



I L L I N O I S B E Y O N D C H I C A G O

POPULATION	12,831,970 (according to the 2006 census)
AREA	56,400 square miles, 24 th in U.S., about the size of England and Wales
STATE CAPITAL	Springfield
NICKNAME	The Prairie State, due to its vast prairie lands; The Land of Lincoln, because Springfield is where <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> practiced law, held a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and was elected president
STATE MOTTO	State Sovereignty, National Union
STATE FLOWER	Purple Violet
STATE BIRD	Cardinal

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- Illinois, situated in the heart of the American Midwest, is bordered by water on three sides: the legendary **Mississippi River** to the west, **Lake Michigan** to the northeast; the **Wabash River** to the southeast and **Ohio River** to the south.
 - Illinois has the nation's third largest city, Chicago with 2,833,321 residents (according to the 2006 census).
 - Illinois has 4,300 miles of shoreline, 29 of which border **Lake Michigan**.
 - Historic **Route 66**, Illinois' 'Mother Road', starts in Chicago, Illinois, and stretches all the way to California. You can get your kicks on Illinois' stretch of **Route 66** which is said to be among the best preserved stretches of the legendary road which is 2,448 miles long, crosses eight states and three time zones.

What to see in Illinois

- **Parks** – There are 262 state parks and recreational sites located on more than 400,000 acres of land in Illinois. Little wonder that spending time outdoors is a huge recreational pastime.



- **Eagles** – Eagle watching is popular along the Mississippi River, as Illinois is home to a large population of wintering eagles.
- **Indian Mounds** – Southern Illinois' **Cahokia Mounds** is home to the remains of the only prehistoric Native American city north of Mexico. **Cahokia Mounds** has been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is a sacred burial site.
- **Lincoln History** – Springfield, Illinois was the home of *Abraham Lincoln*, 16th President of the United States. Springfield is home to the five most popular *Lincoln* sites in the country such as *Lincoln Home* and his final resting place, *Lincoln Tomb*. 12 February 2009 marks Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday.
- **Frank Lloyd Wright** – Oak Park, Illinois, near Chicago, has the largest collection of structures designed by legendary architect *Frank Lloyd Wright*.
- **Stallions** – Lake County, Illinois is home to the largest group of Lipizzan stallions outside of Austria. Renowned for their beauty and grace, these horses enthrall audiences with their dancing performances.
- **Scenic Riverland** – Illinois' famed scenic drives include the **Great River Road**, which follows the Mississippi River, the quiet rural splendor of **Knox County** and the tree-covered rolling hills of the **Spoon River Valley**.
- **Motor Racing** – Madison, Illinois' Gateway International Raceway is home to NASCAR and Indy car racing.
- **Chicagoland Speedway** – This track in Joliet sits on 930 acres of land and can accommodate 50,000 vehicles.
- **Arlington Park** – The Chicago area's premiere thoroughbred racetrack, and was the home of the record-breaking 2002 Breeder's Cup World Thoroughbred Championships.
- **Golf** – Illinois has more than 700 golf courses ideal for *Tiger Woods* wannabes to perfect their swing.

Fun Facts

- 'Illinois' derives from a Native American word meaning 'tribe of superior men'.
- The creator of cartoon character Popeye, hails from Illinois, as does the real life voice behind Homer Simpson, *Dan Castelleneta*.



- Superman can be found in Metropolis, Illinois.
- The tallest man in the world at 8 feet, 11 inches was born in Alton, Illinois.
- Ten of America's Top 500 Companies have world headquarters in Illinois, including Boeing, Motorola, McDonalds and Caterpillar.
- The Ferris Wheel was invented in Jacksonville, Illinois for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

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For more information or to obtain a brochure, call the Chicago & Illinois Tourist Office's Freephone Brochure Line on 08700 503410 or visit online www.gochicago.com

For further information on the city of Chicago's ongoing initiatives, please contact Jackie Cooper PR:

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