions for their diverse architectural styles, historical artifacts and local antiques.

Cairo Public Library, Cairo



Pierre Menard Home, Kaskaskia



Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher

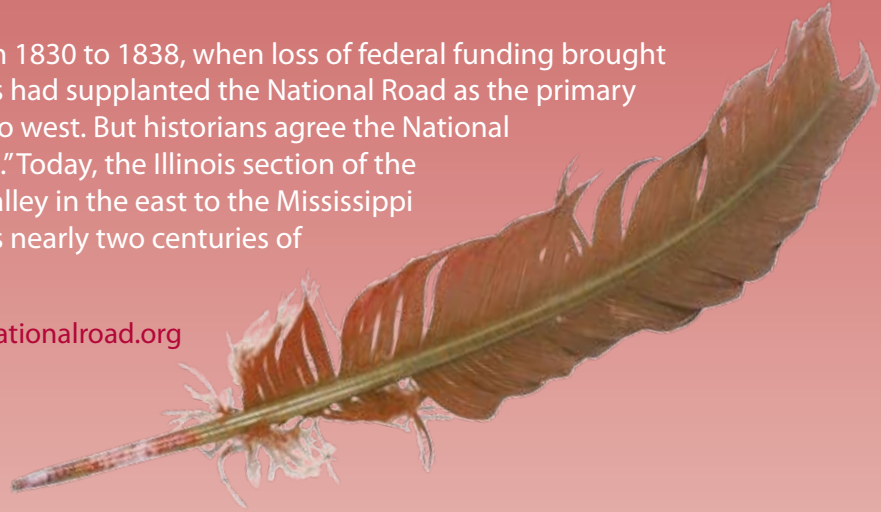


HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD

The stroke of Thomas Jefferson's quill pen in 1806 created America's first (and only) completely federally funded highway. The hope was to unite the civilization of the east coast with what was then the western frontier. And a success it was. Goods, mail and settlers traveled the road that eventually crossed six states: Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Construction of the Illinois section ran from 1830 to 1838, when loss of federal funding brought the project to a halt. By the 1850s, railroads had supplanted the National Road as the primary method of transporting people from east to west. But historians agree the National Road was truly "the road that built a nation." Today, the Illinois section of the road—stretching from the Wabash River valley in the east to the Mississippi River and East St. Louis in the west—brings nearly two centuries of American history to life.

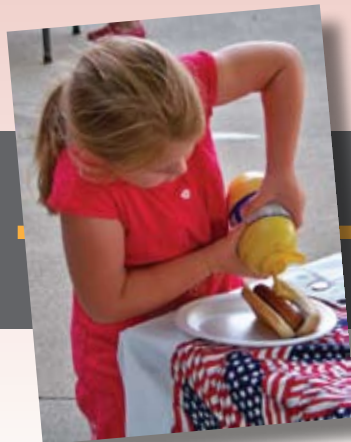
Web: www.nationalroad.org | Email: info@nationalroad.org
Phone: 888-268-0042



Plan your ROAD TRIP

CLARK COUNTY

Start your trip where construction of the National Road in Illinois began. While in Marshall, be sure to visit the Archer House, erected in 1841 by town founder Colonel William B. Archer and today a National Historic Landmark. Abraham Lincoln stayed here during his days as an Illinois attorney.



CUMBERLAND COUNTY

As you travel west, stop in Greenup—also known as the “village of porches” for its architecture. Named after the surveyor who platted the town in 1834, it was founded as a direct result of National Road construction. Don’t miss a trip through the Cumberland County Covered Bridge, a replica of the 1832 original spanning the Embarras River.



EFFINGHAM COUNTY

In Teutopolis, founded in 1858 by German Catholics, Franciscan friars operated a monastery until 1968. It’s now a museum. Down the road in Effingham, you’ll find the MY Garage Museum, featuring Corvettes and vintage Volkswagens. In Altamont, be sure to stop at the Dr. Charles Wright home, an 18-room mansion built in 1889 and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



- 164 miles long
- Follows U.S. Route 40 and Interstate 70
- Named a National Scenic Byway in 2000
- Awarded the prestigious “All American Road” status in 2002
- Hosts a National Road Festival every Father’s Day weekend



Ballard Nature Center
Altamont



FAYETTE COUNTY

Abraham Lincoln's political career began in Vandalia, the second capital of Illinois from 1820 to 1839. Here, the young Lincoln received his credentials to practice law, gave his first protest against slavery and served as a state representative. Visit the imposing 1836 statehouse that still stands along the National Road.

BOND COUNTY

Stop in the "Norman Rockwell town" of Greenville to visit the Bock Museum, where the work of sculptor Richard W. Bock is on display in the former Almira College house. Other charming communities along the route include Mulberry Grove, Smithboro and Pocahontas.



American Farm
Heritage Museum
Greenville





MADISON COUNTY

Don't miss the Cahokia Mounds

State Historic Site, a 2,200-acre preserve featuring Native American burial mounds that draws scientists and visitors from around the world. It's the largest prehistoric Native American site north of Mexico.



ST. CLAIR COUNTY

As you approach the Illinois-Missouri state line, be sure to stop in Fairmont City. Hispanic immigration changed the face of this town in the early 20th century. During a prolonged strike in 1918, Mexican workers were imported to replace the unionists and by 1939 made up a quarter of the town's population. In East St. Louis, the National Road ends at the historic Eads Bridge. Completed in 1874, it was once the longest arch bridge in the world.



- One of the road's original stone arch bridges, built in 1831 and still carrying traffic on the west side of Marshall.
- The world's largest cross—the 200-foot-tall "Cross at the Crossroads"—in Effingham.
- The world's largest catsup bottle—actually a water tower built in 1949 for the bottlers of Brooks Catsup, once a major local industry in Collinsville.

HISTORIC ROUTE 66

They call it the “Mother Road,” and Illinois is where it all began. In 1926, America was on the move, and Route 66 became the way to motor west. Unlike traditional highways that ran north-south or east-west, Route 66 followed a trail blazed by American history. A look at the road on a map is a glimpse at the direction of U.S. transportation and commerce from the 1830s to the present.

The road gave birth to service stations, motels, diners and roadside “kitsch” to entertain travelers on their journeys. Today, Illinois 66 is a continuum of one-of-a-kind connections to the old road—neon signs, filling stations, mom-and-pop diners and unique attractions, all set against the backdrop of America’s agricultural heartland. From the majestic skyline of Chicago to the Mighty Mississippi, you’ll experience the freedom of the open road and discover the legendary people and places that give travelers their “kicks” on Route 66.



Plan your ROAD TRIP

CHICAGO

The Mother Road begins in the City of Big Shoulders, at Michigan Avenue and Jackson Boulevard.

Its symbolic starting point, Buckingham Fountain, was constructed one year after Route 66 in 1927 and is one of the largest fountains in the world. On your way out of the city, stop at Lou Mitchell’s Diner, built in 1923. Women get a free box of milk duds, and the diner’s atmosphere and menu remain true to the heyday of Route 66.

