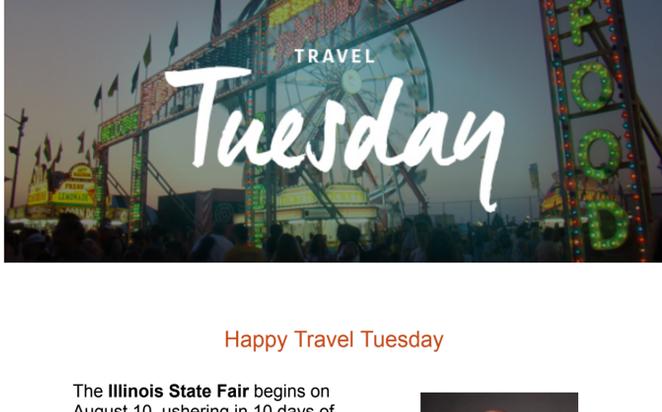


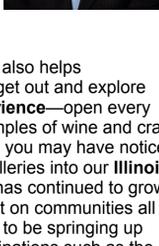


Stroll the midway at the Illinois State Fair, learn about a rock-and-roll legend, and enjoy house-roasted coffee in Peoria. #EnjoyIllinois

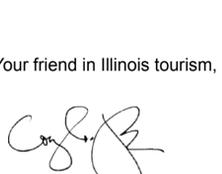


Happy Travel Tuesday

The Illinois State Fair begins on August 10, ushering in 10 days of family fun. I love the way the fair brings together all the things that make Illinois so special: concerts at the grandstand from artists with roots in Illinois; livestock competitions featuring farms from around the state; and a new, improved Ag Tent that demonstrates the importance of agriculture to our economy.



Beyond all the entertainment, I hope the fair also helps Illinoisans discover all the many reasons to get out and explore Illinois. In particular, the Illinois Wine Experience—open every day throughout the fair—brings together samples of wine and craft beer from Illinois wineries and breweries. As you may have noticed from the many wineries, breweries, and distilleries into our Illinois Made program, the craft beverage industry has continued to grow in Illinois, leaving a positive economic impact on communities all throughout the state. New businesses seem to be springing up every season, often resulting in all-new destinations such as the recently inaugurated Carlyle Lake Wine Trail in Southern Illinois.



The state fair has even greater importance in 2017, as this year also marks the beginning of our Illinois Bicentennial celebrations. On August 26—Constitution Day—Randolph County will host an event kicking off the 100 Day Countdown to the official start of the Bicentennial Celebration on December 3. Known as the place "Where Illinois Began," Randolph County is home to Kaskaskia Island, the site of the first capital of Illinois, making it an ideal place for the ceremonial signing of the 1818 Illinois Constitution. A full slate of free events follows the ceremony. Visit the Bicentennial's website, illinois200.com, for more information on the event, the 100 Day Countdown, and everything else happening on this historic year.

Your friend in Illinois tourism,



Cory M. Jobe
Director
Illinois Office of Tourism



Illinois Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF TOURISM
Bruce Rauner, Governor

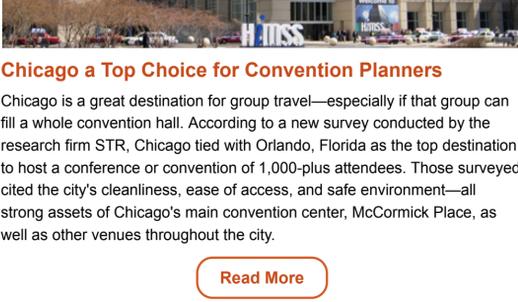
ILLINOIS SPOTLIGHT



Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution

Open from now through November 12, 2017, the new exhibit at the Illinois Holocaust Museum celebrates one of rock and roll's most influential figures. Born in Berlin in 1931, Bill Graham escaped the Holocaust to settle in the Bronx at the age of 10. Eventually, Graham promoted acts such as The Grateful Dead, Santana, and Jimi Hendrix—and helped promote social change worldwide by producing humanitarian concerts such as Live Aid.

