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ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

Good through January 2005

GO, SEE & DO

As the crossroads of big-city action and country charm, the Aurora area is easily one of the most happening places outside Chicago. You'll quickly find plenty to see and do. Anchoring the Fox River Valley is Aurora, the "City of Lights" and Illinois' second largest city. The city — coupled with the neighboring communities of Batavia, Montgomery, North Aurora, Plano, Sugar Grove, Big Rock, Sandwich and Yorkville — is second to none when it comes to providing first-class attractions and endless excitement. Hit the jackpot, take in some "Broadway in the Burbs," or spend a quiet, cultural day studying art and architecture.



AURORA DOWNTOWN CELL PHONE AND IPOD WALKING TOUR

Self-guided tour of Aurora's historic downtown.

Tour map is downloadable from enjoyaurora.com

To access Cell Phone and iPod Tours **(630) 844-8066**

HOLLYWOOD CASINO – AURORA

The area's best gaming facility with slots, blackjack, Caribbean stud poker, craps, live poker, roulette and mini baccarat, is now bigger and better than before. Enjoy over 53,000 sq. ft. of gaming space and the finest air quality in Chicagoland. The pavilion has two restaurants and an astounding collection of movie memorabilia. See props from "Titanic," "Casino" and "The Blues Brothers" as well as cars from "The Untouchables" and "Wayne's World."

1 New York Street Bridge, Aurora

(630) 801-1234 or (800) 888-7777

www.hollywoodcasinoaurora.com

WALTER PAYTON'S ROUNDHOUSE COMPLEX

Originally constructed in 1856, America's first railroad roundhouse was renovated in 1996 – and is a National Historic Trust Preservation Award Winner. Home to the Walter Payton Museum, Illinois' largest microbrewery, a brewpub that hosts live entertainment and over 10,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, 205 N. Broadway, Aurora

(630) 264-BREW (2739) • www.walterpaytonroundhouse.com

HISTORIC POINTS OF PRIDE

- Aurora was the first city in the world to use electric streetlights and has since officially adopted the slogan "City of Lights."
- In 1958, Batavia was the subject of a "Saturday Evening Post" cover.
- The Farnsworth House in Plano is one of only three Ludwig Mies van der Rohe residential designs in the country.
- Aurora is home of America's first railroad roundhouse, now serving as Walter Payton's Roundhouse Complex.
- Aurora's annual Blues on the Fox festival commemorates the RCA/Bluebird recordings made in Aurora's Leland Tower in the late 1930s. The historic recordings shaped the sound of Chicago Blues.



KIDS' FUN

Go-carts, laser tag, glow-in-the-dark bowling, bumper boats, paintball, water parks, mini-golf, batting cages, rock climbing and a free zoo — kids will have a blast roaming the Aurora area too. While in Aurora, discover one of the Midwest's most exciting hands-on museums — SciTech, a perfect mix of science and fun in an extremely interactive setting.

BLACKBERRY FARM'S PIONEER VILLAGE

Part amusement park and part museum, Blackberry Farm's Pioneer Village is an authentic 19th century farm and village featuring pioneer craft shops and demos, a discovery barn with petting zoo and pony, hay and miniature train rides. The park also features an old-fashioned carousel, as well as carriage, farm and "early streets" museums.

100 S. Barnes Rd., Aurora, IL • (630) 892-1550

www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org

PHILLIPS PARK ZOO

Established in 1915, the zoo is open daily, year-round and admission is free. Exhibits include bald eagles, wolves, foxes, otters, elk, goats, llamas, turkeys, peacocks and the renovated reptile exhibit. Don't forget to visit the Mastodon Gallery showcasing the Mastodon bones that were unearthed on site in 1934! The bones are estimated to be between 10,000 - 20,000 years old. 1000 Ray Moses Drive, Accessible from Howell Place off Montgomery Road or Wyeth Drive off Smith Boulevard, Aurora • (630) 978-4700 • www.aurora-il.org

SCITECH HANDS-ON MUSEUM

Aurora's interactive science and technology center offers over 200 hands-on exhibits demonstrating the principles of electricity, weather, astronomy and nuclear energy.

