



Atlanta, Illinois Community Profile Overnight Itinerary



Atlanta is located in Logan County, Illinois, with a population of 1,692 at the 2010 census. Originally surveyed and platted in 1853 as the town of Xenia, the city of Atlanta was not formally incorporated until 1855. Atlanta was named after the larger city of Atlanta, Georgia.

Abraham Lincoln frequently visited close friends in Atlanta, while riding the 8th Judicial Circuit as a young prairie lawyer. Atlanta was one of the first in the state to establish a Wide Awake Group – well known for its support for Lincoln in his bid to become President. The Atlanta History Museum, along with Looking for Lincoln exhibits tell the stories of Lincoln's connections to the city.



Atlanta also has a rich Route 66 history. The downtown area has experienced a resurgence in Route 66 enthusiasm, with the reopening of the Palms Grill Cafe and the relocation of the Bunyon's Statue to the downtown from its original location in Cicero. There are many shopping opportunities as well in the historic downtown district.



The Palms Grill Cafe in Atlanta, Illinois as it looked in the heyday of Route 66 and as it looks now since restoration. Since reopening in 2009, Atlanta city officials report a significant increase (over 40%) in local sales tax revenue.

ATTRACTIONS:



[Atlanta's Bunyon's Statue](#)

“Say Cheese” in front of the only place on the planet you can do a selfie with a 19 foot tall Bunyon’s Statue holding a hot dog! This famous Route 66 icon, originally located in front of Bunyon’s restaurant on Route 66 in Cicero, now welcomes Route 66 travelers to Atlanta.

103 Southwest Arch Street

(217) 648-5077

[Bunyon's Statue Official Website](#)



[Palms Grill Cafe](#)

Blueplate specials, bingo, and a bus stop: Welcome to the Palms Grill Cafe! Lovingly restored to its circa 1934 appearance, the cafe invites you to step back in time and experience the taste of yesteryear. As you enjoy your blueplate special, presented on a real china plate, you'll listen to tunes from the 1940s, and be served by waitresses in period uniforms, dishing up equal portions of sweetness and sass. Groups welcome. Delicious Homemade Pie! Meeting and event space available for up to 100+.

110 Southwest Arch Street

(217) 648-2233

[Palms Grill Cafe Official Website](#)



[Atlanta Museum](#)

Exhibits focused on Abraham Lincoln, Route 66, and other aspects of Atlanta's history are featured. The Museum's Local History Resource Center provides extensive genealogy materials accessible to the public. Housed in a beautifully restored 1867 building, the Atlanta Museum presents both permanent and new, rotating exhibits.

112 Southwest Arch Street

(217) 979-3171

[Atlanta Library & Museum Official Website](#)



[Atlanta's Smiley Face Water Tower](#)

Atlanta's Smiley Face Water Tower welcomes visitors from far and wide to this quaint, rural community. Towering over the town, it is the only smiley face water tower on Route 66 in Illinois. It offers a great photo opportunity while you visit this very small, very friendly, very Route 66 community.

101 Southwest Arch Street

(217) 648-5077

[Water Tower Official Website](#)



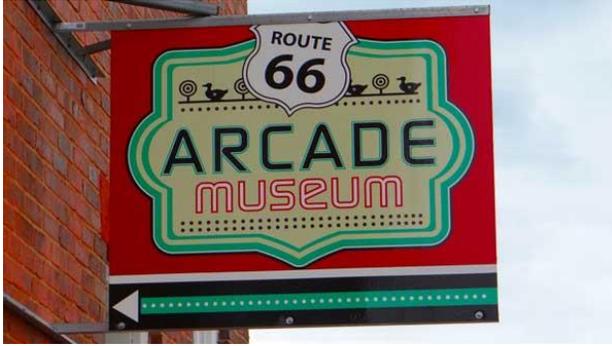
[Route 66 Murals & Outdoor Advertising](#)

Several, large outdoor murals on the sides of Atlanta's business buildings recreate the look and feel of what Route 66 travelers saw as they motored down the Mother Road. Lovingly painted in period style by the Wall Dogs and Letterheads, Atlanta's murals offer a number of great photo opportunities.

