



# ILLINOIS



**POPULATION:** 12.8 million | **SIZE:** 57,915 sq miles | **STATE CAPITAL:** Springfield  
**LARGEST CITY:** Chicago | **WEBSITE:** www.enjoyillinois.com



WITH WORLD-CLASS ARCHITECTURE, MUSEUMS, RESTAURANTS AND AN ACTION-PACKED SLATE of events, Chicago is an urban explorer's paradise. Whether you're attending a baseball game at iconic Wrigley Field or a comedy show at the Second City, strolling the lakefront, touring the Chicago River by boat, or exploring some of the city's 77 distinctive neighborhoods, it's clear that America's third-largest city dominates the country's sixth-most populous state. But that doesn't mean the rest of Illinois should be overlooked. Small towns like Galena and Mt Carroll offer intimate charm, while midsize cities like Springfield and Champaign-Urbana offer plenty of culture and history in their own right. And some spectacular natural beauty blankets the Land of Lincoln, from the shores and beaches of Chicago's Lake Michigan to the rolling hills and bluffs of Shawnee National Forest near downstate Carbondale.

© Tim Bolle / 500px

## FOOD & DRINK

**CHICAGO FINE DINING** Chicago isn't all deep-dish pizza and hot dogs with lavish toppings. There's a long legacy of experimental gourmet restaurants in the city, from the pioneering Charlie Trotter's (now defunct) to grande dames like Alinea and Oriole. Gastronomic creativity abounds throughout Chicago; former President Obama is a fan of the creations of chef Rick Bayless, owner of Mexican restaurants throughout the city from Frontera Grill to Topolobampo. Just be prepared to open your wallet for these luxe dinners.

**CHICAGO-STYLE HOT DOGS** Though no one's clear on the hot dog's origins, Chicagoans claim the wiener was invented at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Whether or not this is true, Chicago certainly has one of the best regional variations of the ballpark favorite. Order one 'dragged through the garden' (peppers, tomato, onions, pickles, celery salt and mustard – no ketchup) at Hot Doug's or in the drive-through of Superdawg (complete with carhop service), open since 1948 in Chicago's Norwood Park neighborhood. The pure beef hot dog at Superdawg is served on a poppy seed bun and even comes in its own vintage-style cardboard box.

**CRAFT BEERS** While Chicago never established the brewing monoliths of midwestern neighbors Milwaukee and St Louis, its craft brewing scene kicked into overdrive in recent decades, and early standouts Goose Island and Revolution Brewing have been joined by a spate of

inventive competitors. At the home of the University of Illinois, the twin cities of Champaign-Urbana see both students and locals flock to the popular Blind Pig brewery with tasty house-made ales and a charming brick patio. One of the best bars in the state, Fast Eddie's Bon Air, was originally built in the historic town of Alton by Anheuser-Busch (based across the river in St Louis) in 1921. Today it can still be counted on for affordable pub fare in a lively dive bar setting with a neon exterior; there's also live music seven nights a week.

**DEEP-DISH PIZZA** Eating deep-dish pizza is a must when visiting Chicago. It's impossible to miss it at the crowded tourist haunts downtown, but neighborhood favorite Pequod's, tucked away in the city's Lincoln Park area, makes for a more authentic experience. Mingle with locals over classic Chicago pan pizzas stuffed with cheese and ringed by Pequod's trademark caramelized crust.

**HORSESHOE** Springfield may be most famous as the home of Abe Lincoln, but the state capital's famed horseshoe dish may be just as revered. The open-faced sandwich consists of hamburger (unless you prefer other meats including chicken, bacon, sausage or walleye) on toasted bread, smothered in cheese and even fries.

**ITALIAN BEEF SANDWICH** No food invention is more of a Chicago classic than the Italian beef sandwich, consisting of thinly sliced, seasoned roast beef cooked in jus and served with peppers on an Italian roll. Al's Beef in Chicago's University Village has been serving the now-iconic local



## PIZZA WARS

Like the age-old Chicago Cubs versus White Sox baseball rivalry, the type of pizza you order in Chicago can elicit strong emotions and allegiances. The city is most famous for deep-dish pizza, a thick, pie-like creation baked in a steel pan stuffed with large amounts of cheese and tomato sauce. Pizzeria Uno and Lou Malnati's are among the oldest and most iconic purveyors of this style of pizza, which often appeals to more of a tourist crowd. Most Chicagoans, however, prefer thin-crust pizza. So if you're looking to eat like a local, the cash-only environs of Vito & Nick's Pizzeria on Chicago's South Side is a top choice for experiencing the city's classic tavern-style pizza (thin-crust, square-cut) in a quaint neighborhood setting.



Freelance\_Ghostwriting / Getty Images; Left: © Daniel Boczarski / Getty Images



© Davide Giannuzzi / 500px



★ ★ ★  
**FESTIVAL CITY, USA**

Chicago is a festival-lover's mecca, with major summer festivals including Lollapalooza, Riot Fest, Pitchfork Music Festival, Chicago Blues Festival and Taste of Chicago. But you don't have to battle big crowds just to have a good time, as any weekend in summer is overflowing with smaller, more local neighborhood street festivals that can be just as much fun (often a lot cheaper), including Wicker Park Fest, Taste of Randolph Street, and Do Division Street Fest. For more local flavor there's even an Iditarod-style, costumed shopping-cart race, the Chiditarod, held every spring.

staple at a no-frills beef stand (literally; there are no chairs) since 1938. Order yours from the chain's cash-only original location. *1049 W Taylor Street.*

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BARBECUE** BBQ isn't just for the South – southern Illinois does a dry rub rib and pork in a Tennessee-style tomato sauce that you can't pass up. Downstate Illinois institution 17th St Barbecue in Murphysboro is serving up some of the finest barbecue in the nation, winning too many awards to count. Anything you order here is good, but the baby back ribs are the most famous item and should be enjoyed in full-rack fashion any day of the week. Down the road from Murphysboro, small southern Illinois towns Colp and Ina have their own barbecue offerings.

**NATURAL ESCAPES**

**THE 606** This 2.7-mile urban hiking trail was created in 2015 on the site of an abandoned railway line that crosses

through several of Chicago's coolest neighborhoods, including Wicker Park. Today it is one of the best ways to see the interior of the city, as you can walk or bike the leafy pathway with plenty of stops for food and drink at local bars and restaurants located just off the trail. [www.the606.org](http://www.the606.org)

**CHICAGO LAKEFRONT TRAIL** Few juxtapositions of tall buildings and shimmering water are more dramatic than those that can be enjoyed from Chicago's Lakefront Trail, an 18-mile scenic path along Lake Michigan that stretches through a number of Chicago neighborhoods and beaches. Walk, run or bike the paved trail and be sure to stop at Montrose Beach, where sand dunes, a bird sanctuary and a summer bar/music venue await. [www.choosechicago.com](http://www.choosechicago.com)

**FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY** Encompassing more than 69,000 acres, this greenbelt surrounding Chicago is the largest forest preserve district in the US.

