

Explore Henry COUNTY



Destination
Highlights

Outdoor
Recreation

Events &
Attractions

Community
Spotlights

Places
to Stay

enjoy
illinois

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Introduction

Explore the perfect blend of outdoor recreation, arts and culture, retail, dining, events, and small-town charm, which creates an unforgettable experience for both locals and visitors.

The natural beauty of the great outdoors beckons you to explore the hiking trails and playgrounds, promising a variety of fun-filled activities. Local artists showcase their talents at various galleries and events held throughout the area. Indulge in a diverse range of live performances, including music and theater.

Retail shops offer a wide range of products, from handmade crafts to boutique clothing, ensuring that everyone can find something they love. Throughout the year, the different towns host a variety of events that bring the community together. From festivals and parades to concerts and farmer's markets, there's always something happening.

But what truly sets this area apart is its small-town charm. The friendly locals and welcoming atmosphere make everyone feel right at home. Exploring the back roads and hidden gems of the county allows you to connect with the community and discover all that Henry County has to offer.



VISION

The vision is to elevate Henry County as a wholesome destination where one can immerse themselves in the community and see what it means to be from Henry County.

MISSION

Our mission is to promote the communities of Henry County to inspire visitors to come eat, play, and stay, which in turn, benefits the local residents within Henry County.

CORE VALUES

- Agriculture
- Sustainability
- Entrepreneurship
- Community
- Family Friendly
- History
- Inclusion
- Culture/Arts

SOCIALS

- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube
- Pinterest
- LinkedIn

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Destination Highlights	4-13
Outdoor Recreation	14-18
Events/Attractions.....	19-39
Map.....	24-25
Places to Stay.....	31
Community Spotlight	40-47



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Living in Henry County

Nestled in the heart of western Illinois, Henry County is a hidden gem waiting to be explored. Whether you're a local or just passing through, this charming region offers a diverse mix of culture, history, and recreation that makes it an enticing destination for all.

RICH CULTURAL OFFERINGS

Henry County boasts an impressive array of cultural attractions. Enjoy a movie night at one of our quaint local theaters, or be captivated by a performance on **stage theater**. For history enthusiasts, the region is home to **15 museums** and historical societies that showcase the area's rich heritage, along with a designated state historic site that is a must-visit. Not to mention, wine lovers will appreciate the local **winery** that adds a touch of elegance to the cultural landscape.

Throughout the year, the region comes to life through more than **30 annual events and festivals**. Whether it's celebrating the changing seasons or indulging in local traditions, these events offer something for everyone and create a sense of community that you won't find elsewhere.

RECREATION AWAITS

For those who love the great outdoors, Henry County is a paradise. With 21 city parks, the **Hennepin Canal Trail** and the **Johnson Sauk State Park**, there are countless opportunities for picnics, hiking, and family gatherings. For a more adventurous outing, take

advantage of the major recreation trails: the Hennepin Canal Parkway, part of the American Discovery Transcontinental Trail, and the scenic Rock River Waterway Trail.

Camping

enthusiasts can choose from six campgrounds, while families can enjoy our seven swimming pools on warm summer days. **Golfers** will also find plenty to love with 1 private and 5 public golf courses. And for those looking to stay active, the **YMCA** in Kewanee has programs for all ages and fitness levels.

EASY ACCESSIBILITY AND LOCATION

One of the standout features of Henry County is its convenient location. Strategically situated where Interstates 80 and 74 intersect, the county offers easy access to the bustling Quad Cities metro area, just a half-hour away. The Quad Cities, renowned for their minor league sports, exciting concerts, and vibrant civic life, provide even more adventure. Here, you can catch a baseball game or cheer on a hockey team, experience the thrill of road races, or enjoy the latest blockbuster at the IMAX theater.

Henry County also enjoys close proximity to major airports, including the Quad City International Airport,



only 30 miles away. With direct flights to major hubs like Chicago, Dallas, and Atlanta, your travel options are wide open.

EXPLORE THE LIFESTYLE

Covering 869 square miles of scenic landscapes and fertile farmland, Henry County offers breathtaking views and the soft embrace of nature. Whether you are engaging with the rich culture, exploring local parks, or simply enjoying a long drive through the countryside, Henry County provides a welcoming respite from the busyness of city life.

