

50 Nifty Things

50 Nifty Things To Do and See In Carroll, Jo Daviess, Whiteside Counties in Illinois and Jackson County in Iowa

Compiled and Brought to you by
Savanna Chamber of Commerce

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1. **Long Hollow Lookout Tower** at the Intersection of routes 84 & 20. Open year round with vistas of the breathtaking rugged beauty of Northwestern Illinois.

2. **Schurmeier Forest** parking besides Long Hollow Tower: Enjoy approximately two miles of hiking trails, the first one-third being a "teaching trail" with informational signage corresponding to a guide book available at the trail-head. Picnic shelter located across the street by the parking area. Owned by the nonprofit Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.

3. **Apple River Fort State Historic Site** in Elizabeth, IL. Reconstructed fort depicting life during the 1800's; seasonal living historical events. For additional info call 815-858-2028.

4. **Elizabeth Historical Society History Museum** - Elizabeth/Jo Daviess County History, Apple River Fort, lead mining artifacts. Free walking of tour historic downtown Elizabeth. Tours by appointment. Hours 11 a.m.-3 p.m., weekends, May-October.

5. **Chicago Great Western Railway Museum** - on Myrtle Street in downtown Elizabeth, Illinois was constructed in 1888 and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

6. **Blanding Landing Recreation Area** - on Blanding Road just off Blackjack Rd. in Hanover. It offers a slower pace and a close look at the area's rolling scenery. It offers camping with showers, picnicking, and summer interpretive programs for visitors. Operated by COE.

7. **Lost Mound FWS Refuge and Overlook** located just off Rte. 84 on the former Savanna Army Depot. The Refuge is home to many plants, animals, birds and waterfowl. Observation deck provides scenic look at the Mississippi River where the Maquoketa joins the Mississippi.

8. **Lazy River Marina** - River access for boating and canoeing. Watch waterfowl, bank fish, or picnic in shelters. Located on Highway 84 directly across from the Mississippi Palisades State Park.

9. **Palisades State Park** - Rt. 84 north of Savanna. 2,550 acres offers picnicking with shelter houses throughout the park, 13-mile hiking trail system, several locations with playground equipment, scenic overlooks, RV and primitive walk-in camping sites and abundant wildlife. Rappelling is also available for the more adventurous. Home to ferns in the deep ravines, trillium, bluebell, lobelia, shooting star and yellow ladies' slipper.

10. **Indian Head Granite Rock Formation** - Palisades State Park - one of the gifts from Mother Nature when the area was untouched by the Glaciers.

11. **Twin Sister Granite Rock Formation** - Palisades State Park - Another humanoid figure on the bluff. U.S. Interior Dept. recognized the remarkable nature of this area when in 1973 it designated acreage here as a national landmark.

12. **Look Out Point and Louis Point in Palisades State Park** - Palisades State Park - just two of several scenic overlooks. From these vantage points, the viewer can watch eagles soar, BNSF train, barges, and river traffic.

13. **Marquette Park in Savanna** - Riverfront park with two free boat ramps, picnic tables within 3 shelter houses, restroom facility, benches to watch the riverboats and area for on-shore fishing.

14. **321 Art Gallery in Savanna** – A local artist co-op with displays changing monthly. Gallery is also a place to find unique, one of a kind gifts including: watercolors, pastels, oil landscapes, as well as photography, jewelry, pottery, sculpture, and mixed media.

15. **Aaron Pierce Monument** - at the North entrance to Savanna – it was this location that on November 4, 1828 after 3 days of traveling by covered wagon and horseback from Galena, the Aaron Pierce family and Vance Davidson became the first white settlers in Savanna. They made their first home in an abandoned wigwam.

16. **Pulford Antique Mall** - Three floors of antiques and collectibles located on Main St., Savanna. It is the home of the former Pulford Opera House. Many of the original architectural features of the Opera House still remain.

17. **Trainman Wood Carving** - Situated on South Fourth Street one block south off Rte 84. The wooden statute depicts an old trainman carrying a lamp. The tree once stood in Law Jones parking lot. Rather than destroying the tree, a historical diorama of Savanna was carved into the tree.

18. **Frog Pond** - south of Savanna off Rt 84. Handicapped dock fishing, bank fishing, picnicking. Abundant waterfowl and birds.

19. **Old Mill Park** – Found on the eastern edge of Savanna, nature trails, Frisbee golf course, tennis courts, basketball courts, two areas with playground equipment, four shelter houses, picnic tables and handicap accessible restrooms.

20. **Savanna Sabula Bridge** – An example of steel-truss construction built in 1930's. One of the most photographed bridges in the Midwest.

21. **Great River Bike Trail** - Goes from Savanna to Quad Cities: Completed in 2003, the Savanna segment of the trail includes a spectacular 1500 ft. bridge over the railroad yards and 200 ft. wooden bridge over the Plum River.

22. **Savanna Train Car Museum** - Hiawatha Train Car 261 transformed into a museum housing a large collection of railroad memorabilia.

23. **Campbell Center** - former home of Shimer College built in 1853. 14 acre campus on the National Register for Historic Places.

24. **Oakville Museum Complex** - located between highways 78 and 40. Consists of a 1888 schoolhouse, two log cabins, blacksmith shop and granary. Call 815-244-3474 for hours.

25. **Owen P. Miles Museum** - on Broadway St. in Mt Carroll - Operated by the Carroll county Historical Society. This 1873 Italianate home depicts life in the late 1800's and displays much Carroll County history. Hours vary. Call 815-244-3474.