Downtown Atlanta

(217) 648-5077

[Route 66 Murals Official Website](#)



[Route 66 Arcade Museum](#)

Misspend your youth all over again – one quarter at a time! The Route 66 Arcade Museum is chock full of vintage pinball and video games from the 1930s-1970s, most of which can be played.

201 Southeast Race Street

(217) 648-5077

[Route 66 Arcade Official Website](#)



[Route 66 Memories Museum](#)

Stop by this eclectic museum to explore the history of Route 66, car culture, and local history, where you'll discover everything from a wooden cigar store Indian to a 1964 Rolls Royce. It's the private, lifetime collection of a local resident who loves to share the hundreds of Route 66 and other antique items he's acquired over the years. Located just a few doors from the Palm's Grill Café, this museum is a must see.

104 Southwest Arch Street

(309) 275-1920

[Route 66 Memories Museum Facebook Page](#)



[Atlanta Public Library & Clock Tower](#)

Built in 1908, this National Register Property is Illinois' only octagonal-shaped public library. Its gilded rotunda and interior rooms, filled with solid-oak woodwork, reflect its classic architecture. Another place where you can step back in time, Atlanta's public library is a center of activity, offering a wide selection of books and a large number of community programs for all ages. Local volunteers who comprise the "Keepers of the Clock" take turns on a weekly basis hand winding the town's 1909 Seth Thomas clock housed in the library's clock tower.

100 Southeast Race Street

(217) 648-2112

[Atlanta Library & Museum Official Website](#)



[J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator & Museum](#)

Illinois' only fully restored wooden grain elevator listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An outdoor, self-guided interpretive tour allows visitors to experience the Hawes Grain Elevator Museum anytime.

301 Southwest Second Street

(309) 830-8306

[J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator & Museum Official Website](#)



[Arch Street Artisans Shop](#)

This small shop houses the handiwork of over 20 different local craftsmen and artisans. The Arch Street Artisans shop features handmade jewelry, sports memorabilia, license plates, handmade fabric items, handcrafted wooden works of art, antiques, porcelain dolls, metalworking, paintings, antiques, and more.

101 Southwest Arch Street
(217) 648-5077

[Arch Street Artisans Shop Facebook Page](#)

[Gunnar Mast Trading Post](#)

Filled with antiques, collectibles, rockabilly art, books, photos, toys, and hats the Gunnar Mast Trading Post has something for everyone! This Route 66 themed souvenir shop is a one-of-a-kind establishment and it's right across the street from the Palms Grill Cafe! Days/hours of operation vary. In other words: In the independent spirit of Route 66, the Trading Post proprietor reports that the shop is open when he is there and closed when he isn't.

107 Southwest Arch Street
(217) 648-5077

**The John Pendleton Hieronymus Family
CARRIAGE HOUSE**

Buildings such as this wooden carriage house were once found throughout Atlanta, Illinois. In the days before automobiles, families used carriage houses to store their buggy or carriage along with the family's trusted horse.

This small structure housed the horse and carriage of the J. P. Hieronymus family. It was originally located at 607 NW Vine Street in Atlanta. Mr. Hieronymus constructed a new home and this carriage house for his family at that address in 1907.

Some 108 years later, in 2015, the Hieronymus Carriage House was one of the last wooden carriage houses standing in Atlanta. The others had been replaced by garages designed for all the automobiles that took the place of horses and buggies in this community.

Recognizing its significance as an element of Atlanta's history, the Atlanta Betterment Fund group purchased the building from its then owners, Jason and Rachel Bragg. It was moved from its original location in December 2015 to this site and fully restored. It now helps tell part of Atlanta's transportation history.