So, pack your bags and discover all that Henry County has to offer. From cultural experiences to outdoor adventures, you'll find that this charming county is a perfect destination for relaxation, exploration, and enjoyment. Come see why Henry County is more than just a location; it's a community filled with stories, memories, and opportunities waiting to be embraced!

Discover Unforgettable Family Fun in Henry County, Illinois!

Pack your bags and round up the crew for a weekend of excitement and adventure in Henry County—a haven for families seeking a perfect blend of outdoor thrills and indoor excitement.

ARCADIA FAMILY FUN CENTER & MINI GOLF IN GENESEO

Kick off your weekend with a visit to the vibrant **Arcadia Family Fun Center** in Geneseo. This popular destination offers a dynamic mix of arcade games, bowling, and interactive attractions that will leave kids and adults smiling from ear to ear. Just a stone's throw away, challenge your family to a round of **mini golf**—a delightful course that promises friendly competition, laughter, and plenty of photo-worthy moments.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AT THE HENNEPIN CANAL

After soaking up the lively atmosphere in town, head over to the serene banks of the **Hennepin Canal**. Here, nature beckons with opportunities for camping under a starlit sky, fishing for local catches, and even kayaking along peaceful, winding waterways. Whether you're an experienced angler or trying your hand at kayaking for the first



time, the canal's gentle current and picturesque scenery provide the perfect backdrop for making cherished memories.

If you're looking for a perfect

getaway that combines the tranquility of nature with recreational activities, head over to Kewanee. At **Windmont Park**, you can cast your line and enjoy a day of fishing,

surrounded by picturesque scenery and the soothing sounds of nature. Afterward, why not continue your adventure at Chautauqua Park? It boasts a fun-filled course for **disc golf** enthusiasts of all skill levels, set against a backdrop of lush greenery and open skies. With opportunities to relax and unwind while engaging in these vibrant activities, Kewanee is the perfect destination for those seeking a refreshing escape outdoors.

PLAYGROUNDS & PARKS FOR FAMILY BONDING

Henry County is also home to several beautifully maintained parks that boast inviting **playgrounds**. Let the little ones burn off energy on modern play structures while you relax amidst lush green spaces and picnic areas. These parks are the ideal setting for a **family picnic** or a quiet afternoon of relaxation, making them a must-visit during your weekend getaway.

DELICIOUS DINING FOR EVERY TASTE

No family adventure is complete without a culinary treat! Henry County offers a variety of restaurants that cater to every craving. Savor delicious, hot, and cheesy pizza at local pizzerias that serve up family-friendly portions and creative toppings. And for dessert, cool off with a scoop of artisanal ice cream from neighborhood parlors that promise both classic and inventive flavors. These dining spots provide a warm, inviting atmosphere perfect for a relaxed family meal after a day filled with fun activities.

Get ready to explore, play, dine, and relax in a place where adventure meets comfort. Your perfect family weekend awaits in Henry County, Illinois!



A Couples Weekend in Henry County, Illinois



Looking for the perfect escape where charm, culture, and culinary delights intertwine? Henry County offers a dreamy weekend getaway for couples ready to relax and explore the region.

STAY IN STYLE AND COMFORT

Begin your retreat at the historic **Schoolhouse Inn** in Geneseo. With its blend of period charm and modern amenities, this inn provides a cozy, intimate setting that feels like stepping into a storybook. Imagine waking up to gentle sunlight streaming through vintage windows, enjoying a leisurely breakfast, and strolling through quaint streets that whisper tales of yesteryear.

For those seeking an even more personalized experience, make your way to Kewanee and check in at **Aunt Daisy's B&B**. Known for its warm hospitality and lovingly curated rooms, Aunt Daisy's offers a welcoming haven where every detail is designed to make you feel right at home.

SIP, SAVOR, AND UNWIND

No weekend is complete without a touch of indulgence. In Colona, **Lavender Crest Winery** invites you to immerse yourself in a sensory delight. Picture yourself wandering through rolling vineyards dotted with fields of fragrant lavender, followed by an exquisite wine tasting experience. Whether you're savoring a crisp white

or a robust red, the winery's scenic backdrop sets the perfect stage for quiet moments and shared smiles.

CULTURE AND CONNECTION

Enhance your getaway with a dose of local culture. Return to Geneseo for an evening at the **Richmond Hill Players theater**, where live performances bring the community's creative spirit to life. The intimate venue and engaging productions promise an unforgettable night of laughter, drama, and heartfelt connection—a shared cultural experience that's sure to spark lively conversation long after the final act.