Taking in woodlands, wetlands, lakes and prairies, the massive expanse includes campsites, nature preserves, 300 miles of hiking trails and some of the best mountain-biking terrain in the state. <http://fpdcc.com>

**SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST** Consisting of 280,000 acres of federal land sprawling across vast swaths of open space in southern Illinois, this stunning landscape of hills, canyons and springs is unlike anything else in the state. Popular destinations include Garden of the Gods Wilderness and Little Grand Canyon, with the nearby Shawnee Hills Wine Trail making for another fun excursion. [www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee](http://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee), Herod

**STARVED ROCK STATE PARK** One of the state's most popular natural retreats is famous for its canyons, bluffs and waterfalls, which you can explore via 13 miles of trails and 133 campsites dotted throughout this 2630-acre preserve on the Illinois River. Get out and roam the

surrounding historic communities of LaSalle and Ottawa, or book a room at the 1930s-era Starved Rock Lodge and have dinner under the stars on the lodge's back patio. [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov), 2668 E 875th Rd, Oglesby

**ARTS, HISTORY & CULTURE**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM** Telling the life story of Illinois' most famous resident and 16th US president, Abraham Lincoln, this massive 200,000-sq-ft complex in Springfield houses a museum, library and archives, plus high-tech special effects including interactive displays, live actors and a replica of the White House circa 1861. Afterward, visit the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery. [www2.illinois.gov/alplm](http://www2.illinois.gov/alplm), 212 N Sixth St

**ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO** Immortalized in the classic 1986 comedy *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, Chicago's most well-known art museum is this national

From left: Andrew McMahon In the Wilderness performs during Riot Fest 2015 at Douglas Park in Chicago; Shawnee National Forest; the view from the top of Willis Tower in Chicago; Previous page: the Chicago skyline

**FUN FACT**

*Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) was the tallest building in the Americas until One World Trade Center in New York City eclipsed it, but the Willis Tower roof stands 100ft higher than that of One WTC, which took the title based on its lofty spire.*





© Charles Cook / Getty Images : Left: © Jon Hicks / Getty Images



© Mark Reinstein / Getty Images

From left: The Field Museum on Chicago's Museum Campus; Chicago jazz legend Frank D'Rone performing on stage at Green Mill Cocktail Lounge; The Super Museum in Metropolis.



★ ★ ★  
**ASK A LOCAL**

'With gorgeous hills and vast expanses of open space, southern Illinois is one of the most overlooked areas of the state. The Shawnee National Forest offers endless outdoor recreation, with the town of Carbondale making an excellent base for exploring it all.'

treasure housing nearly 300,000 works of fine art. The entrance to its historic downtown structure is guarded by two iconic bronze lions, standing watch over the priceless collections within. There's plenty to see, but don't miss the superb impressionist and post-impressionist paintings. [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu), 111 S Michigan Ave

**CHICAGO MUSEUM CAMPUS** Situated along Chicago's picturesque downtown lakefront, the city's Museum Campus is home to three world-class museums within a 57-acre museum park: the Field Museum of Natural History, Shedd Aquarium and Adler Planetarium. The campus also includes a professional football stadium, nature trails, a summer concert venue and a small public beach. [www.choosechicago.com](http://www.choosechicago.com), 1400 S Lake Shore Dr

**CHICAGO RIVERWALK** The expanded downtown Chicago Riverwalk extends for more than a mile along the Chicago River and is bustling with bars, restaurants, art and a flurry of activity in the summer

months. One of the best ways to see the river is by boarding one of several tourist boats, preferably with drink in hand on a warm, sunny day. [www.chicagoriverwalk.us](http://www.chicagoriverwalk.us)

**GALENA** One of the most beautiful small towns in the Midwest is this serene, historic community near Illinois' western border with Iowa. Shop Galena's quaint cobblestone streets, paddle down the Galena River, ogle historic mansions including President Ulysses S Grant's former home or explore the rolling hills and vineyards outside town. Galena's historic DeSoto House Hotel is the state's oldest hotel. [www.visitgalena.org](http://www.visitgalena.org)

**GREEN MILL COCKTAIL LOUNGE** A slice of Chicago's infamous mobster history remains alive at this landmark North Side jazz club, once Al Capone's favorite bar during Prohibition. Opened in 1907, one of Chicago's oldest bars has made appearances in several films and is still one of America's premier jazz clubs, as well as a prime poetry slam venue. Shows can go

into the early morning hours. <http://greenmilljazz.com>, 4802 N Broadway

**KRANNERT ART MUSEUM** In Champaign, the second-largest general fine-art museum in the states houses more than 10,000 works of art from the 4th century BC to the present day on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Signature pieces include *Marilyn*, Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe portrait. <https://kam.illinois.edu>, 500 E Peabody Dr

**OAK PARK** This suburb next door to Chicago spawned two famous sons: novelist Ernest Hemingway was born here, and architect Frank Lloyd Wright lived and worked here for 20 years. The town's main sights revolve around the two men. For Hemingway, a low-key museum and his birthplace provide an intriguing peek at his formative years. The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, where Wright developed the Prairie style, is the big draw, as are the many surrounding houses he designed for his neighbors. Ten of them cluster within

a mile along Forest and Chicago Avenues (though gawking must occur from the sidewalk since they're privately owned). [www.visitoakpark.com](http://www.visitoakpark.com)

**THE SECOND CITY** Founded in 1959 in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood, this world-famous center for improv comedy has hosted dozens of legendary comics and actors over the years, from Bill Murray to Stephen Colbert. Today the influential theater performs a wide variety of improvisation and sketch comedy shows across several venues. Improv classes are also available. [www.secondcity.com](http://www.secondcity.com), 1616 N Wells St

**WRIGLEY FIELD** There are few better sports venues than the landmark Wrigley Field, opened on Chicago's North Side in 1914 and home to Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs. Wrigley's outfield ivy and bleachers party scene are world-famous, but the park's newly added adjacent green space, Gallagher Way (which hosts concerts, events and games of catch),



**FINDING SUPERMAN**

Just in case you thought that the Superman-themed Super Museum in the small southern Illinois town of Metropolis wasn't quirky enough, stop by in June for the town's four-day Superman Celebration, an annual festival dedicated to all things Superman. There's even a 12ft, 2-ton Superman statue outside the museum.