1907

THANK YOU!
The J.P. Hieronymus Carriage House Project was made possible with the generous support and assistance received from several descendants of Mr. J.P. Hieronymus, including:

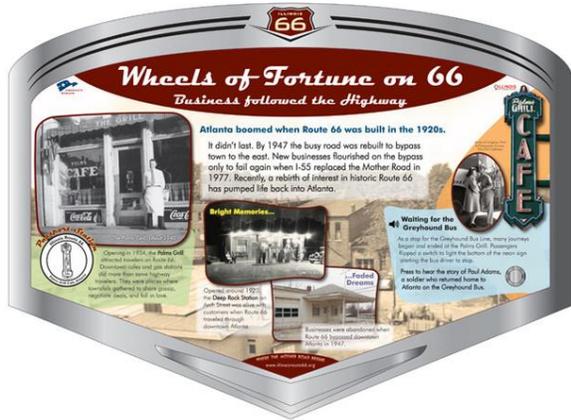
MAJOR DONORS:
Carolyn Chapman and John Phillips

ADDITIONAL DONORS:
Aimee Goss, Mary Lou Miller, Nancy Pearson, Richard Phillips

[The Hieronymus Carriage House](#)

Step inside Atlanta's last remaining wooden carriage house. Once a staple feature at homes throughout the city, this carriage house was built by John P. Hieronymus at the same time he constructed his new home in 1909. His carriage house provided a stable for John's horse and storage for the family's carriage. It even included its own hayloft. The Hieronymus Carriage House was purchased by the Atlanta Betterment Fund, moved several blocks from its original location to the new location next to the Hawes Grain Elevator Museum, and completely restored to its circa 1909 appearance.

303 Southwest Second Street
(217) 648-5077



[Atlanta Illinois Route 66 Wayside Exhibits](#)

Laying the Hard Road Through Atlanta - Known as the “Great Illini Boulevard,” Illinois State Road 4 was laid through Atlanta in 1922-23. It was the first paved road connecting Chicago and St. Louis. In 1926, it was re-designated as U.S. Route 66 taking travelers all the way to Los Angeles. This quarter mile section of pavement is a remnant of that original “Mother Road.” Wheels of Fortune on 66 - Atlanta boomed when Route 66 was built in the 1920s. It didn't last. By 1947 the busy road was rebuilt to bypass town to the east. New businesses flourished on the bypass only to fail again when I-55 replaced the Mother Road in 1977. Recently, a rebirth of interest in historic Route 66 has pumped life back into Atlanta.

Old US Route 66
(217) 525-9308

[Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway Interpretive Exhibits Official Website](#)

MAJOR EVENTS:



[Atlanta Fall Festival](#)

The Atlanta town festival has a parade, carnival rides, car show, pie and cake baking contest and children's activities that provide entertainment for the whole family. The event has been running continuously since 1940, and runs Thurs-Sat on the second weekend in September.

Atlanta Community Park

(217) 648-2484

[Atlanta Fall Festival Official Website](#)



[Dinner Programs at the Palms Grill Cafe](#)

The Atlanta Public Library and Museum hosts Dinner Programs at The Palms Grill Cafe during the course of the year. The events feature local speakers and musicians who present after-dinner programs. Call ahead to make reservations.

110 SW Arch Street

(217) 648-5077

[Palms Grill Official Website](#)



[Route 66 Garage Sales](#)

The annual Lincoln & Logan County Route 66 Garage Sales includes the city of Atlanta - find great bargains! After turning over the Route 66 Garage Sale a few years ago to local entrepreneur and business owner, Andrea Dykman, the annual event is still thriving, with over 75 garage sales the second weekend in Lincoln and also neighboring Logan County communities. The sale runs 8am till dusk all three days - Fri-Sun.

(217) 732-3121

[Route 66 Garage Sales Official Website](#)



[Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour](#)

The Motor Tour has been traversing Illinois Route 66, alternating each year from North to South and South to North. The caravan makes passport stops at major attractions along the way (including in Joliet), and also includes the annual Hall of Fame Banquet. Held the second weekend in June.

