

## Suggested Itinerary: Chicago & the Upper Midwest

Chicago, Illinois, the cultural heart and soul of the Midwest, is the perfect starting point to launch a Midwest adventure. Savour the city's many charms, then travel down iconic Route 66, see racing cars at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, learn about automotive history and Motown music in Detroit, and enjoy the natural splendour of Michigan.

### Chicago

*Suggested: 4 days*

Start with a visit to some of Chicago's iconic attractions such as the Cloud Gate sculpture (a.k.a The Bean) at Millennium Park, the Sky Ledge glass balcony off the 103rd floor of Willis Tower and the new Centennial Ferris Wheel at Navy Pier. Interactive, educational museums abound from the Field Museum of Natural History and the Shedd Aquarium to the Art Institute of Chicago. Rock out at the annual Chicago Blues Festival or at clubs such as Buddy Guy's Legends. Enjoy a deep-dish pizza at Gino's East or Lou Malnati's or a Chicago hot dog at locations throughout the city. Delve into Chicago's thriving craft-brewery scene with a tour and a pint at a neighborhood brewery such as Half Acre.

### Classic Route 66 in Illinois

*Suggested: 3 days*

From Chicago, hop on historic Route 66 for a true slice of Americana. The famous road, which 'winds from Chicago to L.A.', covers 300 miles (482 km) in Illinois and is dotted with homey cafés, quirky shops and unique roadside architecture and artwork. Snap a photo in front of the towering Railsplitter Covered Wagon in Lincoln or the huge pink elephant near the Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston. Explore Route 66 memorabilia in Pontiac at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum. From there, drive about two hours south to delve into Abraham Lincoln's life in Springfield at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum, the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln Home. Refuel at Doc's Soda Fountain in Girard on Route 66 (just about 30 minutes from Springfield) for a giant banana split.

## Indiana

*Suggested: 2 days*

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, is known as ‘the racing capitol of the world’. The racetrack is also home to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, packed with racing memorabilia and automobiles from many racing series. The Speedway offers a variety of tours, as well as laps around the oval track in a Speedway bus. Next, slow down with a trip to South Bend (three hours north) to tour the stately campus of the University of Notre Dame. The Catholic university, founded in 1842, is notable for its Gothic architecture and Golden Dome and statue of Mary that rise above the Main Building.

## Ohio Three-City Tour

*Suggested: 3 days*

See the sights in Ohio’s three largest cities. Start at the top of the state in Cleveland and head to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to see memorabilia from rock’s earliest days as well as more-recent artefacts (such as Rick Nielsen’s five-neck guitar from Cheap Trick). In Columbus, the state’s capital in central Ohio, don’t miss the recently renovated Columbus Museum of Art or one of the city’s many breweries such as North High Brewing, Seventh Son Brewing Co. and Wolf’s Ridge Brewing. Drive southwest to Cincinnati and make sure to save room for a cheese-topped bowl of cinnamon-spiced Cincinnati chili after touring the Cincinnati Zoo.

## Michigan

*Suggested: 4 days*

Start in urban Detroit, the birthplace of the USA’s obsession with automobiles. The Henry Ford Museum traces the evolution of the auto, with plenty of hands-on exhibits. Take the Ford Rouge Factory Tour in nearby Dearborn to see a working auto assembly line. In nearby Detroit, visit the Motown Museum to explore the history of this uniquely American musical genre. The museum is located at Hitsville U.S.A., Motown’s original headquarters when the record label was founded in 1959. Take a break from city life with a trip to Michigan’s natural wonders. Hike sandy beaches and towering bluffs at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire. Or, about five hours to the north in Munising, take a boat tour to see the towering sandstone cliffs of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.



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