

GREAT LAKES GREAT EXPERIENCES

greatlakesUSA.co.uk

ILLINOIS
INDIANA

MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA

NEW YORK
OHIO

PENNSYLVANIA
WISCONSIN

GREAT LAKES USA

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE, MICHIGAN

illinois

ancient
beauty
awaits



Starved Rock State Park



find a scenic adventure

In Illinois, the views will take your breath away even faster than the hikes. Your adventure is here – now all you have to do is find it.



FRESH VIEWS AWAIT

The sweeping landscapes of Michigan reward you when you go in search of what moves you. Take a moment to soak in the scenery, recharge and find what's fresh in Pure Michigan.

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Apostle Islands, Wisconsin

YOU'RE INVITED TO EXPLORE THE SECRET COAST

With its breathtaking natural beauty, rich cultural tapestry, and the promise of adventure around every corner, the Great Lakes region beckons visitors to unearth hidden treasures and invites travellers deep into the heart of America while embracing the genuine warmth of our hospitality.

From rugged cliffs to serene shores and stunning vistas that rival any ocean, the Great Lakes states promise a voyage filled with vast and diverse landscapes steeped in history and heritage and a treasure trove of experiences, ensuring a trip to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, or New York is one for the ages.

From the Boundary Waters of Minnesota to a national park in Michigan accessible only by boat or seaplane, the nation's first tribal

national park in Wisconsin, one of the country's newest national parks in Indiana, and one of the country's only free national parks in Ohio, a shared freshwater coast and majestic waterways provide endless opportunities for boating, fishing, and water sports. Pristine beaches, picturesque lighthouses, and charming lakeside towns appeal to both thrill seekers and chill seekers, while forested hills, protected public lands, and miles of trails offer a backdrop for plentiful land-based recreation.

Gateway cities like Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Cincinnati, and Cleveland boast world-class museums, vibrant art scenes, and architectural marvels, reflecting their innovative spirit, marked resilience, and creativity through periods of rebirth and revitalization, while a journey through Amish Country, prairie

villages, indigenous landmarks, and small towns in the heartland provides a deeper understanding of the country's complex geopolitical landscape and the pioneering spirit of early settlers who helped shape modern America.

The region's often understated status as a travel destination means fewer crowds and more authentic experiences, giving you the feeling of discovering your own secret paradise. Whether you're paddling through the backcountry, embarking on an iconic road trip, or enjoying the robust food and drink scene, the Great Lakes states offer a diverse array of activities and attractions each with their own unique charm that contribute to a mosaic of experiences waiting to be uncovered.

The only question is, what will you explore first?

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Great Lakes USA states and featured attractions, log on to www.greatlakesUSA.co.uk or email: director@greatlakestourism.org

COVER: PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE, MICHIGAN (PURE MICHIGAN)

PHOTO CREDITS: ENJOY ILLINOIS; EXPLORE MINNESOTA; NYCTOURISM; OHIO TOURISM; PURE MICHIGAN; TRAVEL WISCONSIN; VISIT INDIANA; VISIT PA; PAGE 11 (KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI); PAGE 15 (ALI ETURK, ADAM ALEXANDER); PAGE 27 (KATHLEEN KLINGER); PAGE 29 (LAUREL HIGHLANDS VISITORS BUREAU, ANF VISITORS BUREAU, VISIT POTTER-TIOGA, CLAY COOK); BLOOMINGTON MINNESOTA TRAVEL & TOURISM; BUTLER COUNTY (AL MARSCHKE); CHICAGO'S NORTH SHORE; DESTINATION ANN ARBOR; DESTINATION CLEVELAND; DESTINATION DOOR COUNTY; DESTINATION NIAGARA USA; DISCOVER DUPAGE; DISCOVER GREEN BAY; EXPERIENE CHAMPAIGN-URBANA; EXPERIENCE COLUMBUS (ANDY SPESSARD); EXPERIENCE; GRAND RAPIDS; HOLLAND AREA CVB; GREAT RIVERS & ROUTES REGION OF SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS; HERITAGE CORRIDOR DESTINATIONS; MACKINAC ISLAND; SPRINGFIELD CVB; TRAVEL MARQUETTE; TRAVERSE CITY TOURISM; VISIT BUFFALO NIAGARA (ED HEALY); VISIT CINCY; VISIT DETROIT; VISIT ERIE (PAUL GIBBONS); VISIT MILWAUKEE; VISIT PITTSBURGH (JP DROLL PHOTOGRAPHY)



MILWAUKEE



We invented delicious! Once known as the original Brew City thanks to names like Miller, Pabst, Schlitz and Blatz, Milwaukee has grown into the Culinary Capital of the Midwest. Discover the city where Midwest fare meets “Top Chef”-flair.

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Silver Lake Sand Dunes,
Michigan

DEAR TRAVELLERS TO THE GREAT LAKES REGION

I am honored to be Chair of Great Lakes USA, and to welcome you to such a special part of the United States.

Great Lakes USA is a collection of eight beautiful and unique states, each with so much to offer travellers from all around the globe. Whether you're looking for a fly/drive outdoor adventure, a luxurious cruise or something completely off the beaten path, you'll find it in this magical region.

While every state is different, there is one natural gem that connects us all: water. The great lakes.

These five lakes collectively span 246,463 square kilometres, making it the largest body of fresh water on the planet. And these aren't just any lakes. These are lakes that feel more like oceans. Ones that breathe life into the region, offering new worlds to explore.

In **Illinois**, you have the great city of Chicago overlooking the beautiful shore of Lake Michigan. The rest of Illinois features a multitude of gorgeous settings to lose yourself in, including over 60 state parks to enjoy the wonder of every season.

Indiana's 20+ state parks each offer their own unique landscape, from sand dunes to canyons, caves and especially the majestic waterfalls of the state's crown jewel, Turkey Run State Park.

Michigan boasts three national forests, two national parks, two national lakeshores, and 100 state parks, including Isle Royale, the least visited national park in all of the United States.

Minnesota, the land of 10,000 lakes, gives new meaning to the great outdoors with its plethora of pristine bodies of water and natural sites that invite adventurers into the wilderness.

The northern part of **Ohio** stretches along the coast of Lake Erie, and about 60 minutes west of Cleveland you

can ferry across the lake to Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island. Often called the "Key West of the North," Put-in-Bay is known for lively entertainment, historic sites and breathtaking water views.

Pennsylvania features the old-growth hemlocks of the North, the rolling countryside of the South, millions of acres of public land and the fabled city of Philadelphia, where visitors will find a trove of American history sites.

In **New York** more amazing water views can be found in the great city of Buffalo which sits on the eastern end of Lake Erie. Here, you'll find a remarkable arts, music and architecture scene filled with good food and friendly people.

When you visit **Wisconsin**, you're entering "America's Playground." It's surrounded by water on three sides and over half the state is forested, allowing you to get the absolute most out of outdoor activities.

I could go on and on about the amazing things that await – but instead, I'll extend a personal invitation for you to see for yourself. Exploring the Great Lakes region is a great opportunity to slow down, stay awhile, and savor all the diverse experiences this region has to offer.

Enjoy greatness in our regions.

Best,

Daniel Thomas
Great Lakes Chair & State Travel Director, Illinois

 Great Lakes USA -
Official UK Tourist Board

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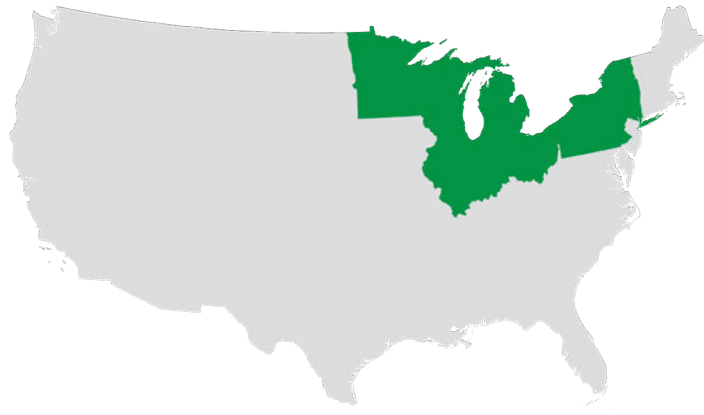
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POINTS OF INTEREST

MINNESOTA	WISCONSIN	ILLINOIS	INDIANA
1 PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT	5 WISCONSIN GREAT RIVER ROAD NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY	9 STARVED ROCK STATE PARK	13 INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK
2 ITASCA STATE PARK	6 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRAIL	10 GREAT RIVER ROAD MEETS ROUTE 66	14 INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY
3 VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK	7 HARLEY DAVIDSON MUSEUM	11 SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST	15 AMISH COUNTRY, SHIPSHEWANA
4 MALL OF AMERICA®	8 GREEN BAY PACKERS' LAMBEAU FIELD	12 ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM (SPRINGFIELD)	16 FRENCH LICK RESORT



MICHIGAN

- 17** SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE
- 18** HEADLANDS INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK
- 19** PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE
- 20** ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

OHIO

- 21** PUT-IN-BAY
- 22** CEDAR POINT
- 23** HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK
- 24** CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