★ ★ ★

## GETTING THERE & AROUND

O'Hare International Airport is the main Chicago hub, while Midway International Airport is a more relaxed alternative. Chicago is well served with public transit options including extensive city subway, the elevated 'L' and bus lines, with Metra rail lines serving most suburbs and Amtrak lines extending further out to midsize Illinois cities like Peoria and Springfield. Caution: Chicago drivers are often aggressive, but taxis and ride-sharing services in the city are plentiful.

makes an experience that's just as enjoyable as a game. Plus, you can visit now without fear of the Curse of the Billy Goat (look it up and be amazed); it was broken by the Cubs' 2016 World Series win. [www.mlb.com/cubs](http://www.mlb.com/cubs), 1060 W Addison St

## FAMILY OUTINGS

**CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE** The largest pre-Columbian Native American settlement north of Mexico and Illinois' only Unesco World Heritage Site can be found in this 22-acre park, which showcases these flat-topped mounds, dated to AD 1200. Imagine what life was like before the iPhone as you explore the hallowed grounds, which also include a Stonehenge-style 'Woodhenge' made of wooden posts. <https://cahokiamounds.org>, Collinsville (near East St Louis)

**CHICAGO RIVER BOAT CRUISE AND NAVY PIER** Multiple companies run Chicago architecture tours by boat down

the Chicago River, some going into Lake Michigan; all offer a great chance to take in Chicago skyline highlights. Boats usually depart from Michigan Avenue Bridge or Navy Pier; if the latter, spend some time in Navy Pier before or after the trip. The half-mile-long pier is one of the city's most-visited attractions, sporting a 196ft Ferris wheel and other (pricey) carnival rides, an Imax theater, a beer garden and more. Locals groan over Navy Pier's commercialization, but its lakefront view and cool breezes can't be beat. <https://navypier.org>

**GREAT RIVER ROAD** Extending more than 2000 miles along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana, some of the most scenic stretches of the Great River Road (actually a series of roads) can be found in Illinois, hugging the state's western boundary. Enjoy unobstructed views of nature while visiting charming small towns like Quincy and Alton as the road curls by bluff-strewn scenery

and forgotten towns with real-deal Main Streets. As you slip under wind-beaten cliffs, keep an eye out for Elsay, a hidden hamlet of 19th-century stone cottages, wood buggy shops and farmhouses. <http://greatriverroad-illinois.org>

## MILLENNIUM PARK

The city's showpiece is a trove of free and arty sights. It includes Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Frank Gehry's swooping silver band shell, which hosts free weekly concerts in summer; Anish Kapoor's beloved silvery sculpture *Cloud Gate*, aka the 'Bean'; and Jaume Plensa's *Crown Fountain*, an interactive video installation/fountain. The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink fills with skaters in winter, and alfresco diners in summer. The hidden Lurie Garden blooms with prairie flowers and tranquility, Gehry-designed BP Bridge spans Columbus Dr with great skyline views, and the Nichols Bridgeway arches from the park to the Art Institute's 3rd-floor sculpture terrace. [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org)

From left: Great River Road outside Galena; Navy Pier.



## ITINERARY

**Day 1** Explore downtown Chicago by admiring world-renowned architecture, investigating the wealth of museums and cultural attractions, and getting on the Chicago River with a boat cruise. Grab dinner in the bustling River North district before taking in drinks at Cindy's on the rooftop of the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel overlooking Millennium Park and Lake Michigan.

**Day 2** Get out into the 'real' Chicago by exploring some of the city's 77 unique neighborhoods. Take in a Cubs game at iconic Wrigley Field in Wrigleyville, walk the trendy Wicker Park neighborhood around North and Milwaukee Avenues, or explore President Barack Obama's former neighborhood of Hyde Park on the South Side. Make your way back downtown to enjoy an urban hike at Northerly Island or a quiet walk on the Ohio Street Beach. Spend the evening checking out the nightlife in Chicago's hip Logan Square neighborhood.

**Day 3** Leave Chicago and make your way west to the charming, historic

town of Galena near the Mississippi River and the Iowa border, where you can take trolley tours to see the bluffs and mansions or explore the quaint shops and restaurants that line the town's cobblestone streets. Stroll the scenic Galena River Trail and spend the night at the historic DeSoto House Hotel.

**Day 4** Get up early for a journey south down the scenic Great River Road, which hugs Illinois' western border along the Mississippi River. Grab lunch at the biker-friendly Poopy's Pub n' Grub in Savanna (closed Mon-Wed) before exploring the nearby New England-style town of Mt Carroll. Conclude your day in Springfield, the state capital.

**Day 5** In Springfield, history awaits at every turn. To start, grab a classic horseshoe breakfast at Charlie Parker's Diner and then spend the day enjoying presidential sights at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Save time to explore the Illinois State Capitol; visitors often rub the statue's nose for good luck at the Lincoln Tomb.



# INDIANA



**POPULATION:** 6.7 million | **SIZE:** 36,418 sq miles | **STATE CAPITAL:** Indianapolis  
**WEBSITE:** <https://visitindiana.com>



‘THERE’S MORE THAN CORN IN INDIANA’ IS A PHRASE YOU MIGHT FIND HARD TO AVOID IN YOUR travels across the country’s 38th-largest state. The sentiment rings true immediately in the friendly city of Indianapolis, the state’s compact and tidy capital, which is home to the Indy 500, the NCAA’s headquarters, and the largest number of US war memorials outside of Washington, DC. The Hoosier State is also home to several major college campuses including the University of Notre Dame, Purdue University and Indiana University, the last of which is in the funky, artist-friendly city of Bloomington. Along the way you’ll want to explore Amish communities, sand dunes, the Indiana Wine Trail perched along the scenic Ohio River, the most distinctive collection of modern architecture in the country and a vast expanse of wilderness in Hoosier National Forest.

© Sam Gwinn / Shutterstock

## FOOD & DRINK

**PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICH** Like much of the Midwest, the Hoosier State loves its pork. The finest expression of this affection is the pork tenderloin sandwich, a deep-fried slab of pork loin on a bun, the edges of the meat far overhanging the bun. Devour one in your car at the Mug-n-Bun drive-in near the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (and don’t tell nearby Iowa, also devoted to the classic pork tenderloin sandwich, that this listing went to Indiana).

**ST ELMO STEAK HOUSE** This longtime Indianapolis institution is nationally acclaimed for its steaks and world renowned for its shrimp cocktail, one of Indiana’s most classic and popular dishes. Order yours with a variety of steaks and chops, lobster tails or king crab and shrimp linguine in an old-school tavern-style space that hasn’t changed much since 1902. <https://stelmos.com>, 127 S. Illinois St

**SUGAR PIE** Going to Indiana and not ordering a sugar pie would be like... well...going to Indiana and not ordering a sugar pie. Correcting such an egregious oversight should be easy; there’s even a beloved Zionsville mainstay named after the dessert. My Sugar Pie offers a wide range of handmade pies in addition to their signature sugar cream Hoosier pie.

