

KEY	NAME OF DAY TRIP PACKAGE (in box)	CITY	PHONE	WEB SITE
1	Pere Marquette State Park - Eagles (in season) Piasa Bird	Grafton	618-786-3323	www.dnr.state.il.us/
	<i>This is a great state park...with 7,900 acres, the largest in Illinois, filled with native forest with 12 miles of hiking trails and 12 miles of horse-riding trails, on the best scenery the bluffs have to offer. It's named after Jacques Marquette of course, who passed by on his epic 1673 voyage down the Mississippi. An interpretation center offers displays and moves on native flora, fauna and geology and especially the rivers. The bald eagles are featured while wintering in the area, (and there's a summer nest or two in the park.) For overnight guests there are rustic cabins and a magnificent lodge, built by the CCC during the depression. Also see www.stateparks.com/il.html and www.greatriverroad-illinois.org. The horse stables are at 618-786-2156.</i>			
2	Calhoun County--Brussels, Orchards	Brussels		www.greatriverroad.com/
	<i>Calhoun County is rather a time warp. Surrounded on 3 sides by rivers and by-passed by glaciers, it remains rough and rolling and hard to get there. Even today, there are two ferries (Grafton and Golden Eagle) and a bridge at Hardin, plus access from the north. Orchards are featured, plus a great weekend restaurant in Brussels and a famous fish emporium, "The Barefoot", in Hardin. Don't miss a visit by ferry. Also see www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.</i>			
3	River Road North - Scenic Route - Grafton - Elsah	Grafton		www.greatriverroad.com/
	<i>This is a true treasure, our own Nationally-recognized Scenic Highway, the "Great River Road", named by the Chicago Tribune as one of the best ten "drives" in the nation. Driving along the river with the bluffs soaring above is a delight any time, but especially in fall when the maples and oaks are in full splendor. Add the picturesque villages of Grafton, Elsah and Chautauqua, it's an incredible experience. Grafton has a visitor's center at the south end of town. Fish markets abound featuring fresh caught river fish. The Fin Inn has four 2000 gallon aquariums lining the dining area in which to view river fish from the world. There are wineries and restaurants and shops of all kinds, great scenes generally and a couple of awesome bluff-top views. Nearby is Raging Rivers Water Park, 786-2345, (www.ragingrivers.com) Principia College (Christian Science) is above Elsah. A new ferry goes to Missouri, (and back!) Also see www.greatriverroad-illinois.org/ and www.grafton.il.us.</i>			
4	Alton - Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Antiques	Alton		www.visitilton.com/
	<i>Alton has so much going for it! An historic river town, you can still imagine the steamboats coming 'round the bend. It was the site of the 6th Lincoln-Douglas debate. Elijah Lovejoy was murdered here for his heroic anti-slavery publications. It was the site of the first prison in Illinois with that building becoming an infamous prison camp for confederate captives, many of whom are buried there. It's the eagle watching center and a huge marina caters to the boating enthusiasts on "Alton Lake", created by the nearby Lock and Dam # 26. And my, are there antique shops! Check in at the chamber, across from the downtown elevators. Also see www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.</i>			
5	Hannibal MO - Mark Twain Country - Scenery - Caves Clarksville MO- Lock and Dam - Eagles - Antiques	Hannibal Clarksville		www.visitannibal.com www.greatriverroad.com/