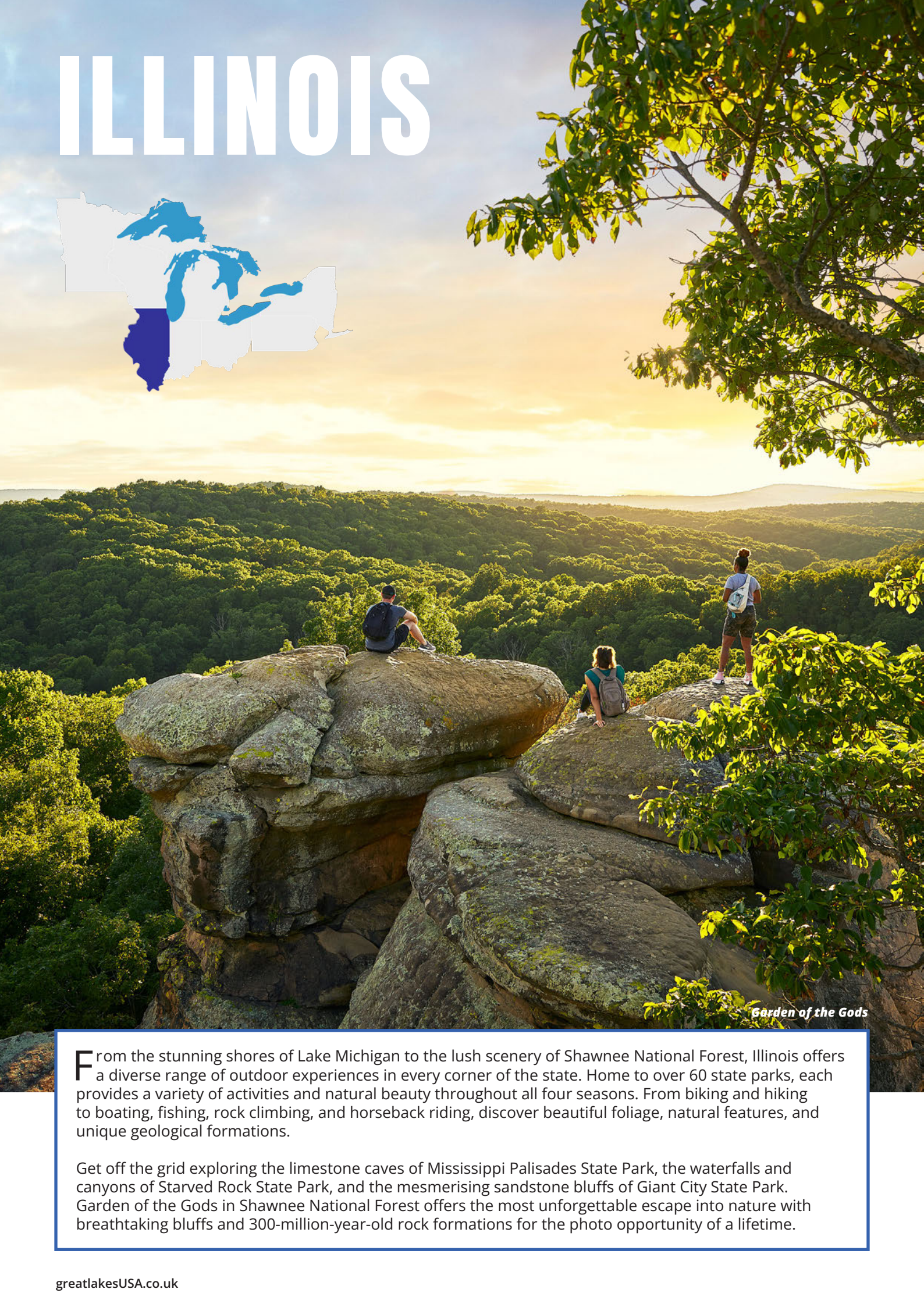
PENNSYLVANIA

- 25** PRESQUE ISLE AND ERIE BLUFFS STATE PARKS
- 26** FALLINGWATER
- 27** PENNSYLVANIA GRAND CANYON
- 28** POCONO MOUNTAINS

NEW YORK

- 29** THE CATSKILLS
- 30** FINGER LAKES
- 31** NIAGARA FALLS
- 32** ADIRONDACK PARK

ILLINOIS



Garden of the Gods

From the stunning shores of Lake Michigan to the lush scenery of Shawnee National Forest, Illinois offers a diverse range of outdoor experiences in every corner of the state. Home to over 60 state parks, each provides a variety of activities and natural beauty throughout all four seasons. From biking and hiking to boating, fishing, rock climbing, and horseback riding, discover beautiful foliage, natural features, and unique geological formations.

Get off the grid exploring the limestone caves of Mississippi Palisades State Park, the waterfalls and canyons of Starved Rock State Park, and the mesmerising sandstone bluffs of Giant City State Park. Garden of the Gods in Shawnee National Forest offers the most unforgettable escape into nature with breathtaking bluffs and 300-million-year-old rock formations for the photo opportunity of a lifetime.

ICONIC EATS

Classic Beef at the Original Mr. Beef – The restaurant that inspired the hit show “The Bear,” this Chicago River North street food stand has been serving cult-favourite Italian beef sandwiches for decades. Each takes 3-4 days to make, with drippings used for gravy au jus. You can have it wet, dry, or dipped.

Deep Dish Pizza – Thick pizza baked in a pan and layered with cheese, fillings, and tomato sauce. Many think Chicago-style pizza is more akin to a pie than a traditional New York slice, but the local delicacy is a must when in the Windy City. Who serves up the best slice is a hotly debated topic, but one local favourite is Pequod’s, also featured on “The Bear” and beloved for its caramelised crust.

Horseshoe Sandwich – An open-faced “sandwich” originating in Springfield, this carb lover’s dream features thick slices of Texas toast piled high with meat, French fries, and cheese sauce, best experienced at Motorhead’s Bar & Grill on Route 66.



Deep Dish Pizza



Pink Elephant Antique Mall

Gemini Giant, Wilmington – Snap a photo with this iconic landmark statue on Route 66. Named after the Gemini space programme, it holds a rocket in its hand and is part of the Muffler Man series found across the US from the early days of advertising.

Big Things, Small Town – Visitors are drawn to Casey in southeastern Illinois for its larger-than-life roadside attractions and small-town charm. Home to 12 of the “world’s largest” items, from wooden shoes to rocking chairs, other bizarre “big things” on display include ears of corn and pencils.

Pink Elephant Antique Mall, Livingston – A 30,000-square-foot antique shopping mall, ‘50s diner, candy shop, and ice cream parlour along Route 66, the Pink Elephant offers floor-to-ceiling deals and steals, along with quirky photo ops for the whole family.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

GREAT OUTDOORS:



Zip Through the Treetops

With picturesque hills, lush woodlands, and over 400 miles of hiking trails, there’s no better place to get fresh air than Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. For an adrenaline-filled adventure, soar through the forest canopy on a zipline tour that zigzags through the bluffs and valleys.



Take an Aerial Challenge

For adventure enthusiasts, The Forge: Lemont Quarries is a must-visit in close proximity to Chicago. Stretching across 300 acres, this unique adventure park features an aerial challenge course, climbing towers, ziplines, and a kids’ zone. You can also enjoy mountain biking, rock climbing, or spend some time on the water with a kayak, canoe, or paddleboat.



Seen from the Sky

Take your outdoor adventures to new heights with a hot air balloon ride over the charming town of Galena. Float thousands of feet above the beautiful rolling hills of Great Rivers Country for golden hour views, hues, and a unique perspective of the scenic landscape.



WHERE THE MOTHER ROAD *Meets the River Road*



Take a road trip like no other through the only place in America where the Mother Road of Route 66 meets the Great River Road. Discover a Neon Sign Park, meet a giant pink elephant, dine at historic roadside cafes, take a walk through river bluffs and prairies and relax with a glass of locally crafted wine beside the Mighty Mississippi River.

Your one-of-a-kind road trip adventure begins at RiversandRoutes.com.

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OF SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS

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illinois

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The First
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Miles



Chicago

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Willowbrook

♡ 👍 📌



Romeoville

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Joliet

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Joliet

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Wilmington

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Braidwood

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SPECIAL FEATURE



ROUTE 66 THE MOTHER ROAD

There is no American road trip more iconic than Route 66, aka the “Mother Road,” a journey that gives travellers the true essence of a quintessential road trip. And it all starts in the incredible city of Chicago. The road stretches down the state of Illinois, weaving through unique towns with delicious restaurants, past expansive landscapes and gorgeous state parks, and into attractions and history itself. We’ve gathered some of the best highlights along the road so you don’t miss a thing while planning your ultimate Illinois Route 66 road trip.

No trip is complete without first spending time in one of the world’s greatest cities. With towering skyscrapers overlooking the banks of **Lake Michigan**, first-time visitors will be blown away by the sheer scale of the freshwater “ocean” cradling the city. Snap a selfie of your reflection in the famous “Cloud Gate” sculpture, affectionately known as “**The Bean**.” Treat yourself to unbelievable 360° views of the city and beyond at the **Skydeck at Willis Tower** – you can see up to four states on a clear day. Don’t miss dining at classic eateries like the **Billy Goat Tavern**, or grab a slice of Chicago’s world-famous deep dish pizza at **Lou Malnati’s**. You’ll probably wish you had more time in Chicago, but the road is calling. Snap a picture at the original **Route 66 Begins sign** on E. Adams St, and get on your way!