## NATURAL ESCAPES

**HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST** If you really want to get away from it all, this more than 200,000-acre national forest of hills and wilderness sprawls out to parts of nine

southern Indiana counties and surrounds Larry Bird’s hometown of French Lick. Hike some of the forest’s 266 miles of trails and then kick back to watch the sunset along Patoka Lake. [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

## INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK

The newest National Park, the unique landscape of this popular park in Chesterton along Lake Michigan in northwest Indiana draws a good number of visitors from Chicago, but it remains a tranquil oasis of almost 25 miles of undeveloped beach marked by trails and sand dunes up to 200ft high. Climb the dunes or just spread out a blanket and relax in the sand. Next door is Indiana Dunes State Park. [www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm), 1215 N State Road 49, Porter

## ARTS, HISTORY & CULTURE

**BLOOMINGTON** Home of Indiana University, Bloomington has charm to spare with its funky shops, ethnic restaurants, the large Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center and abundant nearby nature at locations like Brown County State Park and Lake Monroe (where singer John Mellencamp maintains a home). Explore Bloomington’s B-Line outdoor urban trail, and for a more traditional college experience, a basketball game at the university’s Assembly Hall is a must. <https://bloomington.in.gov>

**COLUMBUS** This unique town of 44,000, the ‘Athens on the Prairie,’ is famous for its modernist architecture, public art and historic landmarks that appear almost everywhere you look. Tour more



### Divine

#### INTERVENTION

Polish monks built a series of trippy, fluorescent shrines to make the Grotto of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Carmelite monastery hiding in suburban Munster. First came 250 tons of sponge rock that the friars used for the grotto’s dark, twisting, three-story caverns. Then came the bright-hued bits of rose quartz, blue fluorite and other minerals that glimmer in starry designs from the walls. The real eye-popper, though, is the Fluorescent Altar. Flip the light switch, and the stones around Mary’s statue jolt to life.

**Pictured left: View from Hickory Ridge Fire Tower in Hoosier National Forest.**



## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Start your journey exploring Indianapolis' downtown with a stop at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument, where you can get a nice city view from its observation deck before moving on to explore the Indiana Statehouse and Indiana State Museum. Get a look at the NCAA Hall of Champions (the collegiate sports governing body is located here). Grab dinner and spend the evening exploring downtown along Massachusetts Avenue.

### Day 2

Head to Bloomington, a youthful and vibrant college town south of Indianapolis. Once there you can roam Bloomington by bike on the B-Line Trail, explore the leafy campus of Indiana University, or tour the peaceful grounds of Bloomington's Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center.

### Day 3

Drive past the scenic rolling hills of Brown County State Park on your way to tour the modernist architectural gems of Columbus, filled with buildings from some of the top architects in the world.

**From left: Eero Saarinen's North Christian Church in Columbus; the Indy 500.**



## GETTING THERE & AROUND

Indiana, the 'Crossroads of America,' has more miles of interstate per sq mile than any other US state. Public transit is available in larger cities like Indianapolis, and rail lines serve many of the midsize towns, but travel by car is most common. Indianapolis International Airport is the state's main hub.

than 70 architectural wonders around town, including churches, a courthouse, sculptures and private homes. Stop by the lively downtown district for an array of bars and restaurants. <https://columbus.in.us>

**FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART** This museum is known across the state for its collection of visual arts from the 19th century to the present, specializing in showcasing artists from diverse backgrounds. It also hosts the annual Chalk Walk street painting event, held in conjunction with Fort Wayne's Three Rivers Festival every July. [www.fwmoa.org](http://www.fwmoa.org), 311 E. Main St

**INDIANA MEDICAL HISTORY MUSEUM** When you think 'horror movie asylum,' this century-old state psychiatric hospital is exactly what you envision. Guided tours roam the former pathology lab, from the cold-slabbed autopsy room to the eerie

specimen room filled with brains in jars, and exhibits on early psychiatric medical research. [www.imhm.org](http://www.imhm.org), 3045 W Vermont St, closed Sundays to Tuesdays

**SOLDIERS & SAILORS MONUMENT** Did you know Indianapolis is home to the most US war memorials outside of Washington, DC? Its most famous is the landmark Soldiers & Sailors Monument, recognized as an iconic image of the city. Learn about the Hoosiers who served in wars throughout US history while you peruse artworks and get a good glimpse of Indianapolis from the monument's observation level. <https://in.gov>, 1 Monument Circle

## FAMILY OUTINGS

**AMISH COUNTRY** One of the largest Amish communities in the US is near the backroads of northern Indiana around the

towns of Middlebury and Shipshewana, where horse-drawn buggies, quilt gardens, and quaint shops and galleries offer a step back in time. Rent a bike to explore the 16-mile Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and cap your day with a home-cooked Amish feast at Das Dutchman Essenhaus. [www.amishcountry.org](http://www.amishcountry.org)

## CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF INDIANAPOLIS

The world's largest kids' museum is a crowd favorite that sprawls over five floors holding dinosaurs aplenty and a 43ft sculpture by Dale Chihuly that teaches tykes to blow glass (virtually!). The Sports Legend Experience expansion complements the NCAA Hall of Champions in downtown Indy. Families can shoot hoops, be inspired by the stories of famous sports legends or work together on a pit-stop challenge, and more. [www.childrensmuseum.org](http://www.childrensmuseum.org), 3000 N Meridian St

**INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY MUSEUM** Located on the grounds of the speedway, home of the world-famous Indianapolis 500 auto race, this museum features several Indy 500-winning cars as well as a large selection of more general motorsport and consumer autos that take you on a high-octane journey through American automotive history. <https://indyrcingmuseum.org>, 4790 W. 16th St

**SANTA CLAUS** It's Christmas year-round in the quirky little southern Indiana town of Santa Claus, where every year the local post office replies to letters to Santa from all over the world. With local attractions named Santa's Candy Castle, the Santa Claus Museum and Santa's Stables, you have a pretty good idea of what to expect here. For dinner? St Nick's Restaurant at Santa's Lodge, naturally. <https://santaclausind.org>

© gnagel / Getty Images; Right: © Action Sports Photography / Shutterstock



# IOWA



**POPULATION:** 3.1 million | **SIZE:** 56,273 sq miles | **STATE CAPITAL:** Des Moines  
**WEBSITE:** [www.traveliowa.com](http://www.traveliowa.com)



THERE'S MORE TO IOWA THAN THE STEREOTYPICAL BUTTER SCULPTURES, tractor pulls, presidential caucuses and fried foods on a stick that the name most often conjures. Des Moines boasts a diverse food and cultural scene, and Iowa City is a thriving college town and Unesco City of Literature, while Sioux City is rich in Native American history. Beyond the larger towns, explore the heart of Iowa by touring the covered bridges of Madison County, visiting offbeat religious communes or hand-feeding bison on a local farm. There's also an abundance of nature and plenty of open space besides farmland to explore all across the state. The towering bluffs on the Mississippi River and the soaring Loess Hills lining the Missouri River bookend the rolling farmland of this bucolic state. In the middle you'll find the commune dwellers of the Amana Colonies, and plenty of picture-perfect rural towns.

© Felix Mizionnikov / Shutterstock

## FOOD & DRINK

**CORN DOGS** A summer dominated by the Iowa State Fair produces a strong following for its most addictive treats, and the cornmeal-coated and fried corn dog has the staying power to be in demand year-round. (Not all Iowa food comes deep-fried on a stick, of course; upscale restaurant Proof in Des Moines has 10-course gourmet tasting menus.)

