



AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIAL DAY IS JUST A DRIVE AWAY

Celebrate the unofficial start of summer with an Illinois road trip!

Memorial Day weekend signaling the beginning of the summer season, the three-day holiday is your opportunity to explore the multitude of beaches, museums, festivals and other activities Illinois offers. Hop in the car with your family and enjoy the unofficial start of summer with these activities, just a drive away. For more information in Spanish, call (888) 610-GOZA or visit www.disfrutailinois.com.

CHICAGO

Marvel at a spectacular fireworks show set to music in the heart of Chicago. The Navy Pier fireworks begin Memorial Day weekend and continue every Wednesday and Saturday until September. Spend the day exploring Navy Pier's attractions and end the evening watching the marvelous colors light up the night sky. Call (312) 595-7437 or visit www.navy pier.com for more information.

Another city treasure is the lakeshore that makes up Chicago's Public Beaches. More than 26 miles of land line Lake Michigan and provide free access to sun, sand and the beautiful city skyline. The entire family will find a place to run, swim, ride a bike, play soccer or just relax alongside the water. For more information, call (312) 742-3224 or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

CHICAGOLAND

Visit Six Flags Great America in Gurnee for thrill rides and a Caribbean-inspired water park, Hurricane Harbor. Find fun in the water park's 26 slides, wave pool and interactive island. Then head back to the amusement park for roller coasters, including the family-friendly Little Dipper, and the new Glow in the Park parade. For more details call (847) 249-4636 or visit www.sixflags.com/greatamerica. After a long day at Great America, head across the street to relax at KeyLime Cove Indoor Waterpark Resort, also in Gurnee. This vacation paradise includes a spa and an aquatic adventure at its water park. Families will also enjoy a game room, entertainment center and gym. Begin planning your trip by calling (877) 360-0403 or visiting www.keylimecove.com.

NORTHERN

Are you looking for a mix of activities for every member of the family? Rockford River District, in downtown Rockford, is perfect for children and adults who want to explore stores, restaurants, museums, art and unique buildings. From the Burpee Museum of Natural History's dinosaur exhibit to the Sinnissippi Gardens, your family will find a weekend jam-packed with new experiences. For more information the River District and other Rockford activities, visit the area's new Spanish website at www.gorockford.com/spanish, or call (800) 521-0849.

Northern Illinois is also home to Galena, a town of memorable landscapes and vineyards that reveal the harmony of a simple, happy life. Strolling down Main Street Galena, named the Best Main Street in the Midwest, is a welcome change of pace from life in the city. Look for unique local offerings like antiques, wine, jewelry and books as you admire the 19th-century storefront facades. Visit www.galena.org or call 877-GO-GALENA for more information.

WESTERN

The Backwater Gamblers are an unforgettable sight in Rock Island. Memorial Day marks the start of the group's Water Ski Shows, which are free every Wednesday and Sunday evening until Labor

until Labor Day weekend. Children will be amazed by the spectacular aquatic performances with jumps, human pyramids and other incredible feats. Call (309) 786-8987 for more information or visit www.backwatergamblers.com.

The Galesburg Railroad Museum is one destination that will definitely capture your attention. Admire the mysterious and enchanting machines as you tour the history of these iron giants and the hard workers that made them come to life. You will love boarding the antique wagons on display! Call (309) 342-9400 or visit www.galesburgrailroadmuseum.org to learn more.

CENTRAL

You've heard about the historic Route 66, now buckle your seatbelt and discover all the unique sites along the mother road of all highways. In Springfield, be sure to stop and take photos at Shea's Gas Station Museum, then spend a day at Knight's Action Park and catch a movie at the Route 66 Twin Drive-in as night falls. Visit www.illinoisroute66.org for a complete listing of attractions or call (866) 378-7866.

Immerse yourself in history at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield, the largest presidential library in the country. History comes alive with the latest technology, special effects, holographic ghosts and realistic sounds from the battlefield. Don't miss the special exhibits just for kids. Visit www.visit-springfieldillinois.com for more information in Spanish about the museum and other attractions, or call (800) 545-7300.

SOUTHERN

There are several interesting museums in Southern Illinois, like the General John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro. Now is the perfect time to visit since General Logan is the founder of Memorial Day. Learn about the turbulent times of the general's life, as he was one of the most important Illinoisans of the 19th century. Call (818) 684-3455 for more information or visit www.loganmuseum.org.

Include a family trip to the beach during this long weekend at Lake Glendale Recreation Area in Glendale, open starting Memorial Day weekend. The beautiful beach borders an 80-acre lake in the heart of the Shawnee National Forest. Enjoy swimming, camping, biking and fishing. For more information call (818) 949-3807 or visit www.lakeglendale.net.

SOUTHWEST

Everyone loves a party, and Southwest Illinois hosts a famous one; the Alton Block Party. Third Street in downtown Alton is where the magic happens, starting Saturday, May 29, and continuing on the last Saturday of every month all summer. Music fills up the air, and the street turns into one big dance floor. Spend the night dancing with your significant other, and be sure to try the exquisite food offered by local restaurants and bars. For more information call (818) 465-6676 or visit www.visitalton.com.

Celebrate your passion for baseball by catching the Gateway Grizzlies game against the River City Rascals, May 29 at GCS Ballpark in Sauget. Join the more than one million fans that have come to see the team play over the past six seasons. Call (818) 337-3000 for ticket information or visit www.gatewaygrizzlies.com for a full schedule of summer games.

To learn more about attractions and events to visit during Memorial Day weekend, request a free copy of the ¡Vive la emoción! brochure or make reservations through a Spanish-speaking travel professional by calling (866) 610-GOZA or visiting www.disfrutailinois.com.