As you leave Chicago behind, consider a stop at **Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket**, which has been serving up some of the best fried chicken on Route 66 since 1946. When you reach Joliet you can visit the **Old Joliet Prison**, a castle-like prison built in the 1850s. It housed some infamous American criminals, but perhaps the bigger notoriety is for the prison's role in American film and television, having been a filming location for both *The Blues Brothers* and *Prison Break*.

Pontiac is your next stop, and you'll find a treasure trove of Route 66 nostalgia and a larger-than-life mural which makes the perfect photo backdrop. Head to the **Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum** to see a variety of classic and antique cars. Don't miss the **Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum**, home to thousands of artifacts and memorabilia associated with Route 66.

No trip through the Land of Lincoln would be complete without a healthy dose of Abraham Lincoln himself. Springfield, the capital of Illinois, is rich in American history and is home to several attractions dedicated to the nation's 16th president. Explore the **Lincoln Home National Historic Site** and pay your respects at **Lincoln's Tomb**, where you can rub his shiny golden nose for good luck. For the most in-depth look into the Lincoln's life, visit the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**. Famished? You'll find great eats at **Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill, & Museum**.



The last stretch of your journey is chock-full of stops. The **Original Historic Route 66 Brick Road** was laid down in 1931 and gives travellers a peek into what the entire road used to look like before modern concrete roads. Get refreshed at **Doc's Soda Fountain**, a pharmacy built in 1880 with food and ice cream treats.

In Livingston, you'll get the chance to browse through countless retro knick-knacks at the **Pink Elephant Antique Mall**. As you make your way to Collinsville, you can't miss the **World's Largest Catsup Bottle**, a 170 ft water tower in the shape of – you guessed it – a ketchup bottle. Then stop by the **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and historical landmark. It's where you can find the remains of the most civilized prehistoric civilization north of Mexico. Conclude your journey with a scenic ride on the **Grafton SkyTour**.

The ride down Illinois Route 66 is a journey through time, capturing the essence of America's heartland. From the stunning lakefront of Chicago, to the historic depths of Springfield, to all the unique, off-the-beaten attractions and landmarks, this iconic highway has many experiences that will make lasting memories.

INDIANA



Indiana Dunes National Park

From canyons and caves to waterfalls and wildlife, Indiana's outdoors offers a captivating blend of natural beauty, adventure, and tranquility. Whether exploring rolling hills, serene lakes, dense forests, or winding rivers, Indiana's 20+ state parks provide unique landscapes and a variety of recreational activities.

For history enthusiasts, Spring Mill State Park features a restored grist mill and interpretive facilities showcasing Indiana's pioneer past. Enjoy a scenic horse-drawn carriage ride or visit Donaldson Cave, a hidden wonder with fascinating geological history. Cast a line at Patoka Lake or spend your days swimming, boating, or fishing for largemouth bass, catfish, and crappie. Discover the breathtaking waterfalls at Turkey Run State Park, Indiana's crown jewel, with its Instagram-worthy suspension bridge over cascading waters, deep gorges, and sandstone shelters. Marvel at the naturally formed wonders of Seven Pillars, find fossils at Falls of the Ohio State Park, see wild bison at Kankakee Sands, or follow the birding trail, where diverse habitats attract over 400 species of feathered friends.

Whether you choose to hike, bike, paddle, or picnic, Indiana's outdoors are ready to welcome you.



Conner Prairie

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Monastery of Immaculate Conception – Known as the “Castle on the Hill,” this church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It’s home to one of the nation’s largest communities of Benedictine women and features an impressive Romanesque dome, religious iconography, and beautiful stained-glass windows.

Badlands Off-Road Park – Get your adrenaline pumping on over 800 acres of off-road trails for all levels. Rent or bring your own 4x4 vehicle or bring your own dirt bike, buggy or truck to traverse diverse terrain of sand dunes, mud, rocks, and streams on the trails and rock quarry.

The Covered Bridge Capital of the World – Parke County boasts 31 historic covered bridges across nine charming communities. Grab your keys, map, and camera, and plan your visit to these picturesque towns. Pro Tip: The Parke County Covered Bridge Festival in October is Indiana’s largest annual event and a great time to visit.



Badlands Off-Road Park

FUN FACTS

The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis – The world’s largest children’s museum and one of USA Today’s Top 10 Children’s Museums in America, this massive campus spans 29 acres with five floors of interactive fun, featuring exhibits like Barbie You Can Be Anything, Dinosphere, and the Riley Children’s Health Sports Legend Experience.

Conner Prairie – Indiana’s first Smithsonian-affiliated Museum, this living history museum offers 11 distinct historical areas with first-person interpretations of life throughout the 19th century from Indian Camp to Prairie Town.

Holiday World & Splashin’ Safari – Located in Santa Claus, Indiana, this holiday-themed adventure and water park is one of the top 3 water parks in the country according to TripAdvisor.com. Don’t miss the Voyage, the #1 wooden roller coaster according to *TIME* magazine, and Cheetah Chase, the world’s first water coaster.

GREAT OUTDOORS:



Explore One of the U.S.’s Newest National Parks

Millennia of wind and waves have shaped the land along 15 miles of Indiana coast at Indiana Dunes National and State Park, creating a rich mosaic of habitats. Explore over 50 miles of trails and immerse yourself in years of indigenous culture.



Sleep on the Water

Experience Indiana’s first floating cabins at Patoka Lake, the state’s second-largest reservoir. With 8,800 acres of rolling topography and woodlands, it’s especially beautiful in the fall and also offers traditional cabins and camping.



Rock On

Explore four caves with guided tours. Bluespring Caverns offers an underground boat ride along America’s longest navigable underground river. Indiana Caverns, the state’s longest cave, displays Ice Age animal bones. Marengo Cave is Indiana’s most visited natural attraction, while Squire Boone Caverns is part of a pioneer village with hands-on arts and crafts.

MICHIGAN



Turnip Rock

The Great Lakes State offers breathtaking outdoor experiences across two peninsulas, with ample space to spread out and explore. Its freshwater coastline is longer than the entire Atlantic seaboard and is home to countless shipwrecks, underwater preserves, and maritime national landmarks, with a coast carved by glaciers more than 12,000 years ago.

With five national forests, six national park sites, two national lakeshores, and 100 state parks, Michigan caters to both thrill-seekers and those in search of tranquillity. It's a choose-your-own-adventure between remote wilderness or urban renewal; exhilarating dune buggy rides across the landscape or charming beach towns along the coast. However you choose to explore, be sure to stay long enough to get lost in the right direction.

ICONIC EATS

Sweet Cherry Pie – Traverse City, known as the Cherry Capital of the World, is the largest producer of tart cherries in the US. Indulge in cherry-infused treats, from pies and jams to beverages and sauces, with the Very Cherry Passport, or visit a summer fruit market, stand, or u-pick farm during the July-August season.

Detroit Style Pizza – Detroit's square, Sicilian-style pizza has gained national acclaim, ranking the city among the top three pizza destinations in the US. What makes it so delicious? Generous layers of cheese melted atop thick, airy dough.

Pour One Out – Michigan offers plenty for foodies that pairs perfectly with a freshly brewed craft beer. Grand Rapids has earned the title "Beer City USA," with an Ale Trail featuring over 80 breweries. That's more craft beer per square mile than almost anywhere else on earth.



Holland Tulips



Arch Rock, Mackinac Island

No Cars Allowed – Despite the state being most renowned for automobile production, one of the most popular vacation spots is Mackinac Island, which has been completely car-free since the 1800s. Voted the best summer travel destination in the US, you can explore the tiny island by horse and buggy, bike, scooter, or on foot after hopping on the ferry.

Holiday Cheer Throughout the Year – The world's largest Christmas store, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, can be found in Michigan's little Bavaria, Frankenmuth. This enormous holiday hotspot, the size of 1.5 football fields, offers year-round festivities, including an illuminated Christmas Lane, Silent Night Chapel, and custom souvenir ornaments.

See Holland in Springtime – Holland, Michigan, celebrates its Dutch heritage each year with a Tulip Festival as a tribute to spring, when more than 5 million blooms colour the city. Regardless of when you visit, you can snap a selfie with the only authentic Dutch windmill in the US and tour the island gardens.

FUN FACTS

GREAT OUTDOORS:



Isle Royale National Park

One of the least visited national parks in America, this remote paradise in the heart of Lake Superior is accessible only by boat or seaplane from April through October. Favoured by those seeking a true backcountry experience off the grid, visitors tend to stay an average of 3.5 days, compared to the typical 4-hour visit to most national parks.



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

With miles of sandy beach bluffs rising 140 metres above Lake Michigan, the park boasts outstanding natural features, including forests, beaches, dunes, and ancient glacial phenomena. Cultural highlights include an 1871 lighthouse, three former Life-Saving Service/Coast Guard Stations, and a historic farm district.



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

One of only four National Lakeshores, this protected area of Lake Superior features miles of stunning beaches, sand dunes, waterfalls, and lighthouses. Its name derives from the colourful mineral streaks on the cliffs and it is one of the best places for ice climbing.

