

## Aurora Area, Illinois Visitors Guide 2006

Aurora Batavia Montgomery North Aurora Plano Sugar Grove Yorkville



The Official Come and Go Guide

 **ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.**

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, Big Rock 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.
- 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 – SPORTS, SPACE AND SYRUP!

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 one of the Midwest's most exciting hands-on museums — SciTech, a perfect mix of science and fun in an extremely interactive setting.

## BATAVIA DEPOT MUSEUM

Listed on the National Registry, this 1854 Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad depot comes alive with exhibits on rail transportation, windmills and the settlement of Batavia. 155 Houston St., Batavia • (630) 406-5274  
[www.bataviainhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bataviainhistoricalsociety.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 latest — the 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](http://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. The popular exhibit, Dinosaurios Argentinos — the Giants of Patagonia has been extended to Jan. 1. This rare selection of Argentinian dinosaur

bones is truly larger-than-life. • 18 W. Benton Street, Aurora (630) 859-3434 • [www.scitech.mus.il.us](http://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](http://www.auroraregionalfiremuseum.org)

## 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 eight 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](http://enjoyaurora.com) for all calendar items, additions and updates.



## December 1- 31 ZOO HOLIDAYZE

Stroll the illuminated path at Phillips Park Zoo and enjoy the sights of over 6,000 holiday lights and the sounds of carols. [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)

## December 3, 10 CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM

Enjoy craft making, chestnut roasting, cookie icing, visiting with Santa and much more. (630) 554-3064

## March 17 SUGAR MAPLE FEST

Immerse yourself in all things Maple! Learn how to identify, size and tap Maple trees. Be amazed as you transform tree sap into yummy syrup. Red Oak Nature Center, North Aurora [www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org](http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org)

## BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE...

Stave off winter blues by heading to the Paramount Theatre and seeing sizzling acts in a 1930s restored movie palace. Entertainment includes: Paula Poundstone, Marie Osmond, The Ten Tenors and the Brian Setzer Orchestra. Check out some classic holiday plays like, The Nutcracker, Babes in Toyland or the beloved, A Christmas Carol. Or take in a Broadway show like The Producers or Cats. 8 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora (630) 896-6666  
[www.theparamounttheatre.com](http://www.theparamounttheatre.com)



## FOX RIVER TRAIL

Thirty-six 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

### 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](http://www.theparamounttheatre.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](http://www.esthersplacefibers.com)

### 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](http://www.aurora-il.org)

### 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](http://www.enjoyaurora.com)



### CHICAGO PREMIUM OUTLETS

Features 120 designer and name brand outlet stores with savings of 25% to 65% every day. After-Thanksgiving Weekend Sale including Midnight Madness. Selected stores will open at midnight on Thanksgiving evening.

1650 Premium Outlets Boulevard, (I-88 and North Farnsworth Avenue), Aurora • (630) 585-2200  
[www.premiumoutlets.com/chicago](http://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](http://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 just minutes from Chicago Premium Outlets, Paramount Theatre and Hollywood Casino, the Baymont offers 71 guest rooms with fantastic amenities – at a great value. Please mention package when making a reservation.  
308 S. Lincolnway, North Aurora • 630-897-7695  
[www.baymontfinns.com](http://www.baymontfinns.com)

### Night on the Town Package

- One night stay for two in a standard room
- 15% discount off Paramount Theatre tickets
- \$25 gift card to Jason's Steakhouse
- Deluxe continental breakfast
- Valid November 2006 to March 2007
- 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](http://www.thehomesteadbnb.com)

### Bears, Beer & Bed Package

- One night's lodging for two
- Gift certificate, \$40 per person for Walter Payton's Roundhouse Complex
- Tickets to the Chicago Bears game at Soldier Field
- Limo transport to and from dinner and the game
- Special souvenirs
- Valid during Bears season
- Call for prices

