

illinois

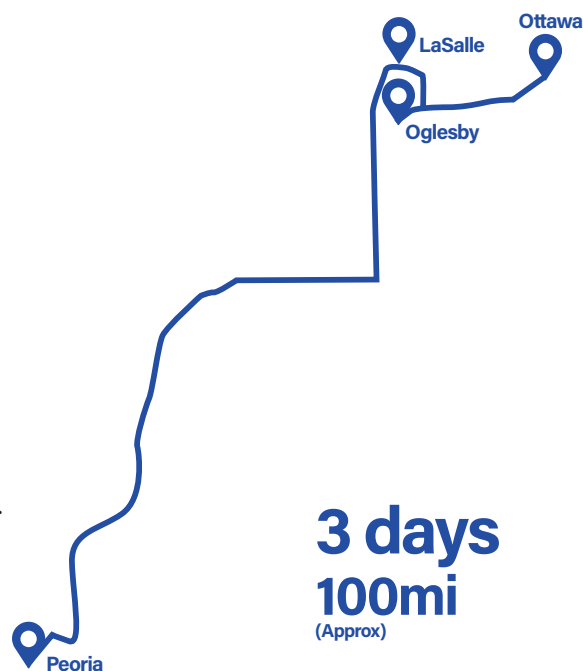
The Illinois River
National Scenic Byway



the illinois river runs through it

A trip along the banks of the illinois

The area around Starved Rock is renowned for its natural beauty. But beyond the majestic rock formations and waterfalls, in the nearby small towns all the way to Peoria, the Illinois River area offers lots to explore. Historic homes, breweries and wineries, cozy cabins, they're all worth the hike after you hike.



3 days
100mi
(Approx)

illinois

The Illinois River National Scenic Byway



Buffalo Rock State Park



The Lone Buffalo



Heritage Harbor Marina Resort



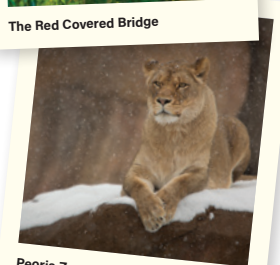
Starved Rock State Park



I&M Canal Boat Ride



The Red Covered Bridge



Peoria Zoo



Luthy Botanical Garden

Many places have reopened with limited capacity, new operating hours or other restrictions. Inquire ahead of time for up-to-date health and safety information.

📍 Day 1-2 Ottawa, Oglesby/Utica

Offering an ideal terrain for the beginner hiker, **Buffalo Rock State Park** is where you'll start your adventure. Mounds representing five earthen sculptures, known as Effigy Tumuli, invite visitors to walk around and explore. Also nearby is the **Ottawa Scouting Museum**, a unique stop to learn about the history of scouts and the Ottawa-area. For great food and refreshing brews, **The Lone Buffalo** has dinner covered.

Relax overnight at **Heritage Harbor**, a marina resort community offering vacation rentals.

Starved Rock State Park is characterized by seasonal waterfalls, awe-inspiring bluffs and rugged canyons waiting to be explored! After a day of hiking, **Starved Rock Lodge** is the perfect spot to relax and rest-up before your next adventure. Satisfy your appetite in their rustic dining room before hitting the hay.

📍 Day 2 Oglesby/Utica, LaSalle

Just a few miles south is **Matthiessen State Park**, another great way to spend the day. Visitors can expect to see beautiful rock formations in addition to unusual and abundant vegetation and wildlife. When you're ready to relax, **August Hill Winery's** tasting room awaits.

Enjoying the views but wanting to rest your feet? The **I&M Canal National Heritage Area** has mule-pulled boat rides, a perfect way to take in the sights. The **Lock 16 & Visitor Center** serves delicious breakfast and lunch.

Onwards to Princeton, stop at **The Red Covered Bridge**, one of only five remaining in Illinois. For "fresh, friendly, foodie-approved" fare, head to **Spoons Restaurant & Bar**.

📍 Day 3 Peoria/East Peoria

In Peoria, animal lovers have no shortage of activities with both the **Peoria Zoo** and **Wildlife Prairie Park** home to hundreds of furry (and not so furry) friends. The only multidisciplinary museum of its kind in the nation, time will fly by at a visit to the **Peoria Riverfront Museum**. If you're looking for more majestic scenery, **Grandview Drive** offers incredible views of the Illinois River. Or spend the afternoon relaxing at **Luthy Botanical Garden**, home to a tropical conservatory and seasonal shows. For your evening's entertainment, try your luck at **Par-A-Dice Casino** and enjoy house-smoked BBQ, craft beers, cocktails & whisky at **The Blue Duck Barbecue Tavern**.

