

Visit LAKE

County
Illinois



OFFICIAL DESTINATION GUIDE

enjoy
illinois

Welcome to Lake County Illinois

There is a specific kind of magic found where the horizon of Lake Michigan melts into the rolling terrain of northern Illinois. Welcome to Lake County.

This destination is defined not just by its geography, but by the vivid energy of its 19 partner municipalities and 200 local landmarks that call this community home.

If you seek the tranquil solitude of a solstice bloom in the sprawling Lake County Forest Preserves or the electric roar of a live performance at an iconic venue, this region flourishes in every season. Here, the "Land of Lakes" is more than a nickname — it's an invitation to explore. Spend an afternoon roaming through charming downtown streets, discover a one-of-a-kind treasure and toast to your finds along the Lake County Libation Trail.

At Visit Lake County, we believe tourism is the soul of our hometowns. By choosing to shop, dine and stay locally, you are supporting the spirit of our communities. Grab this guide, find your path and see why Lake County is a dynamic place to live, work and, above all, explore.



Winthrop Harbor



Marriott Theatre



Lake County Fairgrounds and Event Center



Great Highwood Pumpkin Festival and Skeleton Invasion



Long Grove Chocolate Fest

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To the best of our knowledge, all information in this map guide was accurate at the time of publication. We encourage you to connect with your destination and check for specific openings/closings and cancellations before planning or taking your trip.

Cover Image: Six Flags Great America

6/26 40K



Six extraordinary destinations, from the shorelines of Lake Michigan to the heart of the Midwest's most thrilling theme park. Your adventure starts in the Land of Lakes.

6 Must-See Spots

in Lake County



GURNEE

**Six Flags Great America/
Hurricane Harbor Chicago**

Happy 50th Birthday to the Thrill Capital of the Midwest! Located between Chicago and Milwaukee, this 275-acre park features 45 attractions, 16 roller coasters and Hurricane Harbor Chicago. Families love the Columbia Carousel and Logger's Run; thrill-seekers flock to the towering coasters that have made Great America a regional staple since 1976. Arrive early and be sure to check height requirements.

GURNEE

Great Wolf Lodge Illinois

Rain or shine, it's always 84 degrees and the fun never stops. This all-in-one resort off Interstate 94 houses an 80,000-square-foot indoor water park with tube slides, a wave pool and a lazy river. Beyond the water, MagiQuest, bowling, mini golf, the Rustic Ridge Climbing Wall and the Northern Lights Arcade round out the dry-land lineup. Themed suites, free daily activities and multiple dining options make every stay complete.



VOLO

Volo Museum

Classic cars, Hollywood legends and Midwest nostalgia collide across 35 acres. With 33 buildings exhibiting everything from vintage automobiles to military vehicles, antique toys and memorabilia, this roadside attraction has drawn collectors and families since 1960. Walk the aisles, snap photos with movie cars and step back in time.



LIBERTYVILLE

Independence Grove Forest Preserve

A 129-acre lake, craft brews at sunset and 7.5 miles of trails: the preserve that does it all. Rent a kayak or paddleboard at the marina, pull up a stool at the Beer Garden or catch a summer concert at Millennia Plaza. The Relish Cafe serves casual bites from spring through fall, and Children's Grove offers fully accessible play for the youngest visitors.



HIGHLAND PARK

Ravinia Festival

North America's oldest outdoor music festival and one of its most beloved summer rituals. Since 1904, the 36 wooded acres of Ravinia Park have hosted more than 140 events each summer, from Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) residencies in the 3,350-seat Pavilion to intimate sets on the North Lawn. Spread a blanket, uncork a bottle and listen to the music drift through the trees. Tickets range from reserved seating to general lawn admission.



ZION

Illinois Beach State Park

Six and a half miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. The only remaining beach-ridge shoreline in Illinois. The 4,160-acre park is divided into two units: the South Unit features a full-service lodge, a nature center and over 200 campsites, while the quieter North Unit offers dunes, fens and an unbroken horizon to those in search of solitude. Swimming, hiking and fishing, just 40 miles north of Chicago. Free admission.



Natural Spaces



It started with one woman and a question: Why are there no forest preserves near my home? In 1958, Ethel Untermeyer moved from Chicago to Lake County and asked that question. Within 24 hours, she began organizing a countywide referendum. The vote passed. What she set in motion now protects more than 31,800 acres of natural land, making the **Lake County Forest Preserves** the second-largest forest preserve district in Illinois.

The forest preserves offer more than 200 miles of multi-use trails that weave through prairies, savannas, wetlands and oak woodlands. Flagship long-distance routes include the Des Plaines River Trail and the Millennium Trail. The district also oversees three public golf courses: **ThunderHawk** in Beach Park, **Countryside Golf Club** in Mundelein and **Brae Loch** in Grayslake.

Long before 1958, the land belonged to the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi nations, a legacy the district honors through programming and association with Native communities. The **Greenbelt Cultural Center** in North Chicago and the **Adlai E. Stevenson II Historic Home** in Mettawa both illustrate this resolve. The **Bess Bower Dunn Museum** in Libertyville furthers the district's historical mission, displaying nearly 20,000 artifacts, from mammoth fossils and a full-scale wigwam to **Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve** records and rotating exhibitions. At **Ryerson Conservation Area** in Riverwoods, 552 acres of nationally registered woodland include 6.5 miles of trails along the Des Plaines River. Its LEED Platinum-certified Welcome Center is the county's first net-zero energy public building.

QUICK FACTS

31,800+ Acres Protected • **200+** Miles of Trails • Protected Since **1958**

Your Lake County Shore Guide



Lake County isn't called Lake County for nothing. With a mile of groomed Lake Michigan sand and glacial lakes tucked into quiet inland communities, the county offers more waterfront than most visitors expect.

Waukegan Municipal Beach is the county's premier Lake Michigan shore, featuring a mile of sand with swimming, volleyball and more, complemented by weekly summer concerts at the Stiner Pavilion. **Rosewood Beach** in Highland Park features guarded swimming alongside a nature cove for ecological programming. **Paulus Park** in Lake Zurich pairs a sprayground with an expansive playground and gentle swimming.