LOCAL FLAVORS AND UNIQUE FINDS

After a day of sightseeing and cultural exploration, grab a bite at **Cerno's Bar and Grill** in Kewanee. This historic bar is renowned for its inviting atmosphere and exceptional food that reflect its rich legacy. Its blend of time-honored charm with modern culinary delights creates a vibrant setting where every visit feels like a celebration of local heritage and great taste.

Henry County has a delightful collection of **retail shops** that offer the best of local craftsmanship and charm. Whether you're browsing unique boutiques for that perfect keepsake or enjoying a gourmet meal at one of the charming eateries, you won't be disappointed.

A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Henry County is more than just a destination—it's an invitation to slow down, indulge in simple pleasures, and create memories that will last a lifetime. From the historic elegance of the Schoolhouse Inn and the heartfelt comfort of Aunt Daisy's B&B to the lush landscapes of Lavender Crest Winery and the captivating performances at the Richmond Hill Players theater, every moment is filled with hospitality and charm.



Pack your bags and set your sights on Henry County. Whether you're seeking adventure, cultural enrichment, or simply a peaceful escape from the everyday, this hidden gem promises a couples weekend that is as enchanting as it is unforgettable. Your perfect retreat awaits!



Henry County: Your Ultimate Outdoor Escape Weekend

Step away from the daily grind and immerse yourself in the natural beauty and rich heritage of Henry County. Nestled in a landscape **where history meets the great outdoors**, this charming destination offers a rejuvenating weekend filled with adventure, relaxation, and unforgettable memories.

DISCOVER THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Begin your escape at the scenic **Hennepin Canal**, where peaceful banks set the stage for a leisurely stroll or a scenic bike ride. Whether you're a seasoned angler or a nature lover seeking tranquility, the canal's inviting ambiance is the perfect introduction to the county's natural splendor.

Just a short drive away, **Johnson Sauk State Park** awaits with its expansive trails, dense woodlands, and breathtaking vistas. Here, hikers and wildlife enthusiasts can explore rugged terrains and vibrant ecosystems that change with the seasons. The park is a haven for those looking to reconnect with nature through invigorating hikes, bird-watching, and peaceful picnics under the open sky.



CAMP UNDER THE STARS

For a more immersive experience, pitch your tent or park your RV at one of the well-appointed campsites dotted throughout Henry County. Imagine falling asleep under a canopy of twinkling stars and waking up to the soothing sounds of nature—a **perfect blend of rustic charm and modern comfort**.

TEE OFF IN SCENIC SPLENDOR

If you're looking to keep your weekend active, take advantage of the county's premier **golf courses**. With meticulously maintained greens and



thoughtfully designed layouts, these courses offer both a challenge and a picturesque setting that enhances every swing.



SHOP AND DINE

No outdoor getaway is complete without a taste of local culture. Head to the downtown districts for an afternoon of **retail shopping** in quaint boutiques and specialty stores. The region's vibrant downtowns are filled with unique finds that capture the spirit of the community.

As the day winds down, treat yourself to a memorable dinner. Savor the flavors at **Sweet Peas Bar & Grill** in Geneseo, where dishes are crafted with local ingredients, or enjoy the lively atmosphere at **Grease Monkey Sports Bar & Grill** in Colona, featuring outdoor patios perfect for an al fresco meal. Both spots provide a delightful culinary experience that reflects the warm hospitality of Henry County.