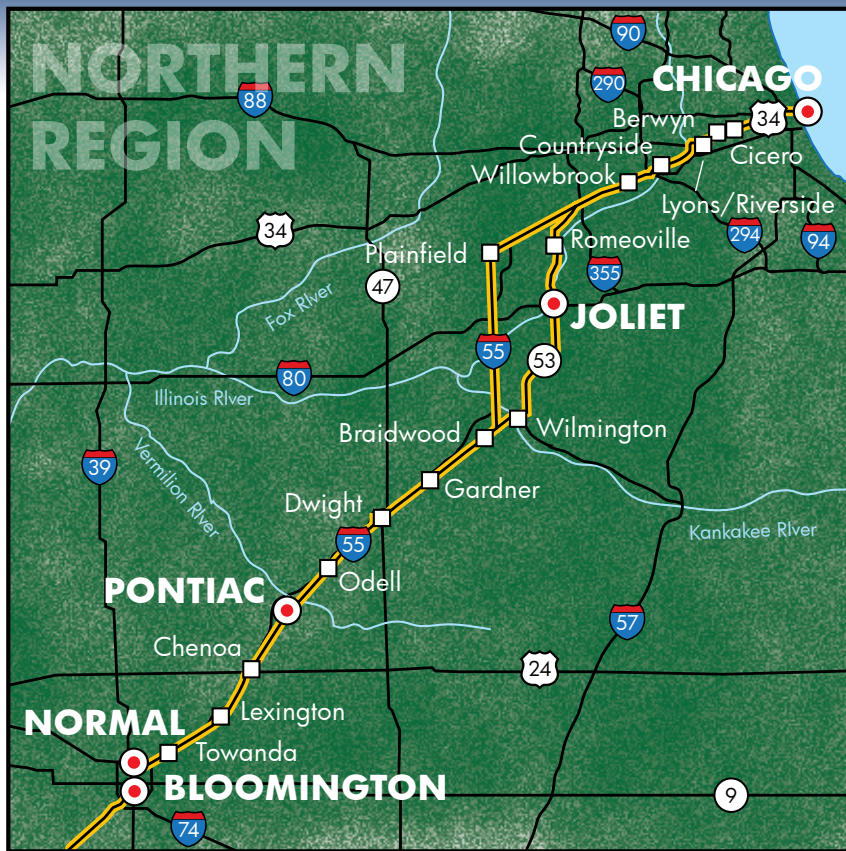
CHICAGOLAND

You have your choice of good eats as you head south from the city. In Cicero, Henry’s Drive-In serves Chicago-style hot dogs in the same bag with French fries and a pickle spear. Dell Rhea’s Chicken Basket in Willowbrook, dating from 1946, is an island in a sea of residential and commercial development. And in Romeoville, White Fence Farm serves its self-proclaimed “World’s Greatest Chicken” family style.

On your drive, don’t miss the 650-acre McCook Quarry, a limestone pit that Route 66 spanned on a precipitous ribbon of road until it was declared unsafe for travel recently.

Web: www.illinoisroute66.org
Email: holly@illinoisroute66.org
Phone: 217-525-9308 or 866-378.7866





I SPY



- Two remaining advertisement barns along Illinois Route 66—one in Cayuga, one in Hamel—promoting Missouri’s Meramec Caverns.
- The world’s largest covered wagon, the Railsplitter, in Lincoln.
- Our Lady of the Highways Memorial, built in 1959 in Waggoner as a high school project to protect travelers from “Bloody 66”.

JOLIET REGION

Take a “Joliet Kicks on 66” tour, then visit the Route 66 Experience—featuring a welcome center, exhibit gallery, discovery room, gift shop, café and auditorium. Venture on to the Route 66 Park, where the road intersects with the Lincoln Highway, and view the historic Collins Street Prison where *The Blues Brothers* movie was filmed.

Stop at the 18,000-acre Midewin Tallgrass Prairie, which extends from Elwood to Wilmington, and drive through the Launching Pad restaurant in Wilmington—home to the Gemini Giant, a fiberglass “muffler man” sporting a space helmet and a rocket ship.



Gemini Giant, Wilmington

PONTIAC REGION

Braidwood’s Polk-A-Dot Drive-in got its start in a painted school bus in 1956. Outside today’s restaurant you can dine with fiberglass figures of Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Betty Boop, James Dean and Jake & Elwood. In Gardner, stop for a photo at the Riviera, once a fine dining hotspot for famous (and infamous) customers, including Gene Kelly and Al Capone. A historic Kankakee streetcar and former diner sits nearby.

In Dwight, Ambler’s filling station dispensed fuel from 1933 to 1999. Today it’s a visitor center and on the National Register of Historic Places. So is the restored Standard Oil gas station in Odell. In Pontiac, visit the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, housed in a historic firehouse, and fill your stomach at the Old Log Cabin restaurant, built in 1926.

Braidwood’s, Polk-A-Dot Drive-in





BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL REGION

Head back to the 1940s outside Lexington, where a one-mile stretch of the original road has been restored with vintage billboard and Burma Shave signs. Near Towanda, a 1.6-mile stretch of abandoned lane features Route 66 educational kiosks.

In Normal, drive by Sprague Super Service, a two-story Tudor-Revival building constructed in 1931 and currently under renovation. The largest gas station/restaurant on the route, it housed a café, gas station and garage on the first floor, while the owner and station attendant lived upstairs. In Funk's Grove, Debby and Mike Funk continue a six-generation sirup-making family tradition.

LINCOLN REGION

Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Dixie Truck Stop in McLean has been serving travelers since 1928. Further down the road in Atlanta, stop for a bite at the Palm's Grill Café with its beautifully restored neon sign. Here you'll also find Bunyon's Statue Giant—one of just 150 "muffler men" made by International Fiberglass in the 1960s.

In Lincoln, you'll find The Mill Restaurant, which opened in 1929 to serve grilled sandwiches any time of the day or night. In 2007, work began to restore the building as a museum. Continue on to Broadwell to pay tribute to the Pig Hip sandwich. The building that housed the restaurant and then museum was destroyed by fire in 2007, but a stone marker identifies the site.

SPRINGFIELD REGION

In addition to the capital city's many Lincoln attractions, you'll want to stop at Springfield's internationally renowned Shea's Gas Station Museum to get your fill of gas station and oil company collectibles. Then it's on to the Cozy Dog Drive-In, where the "corn dog on a stick" was first served in 1946. The restaurant is a shrine to Route 66, packed with mementoes, clippings and old signs. As you pass through Auburn, take a trip down the original 1.4-mile hand-lain brick road, completed in 1931.



*Shea's Gas Station Museum,
Springfield*

CARLINVILLE REGION

Take in some history in Virden, site of the historic Mine Battle of October 12, 1898. A train bearing strike breakers was met by striking miners resulting in a battle in which thirteen were killed and scores wounded. In Carlinsville, you'll find the Macoupin County Courthouse—the largest in the United States—reported to have cost more than one million dollars to build in 1870.

You can shop where the stars once played at the Coliseum Ball Room in Benld, now an antique mall. Opened in 1924, it featured the biggest dance floor between Chicago and St. Louis. Tommy Dorsey, Fats Domino, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Ike and Tina Turner, Ray Charles and the Everly Brothers all performed here.



LITCHFIELD REGION

Relax at Art's Motel & Restaurant in Farmersville, serving guests since 1937. Stop for a bite at the Ariston Café in Litchfield, said to be the oldest on the route, where the Adam family has been dishing up great food for eight decades.

While it's no longer operational, Soulsby's Service Station in Mt. Olive is one of the oldest filling stations still standing on Route 66. Kick back at the Decamp Junction Roadhouse in Staunton, where in 1930 gangsters arrived with guns drawn to rob the bar of slot machines, alcohol, guns and cash. Finally, hop over to Henry's Ra66it Ranch to learn more about rabbits (furry or Volkswagen) and check out the emporium of highway and trucking memorabilia.

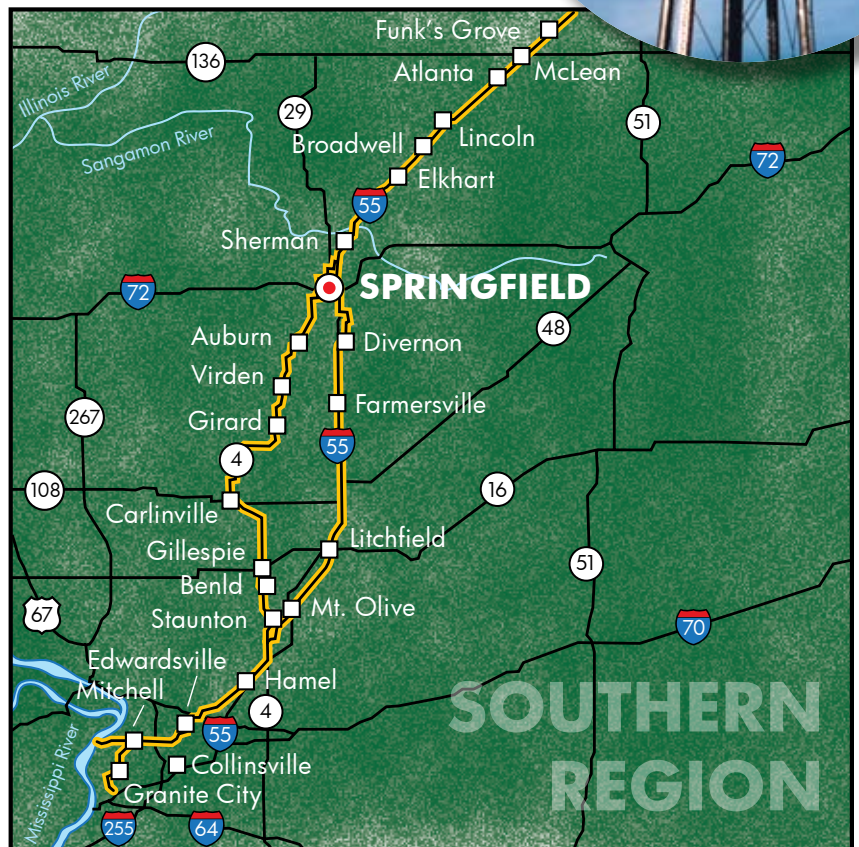
EAST ST. LOUIS REGION

Rest a spell at Scotty's Route 66 Bar & Grill in Hamel, a roadhouse that's been serving travelers since the late 1930s. Don't miss the world's largest catsup bottle, standing proudly next to Route 159 in Collinsville—actually a water tower built in 1949 for the bottlers of Brooks Catsup.

