

· UNCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES ·



**JACKSONVILLE**

AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



· EST. 1825 ·

*Visitors Guide*

# Welcome

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 Empire-style 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

## Table of Contents

<b>HISTORY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>ARTS &amp; CULTURE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>FOOD &amp; WINE</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>SHOPPING &amp; SPAS</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>MORGAN COUNTY MARVELS</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>OUTDOORS</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>SPORTS</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>PICTURE YOURSELF</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>LIVING HERE</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>LODGING</b> .....	<b>42</b>
<b>GETTING HERE</b> .....	<b>45</b>
<b>OFF THE MOTHER ROAD</b> .....	<b>46</b>
<b>FOR THE GRAM</b> .....	<b>50</b>



**JACKSONVILLE**

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# History

Our beloved town is steeped in history. Plenty of cities make that claim, but in Jacksonville, we're serious about the legends that originated right here in our own back yard. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find a city of this size with so many well-preserved historical sites – mansions, storefronts, farmsteads, and so many more remarkable locales. Jacksonville is the perfect place to not just hear about history, but to immerse yourself and experience it.



WOODLAWN FARM

## THE PATH TO FREEDOM

For those escaping the chains of slavery – and those looking to break them once and for all – Jacksonville was a haven on the Underground Railroad. Today, the city recognizes nine locations as stops on the Underground Railroad, including the remarkably preserved **Woodlawn Farm** five miles east of town and the **Asa Talcott House** at 859 Grove St., home of the **Jacksonville African American History Museum**, which highlights the history of Black Americans around the country as well as providing additional insight into the history of slavery, the Underground Railroad, and Civil Rights Movement. The city of Jacksonville also became a catalyst in the abolitionist cause. Edward Beecher, brother of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* author Harriet Beecher Stowe, served as the first president of **Illinois College**, which itself became a center for abolitionism at the time. Other proud abolitionists like Jonathan B. Turner and Benjamin Henderson also fought tirelessly to guarantee freedom for all people.

## *Twist and Shout!*

As Beatlemania swept the nation in the mid-1960s, demand for Beatles records prompted Capitol Records to open a plant right here in Jacksonville to press and distribute the Fab Four's albums. The plant has since closed, but record collectors today can recognize a Jacksonville-pressed Beatles record by its oblong "O" and the initials "JW" in the runout groove.





## 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** brochure 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 [JacksonvilleL.org](http://JacksonvilleL.org) for more info!*

## 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**.



## 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 House**, 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.



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

# Art & Culture

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 from singers, musicians, actors, and poets steal the spotlight on the weekend. Experience a community where modern artists share galleries and stages with the proud names that came before to carry on a legacy of entertainment.

■ TWISTED TREE MUSIC HALL



■ THE DAVID STRAWN ART GALLERY

## A HOME FOR THE ARTS

Housed in a Second Empire-style mansion deeded by Dr. David Strawn to The Art Association of Jacksonville in 1915, **The David Strawn Art Gallery** provides a gallery experience like none other. Local artists are featured alongside permanent collections including the Miriam Cowgur Allen Doll collection, 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 **KJB's** 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 anti-slavery 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 Street Downtown Concert Series** on Fridays in June and July. This free, family-friendly event includes numerous food trucks and other dining options, and of course, live music. Stick around for the after-party!



## 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 seating, 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

# Food & Wine

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?

■ THE VAULT  
■ LITTLE MEXICO



## 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 delicious 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, wood-fired 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.

## BANK ON GREAT TASTES

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

- SCHIRAZ CAFE & WINE BAR
- THE LITTLE STOVE
- TWISTED TREE MUSIC HALL

## 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 quesadillas. Then, wash down your meal with a craft beer or some of KJB's fresh-pressed juices in an incredible variety of delicious flavors!

## SHELL SHOCKING

In addition to the typical cold beer and friendly service you'd expect at any neighborhood tavern, **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. Outside food is welcome!



