

Experience the
heart of America

GREAT RIVER ROAD in Illinois



From Chicago to Galena and quaint
river cities... follow the mighty
Mississippi River on a 7 day itinerary



DAY 1

8:00 am CHICAGO

Eat like a local. Serving breakfast since 1923, **Lou Mitchell's** is known around the world for delicious homemade foods and their signature coffee.

1:15 pm

A Chicago landmark, **Gino's East** on Superior Street serves up the best deep-dish pizza experience in Chicago. Sink your teeth into the legendary golden, flaky crust filled to the brim with melted cheese and your favorite toppings.

4:30 pm

Relax in an urban oasis. **Chicago's Riverwalk**, extending from Lakeshore Drive to Lake Street, provides a tranquil pathway leading to recreational amenities, shopping, wine bars and eateries.

8:00 pm

View the visually stunning transformation of theMART, as the building's river facing façade becomes **Art on theMART**, the world's largest digital art project (Wednesday through Sunday at dusk).

9:30 am

Experience Michigan Avenue's **Magnificent Mile**. Chicago's iconic shopping destination is lined with a mixture of shops offering everything from apparel, toys and electronics to designer brands and home goods.

3:00 pm

Take it all in on a **Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise**. Sit in the shadow of the city's iconic buildings while floating along the Chicago River as docents interpret more than 50 iconic structures.

6:00 pm

Taste true Italian in the heart of Chicago at **Nonnina**, where the recipes have been passed down for generations and the atmosphere makes you feel like family.

8:45 pm

Get the ultimate view of the city from 1,000 feet (305 m) above at the **360 CHICAGO** Observation Deck, located in the former John Hancock Center. For an even bigger thrill, step out onto **TILT**. This glass platform extends from the building, tilting 30 degrees over Michigan Avenue.





DAY 2

7:45 am CHICAGO

Bring your appetite. From banana nut bread French toast to five egg omelets, **Yolk** (Marina City location) is *the* place to fuel your day, and it's been voted "Best Breakfast in Chicago."

10:00 am

Explore **Millennium Park** on foot or cruise its pathways on a rental bike. Known as one of the major free attractions in the city, its iconic stainless steel clad, Frank Gehry designed bandshell auditorium offers free cultural performances. The ever-popular outdoor art installations include Cloud Gate (The Bean), Crown Fountain and the Boeing Galleries.

12:00 pm

Choose from casual menus to dishes created by award-winning chef Tony Mantuano at **The Art Institute of Chicago**. The Institute's dining options range from contemporary **Terzo Piano**, to the more casual **Museum Café** and **Caffè Moderno**.

6:00 pm

The warm atmosphere of **Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse** makes it a favorite of locals and celebrities alike. With generous portions, towering desserts, superb martinis, fresh seafood and a full selection of regionally sourced cuts of Gibsons Prime Angus Beef, no one will leave unsatisfied.

9:00 am

Step out onto **The Ledge**, a glass box extending 4.3 feet (1.3 m) outside the 103rd floor of the Willis Tower – the second tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. The experience provides unparalleled views of Chicago.

10:30 am

The Art Institute of Chicago displays compelling collections from around the world, including an extraordinary assemblage of recognizable works, sculptures, artifacts, textiles, and much more. As one of the oldest and largest art museums in the country, housing over 300,000 works, utilize the app to plan your route to specific exhibits, but give yourself some time to wander and enjoy the unexpected ones, too.

1:30-4:30 pm

Overlooking Lake Michigan, the 57-acre (23 ha) **Museum Campus** is home to world class attractions. Sit back and relax in the Adler Planetarium's Grainger Sky Theater and view the solar system on the largest single seamless digital image in the world. The Field Museum of Natural History opened in 1894, and today it contains nearly 40 million artifacts in its collection, including Sue, the largest, best preserved Tyrannosaurus rex ever found. Nearby at the Shedd Aquarium, find freshwater and marine fish, aquatic animals from around the globe, and the largest indoor marine-mammal pavilion in the world.

7:45 pm

Broadway in Chicago helps you select the perfect seat for plays direct from Broadway and world premieres of productions destined for Broadway. The Downtown Theatre District consists of numerous venues including shows held at the Oriental Theatre, the Cadillac Palace Theatre, CIBC Theatre, the Auditorium Theatre and the Broadway Playhouse.



