

AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



# Velcome

In Jacksonville, tales of Illinois' frontier days reverberate throughout historic halls of some of the state's oldest institutions, as do the harrowing accounts of people escaping the chains of slavery and those who aided their quest for freedom at the city's Underground Railroad sites. Our legendary past blends with new investment taking place around our gorgeous downtown square, where vibrant, independent businesses occupy storefronts that have stood over the city for generations — monuments to a storied past now fostering a thriving present and an exciting future.

But Jacksonville is more than just old buildings. Here, the area's brightest artistic minds are highlighted — as are those who came before — in a stunning, Second Empirestyle mansion at the David Strawn Art Gallery. The latest blockbusters fill your mind with excitement and wonder at The Illinois Theater, the city's longest-running cinema. Melodic live music and student-run theater performances engross captivated audiences. Bold, alluring flavors occupy repurposed spaces, from woodfired pizza in a refurbished storefront to locally sourced American fare at the city's historic train depot while the down-home, rustic charm of our agritourism destinations serves as an indicator of the farming heritage that fuels our local economy and helps feed the nation. The city's outdoor spaces at Nichols Park and Lake Jacksonville provide plenty of common ground to stretch out, bike, or hike through the natural Central Illinois beauty - as well as some of the best bass fishing in the state. And in nearby Meredosia, nature lovers get up close and personal with majestic bald eagles soaring high above the Illinois River.

Uncover the Possibilities in Jacksonville and find out why creating brand-new experiences comes just as easily as discovering a bit of the past.



RODEO AT THE MORGAN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

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# THE GOVERNOR'S FRONTIER HOME

No, you didn't take a wrong turn. In the state's young frontier days, then-Governor Joseph Duncan's spacious, 17-room mansion served as the official Governor's Mansion from 1834-1838. Today, the **Governor Duncan Mansion** houses many of the Duncan family's original furnishings. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1971, the mansion is open for tours on Wednesdays and Saturdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

# **BIG WHEEL KEEP ON TURNIN'**

As home to the **Eli Bridge Company**, Jacksonville has been the Carnival Capital of the Country for more than a century. Big Eli Wheels and Scramblers... they both began right here in Jacksonville. While the Big Eli Company isn't open for tours, visitors are welcome to take a spin on the Big Eli Wheel during summer and autumn months in **Community Park**.



- GOVERNOR DUNCAN MANSION, CIRCA 1969 & TODAY
- BIG ELI WHEEL IN COMMUNITY PARK
- JACKSONVILLE AREA MUSEUM
- JACKSONVILLE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM

# NOW THAT'S CRAFTSMANSHIP

Originally part of the State Hospital grounds, the beautiful **Bandstands of Community Park** feature exquisite Victorian detail and incredibly preserved construction, earning them recognition in the Smithsonian Institution.

# LOOKING FOR LINCOLN

Follow in the footsteps of the Great Emancipator! Abraham Lincoln made numerous trips to Jacksonville, including a stop on his 1858 Senate campaign where he delivered a stirring, two-and-a-half-hour speech against slavery. Walk where Lincoln walked with the Looking for Lincoln print guide directing you to wayside exhibits around town and further immerse yourself in the history with an audio tour featuring stories as told by those who knew him best.

Visit JacksonvillelL.org for more info!





# HISTORY ON DISPLAY

The newest addition to our many historic sites is arguably one of the most definitive. Housed in the former post office that closed in the early 1970s, the Jacksonville Area Museum features a broad range of exhibits showcasing the city's history, including its role as a center for retail, manufacturing, and educational institutions. The Jacksonville African

American History Museum, housed in the Asa

Talcott Home, details the lives of Black

Americans throughout history and their work and contributions both locally and nationally. The Illinois School for the Deaf Alumni Association Museum guides visitors through the history of the school and its commitment to providing a quality education to the deaf community.





Jacksonville is a city that appreciates the fine arts. Galleries — and 12 building facades around town - are adorned with masterpieces from artists both local and international. Meanwhile, live performances DAVID STRAWN ART GALLERY from singers, musicians, actors, and poets steal A HOME FOR THE ARTS the spotlight on the weekend. Experience a Housed in a Second Empire mansion deeded community where modern artists share galleries by Dr. David Strawn to the Art Association of Jacksonville in 1915, the David Strawn and stages with the proud names that came Art Gallery provides a gallery experience before to carry on a legacy of entertainment. like none other. Local artists are featured alongside permanent collections including the Miriam Cowgur Allen Doll collection, TWISTED TREE MUSIC HALL the Mediterranean Artifacts Collection, and North American, Mesoamerican, and South American pottery dating back thousands of years. Additionally, three rooms on the mansion's second floor — including original owner Phebe Strawn's bedroom — are decorated with the home's original furnishings. Live From Jacksonville Both local and nationally touring acts stop in Jacksonville to serenade crowds with live performances. Twisted Tree Music Hall, Soap Co. Coffee House, and Pizza Records all host frequent live music events. Got a song in your heart you need to let the world hear? Soap Co. hosts open mic nights for local musicians and poets to share their passion with the community, while Pizza Records invites local humorists to share some laughs with the community during their open comedian nights.

### TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS

Adorning the historic buildings around downtown, the Jacksonville Walldog Murals detail the lives and history that shaped our city, including Abraham Lincoln's rousing antislavery speech during his 1858 Senate campaign and General Ulysses S. Grant's famous march down what is now State Street. Hand-painted by artists from across the U.S. — and even as far away as Australia and Ireland — the 12 Walldog Murals around Jacksonville offer a colorful glimpse into our fascinating history.

# **ON WITH THE SHOW**

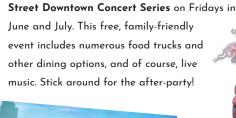
With mainstage plays, student-directed shows, and improv troupes, Illinois College TheatreWorks offers live entertainment throughout the academic year at both the 250-seat Sibert Theatre and the more intimate Illinois College Experimental Blackbox Theatre.

