

ILLINOISouth is home to several BIG adventures ready for you to experience! [Casey](#) has twelve world record holders for the World's Largest items, from giant pitchforks and wooden shoes to wind chimes and golf tees. Seeing these everyday items blown up to larger-than-life proportions is sure to blow you away. Don't forget to climb up the World's Largest Mailbox to send a postcard and enjoy the view of Casey. In Vandalia, you can't miss the 35-foot long metal monster known as the [Kaskaskia Dragon](#). Anchored off of Interstate 70, the dragon even breathes fire! All guests have to do is insert a special dragon coin, available at the liquor store across the street or the nearby hardware store, into the coin box to watch the dragon shoot fire from its snout as its eyes glow red. Towering at 160 feet tall, the [Centralia Carillon](#) is another sight that you couldn't miss if you tried. Currently ranking as one of the ten largest carillons in the world, the Centralia Carillon consists of 65 bells that add up to 61,312 pounds, making it one of the heaviest instruments in the world. If you're looking for a peaceful summer night, the Centralia Carillon hosts weekly concerts where you can enjoy beautiful music from the sky. On the edge of the Mississippi River, the [Gateway Geyser](#) is a stunning fountain in East St. Louis. Located in Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park, the Geyser is the tallest water fountain in America, shooting up to 630 feet tall and reaching the height of its neighbor across the river, the St. Louis Arch. The Geyser erupts every day at noon, so take a break to eat lunch by the Geyser and enjoy a beautiful view of the Mississippi River, the Arch, and the Geyser all in one. Have fun experiencing some of the larger-than-life adventures ILLINOISouth has to offer!

If you're looking for a delicious way to cool off this summer, ILLINOISouth has the solution for you! There are dozens of unique, tasty ice cream shops throughout our 21 counties stretching across southern Illinois. If you're looking for a sweet treat after a day of seeing sites such as the World's Largest Mailbox, key, wooden shoes, and more in Casey, Illinois – you have to check out [The Big Dipper](#). This family owned and operated shop is constantly adding delicious flavors to their menu, from classic favorites such as Moose Tracks to unique treats like Carrot Mango Italian Ice! Don't miss out on their Donut Extreme, complete with your choice of ice cream drizzled with syrup and sandwiched between a donut with candy to top it off. Another popular spot is [Ice Cream Körner](#) in Iuka, which is well known for its specialty sundaes – but their claim to fame is the banana split that could easily just be a meal! With a menu full of items like chicken, salad, fish, wraps, and more in addition to their delicious ice cream, there is no craving that [Walton's Ice Cream & More](#) in Smithton can't solve. Their frozen treats are the highlight of their menu, ranging from floats and shakes to cones and sundaes. They have countless specialty concretes, including unique flavors such as Gooey Butter Cake, Elvis Delight, and Puppy Chow! The menu at Walton's has grown almost every day since its opening, so you never know what delicious dessert will be waiting for you!

What makes our area famous? Well... A LOT! ILLINOISouth is full of iconic places that appeal to everyone's interests. Did you know that the delicious Heath Bar was invented in Robinson? Dating back to 1914, the Heath Bar is now a global phenomenon, and fans of the toffee candy bar can visit the confectionery where it all started while also checking out their museum to learn more about the origins of the delicious treat. The [Heath Museum and Confectionary](#) is a *sweet* place to visit! In Breese, [Excel Bottling Company](#) has a variety of delicious soft drinks to quench your thirst. This family-owned bottling company is best known for their most popular soda, Ski, also known as "Clinton County coffee" due to its popularity and the fact that folks will line up in the mornings to get their Ski fix before work. Be sure to stop by Excel Bottling Company to taste Ski for yourself! Over in Chester, you can visit the home of the iconic cartoon character [Popeye the Sailor Man](#). Here you can visit the only Popeye Museum & Shop in the world and walk through the Popeye & Friends Character Trail, which features statues of the characters from E.C. Segar's Thimble Theatre cartoon strip. There is no shortage of fun with Popeye the Sailor Man in Chester! Enjoy seeing some of ILLINOISouth's most iconic places!