DAY 3

10:00 am GALENA

Delve in to Galena's historic past aboard a **Tri-State Trolley Tour**. Travel the hills and valleys of this former lead mining community as the narrator showcases historically and architecturally significant points of interest.

11:00 am

Curving past nearly 100 19th-century storefronts, **Galena's Main Street** looks much as it did during the time of the American Civil War. Today, the historic red brick buildings are home to charming boutiques, art galleries and restaurants.

1:30 pm

From meaty lasagna to stuffed cheese manicotti, these made from scratch recipes, passed down five generations, are served in an intimate Italian setting, earning **Vinny Vanucchi's** the title of "little Italy."

2:30 pm

Step back in time at the **Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historic Site**. The restored red brick dwelling was once the home of Ulysses S. Grant, prior to his becoming the 18th president of the United States. Original furnishings remain throughout, including Grant's favorite green chair. (closed Monday and Tuesday)

4:00 pm

The rolling hills, farmlands, and forests of Jo Daviess County are in full panoramic view with **Galena on the Fly**. Their hot air balloon excursions rise 3,000 feet (914 m) above it all, creating an unforgettable memory in one of the largest hot air balloons in the country. (2.5 hours total, 1-hour total flight time)

7:00 pm

Dine overlooking picturesque Lake Galena at the award-winning **Woodlands Restaurant**, situated on the expansive grounds of Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa. Relax and enjoy seasonal cuisine prepared with local ingredients, anchored with Black Angus beef, pork, duck, scallops or shrimp.



DAY 4

8:30 am SAVANNA

The beauty of **Mississippi Palisades State Park** leaves so much to be explored. Take a short hike and discover the wooded landscape, or walk to a viewing platform perched atop the towering limestone bluffs. Oak Point Overlook provides dramatic views of the Mississippi River.

11:45 am MOLINE

Travel the Mississippi River aboard the **Celebration Belle**, an authentic paddlewheel boat. Take in the beauty of the river while enjoying a buffet lunch. The captain is your narrator for the journey and provides historical insights of the Quad City area.

3:00 pm

The **John Deere Pavilion** celebrates farming pioneer John Deere's 1830s steel plow innovation that revolutionized modern farming. Exhibits showcase the company's history in Moline to the latest modern-day combines and tractors. Test your skills in a state of the art simulator, and experience the thrill of sitting in the driver's seat of Deere & Company's newest machines.

7:00 am GALENA

Otto's Place is considered *the* spot for breakfast. The cinnamon swirl French toast will satisfy any sweet tooth and the sweet potato hash is a true taste of the Midwest. (closed Tuesday and Wednesday)

9:30 am FULTON

Tour the fully operational **de Immigrant Windmill**. Constructed in the Netherlands and then reassembled atop the levee in Fulton, this icon towers 90 feet (27.5 m) above the Mississippi River. Across the street, step into the Windmill Cultural Center to see a collection of more than 20 miniature windmills.

2:00 pm

The Lagomarcino family has been crafting chocolate confections, ice creams and sodas for more than 100 years. Slide into an original mahogany booth, or sit at the soda fountain, to enjoy a sweet treat at **Lagomarcino's Soda Fountain and Deli**.

5:00 pm

Far above average, **Johnny's Italian Steakhouse** provides a quiet and relaxing atmosphere for dinner and drinks. Johnny's is famous for Steak DeBurgo – beef tenderloin medallions with roasted garlic, basil, and oregano, topped off with cream sauce.





image: Tom Simpson



DAY 5

7:00 am ROCK ISLAND

Experience a Midwestern breakfast. From fluffy buttermilk pancakes to an array of breakfast skilletes, the **QC Pancake & Coffee House** makes a great start to your day.

1:00 pm QUINCY

With picturesque views of the river and the Bayview Bridge, the casual atmosphere of **The Pier** is the perfect backdrop for a leisurely lunch. Cantilevered from shore over the Mississippi River, the restaurant provides a one of a kind experience.

5:00 pm

Authentic Cajun food comes the Midwest at the **Grafton Oyster Bar**. Seating on the patio lets you take in the river while watching the sunset. Try the crawfish enchiladas, beef pontchartrain or fried oysters, and pair it with a signature drink or wine. Enjoy live music on weekends.

