

ILLINOIS LINCOLN HIGHWAY

SCENIC BYWAY



DISCOVER THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The historic Lincoln Highway stretches from Times Square in New York City to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco — 5,872 miles! Though just 179 miles of the route are in Illinois, there is no shortage of Lincoln Highway attractions in the Prairie State.

Use this three-day itinerary to discover a sampling of the highlights and hidden gems along the Lincoln Highway. Discover welcoming Illinois communities with heritage museums, historical buildings, locally owned shops and great restaurants.



Lincoln Highway & RT66 Intersection



Lincoln Highway New Lenox Gazebo

For more information, including a listing of attractions, restaurants, shops, accommodations and campgrounds, visit LincolnHighwayIllinois.com.

*Many historical societies have limited hours. Please confirm each location's hours of operation before you plan your visit.

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DAY ONE

SAUK VILLAGE TO JOLIET

Lincoln Highway Interpretive Mural – Sauk Village

1 Sauk Trail Plaza, Sauk Village, IL 60411

Begin your road trip by snapping a photo of this public art piece — one of 35 murals produced by the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition that depict the highway’s history, heritage, and impact on American travel.

Chicago Heights Public Library

25 W 15th St, Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Located at the intersection of Lincoln Highway and Dixie Highway, another roadway created by Lincoln Highway founder Carl G. Fisher, the library is home to original Lincoln Highway certificates and the Arche Fountain.

Matteson Historical Society Museum*

813 School Ave, Matteson, IL 60443

Learn about the impact of the Lincoln Highway in Matteson and the far south suburbs of Chicago. The museum collects historical photographs, Lincoln Highway memorabilia, and an impressive document collection including early village records, news clippings and maps.

Lincoln Highway Gazebo and Interpretive Mural – Frankfort

Unwind in Frankfort with a visit to the Lincoln Highway Gazebo (11008 West Lincoln Highway Frankfort, IL 60423) and Interpretive Mural (11032 W Lincoln Highway Frankfort, IL 60432). The gazebo features interpretive panels that illustrate the history Frankfort, the Lincoln Highway, and the fascinating story of Emily Post and her travels on the transcontinental route in 1915.

KidsWork Children’s Museum

375 Veterans Pkwy, New Lenox, IL 60451

A great stop for travelers with children or grandchildren, this interactive children’s museum features 12,000 square feet of STEAM-focused exhibits for kids ages 0-10.

Pilcher Park Nature Center

2501 Highland Park Dr, Joliet, IL 60432

Enjoy a peaceful nature walk or learn about local wildlife at the Pilcher Park Nature Center, home to 640-acres of trails, picnic grounds, and nature-focused play areas.

Lincoln Highway & Route 66 Intersection

Southwest Corner of Cass and Chicago Streets

Stand at the crossroads of two of America's most legendary roadways — the historic Lincoln Highway and Route 66, two iconic transportation corridors that helped shape American road travel in the 20th century.

Rialto Square Theatre

102 N Chicago St, Joliet, IL 60432

Known as the "Jewel of Joliet," this beautiful theater is just a block away from the Lincoln Highway-Route 66 intersection.



Frankfort Interpretive Mural



Sauk Village Interpretive Mural



DAY TWO

JOLIET TO GENEVA

Joliet Area Historical Museum*

204 N Ottawa St, Joliet, IL 60432

Begin your second day by learning about the rich history of the Joliet area. The museum's exhibits cover the city's transportation heritage, limestone industry, Route 66 connections, and local culture.

Old Joliet Prison*

1125 Collins St, Joliet, IL 60432

Take a self-guided tour at the Old Joliet Prison, a former penitentiary opened in 1858 that has been featured in notable films and television shows including The Blues Brothers and Prison Break.

Interpretive Murals – Crest Hill

Discover two more interpretive murals at 1693 Plainfield Rd and 1710 Larkin Ave, Crest Hill, IL 60403

Historic Phillips 66 Service Station Renovation

15204 S Route 59, Plainfield, IL 60544

Although renovations are still in progress, this nostalgic reminder of the golden age of American road travel is on the only alignment of Route 66 and the Lincoln Highway.

Lincoln Highway Gazebo in Settlers' Park

24401 W Lockport St, Plainfield, IL 60544

Relax at the Lincoln highway Gazebo in Settlers' Park overlooking the DuPage River. The park offers walking paths and a peaceful setting in the heart of downtown Plainfield – walking distance to great local shops and dining.

Little White School Museum*

72 Polk St, Oswego, IL 60543

This charming community museum invites visitors to take a step back in time and learn about the history and spirit of Oswego's early residents.