- CRAB RACES AT DON'S PLACE



## 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!

## SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH

When that sweet tooth kicks in, indulge it at **Heavenly Delight**, a locally owned ice cream establishment. Enjoy the fan-favorite “smashing delight” or mix and match flavors from the board. 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. **Holly Cakes Bakery**, located downtown, is known for delicious desserts and serving up a side of sass with their cakes, cupcakes, cake pops, cookies, and more.

## 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.



- MY BUDDY'S BBQ
- CHARLIE'S ICE CREAM SHOP
- BURGERBOARD
- KITCHEN 63, AT K'S CREEK GOLF CLUB



■ FUTURE CHAMPIONS SPORTS COMPLEX & EATERY

## BALLPARK BITES

Get your head in the game at **Future Champions Sports Complex & Eatery**. This restaurant and bar promises competition-fueling 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 loaded pulled pork nachos and mini tacos or swing for the fences from their Heavy Hitters menu, featuring Philly cheesesteaks, garlic bun cheeseburgers, and grilled chicken sandwiches. Be sure to check out Wing Night Wednesdays and Steak Night Thursdays for home run tastes!



*Ask About Our Extended Menu!*

For even more dining options, visit [JacksonvilleL.org/Dine-Drink](http://JacksonvilleL.org/Dine-Drink).

■ SPRINGFIELD BEER CO. AT THE PLAZA  
■ BARNEY'S PIZZA & PUB

■ LEO'S PIZZA  
■ 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, cookies, and turnovers – 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 Bleu pizzas!



# Shopping & Spas

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!