18 W. Benton Street, Aurora • (630) 859-3434

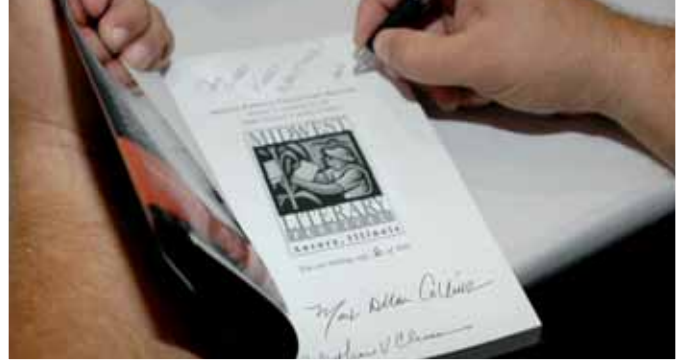
www.scitech.mus.il.us

AURORA REGIONAL FIRE MUSEUM

New displays of vintage firefighting equipment, memorabilia of the 1871 Chicago Fire — fun for the entire family.

53 N. Broadway, Aurora • (630) 892-1572

www.auroraregionalfiremuseum.org



SAVE THE DATE.

There's always a party going on. Bring your family to some of the Midwest's most lively and unique festivals as the Aurora area offers a complete calendar of excitements. Click enjoyaurora.com for all calendar items, additions and updates.

September 15 – September 16

BIG ROCK PLOW MATCH

Horseshow, competitive field plowing, 4-H Beef Show, arts and crafts, ladies fair, junior fair, train rides, pedal tractor pull, round bale roll-off, carnival rides, games, horseshoe tournament, bingo, concessions and more. Starts 8:30 a.m. Plowman's Park • 48W508 Hinckley Rd., Big Rock

(630) 556-3501 • villageofbigrock-il.us

October 6 – October 7

MIDWEST LITERARY FESTIVAL

Celebrating its 5th year, this festival joins book lovers, book writers and publishing professionals for two days of booklovers' bliss. Professionals giving practical, hard-won advice for prospective great American novelists. Over 100 authors. Children's activities, book sales, lectures, book signings, culinary events and more. Downtown Aurora

(630) 844-4731 • www.midwestliteraryfestival.com

October 28

SANDWICH ANTIQUE MARKET

Stroll through a score of antiques, uniques and collectibles from the 19th and 20th centuries. Located on the picturesque Sandwich Fairgrounds, rest under one of the 100-year-old trees. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$5 per person. PMB 260, 301 Church St., Sandwich

(815) 786-3337 • antiquemarkets.com

THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE'S SIZZLING SEASON

With more than 45 performances to choose from, the Paramount Theatre features an awesome line-up filled with star entertainers both familiar and new, world-class Broadway shows, cutting-edge performances, hilarious comedic talents and much more! Kick it old school with Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme (Oct. 26, 27) fly high with Peter Pan (Nov. 16, 17), strut like a cat at the Brian Setzer Orchestra's Christmas Extravaganza (Dec. 9) and rock out to the Broadway National Tour of Hairspray (Dec. 7,8).

8 East. Galena, Aurora • 630-896-6666

www.paramountarts.com

AURORA AREA ARCHITECTURE

The Aurora area features a diverse tapestry of architectural styles and sights, including designs by Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, Bruce Goff and George Grant Elmslie. This area also houses one of the largest collection of Sears mail-order homes in the country.
Aurora Area • (630) 897-5581

PARAMOUNT THEATRE



This restored 1931 movie palace is the area's best place to see live entertainment by national performers, live music, world-class entertainment, touring Broadway musicals, theater, dance, comedy and affordable family performances.

23 E. Galena Boulevard, Aurora
(630) 896-6666
www.theparamounttheatre.com

BATAVIA DEPOT MUSEUM

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this 1854 Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad depot comes alive with exhibits on rail transportation, windmills and the settlement of Batavia. Located in quaint downtown Batavia.
155 Houston Street Batavia, IL
(630) 406-5274 • www.bataviahistoricalsociety.org

DAVID L. PIERCE ART & HISTORY CENTER

The Aurora Public Art Commission hosts eight to 10 rotating exhibits displaying innovative visual arts.
20 E. Downer Place, Aurora • (630) 906-0654
www.aurora-il.org

