



## Litchfield, Illinois Community Profile Overnight Itinerary

# Litchfield

ILLINOIS 

The oldest diner and the last remaining original drive in theater on Route 66 are just a couple of things to consider during your visit to Litchfield. Learn all about the city's history and connection to Route 66 at the Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center.

### ATTRACTIONS



#### [Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center](#)

This new museum is located where the Vic Suhling gas station once stood. The retro design of the building, with exterior neon trim and restored neon Suhling sign welcomes visitors. The museum houses historical artifacts of Litchfield and showcases Litchfield's relationship with Route 66. Admission is free.

334 North Historic Route 66

(217) 324-3510

[Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center](#)



### [Ariston Café](#)

Pete Adam started the Ariston Café in nearby Carlinville in 1924. When the Mother Road was rerouted in 1929, Pete leased a new building in Litchfield. The Ariston's great reputation for service, excellent food and unbelievable desserts led Pete to relocate across the street in 1935 to his own building that still stands today. The family still offers the same wonderful food and great service that it has for over 90 years. It is said to be the oldest café on Route 66. The Ariston was named to the National Register of Historic Places and is in the Route 66 Hall of Fame

413 North Historic Route 66

(217) 324-2023

[Ariston Café Official Website](#)



### [Jubelt's Bakery](#)

Jubelt's is a third generation family business that began as a bakery in Mt. Olive, IL in 1922. Jubelt's has been in Litchfield since 1952 and on Route 66 since 1982. In the last 90 years, the bakery has adapted to meet the changing lifestyles and the demands of customers, much like The Mother Road. A full service bakery, Jubelt's features homemade soups, salads, handformed burgers, specialty sandwiches, dinners, and fresh bakery items such as donuts, Danish, cinnamon rolls, pies, pastries, cookies, cakes, bread, and much more. Stop by and bring a healthy appetite. Jubelt's was inducted in 2017 into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame.

303 North Historic Route 66

(217) 324-5314

[Jubelt's Bakery Official Website](#)



### [Lake Lou Yaeger Recreation Area](#)

Lake Lou Yaeger is a 1,400 acre lake popular with boaters and fishers. A 300-acre park along its shores includes picnic areas, playgrounds, campgrounds, beach, Route 66 hike/bike trail and horse trails with full-service campground. Located on the South-East side of Lake Lou Yaeger, the 266 acre Shoal Creek Conservation Area has two easy hiking trails. This beautiful area is home to well over 700 species of plants, 70 species of butterflies, and 70 species of breeding birds. Enjoy a self-guided tour through native prairie lands, shoreline woods, and take in the magnificent views of the lake and surrounding areas. To get the most out of your visit to Lake Lou Yaeger, bring a pair of binoculars and try to spot the area's Bald Eagles.

4313 Beach House Trail

217-324-5832

[Lake Lou Yaeger Recreation Area Official Website](#)



### [Sky View Drive in Theatre](#)

The Sky View opened in the spring of 1951 and has been in seasonal operation since. It is the last remaining original operating drive-in theatre on Route 66 in Illinois. Inducted in 1998 into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame.

1500 North Historic Route 66

(217) 324-4451

[Sky View Drive In Theatre Official Website](#)



[Litchfield Carnegie Library Building](#)

This library was originally funded by, industrialist and notable philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, in 1904. The building is located in downtown Litchfield in the original building designed by architect Paul Moratz in the Classical Revival style

400 North State Street

(217) 324-3866

[Litchfield Carnegie Library Official Website](#)



[Niehaus Cycle Sales](#)

Niehaus Cycle Sales, Inc. is a family owned business that started in 1970 by the late William Niehaus, and now is operated by all three of his sons. In 1971, the business was incorporated and acquired a Yamaha franchise. In 1976 a Honda franchise was added. The current location, which was renovated in 1999, is housed in a retro building with exterior neon trim themed to Route 66. The 12,000+ square ft. main showroom offers, in addition to the latest Yamaha and Honda motorcycles, more than 10,000 parts and accessories that are on display. Niehaus hosts an annual gathering in May that attracts over 5000 people.