	<i>This would be a longer day trip, so get up early and expect a late bedtime. Hannibal is Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) land and as such, there are many reminders, including Mark Twain's original home and of course, a museum. It's beautifully touristy in fact, with a trolley, carriage rides, sightseeing tours and a riverboat cruise. There's also a nearby cave, featured in at least one of Twain's novels that offers tours, but the scenery around Hannibal is beautiful. Clarksville is the site of a river dam, and home to flocks of Bald Eagles in winter. Both towns have preserved old sections, many shops and antique stores. Gorgeous river front walks and parks. Also see www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.</i>			
6	Great Rivers Museum - Tour Lock & Dam 26 -	East Alton	888-899-2602	www.greatriverroad.com/Cities/EAlton/riverMuseum.htm
	<i>There are two major related attractions here, "close-in" and easy to reach. It's a major 7000 square foot museum relating to the river adjacent to the newest Mississippi dam, Lock and Dam # 26, where the role of the Mississippi River in the geography of the midwest is brilliantly explained. There's even a replica of a towboat pilot house. Tours are offered of the locks and dams themselves where are dramatic...you won't believe how high and large it all is. The museum explores the many facets of the river itself, the geology, the hydraulics, the wildlife and ecology. Expect a security check for the tour.</i>			
7	Lewis & Clark Interpretation Ctr - Museum - Enactments	Hartford	618-251-5811	www.campdubois.com/
	<i>This is a fascinating experience, especially when there might be re-enactments in play. The museum itself, relatively new, reviews the whole Lewis and Clark experience, but focuses on the staging, right at the site of the museum. It features a cutaway version of one of a keelboats, used on the expedition. Outside, a log stockade encloses reproductions of the five log cabins used by the group while they prepared for the trip, interacting with the sparse local population. Also see www.greatriverroad.com, www.greatriverroad-illinois.org, www.campdubois.com and mvs.usace.army.mil/rivers/.</i>			
8	Edwardsville - Museum - Courthouse - Children's Museum Watershed Nature Center - The Gardens of SIUE	Edwardsville Edwardsville	618-656-7600	www.cityofedwardsville.com/ www.madisoncountyhistoricalsociety.com/museum.html
	<i>A visit to Edwardsville should be leisurely, listening for its fascinating history. It's the 3rd oldest chartered city in Illinois and was bustling before Illinois became a state, partly because it served as a United States Land Office. The history museum, down the street from the courthouse, is a fascinating overview of history. But don't miss a tour of the 2600 acre SIUE campus, including a visit to the new, "The Gardens of SIUE", and the Watershed Nature Center. For kids, old and young, The Childrens' Museum is interesting as is the LeClaire area itself, an early experiment as a "Company Town". Great restaurants abound. Also see www.edglenchamber.com/.</i>			
9	Old Chain of Rocks Bridge - walk or bike above the river	Granite City		www.confluencegreenway.org/
	<i>The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge was unique in that it served the famous Route 66 highway, and that it had a crook in it...one of the few bridges in the world with a turn right in the middle. Named after the rocky river bed below it, it's now abandoned for auto use, but has been reincarnated into the extensive area trail system. It's a fascinating experience to walk or bicycle far above the river below. Both ends are open during daylight hours...dig out a map to find them. Also see www.trailnet.org, www.mcttrails.org, www.mepd.org.</i>			
10	Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site - State Historic	Collinsville	618-346-5160	www.cahokiamounds.com/
	<i>Right in the middle of Southwest Illinois is a 4000 acre, genuine "World Heritage Site", as so formally designated by the United Nations in 1982. An estimated</i>			