**LOOSE MEAT SANDWICH** Ground beef. On a bun. No sauce. No ketchup. No nothing. You don't get any more midwestern than the famed Iowa loose meat sandwich, aka a tavern sandwich, aka a Maid-Rite sandwich. Try one at any location of Maid-Rite, a local chain that claims to have invented this sandwich in 1926, or at Canteen Lunch in the Alley in Ottumwa, operating since 1927.

**SWEET CORN ON THE COB** Iowa produces almost 2 billion bushels of corn each year, and though much of it gets used for industrial purposes, there's plenty of fresh sweet corn on the cob to go around in summer. Grilled and buttered, and served with some salt, it's a simple taste of Iowa heaven.

## NATURAL ESCAPES

**BACKBONE STATE PARK** Iowa's oldest state park is also one of its most beautiful, with plenty of outdoor recreation opportunities including camping, canoeing, beach volleyball, rock climbing and trout fishing. The heavily wooded area of rocky terrain and forested bluffs in Dundee

is most well known for its steep ridge, nicknamed the Devil's Backbone, and a popular hike along the Backbone Trail. [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), 1347 129th St

**DUNNINGS SPRING PARK** When you think of Iowa, you don't necessarily think of waterfalls. But one visit to the small town of Decorah in northern Iowa will change all that, thanks to the town's proximity to the two waterfall locations of Dunnings Spring Park and nearby Malanaphy Springs. While here, take time to explore the cool reaches of the Dunnings Springs ice caves as well. [www.visitdecorah.com/business/dunning-springs-park](http://www.visitdecorah.com/business/dunning-springs-park), Ice Cave Rd

**MINES OF SPAIN RECREATION AREA** Wildlife from wild turkeys and white-tailed deer to rarer species like bobcats and bald eagles are on display at this diverse state park near Dubuque that features 15 miles of hiking trails, 4 miles of ski trails, and a bird and butterfly garden. Check out the scenic bluffs and overlooks or launch your canoe into Catfish Creek. [www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org), 8991 Bellevue Heights Rd

## ARTS, HISTORY & CULTURE

**BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY** Madison County is a postcard-perfect representation of the quintessential Iowa landscape, particularly the iconic covered bridges made famous in the 1995 film (and 1992 novel) *The Bridges of Madison County*. Explore all six of the picturesque bridges as well as nearby vineyards, breweries and cideries. The town of Winterset is the hub of most tourist activity in the area, particularly around the



## FAIR GAME

The quintessential cultural representation of the state, the long-running Iowa State Fair began in 1854 and has been held every year on the Iowa State Fairground since 1856. One of the largest and most well-known state fairs in America takes place over 11 days in August, encompassing more than 450 acres filled with campsites, live music stages and over 200 vendors selling food. You can taste all types of fried items on a stick, from pork chops to Oreos. Among the events are rooster crowing contests, cow chip (dried cow dung) throwing and carnival rides; the butter cow sculpture is a highlight of any state fair experience.

**Left: Iowa's iconic farmland.**



© VDB Photos / Shutterstock



© Kyle Kephart / Shutterstock



## ITINERARY

### Day 1

The Iowa State Capitol building makes a good opener as you start your day exploring Des Moines; every detail at this bling-heavy space seems to try to outdo the next. Join a free tour and you can climb halfway up the dome, followed by an intake of art at the Des Moines Art Center and Pappajohn Sculpture Park. Stroll the cool shops in the walkable East Village neighborhood before stopping for a drink in the bustling Court District downtown. If you're here in spring, an Iowa Cubs minor league baseball game is not to be missed.

### Days 2 & 3

A couple hours' drive east along I-80 will bring you to Iowa City, a fun college town that is also a Unesco City of Literature. After exploring the compact downtown and its charming pedestrian mall, drop into Prairie Lights Bookstore in the evening. The next day head out to the villages of the Amana Colonies, founded in the mid-1800s by Inspirationists, for a craft-filled side of offbeat local history.

**From left: Grilled sweet corn on the cob; a Madison County bridge.**



## GETTING THERE & AROUND

Des Moines has the state's main air hub, and although bus and rail lines do exist, the car is king in this predominantly rural state. I-80, America's second-longest highway, runs east-west through the whole state, often with long stretches of empty space between towns. Beware of snow and ice conditions when driving in winter.

courthouse square. [www.madisoncounty.com/the-covered-bridges](http://www.madisoncounty.com/the-covered-bridges)

**IOWA CITY** The youthful, artsy vibe here is courtesy of the University of Iowa campus, home to good art and natural history museums. It spills across both sides of the Iowa River (which has lovely walks on the banks); to the east it mingles with the charming downtown. In summer, when the student-to-townie ratio evens out, the city mellows somewhat. The school's writing programs are renowned, and Iowa City was named a Unesco City of Literature in 2008. For a sharp parody of the town and school, read Jane Smiley's novel *Moo*. [www.icgov.org](http://www.icgov.org)

**JOHN WAYNE BIRTHPLACE & MUSEUM** As the world's only museum dedicated to legendary Hollywood actor John Wayne, this 6100-sq-ft museum in his

Iowa hometown of Winterset features a movie theater and an array of John Wayne artifacts including original movie posters, film wardrobes, scripts, contracts, letters and even one of the Duke's custom cars. [www.johnwaynebirthplace.museum](http://www.johnwaynebirthplace.museum), 205 S John Wayne Dr

**LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER** Located in Sioux City near the banks of the Missouri River along Iowa's western border, this 20,000-sq-ft cultural complex brings history to life with a 14ft *Spirit of Discovery* sculpture of famous explorers Lewis and Clark plus traditional Native American games, exhibits, art galleries and DVD presentations. [www.siouxcitylc.com](http://www.siouxcitylc.com), 900 Larsen Park Rd

**PAPPAJOHN SCULPTURE PARK** This expansive outdoor sculpture museum (unrelated to Papa John's Pizza) occupies

a 4-acre portion of downtown Des Moines real estate within the city's larger Western Gateway Park. It features 29 works of art donated by the Pappajohn family and valued at \$40 million. Stroll the well-manicured grounds with your camera ready. [www.desmoinesartcenter.org](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org), 1330 Grand Ave

## FAMILY OUTINGS

**AMANA COLONIES** Originally established as religious communes in the 1800s, this quaint community of seven villages stretches along a 17-mile loop about halfway between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. It's reminiscent of Amish Country (although the villages embrace tourism and technology), and handcrafted arts and goods are the name of the game. The area also offers several festivals and a historical museum. [www.amanacolony.com](http://www.amanacolony.com)

## HAWKEYE BUFFALO RANCH

There's more than corn at this family farm in Fredericksburg. You can hand-feed the small herd of bison on wagon rides during public tours. The 500-acre farm dating back to 1854 also offers Native American history, wildlife viewing and, at the on-site store, buffalo meat. [www.hawkeyebuffalo.com](http://www.hawkeyebuffalo.com), 3034 Pembroke Ave