In Mitchell, legend has it gangsters including Al Capone frequented the Luna Café, which also featured a gambling operation and house of ill repute. End your journey on the Chain of Rocks Bridge in Madison, originally a motor route that now carries walking and biking trails over the Mississippi River.



- 435 miles long
- Named a National Scenic Byway in 2005
- One of the World Monument Fund's top 100 most endangered sites
- One of Smithsonian Magazine's top 10 places to see
- Nicknamed "The Mother Road" by John Steinbeck in *The Grapes of Wrath*



ILLINOIS LINCOLN HIGHWAY



Not built as a single highway, but instead a series of existing roads linked and labeled as one, the Lincoln Highway was the nation's first successful, hard-packed, coast-to-coast automobile thoroughfare—the centerpiece in an early 20th-century campaign to convince the public of the need for better roads and the government of its responsibility to build them. Even the U.S. Army got in on the act in 1919, when a caravan led by then Lt. Col. Dwight David Eisenhower crossed the entire highway as a test of national preparedness.

The campaign worked. Federal funding for highway construction increased. At least nine transcontinental highways existed by 1922, and a reliable network of roads crisscrossed the nation by the late 1920s. A victim of its own success, the Lincoln Highway became just another road.

Not so today. As traffic speeds along Interstates 80 and 88 south of Chicago, you'll find a slower pace just a few miles to the north. The Illinois Lincoln Highway is mounting a comeback, as communities along the old route celebrate the history of the coast-to-coast highway and the lives that crossed one of America's most famous roads.



Web: www.drivelincolnhighway.com
Email: info@drivelincolnhighway.com
Phone: 866-455-4249



Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, University Park



Plan your ROAD TRIP

EASTERN REGION

From fine dining in Batavia to stockcar racing at the Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, from the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park in University Park to the Railsplitter Inn In Plainfield, you'll find something for everyone as you travel west from the Indiana border.

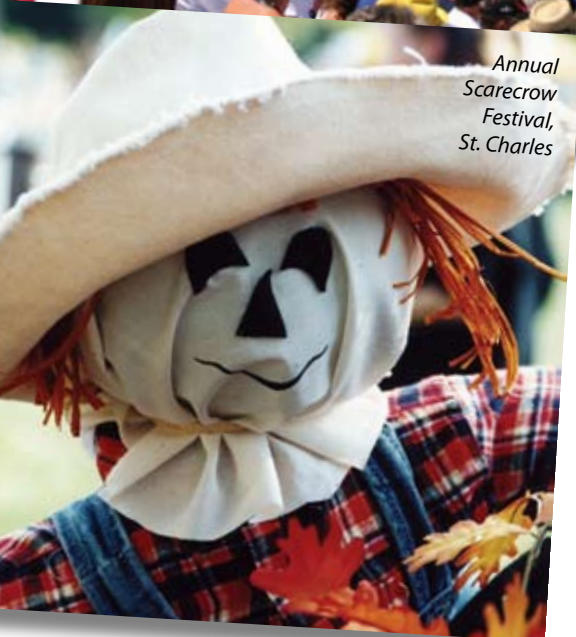
Visit the Walter Payton Roundhouse in Aurora, the Schmuhl One-Room Schoolhouse in New Lenox, Pickwick Tearoom and Gifts in Flossmoor, Museum of Aviation in Sugar Grove and Fabyan Japanese Gardens in Geneva. Tune in to the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra in Park Forest and take a hike on Matteson's Old Plank Trail or North Aurora's Illinois Prairie Path. And don't miss the annual Scarecrow Festival in St. Charles.



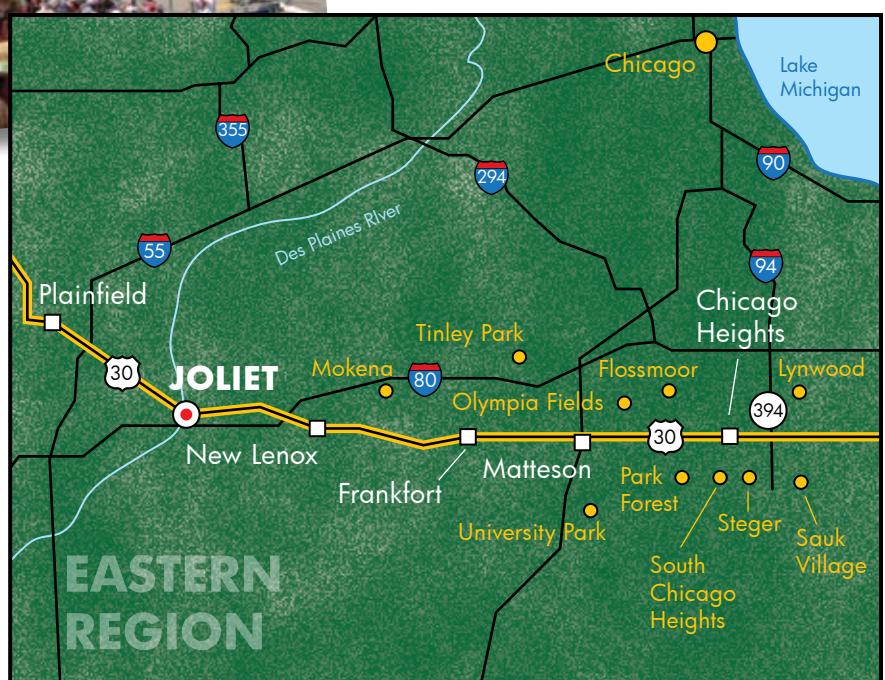
Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet