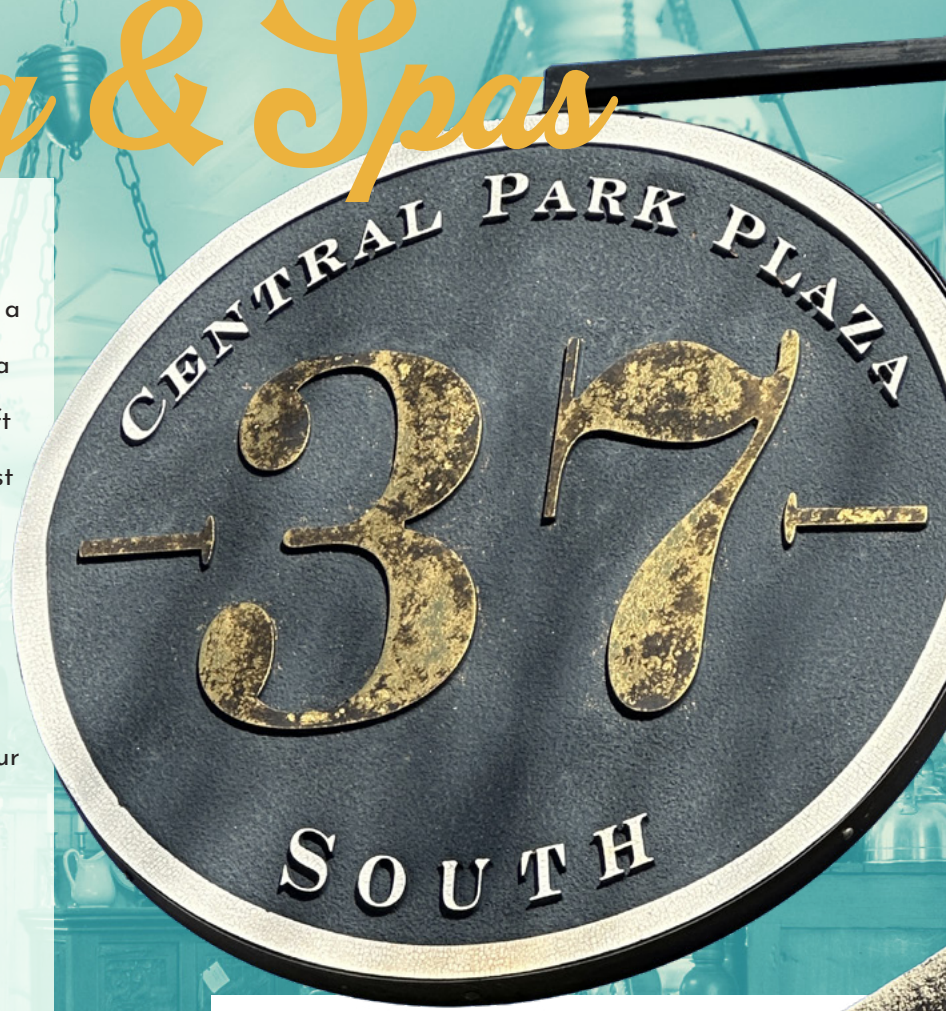
## A SQUARE DEAL

**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!



*Shop 'til You Drop*

More deals await at [JacksonvilleIL.org/Shopping-Antiques](http://JacksonvilleIL.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!



## 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

19 S. Central Park Plaza

### MARKET HOUSE ANTIQUES

224 E. State St.

### MAIN STREET TRADING CO.

305 S. Main St.

- ANTIQUARIUS
- OUR TOWN BOOKS, DOWNTOWN
- 37 SOUTH BOUTIQUE & MAKERY DOWNTOWN
- PIZZA RECORDS

## 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](http://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.



- JOHN AND RACHEL ROHN, MIDWEST ATHLETIC CENTER
- BEN SMITH, ELM CITY ROASTERY
- MORGAN COUNTY MARVELS SIGN BY COURTNEY'S SCROLLWORKS
- FILLIPA ALFANO, NONNA SANTINA'S



*Find More Marvels!*

Visit [Jacksonvilleil.org/about/morgan-county-marvels](http://Jacksonvilleil.org/about/morgan-county-marvels).

# Morgan County Marvels

- NOTHING FANCY SUPPLY
- THE PEACHY NEST
- SERIOUS LIP BALM
- HAMILTON'S

## 37 SOUTH BOUTIQUE & MAKERY

37 S. Central Park Plaza  
37-south.com

## COURTY'S SCROLLWORKS

facebook.com/courtysscrollworks

## ELM CITY ROASTERY

216 S. Mauvaisterre St.  
elmcityroastery.com

## FUTURE CHAMPIONS SPORTS COMPLEX & EATERY

5 Kelly St.  
futurechampionssportscomplex.com

## HAMILTON'S CATERING

110 N. East St.  
hamiltonscatering.com

## MIDWEST ATHLETIC CENTER

409 Hardin Ave.  
midwestathleticcenter.com

## NONNA SANTINA'S

nonnasantinamarinara.com

## NOTHING FANCY SUPPLY

nothingfancysupply.com

## PEACHY NEST AND ONE KNOTTY MAKER

228 S. Mauvaisterre St.  
thepeachynest217.com

## SERIOUS LIP BALM

seriouslipbalm.com



# Outdoors

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.*

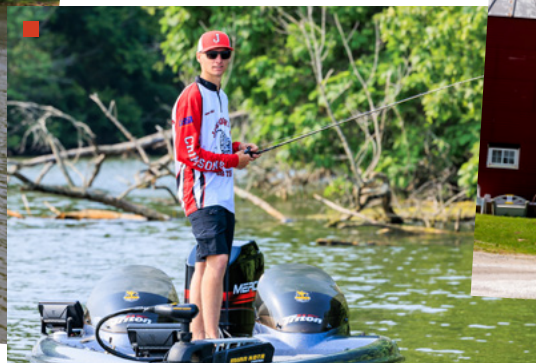
## EAGLES ON THE RIVER

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

From sleeping under the stars to bringing the comforts of home to the great outdoors, the campgrounds around Jacksonville can meet any camping style. 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. **Crazy Horse Family Campground** makes getting away easy with cabin stays, full hookups for RVs, cozy tent sites, and amenities that will delight all ages.

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



# Sports

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 Shohei Ohtani or Nijaree Canady 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.