Phil's Beach on Bangs Lake in Wauconda has been a community institution since 1926 and earned national notoriety as a filming location for the 1980 film "The Blues Brothers." Today, it features a splash pad, a WIBIT inflatable play area and concessions.

In Fox Lake, the newly renovated **Lakefront Park** reopened with an amphitheater, pickleball courts, walking trails, a sand beach and a splash pad.

Three state parks round out the picture. **Chain O'Lakes State Park** in Spring Grove connects 10 lakes via the Fox River with nearly 6,500 acres of water and more than 230 campsites. **Illinois Beach State Park** in Zion spans 4,160 acres along 6.5 miles of Lake Michigan, the state's only remaining beach-ridge shoreline. **Volo Bog State Natural Area** encompasses 1,200 acres of rare glacial bog ecosystem with floating sphagnum moss mats, various plant life and interpretive trails.

With 14 public beaches, three state parks and more than 12,800 combined acres, Lake County encourages you to discover, relax and craft lasting memories by the water.



QUICK FACTS

14+ Public Beaches • Lake Michigan & Inland

Storied Tables

From an 1847 roadhouse that outlasted the Civil War to a pizza counter spinning dough since the Truman administration, Lake County's oldest restaurants don't just serve food; they serve history.

The Village Tavern in Long Grove has been in continuous operation since 1847, making it the oldest restaurant in Illinois. Hand-hewn oak beams, a brick fireplace and the legendary 35-foot mahogany "Presidents Bar," salvaged from McCormick Place after the 1967 fire, set the scene for Angus burgers, broasted chicken and more. In Waukegan, **Quonset Pizza** has held its spot on Grand Avenue since 1946, pressing thin-crust pies with toppings to the edge. No naked crust, no wasted bite.

Mundelein claims two institutions. **Dover Straits Seafood House** has quietly defined fine dining since 1978, built around imported Dover sole and a worldly wine list.

Bill's Pizza & Pub has operated since 1957, credited with the first double-decker pizza, the recipe has remained a family secret for nearly seven decades.

In Wadsworth, **The Shanty** has fed farmers and rural families for more than a century. When the Kallianis family rekindled it in 2006, they rebuilt with reclaimed barnwood and added a 50-seat bar, wine room and outdoor deck. On Bangs Lake, **Lindy's Landing** has anchored the Wauconda waterfront since 1965 with a sand beach, marina slips and panoramic views making it one of the finest spots to spend a summer evening. In Barrington, **Chessie's** pairs a preserved 1910 railroad depot with an intact 1927 Illinois Central dining car, where guests eat USDA Choice steaks in the same wood-paneled car that once rolled through the Midwest.



A Cut Above



In Lake Zurich, Fabio Viviani's **Lago** delivers prime steaks, homemade pasta and seafood any day of the week. Also in Lake Zurich, **Beelow's Steakhouse** sources beef from the family farm in Mundelein, a genuine farm-to-table with honest hospitality since 2010. In Vernon Hills, **Perry's Steakhouse & Grille** traces its roots to a 1979 Houston butcher shop. Its showpiece: Perry's Famous Pork Chop, seven fingers high, slow-smoked on a pecan wood rotisserie and carved tableside. In Antioch, **15 Lakes Prime Steakhouse** opened in May 2024, featuring prime-aged meats and a seasonal menu of ribeye, Picanha, New York strip and Sakura Pork Chop. In Gurnee, **Primo** offers Italian-American classics and delicious steaks, while **Backyard Steak Pit** serves slow-smoked barbecue and hearty steaks.





Only in Lake County



Some places have attractions. Lake County has stories. The best stories aren't on highway billboards. They're tucked down country roads, hidden under plaster, covered in wood and sometimes struck by trucks. Here, history runs deep, quirk runs deeper and every stop rewards inquiring travelers.

Start with something cold and classic. At **Miller's Dog N Suds Drive-In** in Ingleside, frosted mugs of homemade root beer and Coney dogs arrive on carhop trays, a tradition since the 1950s. Saturday Classic Car Cruise-Ins and Wednesday Kids' Days keep that legacy alive through October.

On Dilley's Road in Wadsworth, the **Gold Pyramid House** rises 55 feet from the Illinois prairie, a one-sixth-scale, gold-plated replica of the Great Pyramid of Giza. Restoration continues after a 2018 fire, but the grounds, first floor and tomb are open and worth the trip.



The **Robert Parker Coffin Bridge** has anchored Long Grove's downtown since 1906. The covered steel truss bridge, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, spans Buffalo Creek and remains beloved and resilient. Since 2020, more than 70 truck strikes have left it beaten but unbowed, a true local legend.

At **Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve**, history and nature meet on the Lake Michigan shoreline. From a 70-foot bluff, visitors have the first public access to this coastline since 1887. More than 236 bird species have been spotted along this busy migratory flyway, and 3.65 miles of

trails wind through ravines, savannas and past a National Historic Landmark parade ground.

Elawa Farm in Lake Forest turns back the clock. The historic site features an organic farm, resident animals, a cafe, educational programs and farm-to-table dinners, all connecting Lake County communities with local food.

Lake County's oldest landmarks offer quiet windows into 19th-century frontier life.

Deerfield's **Caspar Ott Log House** tells the story of an 1837 immigrant family who raised seven children in one room. Discovered under farmhouse plaster one week before demolition in 1970, the restored cabin is now Lake County's oldest building.

Gurnee's **Mother Rudd House**, built in 1844, served as a stagecoach stop, post office, tavern and, reportedly, a station on the Underground Railroad. The fully restored landmark offers visitors a window into Civil War-era life, complete with period artifacts and a room honoring a local family's connection to the Titanic.

The only problem with Lake County? Deciding where to start.



In Lake County, Illinois, just north of Chicago, there's always something to celebrate! Check out dozens of Libation Trail makers and tasting rooms serving the finest craft beverages. Find the full list of participants and events at [VisitLakeCounty.org/Libation-Trail](https://www.visitlakecounty.org/libation-trail).



#LCLibationTrail • #LetsGoLakeCounty • [VisitLakeCounty.org](https://www.visitlakecounty.org)
Please sample responsibly.



LAMBS FARM

Where people grow and lives change.