THE WORLD RIDES WITH US.

THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY — NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCE — DETROIT HAS ALWAYS LED THE WAY. WE NEVER FOLLOW. OUR INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE SET STANDARDS AND TRENDS ALL AROUND THE WORLD. WE HAVEN'T ALWAYS GOTTEN THE CREDIT FOR IT, BUT THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE.

Detroit

📍 MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, USA

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MINNESOTA



Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area

Minnesota's outdoors offer a captivating blend of natural beauty and diverse landscapes that beckon adventurers year-round. Known as the Land of 10,000 Lakes, Minnesota boasts a plethora of pristine water bodies that are ideal for fishing, boating, and water sports during the warmer months. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, a vast network of lakes and streams bordered by the Superior National Forest, offers unparalleled opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, and camping amidst untouched wilderness.

The North Shore of Lake Superior, with its rugged cliffs and picturesque waterfalls like Gooseberry Falls and historic sites like Split Rock Lighthouse, attracts hikers and photographers alike. Minnesota is adorned with forests, rolling hills, and expansive prairies, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts. The state's extensive network of trails and parks, including Itasca State Park, where the Mississippi River begins, ensures there's always a new corner of nature to explore.

Whether you seek tranquillity in nature's embrace or thrilling adventures in the wild, Minnesota's outdoors promise unforgettable experiences for all who venture into its natural splendour.



Nickelodeon Universe, Mall of America®

HISTORY MADE

Pipestone National Monument – For centuries, American Indians have visited the pipestone quarries to acquire red pipestone for crafting sacred ceremonial pipe bowls. Visitors can tour the Indigenous centre to learn about its origins and history, visit the gift shop, and catch a carving demonstration.

Split Rock Lighthouse – Once deemed the most dangerous stretch of water in the world, the lighthouse was constructed after a 1905 storm damaged 29 ships. It oversaw the safe passage of freight travellers for over half a century and today stands as an iconic landmark for visitors.

Stone Arch Bridge – A National Civil Engineering Landmark in Minneapolis, the Stone Arch Bridge is a former railway bridge that crosses the Mississippi River, offering breathtaking skyline views and a panoramic view of St. Anthony Falls. For an up-close look, head to the footpaths at Father Hennepin Bluff Park.



Split Rock Lighthouse

STAR ATTRACTIONS

Mall of America® – The largest shopping and entertainment complex in the United States and one of the most visited tourist attractions on the globe, Mall of America® is just 15 minutes from downtown Minneapolis and boasts a whopping 500+ stores, 60 restaurants, amusement park and a plethora of other family-friendly entertainment.

Paisley Park – The former home and studio of musical superstar Prince, Paisley Park attracts visitors from around the world for tours, events, and concerts.

Mississippi River – People from around the world visit Itasca State Park in northwest Minnesota to marvel at the serene birthplace of the mighty Mississippi River. They pose next to a large pine log carved with yellow letters marking the beginning of the “Father of Waters,” the second-longest river in the U.S. and the fourth-longest in the world.

GREAT OUTDOORS:



Push Your Boundaries

National Geographic Traveler called the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, “50 Places of a Lifetime.” A paddler’s dream that should be on any adventure bucket list, more than 1,500 canoe routes are spread across 150 miles and over 1,000 lakes, rivers and streams along a remote stretch of the U.S./Canadian border.



Rock Yourself to Sleep

Floating fun, houseboats are a way of life up North and one of the best ways to tour Voyageurs National Park. Whether you stay a few days or a week, they’re also popular to rent around Lake Vermilion, Birch Lake, and Leech Lake as an alternative to traditional cabins.



Hook, Line and Sinker

The largest freshwater lake in the world, fishing on Lake Superior makes it easy to cast a line. Anglers can fish from shore or boat, with many species of trout, salmon, and more available year-round.

NEW YORK



New York is a Great Lakes State with coastlines on both Lake Erie and Lake Ontario best seen on a drive down the 834-kilometre Great Lakes Seaway Trail, one of America's first designated national scenic byways. It's a watery wonderland as you skirt the shores of the Niagara River, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River, connected by charming waterfront cities and historical landmarks.

When you're ready to stretch your legs, New York offers 2,000 miles of hiking and biking trails across the state. Notable destinations include the 6.2 million-acre Adirondack Park, the largest park outside of Alaska; Chimney Bluffs State Park, known for its dramatic landscapes shaped by ancient glaciers; the Natural Stone Bridge, home to the largest marble cave in the eastern United States; and Allegany State Park, a must-see for stunning fall colours.



Buffalo, NY

HIGHLIGHTS

Niagara Falls State Park – Niagara Falls is America's first state park, and features three impressive waterfalls. Experience the exhilarating spray up close on the Maid of the Mist boat tour, tour by trolley, or admire the falls illuminated in a spectrum of colours after dark.

Buffalo – Named one of the five most remarkable waterfronts in the US by *Hemispheres* magazine, there are countless ways to explore the recently redeveloped harbour from Canalside to marina with cruises and water bikes before taking in the iconic architecture, art museums and murals, and fun foods like the Buffalo Wing Trail.

Chautauqua-Allegheny – In the southwest corner of the state, enjoy trophy fishing on Lake Erie, biking in Allegany State Park, and scenic trails through Lake Erie Wine Country and Amish farmland. This area offers diverse attractions, including golf courses, amusement parks, aerial courses, and rafting adventures.

Hudson Valley – Experience stunning views from the Walkway Over the Hudson, the world's longest pedestrian bridge, or the Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway. The Shawangunk Ridge, known as "the Gunks," is a major rock climbing destination. Visit Innisfree Garden, one of the world's top ten gardens, climb Breakneck Ridge in Hudson Highlands State Park, or explore by kayak or canoe in a region touted as one of the world's top 20 destinations by *National Geographic Traveler*.



Crows Nest, Niagara Falls

GREAT CITY. GREAT LAKE. GREAT WINGS.

A waterfront playground sits on the shores of Lake Erie in New York's second largest city. It's around the bend from the birthplace of America's best chicken wings, next door to a natural wonder of the world, in this one-of-a-kind weirdly wonderful place full of greatest hits and hidden gems. Discover this sneaky cool getaway, never more than a moment from what's next.

BUFFALO

YOU'RE WELCOME.



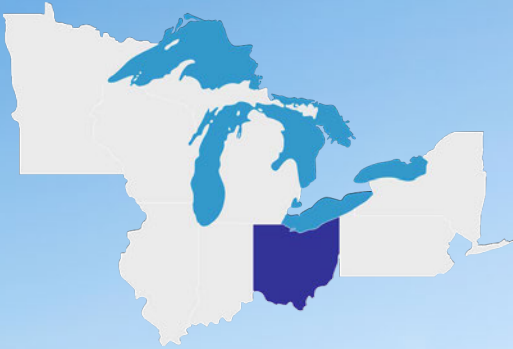
Explore Buffalo RiverWorks among the towering grain silos along the Buffalo River.



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visit
Buffalo Niagara

OHIO



Marblehead Lighthouse

Exploring Ohio's outdoors offers a range of incredible experiences, from the most U.S. bicycle miles to hiking the 1,444-mile Buckeye Trail that loops around the state, to traversing the 330-mile Ohio to Erie Trail stretching from Cincinnati to Cleveland. Hike through one of Ohio's 76 free state parks or discover new paths at Cuyahoga Valley National Park, one of the few free national parks in the country.

From picturesque shorelines to The Wilds, a vast conservation area where visitors can take safari tours to see exotic animals in the wild, Ohio's outdoors are home to lush landscapes, historic sites, abundant wildlife, and truly unexpected adventures. Follow the Ohio Historical Underground Railroad Trail back in time or explore Wine Country for a taste of local flavour.



Cedar Point

STAR ATTRACTIONS

Cleveland – Drew Carey said it best, “Cleveland Rocks.” Visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, The Cleveland Museum of Art, and West Side Market before getting outdoors to enjoy the “Emerald Necklace.” Surrounded by 18 Metro Parks that encompass a whopping 23,000 acres, Cuyahoga Valley National Park steals the show with 140+ miles of trails, waterfalls, and one of Ohio’s famed covered bridges.

Columbus – The capital and beloved college town has a range of experiences for visitors. Walk or bike the Scioto Mile, an urban oasis downtown made up of over 175 acres of lush parkland, get lost in the gardens at the Franklin Park Conservatory, and plan a dreamy picnic at Topiary Park, full of sculptures artistically crafted out of flora and fauna.

Cincinnati – Walk across the iconic John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge, which inspired the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City, get your thrills at King’s Island amusement park, home to the world’s longest wooden roller coaster, go for a riverboat cruise, and feast on legendary Cincinnati chili served on everything from spaghetti to hot dogs.



John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge

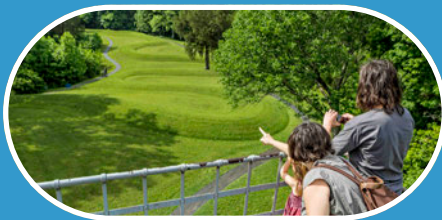
FAMILY FUN

Explore the Birthplace of Aviation – Take to new heights following in the footsteps of the Wright Brothers, inventors of the first aircraft, at the National Aviation Heritage Area, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and the Wright Brothers National Museum.

