

illinois

Great River Road



where the river meets the road

Breathtaking views, quaint towns, and more

It's easy to forget how much greater seeing something in person can be. A sunset over the mighty Mississippi River. A cobblestone street surrounded by historic homes. The ruins of an ancient civilization. Designated a National Scenic Byway, the Great River Road's striking vistas are something you have to see to believe.



5-7 days
541mi
(Approx)

illinois

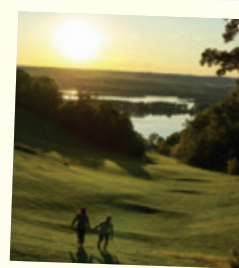
Great River Road



Main Street Galena



Blaum Bros. Distilling Company



Chestnut Mountain



Mississippi Palisades State Park

Many attractions have reopened with limited capacity or different operating hours. Inquire with attractions ahead of time for up-to-date travel policies and health and safety information.

📍 Day 1 Galena

Galena is a popular getaway with rich history and tons of local flavor. Start off easy by browsing the **Historic Main Street** or see true craftsmanship at Illinois Made Maker **Blaum Bros. Distilling Company**. Want to get your adrenaline pumping? Try **Chestnut Mountain's** one-of-a-kind alpine slide. Afterwards, take a breather and dive into the varied past of the region and our nation with a tour of the **Ulysses S Grant Home State Historic Site**, or kick back on one of Galena's popular **Trolley Tours**.

Stop by **Log Cabin** for a bite to eat to round out your day, and consider a stay at the award-winning **Jail Hill Inn**. There's a lot more to do, so rest up!

📍 Day 2 Galena & Elizabeth

Galena is also home to many beautiful wineries and recognized distilleries, each offering their own tastings and tours. From **Galena Cellars Winery** to the **Rocky Waters Vineyard** in nearby Hanover, you're sure to find a unique bottle of wine to take home with you. Extend your drive out to Elizabeth and you can find two other popular Illinois Made Maker destinations. At **Dittmar Farms**, enjoy scenic hayrides, u-pick apples and pumpkins, and a corn maze. Stop by **Eshelman Pottery** for practical, bold and innovative stoneware sure to catch the eye.

Lastly, try 50 unique flavors of popcorn (Spicy Italian, anyone?) from local staple and Illinois Made Maker **Great American Popcorn Company**.

📍 Day 3 Savanna, Fulton, Quad Cities

Lace up your hiking boots, it's time to hit the trails! Start with the **Mississippi Palisades State Park** in Savanna, a 2,500-acre park with rich Native American history and beautiful vistas. Afterwards, enjoy a rest in Fulton where you can grab a slice at **Manny's Pizza**. Your third day ends with a dealer's choice of activities in the Quad Cities, from trying to hit it big at **Jumer's Casino** or relaxing with a river cruise on the **Celebration Belle**.

📍 Day 4 Nauvoo, Quincy, Nebo

Today is all about taking a relaxing stroll through three Illinois towns. First, you'll stop in Nauvoo where you can take a leisurely walk through the

Joseph Smith Historic Site, or a ride on the **Horse Drawn Wagon Tours of Old Nauvoo**. Hop over to **Baxter's Vineyards** (the oldest winery in Illinois) for a glass of wine or the **Fudge Factory** for some delicious road treats.

Your next stop is Quincy, a quaint area nestled on the banks of the Mississippi River. Explore **Villa Kathrine**, hop on a bike to discover colorful murals around town, or visit the **Quincy Museum**.

In nearby Nebo, relax at the Orvis-endorsed **Harpole's Heartland Lodge**.

📍 Day 5 Grafton & Alton

Now it's time to head to Grafton, home of the popular **Grafton Zipline Adventures**. Take to the air with **Grafton Sky Tours** and see the majestic Mississippi from a view that few have seen before.

Cool off in Alton with some local unique shopping at Illinois Made Maker **Mississippi Mud Pottery** or **Alton Stained Glass Works**. Alton is also home to some of the best antiquing in the state, and you are more than likely to leave the town with a lot of one-of-a-kind finds. Make sure to stop off at Illinois Maker **Old Bakery Beer** for some local beverages.

Head back to Grafton to wind down with either a nice hike through the **Pere Marquette State Park** and a bite at the **Pere Marquette Lodge Restaurant**, or relax with a glass of wine at **Aerie's Resort & Winery**. Either of these locations are great places to end your day for an overnight stay.

📍 Day 6 Chester & Cairo

Your last day on this road trip takes you first through Chester, where you can see the famous cartoon character Popeye up close and personal on the **Popeye Character Trail** in Seger Park. Once you're feeling hungry, grab a table for brunch at the **Of Farmhouse Café-Bakery**.

End your road trip in Cairo, where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers converge. At this confluence of two great American rivers you'll find **Fort Defiance Park** and the very southernmost tip of Illinois itself.

Enjoy a last bit of relaxation and stroll through history at the **Magnolia Manor** or **Cairo Custom House Museum**. Grab a final rewarding bite at local fav **Shemwell's Bar-B-Que** and you can cross this road trip off your list!



Grafton Zipline



Quincy Bayview Bridge



Great River Road



Mississippi Mud Pottery



Magnolia Manor