Everyone wants a sense of belonging — and at Lambs Farm, they'll find it. Since 1961, Lambs Farm has been creating employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and entertainment options for the whole community to enjoy. Visitors can experience the farmyard, cafe, bakery, greenhouse, rescue puppies, thrift shop and more. Be sure to check out the recent renovations!

lambsfarm.org



GRAYSLAKE

Old-school charm meets modern attitudes.

Step into the Grayslake Village Center and experience a vibrant gathering place. Featuring restaurants, retailers and a variety of exciting events, including wine walks, SummerFest, and the Festival of Lights and Holiday Market, just to name a few. Stroll from downtown to parks, trails and other outdoor recreational spaces that will have you coming back for more. Unmistakably local and uniquely Grayslake.

grayslakevillagecenter.com



HIGHLAND PARK

The heart of the North Shore.

From Food Truck Thursdays, Farmers Market Wednesdays and an entire summer of free festivals and Friday night concerts, Highland Park has something for everyone to enjoy. Home to North America's oldest outdoor music festival, Ravinia Festival, it offers an unparalleled season of classical and contemporary performances. When hunger strikes, an expansive selection of eateries and award-winning restaurants satisfies every palate. Shoppers will delight in unique boutiques featuring fashion, décor, antiques, fine jewelry and more.

enjoyhighlandpark.com





The **Volo Museum** pairs its Hollywood Cars collection: the Batmobile, the DeLorean from "Back to the Future," the Mystery Machine and more, with Jurassic Gardens next door, a 15,000-square-foot dinosaur park with life-sized animatronics, a fossil dig, a mining sluice, a dino-lab theater and nine-hole mini golf. The two attractions share a parking lot, making for one of the most complete family outings in the county.

Launch Gurnee offers trampoline courts, a ninja obstacle course, a foam battle pit, dodgeball, bowling, an arcade and Illinois' first OMNI Virtual Reality experience. **Dave & Buster's** at Hawthorn in Vernon Hills covers arcade gaming, billiards, a full sports bar and a restaurant, with titles including Top Gun and Godzilla VR. **WhirlyBall**, also in Vernon Hills, blends bumper cars and wiffle ball in a sport that works for all ages, with laser tag, a full bar and restaurant and billiards.

At **Lambs Farm** in the Libertyville/Green Oaks area, the experience is rooted in something different. Since 1961, the nonprofit has provided employment and community for adults with developmental disabilities. Visitors are welcome to share in that mission through a farmyard, miniature train, country store, cafe, greenhouse and pet adoption center. For families with older children, **The Joyful Gourmet** in Libertyville offers hands-on and demonstration cooking classes led by professional chefs, each ending with a shared meal.

The **Chicago Botanic Garden** in Glencoe spans 385 acres across 28 gardens and four natural areas, with annual exhibits including Butterflies & Blooms, the Orchid Show and Lightscape. Programming includes hands-on planting classes and the beloved Model Railroad Garden. In Round Lake Beach, Kristof's Entertainment Center has delivered bowling, arcade games, dining and seasonal outdoor attractions: mini golf, go-karts and batting cages, to Lake County families since 1974.



Family Weekend Planner

SATURDAY

- 9 a.m.** **Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe**
Start with the Model Railroad Garden before the grounds fill up. Kids' classes often begin at 10.
- Noon** **Lunch on-site at the Garden**
Multiple dining options inside the grounds.
- 2 p.m.** **Launch Gurnee**
Drive north and let the afternoon happen. The OMNI VR experience alone is worth planning around.
- 5 p.m.** **Dave & Buster's, Vernon Hills**
Dinner at the restaurant, then let the kids loose on the arcade floor while the adults watch the game.

SUNDAY

- 9 a.m.** **Lambs Farm, Libertyville/Green Oaks**
Breakfast at the Magnolia Cafe. Meet the animals when the farmyard opens.
- 11 a.m.** **Volo Museum, Volo**
View Hollywood Cars and props fit for every movie lover.
- 1:30 p.m.** **Jurassic Gardens, Volo**
Fossil dig, dino mini golf and animatronic dinosaurs. Budget 90 minutes. Kids will want more.
- 4 p.m.** **WhirlyBall, Vernon Hills**
End the weekend with a WhirlyBall match. No experience required.

FALL SWAP

- All day** **Richardson Adventure Farm**
In September or October, swap Sunday's itinerary for a full day at Richardson. Corn maze by day, campfire and s'mores at night.
- Kristof's Entertainment Center**
For older kids and teens, Kristof's fall haunted house is great combined with the corn maze for a full Halloween-season Saturday.

Made for Kids, Loved by Families

Lake County has created family outings that end with kids asleep before leaving the parking lot, with options to suit every age, energy level and appetite for adventure.

Richardson Adventure Farm in Spring Grove has operated on the same homestead since 1836. Five generations later, it anchors the county's fall calendar with what it calls the world's largest corn maze: 28 acres, 10.4 miles of trails and the option to navigate after dark by flashlight. A 50-foot observation tower, tube slide, jumping pillows, carousel and pumpkin patches round out the experience and fresh donuts, fudge and popcorn are made on-site. The farm's spring Tulip Festival, summer Sunflower Festival and Christmas tree farm keep it on the calendar year-round.

The Creative County



Lake County's arts scene surprises with its diverse treasures from the premier theatre in Lincolnshire to energetic arts communities that intertwine creativity.

In Lincolnshire, **Marriott Theatre** is known for assuring every seat is the best, with a record 370 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations. Its arena-style seating brings audiences close to the action during five musicals each season. Nearby in Waukegan, the **Genesee Theatre** offers a contrasting yet equally enthralling experience. This restored 1927 landmark retains the grandeur of a golden-age movie palace while hosting Broadway tours, headline musical acts and major comedy shows.

In Lake Forest, **Citadel Theatre Co.** delivers seasons built around "powerful works of insight and complexity," attracting elite talent and audiences who come to be moved. Similarly, comedy and performance education find a home at **Improv Playhouse** in Libertyville, which offers improv, acting and comedy classes for adults and youth, as well as corporate team-building programs.



The **James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts** at College of Lake County in Grayslake has served as a foremost multi-functional venue since its establishment in 1997. Named for trustee James Lumber in 2003, the center presents high-quality professional entertainment while celebrating access, inclusion and diversity through college and community programming.

