

Lincoln Highway Red, White, and Blue Self-Guided Tour
First Annual, Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28
Self-Guided Tour, Anytime During the Spring, Summer, or Fall

The Illinois Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association compiled this printable booklet for the Lincoln Highway First Annual Red, White, and Blue Tour the last weekend in April, which is self-guided. You can tour on the Illinois Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway on your own, anytime during the spring, summer, and fall.

It is possible to sample the Lincoln Highway in Illinois in a day trip, especially from the Chicago area. The full route can be enjoyed in two days on a weekend by making shorter stops. For the full experience and stopping longer, three days is best, so a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday would be ideal, but plan ahead because some of the museums are closed on Sundays. This sample of places to see goes east to west, but the driving can be done going west to east, simply reverse the order of the stops. For full navigation and online mapping, please go to: lincolnhighwayassoc.org/map/. That is the official map of the Lincoln Highway Association and all points of interest appear on the comprehensive interactive map powered by Google. Points of interest, electric vehicle charging stations, and recreational vehicle (RV) campgrounds can be selected from the box on the right-hand side. There is also a feature for smart phones in which a blue dot will follow around the phone's location. Using the interactive map, look for a gray dot in the lower right-hand corner and click it to turn it on, and it becomes a blue dot that will follow you around along the Lincoln Highway!

It is a good idea to bring a little bit of cash, especially when visiting smaller museums. When admission is free, it is usually a good idea to donate two or three dollars per person, more if you can afford it. Most museums run independently with volunteers and without tax dollars. Of course, signing the guest book is free and museums need to have an idea of the number of visitors to help them apply for grants. If you see a guest book in a museum, please sign it!

The entire Lincoln Highway starts at Times Square, New York City and goes all the way to the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Carl G. Fisher (1874-1939), one of the original owners of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indy 500, developed the idea of the Lincoln Highway and the Lincoln Highway Association that he worked to establish, unveiled the route in 1913. The list below is a sample of notable locations in Illinois.

Of course, the Illinois Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association is not responsible for any vehicle accidents, injuries, or illnesses. It is best to have a second person as a navigator.

Day 1: Chicago Heights to Joliet

Chicago Heights

Location: [Chicago Heights Public Library](#)

25 W. 15th St.

Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Sites: Intersection of Lincoln Highway and Carl Fisher's other road, the Dixie Highway; statue of Lincoln and children; fountain; and signage, all near the Chicago Heights Public Library.

Park Forest

Location: Indiana Street at Route 30 (Lincoln Highway)

Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo

Matteson

Location: 813 School Ave.

Matteson, IL 60443

Site: [Matteson Historical Society Museum](#)

Open Fridays from 3 pm to 6 pm and Saturdays from noon to 4 pm

Frankfort

Location: 11008 West Lincoln Highway

Frankfort, IL 60423

Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo

Location: 132 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL 60423

Site: [Frankfort Area Historical Society Museum](#)

New Lenox

Location: Lincoln-Way Central High School

1801 E. Lincoln Hwy.

New Lenox, IL 60451

Sites: Lincoln Highway Concrete Marker from 1928 and Gazebo in front of the school

Joliet

Location: 2501 Highland Park Dr.
Joliet, IL 60432

Site: [Pilcher Park & Nature Center](#), an [auto camp](#) in the early days of the highway

Location: 102 N. Chicago St.
Joliet, IL 60432

Site: [Rialto Square Theater](#)

Location: 204 N. Ottawa St.
Joliet, IL 60432

Site: [Joliet Area Historical Museum](#)

Locations: N. Chicago St. (Route 66) and corners of westbound Cass St. and eastbound W. Jefferson St.

Sites: Two intersections of Lincoln Highway and Route 66

Location: 1125 Collins St.
Joliet, IL 60432

Site: [Old Joliet Prison](#)

Location: Cass St. (Lincoln Highway) and Des Plaines River

Site: Cass St. Bridge

Location: 753 Ruby St.
Joliet, IL 60435

Site: Lincoln Highway Mural

Day 2: Joliet to Geneva

Crest Hill

Location: 1693 Plainfield Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Site: Lincoln Highway Mural

Plainfield

Location: Corner of Route 30 (Lincoln Highway) and Route 59 (Route 66) to Lockport St.

Site: Merging of Lincoln Highway and Route 66 for three blocks

Location: 23836 W. Main St.
Plainfield, IL 60544

Site: [Plainfield Historical Society Main Street Museum](#)

Location: 15033 Wood Farm Rd.
Plainfield, IL 60544

Site: Railroad Museum

Location: 24401 West Lockport St.
Plainfield, IL 60544

Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo & Settler's Park

Oswego

Location: 72 Polk St.
Oswego, IL 60543

Site: [Little White Schoolhouse Museum](#)

Open Friday, 2 pm to 6:30 pm, Saturday 9 am to 2 pm, and Sunday, 9 am to 2 pm.