10:30 am NAUVOO

Step back in time at **Historic Nauvoo**. Situated on the banks of the Mississippi River, this quaint community offers exciting and educational insights into life as a pioneer in the 1840s. Often considered the most accurately restored and intact 1800s town in the U.S., the period dressed docents bring history to life as they provide interpretive demonstrations at the blacksmith, post office, brickyard, bakery, school and more.

3:00 pm GRAFTON

Rising above the Illinois River is the lush, dense forest of southern Illinois. This wooded landscape is home to the state's largest park, **Pere Marquette State Park**. Situated at the park's entrance, the historic Pere Marquette Lodge resembles a smaller version of iconic lodges found in national parks in the U.S. After a stop at the Visitor Center, enjoy a hike on the Goat Cliff Trail leading to McAdams Peak and sweeping views of the river.



DAY 6

9:00 am ALTON

Located at the **Melvin Price Locks and Dam**, the **National Great Rivers Museum** tells the story of life on the Mississippi River. See how the flowing waters shaped the regional culture, history, economy and ecology. Watch the 30-minute film before heading out at 10 am on a guided tour, taking you eight stories (26.4 m) above the Mississippi River, on one of the largest lock systems on the waterway.

12:30 pm

The last of seven debates between Illinois senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas was held in Alton in 1858. At **Lincoln-Douglas Square**, the final debate is frozen in time as lifelike bronze statues depict Lincoln listening intently, while an animated Douglas, with hand raised, makes his argument.

2:20 pm COLLINSVILLE

Take a journey through the visible remains of the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico at **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site**. At the Visitor Center, view artifacts, informative exhibits, a replica life-size village and a short film on the rise and fall of this city from the Mississippian culture. Across from the Visitor Center, reaching a height of 100 feet (30.48 m), is Monks Mound, the largest earthen monument in the Americas. Take the stairs to the top to experience the views of this designated World Heritage Site. (Visitor Center closed Monday and Tuesday, grounds open daily dawn to dusk)

7:00 am GRAFTON

Take in the beautiful scenery and enjoy breakfast at the on-site restaurant located within **Pere Marquette Lodge**. Choose your adventure as the menu takes on an explorer theme.

11:15 am

Experience real Americana with lunch at **My Just Desserts**. Known for serving sweets and their famous half-pound chicken salad sandwich, they also offer soups, salads and sandwiches. Leave room for dessert and try a Toll House brownie or a piece of made from scratch pie.

1:00 pm HARTFORD

Guided by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the Corps of Discovery departed in 1804, near the present-day location of the **Lewis & Clark State Historic Site**, into the wilderness of the western U.S. Trace their journey through exhibits, get up close to a full-scale replica of their 55-foot (16.76 m) keelboat and view the film chronicling their travels.

5:30 pm ALTON

Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant at 255 offers classic Italian dishes including handmade toasted ravioli, but they're equally famous for their trademarked recipe fried chicken.



DAY 7

8:00 am ST. LOUIS

Depart Alton for the **St. Louis Lambert International Airport**



EVENTS

GALENA

- APRIL **President Grant's Birthday Celebration Weekend**
galenahistory.org/events/u-s-grant-birthday
- JUNE **Great Galena Balloon Race**
greatgalenaballoonrace.com
- OCTOBER **Galena Country Fair**
galenacountryfair.com
- NOVEMBER **Nouveau Wine Weekend**
nouveauweekend.com

FULTON

- MAY **Fulton Dutch Days**
cityoffulton.us/tourism/fulton-events.html
- SEPTEMBER **Fall Festival at Heritage Canyon**
cityoffulton.us/city/fulton-directory/attractions/heritage-canyon.html

PORT BYRON

- AUGUST **Great River Tug Fest**
tugfest.org

SILVIS

- JULY **John Deere Classic PGA Tournament**
tpc.com/deererun-the-john-deere-classic

MOLINE

- JUNE **Blossoms at Butterworth**
butterworthcenter.com/events.html
- OCTOBER **Row the Miss Regatta**
tworiversymca.org/programs-activities/rowing/row-the-miss-regatta

ROCK ISLAND

- AUGUST **Ya Maka My Weekend – Reggae Fest**
downtownrockisland.org/events/ya-maka-my-weekend