STEP BACK IN TIME IN BISHOP HILL AND KEWANEE

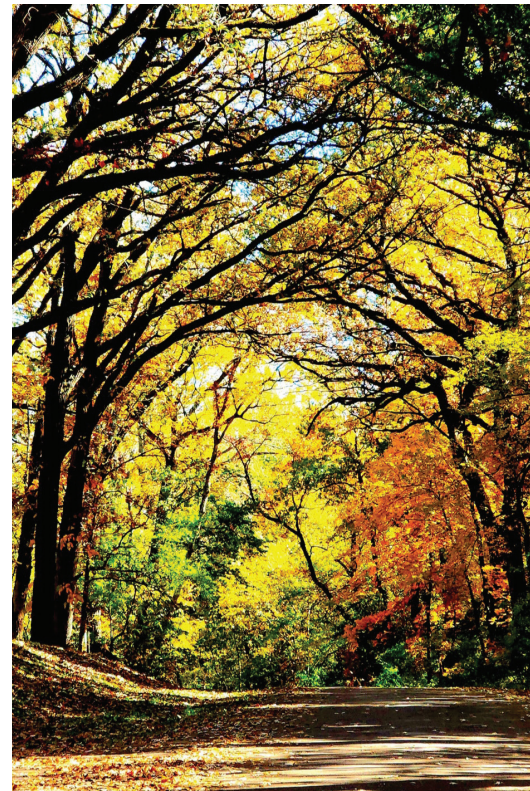
Expand your adventure by visiting the historic towns of **Bishop Hill** and **Kewanee**. These communities offer a glimpse into the region's rich past through charming streets, local landmarks, and cultural attractions. **Francis Park** offers the perfect blend of both history and nature.



Whether you're exploring museums or simply wandering the picturesque neighborhoods, the history and character of these towns add a unique flavor to your weekend escape.

YOUR PERFECT ESCAPE AWAITS

Henry County is more than just a destination—it's a curated experience where every element, from its serene canals and rugged parks to its historic towns, works together to offer an escape like no other.



Pack your bags, gather your loved ones, and set out for a weekend filled with outdoor adventure, culinary delights, and moments of pure relaxation.

Escape to Henry County

The Ultimate Friends' Getaway Weekend



Imagine gathering your closest friends for an unforgettable weekend in Henry County, Illinois—a hidden gem brimming with charm, culture, and culinary delights. Start your morning with a revitalizing cup of coffee at local favorites like **Local Motive**, **Coco's Cookies and Coffee**, and **Cash Cow Coffee**, where every sip is a warm welcome to a day of adventure.

After fueling up, explore the quaint retail hubs scattered across Kewanee, Geneseo, and Bishop Hill. Stroll through **boutique shops** and discover unique finds that perfectly capture the spirit of this vibrant region. When it's time for a playful break, challenge your friends to a round of **disc golf** at one of the scenic courses in Geneseo or Kewanee—perfect for a bit of friendly competition amidst stunning Illinois landscapes.

As the day unfolds, let the soulful sounds of live music at **Bishop Hill Creative Commons** or **Levitt AMP Music Series** in Galva set the mood for an evening of relaxation and laughter under the open sky. When hunger strikes, savor the diverse flavors of Henry County's culinary scene. Enjoy the fresh, inventive dishes at **Purple Onion** in Annawan, indulge in a slice of artisanal pizza





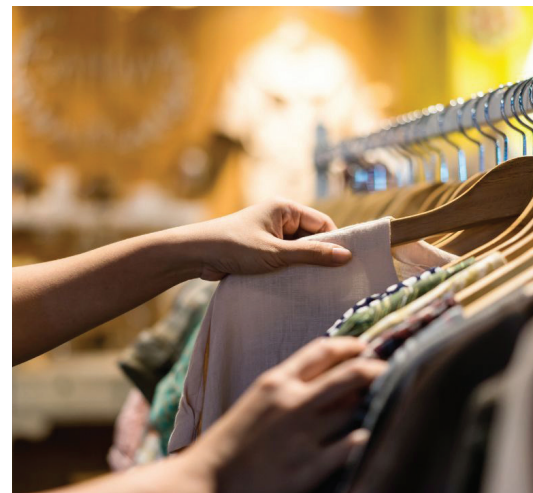
at **Charlis Pizza** in Cambridge, and experience the historic charm and mouthwatering fare at **Cerno's Bar & Grill** in Kewanee.

For nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers, a visit to **Johnson Sauk State Park** is a must. Venture into the great outdoors where picturesque trails wind through lush woodlands, inviting you to explore and unwind. Set up camp under a canopy of stars at well-equipped campsites, or enjoy a leisurely picnic amid the park's serene landscapes—a perfect retreat to refresh your spirit and reconnect with nature.

Whether you're reminiscing over coffee, hunting for one-of-a-kind treasures, enjoying a spirited game of disc golf, or embracing the tranquility of nature at Johnson Sauk State Park, Henry County offers the perfect blend of activity and relaxation. It's a



destination where every moment is designed to create memories, deepen friendships, and celebrate the best of local hospitality.