Flip for the Rollercoaster Capital of the World – Cedar Point has been a favourite family destination for decades with thrilling rides and amusements right on the Sandusky shores. It’s also been dubbed Ohio’s Water Park Capital due to the popularity of year-round indoor water park resorts.

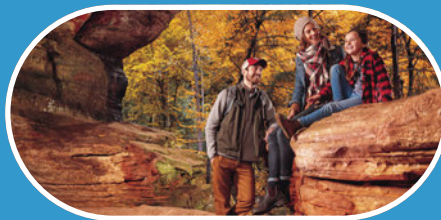
The World’s Largest Amish Population – Enjoy the quiet rolling hillside of Holmes, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Geauga counties, which make up Amish Country, a one-of-a-kind trip filled with buggy rides, heritage homes and schoolhouses, vintage candy and soda, and barn tours with animals to pet.

GREAT OUTDOORS:



Bask in Nature in Appalachia

Spanning 32 counties from the shores of Lake Erie to the banks of the Ohio River, this region showcases Ohio’s beautiful parks and largest forests. Enjoy panoramic views from Buzzardroost Rock, one of the Midwest’s most biologically diverse natural systems, visit the world’s largest prehistoric Indigenous mound, Serpent Mound, and explore the Storybook Trail at Adams Lake State Park.



The Hills Are Alive

See why three million visitors each year flock to the Hocking Hills as the ultimate place to enjoy the beauty of nature while hiking, ziplining, rock climbing, horseback riding, and canoeing. Find deep gorges, waterfalls, caves, and an abundance of wildlife in this pristine paradise. The John Glenn Astronomy Park promises a stellar stargazing experience and cozy cabin stays are perfect for getting off the grid in the tranquil Wayne National Forest.



Plan a Coastal Escape

The Lake Erie coast is an adventurer’s wonderland with miles of shoreline to enjoy. Charming Sandusky was named USA Today’s “Best Coastal Small Town,” while other places to explore include the 200-year-old Marblehead Lighthouse, Kelleys Island, home to the world’s largest, most accessible glacial grooves, and Put-in-Bay, on which Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial commemorates the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

PENNSYLVANIA



Presque Isle State Park

With ancient, old-growth hemlocks to the north, rolling countryside to the south, thousands of pristine lakes and streams, and 124 state parks (all free!), Pennsylvania offers endless opportunities for outdoor exploration. Home to one of the largest expanses of green space between New York City and Chicago, 2 million acres of public land await.

More than half of the state is covered in forests, and despite lacking a coastline, Pennsylvania boasts 140 miles of waterfront along Lake Erie and the Delaware River. Erie is Pennsylvania's only port on the Great Lakes on beautiful Presque Isle Bay, which was recently named "Best Lake" and "Best Lake for Water Sports" by USA Today.

STAR ATTRACTIONS

Presque Isle – The gateway to the Great Lakes, this national natural landmark boasts seven miles of idyllic beaches, and the only surf swimming you'll find within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The lagoons are perfect for paddlers, and nearby you'll find the start of the largest grape-growing region east of the Rocky Mountains!

Elk Country – Home to the largest wild elk herd in the northeastern US, with up to 1,400 elk freely roaming across a 127-mile drive loop through five counties. Don't miss the Bucktail Overlook, known locally as the "Top of the World." Pro Tip: The Elk Expo, held annually in August, draws hundreds of spectators and visitors for the live license drawing.

Kinzua Bridge State Park – Named "one of the world's most beautiful skywalks and viewpoints," by Culture Trip U.K., the Kinzua Bridge skywalk is an engineering marvel made out of a converted railway track that offers stunning views of the Pennsylvania Wilds. A partial glass floor provides an unparalleled look at the landscape below.



Wild Elk



Kinzua Bridge State Park

Allegheny National Forest – Pennsylvania's only national forest dominates the western part of the state, containing many of the region's most treasured places and experiences, from the Longhouse National Scenic Byway to the Allegheny Reservoir, Allegheny River, Kinzua Dam and Bridge State Park, ATV trails, and even a free light show from Mother Nature during Pennsylvania's synchronous firefly season.

Cook Forest and the Ancients – Known as a land of giants, this "forest cathedral" of ancient pines is a tribute to the majesty of the Pennsylvania Wilds. Home to many of the tallest trees in the Northeast, it's truly a fairytale come to life.

Seeing Stars – Dark Skies is home to the world's second certified International Dark-Sky Park. Cherry Springs State Park is renowned as one of the best stargazing and astronomy spots in the USA. On a clear night, up to 30,000 stars fill the sky, and lucky guests may also spot asteroids, Venus, the Northern Lights, and the Milky Way.

FUN FACTS

GREAT OUTDOORS:



Rush the Rapids

The gateway to the Laurel Highlands, the "Yough" (pronounced yawk) River offers some of the best whitewater rafting in the eastern US. Ohiopyle State Park is home to the deepest gorge in the state and scenic waterfalls, with outfitters providing class 1-V rapid trips for everything from a relaxing day on the water to an extreme paddling adventure.



Hit the Trails

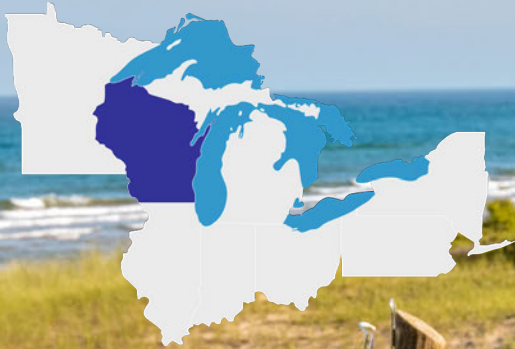
The Great Allegheny Passage boasts 150 miles of continuous hiking and biking trails. Not-to-miss stops include the Mason-Dixon Line, The Salisbury Viaduct, the Eastern Continental Divide, the ruins art project, Perryopolis, and Cumberland Bone Cave. Ricketts Glenn State Park, a national natural landmark, is another prime hiking spot, featuring 22 free-flowing, cascading waterfalls along an ancient hillside.



The Grand Canyon of the East

Known as Pennsylvania's glacially carved Grand Canyon, Pine Creek Gorge is a national natural landmark featuring incredible overlooks and is surrounded by 165,000 acres of Tioga State Forest, ideal for hiking, biking, birdwatching, and horseback riding. Pro Tip: Plan your visit around the fall colours!

WISCONSIN



Kohler-Andrae State Park

Wisconsin is defined by its plentiful outdoor recreation offerings. “America’s playground” is bordered by water on three sides, including the Mighty Mississippi River and two Great Lakes so vast they might as well be oceans. Water abounds, as Wisconsin’s 15,000 freshwater inland lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams create a beautiful “fresh coast” for paddling, boating, fishing, swimming, and, yes, even surfing.

Nearly half of Wisconsin is forested, offering ample land-based adventures, as well. Hike one of America’s two National Scenic Trails or mountain bike through the heart of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Explore a treasure trove of natural wonders at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore with 21 breathtaking islands and over 50 miles of trails that lead to scenic viewpoints and iconic lighthouses.

From quartzite cliffs to steep hills, idyllic landscapes set the stage for heart-pumping outdoor activities with some of the most diverse wildlife and foliage in the Midwest, offering a true taste of America’s natural beauty.

Yerkes Observatory



FUN FACTS

Get Cheesy – Wisconsin is the only place outside Europe where one can earn a Master Cheesemaker certification, an advanced three-year degree in cheesemaking. Currently, there are nearly 80 Master Cheesemakers in the state, with more joining this elite group each year.

America's First Designated Tribal National Park – Frog Bay Tribal National Park is 180 pristine acres with views of 5 Apostle Islands from the sandy beach along Lake Superior. Managed by Red Cliff's Treaty Natural Resources Division, the park is open to the peaceful enjoyment of all.

Are You Ready for Some Football? – The Green Bay Packers are the only publicly owned NFL team, which means they are truly run for the fans, by the fans. Experience this unique sports culture with a tour of the stadium, Oneida Nation Walk of Legends, the Hall of Fame, and Titledown Park.



STAR ATTRACTIONS

Yerkes Observatory in Lake Geneva – Dubbed the birthplace of modern astrophysics, the Observatory is an architectural masterpiece set on fifty acres of Olmsted-designed ecological splendour. Since 1897, Yerkes has been the home and school to famous astronomers, Nobel prize winners, and renowned scientists with public tours available.

Milwaukee Art Museum – An iconic building meets a stunning collection, the Milwaukee Art Museum was voted one of the top 10 in the country by USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards. The largest art museum in the state of Wisconsin houses more than 30,000 works.

Wisconsin State Capitol – Admire the beautiful mosaics and towering marble columns of the State Capitol in Madison. Daily free tours are available, and in summer, the sixth-floor museum and observation deck are open to visitors.

GREAT OUTDOORS:



Bikes, Hikes, and City Sights

Milwaukee has countless ways to refresh and recharge. Paddle along the Milwaukee River or Lake Michigan, take in the iconic sights of the Harley-Davidson Museum and Milwaukee Art Museum, or bike the scenic Lakefront Trail. In Wisconsin's largest city, your days can be filled with adventure and your evenings with exploration.



