



## Joliet, Illinois Community Profile Overnight Itinerary



Full of history, culture, shopping and great sporting activities, Joliet is the place where everyone can play! Start exploring with a visit to the Joliet Area Historical Museum, Route 66 Welcome Center, Rialto Square Theatre, Chicagoland Speedway & Route 66 Raceway, Autobahn Country Club, or attend a Joliet Slammers Baseball game. Try your luck at Harrah's Joliet and Hollywood Casinos or maybe a round of golf at one of Joliet's four beautiful golf courses. Visit the Splash Station Water Park or do some shopping at the Louis Joliet Mall.

The city's origins date back to 1833, but it wasn't until 1852 that it was incorporated officially as the city of Joliet. The origin of the name of the city is generally believed to be in part to honor explorer Louis Jolliet. It is the 3rd largest city in Illinois, with a population of 149,395 as of 2016.



Joliet is part of the original 1926 alignment of Route 66 in Illinois. The Joliet alignment (most of which is currently designated as IL 53) remained until it was bypassed in 1940 with a new alignment that ran through Plainfield. Portions of Route 66 in Joliet also parallel the I&M Canal (Illinois & Michigan Canal State Trail) and the Lincoln Highway. The portion of Route 66 traveling from Joliet to Wilmington was placed on to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

## **ATTRACTIONS:**



### **[Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center](#)**

Stop in to the Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center to view the free, interactive Route 66 Experience exhibit, located at the crossroads of Route 66 and Lincoln Highway. Get help planning the rest of your trip along the Mother Road at the Route 66 Information Center, and browse the Gift Shop's large selection of Route 66 items.

204 North Ottawa Street  
(815) 723-5201

[Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center Official Website](#)

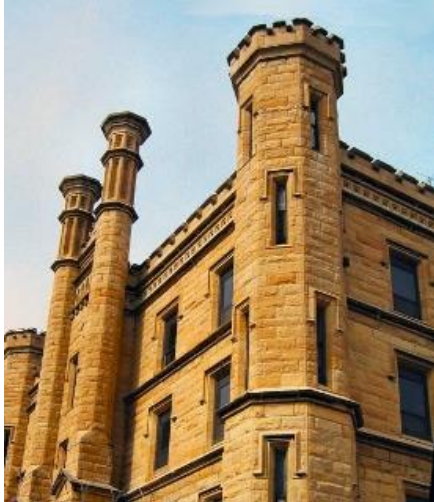


### **[Joliet Kicks on 66 Tours](#)**

Route 66 themed murals, sculptures, mosaics and antique replica gas pumps are found throughout Joliet's New City Center. These and other downtown attractions are part of the Joliet Kicks of 66 driving and walking tours.

Downtown Joliet  
(877) 456-5438

[Joliet Kicks on 66 Official Website](#)



### **[Collins Street Prison & Prison Park](#)**

Also known as the Joliet Correctional Center, the prison was built here in 1858 by prison labor. Its 25 foot high, 5 foot thick walls are made of pure Joliet limestone. It operated until 2002, having housed up to 1300 inmates. The classic prison architecture and atmosphere has been the set for several movies and television productions including The Blues Brothers. An exhibition at the Joliet Area Historical Museum interprets the prison.

1125 Collins Street

1-800-926-2262

[Collins Street Prison Website](#)



### **[Rialto Square Theatre](#)**

Elegantly restored, the Rialto presents a variety of entertainment while retaining the grandeur and ambiance of a lavish 1926 vaudeville movie palace. Family friendly priced individual tours are available most weekends.

102 North Joliet Street

(815) 726-6600

[Rialto Square Theatre Official Website](#)



### [Gallery Seven](#)

Located next door to the historic Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, Gallery Seven features a large and varied collection of framed and ready to frame art work. This Fine Art Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, and the first Saturday of every month, 10am - Noon. Be sure to check out the Route 66 exhibit!

116 N. Chicago St., Suite 102

815-483-4310

[Gallery Seven Official Website](#)



### [Rich & Creamy](#)

Rich & Creamy is typical of ice cream stores that dotted Route 66 in its heyday, when Broadway was a leg of the highway in Joliet. City leaders restored Rich & Creamy back to the retro appearance from its heyday. Jake and Elwood, The Blues Brothers, dance atop the tower wrapped in neon lights.

920 North Broadway Street

(815) 740-2899

[Rich & Creamy Website](#)



### **[Chicagoland Speedway & Route 66 Raceway](#)**

Chicagoland Speedway is the largest sporting facility in the state of Illinois, this 1.5 mile D-shaped oval kicks-off the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup along with hosting the NASCAR Nationwide Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and the ARCA Racing Series. Consisting of a 1/4 mile drag strip and a 1/2 mile dirt oval, Route 66 Raceway is a historic motorsports facility which annually hosts NHRA National Drag Racing events and Demolition Derbies.