# MAESTRO, IF YOU PLEASE

Filling the air with its rendition of classic melodies, the Jacksonville Symphony Society is ranked one of the top orchestras in the state. With five performances throughout the year, the talented musicians of the JSS work with guest performers from around the country — and the world — with genres including classical, holiday, and pop music.

# **SONGS ON THE SQUARE**

The beautiful **Central Park** square becomes an outdoor concert venue every summer during the **Jacksonville Main** 





# **OUR FEATURE PRESENTATION**

Under a vintage, neon marquee, film lovers of all ages can enjoy a classic movie-going experience at **The Illinois Theater**, the longest-running cinema in Jacksonville. Featuring five screens and balcony theaters, this remarkable monument to the silver screen is a callback to community theaters of yesteryear.

- ILLINOIS COLLEGE THEATREWORKS
- MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES
- THE ILLINOIS THEATER



# tood (

Whenever you travel somewhere, getting a real taste of the local flavor is a must. In Jacksonville, that means sampling the delicious, chef-inspired dishes that define a burgeoning culinary scene. Young, ambitious gastronomic masters re-ignite historic spaces abuzz with activity to plate mouthwatering meals sourced from local ingredients. And the result? Let's just say when you visit Jacksonville, you won't leave hungry. So, what are you in the mood for?



# Hine

# SAVOR THE SOUTHWEST

Putting a Mexican-inspired spin on familiar flavors, **Little Mexico** uses the freshest vegetables and produce for its sizzling, savory dishes. Go for traditional Tex-Mex favorites like fajitas, tacos, and burritos, or try some of their more distinctive offerings such as Brothers Pizza, Chimichangas Michoacanas, or Hamburger Hidalgo.



# **ROOTED IN FLAVOR**

Kickstart your day with a cup of handcrafted, single-origin, small-batch coffee from **Elm City Roastery**. Featuring piping-hot pour-overs, plus a spread of savory specialties like lattes, cappuccinos, espressos, and snacks, Elm City roasts its beans in-house, ensuring the richest, deepest flavors are poured straight into your cup.

# **ALL ABOARD!**

Housed in the landmark Chicago & Alton Railroad station, Proud Richard's serves up classic, American fare that showcases seasonal, local ingredients from growers and producers around Jacksonville — including fresh-baked buns and custom-blended beef in its famous burgers as well as amazing seafood and pasta dishes. Featuring a rotating menu and utilizing the intimate, historical space, Proud Richard's is a must-visit on your Jacksonville excursion — you may even get to watch a train rumble through during your meal!



# DOWN ON THE CORNER

Housed in a historic storefront on the northeast corner of the square, The Little Stove specializes in hot, delicious, woodfired pizza made with 100% fresh, local ingredients, plus a wide selection of handcrafted cocktails. They also feature a rotating menu of homemade pastas, soups, and fresh salads. Their Italian Market features olive oils, pastas, and fresh cut steaks. Buon appetito!



# **TWISTED TUNES**

Situated on 17 acres of rolling hills, Twisted Tree Music Hall boasts a menu of international wines. Check out their incredible beer and cocktail menu as you sip and enjoy live music and dig into BBQ from My Buddy's BBQ during special events.

#### FROM THE VAULT

Housed in a historic, restored bank building, Schiraz Café & Wine Bar offers one of the most unique settings in Jacksonville. Pair a coffee or mimosa flight with their tasty lunch options, including paninis, pasta, and desserts.

# FRESH & FROM THE HEART

At Soap Co. Coffee House, baking is an act of love. So, it's understandable if you immediately fall for their handmade pastries baked fresh in a historic, restored building that has stories hidden in every nook and cranny. A wide menu of specialty drinks — coffees, teas, blended drinks, and more and lunch options like sandwiches, burritos, and salads are available. Stick around for live music and poetry open mics!

#### PRESSING ON

Located downtown, the south-of-the-border offerings at KJB's are sure to fill you up — especially their famous burritos roughly the size of your head! Order your burrito wrapped or in a bowl or enjoy tacos and guesadillas. Then, wash down your meal with a craft beer or some of KJB's freshpressed juices in an incredible variety of delicious flavors!

# SHELL SHOCKING

In addition to the typical cold beer and friendly service vou'd expect at any neighborhood tayern, Bahan's also includes a wide menu of homecooked meals, including their famous tacos with their homemade fried shells!

# OFF TO THE RACES

Established in 1933 and family owned since 1982, Don's Place serves up cold beer, savory, grilled pork chop and ribeye sandwiches, and even chili, gumbo, or Irish stew every Saturday. But the real claim to fame at Don's is their famous Thursday night crab races — race your hermit crab and win a prize as you take part in one of the most memorable traditions you'll experience in Jacksonville!

#### CAPITAL CITY CRAFT

Featuring a wide range of craft beers from around

Central Illinois, local brews are always on tap at

Springfield Beer Co., located conveniently at The Plaza on the square. Guests are sure to find a flavor to suit their palates from bold. rich stouts to smooth, refreshing wheats.

CRAB RACES AT DON'S PLACE

Outside food is welcome!







# FILL UP ON BBQ

Housed in a former gas station, My Buddy's BBQ puts a considerable amount of love and attention into the savory dishes smoked daily. Dig into favorites like pulled pork, brisket, and ribs, or sample some of their creative specialty items like the BBQ Split, BBQ Sundae, and Pig Skin Pizza. Have an event coming up? My Buddy's BBQ can accommodate events of 50 or more guests with a menu of delicious smoked meats, boxed lunches, and sides!

# **FRESH CUTS**

When it comes to a good cut of meat, freshness is paramount. Jones Meat & Locker, a Jacksonville staple since 1943, provides the highest-quality cuts in the area sourced from local farmers. With meat aged and butchered on-site, Jones offers an unparalleled selection of meats, including ham, summer sausage, bratwurst, and much more. And if you bagged a big buck during bow season, Jones will process the deer for you while making sure you get final meat products from the actual deer you brought in.