Rounding out the county's music offerings, **Ravinia Festival** in Highland Park draws visitors with rock, pop, jazz, R&B and classical programming. The CSO has considered it home since 1936, and the 2026 season debuts the Hunter Pavilion, featuring acoustic and technical upgrades meant to enhance the beloved outdoor experience.

Lake County's creative landscape is defined by dynamic studios, record-breaking collections, deep history and bold murals, all of which connect communities through art.

Grayslake Heritage Center & Museum features four galleries and a 1954 fire truck, a 19th-century hearse and a Model T. Zion's 25-room **Shiloh House**, a restored 1901 Victorian mansion, works as both a museum and the home of the Zion Historical Society. Long Grove's **Sock Monkey Museum** holds the Guinness World Record for the largest handmade sock monkey collection.

At **Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods** in Riverwoods, a historic woodland estate hosts artist residencies and community events year-round.



Every third Saturday in downtown Waukegan, **ArtWAUK** opens Genesee Street to free paintings, sculpture, live music, film, theater and more. In Libertyville, the **Adler Arts Center** occupies the historic home of architect David Adler and offers year-round arts and music programming. Mundelein's **Patterson Glass** lets visitors watch molten glass become art, take a hands-on lesson or book a private event.

The county's museums reward the curious at every turn. The nationally accredited **Bess Bower Dunn Museum** in Libertyville holds nearly 20,000 artifacts spanning prehistoric Lake County to the present. **Waukegan's History Museum at the Carnegie**, a restored 1903 landmark overlooking Lake Michigan, includes a personal book collection from native son Ray Bradbury.



Public art runs through the county. Waukegan's Ray Bradbury "Waukegan Express" mural leads tributes to African American heritage and the city's creative spirit, with a permanent Bradbury sculpture at the library. Mundelein's "Stars on Parade" set artist-painted stars around the village. Fox Lake's Route 12 pelican mural anchors Pelican Palooza. Deerfield's Fine Arts Commission spotlights high school seniors through an annual mural competition. Highwood has hosted 12 commissioned artists using public art for community unity.

ANTIOCH

Authentic by nature.

Antioch welcomes visitors to a vibrant downtown filled with specialty shops, antique stores and delightful restaurants, as well as popular seasonal events and musical experiences. Discover beautiful parks and forest preserves, including Ethel's Woods, the historic Hiram Buttrick Sawmill and the brand-new Sequoia Creek Park in historic downtown. There's truly something for everyone!

enjoyantioch.com



LIBERTYVILLE

Nothing quite like it.

From farm-to-table restaurants, handcrafted jewelry to independent bookstores, Libertyville is home to more than 1,000 businesses. Unique boutiques, coffee roasters and restaurateurs have created experiences that are distinctly Libertyville. Picturesque with small-town charm, Libertyville offers family-friendly events, recreational offerings and historic tours at Cook Mansion — where history, play and discovery meet.

visitlibertyville.com



VERNON HILLS

A lively locale for the whole family!

Vernon Hills is home to beautiful parks, hiking paths and more than 400 restaurants, retailers and entertainment options, including the Memorial Arbortheater, featuring free, family-friendly outdoor concerts. Spend the day strolling Hawthorn, a truly unique shopping experience, and Mellody Farm, an open-air, urban-inspired shopping center – both with delicious dining options. And with beautiful neighborhoods, outstanding schools and voted #1 place to live in Lake County, you might love your visit so much, you'll want to stay!

vernonhills.org





Lake County Shopping Spree

Peruse a bit as you scour through Lake County's exceptional shopping scene. Equipped with four shopping malls and a plethora of mom-and-pop stores, Lake County is your one-stop shop.

Experience over 200 retail stores for your shopping needs at **Gurnee Mills**. The Gurnee mall is highlighted by retail favorites like **Macy's, Kohl's, DICK'S Sporting Goods, Nike** and **Adidas, Bass Pro Shops, the LEGO store** and more. **Hawthorn** in Vernon Hills is a super-regional shopping center featuring anchor stores like **Macy's** and **JC Penney**, complemented by entertainment spaces like **AMC Theatre** and **Dave & Buster's**. The Vernon Hills space sports over 95 shopping options.

Boasting over 70 upscale stores including **Athleta, Apple, Crate & Barrel** and more, the open-air mall is a premier shopping hub. Shoppers can explore a dynamic landscape of stores including favorites like **Nordstrom Rack, Barnes & Noble** and **Whole Foods**.

Lake County is proud to be home to a vast variety of mom-and-pop shops — especially in our downtown areas. The heart of **MainStreet Libertyville** showcases over 30 retail boutiques and specialty stores along Milwaukee Avenue. The vibrant, walkable first historic district in the Land of Lincoln is **Historic Downtown Long Grove**.



The area along Robert Parker Coffin and Old McHenry Roads is accentuated by 120 boutiques and retailers. Downtown Antioch, Deerfield, Grayslake, Highland Park, Highwood, Lake Zurich, Mundelein, Wauconda and Waukegan also attain bustling downtowns.

From trendy threads to items for the kitchen, from food-to-table to home design to libations to gardening merch and so much more, Lake County has your retail therapy. The mom-and-pop shop scene is supplemented by shops like **The Joyful Gourmet, Reclaimed Artisans Inc.** and **Perfect Brewing Supply** in Libertyville, **Ma & Pa's Candy** and **Sock Monkey Museum** in Long Grove, **Romney Brown Candle Co.** and **Tony's Butcher Shop** in Grayslake, **Tony Cannoli** in Mundelein, **SkipperBuds** in Antioch and Winthrop Harbor, **Lynfred Winery** in Highland Park and **Sunberry Orchard Market** in Mundelein only scratches the surface of this dynamic shopping destination.



YOUR BEST BET

- 900+ SLOT MACHINES
- DOZENS OF TABLE GAMES
- 3 FULL-SERVICE RESTAURANTS
- HARBOR POKER ROOM
- ENTERTAINMENT SPACE
- CIRCA SPORTSBOOK



4011 Fountain Square Place, Waukegan, IL 60085
(773) 477-9515 | americanplace.com

American Place Casino stands as the premier destination for gaming and entertainment in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. With an exciting selection of slot machines, table games, a high-energy sportsbook, and three outstanding dining options, American Place offers experiences that match the thrill of Lake County itself. Every visit is more than just a game—it's an adventure, where unforgettable memories are made and lasting connections are formed.