Fabyan Japanese Gardens, Geneva



Annual Scarecrow Festival, St. Charles



EASTERN REGION

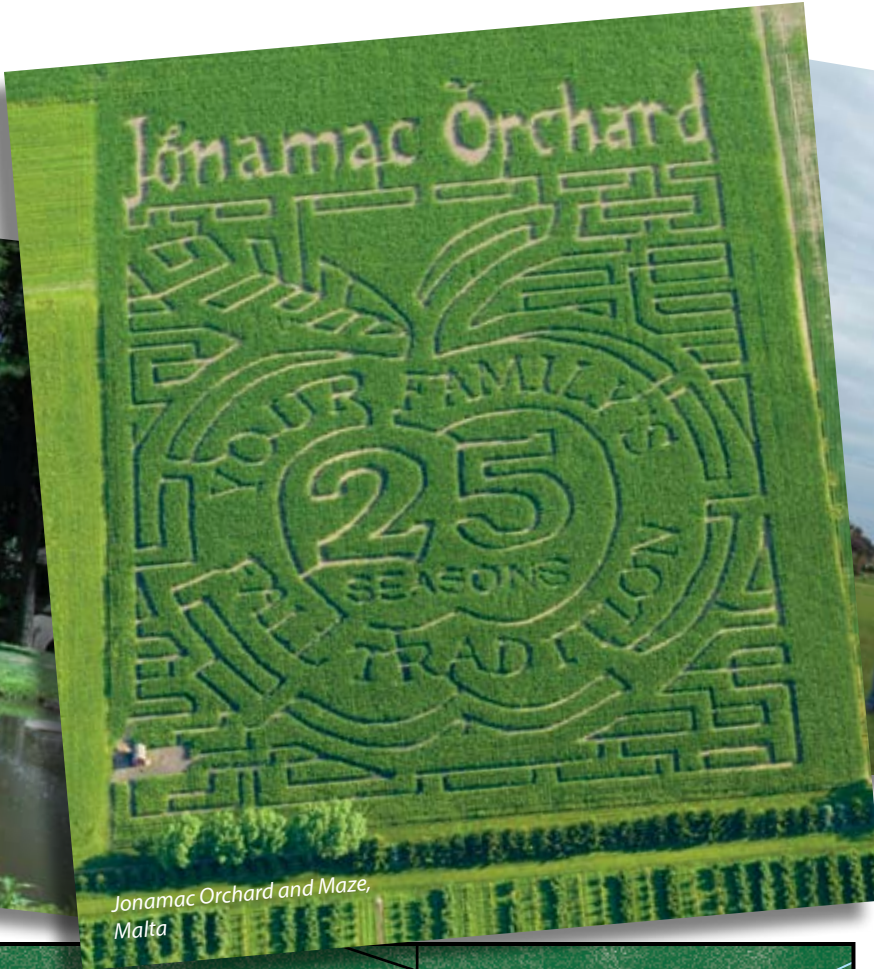
CENTRAL REGION

As you cruise through the center of the state, be sure to look for the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition's first interpretive murals, proudly displayed in Creston and DeKalb. Keep your eyes open for 40 more murals to start appearing (project to be completed in 2012).

Other highlights include Hughes Creek Golf Club in Elburn, Jonamac Orchard and Maze in Malta, Kuiper's Family Farm in Maple Park, A Perfect Season Gift Shop in Cortland, and the Rouge Wine Cellar in Creston. Be sure to mark your calendars for DeKalb's annual Cornfest and Kitefest.



Interpretive mural, Creston



Jonamac Orchard and Maze, Malta



Kitefest, DeKalb



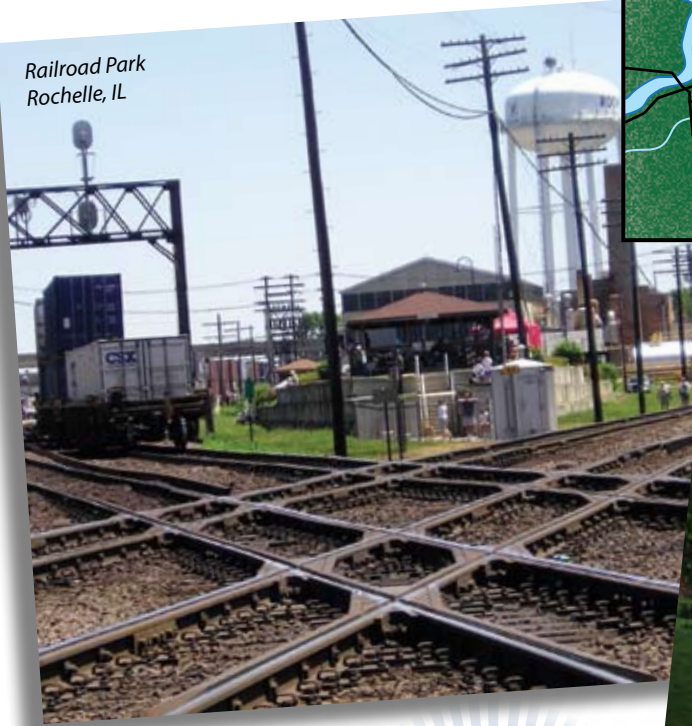
- 179 miles long
- Follows U.S. Route 30 and Illinois Routes 2, 31 and 38
- Designated a National Scenic Byway in 2000
- Only state to receive designation as a National Scenic Byway (it crosses through 13 states)
- Begins in Times Square, New York and ends at Lincoln Park in San Francisco, California

WESTERN REGION

As you make your way toward the Mississippi River, take time to visit the world-renowned Railroad Park in Rochelle, Chaplin Creek Historic Village in Franklin Grove, the Chief Blackhawk Statue in Oregon's Lowden Park, President Ronald Reagan's boyhood home in Dixon and Dillon Home Museum in Sterling. Be sure to stop off at the restored covered bridge in Morrison and the working Dutch windmill on the Mississippi River in Fulton.



Railroad Park
Rochelle, IL



Dillon Home Museum
Sterling, IL

I SPY



- The only statue of Abraham Lincoln in military clothing in Dixon.
- Several of the highway's few remaining original concrete markers near Ashton and Franklin Grove—placed along the entire route in 1928 by the Boy Scouts.
- A handful of still-operating historical theatres: the Paramount in Aurora, the Rialto in Joliet, the Egyptian in DeKalb and the Historic Dixon Theatre in Dixon.
- Interpretive Gazebos (coming in summer of 2009) in 17 communities along the Illinois Lincoln Highway corridor.
- Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition's Interpretive Exhibit at home in Dixon's Welcome Center.
- The first concrete "seedling" mile in the United States, near the Kishwaukee College campus in Malta.



ROAD TRIP GAMES

Detweiller Park, Peoria, IL

As you drive along the Illinois Scenic Byways, keep your kids (and yourself) entertained by playing one of these classic road trip games. The miles will fly by—and everyone will stay occupied and aware of their surroundings.

1. I SPY.

In this classic road trip game, choose an object in the car or along the road and provide a clue: "I spy with my little eye something that..." The clue can be the first letter of the word, the object's color, you name it. Continue giving clues until someone else guesses the object. That person gets to go next.

2. FIND THE ALPHABET.

Play this game as teams or individuals. Looking out your side of the car only, find all the letters of the alphabet in order. Pick them from billboards, shop signs, road signs, etc. The first person or team that reaches Z wins!

3. SCAVENGER HUNT.

Before your trip, make a list of things that you might see along the road (see examples below). As you find the objects, check them off on the list. The first person with a complete list wins!



CITY SCAVENGER HUNT:

- Flashing red light
- Bus
- Signs in foreign languages
- Dog
- Food store
- Railroad tracks
- Billboard with a child on it
- Police officer
- License plate with "Q"
- Person with tall boots
- Person talking on a cell phone



SUBURBS SCAVENGER HUNT:

- School
- Flashing traffic light
- Food store
- Someone on a bike
- Statue
- Church
- Playground
- Flower garden or snowman
- Pickup truck
- Coffee shop
- Person walking a dog



RURAL SCAVENGER HUNT:

- Silo
- Cows
- Railroad tracks
- Pond or lake
- Dirt road
- Tractor
- Gas station
- Horses
- Oil pump
- Red barn
- Deer

4. **A IS FOR APPLE.**

Starting with A, find three things along the road that start with that letter (like automobile, ambulance and apple tree). Make your way through the alphabet all the way to Z!



5. **LICENSE PLATE GAME.**

Before your trip, print out a map or list of all 50 states. As you travel, mark off the different license plates of cars you pass. See how many states you can find!



6. **COUNTING COWS.**

Count the cows you see on your side of the car only. If you pass a cemetery, you lose all your cows, but only if the opposing team calls "your cows are buried!" The team with the most cows wins. If there aren't any cows on your route, try counting red cars, mailboxes or phone booths.

7. **20 QUESTIONS.**

One person chooses pretty much anything they can think of. Everyone else gets to ask that person 20 questions, which can only be answered with a "yes" or a "no." Whoever guesses correctly gets a turn to think up something.

8. **LICENSE PLATE BINGO.**

Make Bingo cards before heading out on your trip. Have your kids write down a letter in each square. As you pass cars, call out letters you see on license plates. The first person to get a Bingo wins!



9. **WORD PLAY.**

Have your kids write down words they see as they're traveling from billboards, bumper stickers, restaurants, etc. Once they reach a certain number of words, have them write a story, poem or song that includes all their words. Let them read or sing their creation out loud for the rest of the family.

10. **THE GEOGRAPHY GAME.**

Choose a category like states, countries, capitals or cities. The first player starts by choosing a location—Kansas, for example. The next player has to think of a state that begins with the last letter of "Kansas," such as "South Carolina." The next player needs to pick a state that starts with an A. You can't use the same place twice in one game—and it has to be a real place.