Four Seasons of Adventure

Perched just off the Great River Road in La Crosse, Grandad Bluff boasts stunning panoramic views of the Mississippi River Valley, ideal for savoring the vibrant hues of fall. From biking and hiking in summer to skiing and snowmobiling in the winter, there's always something to explore in this scenic area of the state.



Architectural Marvels

Wander through Taliesin, the extraordinary home of renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Tour, hike and eat your way through history at this UNESCO World Heritage site that boasts organic architecture, picturesque trails, and a culinary program.

GREAT LAKES PARTNERS

Bloomington Minnesota Travel & Tourism

In the land of 10,000 lakes, outdoor exploration opportunities abound. Bloomington, Minnesota, is home to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, one of the few urban wildlife refuges in the United States, and the Hyland Lake Park Reserve where visitors enjoy hiking, cycling, swimming, and fishing during the warmer months, and skiing and snowboarding in the winter. Hop on the Metro Transit Light Rail to visit the stunning Minnehaha Falls or take a road trip to the headwaters of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca. Once you've worked up an appetite, Bloomington's own Mall of America® is the perfect place to shop, dine, and unwind.



BLOOMINGTONMN.ORG



VISITBUTLERCOUNTY.COM

Butler County, Pennsylvania

Home to picturesque views, rolling hills, vibrant florals, and fish-filled waters, Butler County invites you to experience nature and small-town life just 40 km away from Pittsburgh. Discover native wildflowers blooming along the protected prairie at Jennings Environmental Education Center, marvel at woodland creatures on the forest floor during scenic hikes at Moraine State Park, and watch in awe as bald eagles and osprey soar high and swoop low above Lake Arthur. Embark on the waters of Lake Arthur from a new perspective with stand-up paddleboarding or a cruise on Preston's Pearl.



Bloomington
Minnesota Travel & Tourism

WHERE FUN MOVES
a Smile a Minute

In Bloomington, MN, there are thrills around every corner. From tax-free shopping at Mall of America® to nature discoveries at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge – plus close proximity to MSP International Airport – it's easy to have a fun-filled getaway in fun's favorite place!

Plan your trip at BloomingtonMN.org.



Chicago's North Shore, Illinois

Bordering Lake Michigan, Chicago's North Shore is the most scenic area in metropolitan Chicago, offering direct city train access to downtown. With an abundance of attractions, dining, and shopping options, it is conveniently located near both the city and O'Hare International Airport. Notable attractions include Northwestern University, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Ravinia Festival, the only Baha'i House of Worship in North America, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, North Shore Centre for Performing Arts, Grosse Point Lighthouse, the Charles Dawes Gates House, the Block Museum of Art, and Westfield Old Orchard, the premier outdoor shopping centre in the U.S.



VISITCHICAGONORTHSHORE.COM



ANNARBOR.ORG

Destination Ann Arbor, Michigan

A year-round haven for outdoor enthusiasts, Ann Arbor is affectionately known as "Tree Town" due to an abundance of natural resources. The city's picturesque green spaces, such as the expansive Nichols Arboretum and the serene Matthaei Botanical Gardens, offer an ideal setting for hiking, birdwatching, and picnicking. The Huron River flows through the area, inviting visitors to enjoy kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and other watery pursuits. In the warmer months, cyclists and joggers have miles of trails to explore, including the 35-mile Border-to-Border Trail, while in winter, the city transforms into a snowy playground, with cross-country skiing and snowshoeing popular seasonal activities.



CHICAGO'S
NORTH SHORE
CITY LIFE,
ELEVATED

Bordering Chicago along Lake Michigan, Chicago's North Shore provides safe accommodations with easy access to the city and North Shore attractions.



Chicago Botanic Garden



Bahá'í House of Worship

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Destination Cleveland, Ohio

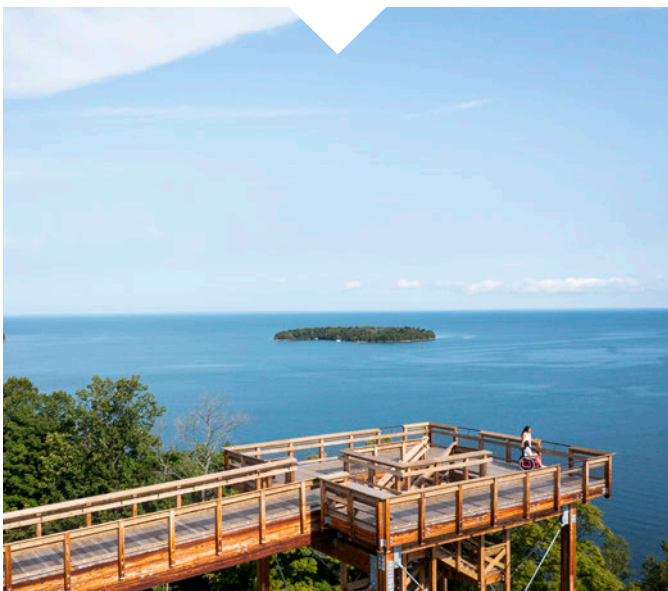
With Lake Erie in its front yard and a national park just 16 kilometres south of the city centre, visitors to Cleveland can easily escape the city and reconnect with nature. From watersports to hiking and cycling, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors abound in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the Cleveland Metroparks, and along the shores of the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie, the shallowest and warmest of the Great Lakes. Visitors seeking a picturesque escape with minimal effort can opt for an excursion on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad or a cruise along the lakefront.



THISISCLEVELAND.COM

Destination Door County, Wisconsin

Kick up some sand and soak up the sun on some of the most beautiful beaches in Wisconsin, with nearly 480 kilometres of Lake Michigan shoreline to explore. Water enthusiasts can embark on adventures on the lakes of Door County, where they can fish, kayak, paddle, or explore the underwater world with over 200 shipwrecks awaiting discovery. For those who prefer dry land, there are trails offering breathtaking scenery and historic lighthouses to visit along the way. Delightful orchards and vineyards and the thriving culinary scene are the cherries on top of this charming destination.



DOORCOUNTY.COM



Pack in the memories.

From game day to golfing. Cheese curds to burrata. Cultural events to farmers markets. Automobile and railroad museums to smelling flowers. So much to do in Greater Green Bay!



GreenBay.com

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green
bay**
Beyond Legendary

Destination Niagara USA

Experience a natural wonder on the American side of Niagara Falls. America's oldest state park, Niagara Falls State Park, brings you closer to the grandeur of the Falls than you ever thought possible. Climb aboard the all-electric, emission-free Maid of the Mist boat tour, or navigate a series of wooden stairs up to the "Hurricane Deck" at the Cave of the Winds. The region is also brimming with history, arts, culture, and outdoor recreation. Hike, cycle, and fish through the abundant parks and waterways; explore living history programmes at Old Fort Niagara; and cruise the Erie Canal with Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruises.



NIAGARAFALLSUSA.COM

GREENBAY.COM



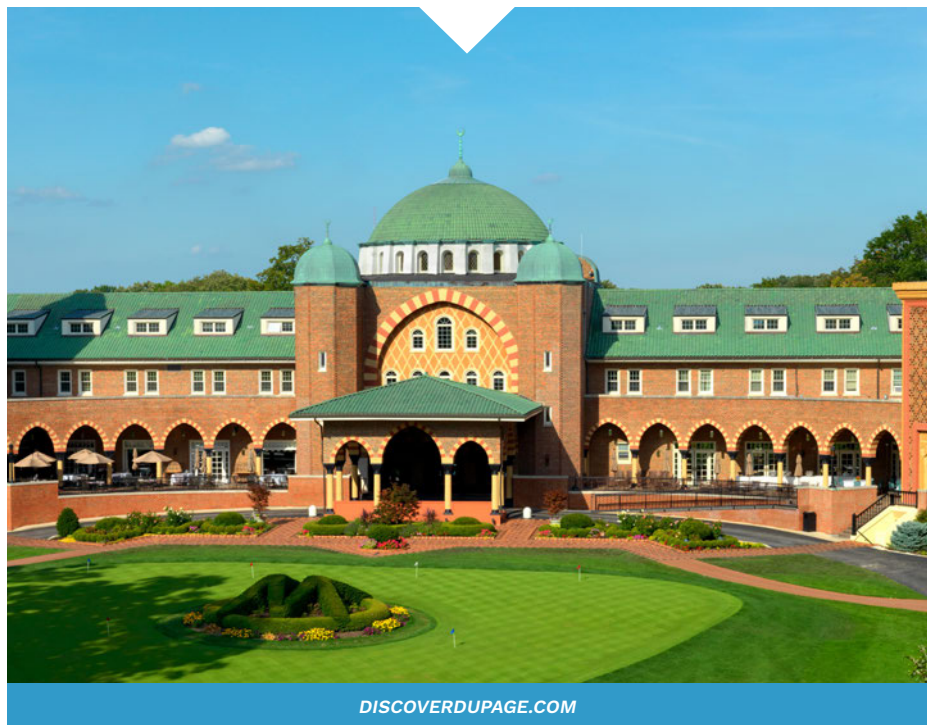
Discover Green Bay, Wisconsin

Green Bay might be known for its American football team, but there's so much more to the city than game-day buzz. Whether you're exploring the lush Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary or soaking up the views along the Fox River Trail, Green Bay's diverse outdoor attractions make it a must-visit destination for anyone yearning for fresh air and natural beauty. Picture yourself casting a line, gliding across Lake Michigan, or kayaking along the tranquil Fox River. The city's parks and trails offer opportunities for hikes, bike rides, and birdwatching. When winter arrives, the adventure continues with cross-country skiing and snowshoeing taking centre stage.