For two years in a row, Casino Player's Magazine Best of Gaming Awards, American Place was recognized as the #1 Friendliest Casino, thanks to the exceptional hospitality of its team members. It was also voted #1 Casino Where You Feel Luckiest and #1 Best Craps, further emphasizing the unparalleled experience it provides. Additionally, American Place was named a Top Workplace by The Chicago Tribune and USA Today, for three years in a row, a reflection of the dedication and commitment of its outstanding team.

Beyond its entertainment offerings, American Place is deeply invested in the community. As a vital economic driver, it creates jobs and supports local businesses through charitable initiatives and community outreach programs. The casino and its team members are dedicated to giving back and making a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

Whether visitors are experienced players or newcomers, American Place welcomes everyone with open arms. It's not just a place to test your luck—it's a vibrant destination where thrilling experiences and unforgettable memories are created at every turn.



ENTERTAINMENT DINING SLOTS TABLE GAMES POKER ROOM

Must be 21 years of age or older. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).



ZION

The picture-perfect summer getaway.

Discover natural beauty and small-town charm in historic Zion. Explore Illinois Beach State Park with its stunning Lake Michigan shoreline and pristine nature preserves. Tee up at the links-style Shepherd's Crook Golf Course. Tour the landmark, 25-room Shiloh House. And don't miss the fun of lively festivals and outdoor concerts. Best of all, Zion is easy to reach by car and train.

cityofzion.com



DEER PARK

Shoppable. Walkable. Truly unforgettable.

Deer Park prides itself on providing a walkable and vibrant mix of shops and experiences for visitors to enjoy. The Town Center is a thriving 75-acre regional destination filled with national retailers, high-end restaurants, casual outdoor dining, greenspace and year-round events. While Deer Park boasts over 13 parks and walking trails, surrounded by forest preserves.

villageofdeerpark.com



ARTSLINK NORTH

Our artistic side.

From world-premiere opera to sidewalk chalk festivals, Lake County's artistic scene never stops, and ArtsLink North makes sure you never skip a beat. This alliance of arts and cultural organizations is your one-stop hub for everything happening across the region. Whether you're after live music, gallery openings, community theater, free art walks, or family-friendly festivals, ArtsLink North's comprehensive events calendar has you covered, with full details on locations, times, and ticket prices all in one place.



Nightlife in Lake County

From craft taprooms and a world-class casino to open-air concerts under the stars and food trucks bordering every lakefront, Lake County's nightlife is one of the most significant drivers of the regional economy, and one of its best-kept secrets. Here is where the evening begins.

The Libation Trail

Lake County's Libation Trail connects more than 20 independently-owned breweries, distilleries, wineries and tasting rooms under a single countywide passport. Whether your drink is an ice-cold lager, a dry red or an old-fashioned on the rocks, the Trail has a pour with your name on it.

Concerts in the Park

From June through September, Lake County's parks, plazas and lakefronts become outdoor stages. **Ravinia Festival** in Highland Park anchors the season as North America's longest-running outdoor music festival, with the CSO in summer residency. The **Bitter Jester Music Festival** showcases emerging Midwest



musicians in a free, family-friendly competition series. **Fox Lake Friday Night Live** pairs an artisan market with live music at the renovated Lakefront Park each week. **ArtWAUK** transforms Waukegan's Genesee Street into a performing and visual arts corridor on the third Saturday of each month. **Brothers' Field** in Long Grove runs themed concert nights all summer. Nearly every community in the county — Gurnee, Mundelein, Deerfield, Grayslake and more — runs its own series, making live music an unavoidable feature of a Lake County summer evening.

Car Shows & Food Trucks

CarFun on 21 in Libertyville, **Park on Park Cruise Night** in Mundelein, **Rods for Remembrance** in Gurnee and **Cruise Night in Wauconda** give car enthusiasts a full seasonal circuit from spring through fall, all free to spectators. Food trucks follow the crowds: the **Lake County Food Truck Festival** at the Fairgrounds anchors the season, with **Food Truck Thursdays** at Ravinia District and in Lincolnshire, **Food Truck Wednesdays** in Deerfield and North Chicago's monthly **Food Truck Nights** filling out the calendar.



Improv Playhouse, Libertyville

Professional improv and sketch comedy performances run alongside adult classes and private events on Milwaukee Avenue. For a night that guarantees laughter, this is the booking.

American Place Casino, Waukegan

Nine hundred-plus slot machines, 50-plus table games, a high-action sportsbook and The Lighthouse comedy club make American Place the county's premier after-dark destination. The Lighthouse hosts Laughs at The Lighthouse comedy series and serves as a full-service event space for private functions. Open 24/7. Must be 21 or older.



Dispensaries in Lake County

Rise Dispensary in Mundelein connects guests with quality products through knowledgeable, welcoming staff. For the people, by the flower. **Terrabis Dispensary** Mundelein offers an intentionally curated selection of top-shelf flower, pre-rolls, edibles and more, with passionate budtenders who give personalized recommendations customized to unique preferences and wellness goals. Join the Explorer's Club loyalty program for exclusive rewards with every visit.





MUNDELEIN

The center of the action!

Often referred to as “the Heart of Lake County” because it’s nestled right in the center, Mundelein is a community that has something for everyone — from free outdoor concerts and festivals, to classic car shows, local eateries and breweries. Exciting events fill the calendar, including the Mundelein Grand Prix professional bicycle race, Craft Beer Fest, Mundelein Community Days and so much more. If the outdoors are calling, be sure to visit The Landing at Diamond Lake, Barefoot Bay Water Park, Steeple Chase Golf Course and Kracklauer Park. Bring the family and discover it all!

mundelein.org



Lake County is a year-round destination for

Seasonal Adventures



Lake County Libation Trail

Home to over 20 innovative craft breweries, wineries and distilleries, guests can sample libations at all corners of the county. Imbibe and experience behind-the-scenes tours, tastings, live music, events and evolving seasonal flavors.



February Flavor Festival

Be adventurous, try a new restaurant, brewery, winery or distillery, find a new favorite dish or cocktail, and bring your friends and taste buds along for the ride. With dozens of participating communities and eateries, it's a monthlong celebration you'll want to savor.