# DRIVE-THRU DELIGHTS

Reminiscent of a bygone era in fast food, **BurgerBoard** is famous for its piping-hot smashburgers — made fresh from never-frozen ground beef — with a side of crinkle cuts and a cup of chili. For dessert, try one of their famous, handmade shakes available in 16 varieties or try one of their specialty sundaes and concretes!

MY BUDDY'S BBQ CHARLIE'S ICE CREAM SHOP

BURGERBOARD KITCHEN 63 AT K'S CREEK GOLF CLUB

# SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH

Got a taste for something sugary? Bolt's Candy, Cones, and Corn offers a tasty variety of hand-dipped ice cream, homemade fudge and candy, and a myriad of gourmet popcorns that range from savory flavors like garlic parmesan, white cheddar, and salt and vinegar to sweets like caramel apple, pumpkin pie, and lemon cheesecake. For more frozen confections, visit Charlie's Ice Cream Shop, serving tasty sundaes, shakes, and malts along with a variety of their famous Tornadoes! Charlie's also has a menu of hot eats, including daily specials.

# **FAIRWAY FLAVORS**

Nothing like grabbing a bite after playing a quick nine. **Kitchen 63**, located at **K's Creek Golf Club**, offers bold, versatile meals that incorporate a bit of flavor from cuisines around the world. Try their famous Firecracker Shrimp and hand-battered cheese curds from the Dairy State, and wash it all down with craft beers from around Central Illinois.









FUTURE CHAMPIONS SPORTS COMPLEX & EATERY

### **BALLPARK BITES**

This ain't your ordinary concession stand — the restaurant and bar at Future Champions Sports Complex & Eatery promises full-on meals for players and families before, during, and after gametime. While your young all-star is knocking in RBIs, turning slick web gems, and racking up one strikeout after another, snack on starters like their loaded pulled pork nachos, pretzel charcuterie, or mini tacos, or swing for the fences from their Heavy Hitters menu, featuring Philly cheesesteaks, garlic bun cheeseburgers, and grilled chicken sandwiches.





# THE CORNER DELI

# **DELI STYLE**

Carrying on the spirit of yesteryear's neighborhood grocers, The Corner Deli provides a wide menu of foods free of additives and preservatives at affordable prices. Pick up a variety of fresh-sliced meats and imported cheeses, plus tasty, prepared options like their famous 1 lb. chicken strips, sandwiches, soups, and baked goods!

# TO DONUTS, WITH LOVE

What goes better with your morning cup of caffeine than a donut fresh off the line? At X's and O's Donuts and Bakery, sugary morning pick-me-ups are made from scratch daily with a recipe that dates back generations — a real tried and true method! From classic glazed to Long Johns to jelly-filled — or even fantastic muffins, pastries, pies, smoothies, and fruit bowls — find your favorite breakfast treat or discover a new favorite dessert option!

# A NEIGHBORHOOD SLICE

No matter if you prefer a deep-dish Chicago-style or a thin-crust tavern pie, Leo's Pizza has been slinging some of the best pizzas in town since 1978. Not in the mood for take-out? Leo's also specializes in delicious Italian cuisine in a charming, sit-down dining room, a perfect gathering space for get-togethers with friends and family. On Morton Avenue, Barney's Pizza & Pub serves handmade, thin-crust pies — plus fiery wings and St. Louis-style toasted ravs — with innovative twists. Try their Bacon Cheeseburger and Chicken Cordon Blue pizzas!







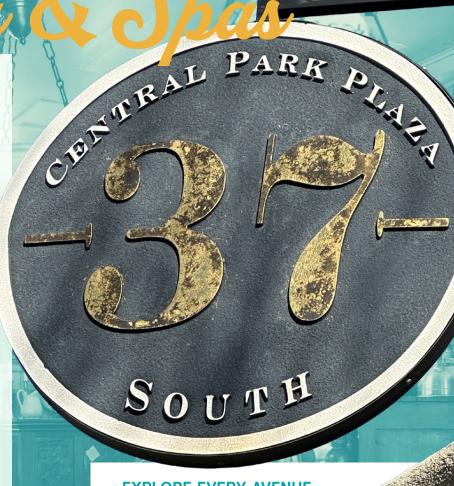
Picturesque shops line our Rockwellian town square — the perfect backdrop for a shopping spree. Looking for something a bit more vintage? Our antique and thrift shops are full of throwback treasures just waiting to be rediscovered and taken home. In between stops on your retail bonanza, pamper yourself at our full-service spas and salons so you can rest, recharge, and get back out there for your next rare find!

# A SQUARE DEAL

Downtown Jacksonville is defined by its historic storefronts standing tall around our expansive Central Park, setting the scene for an idyllic day spent browsing one store after the other. Here, independent shops and boutiques preserve the timeless look of our downtown space. Home goods stores, boutiques, and gift shops offer a shopping experience you won't find anywhere else. Looking for something for that special someone in your life? Need some vintage vinyl? Check out Pizza Records downtown and play some classic arcade games while you're there. Of course, you can't miss The Plaza, a distinctive building at the corner of Mauvaisterre and State streets that hosts several new boutiques, a taproom, and axe throwing!



More deals await at Jacksonville L.org/Shopping-Antiques.



# **EXPLORE EVERY AVENUE**

One of the busiest thoroughfares in Jacksonville, Morton Avenue runs east to west from one edge of the city to the other and is home to numerous independent shops, boutiques, and big-box stores. Lincoln Square houses several retail outlets offering familiar products and prices — a perfect opportunity to freshen up your closet or cabinet!

# **CREATIVE & CRAFTY**

The all-new Marshalls Shopping Plaza brings exciting, new retail options to the Morton Avenue corridor — including clothing and home décor at Marshalls and crafting at Hobby Lobby! Opening in July 2025.