500 Speedway Boulevard  
(815) 722-5500

[\*Chicagoland Speedway Official Website\*](#)

[\*Route 66 Raceway Official Website\*](#)



### **[Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park](#)**

Built along the river on land that had been Joliet's first street, Bicentennial Park was opened in 1976 to celebrate the nation's 200th birthday. The park features a beautiful River walk Promenade with views of Joliet's bridges, metal silhouette sculptures and interpretive panels that describe local history, a lighted fountain named "Frannie", and entertainment stage.

201 West Jefferson at Bluff Street  
(815) 724-3760

[\*Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Official Website\*](#)



### [Forest Preserve District of Will County](#)

Enjoy camping, picnicking, fishing, canoeing, hiking, bicycling, sledding, ice-skating and other activities.

17540 West Laraway Road

(815) 727-8700

[Forest Preserve District of Will County Official Website](#)



### [Joliet Illinois Route 66 Experience Hub](#)

Joliet is a crossroads of Route 66 and the Lincoln Highway, the first road to span the U.S. from coast to coast. Perched on the Des Plaines River, Joliet is a bustling hub where railroads, highways, and canals converge. The community drew people of many cultures to toil in the quarries, iron works, and roadways that built America. Today, you can get your "Kicks on 66" by exploring many Route 66 Attractions in town.

The "City of Steel" title sprang from the construction of the Joliet steel mill in 1869. At one time the second largest mill in America, it closed in 1932. It is now a county historic site. Limestone quarries earned Joliet the nickname "City of Stone." In 1858 the state built Joliet Prison, partly because of available stone for walls and cell houses. The 1871 Chicago Fire increased stone demand in Chicago and by 1890 Joliet was shipping three thousand railroad cars each month.

Joliet played a role in the 1980 movie classic *The Blues Brothers*, starring Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. The adventure begins when "Joliet" Jake is released from the Joliet Prison. He is picked up by his brother Elwood, who was named for a community just south of here.<br />

102 North Joliet Street  
(217) 525-9308

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

## MAJOR EVENTS:



### [Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center Events](#)

The Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center offers several informative programs, a summer concert series, special events and more! View the free, interactive Route 66 Experience exhibit, located at the crossroads of Route 66 and Lincoln Highway.

204 North Ottawa Street  
(815) 723-5201

[Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center Events Website](#)



### [Rialto Square Theatre Events](#)

The Rialto Square Theatre is considered one of the 10 most beautiful theatres in the nation. Offering Concerts, Comedy, Broadway & Dance - the Rialto ensures you can always find the entertainment you're looking for.

102 North Joliet Street  
(815) 726-6600

[Rialto Square Theatre Events Official Website](#)



### **[Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Events](#)**

Built along the river on land that had been Joliet's first street, Bicentennial Park was opened in 1976 to celebrate the nation's 200th birthday. The park features a beautiful River walk Promenade with views of Joliet's bridges, metal silhouette sculptures and interpretive panels that describe local history, a lighted fountain named "Frannie", and entertainment stage. Be sure to check out the summer outdoor concert series.

201 West Jefferson at Bluff Street  
(815) 724-3760

[Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Events Website](#)



### **[Chicagoland Speedway & Route 66 Raceway Events](#)**

Chicagoland Speedway is the largest sporting facility in the state of Illinois, this 1.5 mile D-shaped oval kicks-off the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup along with hosting the NASCAR Nationwide Series, NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and the ARCA Racing Series. Consisting of a 1/4mile drag strip and a 1/2 mile dirt oval, Route 66 Raceway is a historic motorsports facility which annually hosts NHRA National Drag Racing events and Demolition Derbies.

500 Speedway Boulevard  
(815) 722-5500

[Chicagoland Speedway Events Website](#)

[Route 66 Raceway Events Website](#)





### **Red Carpet Corridor Festival**

The Annual Red Carpet Corridor Festival is held the first full weekend in May and traverses 13 Communities from Joliet to Towanda along a 90-mile stretch of Old Route 66 that collectively celebrates the Mother Road. Each town puts together its own events for the weekend, making for a great shopping and sight-seeing experience. Gather the family and take a trip down memory lane. Towns include Joliet, Elwood, Wilmington, Braidwood, Godley, Braceville, Gardner, Dwight, Odell, Pontiac, Chenoa, Lexington and Towanda.

(815) 844-5847

[Red Carpet Corridor 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 Joliet**

150 W. Jefferson Street

Joliet, IL 60432

(815) 724-4000

[City of Joliet Official Website](#)

[City of Joliet Tourism Website](#)



Heritage Corridor CVB Visitors Center - Joliet  
30 N. Bluff Street  
Joliet, IL 60435  
(815) 727-2323

[Heritage Corridor CVB Official Website](#)  
[Heritage Corridor Joliet Tourism Website](#)

[Joliet Accommodations](#)

[Joliet Dining & Shopping](#)

[CLICK HERE - Joliet Google Map](#)



**Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway**

700 East Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 525-9308  
info@illinoisroute66.org  
www.illinoisroute66.org