NATURE'S BOUNTY

ILLINOIS RIVER ROAD

The story of the Illinois River Valley dates back not decades or centuries, but eons. More than 22,000 years ago, the Ancient Mississippi River flowed this way. Starved Rock and Buffalo Rock State Parks took shape as glacial meltwater flooded the area 16,000 years ago. Native Americans, attracted by the region's abundance of fish and wildlife, first called the area home 12,000 years ago.

Today, you too can trace the path of history, following the Illinois River Road as it winds south through the central part of the state, passing through a mosaic of backwater lakes, bottomland forests, floodplain wetlands, upland forests, savanna and some of the country's few remaining tall-grass prairies. Myriad species of plants and wildlife reside in the region's diverse habitats, and the area is home to charming villages and big cities alike—all drawn and sustained by the Illinois River Valley's natural bounty.



Plan your ROAD TRIP

OTTAWA AREA

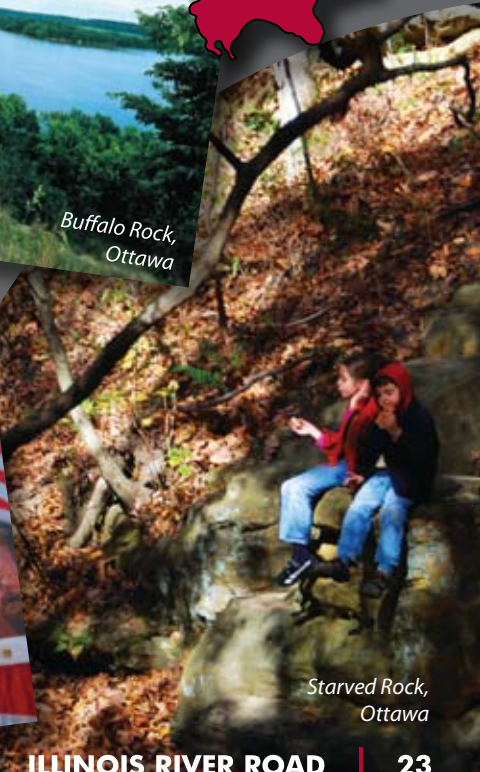
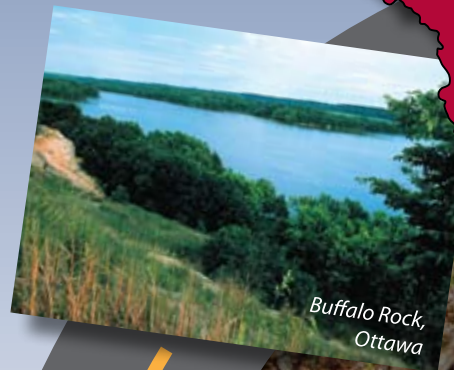
The northern anchor of the byway, Ottawa, sits at the confluence of the Illinois and Fox Rivers, and its parks and recreational outlets provide adventure 365 days a year. Bike or hike the I&M Canal or head to one of the nearby state parks—Starved

Rock, Buffalo Rock or Matthiessen—for canoeing, bicycling, hiking and horseback riding.

Be sure to visit the charming shops and restaurants in downtown Ottawa, home to W.D. Boyce, founder of the Boy Scouts of America. You can find his grave in the Ottawa Avenue Cemetery. Head to Washington Square Park to see where the first Lincoln-Douglas debate took place in 1858.

Located in Streator, south of Ottawa, find the beautiful Vermilion River and the Hopalong Cassidy River Trail which feature some of the best canoeing in the state. There is also plenty to see at Weber House and Garden and Spring Lake Nature Park.

Web: www.illinoisriverroad.org
Email: info@illinoisriverroad.org
Phone: 800-747-0302 or 888-688-2924



PRINCETON AREA

This friendly town with delightful Main Street shops, stately homes and brick streets has something for everyone. Visit the Lovejoy Homestead, once an important stop on the Underground Railroad. Enjoy the outdoors at the Sue & Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin and Hopper Lakes, or hike and bike the nearby Hennepin Canal. Visit Hornbaker Gardens, cross one of Illinois' five remaining covered bridges or explore one of the state's first wind farms. Culture lovers, be sure to come in the summer for Festival 56—a full month of theatre.



*Hennepin and Hopper Lakes,
Princeton*



Princeton Main Street



*Spirit of Peoria,
Peoria Riverfront*

PEORIA AREA

The first European settlement in Illinois, Peoria is rich in history and even richer in natural beauty. Take a scenic drive overlooking the bluffs, fish on a tranquil pond, hike or bike a woodland trail, watch for bald eagles, relax on a riverboat cruise or interact with the animals at Wildlife Prairie State Park or Peoria Zoo. A stop to Peoria's RiverFront is sure to please with festivals, walking trail, and dining. Be sure to investigate the city's whiskey history and its rise to prominence during the vaudeville era, when everyone was asking, "Will it play in Peoria?"



*Wildlife Prairie
State Park,
Hanna City*



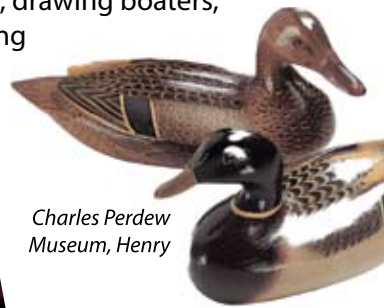


EAST PEORIA AREA

Across the river, East Peoria has transformed from a factory town to a bustling city known for premier youth sporting events and its Christmas-themed Festival of Lights. Bike, run or walk along the River Trail of Illinois or visit the new Riverfront Park for an up-close look at a working river and its wildlife in an urban setting.

North of Peoria, the village of Chillicothe has a long history driven by river and rail transportation. Visit the 19th century train depot filled with historical artifacts and railroad memorabilia, then take a trip down River Beach Drive or shop the historic downtown.

The picturesque little town of Henry is home to Illinois' first dam, the Charles Perdue Museum and the annual Marshall-Putnam Counties Fair. Be sure and visit Henry's riverfront, drawing boaters, water skiers, fishing and hunting enthusiasts from throughout the Midwest.

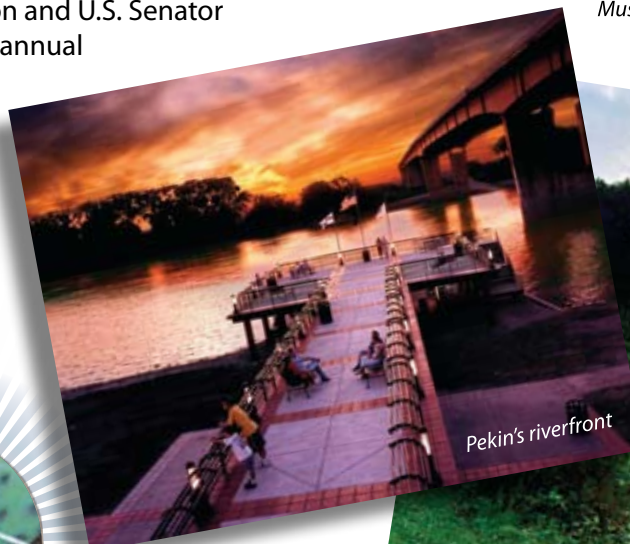


Charles Perdue Museum, Henry

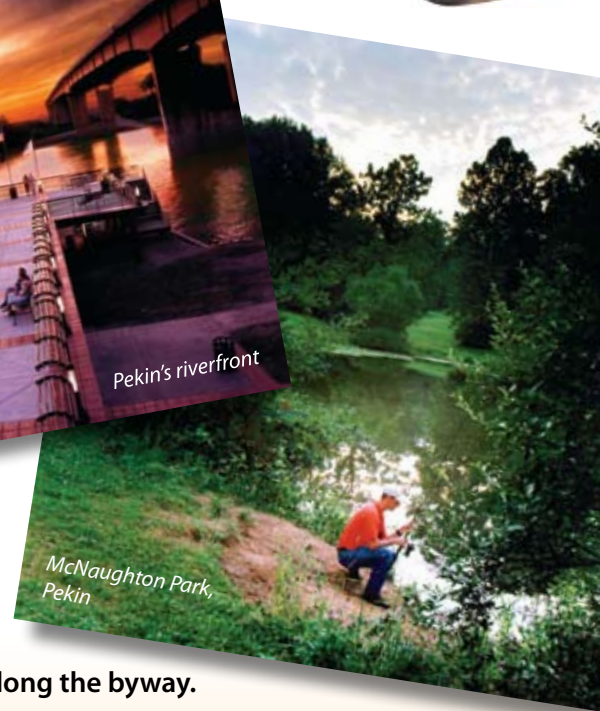
PEKIN AREA

Marked by river bluffs, gently rolling terrain and mature wooded areas, Pekin was named after China's "City of the Sun"—Peking. Steer a paddleboat through the lagoon at Mineral Springs Park, watch for barges in the developing riverfront area, explore nature at the 2,500-acre McNaughton Park, sample local wines at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard or stop at Spring Lake, a favorite fishing and hunting spot among local sportsmen. Visit Dirksen Park, also home to the Dirksen Congressional Center, named after native son and U.S. Senator Everett Dirksen. Come in September for the annual Marigold Festival.