William Tanner House*

304 Oak Ave, Aurora, IL 60506

Tour a restored 1857 home showcasing Aurora's early residential life and Victorian-era furnishings.

Phillips Park

1000 Ray Moses Dr, Aurora, IL 60505

Enjoy a scenic park featuring a free zoo, a golf course, walking trails, a skate park, and more opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Paramount Theatre

23 E Galena Blvd, Aurora, IL 60506

Visit downtown Aurora and admire the beautiful art deco Paramount Theatre.

Batavia Depot Museum*

155 Houston St, Batavia, IL 60510

Learn about industry and transportation along the Fox River inside an antique railroad depot converted into a heritage museum.

Fabyan Villa Museum & Japanese Garden

1511 S Batavia Ave, Geneva, IL 60134

Wind down with a stroll through a serene Japanese-style garden. The grounds are also home to Colonel George Fabyan's historic home with a collection of Asian artifacts and artwork.



Plainfield Lincoln Highway Gazebo



Crest Hill Interpretive Mural



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DAY THREE

GENEVA TO FULTON

The Little Traveler

404 S 3rd St, Geneva, IL 60134

Explore 36 rooms of treasures inside this historic home that has been turned into a specialty shop. The Atrium Cafe is located inside the home's peaceful indoor atrium, perfect for grabbing coffee and a bite after you're done shopping.

Lincoln Highway Gazebo – Geneva

25 W 15th St, Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Stop at this scenic gazebo along the Fox River and Lincoln Highway, featuring interpretive signage that illustrates the story of Alice Ramsey, the first woman to drive from coast to coast.

Interpretive Mural – Maple Park

302 Willow St, Maple Park, IL 60151

Pause in Maple Park to view an interpretive Lincoln Highway mural that highlights the town's connection to the historic transcontinental route.

Interpretive Mural – Cortland

55 West Lincoln Highway, Cortland, IL 60112

Discover Cortland's interpretive mural that honors "The Good Roads Movement" that began with the development of the Lincoln Highway.

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Clock

101 E. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, IL

This clock tower monument honors service members who served in World War I. The Memorial Clock is the focal point of Memorial Park, which serves as a gathering space for community events.

Ellwood House Museum*

420 Linden Pl, DeKalb, IL 60115

Tour the historic estate of barbed wire magnate Isaac Ellwood, featuring elegant gardens and exhibits on DeKalb's industrial heritage.

J.F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center*

921 W Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115

Visit the preserved home of Joseph Glidden, inventor of barbed wire, and learn how his innovation helped shape the American West.

Interpretive Mural – Creston

101 North Main St, Creston, IL 60113

Discover one of the 35 interpretive Lincoln Highway murals in the small town of Creston.

1918 Standard Oil Station

500 Lincoln Ave, Rochelle, IL 60168

This Standard Oil Filling Station was the first gas station along the Lincoln Highway in Illinois. The building is an example of a "House with Canopy" style gas station. Four original Lincoln Highway concrete markers from 1928 are on site.

Interpretive Mural – Ashton

810 Main St, Ashton, Illinois

Ashton's interpretive mural depicts the history of the national Lincoln Highway opening day celebrations.

Lincoln Highway National Interpretive Center*

136 N. Elm St, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

The Lincoln Highway Interpretive Center resides in the H. I. Lincoln Building, built in 1860 as a dry goods store owned by Abraham Lincoln's cousin. The building also served as a hospital, post office, and newspaper publisher.

Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home*

816 S Hennepin Ave, Dixon, IL 61021

Step into the past and tour the restored home that the 40th President of the United States resided in from 1920-1923.



Lee County Courthouse

309 S. Galena Ave, Dixon, IL 61021

Stop by the Lee County Courthouse and see a large stone with a plaque that marks the location where Abraham Lincoln gave a speech in 1856. As part of his Dixon speech, Lincoln asked for the support of presidential candidate John C. Frémont, who ultimately lost to James Buchanan.

Dillon Home Museum*

1005 E 3rd St, Sterling, IL 61081

Tour the home of P.W. Dillon, President of Northwestern Steel and Wire. The homes' grandeur is a remarkable sight, as his wife, Crete, was an avid traveler and collector of eclectic pieces and period furniture.

Windmill Cultural Center & de Immigrant Windmill*

111 10th Ave, Fulton, IL 61252

Your final stop before traveling to Iowa is Fulton, IL — home of the annual Dutch Days festival and the de Immigrant Windmill, a new construction, authentic windmill that was built in the Netherlands by native millwrights.



Maple Park Interpretive Mural



Creston Interpretive Mural



Lincoln Highway Illinois is managed by Heritage Corridor Destinations