Regular hours open: Thursdays and Fridays, 2 pm to 6:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 9 am to 2 pm, and Monday 4 pm to 9 pm.

Admission is free! Donations are very welcome.

For extensive information about the Little White Schoolhouse Museum and 2024 programming, [please click here](#).

Aurora

Location: East side of [Phillips Park](#), along Hill Ave. (Lincoln Highway)

Site: Restored Lincoln Highway Pavilion once used as an Auto Camp

Location: 50-52 N. Broadway
Aurora, IL 60505

Site: Lincoln Highway Mural

Location: 53 N. Broadway
Aurora, IL 60505

Site: [Aurora Regional Fire Museum](#)

Location: 23 E. Galena Blvd.
Aurora, IL 60505

Site: [Paramount Theatre](#)

Location: 20 E. Downer Pl.
Aurora, IL 60505
Site: [Aurora Historical Society](#)

Location: 305 Cedar St.
Aurora, IL 60506
Site: [William Tanner House](#)

Batavia

Location: 155 Houston St.
Batavia, IL 60510
Site: [Batavia Depot Museum](#)

Geneva

Location: 1925 S. Batavia Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
Sites: [Fabyan Villa Museum](#) and [Japanese Garden](#)

Day 3: Geneva to Fulton

Geneva

Location: 404 S. 3rd St.
Geneva, IL 60134
Site: [The Little Traveler Shop](#)

Location: 113 S. 3rd St.
Site: [Geneva History Museum](#)
Open, Friday and Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm
Regular Hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 am to 4 pm
Closed Sundays

The 3,000 square-foot Main Gallery is home to *Geneva's Story* where visitors can explore the lives and evolving history of Geneva. In addition, our 900 square-foot Feature Gallery changes throughout the year to highlight specific Geneva stories and hosts traveling exhibits from around the world. Specific children's exhibitions are offered each summer.

"The Curious World of Colonel Fabyan", childrens' exhibit, June 15 to August, 2023 - A hands-on exhibition highlighting the eccentric world created by George and Nelle Fabyan along the

Fox River. Learn the meaning of objects in the Japanese Garden, walk over the moon bridge and view the magnificent windmill. Relax and read a book in the bear cage full of stuffed alligators, bears, cows, and dogs that represent the Fabyan's zoo. Decode secret messages like the scientists once did in Riverbank Laboratories.

Location: 124 State St.
Geneva, IL 60134
Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo

Location: 10 S. 2nd St.
Geneva, IL 60134
Site: Lincoln Highway Mural

La Fox (3rd Generation Alignment)

Location: Garfield Road, north of Route 38
La Fox, IL 60147
Site: Garfield Farm Museum
garfieldfarm.org/
Guided tours by appointment

Maple Park

Location: 302 Willow St.
Maple Park, IL 60151
Site: Lincoln Highway Mural

Cortland

Location: 55 W. Lincoln Highway
Cortland, IL 60112
Site: Lincoln Highway Mural

DeKalb

Location: 1019 E. Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, IL 60115
Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo

Location: 135 N. 2nd St.
DeKalb, IL 60115
Site: [Egyptian Theatre](#)

Location: 420 Linden Pl.
DeKalb, IL 60115

Site: [Ellwood House Museum](#)

Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm., Mansion Tours, 1 pm & 3 pm
Visitor Center Open, 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Regular Hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Mansion Tours,
1 pm & 3 pm.

Admission: \$10 adults, \$8 students/seniors, Free for children under 6

The Ellwood House Museum is a historic site situated on ten acres of parkland in the heart of DeKalb. The museum campus consists of seven historic structures, including the 1879 Ellwood Mansion, 1900 Ellcourt House, four gardens, and 6,000 square feet of exhibit space in the Patience Ellwood Visitor Center, a converted and expanded 1912 multi-car garage.

Location: 335 Miller Ave.
DeKalb, IL 60115

Site: [Annie's Woods Park](#), originally used as an Auto Camp

Location: 921 W. Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, IL 60115

Site: [J.F. Glidden Homestead & Historic Center](#)

Malta

Location: 127 N. 3rd St.
Malta, IL 60150

Sites: [Malta Historical & Genealogical Society](#) and Lincoln Highway Mural

Location: In front of Malta Cemetery to one mile west
3987 Lincoln Highway
Malta, IL 60150

Site: Original location of the First Seedling Mile

Location: 21193 Malta Rd.
Malta, IL 60150

Sites: Lincoln Highway Historical Marker and Gazebo on the grounds of Kishwaukee College

Creston

Location: 110 N. Main St.
Creston, IL 60113

Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo

Location: 103 S. Main St.
Creston, IL 60113

Site: [Headon's Fine Meats](#), Murals, and Lincoln Highway Mural

Rochelle

Location: 429 Lincoln Highway
Rochelle, IL 60168

Site: [Flagg Township Museum](#)

Hours,

Special Event: Saturday, April 27th, 11:00. Dedication of 1928 Concrete Marker. Free and open to the public! Also, Saturday, April 27th will be Dog Day at the Iron Fountain. The museum's outdoor Iron Fountain will be turned on for the family pooch do enjoy cool water out of a trough once used by horses.