**SPOOK CAVE & CAMPGROUND** The cave at the base of the 90ft bluff here is only accessible by boat, but don't let that deter you from boarding a canoe and exploring the always 47°F environs of Spook Cave via tourist boat tour. Camp near a trout stream and waterfall on this family-friendly site in McGregor, with cabins and golf cart rentals also available. It's open for relaxing stays May through October. <http://spookcave.com>, 13299 Spook Cave Rd



# MICHIGAN



**POPULATION:** 10 million | **SIZE:** 96,716 sq miles | **STATE CAPITAL:** Lansing  
**LARGEST CITY:** Detroit | **WEBSITE:** [www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org)



THERE'S MORE TO MICHIGAN THAN THE MOTOR CITY HERITAGE OF CAR MANUFACTURING. With the nation's longest freshwater coastline, more than 100 public beaches, and 19 million acres of forest, the state is an outdoor enthusiast's dreamscape. It has more than 100 state parks and recreation areas in addition to the second-highest number of ski resorts in America. Detroit is in the midst of an arts-led renaissance, Grand Rapids is one of America's leading craft beer meccas, and Ann Arbor is home to the largest football stadium in the country. That's not even counting the array of charming small towns from the beaches of Saugatuck to the scenic shores of Traverse City, or the state's Upper Peninsula, blanketed in serene, forested wilderness. There are a variety of island escapes in Michigan, from the remote wilderness of Isle Royale National Park to tourist-friendly, car-free Mackinac Island.

© Steven Schremp / Getty Images

## FOOD & DRINK

**BEER CITY ALE TRAIL** Get a taste of the booming Grand Rapids beer scene along the Beer City Ale Trail, where you can sample ales from more than 80 breweries in Grand Rapids and nearby communities. Founders Brewing Company is the most iconic local stop on the trail, but leave time to explore new favorites dotted throughout one of America's premier craft beer centers. Use the Brewsader app to unlock deals and perks. [www.experiencegr.com/things-to-do/beer-city/beer-tour](http://www.experiencegr.com/things-to-do/beer-city/beer-tour)

**CHERRY PIE** They say you don't get any more American than apple pie, but Michiganders would beg to disagree. The midwestern state produces some 70% of America's tart cherries, which go beautifully inside a flaky piecrust. Grab a slice at Crane's Pie Pantry in the lakeshore town of Fennville.

**CONEY DOG** The 'coney' – a hot dog smothered with chili and onions – is a Detroit specialty. When the craving strikes (and it will), competing versions all have their claim to be the top, but whichever you choose, this hearty variation on a hot dog carries the essence of Detroit flavor.

**LAKE MICHIGAN SHORE WINE TRAIL** Explore the tranquil beachfront communities of southwest Michigan, with stops at more than 20 local wineries along the Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail, which extends more than 70 miles from New Buffalo to Saugatuck. Along the way, check out classic beach towns like St Joseph and be sure to save time to relax at laid-back

Warren Dunes State Park.  
[www.miwinetrail.com](http://www.miwinetrail.com)

**TRAVERSE CITY FOOD SCENE** Food markets, breweries, wineries, farm-to-fork cuisine and cherries in abundance make dining in small Traverse City, the 'Cherry Capital,' unique. Sample wood-fired pizza, seven-course meals and even cherry-dusted tortillas for your meals in this foodie destination.

**ZINGERMAN'S DELICATESSEN** Michigan's Jewish community has made the state a hotbed of corned beef on rye, and the quintessential version comes from one of the most famous sandwich shops in America, this Midwest institution in a small historic building in Ann Arbor. Started as a nondescript Jewish deli in 1982, today Zingerman's makes a wide range of foods including breads and cheeses, but its claim to fame remains the remarkable deli sandwiches. Though it's on the expensive side, this institution is worth it.  
[www.zingermansdeli.com](http://www.zingermansdeli.com), 422 Detroit St

## NATURAL ESCAPES

**BELLE ISLE PARK** The largest city-owned island park in the US, this nearly 1000-acre public park just minutes from downtown Detroit is the ultimate urban retreat. Situated in the middle of the Detroit River, which separates Michigan from Canada, the leafy enclave features an aquarium, conservatory, nature center, golf course, maritime museum, swimming beach and yacht club. [www.belleisleconservancy.org](http://www.belleisleconservancy.org), bridge access at E Jefferson Ave and E Grand Blvd

### ★★★ SIBLING RIVALRY

Few food rivalries in America are as intense as the long-simmering feud between two next-door restaurants in downtown Detroit. Both serve the signature Coney Island hot dog (or coney dog), a Detroit invention that consists of a hot dog topped with chili sauce, chopped onions and yellow mustard. American Coney Island was opened by Greek immigrant Gust Keros in 1917, followed a few years later by Lafayette Coney Island, which was opened by Gust's brother Bill (reportedly after a falling out with his brother) right next door using a slightly different hot dog and chili. Detroiters remain fiercely loyal to one restaurant or the other, but never both. Lafayette is smaller and more dive-y, while American is larger and has more of a traditional diner feel. Judge for yourself.



© Viktor Posnov / Getty Images; Left: © Monica Wells / Alamy Stock Photo



© James Schaedig / Alamy Stock Photo

From left: The *Thinker* bronze sculpture by Auguste Rodin in front of the Detroit Institute of Arts; Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore; Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Previous page: Rock Harbor Lighthouse in Isle Royale National Park.



### WELCOME TO HELL

The small, unincorporated community of Hell, about 15 miles from Ann Arbor, makes the most of its unusual name with local attractions that include the Hell Hole Bar & Diner. Amorous travelers can get married at Hell's Chapel of Love and, for around \$100, anyone can become mayor of the town for a day.

**ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK** This remote wilderness in Lake Superior is closer to Thunder Bay, Canada, than Michigan, but its isolated location is one of its chief assets. One of the least-visited US national parks is a serene and solitary location with few modern amenities but abundant wildlife including wolves and moose. One of the best places in America to view the northern lights, the park, sadly, is closed in winter. [www.nps.gov/isro](http://www.nps.gov/isro)

**PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE** This national treasure at the tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is a secluded paradise of colorful rock formations and sandstone cliffs that create caves, arches and stunning vistas across 42 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. The best way to explore the coastline is by kayak or boat in summer, with snowmobiling and ice-fishing opportunities available in winter. [www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro)

**PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK** Michigan's seemingly

endless bounty of natural beauty continues in this off-the-beaten-path wilderness in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where small mountains sprawled out across vast virgin wilderness reveal spectacular fall foliage and myriad small inland lakes, including the popular Lake of the Clouds. Caution: bears are common in 'the Porkies.' [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

**SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE** One of the most gorgeous natural locations in the country is this northwest Michigan gem encompassing miles of scenic forests, beaches, sand dunes, bluffs and inland lakes. Among the wealth of outdoor activities are dune climbing, fishing, cross-country skiing and island camping. Spectacular sunsets await. [www.nps.gov/slbe](http://www.nps.gov/slbe)