20,000 indians occupied the site as one of the largest cities in the world until around 1100 when they slowly and mysteriously disappeared. The mounds they left were made by the basketfuls of dirt. Monk's Mound is still the largest prehistoric man made feature in the world, and has a footprint larger than the Great Pyramid. A wonderful interpretation center exists that deserves careful study. The name "Cahokia" however is a bit misleading, as there is no relationship with the later Cahokia Indians, part of the Illini Tribe. And the main mound was occupied by monks long after the indians used it, and there's no connection! See March in our calendar. Also see www.stateparks.com/il.html, www.greatriverroad.com and www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.

11 Springfield--State Capitol	Springfield	217-782-2099	www.ilstatehouse.com/
Springfield--Old State Capitol	Springfield	2147-785-7960	www.illinoishistory.gov/hs/old_capitol.htm
Springfield--Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum	Springfield	217-558-8844	www.lincolnlibraryandmuseum.com/
Springfield--Lincoln's Home - Tomb	Springfield	217-391-3226	www.nps.gov/liho/
Springfield--Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site	Petersburg	217-632-4000	www.lincolnsnewsalem.com/
Springfield--Ride Amtrak From Alton and Back	Alton		www.amtrak.com

You may not be able to do all of the "Springfield" things in a day, but whatever you could get in would be a wonderful experience. It centers around Lincoln, of course, his home, his office, the Old Capitol, (first in Springfield, third in Illinois,) his young-man home in New Salem and his tomb. But days could be spent in the incredible new Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, across the street from the Old Capitol. There's the present State Capitol of Illinois, too, and a couple of state museums, foremost the Museum of Natural History, just south of the capitol. The Illinois State Fair is also held in Springfield in late summer. Enhancing the whole, look at the Amtrak schedule from Alton. It would make for a short day trip, or a great overnigher, staying in a downtown hotel.

12 Mennonite Country - Rockhome Gardens - Driftstone Pueblo, Indian Store - Like a museum	Arthur St. Elmo	618-829-3158	www.illinoisamishcountry.com/ www.Merchantcircule.com/business/driftstone.pueblo
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This is a super day trip...Arthur about 130 miles northeast of Edwardsville. A cluster of small towns have considerable Amish populations and you'll see them out an about in buggies pulled by horses. A few tractors and trucks, but no autos. They are very friendly, and many have local businesses, and always, traditional garb. Their homes have no electricity, but businesses they own, (many cabinet shops) do. Rock Home Gardens is nearby, sort of a snapshot of an 1800-era farmstead with country restaurant and lots of gardens. On the way, there's an Amish Sales Barn at the IS 55 exit to IL 133, and the Driftstone Pueblo Indian Store at the St. Elmo exit from IS 70 is like a museum. The Ben Winter Train Museum is in Altamont, 618-483-6665. See also www.arthuril.com.

13 Vandalia - Old State Capitol - Lincoln Stuff - Museums	Vandalia	618-283-2728	www.vandaliaillinois.com/
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This is a truly great day-trip for the history-minded. Illinois second Capitol (1822) is beautifully restored and the area is filled with Lincoln memorabilia (He served in the House of Representatives here, traveling to and from New Salem, near Springfield and was influential in moving the capitol to Springfield.) A museum memorializes U. S. 40, the "National Road", ending here for many years before being finished to Madison, Illinois. Also see www.vandaliamainstreet.com, and the Fayette County Museum, 283-4866.

14 Horseshoe Lake State Park - Picnic, Fish, Boating	Granite City	618-931-0270	www.dnr.state.il.us/ or stateparks.com/il.html
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A relatively new state park and a wonderful family spot for a picnic, light fishing and boating. The main access is from Highway 111, (the east side.)

15 Gateway Convention Center (call for programming)	Collinsville	618-345-8998	www.gatewaycenter.com/
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This exhibition center has something going on all the time, especially weekends...antiques, guns, native american artifacts, homes, boats, landscaping, you name it. Their web site has a schedule. Check it out and see what interests you.

16 Lebanon - Historic District - Ice Cream Parlor - Antiques	Lebanon	618-537-8420	www.lebanonil.org/
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Downtown Lebanon, and St. Louis Street are a time warp...you can spend an afternoon here too easily. Don't miss The Little Mermaid Hotel, where Charles Dickens stayed when he visited SW Illinois. St. Louis street is lined with stately old homes. McKendree University is also located here, tranquilly busy!

17 O'Fallon - O'Fallon Family Sports Park - Scott AFB	O'Fallon		www.ofallonchamber.com
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For a few hours to spare in the O'fallon area, visit one of the several neat parks. The downtown park is in the middle of activities, including several ball parks, but the new O'fallon Family Sports Park, on the NW side, has it all. There's a historical museum downtown, too, and Scott AFB.

