

Aurora Area, Illinois Visitors Guide 2006

Aurora Batavia Montgomery North Aurora Plano Sugar Grove Yorkville



The Official Come and Go Guide

Good through January 2007

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 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 WALKING TOUR

Self-guided tour of Aurora's historic downtown.

Tour map is downloadable from enjoyaurora.com

To access Cell Phone Tour (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 "Twister," "Star Wars" 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 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.
- The Hi-Lite in Aurora is Illinois' first drive-in movie theatre, built in 1947.
- 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.

- In 1991, Aurora became the toast of Hollywood with the release of "Wayne's World." The movie expanded on the "Saturday Night Live" spoof of an Aurora cable television access show.

KID'S FUN – SPLISH, SPLASH SPORTS & SPACE

Go-carts, laser tag, glow-in-the-dark bowling, bumper boats, paintball, mini-golf, batting cages, rock climbing and a free zoo — kids will have a blast roaming the Aurora area too. While in Aurora, discover three of the Midwest's most exciting hands-on museums — Blackberry Farm, Lyon Farm and SciTech — allowing all ages to journey back in time to the rural pioneer days or explore and interact with science and technology.



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 Road, Aurora (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 more. New mountain lion exhibit coming in 2005! 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

WATERDOG INK

Waterdog Ink, located in Montgomery, is a culmination of canoeing, kayaking, fine arts, graphic arts, publishing, fishing, and hunting, all under one roof. They offer a variety of water tour packages, and can sell you artwork to take home when you return. www.waterdogink.com

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

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. Submerge yourself in the worlds of art, antiques, holidays, blues, literature, theatre, food, culture, and more. The seven communities that make up the Aurora area each offer one-of-a-kind entertainment and events... and you're invited to them all.

Click enjoyaurora.com for all calendar items, additions and updates.

March 27 – Mid-September

DINOSAURIOS ARGENTINOS – THE GIANTS OF PATONIA

On display for the first time ever in the United States. A unique opportunity to see 22 exhibits of bones, skulls, tracks, restorations, and skeletons. These exhibits are rarely seen outside Argentina. • www.scitech.mus.il.us

June 16 – August 11

DOWNTOWN ALIVE! 2005

Dance under the stars in downtown Aurora with themed parties almost every Friday night. • Stolp Avenue and Downer Place, Aurora • 6 p.m. on most Fridays • (630) 844-3640

August 12 – 13

ART IN YOUR EYE – INTERACTIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

A festival giving people the opportunity to celebrate, purchase, and enjoy art along Batavia's Riverwalk. Festival features a juried invitational art show, art demonstrations and a two-week-long art school prior to the weekend festival. Batavia's Riverwalk • (630) 482-9157 www.artinyoureye.com

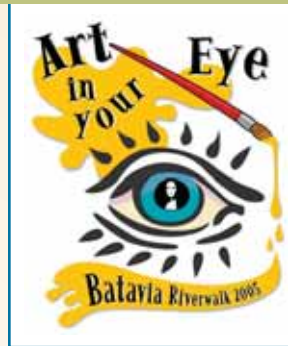
September 16 – 17

MIDWEST BOOK FESTIVAL

A celebration of the written word to promote reading, literary arts and an appreciation of the Midwest's literary heritage. Downtown Aurora (630) 844-4731 • www.midwestliteraryfestival.com

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES – TAKE A HIKE

Hike, bike, swim or canoe, the Aurora area has plenty of adventures for you to do. The Fox River is a sanctuary for canoes and kayaks while the valley is bursting with river shores, forest and wildlife preserves, golf course, and gorgeous parks. Whether you prefer jogging, walking, biking or blading, Northern Illinois boasts over 100 miles of meandering trails and paths, with many of Illinois' most scenic trails right here in the Fox River Valley.