Head to nearby Manito for small-town hospitality, complete with charming shops, great wine and delicious bakeries serving up chocolates and pastries. Visit the original Main Street (called Market Street) and the pottery shop in the old train depot.



Pekin's riverfront



McNaughton Park, Pekin

I SPY



- 18 active bald eagle nests and 600-1,000 bald eagles wintering along the byway.
- Prickly pear cactus growing on sand dunes in Sand Ridge State Forest near Havana.
- Three of the nation's 58 "Whispering Giants"—carved by Hungarian artist Peter Wolf Toth as a tribute to Native Americans—in Hopewell, Ottawa and Utica.

CANTON AREA

Canton is rich with history and has been home to several inventors, including Charles Duryea, creator of the first practical automobile; Elizabeth Magie, who developed Monopoly; and William Parlin, an agricultural equipment innovator in the 1800s. The legacy of these early residents is a historic downtown square, exceptional parks and scenic Canton Lake.

In “Spoon River Country” surrounding Canton, you’ll find arts and crafts galore. There’s plenty of nature as well—be sure to visit Banner Marsh, the Nature Conservancy’s Emiquon Preserve and the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge.



*Dickson Mounds Museum,
Lewistown*

Lewistown, inspiration for Edgar Lee Masters’ Spoon River Anthology, is home to the Dickson Mounds Museum, a nationally renowned archaeological site with more than 15,000 square feet of exhibits.



The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve

HAVANA AREA

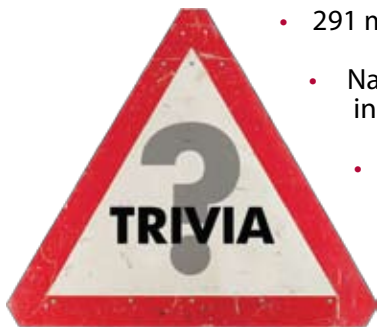
The southern anchor of the byway, Havana, has a history that is intimately connected to water. Abraham Lincoln landed here on his way home from the Blackhawk War. Havana’s brick Main Street leads from the river to a quaint downtown. Here you will find a community long known for commercial and recreational fishing and duck hunting. Al Capone, whom Havana residents considered “very cordial,” often hunted here. Tour the Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery; visit the 4,500-acre Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. Or make the short trek to New Salem State Park, where Abraham Lincoln lived for several years. As you travel, watch for unique agricultural crops supported by most of the irrigation found in Illinois – 65 percent of the nation’s pumpkins are grown here.



Havana's Main Street



*Chautauqua National
Wildlife Refuge, Havana*



- 291 miles long
- Named a National Scenic Byway in 2005
- Follows Routes 6 and 71 out of Ottawa, Routes 26 and 29 along the east and west sides of the river, and Routes 24 and 78/97 into Havana, with spurs to Princeton and Canton
- 22 Public boat ramps providing access to the Illinois River and more than 60,000 acres of parks, refuges, and fish & wildlife areas open to the public.
- One of the principal migration corridors for waterfowl in the Mississippi River Flyway
- Home to the “world’s most beautiful drive”—the nickname given to Peoria’s Grandview Drive by Teddy Roosevelt



MEETING OF THE GREAT RIVERS



The legend of the Piasa Bird. The heritage of Lewis and Clark. The exploration of Marquette and Joliet. You'll find them all where the Mighty Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois rivers converge—along the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway in Southwestern Illinois.

Time and again, people are drawn to America's rivers—searching for adventure, a sense of the past and bygone days of leisurely vacations and relaxing drives. That's exactly what you'll experience along this 33-mile journey, which hugs the bluffs and follows the surging water and bends of three of America's great waterways. Amid the whistling birds, colorful trees and unique plants, you'll discover a region where early explorers trekked, where slaves found freedom and where America's history runs deep.

Web: www.greatriversbyway.com | Email: info@VisitAlton.com
Phone: 800-258-6645



Meeting of the Great Rivers
Scenic Route



Plan your ROAD TRIP



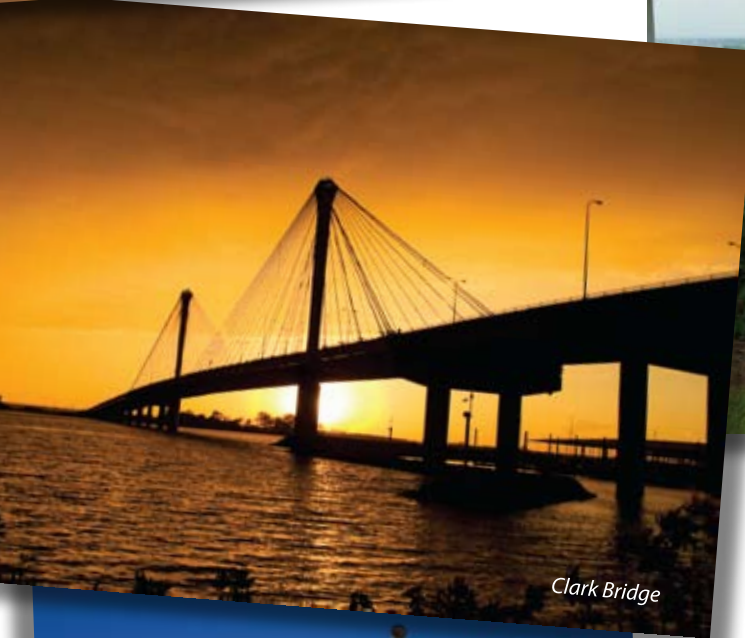
HARTFORD

Learn the story of Lewis and Clark in Illinois at the 14,000-square-foot State Historic Site and Interpretive Center. With six galleries, theatre, full-scale 55-foot “cutaway keelboat” and fortified encampment, it’s the largest heritage site dedicated to the Corps of Discovery east of the Rockies. Just a mile’s walk away, the Corps of Discovery launched its expedition where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers meet.



Lewis and Clark State Historic Site and Interpretive Center, Hartford

Confluence of the Mississippi & Illinois Rivers. Grafton



Clark Bridge

WOOD RIVER

In the 1920s, Standard Oil employed almost 90 percent of the population here—eventually buying \$1 million of Sears and Roebuck catalog homes for residents. Visit the Wood River Museum and Visitors Center to learn more about those early days, along with the flood of 1915 and the opening of the world’s largest swimming pool in 1926.



Lincoln-Douglas Square, Alton

ALTON

A bustling river town founded in 1818, Alton is full of history. Visit the monument honoring abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy, who was murdered for his anti-slavery views. Stop at the bronze statue memorializing the 1858 debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. Retrace the steps of fleeing slaves along the Underground Railroad.

Explore the remains of the federal Confederate Prison, where more than 10,000 soldiers were held. Learn more about the city’s colorful past at the Alton Museum of History and Art. And be sure to save time to enjoy Alton’s many antique shops, unique restaurants and some of the best bed-and-breakfast inns in the Midwest.

