CAPTURE CARROLL COUNTY • IL

MOBILE GUIDE

SIGNATURE TRAIL · CARROLL COUNTY

THE GREAT RIVER ROAD: SAVANNA TO FULTON

Thirty-five miles of Illinois Route 84 between the Palisades bluffs and Fulton's Dutch windmill: river overlooks, two railroad depots, a backwater campground and a working mill that still grinds flour. Drive it north to south with the Mississippi on your right the whole way.



Overlook of the Mississippi River valley from the bluffs at Mississippi Palisades State Park near Savanna, Illinois

Full Day	6	2	3
HOW LONG	STOPS	COUNTIES	BEST FOR
		Carroll County, whiteside	Outdoors, History, Couples

OPEN ONLINE

Open the live itinerary
capturecarrollcounty.com/itineraries/great-river-road-savanna-t...

DAY 1

THE ROUTE

The Great River Road runs the length of Illinois, but this is the stretch people come back for: limestone bluffs at the top, Dutch levee town at the bottom, and forty miles of backwater, barge traffic and bald eagles in between. Give it a full day, start early at the Palisades while the river valley still has mist on it, and eat twice.

North to south on IL-84. Every stop below is within a mile of the road; the whole drive is under an hour without stopping, which is what leaves room for all of it.

DRIVING ROUTE

Open this day in Google Maps

www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&origin=42.15...

6 PLANNED STOPS



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Mississippi Palisades State Park

2–3 hrs - Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

Start high. Twenty-five hundred acres of Driftless bluff country just north of Savanna, with Lookout Point, Ozzie's Point and Louis' Point all giving you the Mississippi from several hundred feet up. The overlook trails are short; the ones through the rock formations are not.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Savanna



ATTRACTION

Savanna Museum and Cultural Center

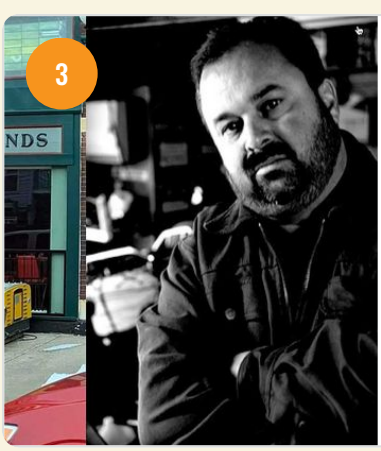
45 min - Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

Savanna's attic, and better than that sounds: a Civil War gallery staged with more than a hundred uniformed mannequins, an HO-scale railroad, and cases from the Savanna Ordnance Depot. Open Saturdays and Sundays noon–4pm, May through October.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Savanna



ATTRACTION

Frank Fritz Finds

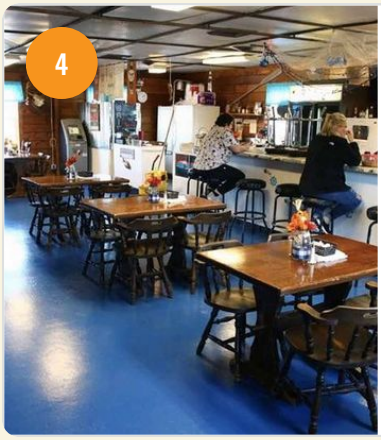
30 min - Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

Antiques and collectibles from the American Pickers co-host, tucked inside the Hawg Dog Bar & Grill on Savanna's main street. Worth the stop even if you only came for the sign.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Savanna



4

FOOD & DRINK

Muddy Water's Cafe/Marina

Lunch - Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

Lunch on the water at Savanna Marina: specialty burgers and homemade pie, with outdoor riverfront seating in warm months and dockside service for anyone who arrived by boat.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Savanna



5

LODGING

Thomson Causeway Recreation Area

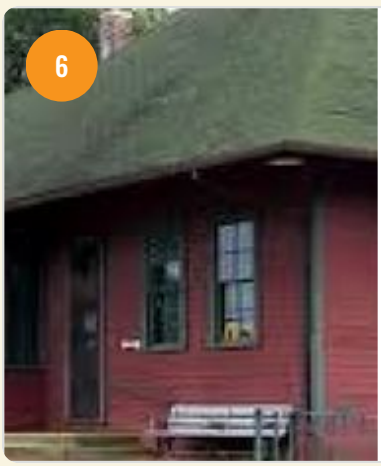
45 min - Thomson

WHY IT BELONGS

A Corps of Engineers island campground threaded with backwater sloughs. Walk the Hidden Slough Trail or pick up the Great River Bike Trail here; in late winter this is one of the most reliable eagle-watching spots on the river.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Thomson



6

ATTRACTION

Thomson Depot Museum

30 min - Thomson

WHY IT BELONGS

A late-1800s railroad depot moved and restored by the village in 1986, now full of Thomson's own history. Free, donations accepted, open weekends 1–4pm between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Thomson