Location: 500 Lincoln Ave.
Rochelle, IL 60168

Site: [1918 Standard Oil Station](#)

Location: 124 N. 9th
Rochelle, IL 60168

Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo and [Rochelle Railroad Park](#)

Ashton

Location: 810 Main St.
Ashton, IL 61006

Site: Lincoln Highway Mural

Franklin Grove

Location: Two curves in Route 38 (Lincoln Highway) just west past Crest Foods

Sites: [Four 1928 Concrete Lincoln Highway Markers in Original Locations](#)

Location: 136 N. Elm St.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Site: [Lincoln Highway National Interpretive Center](#) in [H. I. Lincoln Building](#)

Location: 119 N. Elm St.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
Site: Lincoln Highway Mural at [Rooney's](#)

Dixon

Location: 810 S. Hennepin Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021

Site: [Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home](#)

Open, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, last tour starts at 3 pm

Regular Hours, Thursdays through Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm, last tour starts at 3 pm

Closed Sundays

Please check the [website](#) in case the museum is closed a private event happening when you wish to visit, especially if you wish to visit on a Saturday.

The museum has a Visitor Center where there is a 15-minute video about Ronald Reagan's early life in Illinois. Wallpapers and photos tell other details of Reagan's personality being shaped. Then there is a free tour of his Boyhood home, a 45-minute guided tour of the 1920 rented home that he lived in from age nine to twelve. There is a 1919 Model T and a statue of President Reagan in the museum's adjacent park.

Location: 205 W. 5th St.
Dixon, IL 61021

Site: [Northwest Territory Historic Center](#)

Open Friday, 9 am to 4 pm, Saturday, 8 am to noon. Closed Sundays.

April to September, regular hours are Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 am to 4 pm, and Saturdays 8 am to noon. Closed Sundays.

October to March, hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm. Closed Sundays.

The museum is located in the middle school building that President Ronald Reagan attended when he was a child. Regular exhibits include Reagan, Abraham Lincoln, early farming life, early Dixon, life on the prairie, Blackhawk, space, and axolotls. For children, if they complete the scavenger hunt, they may receive a free stuffed bison or axolotl!

Location: 215 S. Galena Ave. (over the Lincoln Highway in front of building)
Dixon, IL 61021

Site: [Dixon Victory Memorial Arch](#)

Location: 309 S. Galena Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021

Site: Abraham Lincoln Historical Marker on boulder on Lee County Courthouse lawn

Location: 513 W. 2nd St.
Dixon, IL 61021

Site: [Loveland Community House & Museum](#)

Location: Lincoln Statue Dr., Immediately West of Rock River
Dixon, IL 61021

Site: Abraham Lincoln Statue and Old Settler's Cabin

Location: 686 Veterans Pky.
Dixon, IL 61021

Site: [Dixon Veterans Memorial Park & Museum](#)

Sterling

Location: Multiple locations along Lincoln Highway and Throughout Sterling

Sites: [Series of Murals](#)

Location: 607 E. 3rd St.
Sterling, IL 61081

Site: [Lincoln-Manaham Home](#)

Location: 1005 E. 3rd St.
Sterling, IL 61081

Site: [Dillon Home Museum](#)

Open: Friday Tours, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 2 pm.

Tours on Friday by Pre-arranged Appointment Only 3 pm to 5 pm.

Closed most Saturdays and Sundays. Please call ahead to help in your planning: 815-622-6202

Regular Tours: Thursdays and Fridays, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 2 pm

Tours by Pre-arranged Appointment Only: 3 pm to 5 pm

Second weekend of the month, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 2 pm.

Second weekend of the month by appointment only, 3 pm to 5 pm

The museum features a fully furnished house of antique furniture and decor that belonged to P.W. (Crete) Dillon, former owner and President of the Northwestern Steel & Wire Company (1879-2001) in Sterling. We also display memorabilia of that family businesses.

There will be a Northwestern Steel & Wire Ice Cream Social open to the public, on May 25th, from 11 am to 2 pm in honor of the former employees and the community.

Morrison

Location: 202 E. Lincolnway
Morrison, IL 61270

Sites: [Morrison's Heritage Museum](#) and [several other attractions](#), including a covered bridge

Fulton

Location: 10th Ave. at 3rd St.
Fulton, IL 61252

Site: Lincoln Highway Gazebo and Mural

Location: 111 10th Ave.
Fulton, IL 61525

Site: [De Immigrant Windmill](#) and [Windmill Cultural Center](#)

Location: 515 N. 4th St.
Fulton, IL 61525

Site: [Heritage Canyon](#)