# **TIMELESS TREASURES**

You've worked hard to give your home that vintage charm, the feeling of something ageless and classic. Antiquing truly is a modern-day treasure hunt, offering shoppers an opportunity to marvel in the beauty and craftsmanship of another time while also providing a chance to give that singular valuable a new home. Reclaim breathtaking furniture, décor, collectibles, and more as you sift through the incredible antique and thrift shops that — in the spirit of reclamation — make their homes in historic, centuries-old settings. What better place to rediscover the enduring possessions of a bygone era?

# **ANTIQUARIUS**

701 W. State St.

# **ANTIQUARIUS II**

19 S. Central Park Plaza

# **MARKET HOUSE ANTIQUES**

224 E. State St.

#### MAIN STREET TRADING CO.

305 S. Main St.



### THE LAP OF LUXURY

After a long day of retail therapy, a little pampering is just what you need to rest and recharge. Give your body some much-needed TLC at the spas and salons around Jacksonville. Work out those kinks with a relaxing massage or exfoliate your skin with a body scrub, go for that bold new hairstyle you've always wanted, or transform your nails into works of art. Unwind however you choose — you've earned it.

For a complete listing of spas and salons, visit JacksonvillelL.org/Spas-Salons.









# The Best of the Best

Whether they're developing amazing, helpful products or creating a common space for friends and family to gather, Morgan County is full of people striving to make our already-fantastic community even better — and these people deserve our recognition! Morgan County Marvels is an initiative by the Jacksonville Area CVB to shine a spotlight on business owners who work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for their neighbors.









# Julioon

We weren't made to spend our entire lives indoors. Human beings need wide-open spaces to move around, explore, and take in a breath of fresh air — concrete jungles soaked in the aroma of burning gasoline and diesel won't cut it. The natural beauty of Central Illinois shines brightest in the Jacksonville area with ample opportunities to commune with nature.

# **FUN ON THE WATER**

Jacksonville residents are blessed to have two fabulous lakes perfect for outdoor excursions.

Lake Jacksonville features 500 acres of manmade splendor with plenty of space for boating, skiing, and other watersports. The smaller Mauvaisterre

Lake features a boat launch accessible for most recreational boats — though motors exceeding 25 horsepower are only allowed to operate at idling speed. Up for some paddling? Kayak launches onto the lake — not to mention a convenient kayak rental service — allow visitors an opportunity to glide peacefully across still waters. Nearby Nichols Park provides even more opportunities to reel in lunker largemouths, and it's a perfect picnic spot too!

# Bass Heaven

The lakes around Jacksonville are acclaimed hotspots for big lunkers — in fact, Field & Stream named Jacksonville the No. 1 bass fishing destination in Illinois and No. 4 in the Midwest. Bluegill, crappie, and channel catfish abound in our waters, but nothing compares to the thrill of reeling in a trophy bass — or your friends' reactions when you show them the photos!



CRIMSON TRAIL

# HIT THE TRAILS

Ever have the urge to just wander into the forest and revel in the unspoiled serenity of Mother Nature?
Whether you traverse by foot or on two wheels,
Jacksonville offers miles of peaceful trails to explore.
Located east of town on Vandalia Road, the quarter-mile trails at the Emma Mae Leonhard Wildlife Sanctuary & Nature Trail run adjacent to Mauvaisterre Lake and offer tree identification signage, making it a perfect destination to observe local flora and fauna. At Lake Jacksonville, the paved Lake Jacksonville Trail provides a smooth, pleasant journey and scenic vistas along the northern lakeshore, while the Crimson and Rocket Trails on the southern shore offer 1.5 miles of rugged, unpaved trails, both completing an ideal getaway for hikers and bikers alike.



# PARKS & REC

Varied in amenities and activities, the parks around Jacksonville offer a broad spectrum of outdoor experiences. **Nichols Park**, a sprawling, 86-acre green space, includes an Olympic-size swimming pool, playground, golf course, and a brand-new 18-hole disc golf course, along with gazebos and shelters perfect for reunions and gatherings. More intimate outdoor venues provide a quiet spot to stop and relax with your four-legged friends.

To see a complete listing of parks, visit JacksonvillelL.org.

# **EAGLES ON THE RIVER**

Though bald eagle populations have skyrocketed in recent years — a testament to nationwide conservation efforts — catching a glimpse of these spectacular birds of prey is still an unforgettable experience. Located roughly 20 miles west of Jacksonville via US-67, the village of Meredosia on the banks of the Illinois River offers a rare sighting of our nation's symbol as it spends its winter months hunting high above the flowing currents. Brave the late winter cold and bring a pair of binoculars to see these majestic animals like you've never seen before!

# **ROUGH IT**

Love sleeping underneath the stars and waking up to the sounds of nature? Or do you prefer to bring your modern luxuries with you? Whatever your idea of camping is — canvas tent or RV hookup — the campgrounds around Jacksonville can accommodate. The Lake Jacksonville Campground features RV parking and tent camping with shower facilities overlooking the lake. The pristine Buena Vista Farms includes 68 RV sites, each with full hookups, picnic table, and fire ring, plus cabin rentals, on-site fishing, canoeing and kayaking, paddle boats, hiking and biking trails, and more.

- NICHOLS PARK ON MAUVAISTERRE LAKE
- FISHING ON LAKE JACKSONVILLE
- BUENA VISTA FARMS







Have an ultra-competitive spirit? That ought to play well here. In Jacksonville, we live for the thrill of competition — cheering on our kids chasing down their big-league dreams, enjoying some NCAA Div. III sports, or marveling in the heart-pounding action at our quarter-mile dirt track. However you compete, showcase your skills at the state-of-the-art facilities around Jacksonville.



FUTURE CHAMPIONS SPORTS COMPLEX

# FUTURE CHAMPIONS SPORTS COMPLEX

5 KELLY ST.

Featuring six baseball and softball fields on 28 acres, Future Champions is the premier tournament facility for the future Albert Pujols or Jennie Finch in your family. Players of all ages and abilities enjoy the turf fields, batting cages, and upgraded lights, while the entire family will enjoy the new on-site eatery, arcade, and bar.