### ARTS, HISTORY & CULTURE

**BAKER'S KEYBOARD LOUNGE** This Detroit institution is one of the world's oldest jazz clubs, operating since 1934 in

old-school environs with live music almost nightly (it's closed Mondays); note the curved bar made to look like piano keys. In addition to the Detroit-style jazz, local history and interesting characters, the club serves up killer soul food dishes like catfish or liver and gizzards. [www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com](http://www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com), 20510 Livernois Ave

**DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS** With one of the top art collections in the US, this historic museum encompasses more than 658,000 sq ft, including an 1150-seat auditorium, a 380-seat lecture/recital hall and an art reference library. At its heart are the Detroit Industry Murals, whose twenty-seven panels were executed by Diego Rivera. The museum is in Detroit's Cultural Center Historic District, which also includes the Detroit Public Library. <http://dia.org>, 5200 Woodward Ave

**MBAD AFRICAN BEAD MUSEUM AND OUTDOOR INSTALLATIONS** One of several funky outdoor art installations

popping up across Detroit, the colorful street project presents 18 installations on grounds stretching nearly a city block; there are also a few indoor spaces. This one-of-a-kind space dedicated to African culture includes a sculpture garden, a variety of African beads and materials, and an 'African language wall.' The Heidelberg Project is another block-spanning art installation, with polka-dotted streets, houses covered in Technicolor paint blobs, and strange doll sculptures in yards. [mbad.org](http://mbad.org), 6559 Grand River Ave; [www.heidelberg.org](http://www.heidelberg.org), 3600 block of Heidelberg St

**MOTOWN MUSEUM** For an intimate look at Detroit's cultural heritage, a trip to the city's Motown Museum is a must. Located in a historic home on West Grand Boulevard that served as Motown Records' original studio, a tour of 'Hitsville USA' exposes the fascinating history behind the legendary label. The museum is currently raising funds for a massive \$50 million expansion. [www.motownmuseum.org](http://www.motownmuseum.org), 2648 W Grand Blvd



### FUN FACT

*Mackinac Bridge crosses 5 miles over the Straits of Mackinac; its exposed span means that the bridge sometimes closes due to extreme weather.*





★ ★ ★

## GETTING THERE & AROUND

You'll have little trouble reaching most of Michigan's cities by public transit or Amtrak rail, but to truly experience all the state has to offer, a car is a must. In addition, some of Michigan's more remote island attractions are only accessible by boat or ferry. Detroit Metropolitan Airport is the state's main hub.

**SAUGATUCK & DOUGLAS** The arts-heavy southwest Michigan beachfront community of Saugatuck showcases one of the Midwest's most beautiful beaches (Oval Beach) in addition to an unrelentingly cute downtown packed with more than a dozen small art galleries. Peruse fine art in Saugatuck and the adjacent community of Douglas to discover why this gay-friendly area is called the Art Coast of Michigan. [www.saugatuck.com](http://www.saugatuck.com)

## FAMILY OUTINGS

**BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESORT** Did you know Michigan is home to more ski resorts than any US state besides New York? One of the premier resorts in the Midwest is northern Michigan's expansive Boyne Mountain, which features more than 115

ski runs across a vast terrain in Boyne Falls. The year-round resort complex also includes 10 golf courses, zip-lining and Michigan's largest indoor water park. <http://boyne.com>, 1 Boyne Mountain Rd

**DINOSAUR GARDENS** Tucked away in Ossineke, in a secluded stretch of northeast Michigan near the western shore of Lake Huron, hides this delightfully weird 25-acre 'prehistoric zoo,' where life-size, hand-sculpted replicas of dinosaurs and cave men and women come to life across 26 Instagram-worthy exhibits. There's even a dinosaur-themed mini-golf course. <http://dinosaurgardensllc.com>, 11160 US-23 S

**THE HENRY FORD** There's more than just a few Model T antique autos at this museum in Dearborn dedicated to auto

© Walter Bibikow / Getty Images; Right: © Aubrie Pick / Lonely Planet



maker Henry Ford, one of Detroit's most famous sons. America's largest indoor/outdoor museum sprawls across 250 acres that also include President Kennedy's limo, the Rosa Parks bus from Montgomery, and the Wright Brothers' workshop, as well as a digital projection theater and live factory demos. [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org), 20900 Oakwood Blvd

**MACKINAC ISLAND** Take a step back in time to this car-free island nestled in the Straits of Mackinac between the northern tip of Michigan's 'mitt' and the Upper Peninsula. Biking and riding in a horse-drawn carriage are the chief modes of transport for exploring the island's fort and tourist-friendly village, distinguished by charming historic Colonial and Victorian architecture. [www.mackinacisland.org](http://www.mackinacisland.org)

**From left: The Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island; a rest stop while cycling on the Leelanau Peninsula wine trail near Traverse City.**



## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Spend the day exploring Detroit by visiting a trio of museums: the Motown Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, and The Henry Ford in nearby Dearborn. Check out the ongoing artistic revitalization of the city at offbeat installations like the MBAD African Bead Museum, then roam the scenic grounds of Belle Isle Park. At night, catch a live jazz performance at Baker's Keyboard Lounge.

### Day 2

Grab a Coney dog from Lafayette Coney Island and head west to the idyllic beach community of Saugatuck, stopping en route to explore the beautiful college town of Ann Arbor, where a trip to the university's Big House (the largest stadium in the US) is a must.

### Day 3

From Saugatuck, make your way to Grand Rapids with a quick stop to check out the beautiful, Dutch-inspired village of Holland. Once there, sample brews in this craft beer city.

### Day 4

Head north from Grand Rapids to the endlessly scenic town of Traverse City and northern Michigan's surrounding Leelanau Peninsula to explore Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Redwood State Park, CA 36  
Shoshone Falls Park, ID 91  
Sioux Falls Park, SD 265  
Smith Rock State Park, OR 238  
Split Rock Lighthouse State Park, MN 154  
Starved Rock State Park, IL 97  
St Joseph Peninsula State Park, FL 69  
Swallow Falls State Park, MD 131  
Table Rock State Park, TX 257  
Tallulah Gorge State Park, GA 76  
Tishomingo State Park, MS 159  
Turner Falls Park, OK 231  
Valley of Fire State Park, NV 180  
Waimea Canyon State Park, HI 86  
Watkins Glen State Park, NY 206

## Presidential Libraries and Homes

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, IL 97  
Clinton Presidential Library, AR 31  
Monticello, VA 296  
Mount Vernon, VA 297  
Truman Presidential Museum, MO 168

## R

### Rivers

Arkansas River Rafting, CO 43  
Chicago Riverwalk, IL 98  
Colorado River, AZ 22  
Missouri River, MT & NE 171, 175  
New & Gauley Rivers, WV 309  
Ozark National Scenic Riverways, MO 166  
River Walk, TX 280  
Saco River, NH 187  
Wild Rogue Wilderness, OR 239  
White River Refuge, AR 29