718 North Old Route 66

(217) 324-6565

[Niehaus Cycle Sales, Inc. Official Website](#)

# Nancy's<sup>®</sup>

## CHICAGO PIZZA

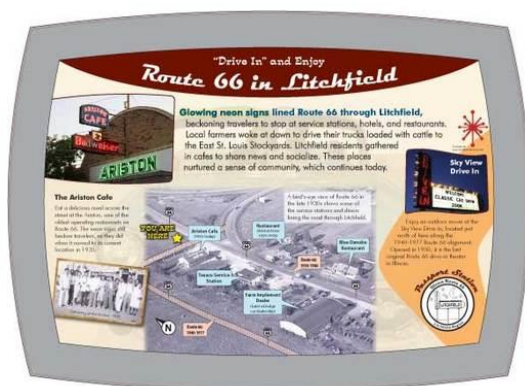
### [Nancy's Pizza](#)

Located in the hotel district in Litchfield, Nancy's Pizza is well-known for their Chicago-style stuffed pizza, thin crust pizza pies and many delicious types of pasta. They have been recognized by the restaurant industry and the media for numerous accolades, including for being one of America's Top Pizza Chains. Mike Ditka, retired Hall of Fame NFL football player, former NFL coach and TV commentator, is the company's official spokesperson, adviser and "taster". Now you can enjoy Nancy's Pizza in downstate Illinois!

13 Thunderbird Circle

(217) 324-0707

[Nancy's Pizza Official Website](#)



### [Litchfield, Illinois Route 66 Experience Hub and Wayside Exhibits](#)

#### **"Drive In" and Enjoy**

Glowing neon signs lined Route 66 through Litchfield, beckoning travelers to stop at service stations, hotels, and restaurants. Local farmers woke at dawn to drive their trucks loaded with cattle to the East St. Louis Stockyards. Litchfield residents gathered in cafes to share news and socialize. These places nurtured a sense of community, which continues today.

#### **The Ariston Cafe**

Eat a delicious meal across the street at the Ariston, one of the oldest operating restaurants on Route 66. The neon signs still beckon travelers, as they did when it moved to its current location in 1935.

#### **Sky View Drive In**

Enjoy an outdoor movie at the Sky View Drive In, located just north of here along the 1940-1977 Route 66 alignment. Opened in 1950, it is the last original Route 66 drive-in theater in Illinois.

#### **Litchfield Experience Hub**

Visit this informational Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway exhibit located at Niehaus Cycle Sales.



## MAJOR EVENTS



### [Litchfield Spring Duathlon](#)

March 31, 2018

Come take part in the Litchfield Spring Duathlon, a USAT Sanctioned duathlon. Run 2 miles, bike 12 miles and run 2 miles. Participants can race as individuals or two-person teams – visit the website for fees. The Duathlon benefits the Cross Country program at Litchfield High School and is sponsored by Bank & Trust Company and Carlinville Family Practice Center.

Litchfield High School

1705 N State Street

(217) 851-9056

[Litchfield Spring Duathlon Official Website](#)



### [Litchfield Pickers Market](#)

Every second Sunday of the month from April – October

This open air market, specializing in items prior to 1980 and refurbished vintage and antique items, brings hundreds of vendors to the streets of downtown Litchfield. Entertainment and food available.

Downtown Litchfield- Beginning on Union Avenue & State Street

[Litchfield Pickers Market Official Website](#)

# Hwy 55

**BURGERS SHAKES & FRIES**

[Hwy 55 Cruise In at Hwy 55 Burgers Shakes & Fries](#)

April 7, May 12, June 9, July 7, August 11, September 8, October 13

Join us for a Just for Fun, 50's Style Diner Cruise Inn at Hwy 55 Burgers Shakes & Fries.

1403 West Ferdon Street, Suite 21

(217) 324-3455

[Hwy 55 Burgers Shakes & Fries Official Website](#)



**5TH ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION SHOW**

EST. LINCOLN TRAIL 2000  
A.T.H.S. CHAPTER

Historical Cars & Trucks  
Hotrod Cars  
Race Cars

Custom Motorcycles  
Mud Buggies  
Drag Boats

**APRIL 28, 2018**  
10 am - 3 pm

**NIEHAUS CYCLE SALES**  
718 Old Route 66 N.  
Litchfield, IL

Food & Drinks Available

JOIN IN THE FUN!

TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC!**

- No Entry Fee
- No Judging
- No Competition

[Niehaus Cycle Sales Annual Transportation Show](#)

April 28, 2018

The 5th annual Transportation Show at Niehaus Cycle Sales is a Show & Tell event that features all types of transportation. Check out the historical cars and trucks, hotrod cars, race cars, custom motorcycle sales, mud buggies, drag boats and more! The event is free to the public and there is no entry fee, judging or competition - just plenty of fun! Food and drinks available.

Niehaus Cycle Sales

718 North Old Route 66

(217) 324-6565

[Niehaus Cycle Sales 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Customer Appreciation Days Official Website](#)



### [Niehaus Cycle Sales Customer Appreciation Days](#)

May 19-21, 2018

Every year on the weekend after Mother's Day, is the large Appreciation Days event, attended by as many as 5000 people from as far away as Canada, and it features the "Show of Lights Ride" through downtown Litchfield. The Celebration lasts until someone wins a motorcycle on Sunday! The event features live music, vendors, drawings, parts specials, food vendors, demo rides, factory reps, door prizes, giveaways and great family fun. Tickets are now on sale.

Niehaus Cycle Sales

718 North Old Route 66

(217) 324-6565

[Niehaus Cycle Sales Customer Appreciation Days Official Website](#)



### [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Carpet Corridor Festival](#)

June 9-10, 2018

The Blue Carpet Corridor, from Auburn down to Collinsville, is a unique section of Route 66 characterized not only by its Mother Road charm, but also its rich mining history and colorful mobster lore. Route 66 is known for its quirky attractions, roadside hospitality, and family fun. And on the second weekend in June, the blue carpet will be rolled out to welcome thousands of travelers.

(618) 307-5049

[Blue Carpet Corridor Official Website](#)





### [Route 66 Scavenger Hunt at the Blue Carpet Corridor Festival](#)

June 9-10, 2018

During this two day Route 66 scavenger hunt, visitors will stamp their passports in all cities from Auburn to Collinsville, IL. Come stamp your passport at the Ariston Cafe, the oldest continuously operated restaurant on Route 66, and then spend the night at one of our six hotels in Litchfield.

Your passport can be stamped at the Ariston Cafe from 4:00 PM-9:00 PM on Saturday, June 9 and from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Sunday, June 10. The Ariston Cafe is located at 413 Historic Old Route 66 North.

217-324-8147

[Route 66 Scavenger Hunt at the Blue Carpet Corridor Festival Official Website](#)



### **Freedom Fun Run**

June 30, 2018

The 16th Annual, 5K Freedom Fun Run / Walk takes place in July 2018 at Lake Lou Yaeger, Picnic Area #3. Embrace your patriotic side this 4th of July at the 5K Freedom Fun Run in Litchfield, IL! All ages are welcome. If you cannot run, you are welcome to walk.

The course starts at Picnic Area #3 at Lake Lou Yaeger in Litchfield, IL (1 Primitive Lane) and winds through the scenic lake area. Two water stops; course marshal at all intersections. The race will be electronically timed. \$25 cash prize and medal to overall male and female finisher. Run rain or shine.

Results will be posted at [www.mmmultisport.com](http://www.mmmultisport.com).

Lake Lou Yaeger

3 Primitive Lane

(217) 324-8147

[Freedom Fun Run Official Website](#)



### [Big Dawg Dare](#)

July 21, 2018

An extreme 5k run over obstacles that will challenge the biggest of Dawgs. We will once again improve our course based upon your suggestions, including adding an obstacle or two and of course keeping the 50 foot water slide. We are not sure how, but we will figure a way to improve our mud. We could take out some of the obstacles...or maybe add a couple more. No matter our decision you are going to have fun!! Set your goal to become a big dawg again this year or for the first time.