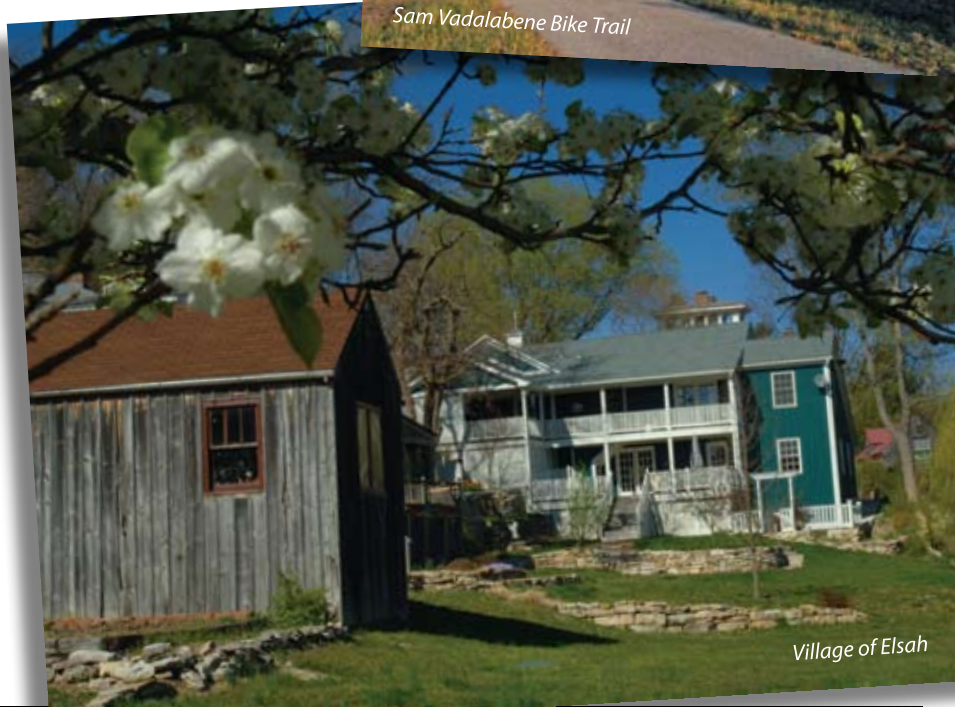
GODFREY

Along the byway, Great Rivers Park in Godfrey showcases the scenic beauty of the byway, which can be found in the distinct landscapes and geological formations of the majestic ivory limestone bluffs. Just off the byway, the community is centered around the former Monticello Seminary and historic Benjamin Godfrey Memorial Chapel, built in 1854 and listed on the National Register of Historic places. Scenic views, quaint little shops and miles of trails draw visitors during every season.



ELSAH

Nestled in a valley along the Mississippi River bluffs, the entire village of Elsau was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. With its New England-style stone cottages and gardens, "the town time forgot" is a favorite spot for photographers looking for early Americana and travelers seeking a leisurely stroll.



- 33 miles long
- Follows Illinois Routes 3, 100 and 143
- Named a National Scenic Byway in 1997
- One of the "Seven Wonders of Illinois"
- Home to more than 230 species of native and migrating birds





Trails at Pere Marquette State Park

GRAFTON

The Illinois and Mississippi rivers meet here, the oldest town in Jersey County. Look for high-water marks on downtown buildings as evidence of the flood of 1993—just one of many Grafton has endured since 1832. Stroll along the Main Street for unique specialty shops, antique stores, wineries and bed and breakfast inns. Spend some time boating, canoeing, kayaking or splashing around at Raging Rivers waterpark. Rent a bike and pedal your way to fun as you hit the Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail headed for Pere Marquette.

PERE MARQUETTE

Get back to nature at the largest state park in Illinois. The 8,000-acre Pere Marquette State Park is named for Father Jacques Marquette, one of the first European explorers to enter the Great Rivers region. Start your visit at the park office and visitors center, where you'll find a 3D map of the park, a 270-gallon aquarium and numerous displays featuring wildlife habitat, local history, geology and Illinois River ecology. Unwind and dine at the lodge, hike the nature trails, bird watch, take a horseback ride, fish or camp.

I SPY



- A life-size bronze statue of Robert Wadlow, the world's tallest man, in Alton.
- A chess challenge waiting to be won at the life-size chess board in the dramatic great room of Pere Marquette Lodge, in Grafton.
- A painting of the legendary Piasa Bird—"bird that devours men," according to the Illini Indians—just a short drive up the byway in Alton.



Statue of Robert Wadlow, Alton

ADVENTURE AWAITS

OHIO RIVER SCENIC BYWAY

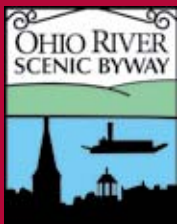
River pirates. French and Indian soldiers. Confederate and Union soldiers. Superman. You'll find traces of them all, along with some of the Midwest's most beautiful natural architecture, as you travel the Illinois portion of Ohio River National Scenic Byway. Home to the Shawnee National Forest, the region's outdoor recreation opportunities are virtually unlimited—with dozens of locations to picnic, camp, boat, fish, hike or just enjoy the natural beauty of the Ohio River valley.

History abounds throughout the byway corridor as well—from a Native American archaeological treasure dating back nearly a thousand years, to Civil War sites, a French and Indian Fort site and quaint, historic towns. Adventure awaits as you journey through one of the most scenic and historically significant routes in Illinois.

Web: www.ohioriverscenicbyway.net

Email: director@ohioriverscenicbyway.net

Phone: 800-248-4373



Shawneetown Bank,
Old Shawneetown



Marshall House,
Shawneetown



Plan your **ROAD TRIP**



GALLATIN COUNTY

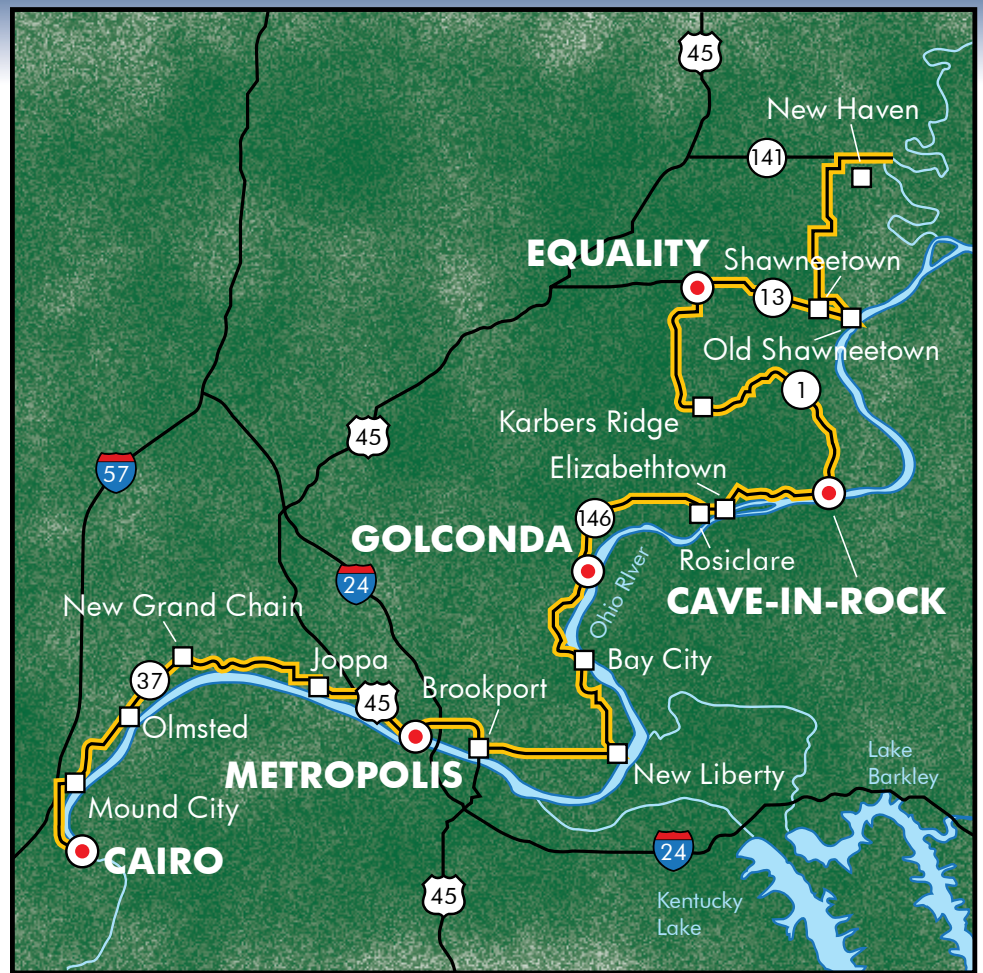
Stop in Old Shawneetown to see the Shawneetown Bank, constructed in 1841, it's the oldest structure in Illinois built specifically as a state bank. Then it's off to the Marshall House, the first territorial bank in Illinois and now houses a museum. At Westwood Cemetery, established in 1818, find the grave of

Thomas Posey, aide-de-camp to George Washington, who died while visiting his daughter here.