NAUVOO

- JULY-AUGUST **Nauvoo Pageant**
nauvoopageant.org
- SEPTEMBER **Nauvoo Grape Festival**
nauvoograpefestival.com

QUINCY

- JANUARY **Great River Eagle Days**
seequincy.com
- JUNE **Q-FEST**
theqfest.com
- OCTOBER **Oktoberfest**
quincyrotaary.org/oktoberfest
- OCTOBER **Early Tin Dusters Car Show**
earlytindusters.com

GRAFTON

- AUGUST **Peach Festival at Pere Marquette Lodge**
pmlodge.net
- SEPTEMBER **Pere Marquette Rendezvous**
pmlodge.net
- NOVEMBER **Towboat Days**
enjoygrafton.com/events/detail/112/grafton-towboat-festival

ALTON

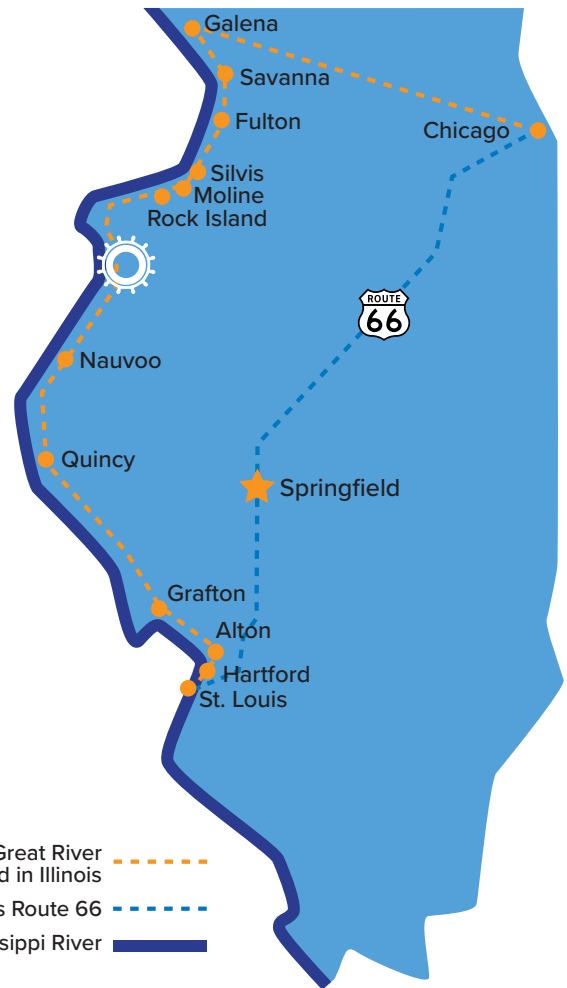
- JANUARY **Alton-Audubon Eagle Ice Festival**
visitalton.com/feature-stories/detail/6/alton-audubon-eagle-festival

HARTFORD

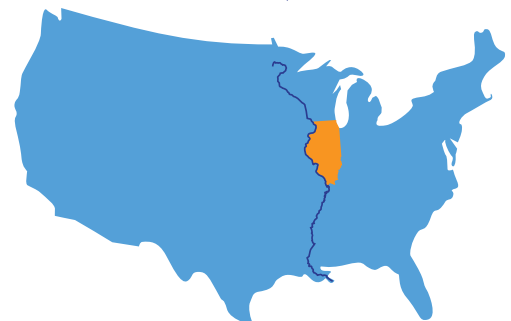
- MAY **Lewis & Clark Point of Departure**
campdubois.com/html/special_events1.html

COLLINSVILLE

- AUGUST **Cahokia Mounds: Archeology Day**
- SEPTEMBER **American Indian Educational Days**
- NOVEMBER **Native American Holiday Market**
cahokiamounds.org/events



Great River Road in Illinois
Illinois Route 66
Mississippi River



Great River Road in Illinois
National Scenic Byway
581 South Deere Road
Macomb, Illinois 61455

GreatRiverRoad-Illinois.com



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Travel the **GREAT** Mississippi River **RIVER ROAD** in Illinois

GreatRiverRoad-Illinois.com



HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

GALENA

Chestnut Mountain Resort \$-\$\$\$
8700 W. Chestnut Mountain Road
Tel: 800-397-1320
www.chestnutmtn.com

