

# Historic National Road - Illinois

On Illinois' National Historic Road, rolling countryside, prairie fields, and small towns whisper of an earlier time. Main street stores speak of small town U.S.A. where soda fountains, museums and antiques showcase days gone by. Hayfields, cattle and old barns intermingled with small towns all beckon you to stay awhile.



Length: 164.58 miles / 263.3 km

Time 12 hours to enjoy this  
to section of the byway or 3.5  
Allow: hours to drive it.

## Local Information

### National Road Association of Illinois

888-268-0042

618-664-9343

[Send E-mail](#)

### Tourism Bureau of Southwestern Illinois

800-442-1488

618-397-1488

[Send E-mail](#)

## Visitor Services

### Fees



There is no fee to drive the byway.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



All counties, except for Madison (which is on the western end of the byway), rate the route as suitable for bicycles. In Madison County, bicyclists are urged to be cautious, or bicycling is not advisable due to the high traffic counts. The Illinois Department of Transportation has issued official bicycle maps for the entire length of the byway corridor.

### Camping



There are places to camp along this byway.

### Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.



### **Gasoline**

Gasoline is available.



### **Information**

There is an authoritative information center along this byway.



### **Lodging**

Visitors do not have to travel more than 15 miles in any direction to find accommodations. Motels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts are only a few of the types of accommodations visitors will find.



### **Phone**

Public phones are available along this byway.



### **Restrooms**

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



### **Retail**

There are a number of specialty shops, such as antique stores, along the byway.

## **Restrictions**

There are no planned seasonal road closings. However, some delays may be experienced during severe weather and seasonal storms may increase driving time required.

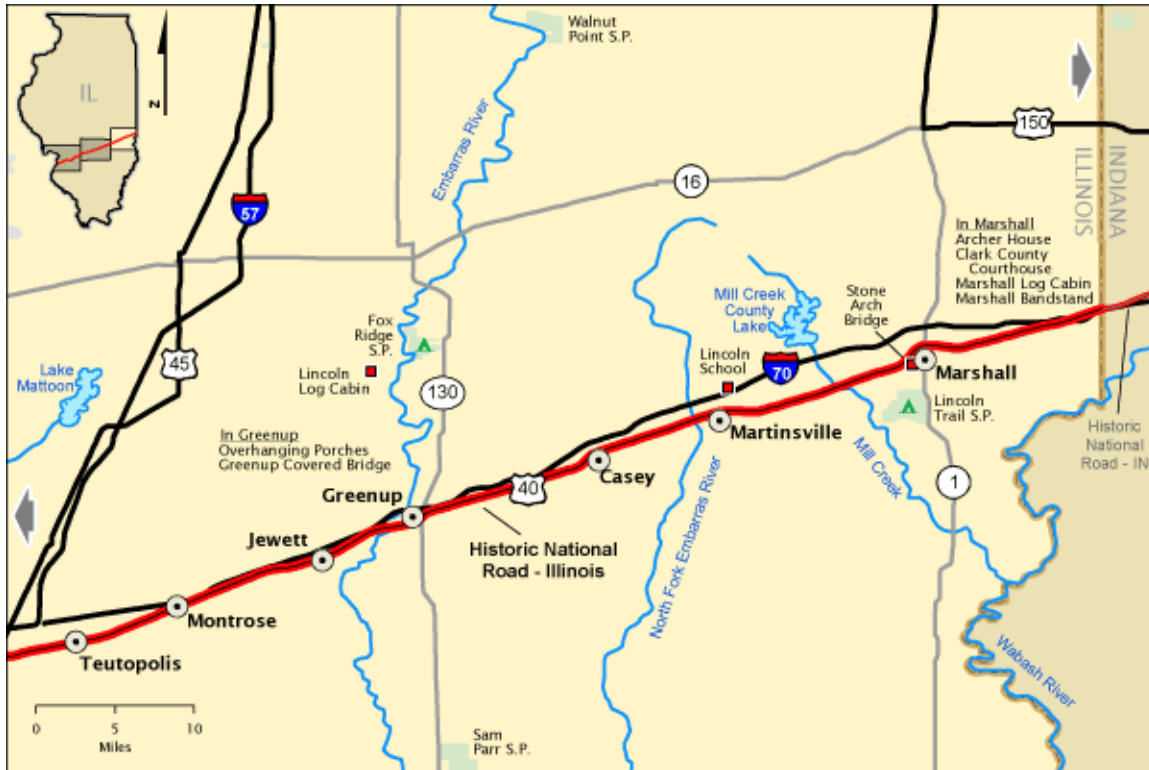
## **Seasons**

### **High Season**

Fall offers amazing colors in the forests along the byway.