(708) 444-1312

[Route 66 Association of Illinois Official Website](#)

AMENITIES:



City of Atlanta

102 NW Vine St.
Atlanta, IL 61723
(217) 648-2351

[City of Atlanta Official Website](#)



Logan County Tourism Bureau

1555 5th Street
Lincoln, IL 62656
217-732-8687
www.lctbil.com

Logan County Tourism Bureau

1555 5th St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 732-8687

[Logan County Tourism Bureau Official Website](#)



Atlanta Route 66 Park

Relax at the Route 66 park in downtown Atlanta on Arch Street, just down from Bunyon's Statue and across from Palm's Grill.



North Greens Golf Course

901 1st St

(217) 648-5500

9-hole public golf course.

[North Greens Golf Course Facebook Page](#)

Atlanta Accommodations:



[The Colaw Rooming House](#)

Return to Rt. 66 circa 1947, when you overnight at The Colaw Rooming House – where you'll experience travel on the Mother road before interstates and motel chains were the norm. Located just two blocks from Rt. 66 in quaint Atlanta, Illinois. The Colaw Rooming House offers three bedrooms, two full baths, a charming living room with fireplace, dining room, curved front porch, and delightful yellow & red 1940s kitchen.

204 Northwest Vine Street

(217) 671-1219

[Colaw Rooming House Official Website](#)



[Atlanta Inn](#)

Guests can start each day with a free breakfast. Enjoy a great meal or snack at the on site Country Aire Restaurant. All ground level guest rooms feature free high speed wireless internet access, microwave, mini fridge, free local calls, cable TV, and individually controlled air conditioning and heat. Small pets allowed.

103 Empire Street

(217) 648-2322

[Atlanta Inn Official Website](#)

Hickory Lane Campground

2100 2137th Ave

(217) 648-2778

Atlanta Dining:



[Country Aire Restaurant](#)

Country Aire serves great homemade diner food and is conveniently located on the 1940-1977 alignment in Atlanta. A favorite for Route 66 travelers, Country Aire offers a free complimentary breakfast for overnight travelers staying across the street at Atlanta Inn. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

606 E South St
(217) 648-5330

[Country Aire Facebook Page](#)

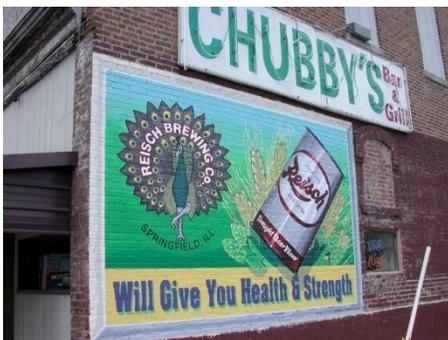


[217 Roadhouse Bar-n-Grill](#)

Located in a former Standard Oil gas station on Route 66, the 217 Roadhouse Bar-n-Grill now serves up delicious brew and bar food, featuring both lunch and drink specials. The atmosphere is relaxed, the food is great - it's a real taste of the Mother Road.

800 Southwest Arch Street
(217) 648-2899

[217 Roadhouse Facebook Page](#)



[Chubby's Bar & Grill](#)

Stop by Chubby's for a cold one and also one of the best cheeseburgers on Route 66. Located directly on Historic Route 66 in Downtown Atlanta.

111 SE Vine St
(217) 648-2615

[Chubby's Facebook Page](#)



Palms Grill Cafe

As you enjoy your blueplate special, presented on a real china plate, you'll listen to tunes from the 1940s, and be served by waitresses in period uniforms, dishing up equal portions of sweetness and sass. Groups welcome. Delicious Homemade Pie! Meeting and event space available for up to 100+.

110 Southwest Arch Street

(217) 648-2233

[Palms Grill Cafe Official Website](#)

Atlanta Gas Stations:

Casey's General Store

700 E South St.

(217) 648-2141

[**CLICK HERE - Atlanta Google Map**](#)



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

700 East Adams

Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 525-9308

info@illinoisroute66.org

www.illinoisroute66.org