

illinois

parks for kids



- In 1865, Illinois became the very first state to ratify the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery.
- Ice cream sundaes were invented in Evanston, Illinois!
- In Mount Pulaski, it is illegal for boys to hurl snowballs at trees. There is no law preventing girls from doing the same!
- The world's first skyscraper was built in Chicago in 1885. Today the Willis Tower (Sears Tower) is the second tallest building in the United States.



1. Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Become a Junior Ranger! Tour the only home Lincoln ever owned. Take a self-guided stroll through the surrounding neighborhood to find outdoor exhibits introducing Mr. Lincoln's neighbors and daily life in 1860s Springfield.

2. Giant City State Park

Hike to the Stone Fort, take a look around Giant City Lodge or walk the trail to Post Oak. Camp overnight, look for rare plants, ride a horse or go fishing.

3. Fort Massac State Park

Hike the Hickory Nut Ridge Trail or spend the night camping! Have a picnic or go fishing. In October be sure to check out the live recreation of Fort Massac life.

4. Starved Rock State Park

Hike to the top of the Starved Rock Butte, fish in the Illinois River or rent a canoe. Go fishing then spend the night camping.

5. Mississippi Palisades State Park

Go fishing, bird watching, or rock climbing! Hike the Sentinel Trail and find Lookout Point, have a picnic and camp overnight.



6. Ferne Clyffe State Park

Hike the Big Rocky Hollow trail to see a 100 foot waterfall! Go to the Hawks Cave where you can yell into an echo chamber. Go fishing and feel free to spend the night camping!

7. Morton Arboretum

Hop on the Acorn Express tram ride for a tour through the woodlands, wetlands, and prairie. Explore the Children's Gardens, hike the East Side Main Loop One Trail, or go out and see the Millennium Oak. In the winter, go skiing or snowshoeing.

8. Millennium Park

Enjoy a picnic on the great lawn or cool off in the Crown Fountain. Explore the Lurie Garden but be sure to take your picture next to the Giant Bean!