Pack your bags, rally your crew, and get ready to experience a weekend getaway that promises fun, flavor, and a true taste of Illinois living.

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS



The Cellar

Geneseo, IL



Food Worth Traveling For

Discover Henry County

Where History and Culture Come Alive

Tucked away in the heart of Illinois, Henry County is a hidden gem that beckons travelers with its rich tapestry of history, art, and culinary delights. Whether you're a history buff, a lover of the arts, or simply seeking an escape to a charming small town, this vibrant region offers a memorable journey through time and tradition.

A TASTE OF TRADITION IN GENESEO

Begin your adventure in Geneseo, where the captivating **Cellar**

Restaurant awaits. Housed in a historic setting that echoes the town's storied past, the Cellar Restaurant not only serves up mouthwatering fine dining experience but also offers an ambiance steeped in character. After a delightful meal, catch a performance by the renowned **Richmond Hill Players**—a local treasure that brings community stories to life through engaging live stage productions. Geneseo also hosts a museum and a variety of murals, each dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich cultural and historical heritage of the area.

EXPLORING KEWANEE AND BEYOND

Henry County's charm extends well beyond Geneseo. In Kewanee, history is palpable in every corner, from the serene beauty of **Francis Park** to its well-curated museums to the **murals** scattered through downtown that tell the story of the town's industrial and cultural evolution. And in the heart of Kewanee, explore **Veteran's Memorial Park**, a serene space honoring our heroes with monuments and green areas for reflection.



A WARM INVITATION TO EXPLORE

Henry County is more than just a destination; it's an invitation to experience a vibrant blend of history, culture, and modern creativity.

Every museum, park, restaurant, and theater contribute to the county's unique narrative, making it an ideal getaway for anyone looking to immerse themselves in the spirit of Illinois. Whether you're sampling local flavors at the historic Cellar Restaurant, uncovering the past in a quaint museum, or dancing the night away at a live music venue, Henry County promises a rich, immersive experience that stays with you long after you leave.

Meanwhile, **museums in Bishop Hill, Andover, and Galva** invite you to step back in time and explore narratives of immigration, craftsmanship, and community resilience—each exhibit a portal to the past.

ANTIQUÉ TREASURES AND ARTISTIC FLAIR

For those with a penchant for the unique and the timeless, antique

shopping in Henry County is an absolute must. Discover hidden treasures at **Songbird Lane** or browse the charming antique shops in Bishop Hill and other communities throughout the region, where each vintage piece carries its own story. Art enthusiasts will also find plenty to inspire them—**local galleries** brim with creative energy, while a lively roster of live music venues provides the perfect soundtrack to your exploration.



Discover the Beauty of Johnson Sauk Trail State Park

Nestled in the rolling prairies of Henry County, Johnson Sauk Trail State Park is a breathtaking outdoor destination that invites visitors to immerse themselves in nature's beauty. Whether you are seeking adventure, tranquility, or a bit of both, this haven offers a picturesque

escape just waiting to be explored.

Located just north of Kewanee, Johnson Sauk Trail State Park is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. The park's landscape is a mix of lush forests, rolling meadows and a lake that reflects the sky like a mirror. The park's name originates from an ancient Sauk Native American

trail that once wound through the area, adding a touch of history to its natural beauty.

For those who love to hike, the park features several scenic trails that meander through dense woodlands, offering breathtaking views and a chance to spot wildlife. Whether you are on a leisurely walk