Venture over to the visitor center in Equality (open April through November) for information about the byway and see their local exhibits. Cool off at the Pounds Hollow Recreation Area—its 25-acre lake features one of the only swimming areas with a beach in the region.



- 188 miles long
- Follows U.S. Route 45 and Illinois Routes 1, 13, 37, 141 and 146
- Named a National Scenic Byway in 1998
- Home to the only U.S. city named Metropolis
- Part of a tri-state 967-mile national scenic byway that also includes Indiana and Ohio



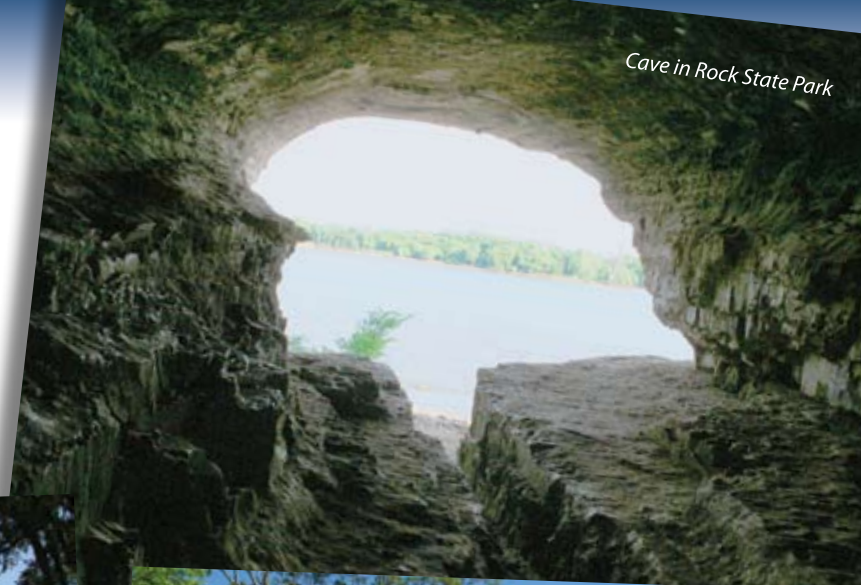
SALINE COUNTY

Pack a picnic and your hiking shoes for a day at the Garden of the Gods Wilderness Area, featuring inspiring views and 320-million-year-old rock formations—including Camel Rock, Anvil Rock and Devil's Smokestack.



HARDIN COUNTY

At Cave in Rock State Park, legend has it this 55-foot-wide cave, carved out of limestone by water thousands of years ago, was once home to river pirates. Take a fun, scenic trip across the Ohio River aboard the ferry that travels to Kentucky and back. Then enjoy some antiquing and a visit to the Fluorspar Museum in Rosiclare before taking a stroll down to the Riverfront to bask in the serenity of the Ohio River. Have dinner at the floating E-Town Restaurant in Elizabethtown, serving the best catfish you'll ever eat.



Rosiclare waterfront



POPE COUNTY

Bring your boat and experience the Ohio River firsthand. The Golconda Marina provides a 603-acre gateway to the Smithland Pool, one of the best fishing spots in the Midwest. Prefer dry land? Visit the Pope County Historical Museum and quaint shops in Golconda's historic downtown—listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Or spend a night or two at the renovated Lock and Dam Houses or Bay City Store and Lodge, both overlooking the Ohio River.



Golconda Historic Courthouse

MASSAC COUNTY

Ft. Massac State Park, Illinois' oldest, features a replica of an American fort built in 1802 overlooking the Ohio River. Check out the museum's Native American artifacts and items from the fort's French and American period. Or come in October with 150,000 others for the Encampment event, featuring period food and dress and mock battles.

Explore Kincaid Mounds, an archeological site with interpretive panels that tell the story of Native American culture. Stroll through downtown Metropolis, home to Superman, and watch the town's history come alive on a series of murals painted on brick buildings. And don't forget to stop and try your luck at Harrah's Casino & Hotel!

Shawnee Queen
River Taxi



Ft. Massac State Park,
Metropolis

Kincaid Mounds



PULASKI COUNTY

Be sure to visit the Mound City National Cemetery, established in 1864 as the burial place of both Confederate and Union soldiers. More than 2,700 grave markers read "Unknown," and one is marked "Confederate Spy." Each May, a Memorial Day service honors those buried here and for their sacrifice to our country. The renovated caretaker's house serves as a museum and visitor center for the byway.

Mound City National Cemetery,
Mound City



Confluence of the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers



Custom House Museum, Cairo

ALEXANDER COUNTY

The Ohio and Mississippi rivers meet here at Ft. Defiance Park. Visit Boatman's Memorial—dedicated to those who have died on the rivers—for a view of the confluence and a true appreciation of the vastness of these two great waterways. At Cairo's Custom House Museum, built in 1872, take in some Civil War and local history, including a desk used by General Ulysses S. Grant, Lewis and Clark exhibits and an art gallery. The nearby Queen Anne-style Safford Memorial Library houses a valuable collection of Civil War documents.



- Superman! A 15-foot bronze statue of the 'Man of Steel' overlooks the town square in Metropolis.
- Incredible fall foliage in the Shawnee National Forest.
- The blue ribbon of the Ohio River as it merges with the brown Mississippi River currents.



PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS



HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD

- John Goldsmith: All photos

HISTORIC ROUTE 66

- Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway: Begin Historic Route 66 Sign, Gemini Giant, Polk-A-Dot Drive-In, Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup Sign, Henry's Ra66it Ranch, Brook's Catsup Bottle
- Wade Ambrose: Henry's Drive-In Sign
- David Wickline, Images of 66: Meramec Caverns Barn
- Illinois Bureau of Tourism: Shea's Gas Station Museum

ILLINOIS LINCOLN HIGHWAY COALITION

- Roger Kyler, Kyler Photography : Malta Corn Maze

ILLINOIS RIVER ROAD

- Nichole Isaacson: Princeton Main Street
- Anaise Berry: Ottawa mural, Starved Rock
- Cindy Patterson: Covered bridge, Spirit of Peoria
- Kevin May: Wildlife Prairie State Park
- Deverman Advertising: Pekin Riverfront, McNaughton Park
- Jim Miller: Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge
- Kelvin Sampson: TNC Emiquon, Dickson Mounds, Prickly Pear Cactus

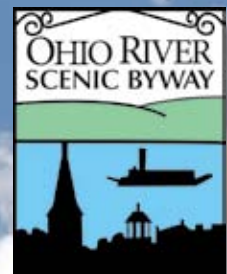
MEETING OF THE GREAT RIVERS

- Alton Regional CVB: Lewis & Clark, Lincoln-Douglas, Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail
- Gene Kunz: Canoe, Trails at Pere Marquette, Wadlow, Village of Elsah, Confluence Photo, Pelicans
- Walter Blackledge: Clark Bridge

OHIO RIVER NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

- Chad Colson: Shawneetown Bank, Marshall House Museum, Garden of the Gods (Camel Rock), Rosiclare Waterfront, Shawnee Queen River Taxi, Kincaid Mounds, Confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, Cairo Custom House Museum
- Steve Johnson: Cave-In-Rock State Park, Golconda Courthouse, Superman Statue, Mound City National Cemetery
- Debbie Thomas: Ft. Massac State Park
- Rhonda Belford: Tubing on the Ohio River near Rosiclare

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For more information visit www.illinoisbyways.org