



Lexington, Illinois Community Profile Itinerary



Lexington, Illinois had been a thriving town for many years before it was officially founded in 1855. Previously occupied by the Kickapoo, the town's development began with the arrival of the John and Margaret Patton family in 1829. The Patton's and their 11 children settled in a 20 x 20 cabin and developed an amiable relationship with the local Indians, who enjoyed having them around. The Patton cabin was a hub of local government and culture, and John Patton is largely credited with building the first grain mill in the area. The cabin has since been restored and moved to its current location near the Lexington pool park and pavilion.



Like many Central Illinois towns, Lexington is proud to have a connection to President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln visited on many occasions during his time in Illinois, often staying overnight, and his funeral train passed through town en route to Springfield in 1865. Farming was a way of life for Lexington's early settlers, and agriculture continues to form a solid base for Lexington's economy. The construction of the railroad, and later Route 66 and Interstate 55, also served to bolster the economic development of the town.



Today, Lexington's economy is still based solidly in agriculture. The city is also, however, ramping up development of their Route 66 attractions. The population was 1,912 at the 2000 census. Located in McLean County, the City of Lexington also serves as a “bedroom community” for those who work in Bloomington-Normal.

ATTRACTIONS:



Lexington Neon Arrow Sign

Originally erected in the late 1940's on Route 66, the arrow pointed the way east to the central business district of Lexington. The sign has recently been restored and is in the original location. It is reminiscent of the neon era on the road.
(309) 365-3331



Route 66 Memory Lane

A one mile stretch of original Route 66 that was dedicated in 1926, has been restored back to the 1940's era with vintage billboard and Burma Shave signs. It can be walked year-round and is open to vehicular traffic during festivals.

(309) 365-3331



Lexington Route 66 Park

The small wayside park along Route 66 provides information about historic Lexington and serves as a trailhead for the "Lexington Parkway" Route 66 Bike Trail.

Downtown Lexington

(309) 365-3331



Historic Lexington Downtown Shopping District

Lexington offers a small town feel with big city amenities. From automotive repairs to groceries, dry goods, and even hardware, friendly shops and service businesses are conveniently located to meet your family's needs. Historic buildings include the Lexington Train Depot, The Fort ([Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society](#)), Cities Service Station and The Shake Shack. (309) 365-3331

[City of Lexington Official Website](#)



Thrift Avenue, LLC

The current Thrift Avenue store is located at 105 S. Vine, and is located one building away from the Historic main Street shopping district. It boasts a rustic country porch and has 3,750 square feet of shopping that includes most of the merchandise offered at the new location under development. The new second Thrift Avenue store is scheduled to open in July, 2017, and is located at 1103 West Main. This will be the primary location, and it is conveniently located at the corner of Main Street & Historic Illinois Route 66. This location offers 3,000 square feet of shopping. Along with being right on Route 66, it is also next to the Route 66 walking/bike trail. The Lexington Neon Arrow is located on this property. The shop boasts an eclectic mix of furniture, home decor, gifts, Route 66 memorabilia, collectibles, antiques, rustic, architectural salvage and handcrafted items including upcycled, new, pre-owned and custom ordered merchandise. We offer consignment and purchase estates.

105 S. Vine St.

(309) 365-7467

[Thrift Avenue Facebook Page](#)



The Shake Shack

Don't let the name fool you, this place has amazing burgers and daily specials as well. And nothing completes a meal like a well made shake!

512 W. Main Street
(309) 365-3005
[The Shake Shack Facebook Page](#)

MAJOR EVENTS:



PTO Carnival

First Saturday in March. This is a community activity for all and is a huge fundraiser for the school. Featuring new games, including Connect 4, Jenga, Kerplunk, Hungry Hungry Hippo, Candyland, Guess Who and Angry Birds. There also are inflatables for kids of all ages, Funbelievable balloon artist, Wild Style Design Company face painting and free cotton candy.
309-825-2315

[Lexington Events Facebook Page](#)



Community Wide Garage Sales

Last weekend in April and 3rd weekend in September.
309-365-3331

[Lexington Events Facebook Page](#)



Homecoming Carnival

Lexington's Homecoming Carnival is back on the second weekend of June. Enjoy the return of Lexington's Homecoming Carnival on Main Street, in beautiful downtown Lexington. Rides, Games, Food and Live Music!

(309) 365-3331

[Lexington Events Facebook Page](#)



Lexington's Halloween Party

Last Sunday in October. Join the excitement with free ghoulish games, freaky fun and frightening food. There will be a costume contest and free hot dog dinner for local children to enjoy. Trick or Treat citywide following the Halloween party.

309) 365-3331

[Lexington Events Facebook Page](#)



Lexington's Christmas on the Prairie

First Sunday in December. Experience Christmas on the Prairie in Lexington. Visit our area vendors located inside Lexington School's gyms from 9am-2pm, then continue to downtown Lexington for an afternoon and evening full of activities.

309) 365-3331

[Lexington Events Facebook Page](#)



Light Up Lexington - Holiday Lights House Decorating Contest

Are you the keeper of lights? The guru of garland? The Monet of mistletoe? Whether you are like "Martha Stewart", with every bulb and decoration just so...or the "Clark Griswold" type who feels the more lights and decorations the merrier, now is your chance to shine and be involved in some friendly, fun competition while brightening up the community! Start planning now and enter your eye-catching display of lights and decorations in the annual City-Wide Holiday House Decorating Contest! Pick up an entry form or print one out and return to Lexington City Hall by November 30th to be entered.

309) 365-3331

[Lexington Events Facebook Page](#)



[Red Carpet Corridor Festival](#)

The Red Carpet Corridor celebrates and promotes the small towns located along Historic Rt 66 from Joliet to Towanda. 90 miles of festival activities! Lexington's activities will be located on Main Street in downtown Lexington. Two days filled with family fun activities, unique vendors, delicious food, parade, petting zoo, vintage car/tractor display and live music. Come see how Lexington stands apart.

(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 Lexington

329 West Main St.

Lexington, IL 61753

(309) 365-3331

[City of Lexington Official Website](#)

[**CLICK HERE for Lexington Business & Dining Directory**](#)



Lexington Park District

810 N Cherry St

PO Box 64

Lexington, IL 61753

(309) 365-8132

[Lexington Park District Official Website](#)



BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL AREA
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Bloomington-Normal Area CVB

3201 CIRA Drive, Suite 201,

Bloomington IL 61704

(309) 665-0033 \ (800) 433-8226

[Visit BN Official Website](#)



Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center

McLean County Museum of History

200 N Main Street

Bloomington, IL 61701

(309) 827-0428

[Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Official Website](#)

[CLICK HERE - Lexington Google Map](#)



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

700 East Adams

Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 525-9308

info@illinoisroute66.org

www.illinoisroute66.org