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A ROMANTIC STAY IS JUST A DRIVE AWAY

This February, whisk your loved one away on an unforgettable romantic adventure in Illinois. Whether it's indulging in a romantic feast or relaxing at a charming bed and breakfast, the perfect date is just a drive away in Illinois.

Winter Romance in Chicago
A new winter festival comes to Chicago just in time for Valentine's Day. Chicago Winter Dance Festival at Millennium Park offers free events throughout February, including ice skating, dance lessons and ice dance parties. On Feb. 13, hit the ice for a love songs-themed dance party, complete with extended skating hours and a DJ. For a complete schedule of events call 877-CHICAGO or visit explorechicago.org.

Head to the corner of Michigan Avenue and Pearson Street and take a romantic ride around town with Chicago Horse & Carriage. Choose from a variety of tours, from the Gold Coast to Buckingham Fountain, or create your own route of memorable destinations. Call 773-395-3950 for more information or visit chicagocarriage.com.

Dinner and a Show in Chicagoland
The Morton Arboretum in Lisle is celebrating Valentine's Day with chocolate-themed events throughout February. In addition to a daily exhibit about where chocolate comes from and a Chocolate Expo, Feb. 6-7, the Arboretum will also host a lavish dinner, Feb. 13, with a touch of chocolate in each course and live music. Call 630-968-0074 or visit mortonarb.org to purchase tickets.

Share your timeless love at the historic Hotel Baker, located riverside in downtown St. Charles. Enjoy the luxury of whirlpool tubs, fluffy robes and a complimentary Deluxe Continental Breakfast. The hotel's ROX City Grill includes a lounge with live entertainment Thursday through Sunday. For more information call 630-584-2100 or visit hotelbaker.com.

Classic Romance in Northern Illinois
For the couple that loves the slopes, Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena offers non-stop excitement. Snuggle up with your main squeeze on the lift as you overlook the Mississippi River, then ski or snowboard down one of 19 trails. Afterwards, warm up in the lodge next to the fireplace or dine at the Sunset Grille, which serves up great food and a great view. During February, visit Chestnut Mountain during Fantastic Fridays to buy a lift ticket for just $25 and ski under the moonlight until midnight. For more information call 877-GO-GALENA or visit galena.org.

Check into the Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort in Rockford and enjoy a breathtaking view of the Rock River. With themed rooms from Mediterranean to Sultan, your romantic weekend will be filled with old world style. Make a reservation at Cliffbreakers, a fine dining restaurant in the hotel, and don't forget to request a table overlooking the river. For more information or to make a reservation, call 818-282-3033 or visit cliffbreakers.com.

Sugar and Spice in Central Illinois
Add a little spice to your relationship by hitting the road and traveling along Central Illinois' Chili Trail. Springfield's Joe Rogers' Original Chili Parlor was ranked the second best chili spot in the entire country by Bon Appétit Magazine. The trail also offers several restaurants throughout Springfield, Decatur and Carlinville where you can dip into a great bowl of chili. For more information call 217-525-7980 or go to visitcentralillinois.com.

Take your sweetie to The Chateau in Bloomington for an enchanted evening at a French-inspired hotel. Check out packages that include a sumptuous breakfast and dinner at The Chateau's restaurant and lounge. For more information or to make reservations, call 309-665-5671 or visit chateauhotel.biz.

Fun and Games in Western Illinois
If you're lucky in love, visit Peoria's Par-A-Dice Casino to test your luck at roulette, slot machines, Black Jack and a variety of other table games. Stay at the Par-A-Dice Hotel to relax after a day of casino action. For more information call 800-747-0302 or visit peoria.org.

Experience the excitement of Las Vegas at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island. With more than 42,000 square feet of gaming, there won't be a dull moment. After a long day of thrills on the casino floor, take your significant other out for live entertainment at Edje Nightclub. For more information call 800-477-7747 or visit jumerscri.com.

Travel Back in Time in Southern Illinois
Take a trip down memory lane during "Return to the 50s," a show that remembers a decade of music at the Riverfront Event Center at Harrah's Metropolis Casino. Enjoy an evening of Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis classics, among others. To purchase tickets, call 888-512-7469 or visit harrahsmetropolis.com.

You'll be in Southern Illinois, but it will feel like Tuscany at Blue Sky Vineyard & Suites. Open year-round, the winery hosts tastings of its award-winning wines. Blue Sky Vineyard will be serving its wines with a romantic gourmet dinner during its Valentine's Day Dinner, Feb. 13. Call 618-995-9463 for reservations or visit blueskyvineyard.com for more information.

Wine and Dine in Southwest Illinois
Black Diamond Vineyards' Valentine's Dinner features a delicious five-course meal, with each course specially paired with a Black Diamond Vineyards wine. A host from the vineyard explains about each wine as you sip. For more information or to make reservations, call 618-336-5700 or visit blackdiamondvineyards.com.

Enjoy a breathtaking view of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers coming together as you order hot, fresh food, right off the grill at the Loading Dock in Grafton. Watch boats travel down the river as you listen to live music on the weekends. For more information, call 618-786-3494 or visit graftonloadingdock.com.

To get started on planning a special Valentine's Day weekend in Illinois, call 1-866-610-GOZA or visit www.disfrutaillinois.com. The Illinois Bureau of Tourism's Spanish-speaking travel professionals can help travelers get the ¡Vive la emoción! brochure, find additional information about romantic getaways or book a travel package.



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