



Great River Road in Illinois – National Scenic Byway FAST FACTS

Listed as one of National Geographic's "Top 500 Drives of A Lifetime"

- 550 miles through the western border of Illinois
- Road winds along the Mississippi River, the third largest river in the world
- The drive showcases the history and heritage of Illinois – from ancient Indian settlements to an 18th century French fort

Traveling the Great River Road – North to South

As a National Scenic Byway, the Great River Road in Illinois is recognized by the United States Department of Transportation for its archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and/or scenic qualities.

- The Illinois portion of the Great River Road starts just outside of **Galena** on US Route 20
- The route continues through **Fulton** on Illinois Route 84 and winds through **Moline** and **Rock Island**
- The road continues south through **Nauvoo** and down through **Quincy**
- Near **Alton**, experience 33 miles of the **Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Byway**
- The route picks up at **Thebes** and continues south to the **Horseshoe Lake Exploration Route**, through **Cairo** where the Great River Road in Illinois meets the Ohio River National Scenic Byway at **Fort Defiance State Park**

History & Heritage

- Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historic Site – Galena
- Black Hawk State Historic Site – Rock Island
- Henderson Covered Bridge – Oquawka
- Historic Nauvoo Temple – Nauvoo

- Historic District – Quincy
- Lincoln & Civil War Legacy Trail – Alton
- Cahokia Mounds – Collinsville
- Fort de Chartres State Historic Site – Prairie du Rocher

Recreation

Bikes can be taken on select Amtrak trains and Amtrak serves 30 Illinois cities, call **(800) USA-RAIL**

- Great River Trail (biking & hiking) – **Rock Island to Fulton**
- Madison County Transit’s Nature Trail (biking & hiking) – **Edwardsville**
- Pere Marquette State Park (biking, hiking, camping, eagle watching) – **Grafton**
- Giant City State Park (camping, hiking, horseback riding) – **Makanda**
- Oakwood Bottoms/Greentree Reservoir – **Gorham**

Accommodations

Wherever you start your journey, there are endless choices of accommodations along the Great River Road in Illinois. Check out www.greatriverroad-illinois.org for a list of hotels, motels, resorts, inns and bed & breakfasts.