FOX RIVER TRAIL

36-mile asphalt trail from Aurora to Crystal Lake, paralleling the Fox River. Open year-round. Trail begins in downtown Aurora and continues north beyond Crystal Lake. Galena Boulevard at the Fox River, Aurora • (630) 897-0516

ARTS & CULTURE THE FARNSWORTH HOUSE

One of only three residences in the country designed by world-renowned architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the Farnsworth House stands several feet off the ground on painted steel trusses overlooking the Fox River. It is essentially a glass box of sculptural simplicity. This 61-acre site is integral to the preservation effort, especially since a state park surrounds it on three sides. • 14520 River Road, Plano (630) 552-0052 • www.farnsworthhouse.org



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

SWIMMING STONES

A kinetic water sculpture commissioned by the Aurora Public Arts Commission and sculpted by Christian Tobin, the piece combines art with the laws of physics that enable giant stones to rock, spin and swivel on a cushion of water. Northwest corner of Stolp Avenue and Benton Street, Aurora (630) 906-0654

SUNKEN GARDEN

View the spectacular display of 15,000 flowers of 15 varieties, plus a three-tiered fountain and the "Four Seasons" statues that complement this exquisite English garden motif. Phillips Park, Aurora • (630) 898-7228 • www.aurora-il.org

DESTINATION SHOPPING – STOP, SHOP & ROLL

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 almost two million retail square feet. For uniques and antiques, the shops of Batavia and Yorkville have plenty of knicks and knacks to discover. Find your treasure by exploring off the beaten path and discovering the Aurora area's quaint shops and markets.



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

SANDWICH ANTIQUES MARKET

April 23, May 21, June 18, July 23, August 20, September 24 and October 22 rain or shine. Inside and outside quality dealers. Admission \$5 per person, free parking. Sandwich Fairgrounds, Route 34, Sandwich (815) 786-3337 • www.antiquemarkets.com

HOTEL PACKAGES



ARBORS BED & BREAKFAST

Appreciate small-town life at this historic 1855 Victorian Italianate country estate. Three guest rooms with private and shared baths, a sun room, screened porch, library, family room and parlor.

209 W. Charles Street, Plano (630) 552-1853 • www.go-illinois.com

Architecture & Antiques Package

- One night's lodging for two
- \$20 gift certificate for a massage
- \$5 off discount at the Farnsworth House
- 10 percent off coupon at Sandwich Antiques Market
- Call for prices

HOMESTEAD BED AND BREAKFAST



A beautifully decorated bed and breakfast nestled in a historic setting and featuring five cozy bedrooms with private baths. This 1854 Italianate country cottage, "Where the past and the present mingle for a moment," is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All packages