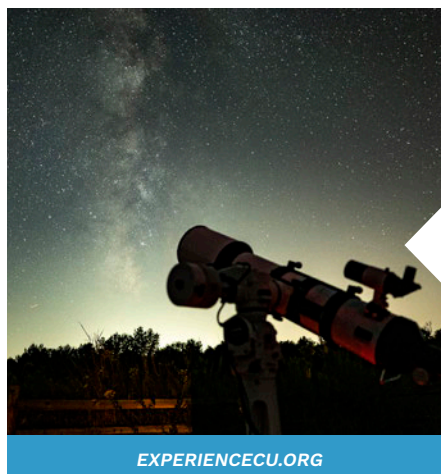
Discover DuPage, Illinois

Where nature and art converge, scenic trails and extensive forest preserves meet vibrant street art, indigenous culture, larger-than-life sculptures, and picturesque umbrella alleys. Discover the natural beauty of Waterfall Glen, the historic Cantigny estate, and the Morton Arboretum—an internationally renowned tree-focused botanical garden, research centre, and living museum spanning 1,700 acres.

A renowned destination for golf enthusiasts and outdoor recreation, DuPage boasts over 50 top-rated courses that challenge your skill and precision on the green. Join us for the 2026 Presidents Cup at Medinah Country Club, or enjoy a round at one of the many exceptional courses in the area.



DISCOVERDUPAGE.COM



EXPERIENCECU.ORG

Experience Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Home to the University of Illinois, visitors have access to a plethora of outdoor attractions with nearly 100 miles of hiking trails, scenic lakes for kayaking, public art on the prairie, and Illinois' only International Dark Sky Park. Experience the best of the Milky Way while camping at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, or stargaze on the new Dark Sky Park Trail. Don't miss picturesque outdoor spots such as Allerton Park & Retreat Centre, a European-style estate with 14 miles of hiking trails and 14 formal gardens and the Japan House Gardens.



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Experience Columbus, Ohio

As a city for all seasons, Columbus offers outdoor activities year-round. Ohio's capital city boasts over 20 Metro Parks with more than 230 miles of trails. The city's newest Metro Park, Quarry Trails, features America's first urban via ferrata. Located in the heart of the city centre is the Scioto Mile, recently named one of the best riverwalks in the country by USA Today where you'll find over 175 acres of lush parkland to kayak, stroll, cycle, or enjoy one of the many festivals held in this vibrant area.



HOLLAND.ORG

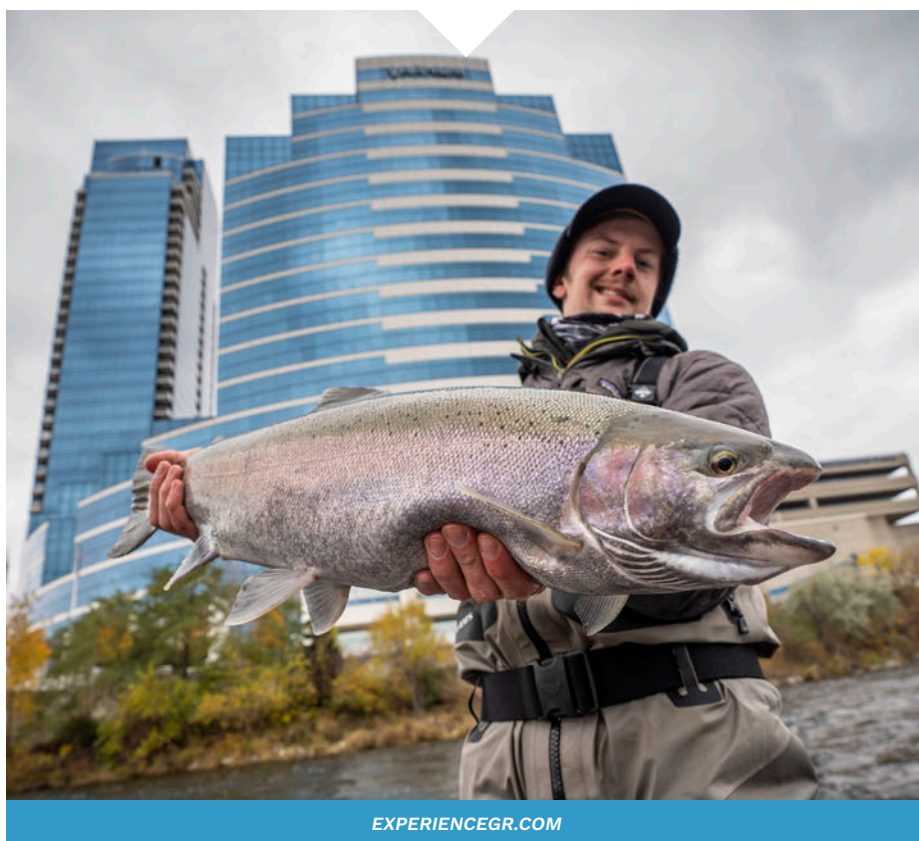


Holland Area CVB, Michigan

This former Dutch colony may be only three hours from both Chicago and Detroit, but it may very well feel like you've booked a trip across the pond, it's that enchanting. Nestled along the wildly beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, Holland combines big water adventures and landside entertainment into one unforgettable trip. Where else can you kayak to a centuries-old windmill, cycle through a dune forest, and cruise past an iconic lighthouse at sunset? Amidst the natural splendour lies Holland's historic downtown, buzzing with unique shops, sidewalk cafes, and brewpubs, welcoming you with only the finest American hospitality.

Experience Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dream grand and go to Grand Rapids, named one of CNN's 10 Best American Towns to visit for a holiday that combines urban excitement with outdoor recreation. Walk the along the edges of Michigan's longest river as it flows through the center of the city and enjoy the arched bridges, stunning architecture and fish for salmon or steelhead, enjoy a 158-acre sculpture park and view over 100 pieces of sculpture by world-renowned artists, and bike and hike hundreds of miles of trails. Further afield, enjoy over 30 golf courses, or relax on the sandy shores of 20+ beaches along the majestic Lake Michigan, all within a 30 - 45 min drive.



Great Rivers & Routes Region of Southwest Illinois

Located just outside of St. Louis, Great Rivers & Routes is the only place in America where Route 66 meets the Great River Road. Explore the mighty rivers flowing through southwest Illinois by foot, bike, or boat. Paddle in the iconic Mississippi River and kayak along the waters bordering the Great River Road, with its scenic and soaring limestone bluffs. Alternatively, cycle through the woodlands, prairies, and expansive American Bottoms along more than 150 miles of trails that criss-cross the region.

WHERE History MEETS THE ROAD



ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM

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In Legendary Springfield, Illinois experience Abraham Lincoln's legacy like nowhere else in the world. Enjoy an abundance of Route 66 attractions and unique experiences. And, while you're here, you've got to try our signature Horseshoe Sandwich, we even have a culinary trail for you to jump on!

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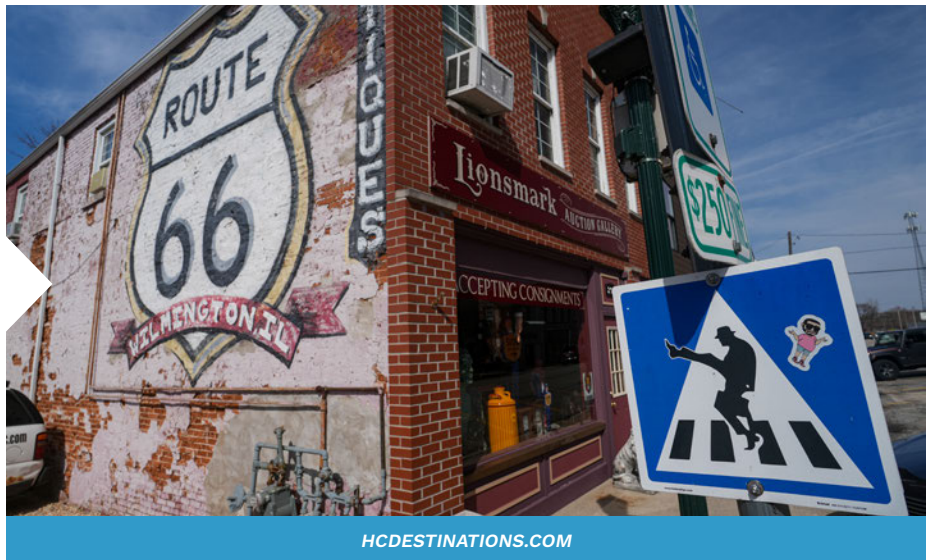
Springfield Visitors Center
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Springfield, Illinois 62701

VISITSPRINGFIELDILLINOIS.COM

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illinois

Heritage Corridor Destinations, Illinois

Located between Lake Michigan and the Illinois River, Starved Rock Country is a breathtaking natural haven 90 minutes southwest of Chicago. Whether you're seeking a peaceful retreat or an action-packed getaway, miles of trails and waterways stretch from suburban Chicago to Starved Rock State Park. After a day of outdoor adventures in Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks, stroll through the charming Illinois & Michigan Canal (I&M Canal) towns where you can explore unique shops, dine at farm-to-table eateries, discover the region's rich history and culture, and explore the first hundred miles of Route 66, the true American dream.