# MIDWEST ATHLETIC CENTER

409 HARDIN AVE.

Housed on the former MacMurray College campus, the Midwest Athletic Center repurposes the classic college gymnasium for indoor sports, including basketball, volleyball, wrestling, gymnastics, and more!

# BOB FREESEN YMCA

1000 SHERWOOD LN.

With an indoor pool and facilities for basketball, volleyball, handball, racquetball, tennis, softball, soccer, football, and pickleball, the Y is a perfect venue for team sports of all types. You can also utilize the Y's private health club or enroll in classes for aerobics, swimming, spinning, and more.





JACKSONVILLE SPEEDWAY
BELLATTI FITNESS CENTER AT ILLINOIS COLLEGE

# **FULL-THROTTLE ACTION**

Since 1949, Jacksonville Speedway has thrilled audiences with high-octane action. Featuring sprints, micro-sprints and 305s, street and pony stocks, and modifieds, this high-banked dirt track has brought generations of drivers — and fans — to the Morgan County Fairgrounds every summer. Don't miss this thrilling, high-speed event every Friday from late April through October!



# BRUNER FITNESS & RECREATION CENTER

Go Blueboys and Lady Blues! As the home of Illinois
College athletics, the **Bruner Fitness & Recreation Center**hosts numerous exciting NCAA Div. III competitions
throughout the year, including football, basketball,
volleyball, baseball, softball, swimming, track, and more. All
games and matches are open to the public. Additionally,
the Bruner Center includes the **Bellatti Fitness Center**,
which features a weight room and workout area not just for
student athletes, but the entire campus.

# **PULL!**

Hone your skills for hunting season at the Jacksonville Sportsman's Club. With trap and sporting clay shooting, this facility is open to the public and serves as a safe space to zero your aim just in time for waterfowl season.

# **TEE OFF**

Looking for a chance to unwind on beautiful courses sculpted in the image of creation? Tee time is a sacred time in Jacksonville with three incredible golf courses to play a round or two. Play a full 18 at The Links at Nichols Park or get a quick nine in at K's Creek. For more exclusive environs, the private, 18-hole course at Jacksonville Country Club promises an exciting challenge on one of the most beautiful courses in the state. No clubs? No problem! Gather your friends for warm sunshine and friendly competition at the nine-hole Disc Golf Course at Foreman









Admit it — your phone is just as much a travel companion as your actual friends or family.

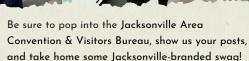
Wherever you go, you just can't fight the urge to snap a selfie and share it for those sweet, sweet likes and comments. And we can't really blame you — Jacksonville is full of moments and experiences that seem almost tailor-made for the 'Gram. So, show off all the fun times in the Jacksonville area — post your Jacksonville adventures to social media using the hashtag #JacksonvilleIL and show some of the fun times waiting to be uncovered in our corner of Central Illinois!

JACKSONVILLE AREA MUSEUM

DR. KENNIEBREW MURAL

CIVIL WAR COLUMBIA STATUE

JACKSONVILLE SELFIE SPOT



# Popular Selfie Spots

CIVIL WAR
COLUMBIA STATUE
Central Park

DAVID STRAWN ART GALLERY

331 W. College Ave.

MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE 300 W. State St.

BIG ELI WHEEL

Morton Avenue & Main Street

LEO'S PIZZA 230 S. Main St.

# DR. KENNIEBREW MURAL

Corner of Main Street & Central Park

# JACKSONVILLE SELFIE SPOT

Main Street & College Avenue

# JACKSONVILLE AREA MUSEUM

301 E. State St.

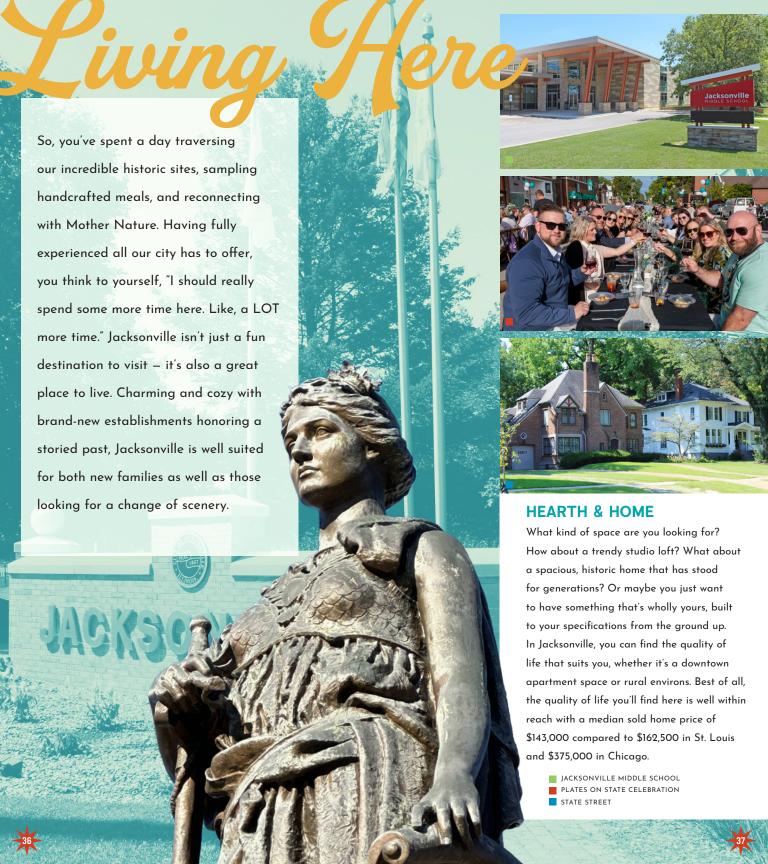
### LAKE JACKSONVILLE New Lake Road

WOODLAWN FARM

1463 Gierke Lane









## MAKE A LIVING

From agriculture to industrial and everything in between. a myriad of job opportunities are available for those living in Jacksonville and Morgan County. The city's top 10 employers, according to the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation, include the following:

# **JACKSONVILLE V** EMPLOYERS

- REYNOLDS **CONSUMER PRODUCTS** 900 EMPLOYEES
- **JACKSONVILLE** MEMORIAL HOSPITAL **677 EMPLOYEES**
- JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL **DISTRICT 117 650 EMPLOYEES**
- 4 ILLINOIS COLLEGE 345 EMPLOYEES
- **JACKSONVILLE** CORRECTIONAL FACILITY 331 EMPLOYEES

- BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS 300 EMPLOYEES
- PERMA-BOUND BOOKS 300 EMPLOYEES
- DXC TECHNOLOGY 225 EMPLOYEES
- **ILLINOIS SCHOOL** FOR THE DEAF 178 EMPLOYEES
- NESTLE 165 EMPLOYEES

# A HISTORY OF HEALTHCARE

A city as rich in history as ours deserves a hospital with an equally legendary past. Jacksonville Memorial Hospital formerly Passavant Memorial Hospital — has proudly served Jacksonville since its founding in 1875 by Lutheran minister William A. Passavant. Nearly 150 years later, the hospital remains steadfast in its mission to improve the quality of life for residents of Jacksonville with compassionate, state-ofthe-art care.



REYNOLDS CONSUMER PRODUCTS PLANT

JACKSONVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (FORMERLY PASSAVANT HOSPITAL)

ILLINOIS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

### RAISING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Beginning when your kids are just learning to write all the way to their college graduation, quality education is a constant in the lives of all kids in Jacksonville. Our public schools, District 117, as well as private, parochial schools provide a wide curriculum for students from kindergarten to 12th grade. The oldest four-year university in the state, Illinois College, and the Lincoln Land Community College Jacksonville Campus equip students with the tools needed to succeed in life. And in Jacksonville, we believe in educating all young people regardless of their physical limitations. As home to the Illinois School for the Deaf since 1839 and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired since 1849, providing specialized education for students of all abilities is deeply ingrained in our history and culture.



#### CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

200 W. Douglas Ave. 217-479-4600 • jacksonvilleil.com

#### JACKSONVILLE AREA **CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

310 E. State St. 217-243-5678 • jacksonvilleil.org

#### JACKSONVILLE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

620 E. State St. 217-479-4627 • jredc.org

#### JACKSONVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

155 W. Morton Ave. 217-245-2174 jacksonvilleareachamber.org

# JACKSONVILLE MAIN STREET

222 W. State St. 217-245-6884 jacksonvillemainstreet.org









BUENA VISTA FARMS

BLESSINGS ON STATE BED & BREAKFAST

STAY TLS

# **CABIN FEVER**

Sometimes getting away means unplugging your phone and escaping into the beauty of Mother Nature. **Buena Vista Farms** provides the perfect spot for a glamping trip or long weekend with the family with cabins for rental. Check out their furnished Tiny Home Cabins or rest under a canopy of foliage in their secluded Wooded Cabins.

# **BUENA VISTA FARMS**

1630 Old U.S. Highway 67 Chapin, IL 62628 • 217-618-6554

# THE STOVE TOP

Located conveniently above **The Little Stove** on the square, **Hotel TLS** features
three one-bedroom guest rooms in the loft
of a historic storefront. Each room includes
a rainfall shower, king bed, workspace, TV,
complimentary WiFi, and free parking. This
short-term rental space is a perfect stay for
your downtown exploration.

#### HOTEL TIS

56 N. Central Park Plaza • 917-499-8787



# **BEST WESTERN**

1709 W. Morton Ave. 217-245-4500

# HAMPTON INN BY HILTON

1725 W. Morton Ave. 217-291-0415

# **KNIGHTS INN**

1111 E. Morton Ave. 217-245-2187

# SUPER 8 BY WYNDHAM

1003 W. Morton Ave. 217-408-4241

# **HOTELS & MOTELS**

Looking for something more familiar? Need to block off several rooms for your next event? The hotels and motels around Jacksonville offer the same familiar service you expect and are ready to host your group.



# **SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

Make yourself at home — short-term rental options around Jacksonville provide a cozy, homelike atmosphere full of modern amenities. They're the perfect spot for a romantic getaway or a weekend-long shopping adventure!

Learn more about these unique lodging options at JacksonvillelL.org/ShortTermRentals.

BEST WESTERN





# Driving Distance From

33 to any 33 to the
• SPRINGFIELD, IL 35.3 miles, 36 min
• <b>ST. LOUIS, MO</b>
• CHICAGO, IL
• INDIANAPOLIS, IN 246 miles, 3 hr 41 min
• KANSAS CITY, MO 277 miles, 4 hr 14 min
• DES MOINES, IA 287 miles, 4 hr 45 min
• LOUISVILLE, KY337 miles, 5 hr 15 min



# Gelebrate 200 YEARS WITH 200 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES.

Honor our bicentennial the best way we know how - by simply experiencing our community firsthand. Spend some time outdoors, grab a bite or a drink, catch a game or a show... The Jacksonville Area is full of remarkable opportunities to enjoy yourself. In celebration of the city's 200th anniversary, check out 200 can't-miss experiences around Jacksonville and witness the best our city has to offer.



- - Try the simulator at K's Creek Golf Club.

Feel the engines rev at

Jacksonville Speedway.

- Hit a bullseye at the Vault: Axe Throwing.
- Ride the Big Eli Wheel in Community Park.
- Race your favorite crab at Don's Place.
- Tee off at The Links.
- Admire some artwork 18) at the David Strawn Art Gallery.
- Catch the latest flick at The Illinois Theater.
- Learn our history at the Jacksonville Area Museum.
- Relive the past at Woodlawn Farm.
- Snag some swag from the CVB office.
- Rep your favorite team at the Sports Zone.
- Enjoy a Mulliaan's Double.
- Stroll the Historic
- West Side Walking Tour. Hike the Crimson Trail.
- Watch a game at **Future Champions** Sports Complex.