THE OLD BARN MUSEUM

Featuring a collection of thousands of Native American artifacts such as: arrows, axes, drills, stone implements, trade beads, beaded garments and natural history items. Housed in an original 1840s barn.
7127B Oakbrook Rd., Newark • www.theoldbarnmuseum.org

WALTER PAYTON'S ROUNDHOUSE COMPLEX

Originally constructed in 1856, America's first railroad roundhouse was renovated in 1996 - and is a National Historic Trust Preservation Award Winner. Home to the Walter Payton Museum, ComedyComedy, Illinois' largest award-winning micro-brewery and live entertainment. 205 N. Broadway, Aurora • (630) 892-0034
www.walterpaytonroundhouse.com

ESTHER'S PLACE

Enter an encouraging environment, one that beckons to simpler, uncomplicated times. At Esther's Place, take the first step toward honing your inner fiber artist. Classes in spinning, weaving, and knitting, as well as, retreats.
www.esthersplacefibers.com



DESTINATION SHOPPING – STROLL, STOP & SHOP

The Aurora area is one of the Midwest's premier shopping destinations with markets, outlets, malls and more. Only 15 minutes apart, Chicago Premium Outlets and Westfield Shoppingtown Fox Valley present shoppers with a combined "I want that" experience of 300 stores and nearly 2 million square feet of retail bliss. For uniques and antiques, stroll the shops of Batavia and Yorkville or check out Sandwich's Antique Market or the Kane County Flea Market. Find your treasure by exploring all the Aurora Area has to offer.

www.enjoyaurora.com



SCHINGOETHE CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

A rotating collection of historic and contemporary Native American arts, crafts and artifacts from indigenous peoples stretching from the Woodlands to the Pacific Northwest.
Aurora University, Aurora • (630) 844-7843
www.aurora.edu/museum

CHICAGO PREMIUM OUTLETS

Features 120 designer and name brand outlet stores with savings of 25% to 65% every day.
1650 Premium Outlets Boulevard, (I-88 and North Farnsworth Avenue), Aurora • (630) 585-2200
www.premiumoutlets.com/chicago

KANE COUNTY FLEA MARKET

One of the Midwest's largest flea markets with more than 1000 quality dealers inside and outside. First Sunday of every month and the preceding Saturday afternoon. Rain or shine.
Kane County Fairgrounds, Route 38 and Randall Road, St. Charles
(630) 377-2252 • www.kanecountyfleamarket.com

RANDALL / ORCHARD ROAD CORRIDOR

These rapidly growing roads stretching through Aurora, North Aurora and Batavia are brimming with big-name retailers and quality restaurants.