18 Historic Cahokia Courthouse, Church, Homes	Cahokia	618-332-4258	www.greatriverroad.com/
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Cahokia (the town) is a really old town, founded in the early 1700s, the center of the original and considerable French influence in the midwest. It still has several really old buildings. The Mission of the Holy Family is the oldest Catholic church west of the Appalachians and east of the Rockies, and touts the French verticle-log construction. The Courthouse is of traditional French design, was dismantled and shown at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1903 and then re-constructed on the site. The Jarrot mansion, near the church survives, too. The town was originally founded by Father Pierre Marquette, as an indian mission. This is the April page in our calendar. Also see www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.

19 Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows - Tours - Dining - Lights	Belleville	618-397-6700	www.snows.org
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This is a most significant national Catholic facility. It features facilities for programming small and large, a locally recognized restaurant and significant overnight accommodations. It most famous however, for its light show at Christmas time, and that should not be missed!

20 Metrolink - ride to Lambert Airport and back - any sta.		618-271-2345	www.metrostlouis.org/
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Truly, this will be great family fun. Get on at any station and do a round-trip pass, getting off for a bit at the airports at either end.

21 Belle-Clair Fairgrounds (call for programming)	Belleville	618-233-0052	www.bcfairgrounds.net
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This is a significant exhibition center with shows almost every weekend. Of midwestern influence, the quarterly antique shows and sales are huge, but so are craft shows, home shows, boat shows and the like. See their web site for a program. County fairs are held here, too.

