Great River Road in Illinois – National Scenic Byway

**FAST FACTS**

Listed as one of National Geographic's “Top 500 Drives of A Lifetime”
- 550 miles through the western border of Illinois
- Road winds along the Mississippi River, the third largest river in the world
- The drive showcases the history and heritage of Illinois – from ancient Indian settlements to an 18th century French fort

**Traveling the Great River Road – North to South**

As a National Scenic Byway, the Great River Road in Illinois is recognized by the United States Department of Transportation for its archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and/or scenic qualities.

- The Illinois portion of the Great River Road starts just outside of Galena on US Route 20
- The route continues through Fulton on Illinois Route 84 and winds through Moline and Rock Island
- The road continues south through Nauvoo and down through Quincy
- Near Alton, experience 33 miles of the Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Byway
- The route picks up at Thebes and continues south to the Horseshoe Lake Exploration Route, through Cairo where the Great River Road in Illinois meets the Ohio River National Scenic Byway at Fort Defiance State Park

**History & Heritage**

- Ulysses S. Grant Home State Historic Site – Galena
- Black Hawk State Historic Site – Rock Island
- Henderson Covered Bridge – Oquawka
- Historic Nauvoo Temple – Nauvoo
Historic District – Quincy
Lincoln & Civil War Legacy Trail – Alton
Cahokia Mounds – Collinsville
Fort de Chartres State Historic Site – Prairie du Rocher

Recreation
Bikes can be taken on select Amtrak trains and Amtrak serves 30 Illinois cities, call (800) USA–RAIL
- Great River Trail (biking & hiking) – Rock Island to Fulton
- Madison County Transit’s Nature Trail (biking & hiking) – Edwardsville
- Pere Marquette State Park (biking, hiking, camping, eagle watching) – Grafton
- Giant City State Park (camping, hiking, horseback riding) – Makanda
- Oakwood Bottoms/Greentree Reservoir – Gorham

Accommodations
Wherever you start your journey, there are endless choices of accommodations along the Great River Road in Illinois. Check out www.greatriverroad–illinois.org for a list of hotels, motels, resorts, inns and bed & breakfasts.