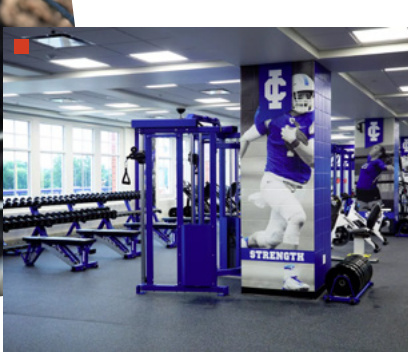
## MIDWEST ATHLETIC CENTER 409 HARDIN AVE.

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

## BOB FREESAN YMCA 1000 SHERWOOD LANE

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.





## 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.

- JACKSONVILLE SPEEDWAY
- DISC GOLF COURSE AT FOREMAN GROVE
- BELLATTI FITNESS CENTER AT ILLINOIS COLLEGE

## 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 Grove**, which promises a quick, exciting challenge for players of all ages! In addition, the 18-hole **Nichols Park Disc Golf Course** uses the layout of a former golf course to provide a thrilling test full of obstacles like trees, water, and elevation changes.



■ JACKSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

# Picture

## YOURSELF IN JACKSONVILLE



### POST YOUR EXPERIENCES IN JACKSONVILLE, IL!

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
- CIVIL WAR COLUMBIA STATUE
- DR. KENNIEBREW MURAL
- JACKSONVILLE SELFIE SPOT

Be sure to pop into the Jacksonville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, show us your posts, and take home some Jacksonville-branded swag!

### Popular Selfie Spots

**CIVIL WAR COLUMBIA STATUE**  
Central Park

**DR. KENNIEBREW MURAL**  
Corner of Main Street & Central Park

**DAVID STRAWN ART GALLERY**  
331 W. College Ave.

**JACKSONVILLE SELFIE SPOT**  
Main Street & College Avenue

**MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
300 W. State St.

**JACKSONVILLE AREA MUSEUM**  
301 E. State St.

**BIG ELI WHEEL**  
Morton Avenue & Main Street

**LAKE JACKSONVILLE**  
New Lake Road

**LEO'S PIZZA**  
230 S. Main St.

**WOODLAWN FARM**  
1463 Gierke Lane

# Living Here

So, you've spent a day traversing our incredible historic sites, sampling handcrafted meals, and reconnecting with Mother Nature. Having fully experienced all our city has to offer, you think to yourself, "I should really spend some more time here. Like, a LOT more time." Jacksonville isn't just a fun destination to visit – it's also a great place to live. Charming and cozy with brand-new establishments honoring a storied past, Jacksonville is well suited for both new families as well as those looking for a change of scenery.



## HEARTH & HOME

What kind of space are you looking for? How about a trendy studio loft? What about a spacious, historic home that has stood for generations? Or maybe you just want to have something that's wholly yours, built to your specifications from the ground up. In Jacksonville, you can find the quality of life that suits you, whether it's a downtown apartment space or rural environs. Best of all, the quality of life you'll find here is well within reach with a median sold home price of \$143,000 compared to \$162,500 in St. Louis and \$375,000 in Chicago.

- JACKSONVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- PLATES ON STATE CELEBRATION
- STATE STREET



- REYNOLDS CONSUMER PRODUCTS PLANT
- JACKSONVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (FORMERLY PASSAVANT HOSPITAL)
- ILLINOIS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

## 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:

## Top Ten JACKSONVILLE EMPLOYERS

- 1 REYNOLDS CONSUMER PRODUCTS  
1,000 EMPLOYEES
- 2 JACKSONVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
677 EMPLOYEES
- 3 JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 117  
650 EMPLOYEES
- 4 JACKSONVILLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
488 EMPLOYEES
- 5 ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
345 EMPLOYEES
- 6 BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS  
300 EMPLOYEES
- 7 PERMA-BOUND BOOKS  
300 EMPLOYEES
- 8 DXC TECHNOLOGY  
225 EMPLOYEES
- 9 ILLINOIS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
178 EMPLOYEES
- 10 NESTLE  
176 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-of-the-art care.

## 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 Blind** since 1849, providing specialized education for students of all abilities is deeply ingrained in our history and culture.