Wolff Farms

3153 North 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue

(217)246-2895

[Big Dawg Dare Official Website](#)



### [Gold Wing Road Riders Association \(GWRRA\) Summer Rally](#)

August 2-4, 2018

The GWRRA Summer Rally, taking place at Niehaus Cycle Sales, is a gathering of Motorcycle riders from Illinois and the surrounding states. Activities at the Rally include: Thursday August 2nd – Ice Cream Social – Sunset Ride, Friday August 3rd – Seminars – Demo Rides – Vendors, Saturday August 4th – Demo Rides – Flag Parade. More TBA. Visit [www.gwrra-ildistrict.com](http://www.gwrra-ildistrict.com) for any registration information and a complete schedule of events or call 815-535-8349 or 618-889-4036.

Niehaus Cycle Sales

718 N. Old Route 66

[Gold Wing Road Riders Association Summer Rally Official Website](#)



### [RC Jet Rally](#)

September 7-9, 2018

Litchfield's annual RC Jet Rally is held Friday-Sunday, September 8-10 at Litchfield Municipal Airport. The Remote Control Jet Rally times are: Friday & Saturday: 9 AM – 6 PM Sunday: 9AM to Noon. A spectacular event for the whole family - the kids will love it!

Litchfield Municipal Airport

1201 U.S. Route 66 South

(217) 556-4299

[RC Jet Rally Official Website](#)



### [Litchfield Triathlou: Sprint, Olympic, and Half Distances – September 9](#)

The Annual Litchfield Triathlou is back and ready to help you smash your best performance during the peak season for racing! First you better believe you will be getting the 2018 Official Litchfield Triathlou Hoodie! By now there are many of you collecting these hoodies as they provide comfort, warmth, and style all in one. Aside from the hoodie we will hook you up with a finisher medal, free photos, and a race experience you'll never forget!

Swimming in Lake Lou Yaeger is the best OWS you will have in the Midwest. There really is no comparison to this large beach with pristine flat racing water. The bike course is flat and fast with some great curves to keep you entertained the whole ride. Both the 5k and 10k runs see very honest mile paces with plenty of flats, and a couple hills throughout. You want freebies, speed, and camaraderie then you better get to the Litchfield Triathlou Sprint, Olympic, and Half Triathlons!

Lake Lou Yaeger Beach House

4313 Beach House Trail

(317) 625-2223

[Litchfield Triathlou: Sprint, Olympic and Half Distances Official Website](#)



### [Party in the Park](#)

September 21-22

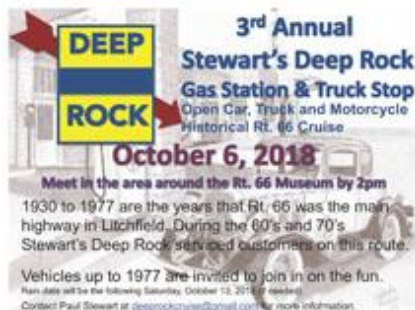
Come out to Party in the Park in Downtown Litchfield beginning on the corner of Union Ave. (Route 16) and State Street, Friday & Saturday, September 21-22. Featuring a Carnival, Live Band, Food & Vendor Booths, Pageants and more. Hosted by the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce.

Downtown Litchfield

400 N. State Street

217-324-2533

[Party in the Park Official Website](#)



### [Stewart's Deep Rock Historical Rt. 66 Cruise](#)

October 6, 2018

Stewart's Deep Rock Gas Station & Truck Stop Open Car, Truck and Motorcycle Historical Rt. 66 Cruise is coming to Litchfield on Saturday, October 6th at the Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center. Festivities begin at 2pm.

1930 to 1977 are the years that Route 66 was the main highway in Litchfield. During the 60s and 70s, Stewart's Deep Rock serviced customers on this route. Vehicles up to 1977 are invited to join in on the fun. Contact Paul Stewart at [deeprockcruise@gmail.com](mailto:deeprockcruise@gmail.com) for more information.

334 Old Route 66 North

[Stewart's Deep Rock Historical Rt. 66 Cruise Official Website](#)



### [Harvest Hootenanny 5k](#)

October 27, 2018

The 2018 Harvest Hootenanny is a Fun Run/Walk 5K that will benefit a local family in need.