26. **Raven's Grin in Mt Carroll** - A real haunted house, built in 1870. A tour takes approx. one hour. No chainsaws or gore, Hide & Seek parties and special occasion tours available. Open until midnight every night. Fee is charged.

27. **Point Rock Park** - 25 acre park in Mt Carroll offers its' guests hiking, a Frisbee golf course, and picnic and playground areas on the bank of the Wakarusa River.

28. **Hand & Spirit Art Gallery** - in Mt Carroll. The Hand & Spirit Gallery features nationally known artesian works in jewelry, pottery, photography, ironwork, oils and watercolors and is a terrific place to start your walking tour of historic Mt Carroll.

29. **Timber Lake Resort** - Campground with cabins, 1,800 ft. pool, recreation center, general store, lake-side deck, 2 spring-fed lakes, and located near **Timberlake Playhouse** in rural Mt Carroll off Hwy 40. The playhouse has provided the best summer stock professional theatre in the area since 1962. June-Aug. Admission charged.

30. **Ayers Prairie** - The native prairie is located not far from Rte. 84 on Airport Road south of Savanna. The prairie has native vegetation and is home to various species of wildlife that are indigenous to a sand prairie.

31. **Spring Lake Observation Deck & Trail** - Located just 1 mile south of Savanna offers the visitor an opportunity to watch the migrating waterfowl, fish from the shoreline, or take a leisurely stroll across the dikes. This location is also adjacent to the Great River Bike Trail. Lots of parking with benches to view the backwaters of the Mississippi.

32. **Ingersoll Wetland Learning Center** - on Riverview Rd. just 3.5 miles south of Savanna. The Center was established to promote environment education and the conservation of the Mississippi river and its tributaries. Facility is packed with interesting and hands-on exhibits and provides a dramatic view of the world's most Majestic River.

33. **Big Slough Boat Landing** - on the corner of Riverview Rd. and 4 Mile Road. Approx. 4.5 miles south of Savanna. Big Slough offers boat ramp access to the Mississippi River backwaters. Restrooms, picnic tables, and operated by the Corps of Engineers.

34. **Fairhaven Fruit Farm** - turn east off Route 84 South onto Fairhaven Road. Tours for the family in the apple, cherry, pear, peach, and plum orchard. Closed on Mondays.

35. **Thomson Depot** – Built in 1800’s containing exhibits, old photographs, and other railroad memorabilia. Open Memorial Day weekend through September, Friday to Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

36. **Thomson Causeway Recreation Area with Indian Mounds** – Wildlife and bird watching are easy to do in this recreation area operated by the Corp of Engineers. Playground and picnic areas available.

37. **“De Immigrant” Windmill** - in Fulton Authentic Dutch operational windmill; prefabricated in the Netherlands and erected by Dutch craftsmen in Fulton. Milled products for sale.

38. **Heritage Canyon** – An old 12-acre rock quarry converted to a mid-1800’s settlement. Church, one-room schoolhouse, doctor’s office and covered bridge highlight the settlement on the Mississippi River.

39. **Lock & Dam 13** - in Fulton Primitive campsites, fishing, hunting, marina, picnic shelter, grills, and public parking and restrooms. Pets welcome.

40. **Green Island Wildlife Management Area** – off Rte. 52 between Sabula & Bellevue, IA: 3,500 acres of marsh and timberland nestled along the west bank of the Mississippi River. Provides excellent cover and food for migratory waterfowl, wading birds, furbearers and air and land predators.

41. **Lock & Dam 12** - in downtown Bellevue, IA – Visitors are just steps away from where barges and pleasure boats lock through the dam. From May to Sept, Bellevue brings music to the streets at “Jammin’ Below the Dam” outdoor concerts.

42. **Bellevue Butterfly Garden** – Located in Bellevue State Park – garden designed to attract butterflies by providing nectar plants for adults and host plants for caterpillars. Over 60 species of butterflies expected each year.

43. **Young Historical Museum**, Bellevue IA – Open 1-5 Sat. and holidays, Memorial Day weekend-Oct 29, Century old residence, built of native limestone, has 10 rooms and is furnished with antiques and houses a collection of china. Apr.-Oct.

44. **Graverts Apple Basket Family Orchard**, Sabula IA on Hwy 52, just one mile north of Sabula. Open late-August to mid-November offers 20 varieties of tasty apples. “You pick or we’ll pick.”

45. **Potter’s Mill** in Bellevue IA is a Restaurant/Lounge as well as a Bed and Breakfast. The mill was built in 1845 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

46. **Jackson County Visitor Center** at the junction of 67/64/52: Replica of old school house, authentic furnishing, gift shop, Tri-State information, restrooms, and picnic area with playground equipment.

47. **South Sabula Lake Park** - located on the south edge of Sabula, IA. Operated by Jackson County Conservation Board. 14-acre park lies on the banks of the Mississippi and South Sabula Lake. Boating, camping, playground equipment.

48. **Sabula, IA** is an island city in the Mississippi River offering the visitor RV camping, boat launching ramps, and fishing. **Driscoll’s Island** on the North edge of Sabula: Visitors are offered boat ramps, fishing and picnic area - One of the best secret scenic spots in the area.

49. **Swinging Railroad Bridge and Train car** located in Sabula. Bridge owned and operated by the I. C. E. Railroad to connect Illinois to Iowa. Bridge swings open for barge & riverboat traffic. Sabula also offers several parks for picnicking and playground equipment. Riverfront benches to view the Mississippi River traffic.

50. **Bulger’s Hollow Recreation Area** - located 3 miles North of Clinton, IA: Operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers has boat ramps with access to the Mississippi River; campsites, playground and picnic areas.