- Play a classic arcade game at Pizza Records. Rent a kayak on Lake
- Mauvaisterre.
- Get a Summer Spritz at The Little Stove.
- Tour the Jacksonville African American History Museum.
- Catch a trophy bass at Lake Jacksonville.
- Reclaim your old action figures at Destination Toys.
- Catch some Z's at Blessings on State B&B.
- Groove to live tunes at Twisted Tree Music Hall.
- Snap a selfie at Main and College.
- Find a vintage treasure at Market House Antiques.
- Look for Lincoln at Illinois College.

- Pick up a good read at Our Town Books.
- Tour the historic Governor Duncan Mansion.
- Take a look at the Walldog Murals.
- Feel the vibe at The Peachy Nest.
- Make and take a candle at 37 South Boutique & Makery.
- Shop for vintage relics at Antiquarius.
- Stop and smell the roses at All Occasions Flowers & Gifts.
- Pick up local favorites at Jones Meat & Locker.
- Support Mother Earth at Green Haven Co.
- Grab a bite to ao from The Corner Deli.
- Get vour hair done at On the Clip Side.
- Find your inner peace at Jax Yoga Studio.
- Have brunch at Soap Co. Coffee House.
- Try a sweet treat at Holly Cakes Bakery.
- Contribute to fair trade at Kindred Market.
- Follow the Underground Railroad Driving Tour.
- Dine on locally sourced fare at Proud Richard's.
- Make your taste buds spin with a Tornado from Charlie's Ice Cream.
- Dig deep into a deep dish pizza at Leo's.
- Have a drink or two at KJB's Pinthaus.
- Try Taco Thursdays at Bahan's Tavern.

- Devour a BBQ Sundae at My Buddy's BBQ.
- Sip a drink at Schiraz Cafe & Wine Bar.
- Sample a beer flight at Springfield Brewing Co.
- Wake up with a latte at Elm City Roastery.
- Knock 'em down at the Bowl Inn.
- Camp out under the stars at Buena Vista Farms.
- Revisit 8-bit nostalaia at Press Start Games.
- Rock out at the Downtown Concert Series.
- See the rodeo at the County Fair.
- Admire classic rides at Summer Cruise Nite
- Dip your toes in at the Nichols Park Pool.
- Hike at the Emma Mae Leonhard Wildlife Sanctuary & Trail.
- Go disc golfing at Forman Grove Park.
- Dig into fresh donuts at X's and O's.
- Snap a photo at the ც General Benjamin Grierson Mansion.
- Share a brick-oven pizza at The Little Stove.
- Grab local produce at the Farmers Market.
- Mix it up with a mixology class at The Vault.
- Try a lunchbox at Don's Place.
- Play a round of SINGO at Goodtime Doc's.
- Savor steak night at **Future Champions** Eatery on Thursdays.

- Catch July 4th fireworks at Nichols Park.
- Grip and rip at the Nichols Park Disc Golf Course.
- Attend the Pilot Club Summer Concert Series.
- See the spooky
  Halloween decor on
  West State Street.
- Ride a horse-drawn carriage during the holidays.
- Enjoy the Festival of Lights.
- See the World's Tallest Advent Calendar at Farmer's State Bank.
- Take a pottery class at Goldleaf Art Gallery.
- Tour East Cemetery and Ken Norton's gravesite.
- Attend a Jacksonville Symphony Performance.
- Visit Market Six Pumpkin Patch.
- Join the Juneteenth Celebration.
- Pick blueberries at Schumacher Berry Farms.
- Roll dice at Beyond Tabletop Game Lounge.
- Build your own burrito bowl at KJB's.
- Watch eagles along the river in Meredosia.
- Try Kim's Place Cafe for a breakfast horseshoe.

- Hit Barney's Pub for a thin-crust pizza.
- Grab a homemade pie from Rudi's Grill.
- Get a bargain during the May town-wide yard sale.
- Unearth treasures at Antiquarius II.
- Walk the Rocket Recreational Trail.
- Enjoy a picnic at Community Park.
- Have a Pond Water cocktail at Kitchen 63.
- Join a free program at the Jacksonville Public Library.
- Drive in the Fall Cruise Nite & Car Show.
- Start a new tabletop quest at On/Off the Square.
- Get served at Jacksonville Country Club.
- Try a daily special at Guse's Pub.
- Admire the Morgan
  County Courthouse's architecture.
- Explore the Prairieland Heritage Museum.
- Read the Charters of Freedom in Central Park.
- 102 Book a room at Hotel TLS.
- Stock up at Bolt's Candy, Cones, and Corn.
- Order American classics at BurgerBoard.
- Hit the drive-thru at 7 Brew Coffee.
- Have a Winky
  Face Cocktail at
  Proud Richard's.
- Snap a selfie with the Central Park Columbia Statue.

- Try not to faceplant at the Skate Park.
- Find tripped-out gifts at Big Heads Gifts & Stuff.
- Give scritches at the Bark Park.
- Get cozy at Jannie B's.
- Crunch on some homemade chips from The Corner Deli.
- Get a BBQ horseshoe at Brickhouse BBQ.
- Cheer on Illinois College football.
- Take the Voices of Jacksonville Audio Tour.
- Peruse the Plaza shops.
- Pop a tent and camp at Lake Jacksonville.
- Spin some vinyl at Pizza Records.
- Get new threads at Eunoia Mama Co.
- Savor fried treats at the Morgan County Fair.
- See the River Country Quilt Show.
- Take a glimpse into tradition at the Prairieland Chautauqua.
- Paddleboard on Lake Mauvaisterre.
- Get a massage at The Hive.
- Grab a Margarita Flight from Los Rancheros.
- 126 Cheers at Oktoberfest.
- 127 Eat at Head West Subs.
- Get inspired at the Boujee Barn.
- Stay at Villa DeWolfe.
- 100 Boat on Lake Jacksonville.
- Try authentic dishes at Little Mexico.