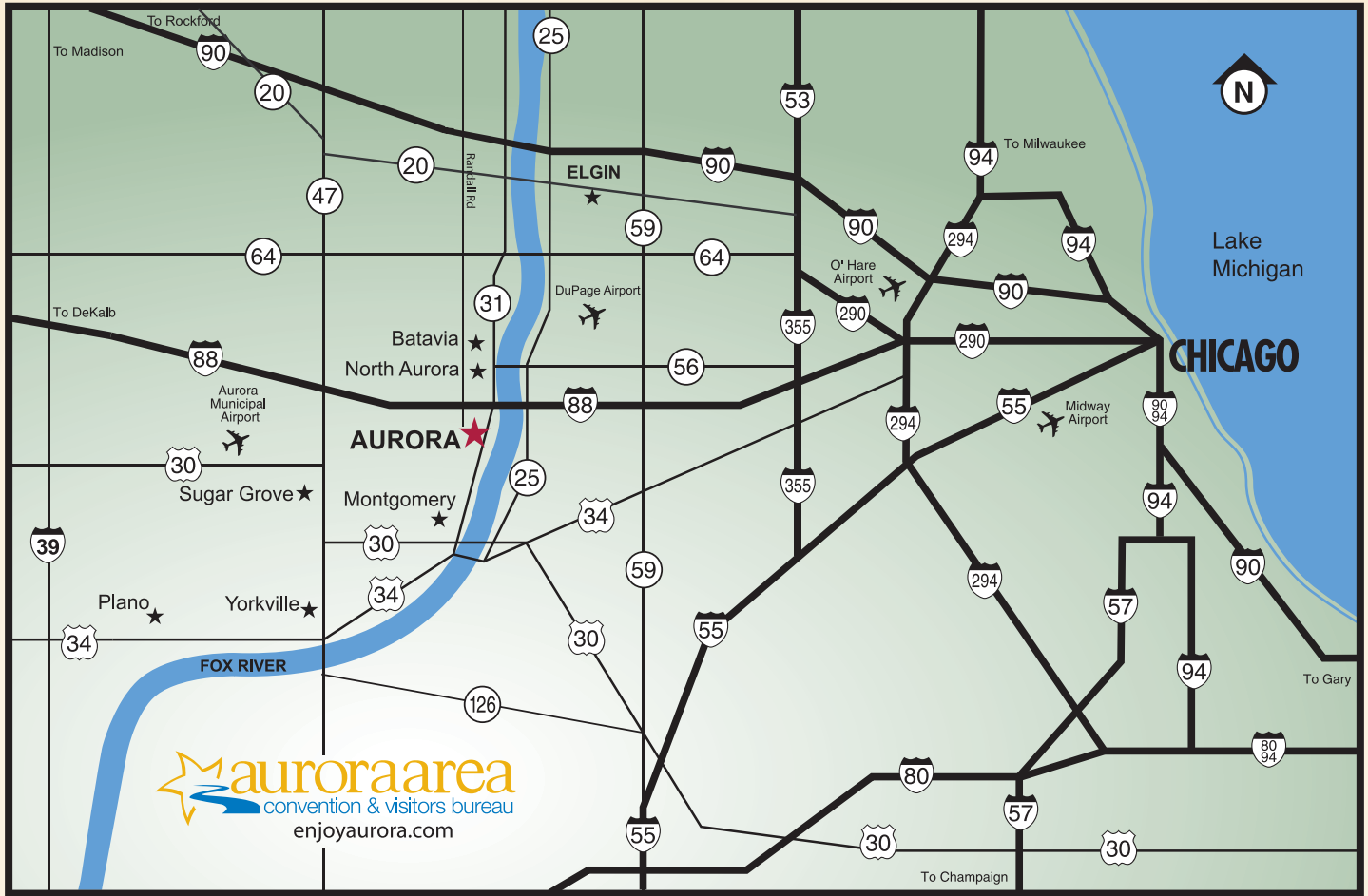
are based on availability and require 72-hour advance reservation. Please mention package name when making reservation. • 611 E. Main Street, Plano (630) 552-4322 • www.thehomesteadbnb.com

Peddles, Paddles & Pillows

- Two night's lodging for two
- Bicycle rental
- Maps of area trails and points of interest
- Canoe rental from Freeman Sports in Yorkville
- Specially prepared box lunch
- Memory gift
- Transportation to/from Plano Amtrak Station

Optional Additions:

- Amtrak train tickets
 - Farnsworth House admission
 - Dinner at a local restaurant
- Valid mid-April to mid-October, 2006. From \$395.00 + tax



HAMPTON INN & SUITES

This comfortable hotel offers 127 rooms with a 5,000 sq. ft. conference center and banquet facility. Recreational facilities include a 6,000 sq. ft. indoor swimming pool complex with separate kiddie pool and 2,000 gallon whirlpool, game room and fitness center. Enjoy our complimentary "On the House" breakfast with hot items and business services, such as free high-speed internet. Visit the website for seasonal packages and more information. All packages are based on availability.
 2423 Bushwood Drive, Aurora
(630) 907-2600 • www.hamptoninnandsuitesaurora.com

Shopping Spree Package

- One night's lodging for two
- Shopping survival kit
- Free VIP coupon book to Chicago Premium Outlets
- \$25 gift card to the Chicago Premium Outlets
- \$25 gift certificate to Red Star Tavern
- Rates from \$149 + tax, call for exact prices

[Click here for more great hotel packages!](#)