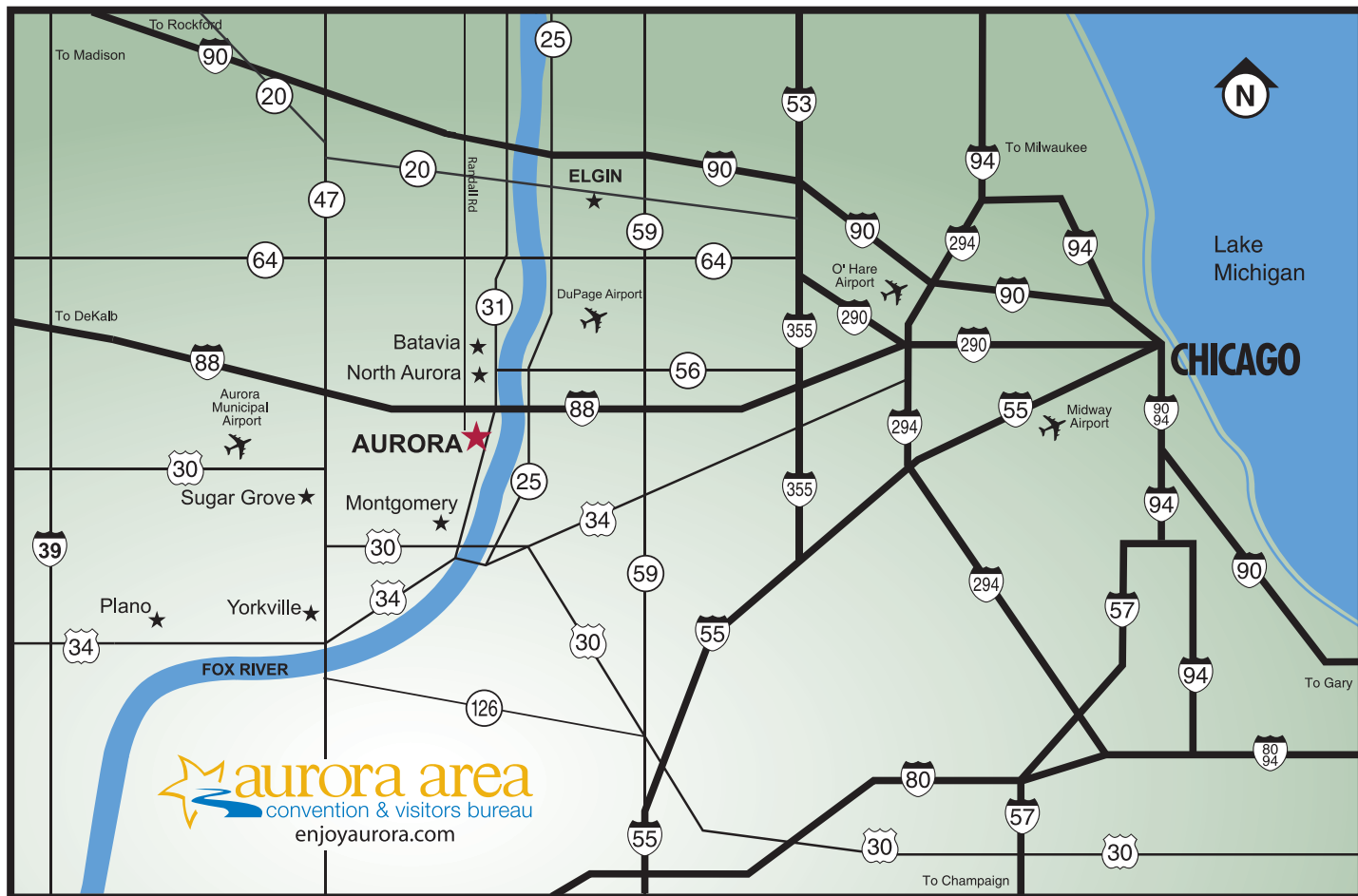
ROUTE 59 CORRIDOR

Discover hundreds of well-known specialty and chain stores and dozens of great dining locations. Route 59 in Aurora, between I-88 and 95th Road.

HOTEL PACKAGES

BAYMONT INN & SUITES

Located minutes from Chicago Premium Outlets, Paramount Theatre, Walter Payton's Roundhouse Complex and Hollywood Casino, the Baymont Inn & Suites offers 71 guest rooms and fantastic amenities - complimentary WiFi, indoor pool and fitness center, for example - at a great value. Please mention package at time of reservation. 308 S. Lincolnway, North Aurora
(630) 897-7695 • www.baymontinns.com



NIGHT ON THE TOWN

- One night's lodging for two (standard room)
- 15% discount on world-class Paramount Theatre tickets
- \$50 gift card to Jason's Steakhouse
- Deluxe hot continental breakfast
- From 4/01/07 to 10/31/07 - \$124 + tax
- From 11/1/07 to 12/31/07 - \$109 + tax
- Packages based on availability

STAYBRIDGE SUITES

Offering everything you need for a comfortable and complete extended stay, including 148 spacious suites, full kitchens, breakfast buffet, giant indoor pool, sport court, fitness center, free high-speed Internet access and sundown evening reception. Within walking distance to the Metra train station. Call the Staybridge directly at (630) 978-2222 and speak with our Sales Department to book packages. Packages valid year-round, weekends only (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and require 48-hour advance booking. 4320 Meridian Parkway, Aurora • (630) 978-2222 www.staybridgesuites.com/aurora

FAMILY PIZZA PALOOZA - RIGHTEOUS!

- One night's lodging for four
- Large two-topping pizza and pop from Pizza to the People
- \$20 in game tokens to Odyssey Fun World
- Popcorn and goodie bags for the kids
- Indoor heated pool/whirlpool
- Hot breakfast buffet
- Valid year-round, weekends only (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and requires advanced booking.
- From \$139.00 + tax



Packages based on availability. Not valid with any other discounts.

 **aurora area**
convention & visitors bureau
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