Road Trips

Choose from five different road trip experiences along the Land of Lakes' arterial highways that allow you to discover all the hidden gems that make Lake County unique.



Holiday Your Way

Step into the festive winter wonderland of beautiful Lake County where a full calendar of holiday shopping, dining, celebrations, concerts and light shows are waiting.



Spooks & Spirits Autumn Celebration

Have a scary good time at Lake County's many autumn celebrations. Frightening family fun, exciting fall activities and delicious local beer, wine and spirits.





WAUKEGAN

Your go-to destination for arts, culture, and community.

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Waukegan is filled with creativity, entertainment and experiences for all ages. Explore local shops, diverse restaurants, galleries and year-round events that celebrate the city's rich community and cultural spirit. Enjoy concerts, comedy and live performances at the historic Genesee Theatre, or experience premier gaming, live entertainment and dining at the American Place Casino. Spend time along the lakefront where you can relax on a mile-long beach, explore the scenic Waukegan Dunes, and enjoy live music, summer events and recreation by the water.



[explorewaukegan.com](https://www.explorewaukegan.com)



Where Every Stay Becomes a Story

For over 50 years, Lincolnshire Marriott Resort has been delivering an exceptional experience. Enjoy the serenity of our 175 acres with views of our lake and woods and wake up feeling recharged. Play a round of golf at Crane's Landing, catch a show at the Marriott Theatre, relax with a day by the pool and dine at the renowned Three Embers restaurant.

BOOK YOUR RESORT RETREAT NOW
CALL 847.634.0100 FOR RESERVATIONS,
OR VISIT [MARRIOTT.COM/CHILN](https://www.marriott.com/chiln)

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LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069



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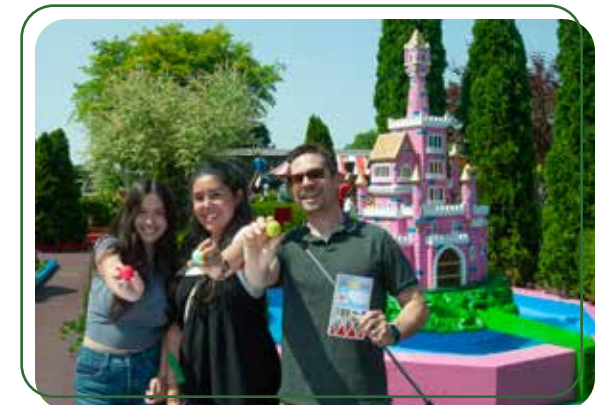
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Connect with us.

LINCOLNSHIRE
Delicious bites.
Spectacular sites.
Outdoor delights.

Dining, arts, and leisure come together memorably in Lincolnshire. Bring the whole family and enjoy one of the many lively events, live music performances, and community celebrations held throughout the year. Tempt your taste buds as you savor the vibrant dining scene. Then stay and play at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort or visit the nationally acclaimed Par-King Skill Golf miniature golf course. Nature lovers will delight in the 180 acres of parks and forest preserves, along with five miles of scenic paths.

[lincolnshireil.gov](https://www.lincolnshireil.gov)





Play all day.

From lakeside retreats and beloved national brands to one-of-a-kind vacation homes on the water, Lake County's lodging scene stays as varied as the region itself. Whether you're here for a weekend escape, a family adventure or a corporate event, there's a perfect place to land.

Start your Lake County stay at the **Lincolnshire Marriott Resort**, where a PGA golf course, live musical theatre, two restaurants and a full-service spa await. Newly redesigned guest rooms and 40,000 square feet of event space make it the region's top destination for business and leisure alike.

For families chasing year-round fun, **Great Wolf Lodge Illinois** in Gurnee delivers 80,000 square feet of indoor waterpark thrills—always 84 degrees, always spectacular. Beyond the slides and splash zones, bowling lanes, miniature golf and the immersive MagiQuest adventure, the excitement keeps going long after towels are hung.

Gurnee's newest gem, **The Ten Hotel & Convention Center**, blends modern refinement with premium finishes and a 10,000-square-foot event space perfect for weddings, meetings and milestone gatherings in the heart of the village.

Perched along the Lake Michigan shoreline, **Illinois Beach Hotel** offers sandy beaches and wooded hiking trails just outside the front door. Nolan's Restaurant serves locally inspired cuisine, while flexible event spaces draw couples, corporate groups and families looking for something genuinely unforgettable.



Drawing on Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural legacy, **DoubleTree by Hilton Libertyville-Mundelein** pairs upscale design with 183 custom-crafted guest rooms and 12,000 square feet of flexible event space—a refined preference for both experienced business travelers and weekend getaway seekers.

The first hotel to open in Lake Forest since 1929, **The Forester, a Hyatt Place Hotel**, brings 156 rooms and a boutique bistro and bar to one of the North Shore's most storied communities. Historic Market Square, cobblestone streets and open green space set a scene that's genuinely hard to leave.

Embassy Suites by Hilton-Chicago North Shore-Deerfield offers guests two-room suites, free cooked-to-order breakfast and complimentary snacks and beverages at the nightly evening reception. An indoor pool, jacuzzi and fitness room with a Peloton provide relaxation, while **Cadwell's Grille** serves dinner and cocktails. Over 3,600 square feet of event

space includes the 2,100-square-foot Lincolnshire-Deerbrook ballroom and the Riverwoods Executive Boardroom.

For something more personal, **Chain O'Lakes Nautical Vacation Homes** offers more than 15 luxury waterfront properties—from intimate cottages to sprawling estate homes—across the Chain O'Lakes region. A dedicated personal host accompanies you throughout your stay, assuring a five-star experience starting the moment you arrive.

Near the convergence of I-294 and Lake Cook Road, **Hyatt Regency Deerfield** puts guests close to the action with modern rooms, a full fitness club and **Jaxx Bistro** available when the day ends.

Rounding out the region's offerings, **Chicago Marriott Suites Deerfield** delivers 248 full suites, each with a private parlor, wet bar and full amenities, alongside the welcoming **Parkway Grill**, open from breakfast through dinner.

Stay all night.