# Map and Directions

## Standard Map - Eastern Section



Standard Map - Western Section



## Standard Map - Middle Section



### Legend:

■ Point of Interest	▲ Campground	— Featured Byway	— Water	— State Border
🌲 Park	⛺ Picnic/Rest Area	— America's Byways	— Wildlife Refuge	— Urban Area
ⓧ Mountain	🛣️ Interstate	— Other Byway	— Wilderness Area	— Tribal Nation
⊙ City	🛣️ U.S. Highway	— Other Road	— Other Federal Lands	— Military Base
★ Capital	🛣️ State Highway	— Trail	— Other State Lands	

### Driving Directions

This byway traverses the countryside of Illinois along US 40, following the original route surveyed out in 1828. To drive the byway from east to west, begin at the Indiana border and follow the Historic National Road signs.

- Generally follow US-40 (west of Terre Haute Indiana) west to Vandalia.
- At Vandalia take Illinois Route 140 west to Greenville.
- At Greenville, follow the signs through town then follow the Old National Trail and US-40 west to Pocahontas.
- In Pocahontas take State Street to Shouster Road.
- Follow Shouster Road to Illinois Route 143 to US Route 40.
- Take US-40 west to Illinois 160, Sycamore Street.
- Take Illinois 160 though Highland to the Intersection of Highland Road.
- Then take the Highland Road west to Ellis Road.

- Continue west on Ellis road to Illinois Route 4.
- Jog north to US-40, then west to Illinois Route 162.
- Take Illinois 162 through Troy until it intersects with the Collinsville road.
- Take the Collinsville road west to Illinois 159 in Collinsville.
- Take Illinois 159 south to Clay Street.
- On Clay Street go west to St Louis Road.
- Follow St. Louis Road to Collinsville Road.
- Follow Collinsville Road to Broadway Street in East St. Louis.
- Follow Broadway Street to Eads Bridge road, then west to the Eads Bridge and the West Terminus of the Historic National Road - Illinois.

### **Getting to the Byway**

#### **From Chicago, IL**

- Take I-57 south to Effingham.
- Get on US-45 and go south to US-40 where you enter the byway.

#### **From Springfield, IL**

- Take I-55 south to IL-162 near Maryville where you enter the byway.

## Road Trip: Illinois National Road Museum Tour

**Departure:** Lincoln School Museum, Illinois

**Destination:** Collinsville Historical Museum, Illinois

**Time to allow:** 1 day

This tour takes the traveler through some of the museums located on the National Road in Illinois. The tour begins in Martinsville and goes to Collinsville (east of St. Louis).

### Day 1

- **Start: Lincoln School Museum**

This quality museum was originally built in 1888, the school is open to groups for an interpretation of early pioneer days.



- **Stop 1: Franciscan Monastery Museum**

**From previous stop:** 43 minutes / 38 mi (60.8 km)

**Directions:** Go south on Pleasant View and turn right onto E. Ohio St. Take another right onto N. York St. and go 1 mile. When you come to US 40 turn left onto it and start going southwest. Follow US 40 for 35 miles until you get into Teutopolis. Then turn left onto Garrett St. Follow this road until you see the Monastery.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 40 minutes

Dating back to 1858, this historic monastery has a wonderful museum that displays artifacts from early settlers as well as the Franciscan Fathers. Visitors can view pioneer items such as toys and kitchen utensils, and religious items such as Bibles and vestments. There also antique legal documents on display such as marriage licenses.

- **Stop 2: My Garage Corvette Museum**

**From previous stop:** 13 minutes / 5.96 mi (9.5 km)

**Directions:** Go north on S. Pearl St and turn left onto US 40. Follow US 40 for 4.5 miles. Stay straight to go onto W. Fayette Ave. and make a U-turn to get to the museum on the other side of the road.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 35 minutes

This museum is a must for automobile lovers. On display are vintage Corvettes from the 50s and 60s, a perfect museum for the National Road.

- **End: Collinsville Historical Museum**

**From previous stop:** 2 hours 14 minutes / 91.23 mi (146.0 km)

**Directions:** Go east on W. Fayette Ave. and turn right onto US 40. Follow US 40 for 68.16 miles. Merge onto I 55 and take it southwest until you can turn left and go south on IL 159. After 2.6 miles turn right and go onto E. Clay St. Follow it to N. Guernsey St. and then turn left onto W. Main St. Follow W. Main St. until you see the museum.

This museum offers the visitor a unique glance into lives of the region's residents, all the way back to John Cook, the first settler in 1810. Many interesting artifacts are on display, including a variety of Civil War objects and miners tools.

### **Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 135.19 miles / 216.3 km

**Total Travel Time:** 3 hours 10 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 1 hour 15 minutes