## Helpful Organizations

**CITY OF JACKSONVILLE**  
200 W. Douglas Ave.  
217-479-4600 • jacksonvilleil.com

**JACKSONVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
155 W. Morton Ave.  
217-245-2174  
jacksonvilleareachamber.org

**JACKSONVILLE AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**  
310 E. State St.  
217-243-5678 • jacksonvilleil.org

**JACKSONVILLE MAIN STREET**  
222 W. State St.  
217-245-6884  
jacksonvillemainstreet.org

**JACKSONVILLE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
620 E. State St.  
217-479-4627 • jredc.org

# Lodging

After a long day of exploring and uncovering seemingly endless legends, having a cozy place to recharge is a must. Thankfully, a big, comfy bed with a dash of Midwestern hospitality is always available in Jacksonville. Book a stay in a historic manor with a homecooked breakfast in the morning, or rest under a more familiar roof. Whether you're staying for a day or a week, the lodging properties around Jacksonville are ready to welcome you to town.

## A BLESSED STAY

Built between 1887-1890, **Blessings on State Bed & Breakfast** offers a casually elegant stay in the heart of the **Historic District**. This exquisite bed and breakfast features two guest suites perfect for any occasion, from work trips to romantic getaways. You may arrive at this historic mansion as strangers, but you'll certainly leave as friends.

**BLESSINGS ON STATE BED & BREAKFAST**  
1109 W. State St. • 217-245-1013



**BUENA VISTA FARMS**  
**BLESSINGS ON STATE BED & BREAKFAST**

## CABIN FEVER

Sometimes getting away means unplugging your phone and escaping into nature.

**Buena Vista Farms** is the perfect spot for a glamping trip or long weekend with the family. 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 above **The Little Stove** on the square, **Hotel TLS** features one-bedroom guest rooms in the loft of a historic storefront. Each includes a rainfall shower, king bed, workspace, TV, WiFi, and free parking. This short-term rental space is a perfect stay for your downtown exploration.

**HOTEL TLS**  
56 N. Central Park Plaza • 917-499-8787

## CAMP YOUR WAY

Getting away just got better. **Crazy Horse Family Campground** offers a little something for campers of all styles, with full hookups for RVs, primitive campsites, and cozy cabin experiences.

**CRAZY HORSE FAMILY CAMPGROUND**  
2113 Crazy Horse Road  
Ashland, IL 62612  
217-886-2089



# Getting Here

## 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 [JacksonvilleIL.org/ShortTermRentals](http://JacksonvilleIL.org/ShortTermRentals).

■ HAMPTON INN



## Extend Your Stay!

For even more lodging options, visit [JacksonvilleIL.org/Stay](http://JacksonvilleIL.org/Stay).

## Driving Distance From

- **SPRINGFIELD, IL** ..... 35.3 miles, 36 min
- **ST. LOUIS, MO** ..... 92.5 miles, 1 hr 41 min
- **CHICAGO, IL** ..... 236 miles, 3 hr 46 min
- **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, KY** ..... 337 miles, 5 hr 15 min

# The Most Route 66 City

## OFF THE MOTHER ROAD

OK, so the alignments of Historic Route 66 never wound through Jacksonville. But located just a half-hour from Springfield, the culture of the Mother Road no doubt impacted the development of modern Jacksonville. Today, the city is rich with stops reminiscent of those found along the Main Street of America, now celebrating its 100th anniversary. So, before heading toward the Gateway to the West, take a short detour to Jacksonville and explore the hidden gems just off Route 66.



### THE PAST PRESERVED

Route 66 passes by countless historical sites on its long trek from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA. Similarly, Jacksonville has amassed its own collection of places in which both local and national legends gather. Tour the home of Illinois' sixth governor at the **Governor Duncan Mansion**, marvel at breathtaking Second Empire architecture – and the masterful artworks contained therein – at **The David Strawn Art Gallery**, and hear the harrowing accounts of those escaping slavery at **Woodlawn Farm**. And, like our neighbors to the east, Jacksonville is home to many Abraham Lincoln sites, including **Beecher Hall** on the Illinois College campus, the **General Benjamin Grierson Mansion**, and the spot from which Lincoln delivered his famous speech denouncing slavery on the 1858 Senate campaign trail.