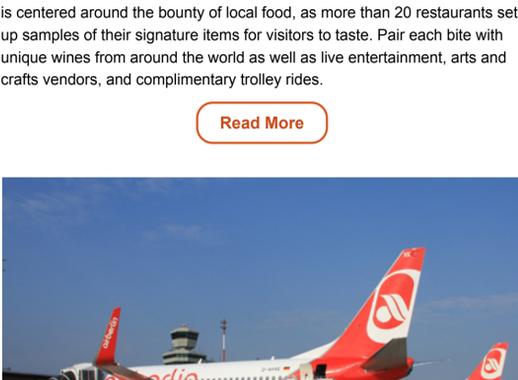
[See the Exhibit](#)



Chicago a Top Choice for Convention Planners

Chicago is a great destination for group travel—especially if that group can fill a whole convention hall. According to a new survey conducted by the research firm STR, Chicago tied with Orlando, Florida as the top destination to host a conference or convention of 1,000-plus attendees. Those surveyed cited the city's cleanliness, ease of access, and safe environment—all strong assets of Chicago's main convention center, McCormick Place, as well as other venues throughout the city.

[Read More](#)



Festival of the Vine

From September 8–10, the historic town of Geneva celebrates an annual tradition: the Festival of the Vine. Timed with the autumn harvest, the event is centered around the bounty of local food, as more than 20 restaurants set up samples of their signature items for visitors to taste. Pair each bite with unique wines from around the world as well as live entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, and complimentary trolley rides.

[Read More](#)



AirBerlin Expanding Service at O'Hare

New legs for international flights keep rolling into O'Hare. Starting May 2, 2018, the Dusseldorf-based carrier Airberlin will expand its service to the Chicago market, launching a new nonstop route five times a week between O'Hare and Dusseldorf Airport. The Chicago Department of Aviation predicts the service will generate \$65 million in annual impact to Chicago—and hopefully inspire international travelers to explore downstate, too.

[Read More](#)

ARE YOU UP FOR FRESH-ROASTED?



When four coffee aficionados form a bond, amazing things can happen.

thirty-thirty Coffee Co. in Peoria is not your typical coffee haunt. It's better. In 2011, founders Ty Paluska, Daniel Williamson and Steve and Haly Elmore banded together to bring the city everything it didn't know it needed: fresh, in-house roasted coffee. And they did not stop there. thirty-thirty also makes all of its syrups in-house, making this a haven for any coffee lover.

Through a big glass window, you can witness for yourself the magic of roasting coffee beans and see right before your eyes everything that goes into making a morning (or afternoon) cup of joe. thirty-thirty shares the gift of artisan coffee throughout the community, as well. The crew helps businesses without the capacity to roast in-house by distributing its beans to customers as far as Seattle. With the relaxing atmosphere of a local coffeehouse, the aromas of freshly roasted coffee, and the coziness of reclaimed barn wood tables, thirty-thirty is the type of place where leaving might be harder than waking up in the morning.

[Meet More Makers at Illinois Made](#)

THE LATEST TRAVEL TRENDS NEWS YOU CAN USE



Business-Savvy AI

In an ever-more-connected world, planning meetings and events has never been easier. At this year's annual IMEX Frankfurt event, an experimental chatbot named Frank showed attendees how artificial intelligence fits into the future of event planning. Products like Siri, Amazon Echo, and Google Home are already fulfilling the needs of consumers at home, but thanks to technology like Frank, businesses can use AI to personalize the consumer experience and streamline travel, scheduling, and networking. Some say in a limitless way.

[Read More](#)



Effects of Overtourism

What happens when popular tourism sights and cities lack the proper framework to balance the economic, environmental, and sociocultural effects of tourism? Known as overtourism, the problems that arise from such effects include sustainability, technological changes, and crime. A new short documentary by Skift explores the ways one city—Barcelona—has adapted to the 21st Century challenges of overtourism.

[Read More](#)

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR



The Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield are open once again from August 10–20 for the 2017 Illinois State Fair. This year's theme is "Generations of Fun," so you should bring the whole family for boundless entertainment and, of course, treats such as pork chops on a stick. Grandstand performers this year include Jason Derulo, John Mellencamp, Brad Paisley, and many more.

[Plan Your Trip](#)

#ENJOYILLINOIS



Check out how people from all over the world #EnjoyIllinois every day on our [Instagram](#)

Oh, and don't forget...

We're excited to hear about what you have going on! Send your releases to news@enjoyillinois.com and social media campaigns you're launching to social@enjoyillinois.com. We can't guarantee that all events submitted will be featured, but we always love hearing about what's going on in your area, so keep sending your information!

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