

WELCOME TO
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS



Why in the world would you visit Pontiac?

VISIT PONTIAC, ILLINOIS FOR

RECREATION & PARKS

Rec Center - Indoor recreation complex with swimming pool; three basketball courts; racquetball; walking track; cardiovascular equipment.

Rex Plex - Outdoor facility featuring 5 diamond recreational complex; football field; tennis, volleyball and basketball courts.

Golf Courses - Thirty- six holes at two spectacular public golf courses.

River - A great place to bring your canoe, kayak, or jet ski. If it's peace and quiet you prefer, spend the day fishing on the banks at one of the area parks.

Humiston Woods - 400 Acres of woods; canoe launch; hiking; pond and 15 acres of restored prairie; scouting camp.

4-H Park - Home of the Livingston County Fair; camping facilities.

Chautauqua Park - Swinging bridge; beautiful pavilioned park surrounded by the Vermilion River.

Humiston Riverside - Picturesque park with one of our swinging bridges.

Play Park - Another swinging bridge as well as a boat launch.

Threshermen's Reunion Park - Home of the 2nd oldest steam engine show in the USA; camping

TOURS

Jump aboard Pontiac's own Jolly Trolley as we take you on a tour of our historic small town. Visit our picturesque parks and walk across one of our swinging pedestrian bridges. If it's Agri-tourism your interested in, Livingston County is a major producer of corn and soybeans.

We are often able to arrange tours to visit implement dealers, Interglobe Genetics, or to see a working farm. We have many beautiful historic homes in Pontiac, one of which is the Jones House built in 1858, and is the oldest brick home in Pontiac. We can customize our tours to fill the needs of small and large groups.



ROUTE 66



Route 66 Stencils
Look for the painted stencils along the route!

Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum The "Mother Road" comes alive with memorabilia from the glory days of Route 66. Take a stroll down memory lane as you browse through pictures and stories of the highway as it first began in Illinois in 1926.



Old Log Cabin - Opened in 1924 and originally faced IL Rt. 4. When Rt. 66 was being made a 4 lane it was rotated to face this "new" highway. Thus, making it one of the oldest restaurants on the Route.

Route 4 Bridge - Another pre-Route 66 gem in Pontiac! The original IL Rt 4 marker dates back prior to Route 66.

Mural - The largest Route 66 Mural at 25 feet tall! Located on the outside south wall of the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, a great photo op!



District Six Police Headquarters - Built in the shape of a pistol, the building housed the District Six Headquarters from 1943 - 2005.

HISTORIC SITES



Courthouse - On the square in downtown Pontiac, built in 1875 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jones House - Gothic Revival brick house built in 1858, it is the oldest brick home in Pontiac.



Old City Hall/Firehouse - Built in 1900 serves as home to the Livingston County War Museum, Old City Hall Shoppes and the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66!

POINTS OF INTEREST

Lincoln Statue – Sculptor Rick Harney's life size statue of Abraham Lincoln is a memorial to the numerous visits Lincoln made to Pontiac from 1840 - 1860.

Memorials - Located on the courthouse lawn - five beautiful memorials honoring veterans from WWI, WWII, Desert Storm, Korean War. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument was dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt, who delivered a short speech during a drenching rain in 1903.



Three Swinging Bridges – The only town in the Midwest to boast this! Dating back to the late 1800's. Simply a must to walk across one!



Dargan Statues – “Seasons of Life” rusty in appearance, standing 25 feet tall, the three sculptures symbolize the human “changes” or “seasons” of growth during our lives.



Round Barn - Built in 1918 is now the home of Interglobe Genetics, tours by appointment.

MUSEUMS

Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum – see Route 66 section

Livingston County War Museum – A tribute to men and women who have served in all branches of the service. Hands on Museum staffed by Veterans who will guide you through the various exhibits

Yost House Museum – House built in 1898 and portrays the life of an upper-middle class family during the late 1800's and early 1900's.



SHOPPING & DINING & LODGING

Our historic downtown district plays host to a variety of unique and specialty stores. Whether you prefer antiques, or brand new - you can find it here!



There are more than 30 Restaurants to choose from while in Pontiac. If you are in the mood for Italian, Mexican, Chinese, or some “Down Home Cooking” one of our delicious eateries can accommodate your group.



Hotel, Motel, Bed & Breakfasts and Camping Facilities are all available. We can help you choose

accommodations that will best suit your needs. We have several just off Interstate 55 at exit 197, and one just off Route 66.