- Visit General Benjamin Grierson's gravesite in East Cemetery.
- Get your nails done at A Touch of Class.
- Accessorize at Willow Branch Boutique.
- Prep for anything at Plan C Supply.
- Score primitive gifts at Primrose and Lace.
- Have a notion at Times Square Sewing Complex.
- Get funky at Modern Groove Boutique.
- Spend some quarters at the Future Champions
  Sports Complex arcade.
- Take a selfie with the life-size Lincoln statue on Illinois College Campus.
- Visit the Illinois School

  for the Deaf Alumni
  Association Museum.
- See national acts
  live on stage at the
  Morgan County Fair.
- Try on designer
  clothes and jewelry
  at GIRLe Boutique.
- Thrift something
  new-to-you at Matthew
  25 Thrift Shop.
- Take your furry best friend to the dog park at Veterans Park.
- Shoot a game of pool at the Emporium.



- Gnosh on some authentic cannolis at Leo's Pizza.
- Catch a show at
  Experimental BlackBox
  Theatre (the ICEBOX)
  by Illinois College
  TheatreWorks.
- Spur your creativity with supplies from Goldleaf Gallery and Art Supplies.
- Thrill at the Jacksonville R/C Speedway Oval Dirt Track races.
- Snap a selfie with the
  Ken Norton statue at
  the Jacksonville African
  American History Museum.



- Find great deals on resale items at The Attic.
- Luxuriate at Inner Harmony Day Spa.
- Drink up during happy hour at Bill's West State Tavern.
- Listen to some live music at KJB's.
- Sample sushi from the sushi bar and authentic flavors straight from the Hibachi grill of Uni Japanese Steak House.
- Hear live local music or win big with Bingo at Amvets Jacksonville.

- Chill out at Charlie's with an authentic banana split.
  - Give back and quench your thirst at The Drink
- Shop, which donates a portion of each purchase to charity.
  - Fulfill your need for speed at the Ron Milton
- Race of Champions
  MOWA Sprints at the
  Jacksonville Speedway.
- Drink a Paloma
  Cocktail at The Vault.
- Fish in the Rotary
  Bass Tournament on
  Lake Jacksonville.
- Watch the Demolition
  Derby at the Morgan
  County Fair.
- Hit Morton Avenue for a plethora of shopping choices.
- Pick a bouquet of hand-cut flowers at Another Way Blooms.
- Try your hand at
  Macrame at The
  Peachy Nest.
- Snap a fun photo at the iconic Ferris wheel benches on the downtown square.
- Enjoy Wednesday night
  Wing Night at Future
  Champions Eatery.
- Experience a mojito flight at Floyd's 104 Grill.
  - Try a 200th Bicentennial
- edition crafted beer at the Downtown Summer Concert Series.
- Shop one-of-a-kind finds from A Collaborative.
- Enjoy an authentic German meal at Rotary's Oktoberfest.

- Decorate a pumpkin at Jacksonville Main Street's Annual Pumpkin Festival.
- Shop your favorite retail brands at Lincoln Square.
- Park your RV at Buena Vista Farms.
- Hone your aim at Jacksonville Sportsman's Club.
- Strike a pose for a selfie in front of the Dr. Kenniebrew mural downtown.
- Wow that special
  someone with a gift
  from Main Street Trading
  Company Jewelers.
- Munch a panini at Schiraz for brunch.
- Drink an apple pie shot at Legends.
- Hit a quick nine at K's Creek Golf Course.
- Dig into Monday night fried pork chops at The Hangout.
- Sip a Richie's Manhattan at Kitchen 63.
- See what's happening at Midwest Athletic Center.
- Play pickleball at YMCA or Fitness World.
- Grab a party of 20 and book your stay at Cors Arena.
- Savor the flavor of an old fashioned at The Little Stove.

- Indulge in a pig tail at Guse's Pub.
- Share an Irish nachos with your pals at Mulligans.
- Grab a classic taco or a loaded chalupa at Taco Gringo.
- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at Rudi's Grill.
- Take a cold plunge at 1
  Degree Performance
  and Longevity.
- Attend the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Watch a basketball game in the historic JHS Bowl.
- Attend the Routt Family Fun Day Weekend.
  - Grab a National Park
    Service Passport Stamp
- Service Passport Stamp for Looking for Lincoln at the CVB.
- Take flying lessons at Jacksonville Municipal Airport.
- Treat yourself to a

  Smashing Delight at
  Heavenly Delight.
- Catch an Illinois College Lady Blues softball game.
- Attend the Blues and Brews in Downtown Jacksonville.





# Continue the Celebration!

For more on our bicentennial, visit jacksonvilleil.org/bicentennial.

Share your Instaworthy photos with us using #JacksonvilleIL!



@THEPEACHYNEST217



@FUTURECHAMPIONSSPORTS



@BLANDFAMILYFARM



@JACKSONVILLECVB





@WANDERINGWALKSOFWONDER



@EUNOIAMAMACO



@JACKSONVILLE\_MAIN\_STREET



@TWYFORDBBQ



@LED.BY.CURIOSITY



@JAXYOGASTUDIO





@HOOKMANSIONIL



@BLESSINGSONSTATEBANDB



@OURTOWNBOOKS



@37SOUTHBOUTIQUE





# **JACKSONVILLE**

AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

# Uncover the Possibilities

Now that you've read about our amazing, historic city, wouldn't you like to see it firsthand? After all, this guide is just the first step to making new memories as you rediscover the past in Jacksonville — the rest is up to you. So, what are you waiting for? Get to Jacksonville today and see what makes our slice of Central Illinois so incredible!

# JACKSONVILLE AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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