DeSoto House Hotel \$-\$\$\$
230 S. Main Street
Tel: 815-777-0090
desotohouse.com

Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa \$\$-\$\$\$
444 Eagle Ridge Drive
Tel: 815-777-5000
www.eagleridge.com

Goldmoor Inn \$\$\$
9001 W. Sand Hill Road
Tel: 815-777-3925
www.goldmoor.com

The Inn at Irish Hollow \$\$\$
2800 S. Irish Hollow Road
Tel: 815-777-6000
www.irishhollow.com

The Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel \$-\$\$\$
9853 U.S. Highway 20
Tel: 866-284-7474
theirishcottageboutiquehotel.com

Jail Hill Inn \$\$\$
319 Meeker Street
Tel: 815-534-1906
jailhillgalena.com

EAST MOLINE

Hyatt Place East Moline/Quad Cities \$\$
111 Bend Boulevard
Tel: 309-755-6000
www.hyatt.com

MOLINE

Element Moline \$\$
316 12th Street
Tel: 309-517-1659
www.marriott.com

Radisson on John Deere Commons \$\$
1415 River Drive
Tel: 309-764-1000
www.radisson.com

NAUVOO

Hotel Nauvoo \$-\$\$
1290 Mulholland Street
Tel: 217-453-2211
www.hotelnavoo.com

Nauvoo Villas \$-\$\$\$
2372 North County Road 900
Tel: 800-453-6717
www.nauvoovillas.com

QUINCY

Holiday Inn Quincy \$\$
4821 Oak Street
Tel: 217-223-7800
www.ihg.com/holidayinn

Quality Inn & Suites \$
201 S. Third Street
Tel: 217-222-2666
www.choicehotels.com

Stoney Creek Inn \$\$
3809 Broadway Street
Tel: 217-223-2255
www.stoneycreekhoteles.com

Town & Country Inn and Suites \$\$
110 N. 54th Street
Tel: 855-214-0400
www.tandcinn.com

GRAFTON

Pere Marquette Lodge \$\$
13653 Lodge Boulevard
Tel: 618-786-2331
www.pmlodge.net

Ruebel Hotel \$-\$\$\$
217 E. Main Street
Tel: 618-786-2315
www.ruebelhotel.com

ALTON

Best Western Premier \$\$
3559 College Avenue
Tel: 618-462-1220
www.bestwestern.com

**Hampton Inn & Suites
St. Louis/Alton** \$\$
1904 Homer M Adams Parkway
Tel: 618-433-8999
www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com



\$ = less than \$100 USD \$\$ = \$100 to \$299 USD \$\$\$ = more than \$300 USD

BEST OF THE BYWAY



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GALENA FROM CHICAGO 163M 262.3KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Tri-State Trolley www.tristatetravel.com/trolley
Galena's Main Street www.visitgalena.org
Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historic Site www.granthome.com
Galena on the Fly www.buyaballoonride.com
Long Hollow Canopy Tours longhollowcanopytours.com
Blaum Bros. Distilling Co. www.blaumbros.com
Shenandoah Riding Center www.theshenandoahridingcenter.com
Galena Cellars Vineyard & Winery www.galenacellars.com/winery

WHERE TO EAT:

Vinny Vanucchi's www.vinnysgalena.com
Woodlands Restaurant www.eagleridge.com/galena-il-resort-dining.php
Otto's Place www.ottosplace.com
Courtyard Restaurant desotohouse.com/restaurants
Generals' Restaurant desotohouse.com/restaurants
One Eleven Main www.oneelevenmain.com
Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub & Grill
www.theirishcottageboutiquehotel.com/galena-restaurant.aspx
Log Cabin Steakhouse logcabinagalena.com
Fritz and Frites fritzandfrites.com
Fried Green Tomatoes www.friedgreen.com

SAVANNA FROM GALENA 31.3M 50.4KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Mississippi Palisades State Park
www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/MississippiPalisades.aspx
Poopy's Pub n' Grub www.poopys.com

WHERE TO EAT:

Manny's Pizza www.mannyspizza.com

FULTON FROM SAVANNA 18.4M 29.6KM

WHAT TO SEE:

De Immigrant Windmill www.cityoffulton.us
Windmill Cultural Center www.cityoffulton.us
Heritage Canyon www.cityoffulton.us

WHERE TO EAT:

Krumpet's Bakery and Café www.krumpetsbakery.com
Manny's Too www.mannyspizza.com

MOLINE FROM FULTON 36.1M 58.1KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Celebration River Cruises www.celebrationbelle.com
Lagomarcino's Soda Fountain www.lagomarcinos.com
John Deere Pavilion www.johndeereattractions.com
John Deere Factory Tour www.johndeereattractions.com

WHERE TO EAT:

Johnny's Italian Steakhouse johnnysitaliansteakhouse.com/moline

ROCK ISLAND FROM MOLINE 3.5M 5.6KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Black Hawk State Historic Site www.blackhawkpark.org

WHERE TO EAT:

QC Pancake & Coffee House qccoffeeandpancakehouse.com
Riverfront Grille www.riverfrontgrilleqc.com

NAUVOO FROM ROCK ISLAND 112.2M 180.6KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Historic Nauvoo www.historicnauvoo.net
Historic Nauvoo Visitors' Center www.historicnauvoo.net/visitors-center
Baxter's Vineyards & Winery www.nauvoowinery.com

WHERE TO EAT:

Hotel Nauvoo Historic Inn & Restaurant www.hotelnauvoo.com

QUINCY FROM NAUVOO 49.7M 80KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Underbrink's Bakery www.underbrinks.com
East End Historic District (Historic Architectural Driving Tours)
seequincy.com
John Wood Mansion hsqac.org/tours-events/the-john-wood-mansion
Villa Kathrine www.villakathrine.org

WHERE TO EAT:

The Pier www.thepierrestaurant.com
BoodaLu Steakhouse www.boodalulu.com
Tiramisu tiramisuquincy.com
Kelly's Tavern www.kellysquincy.com

HANNIBAL FROM QUINCY 21M 33.8KM

Drive across the river to Hannibal, Missouri, home of Mark Twain, for lunch and an afternoon of sightseeing including the **Mark Twain Boyhood Home, Mark Twain Cave and Mark Twain Riverboat**.
www.visithannibal.com

GRAFTON FROM QUINCY 99.6M 160.3KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Pere Marquette State Park
www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/PereMarquette.aspx
Pere Marquette Riding Stables grafontrailrides.com
Grafton Zipline at Aerie's Resort www.aeriesview.com/zipline
Eckert's Country Store & Farm www.eckerts.com/grafon-farm
Hakuna Matata River Cruises www.grafonharbor.com

WHERE TO EAT:

Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center www.pmlodge.net
Grafton Oyster Bar grafonoysterbar.com
Grafton Winery & Brewhaus www.thegraffonwinery.com
Aerie's Winery www.aeriesview.com
The Loading Dock www.grafonloadingdock.com

ALTON FROM GRAFTON 15M 24.1KM

WHAT TO SEE:

National Great Rivers Museum and Melvin Price Locks & Dam 26
www.meetingoftherivers.org
Lincoln-Douglas Square www.visitalton.com
Robert Wadlow Statue www.visitalton.com

WHERE TO EAT:

My Just Desserts www.myjustdesserts.org
Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant at 255 www.castellis255.com
Fast Eddie's Bon Air www.fasteddiesbonair.com
Gentelin's on Broadway www.gentelinsonbroadway.com
Tony's Restaurant www.tonysrestaurant.com

HARTFORD FROM ALTON 10M 16KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower www.confluencetower.com
Lewis & Clark State Historic Site and Interpretive Center
www.campdubois.com

COLLINSVILLE FROM HARTFORD 17.9M 28.8KM

WHAT TO SEE:

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and UNESCO World Heritage Site
www.cahokiamounds.org
Willoughby Heritage Farm www.willoughbyfarm.org
Brooks Catsup Bottle www.catsupbottle.com
Fairmount Park Racetrack www.fairmountpark.com

WHERE TO EAT:

Ravanelli's www.ravanellis.com
Porter's Steakhouse www.porterscollinsville.com
Sloan's Pub House Facebook @ Sloan's Pub House
Bert's Chuckwagon Facebook @ Bert's Chuckwagon

ST. LOUIS LAMBERT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FROM ALTON 21.6M 34.8KM