ANNUAL EVENTS

Red Carpet Corridor Festival – First weekend in May

Kite Festival - Spring

City Band Concerts on the Square – June and July

Hang Loose – Fathers Day Weekend

Cruise Night – 3rd Saturday July, Aug., Sept.

Junior Baseball Tournament – Spring - Summer

Vermillion Players Drama Group – Spring - Fall

Antique Tractor Road Show/Heritage Days – second weekend in August

Threshermen's Reunion – Labor Day weekend

Threshermen's Parade - Sunday before Labor Day

Threshermen's Bluegrass Festival - September

Holiday Tournament - December

First Night - December



PONTIAC, ILLINOIS WELCOMES YOU!

We do tend to boast that we are the small town through which the "Mother Road", Route 66, winds and curves...We were featured in Time Magazine for being chosen the "Best, Little Town in the Midwest" in which to live and visit. We're known to literally roll out the "red carpet" for our visitors.

We will now take you on a quick, personal tour of this historic little town. First, let's walk through our progressive historic downtown district, where you'll find many quaint shops and eateries. Whether you're looking for a beautiful gift, home decor, souvenirs or antiques, you're sure to find it in one of our many specialty stores. For fabulous food and sweets, we have a wide variety of delicious options to choose from. Next stop on our tour is to visit our two Governor's Hometown Award winning museums, both housed in the Old City Hall and Firehouse which in on the National Register of Historic Places. At the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum you'll take a stroll down memory lane as you browse through pictures and stories of the highway as it first began in Illinois. Bring your camera, because you'll want to get your picture with our 25' Route 66 Mural, located on the outside south wall of the museum. The Livingston County War Museum, staffed by veterans is a tribute to the men and women who have served in all branches of the armed services. While downtown, you can't miss our historic courthouse, as it is one of the most beautiful courthouses in the United States. Built in 1875, and is one of the reasons Pontiac was selected as the site for the filming of the movie "Grandview U.S.A." Standing on the south side of the courthouse lawn, is a life-sized bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, another great photo opportunity!

For the final stop of our quick trip, you'll need to step aboard our Jolly Trolley and let "Tim the Trolley Driver" take us for a ride. Here we may visit historic homes, view the statues of Dargan Park or venture out to one of our many parks. We may stop to walk one of our trails at the beautiful Humiston Woods and Nature Center, and of course, no trip would be complete without taking a stroll over one of our three swinging pedestrian bridges!

Give me a call, I'd love to show you around town, where you'll experience true VIP treatment!

Waiting to meet you,

Ellie Alexander



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WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU VISIT PONTIAC? LET'S LET SOME OF OUR RECENT VISITORS ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

"I love Route 66" Anna - Amsterdam

"Beautiful museum" Pierre - Paris, France

"What an experience" Paul - Liverpool, U.K.

"Great museum" Sean - Sligo, Ireland

"Very well organized, the guide had many fascinating stories to tell. We truly enjoyed it" Hattie - Hull, Ottawa, Canada

"Thanks for the hospitality - well done!" Dominique - Montreal, Canada

"Your city is great!" Hazel - Indianapolis, Indiana

"The greatest trip in my life!" Jan - Elmshorn, Germany

"It's a history lesson" Gabriella - Turin, Italy

"Greatest road in the world" Simon, U.K.

"Wonderful hospitality" Jeff - Huntington Beach, California

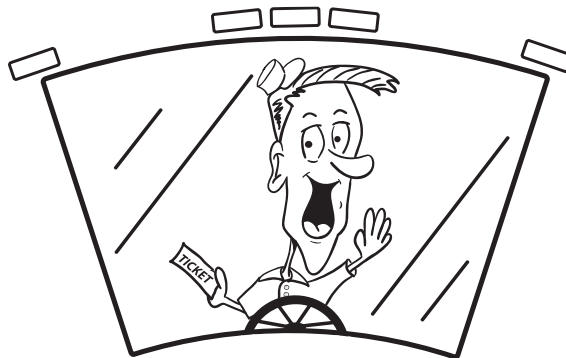
"Great welcoming reception, thank you"
Alan and Glenys - Weathersby, West Yorkshire, U.K.

"Absolutely fabulous!" Graham & Rose - Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

"This is a dream trip" Nina - Stockholm, Sweden

"Fantastic nostalgia, long may the Mother Road continue!!"
Brain - Isle of Man, U.K.

Tim the Trolley Driver Says...



**Jump aboard the Jolly Trolley
to see our beautiful town!**