Uniquely Lake County

You know the name, but the story goes deeper. This stretch of Illinois shoreline packs more history, more horsepower and more sheer personality than most places twice its size. Here are a few facts that hit different.

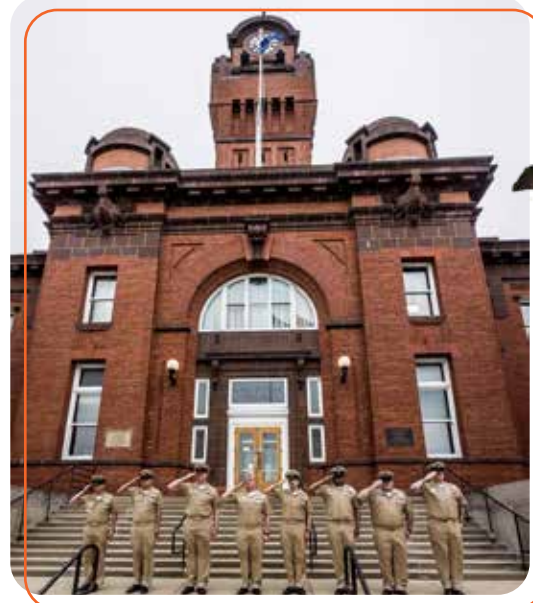
Famous Faces, Lake County Roots.

The county has a remarkable alumni list. Science fiction visionary Ray Bradbury grew up in Waukegan. Jack Benny, the comedy legend of radio and television's golden age, also called it home. Broadway and "Hamilton" star Phillipa Soo, actor Vince Vaughn, child star Gary Coleman, NBA standout Shawn Marion and U.S. Olympic hockey icon Hilary Knight all have ties here. Not bad for the suburbs.



The Only One in the Nation.

Naval Station Great Lakes in North Chicago is the U.S. Navy's sole boot camp, the place every enlisted sailor begins their service. Since 1911, more than 2 million recruits have graduated from its grounds. The largest naval installation in the Midwest sits right here, on the western shore of Lake Michigan.



Shop From Space.

Gurnee Mills, one of the largest outlet malls in the country at more than 1.7 million square feet, was designed in the shape of a dollar sign. The architects knew exactly what they were doing.



Where Bears Are Born.

Halas Hall in Lake Forest is the legendary headquarters of the Chicago Bears. Named for the franchise's founder, George Halas, who also called Lake County home. Every training camp rep, every film session, every draft-day decision traces back to this address.



Prehistoric Lake County.

Long before the Potawatomi people, the Indigenous nation that stewarded this land for generations, Lake County was home to creatures far older. Fossilized remains of *Dryptosaurus*, an early tyrannosaur, have been traced to the region, placing prehistoric predators on the same ground where visitors now hike, bike and paddle.

World Records, Plural.

Lake County doesn't dabble in records, it holds them. The **Sanfilippo Estate** in Barrington Hills houses one of the world's largest and most elaborate pipe organs, a privately owned mechanical wonder of staggering scale. **Six Flags Great America** in Gurnee has claimed multiple Guinness World Records over the years for coaster height, speed and scale. And Long Grove is home to the **Sock Monkey Museum**, an entire museum dedicated to the beloved stuffed toy, which has drawn its own record-worthy attention.

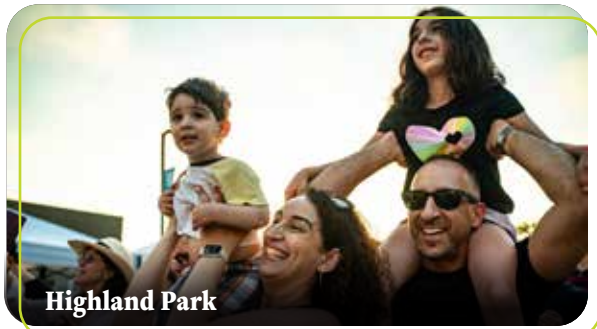


Haunted, Too.

From the storied corridors of Waukegan's historic buildings to the lingering legends of Cuba Road in Long Grove, Lake County's ghost stories are deeply rooted in regional lore — and have kept locals up at night for generations. Come for the history. Stay for the chills.



Antioch



Highland Park



Lincolnshire



Vernon Hills



Deerfield

Diverse Destinations

Made up of picturesque communities, bustling urban centers and top tourist experiences, Lake County offers beautiful lakes and beaches, hundreds of miles of trails, breathtaking forest preserves, unique downtowns and terrific shopping centers that make it a wonderful place to live, work and visit.



Wauconda



Fox Lake



Highwood



Long Grove



Waukegan



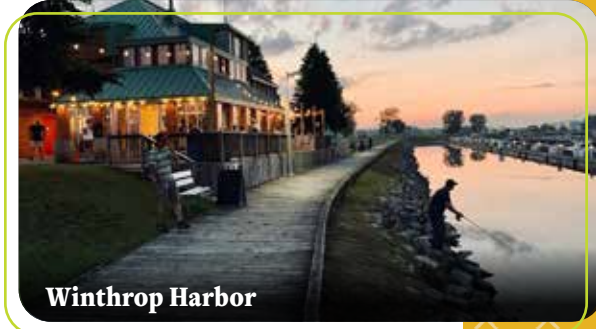
Grayslake



Lake Zurich



Mundelein



Winthrop Harbor



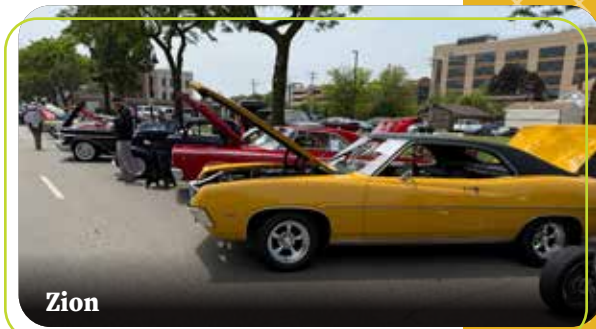
Gurnee



Libertyville



North Chicago



Zion

FOX LAKE

This is the life!

With small-town charm and breathtaking lakeside views, Fox Lake boasts stunning waterways. The amazing new Lakefront Park features pickleball courts, a splash pad, playground, the only public access beach on the Chain O'Lakes and more. Unique businesses, delectable dining, a weekly farmers market and an entertaining Friday night concert series mean there is something for the whole family in Fox Lake!