We all know breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and what's even better than a delicious breakfast? A delicious breakfast AND lunch! ILLINOISouth has a variety of brunch places to satisfy both your breakfast and lunch cravings. In Olney, [Ophelia's Cup](#) has you covered with a vast menu for both breakfast and lunch items. You can indulge in eggs, omelets, breakfast burritos, and more for breakfast or skip to lunch and taste some sandwiches, wraps, and salads! The [Fillin' Station](#) in Toledo will treat you to breakfast classics like biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, and pancakes. They also serve mouth-watering lunches such as burgers and sandwiches. [Bonnie Cafe](#) in Nashville is sure to blow you away with their breakfast buffet, complete with eggs, bacon, pancakes, and other delicious brunch options. Their lunch will certainly impress you as well with items like pasta, chicken sandwiches, and fish! Their menu is constantly revolving, so you never know what delicious meal you'll be treated to at Bonnie Cafe. Columbia's [Cafe on the Abbey](#) has a wide variety of breakfast meals that are sure to impress, but the highlight is undeniably their "Dillon" ger, complete with a layer of American fries topped with biscuits and gravy underneath two eggs and bacon. Their lunch will not disappoint either with menu items like salads, soups, paninis, and even Chicago-style beef. Whether you're looking for an early-morning breakfast or a mid-afternoon meal, ILLINOISouth has you covered with these delicious brunch spots!

ILLINOISouth has a variety of options to choose from when it comes to farmers markets, so if you're craving some fresh, locally-made food or are in the market for handmade goods, we have the solution for you! O'Fallon Station is home to the [Vine Street Market](#), where vendors from near and far gather to sell a variety of goods such as local produce, artisan jewelry, desserts, and more. There is even live music to make the Vine Street Market the perfect way to spend your weekend. The [Vandalia, Illinois Farmers Market](#) works to build a sustainable food economy in their community by featuring local farmers as their vendors. Complete with snow cones, music, and activities for kids – the Vandalia, Illinois Farmers Market is sure to be a blast for everyone. The [Saint Marie Farmers Market](#) in Jasper County has no shortage of vendors or products. From delicious baked goods and pure honey to fresh-cut flowers and homemade soaps, the Saint Marie Farmers Market has something for everyone. Be sure to check out these farmers markets to support local businesses while finding unique treats to enjoy!

If you are looking for an exciting way to spend the weekend with your family, ILLINOISouth has you covered! There are so many places that people of all ages will enjoy across southern Illinois. In Fairview Heights, [Centerfield Park](#) is sure to excite kids with activities such as bumper boats, go-karts, arcades, and batting cages! If you're looking for some more relaxed activities, Centerfield Park won't disappoint between their beautifully-landscaped miniature golf course and the opportunity to paddle boat. The [I-64 KOA](#) Campgrounds in Grayville provide the perfect place for a peaceful getaway or an exciting adventure! The grounds have endless amenities, including a playground, restaurant and bar, bowling alley, ice cream parlor, and miniature golf course. If you're looking for a weekend getaway, the I-64 KOA Campgrounds has lodging options like deluxe cabins, tent sites, and Kamp K9, a pet-friendly site! In Flora, the [Little Toot Railroad](#) is sure to be a hit with every member of the family. The train, powered by antique steam and diesel engines, drives through the Charlie Brown Park. The ride provides a relaxing and nostalgic experience for adults and an exciting, educational adventure for kids. Have fun spending some quality time with your family in ILLINOISouth!

ILLINOISouth has an impressive art scene. Home of several art festivals, murals, and art museums, southern Illinois residents have no shortage of options when it comes to opportunities to immerse themselves in a creative, artistic environment. The [Olney Walldogs Mural Event](#) is taking place in stages this year, due to the pandemic. There are 15 new murals popping up all around town for visitors to enjoy. While admiring the art, be sure to keep an eye out for white squirrels hidden in the murals! The popular art show, [Art on the Square](#), also offers an opportunity for community members to come together to support the arts. Complete with pieces from over 100 artists, live music, food and more – Art on the Square is sure to be an unforgettable event. Consistently ranked as one of the top art shows in the nation by Art Fair Sourcebook, you don't want to miss this fun-filled event in October! The [Midwest Salute to the Arts Festival](#) in late August is a nationally recognized art festival in Fairview Heights. Enjoy a weekend full of food, drinks, music, and, most importantly, all kinds of art! You can even watch as artists create some of their pieces! In October, Highland's [Art in the Park](#) festival has countless art exhibits for visitors to explore. They even have a Kids Kreation area where children can make their own art! The [Richard Bock Sculpture Museum](#) in Greenville has been showcasing sculptures created by Bock since 1975. The museum also features letters and architectural drawings from Frank Lloyd Wright. Visiting the museum provides a great educational opportunity to appreciate the arts and learn about history. Enjoy all of the spectacular art that ILLINOISouth has to offer!