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ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

Good through January 2008

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 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.

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

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.

June 22 – August 10 DOWNTOWN ALIVE!

Dance under the stars in downtown Aurora with live music on most Friday nights throughout the summer. Downtown Aurora • (630) 844-4386 • www.downtownliveaurora.com

August 11 – 12 ART IN YOUR EYE FINE ART FESTIVAL

Eighty-five award-winning artists from across the country display fine art for your viewing and/or purchasing pleasure. A fine arts festival run by artists, this event is preceded by a month-long art school. • Batavia Riverwalk • 100 N. Island Ave., Batavia • (630) 879-1424 • www.artinyoureye.com

September 15 – September 16 BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH FESTIVAL

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 05 – October 07 MIDWEST LITERARY FESTIVAL

Celebrating its 5th year, this festival joins book lovers, book writers and publishing professionals for two days of booklover's bliss. Professionals giving practical, hard-won advice for prospective great American novelists. Over 100 authors. Children's activities, book sales, lectures, book signings and more. Downtown Aurora • (630) 844-4731 • www.midwestliteraryfestival.com

May – October FARMERS MARKETS

The Aurora Area hosts a crop of Farmers Markets from spring until fall throughout the picturesque Fox Valley. From flowers to baked goods, from crafts to the freshest produce—you will find it here. 1-800-477-4369 • enjoyaurora.com

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL!

Be a part of America's #1 Girls Night Out event – Menopause The Musical. Find out why over 7 million fans worldwide have embraced this uproarious celebration of women and "the change." See this hilarious musical in historic downtown Aurora. The Copley Theatre • 8 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora • (630) 896-6666 • www.paramountarts.com



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

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

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 microbrewery and live entertainment.
205 N. Broadway, Aurora • (630) 892-0034
www.walterpaytonroundhouse.com

THE FARNSWORTH HOUSE

This stellar structure, created by Mies van der Rohe, of floor-to-ceiling glass seemingly "floats" above the rambling Fox River.
14520 River Road, Plano • (630) 552-0052
www.farnsworthhouse.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



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

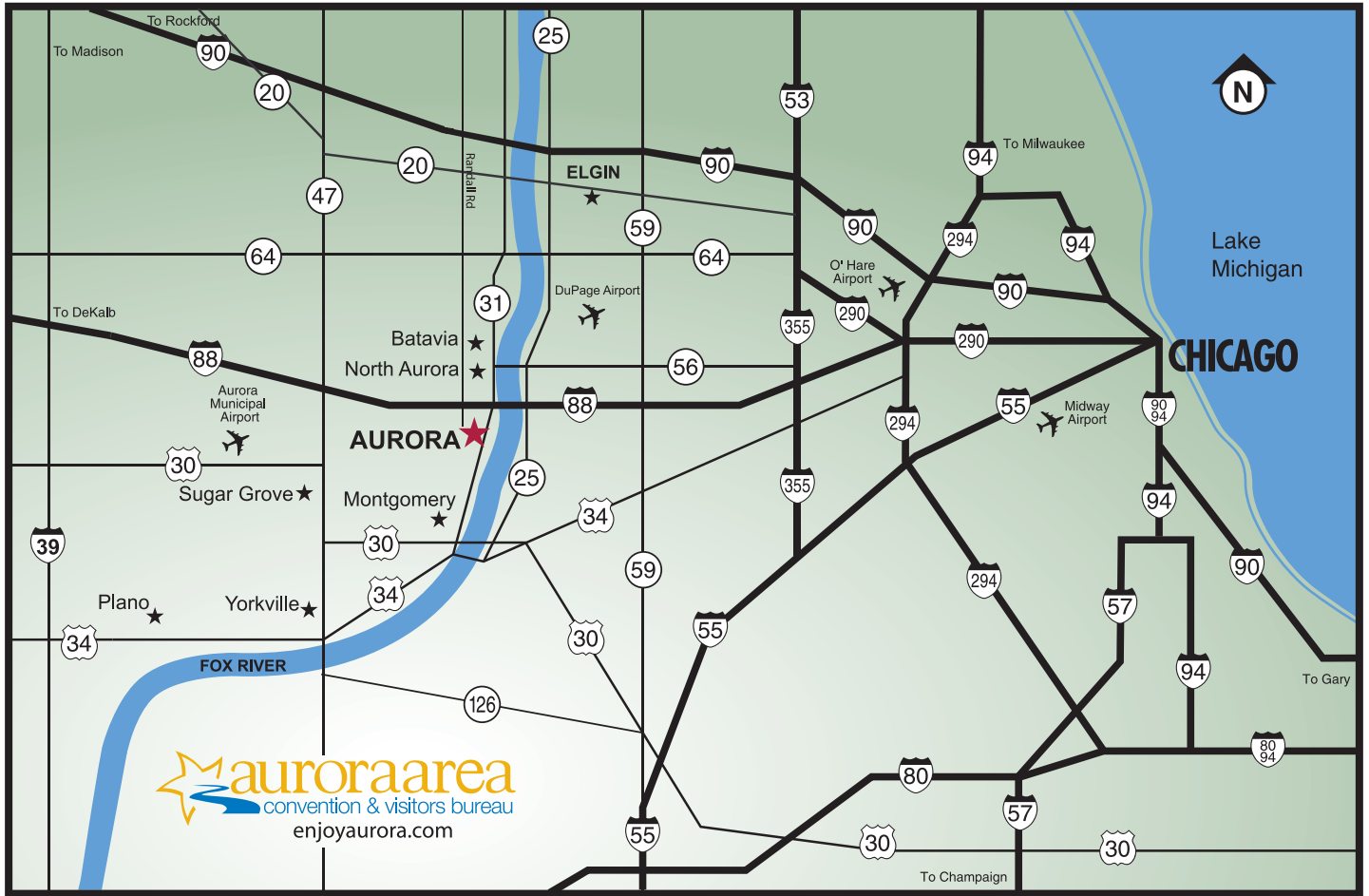
These rapidly growing roads stretching through Aurora, North Aurora and Batavia are brimming with big-name retailers and quality restaurants.

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 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. Ask for front desk manager at (630) 429-2517 to book packages. 4320 Meridian Parkway, Aurora
(630) 978-2222 • www.staybridgesuites.com/aurora



SHOPPING, MENOPAUSE & MORE

- One night's lodging in our spacious suites
- Discount coupon book to Chicago Premium Outlets
- Ticket(s) to Menopause The Musical at The Copley Theatre
- Fun-filled keepsake Gift Bag
- 15% discount to Jimmy's Charhouse Restaurant
- Valid during shows run, weekends only.
- Rates from \$175 plus tax

COMFORT SUITES AURORA

This award-winning hotel with 82 suites, offers a deluxe hot breakfast, indoor pool, fitness room, free high-speed Internet and business meeting facilities. Located within walking distance of Walter Payton's Roundhouse Complex, Hollywood Casino, Paramount Theatre and other great attractions. Adjacent to Burlington Northern Railway with easy access to Chicago. All packages based on availability. 111 N. Broadway, Aurora • (630) 896-2800

www.comfortsuitesaurora.com

BIKE PATH PACKAGE

- One night's lodging for two
- \$50 gift certificate towards Walter Payton's Roundhouse Complex
- Complimentary fanny pack filled with snacks for the trail
- Complimentary Fox River Bicycle Trail Guide
- From \$119 per night; see enjoyaurora.com for package details.



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convention & visitors bureau
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