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Head Outdoors to Enjoy springtime in Illinois

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As the weather warms up, it's the perfect time to head outdoors and watch the landscapes go green. Illinois is the place to enjoy nature, animals, dozens of activities and entertaining festivals.



Chicago

Begin spring with a burst of color at Garfield Park Conservatory, one of the largest indoor gardens in the world, which boasts hues of red, fuchsia, white and yellow. The Conservatory is hosting its Spring Flower Show, now through May 9, where you can marvel at blooming flowers from all over the world. 773) 638-1766 | garfield-conservatory.org

Chicagoland

Spring is one of the most exciting times to visit the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, as warmer weather and blooming flowers bring dramatic changes to the gardens. Marvel at the different types, colors and textures of the plants in the 24 gardens and nine islands. The grounds boast a mosaic of beautiful colors and are a great opportunity for your children to learn about conservation. (847) 835-5440 | chicagobotanic.org

Northern Illinois

For an outdoor adventure, visit Utica's Starved Rock State Park, where you can admire waterfalls, canyons and breathtaking rock formations. Springtime is the perfect time for an excursion, a canoe ride, fishing, camping or horseback riding. Your family will want to stay once they experience the grounds, which you can do at Starved Rock Lodge. (800) 868-7625 | starvedrocklodge.com

Central Illinois

Explore one of Illinois' Seven Wonders at Allen Park & Retreat Center in Monticello. The 1,500-acre park features gorgeous gardens, unique sculptures and a century-old mansion. Free entry and a marvelous setting for a picnic make this the ideal destination to enjoy a relaxing spring day. ...

Western Illinois

Western Illinois offers an exciting way to experience spring – on the water! Invite the entire family for a Celebration River Cruise in Moline, a journey that can last four hours, all day or even two nights. You will dance, listen to music, dine on gourmet food, rest in splendid cabins or even take in some sun to create an unforgettable experience. (800) 297-0034 | celebrationbelle.com

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Southern Illinois

Do you dare to explore a deep, dark cave where pirates used to hide out? If you are feeling a little scared, just take your kids by the hand and conquer Cave-in-Rock State Park together. The 55-foot wide cave overlooks the Ohio River and is surrounded by a park that offers walking trails, fishing, camping and a lodge. (618) 289-4325 | dnr.state.il.us

Southwest Illinois

To experience the marvelous outdoor destinations Illinois offers, don't forget a trip to Carlyle Lake, located in Eldon. Hazlet State Recreation Area, a 3,000-acre park. Every year, three quarters of a million visitors come to hunt, fish, camp, surf or just relax on the beaches surrounding the 26,000 acres of the largest man-made lake in Illinois. (618) 594-5253 | thetourismbureau.org

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