

Lincoln Highway

Journey on the Illinois Lincoln Highway, rich with history, heritage, and culture!

Length: 178.8 miles / 286.1 km

Time to Allow: Take five to six hours to visit the entire byway.



Local Information

Contact for byway tourism information:

Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition

815-547-3854

Toll Free: 866-455-4249

Send E-mail

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees to drive the byway.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Pedestrian travel is accommodated by sidewalks along the majority of the byway route. Though bicycle travel along the byway is not advised, many biking and hiking trails/routes can be found intersecting the byway or in the communities along the route. Please contact the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition by [email](mailto:info@drivelincolnhighway.com) or the byway's Travel & Tourism Partners for more detailed information about available hiking and biking opportunities along the 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

There are hotel accommodations available in Chicago Heights, Matteson, Joliet, Aurora, North Aurora, Batavia, Geneva, DeKalb, Rochelle, Dixon, Morrison, Sterling, Rock Falls, and several other communities along the byway.



Phone

Public phones are available along this byway.



Restrooms

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



Retail

There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

This byway is very long (179 miles) and may be difficult to follow as it winds its way through and around the Illinois interstate system and countryside. Byway travelers who wish to experience all that the Lincoln Highway has to offer may want to spend two days driving the route.

Restrictions

There are no seasonal limitations along the Lincoln Highway. As is the case on all roads, motorists should be cautious when traveling during severe weather.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Early summer is the best time to drive the byway so you can see the country side at its best.

High Season

Most people travel the byway in summer because of the beautiful landscapes and interesting parks.

Map and Directions

Standard Map - Western Section



Standard Map - Eastern 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

From Illinois-Indiana Border to Aurora

The byway begins at the Illinois-Indiana border on US 30.

- Follow US 30 until the road forks.
- Take the left fork, East Sauk Trail through Sauk Village and into South Chicago Heights.
- In South Chicago Heights take Route 1 north toward Chicago.
- Turn left onto US 30.
- Follow US 30 west through Chicago Heights to Joliet.
- In Joliet, US 30 will start going north.
- Continue to follow it for 21.9 miles.
- Take IL 31 north toward Aurora.

From Aurora to Mississippi River

- In Aurora follow IL 31 for 12.5 miles until you get to Geneva.
- In Geneva turn left onto IL 38 and follow it 41.17 miles to Rochelle.
- After Rochelle, IL 38 will begin winding between small towns across the countryside.
- Keep on IL 38 for 25.86 miles until you reach Dixon.
- In Dixon briefly merge with US 52 and take it northwest.
- Turn left when you come to IL 2 and take it west for 12.2 miles.
- Continue on IL 2 as it bends south to merge with US 30.
- Take US 30 west through Morrison toward Fulton.
- The road will divide into US 30 going southwest and IL 136 going west.
- Take IL 136 west through Fulton to the Mississippi River, where the byway ends.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby airports

Chicago O'Hare International Airport, IL (44.8 miles / 72.10 km, 58 minutes)

Start: ✈ Chicago O'Hare International Airport
N 41.980° W 87.906° [?]

Directions:

- From the airport, merge onto I-190 E/Kennedy Expressway. * Take exit 1D onto the Tri State Tollway/I-294.
- Travel southeast on the Tollway and exit onto Hallstead Street/IL-1, going south.
- Merge right (southeast) onto IL-1. Turn left (south) onto Chicago Rd/Dixie Hwy.
- Turn right (west) at the intersection with the Lincoln Highway/US-30. (You will be heading west on the byway.)

Junction with byway: * Intersection of Chicago Road and Lincoln Highway/US-30
N 41.506° W 87.641° [?]



Road Trip: Lincoln Highway Itinerary

Departure: Arche Fountain in Chicago Heights, Illinois

Destination: Fulton, Illinois

Time to allow: 2 days

Take a leisurely drive across Illinois on the historic Lincoln Highway. Watch as the story of America's first transcontinental highway unfolds before your eyes. Be sure to stop at many of the Lincoln historic sites along the way.

Day 1

- **Start: Arche Fountain in Chicago Heights**

Start your journey at a beautiful fountain meant to honor Abraham Lincoln. The fountain was erected as a resting spot for cross-country travelers on the Lincoln Highway.