### Roadside Attractions

Abita Springs Mystery House, LA 124  
Corn Palace, SD 265  
Dinosaur Kingdom II, VA 298  
International UFO Museum, NM 201  
Lookout Mountain, TN 270  
Mall of America, MN 156  
Mystery Hole, WV 311  
South of the Border, SC 260  
Spam Museum, MN 157  
Super Museum, IL 99  
World's Largest Ball of Twine, MN 157

## S

### Sculpture Parks

Cadillac Ranch, TX 278

Carhenge, NE 167  
Dr Evermor's Sculpture Park 315  
Grounds for Sculpture, NJ 192  
Pappajohn Sculpture Park, IA 108  
Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, MN 157  
Storm King Art Center, NY 211  
Tippet Rise Art Center, MT 173  
Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park, NC 218

### Skiing and Winter Sports

Big Sky Resort, MT 171  
Boyne Mountain Resort, MI 150  
Bretton Woods, NH 187  
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY 321  
Lutsen Mountains, MN 156  
Mt Bachelor, OR 238  
Snowbird, UT 287  
Steamboat Mountain Resort, CO 45  
Utah Olympic Park, UT 287

### Sports and Athletics

Allen Fieldhouse 112  
Augusta National Masters Tournament 77  
Boundary Waters, MN 153  
Bryant-Denny Stadium, AL 9  
Camden Yards, MD 135  
Cameron Indoor Stadium, NC 219  
Churchill Downs, KY 116  
Coors Field, CO 47  
Delaware Water Gap, NJ 191  
Fenway Park, MA 139  
Indianapolis Motor Speedway, IN 105  
Iron Bowl, AL 10  
Lambeau Field, WI 315  
Louisville Slugger Museum, KY 119  
Mohonk Preserve/The Gunks, NY 207  
Mount Marathon Race, AK 16  
Muhammad Ali Center, KY 117  
Museum of the Horse, KY 118  
Santa Rosa Blue Hole, NM 202  
St Paul Curling Club, MN 155  
Stratosphere, NV 184  
Triple Crown of Surfing, HI 83  
Truckee River Whitewater Park, NV 185  
Venice Skatepark, CA 41  
Wrigley Field, IL 99

### Theater

Akron Civic Theater, OH 227  
Broadway & Times Square, NY 208  
Fargo Theatre, SD 222

Ford's Theatre, DC 62  
Grand Ole Opry, TN 268  
O, NV 182  
Santa Fe Opera, NM 200  
Second City, IL 99  
Walt Disney Concert Hall, CA 34

### Tours

Alcatraz, CA 38  
Blanchard Springs Caverns, AR 29  
Historic Stagville Plantation, NC 217  
Laura Plantation, LA 123  
Little Rock Central High School, AR 30  
McLeod Plantation, SC 259  
Newport Vineyards, RI 252  
Plimoth Plantation, MA 142  
Spook Cave & Campground, IA 109  
Trans-Allegheny Asylum, PA 310  
Waverly Hills Sanatorium, KY 119  
Whitney Plantation, LA 123

### Trains

Cog Railway, NH 187, 188  
Grand Canyon Railway, AZ 22  
Hurricane Turn, AK 18  
Southwest Chief, various 22  
Sunset Limited, various 22

## W

### Wildlife and Animals

Aniakchak National Monument, AK 15  
Assateague Island National Seashore, MD 131  
Audubon Louisiana Nature Park, LA 124  
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, UT 286  
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, MD 131  
Chincoteague Island, VA 295  
Congress Avenue Bridge Bat Colony, TX 279  
National Buffalo Museum, ND 223  
Duke Lemur Center, NC 219  
Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch, IA 109  
Henry Doorly Zoo, NE 177  
High Desert Museum, OR 240  
Manatee Viewing Center, FL 70  
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, FL 68  
National Elk Refuge, WY 319  
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, FL 75  
Patagonia Preserve, AZ 23  
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, KS 112  
Two Step, HI 86  
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, KS 231  
World Center Birds of Prey, ID 93

**Amy C. Balfour** (West Virginia) has hiked, paddled and skied her way across West Virginia. She has written or co-written more than 50 Lonely Planet guidebooks.

**Alison Bing** (Arizona and California) specializes in travel predicaments – including accepting dinner invitations from cults and trusting the camel to know the way. She's survived to write 52 Lonely Planet guidebooks.

**Harmony Difo** (Nebraska and Oklahoma) is a moveable feast, a writer, reviewer, journalist and slow traveler experienced in short and longform travel content for all formats and on all continents.

**Jay Gentile** (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Michigan) is an award-winning freelance journalist, travel writer and frequent Lonely Planet contributor specializing in US-based travel.

**Holly Hurst** (South Dakota and North Dakota) is a freelance writer who seeks out the best in food, wine, and live music across the country.

**Adam Karlin** (Alabama, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland and Mississippi) was born in Maryland, lives in New Orleans, and has covered the USA from Maine to Hawaii for Lonely Planet.

**Lauren Keith** (Kansas) is a writer, editor and Kansas native who wishes that getting home was as easy as clicking your ruby slippers.

**Barbara Noe Kennedy** (Georgia) is a travel journalist based in Arlington, Virginia.

**Alex Leviton** (North Carolina and Washington) has spent many years in Durham, North Carolina and hiking the trails around the Pacific Northwest.

**Emily Matchar** (Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Tennessee) is a writer based in Hong Kong and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, the *New Republic*, the *Washington Post* and other publications.

**Carolyn McCarthy** (Colorado, Utah and Wyoming) has contributed to over 50 titles for Lonely Planet, including Colorado and the Southwest. Her website is [www.carolynmccarthy.org](http://www.carolynmccarthy.org).

**John Newton** (Connecticut, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Pennsylvania) has written travel stories for *AFAR*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *GQ*, *New York Post*, *Men's Journal*, *Travel+Leisure* and others.

**Elizabeth Paulson** (Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin) has been to all 50 states and a dozen countries. She's never met a volunteer museum interpreter she hasn't liked.

**Brandon Presser** (Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Virginia and Washington, DC) has spent time in over 120 countries, and has written over 50 books about travel. He contributes to publications including *Bloomberg*, *Departures*, and *The Daily Beast*, and was a host on Bravo's television series, *Tour Group*.

**Brendan Sainsbury** (Alaska and Oregon) has been researching the Pacific Northwest region for Lonely Planet for 15 years. He has a special affection for Alaska.

**Zuzanna Sitek** (Arkansas) is Poland-born and New Jersey-raised, but has never felt more at home than she does in Northwest Arkansas.

**Kaidi Stroud** (Idaho) is an educator and freelance writer in Idaho. Travel these days includes spouse, kids, and pooch – preferably out of cell range.

**Kerry Walker** (Missouri and Nevada) is an award-winning British travel writer, author, photographer and translator, and a lover of mountains, cold places and true wilderness.

**Luke Waterson** (Texas) is a novelist and travel writer based in Wales who writes for travel publishers Lonely Planet as well as the *Telegraph*, the *Independent*, BBC Travel, Adventure.com and others. Find out more about his writing at <https://lukeandhiswords.com>.