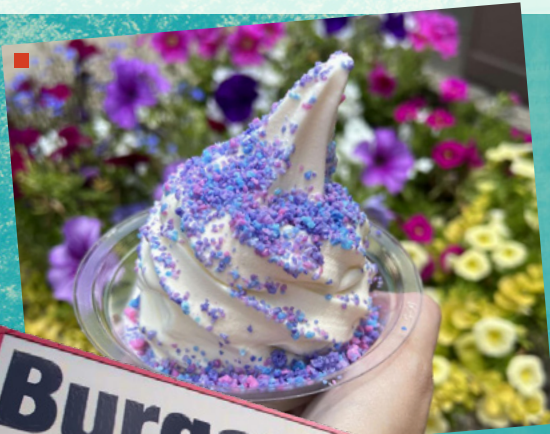
- GOVERNOR DUNCAN MANSION
- GENERAL BENJAMIN GRIERSON
- DAVID STRAWN ART GALLERY
- HENRY WARD BEECHER
- WOODLAWN FARM



## THROWBACK DINING

A classic road trip steeped in nostalgia deserves an equally retro meal. Plenty of eateries around Jacksonville offer a hot meal in the mid-century spirit of Route 66. Go for the classic burger-and-fries combo at **BurgerBoard** or pair a chili cheese dog with your pick of frozen treats from **Charlie's Ice Cream Shop**. Prefer to sit and savor your meal? Grab a bite at **Guse's Pub & Eatery**, famous for their fried cheese curds and tavern-style pizzas. Or pack your meal for a picnic in the park – the menu at **The Corner Deli** is loaded with sandwiches, soups, and salads that are perfect for dining al fresco in one of Jacksonville's beautiful community parks.

- CHARLIE'S ICE CREAM SHOP
- BURGERBOARD
- DR. KENNIEBREW MURAL
- THE CORNER DELI
- BIG ELI WHEEL @ JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY PARK



DRIVE THRU



## ROADSIDE CURIOS

The Mother Road is dotted with fascinating, kitschy, and quirky attractions that serve as the backdrop for unforgettable photo ops. You'll find the same in Jacksonville – the city is home to its own collection of photo-worthy stops! Start with the dedicated **Selfie Station** at Main Street and College Avenue, then snap a photo in front of the **Civil War Columbia statue** or in front of the many **Walldog murals** adorning the historic buildings on the square. Finally, head over to **Jacksonville Community Park** and snap a photo in front of the **Big Eli Wheel** on the park's northeast corner. You can even take a spin on the wheel during warmer months!



# For the Gram

Share your Instaworthy photos with us using #JacksonvilleL!



@HANDSOFHARVEST



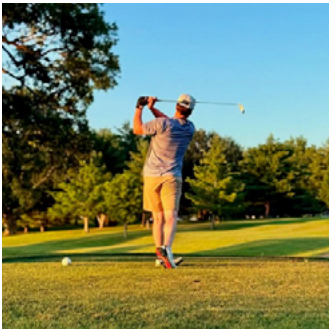
@GIRLSINWHITESATIN



@THELITTLESTOVE\_



@MORGANCOFAIRPAGEANT



@CWISSERS



@WANDERINGWALKSOFWONDER



@SOAPCOMPANYCOFFEEHOUSE



@THEPEACHYNEST217



@OURTOWNBOOKS



@ALEXWILLIAMS\_OFFICIAL



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@JOSHUABTV



@PRODRICHARDSRESTAURANT



@ELMCITYROASTERY



@NTWPUNKZINE



# 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

310 E. State St. • Jacksonville, IL 62650

217-243-5678 • 800-593-5678

[JACKSONVILLEIL.ORG](http://JACKSONVILLEIL.ORG)



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**illinois**