➔ thisisthelifefoxlake.com



MAINSTREET LIBERTYVILLE

See why locals love it!

Shop, dine and play in historic downtown Libertyville. Stroll more than 30 unique shops and explore award-winning dining with local chefs in iconic settings. Explore MainStreet Libertyville's Farmers Market and Car Fun on 21 series in picturesque Cook Park. Dine alfresco with live music at Lunch in the Park, experience First Fridays, and don't miss Oktoberfest or Dickens of a Holiday. There's plenty of parking and it's easily accessible by Metra!

➔ mainstreetlibertyville.org



GURNEE

Your all-in-one family getaway.

Create lasting family memories with nonstop thrills at Six Flags Great America, celebrating its 50th anniversary! Enjoy perfect 84 degrees-year-round splashes and adventure at Great Wolf Lodge Illinois. Shop and play your way through nearly 200 stores and entertainment venues at Gurnee Mills. Tee off at a family-friendly golf course, catch a summer concert, explore parks and playgrounds, or hit the trails for fresh-air adventure. After a full day of fun, unwind with great local dining and comfortable hotels that make it easy to turn a day trip into a getaway.

➔ gurnee.il.us



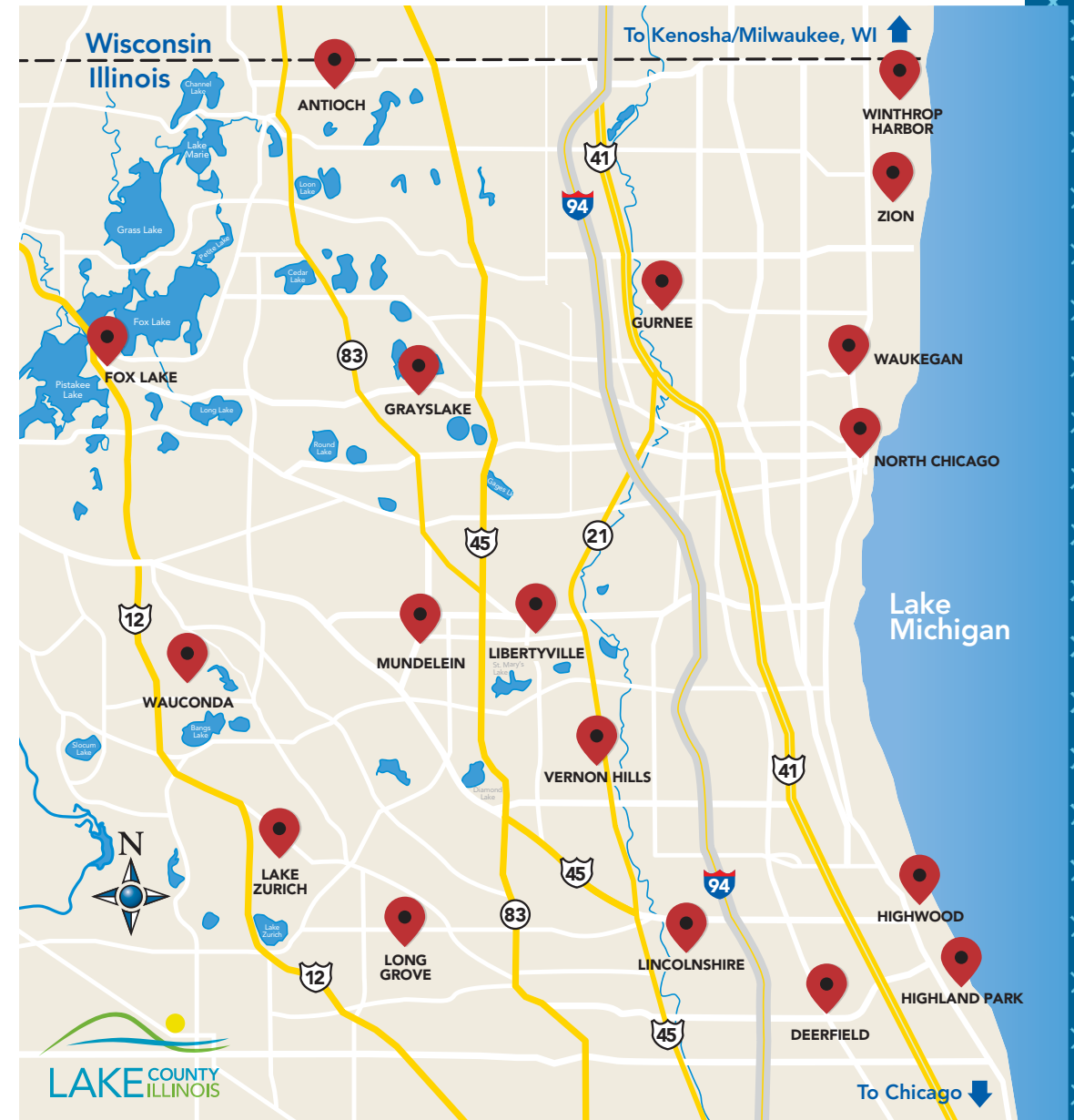
Land of Lakes Doodle Depot

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Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden ↑ and ↓ and ← and → and ↘

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| ANTIOCH | HIGHLAND PARK | LINCOLNSHIRE | WAUCONDA |
| DEERFIELD | HIGHWOOD | LONG GROVE | WAUKEGAN |
| FOX LAKE | LAKE COUNTY | MUNDELEIN | WINTHROP HARBOR |
| GRAYSLAKE | LAKE ZURICH | NORTH CHICAGO | ZION |
| GURNEE | LIBERTYVILLE | VERNON HILLS | |

SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA



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Interested in becoming a partner? Contact us at 847-662-2700 or email tourism@lakecounty.org.

Visitor Information Center & Administrative Offices

5465 W. Grand Ave., Suite 100, Gurnee, IL 60031

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at VisitLakeCounty.org.

Visit our 24-hour visitor information kiosk at the Tri-State Tollway (1-94) Lake Forest Oasis, just north of the Hwy. 60 exit.

Visit LAKE

County
Illinois



OFFICIAL DESTINATION GUIDE

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