- **Stop 1: Joliet**



From previous stop: 42 minutes / 23.59 mi (37.7 km)

Directions: Go west on US 30 for 23.59 miles until you reach Joliet.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

Walk through the Bird Haven Greenhouse and Conservatory to enjoy a variety of birds and plants. Travel through the one-block long lobby in the Rialto Square Theatre to enjoy a range of entertainment opportunities.

- **Stop 2: Aurora**



From previous stop: 44 minutes / 22.63 mi (36.2 km)

Directions: Go east on US 30 for 18.2 miles. US 30 will end and become Hill Ave. Hill Ave will become Galena Blvd after 2.3 miles. Turn right onto N. Ohio St. and then left onto E. New York St. Turn left onto IL 31 and follow it into the middle of Aurora.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Learn about pioneer times at the Blackberry Farm's Pioneer Village. See a show at the restored 1930s Paramount Theater. Try some experiments at the SciTech Hands-On Museum. Shop, dine, or search for entertainment in Walter Payton's Roundhouse Complex.

- **Stop 3: Geneva**



From previous stop: 21 minutes / 9.46 mi (15.1 km)

Directions: Go north on IL 31 and follow it for 9.3 miles. Turn left onto IL 38 and follow it into Geneva.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

Nestled in the Fox River Valley, take the Fox River Trail through parks and playgrounds. Shop at the Historic Geneva Shopping District. Wander around the Fabyan Villa, redesigned by famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

- **End: DeKalb**



From previous stop: 35 minutes / 23.81 mi (38.1 km)

Directions: Go west on IL 38 and follow it for 23.81 miles, until you reach DeKalb.

Look at the "Soldiers and Sailors" Memorial Clock and a historic mural in Dekalb Memorial Park. Examine the unique Egyptian Theatre. Explore the Victorian style Ellwood House.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 79.49 miles / 127.2 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 22 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 5 hours

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Rochelle**



From previous stop: 25 minutes / 17.19 mi (27.5 km)

Directions: Go west on IL-38 and follow it for 16.4 miles. Turn left onto IL-251 and follow it into Rochelle.

Suggested time at this stop: 35 minutes

Observe the railroad at the Railroad Park, see the third interpretative mural in the Lincoln Highway series, or stop at the old Standard Oil Filling Station that has been restored as a visitor center.

- **Stop 2: John Deere Historic Site**

From previous stop: 37 minutes / 27.78 mi (44.4 km)

Directions: Go west on IL-38 for 22 miles. Turn right onto CR-26 and follow it to CR-1. Turn right onto this road. Turn left when you come to CR-36 and follow it to Main St. Turn left onto S. Main and follow it until you see the John Deere Historic Site.

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

Learn the history of the John Deere company and watch re-enactors at the original blacksmith's shop. Brose the gift shop and the archaeological exhibits.

- **Stop 3: Dixon**



From previous stop: 11 minutes / 6.19 mi (9.9 km)

Directions: Go northeast on S. Main St. and turn right onto CR 36. Turn right onto IL 2 and follow it for 5.5 miles, until you get to Dixon.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

You can see historic centers, parks, and theaters. Don't miss Ronald Reagan's Boyhood Home or the site of Lincoln's Great Speech.

- **Stop 4: Morrison**



From previous stop: 44 minutes / 28.87 mi (46.2 km)

Directions: Go west on IL 2 and follow it for 16.6 miles. Turn right onto US 30 and follow it until you reach Morrison.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

Enjoy a short stay the the Hillendale Bed & Breakfast before you explore the Morrison Rockwood State Park or the Odell Agricultural Heritage Museum.

- **End: Fulton**



From previous stop: 17 minutes / 11.5 mi (18.4 km)

Directions: Go west on US 30 and follow it for 8.6 miles. As you near Fulton US 30 will turn south. Continue straight on the road to go on IL 136 into town.

Here you can visit Fulton Windmill to learn about the area's cultural heritage, Heritage Canyon to historic buildings and enjoy nature, and Lock and Dam #13 to view large ships traveling the Mississippi and watch wildlife go by.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 91.53 miles / 146.4 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 14 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours 50 minutes