Awards to: Overall top 3 male and female finishers; 3 age-division finishers for males and females: u9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 and up

Register by October 17th to guarantee a t-shirt. For more information contact M & M Multisport Club at [race@mmmultisport.com](mailto:race@mmmultisport.com), or call 217-851-9056

Lake Lou Yaeger, Picnic Area 3

3 Primitive Drive

(217) 851-9056

[Harvest Hootenanny 5k Official Website](#)

### AMENITIES



[Visit Litchfield Official Website](#)



[City of Litchfield Official Website](#)



### [Litchfield Accommodations](#)



### [Baymont Inn and Suites](#)

Join us at our Baymont Inn & Suites Litchfield hotel. The iconic Route 66 weaves through our area, offering history, charm, and historic sites dating back to the Roaring Twenties. If your travels bring you to the area for business, major companies like Teleflex Marine, Schutt Sports, ITW Building Components Group, Morton Buildings, and Pioneer Seed are headquartered near our hotel.

1405 W Hudson Dr

(217) 718-5526

[Baymont Inn and Suites Official Website](#)



### [Hampton Inn](#)

Discover the charms of life along Route 66 at Hampton Inn, conveniently located near the Litchfield exit on Interstate 55. Guests enjoy an indoor pool, laundry facilities, exercise room, meeting rooms for business and other gatherings, free breakfast, free Wi-Fi in our comfortable hotel rooms and ample large-vehicle parking. Pets are welcome.

11 Thunderbird Circle

217-324-4441

[Hampton Inn Official Website](#)





### [Holiday Inn Express & Suites Litchfield](#)

Litchfield's newest hotel is located just off I-55 and nearby Route 66. The beautiful four story facility has 79 rooms, a salt water pool with therapeutic jets, well equipped fitness center, high speed wifi, 24 hour business center and an over 1,000 square foot well equipped meeting room. The hotel is custom decorated with beautiful Route 66 photography and décor throughout. This facility is owned by descendants of the Mansholt family of Litchfield, who owned several hotel properties in the city in the heyday of Route 66.

West 4 Thunderbird Circle

(217) 324-4556

[Holiday Inn Express & Suites Litchfield Official Website](#)



### [Quality Inn](#)

The Quality Inn® hotel is conveniently located on Historic Old Route 66. During their stay, outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy camping, fishing and boating at nearby Lake Lou Yaeger. The Sky View Drive-In Theatre, one of the last operating drive-in movie theaters on historic Route 66 in Illinois, is a short drive from the hotel. A variety of shops and restaurants can be found within walking distance including the famous Ariston Cafe.

1010 East Columbian N. Blvd.

(217) 324-9260

[Quality Inn Official Website](#)



### [Super 8](#)

Rely on Super 8 Litchfield hotel to provide value during your travels. Enjoy close proximity to shops and dining in downtown Litchfield and outdoor recreation on Lake Lou Yaeger. If you arrive in a truck, bus or RV, our hotel features ample large-vehicle parking. We offer a free continental breakfast.

211 Ohren Lane  
(217) 324-7788  
[Super 8 Official Website](#)



### [America's Best Value Inn](#)

Take a trip back in time by visiting the Hall of Fame sites situated along historic U.S. Route 66. Experience the nostalgia of three miles of original "Mother Road" highway while driving through Litchfield. We are also near Lake Lou Yaeger, Westside Cinema, Lincoln Land Community College and within walking distance of the Ariston Cafe, one of the oldest restaurants along Old Route 66. The America's Best Value Inn offers free continental breakfast and coffee, and plenty of free parking.

224 N. Ohren Lane  
217-324-2181

[America's Best Value Inn Official Website](#)

### [Dining](#)

### [Shopping](#)

[CLICK HERE Litchfield Google Map](#)



### **Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway**

700 East Adams  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 525-9308  
[info@illinoisroute66.org](mailto:info@illinoisroute66.org)  
[www.illinoisroute66.org](http://www.illinoisroute66.org)