22 Belleville - Downtown District - Art Show - Antiques	Belleville		www.bellevillemainstreet.net/
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St. Peter's Roman Catholic Cathedral	Belleville	618-234-1116	www.stpeterscathedral.info
<i>There are many things to do in historic Belleville. An old town with a strong German heritage, old buildings are interesting. The old downtown area is undergoing strong renewal, around the fountain inside the roundabout at the center of town, with a nationally noticed annual "Art on the Square," in May Don't miss the huge St. Peter's Cathedral or the wonderful historic museum. Two Eckert's Farms are nearby; www.Eckerts.com.</i>			
23 New Harmony, Indiana - Preserved 1825 Community	New Harmony	800-231-2168	www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/newharmony/home.html
<i>Just across the border near Evansville, Indiana, New Harmony is a preserved 1820's community, an experiment in a "utopian" society, religious based, of German origin. It has a fascinating history reflected in its main museum and its many artifacts.</i>			
26 River Road South - Scenery - Fort de Chartres - more			www.greatriverroad.com/
<i>This is another beautiful scenic experience with strong historic overtones. Bluff Road travels the base of the rocky bluffs above, with the American Bottoms spread out between it and the river, a rich agricultural area. Along it is Modoc Cave, where native american influence is dated to 8000 B.C. Fort Chartres deserves a stop and one might want to travel the ferry to St. Genevieve, Missouri, another historic French town. Part of our April calendar page. Also see www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.</i>			
27 Waterloo - German Heritage - History Museum - Etc	Waterloo	618-939-5300	www.waterloo.il.us/
<i>Another strongly German town where you can feel the heritage. Visit the History Museum, and their web site. See also www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.</i>			
28 Maeystown - Historic Town - Stone Bridge - Museum	Maeystown	618-458-6566	www.maeystown.com/
<i>Maeystown is another time warp...almost the whole town a theme park from the early 1800s. Please see their websites and www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.</i>			
29 Illinois Caverns - Undeveloped Caverns - State Park	Baldwin	618-458-6699	www.stateparks.com/il.html
<i>While this is an Illinois State Park, it is as it says, "undeveloped". So travel within is conditional; please see the web site for details.</i>			
30 Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area	Baldwin	618-458-6699	www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/LANDMGT/PARKS/R4/kaskas.htm
<i>This is a huge area of forested wetlands and uplands, with broadly focused programs. Again, please see the website for details.</i>			
31 Prairie du Rocher-Historic Area - River Ferry	Prairie du Rocher		www.visitprairiedurocher.com/
<i>This is a beautiful old French community with historic roots..."The prairie by the rocks". The web site contains important additional information and history, and the nearby ferry to St. Genevieve is a must. It could be a part of the south scenic trip (26). See also www.greatriverroad-illinois.org and www.thetourismbureau.com.</i>			
32 Kaskaskia Island - Fort Kaskaskia - Menard Home	Ellis Grove	618-859-3031	www.greatriverroad.com/
<i>Our calendar's October page has the fascinating details regarding Kaskaskia Island which now houses the Liberty Bell of the West, given by King Louis XV in 1741 to The Church of The Immaculate Conception. It's an incredible irony to recognize that the first state capitol of Illinois is now on the west side of the Mississippi. The site of old Fort Kaskaskia (still east of the river,) saw a revolutionary war event, and the nearby Menard Mansion is beautifully preserved. Review the web sites recommended, too. Also see greatriverroad-illinois.org, www.randolphcountyillinois.net, www.illinoishistory.gov.</i>			
33 Chester - Covered Bridge - Popeye - Museums	Chester	618-826-2721	www.chesterill.com/index.php?id=41
<i>Chester claims to be the birthplace of Popeye, so mementos abound. This is a hilly old river town with lots of history, too, and a nearby well preserved covered bridge. A bridge spans the Mississippi, replacing one that collapsed in a windstorm of 1944.</i>			
34 Sparta World Shooting & Recreational Complex	Sparta	618-295-2700	www.dnr.state.il.us/worldshooting/
Sparta Misselhorn Art Gallery (Old G, M and O Depot)	Sparta	618-443-3577	www.misselhorngallery.com/
<i>Shooters will want to visit this nationally known, relatively new state facility. Art lovers will want to see the art gallery.</i>			
35 Carlyle --General Dean Suspension Bridge	Carlyle	618-594-5253	www.carlyletoday.com/general_dean.htm
Carlyle Lake - Eldon Hazlet State Park	Carlyle	618-594-3015	www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r4/eldon.htm
Carlyle--Clinton County Historical Museum	Carlyle	618-594-2468	www.clintonco.illinois.gov/
Carlyle Sailing Association	Carlyle	618-594-3622	www.csa-sailing.org/
<i>There are many things to do around Carlyle, centered on the largest man made lake in Illinois, (26,000 acres of water,) and a major state park. The lake is a fishing and sailing mecca...national events are held here. The General Dean Suspension Bridge is a hiker's reincarnation of an historic highway bridge. Please review the web sites available, and www.carlylelake.com.</i>			
36 Shawnee National Forest--Garden of the Gods	Harrisburg	618-253-7114	www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/
<i>A huge area with diverse recreational and scenic attractions that needs study to pick and choose. The Garden of the Gods is an unusual rock outcropping.</i>			
37 Fort de Chartres - Prairie du Rocher - Scenery	Prairie du Rocher	618-284-7230	www.ftdechartres.com/page/page/1404405.htm
<i>Okay, we probably made a mistake here by making this a separate item. It could be, but it also could be a part of 26 above, or even 31.</i>			
38 Fort Massac State Park	Metropolis	618-524-4712	www.dnr.state.il.us/Lands/Landmgt/parks/R5/frmindex.htm
U.S. Custom House	Cairo	618-776-5407	www.southernmostillinoishistory.net/customhouse.htm
Cave-In-Rock State Park	Cave-In-Rock	618-289-4325	www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R5/CAVEROCK.HTM
Thebes Courthouse--Old Rock Springs Bridge, Trestle	Thebes		www.city-data.com/picfilesv/picv906.php

This extreme south trip probably deserves overnight attention. Fort Massac State Park contains the reproduction of the historic fort where George Rogers Clark staged his raid on Kaskasia and for the first time anywhere, unfurled the original stars and stripes. Cave In Rock is a big old cave with a really checkered past, hiding outlaws for generations. Thebes courthouse is really old and picturesque, on the banks of the Mississippi, reknown for housing Dreg Scott as he was held for his famous trial up the river in St. Louis. It's all beautiful interesting country. Please see the web sites for details, and www.illinoishistory.gov.