HCDESTINATIONS.COM

VISITSPRINGFIELDILLINOIS.COM



Springfield CVB, Illinois

Located on the Illinois State Fairgrounds, the Route 66 Experience in Springfield offers a bird's-eye view of the 92 communities along Route 66 in Illinois, starting in Chicago and ending at the Chain of Rocks Bridge in Madison, Illinois. Vintage billboards, a drive-in cinema, the Legends Neon Sign Park, and a tribute to muffler men provide a taste of your own great American road trip down the Mother Road. When you're ready to stretch your legs, recreational options abound at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, Lake Springfield, Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center, or a variety of other trails, marinas, and parks.

Mackinac Island, Michigan

A completely car-free haven for over 125 years, Mackinac Island is the place to get off the grid and have an invigorating nature escape. Located in Northern Michigan, it's been ranked the #1 Best Summer Travel Destination and #1 Fall Travel Destination by both USA Today 10Best. Discover the island's picturesque trails on horseback or enjoy a leisurely carriage ride around the island. Biking the 8.2-mile circumference reveals breathtaking vistas of Lake Huron, historic landmarks, and charming Victorian architecture, which seamlessly blends tranquility with adventure and unforgettable memories.



MACKINACISLAND.ORG



TRAVELMARQUETTE.COM

Travel Marquette, Michigan

Situated in the Upper Peninsula, where the crystal-clear waters of Lake Superior meet rugged stone cliffs and sandy shores, Marquette County is a premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts in Michigan, offering a stunning display of natural beauty and landscapes. With over 300 lakes, 150 streams, and nearly 350 miles of hiking trails, visitors can take in scenic viewpoints such as Thomas Rock and admire picturesque waterfalls like Yellow Dog Falls. The county's extensive shoreline is ideal for kayaking, swimming, and fishing, while the historic downtown area enhances the experience with a variety of dining options and vibrant cultural opportunities.

Traverse City Tourism, Michigan

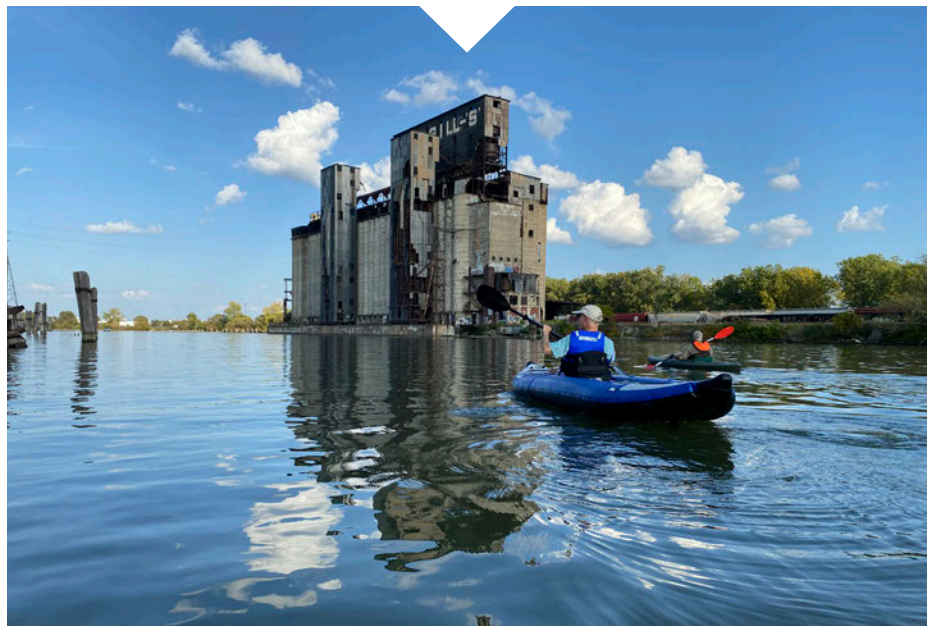
The true allure of Traverse City lies outdoors. Where water meets nature, you can sail on a tall ship, explore on a two-deck touring vessel, or cruise on a catamaran around the stunning Grand Traverse Bay. Triumphantly ascend the crest of a sand dune at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, feel the wind in your hair flying down a ski hill, cycle an urban bike path, perfect your putting on the greens, or snap a photo of a historic lighthouse. Enjoy four seasons of adventure as you venture along country roads in search of scenic overlooks and local treats.



TRAVERSECITY.COM

Visit Buffalo Niagara, New York

An urban outdoor adventure hotspot, Western New York invites you to explore its beautiful coastlines, hills, ravines, and forests. Windsurf along the beaches, hike the stunning Eternal Flame Falls, wander through Zoar Valley's majestic gorges, or fish for bass and walleye on Lake Erie. Buffalo boasts stretches of lakeside parks and trails, 100-foot-tall waterfront grain silos transformed into a thrill park for kayaking, zip-lining, and rock climbing, plus miles of cycling. With 20 percent of the world's freshwater at the city's doorstep, your visit promises endless fun via lakes, rivers, and creeks. The only question is, where will you head first?



VISITBUFFALONIAGARA.COM

VISITCINCY.COM



Visit Cincy, Ohio

The Cincy Region spans the Ohio River and pairs a vibrant Midwest city with Southern charm. Acquaint yourself with the area by riverboat or kayak, or awaken your sense of adventure by biking or ziplining through the Kentucky hills. Major attractions include the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the American Sign Museum, bourbon and beer trails, and professional football and baseball teams, the Bengals and the Reds. It's where history meets innovation, fine art complements outdoor murals, and a classic Cincinnati-style chili dog stands on its own amidst an innovative, bustling local dining scene.



VISITDETROIT.COM

Visit Detroit, Michigan

With an abundance of green spaces, trails, and recreational facilities, Detroit is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts in an urban setting. The RiverWalk spans 5.5 miles and connects several parks to Belle Isle Park, a 982-acre island park featuring a conservatory, aquarium, and scenic views, while the Detroit River provides ample opportunities for kayaking, paddleboarding, riverboat cruises, and fishing. Get your bearings at Campus Martius Park, named the No. 1 "Top Public Square" in the U.S., tour Eastern Market, the country's oldest open-air market, meander the art of the City of Murals, or walk on the wild side at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.



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-Afar

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Ohio.org



Best Place to Travel in 2024
-Travel + Leisure



#1 City in the Nation for Street Art
-USA Today

#1 Best History Museum
-National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Visit CINCY

▶▶ visitcincy.com



A Paradise for Music Lovers
-Sunday World (Ireland)

Cleveland®

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Visit Erie, Pennsylvania

The only location in Pennsylvania with access to the Great Lakes, Erie boasts a wealth of year-round recreation opportunities from downhill skiing in winter (yes, in the Midwest!) and beach lazing in summer. Erie's top attraction, Presque Isle State Park, is a National Natural Landmark that arches into Lake Erie, forming the calm waters of Presque Isle Bay. Free to enter, find seven miles of sandy shores, miles of flat trails favoured by runners, hikers and bicyclists, easy access to some of the most productive fishing on the Great Lakes, and watersport rentals.



VISITERIE.COM

VISITPITTSBURGH.COM



Visit Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

With 90 distinct neighbourhoods and breathtaking views from every angle, there are endless opportunities for outdoor adventure in Pittsburgh. One of the best ways to explore is to hit the streets and simply to get lost in the right direction. Pittsburgh is incredibly walkable and bikeable thanks to accessible hotels and public transportation, an easy-to-use bikeshare system, and a devoted community of cyclists. When you're ready to cool off, the city's renowned three rivers offer a wealth of watersports, including boating, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

Visit Milwaukee, Wisconsin

At the confluence of three rivers, Milwaukee is truly a great city on a Great Lake, the perfect backdrop for watery activities like guided sails, fishing, freshwater surfing, kayaking, and an endless array of aquatic pursuits. Soak up the sun, go with the flow, or make waves on the numerous waterways that traverse this freshwater hub. Work up a sweat cycling, rollerblading, walking, or birdwatching along the 135-mile Oak Leaf Trail. Or cool off with a sightseeing boat cruise, stroll along the RiverWalk—a 3.1-mile accessible pathway winding through downtown—or paddle up to the docks of Lakefront Brewery.



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Door County is the quintessential Great Lakes retreat. The boundless beauty of 300 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline puts water sports and idyllic beaches within reach. Add the impressive array of five expansive state parks, 20 county parks, and countless acres of unspoiled wilderness, and even more outdoor adventures are accessible year-round. From memorable family escapes to intimate dinners for two, there's something for everyone—start planning your adventure today.

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