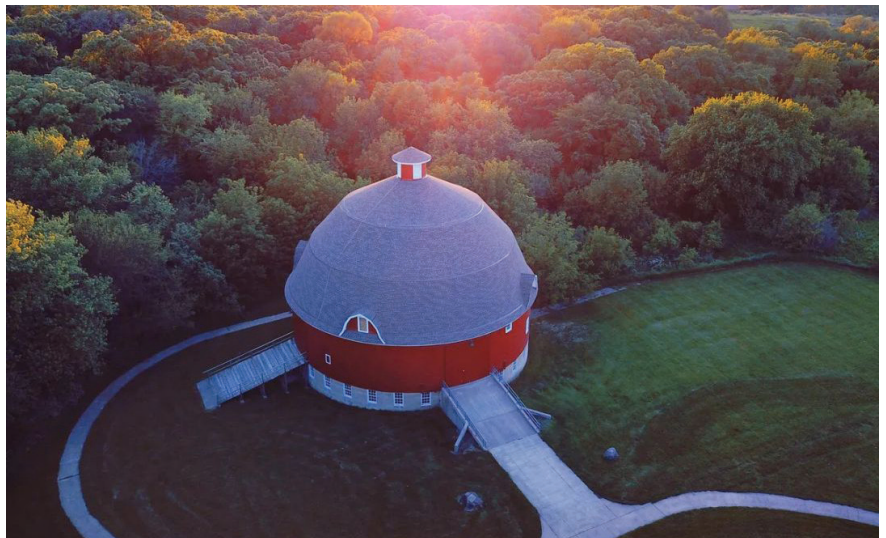


or an invigorating trek, you will be surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature, from towering oaks to the gentle rustle of deer moving through the underbrush.

For those who want to extend their visit, camping at Johnson Sauk Trail State Park is a must. The park features modern and primitive campsites, making it perfect for both seasoned campers and first-timers. Imagine sitting by a crackling campfire under a star-studded sky, sharing stories and roasting marshmallows – the ultimate outdoor experience!

One of the park's most unique attractions is the Ryan Round Barn, a stunning architectural gem built in 1910. This massive 80-foot-tall structure is one of the largest round barns in the country and offers visitors a glimpse into the past with its rich history and unique construction. Don't forget your camera – the barn is a must-see for history buffs and photographers alike!

No matter the season, Johnson Sauk Trail State Park has something special to offer. Spring and summer bring vibrant wildflowers and lively wildlife. Autumn transforms the landscape into a canvas of fiery reds, oranges and yellows, making it a prime spot for those iconic fall views. And in winter, the snow-covered trails are perfect for cross-country skiing and peaceful winter walks.



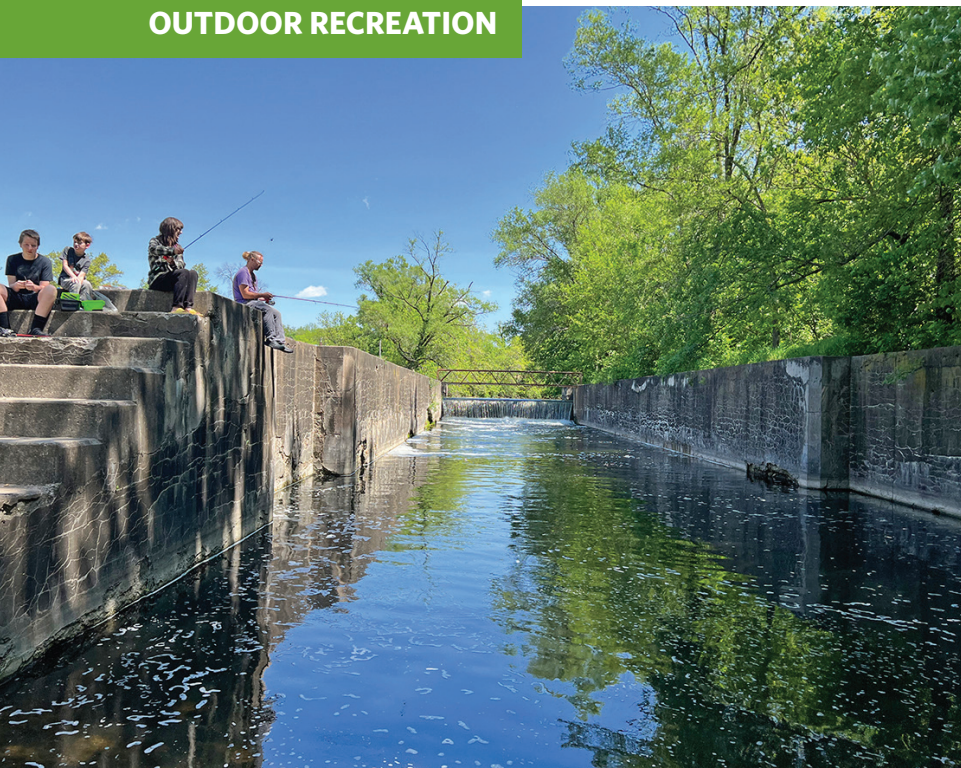
Whether you are looking for a day trip or a weekend getaway, Johnson Sauk Trail State Park is a must-visit destination for nature lovers, adventurers, and families alike. Pack your hiking boots, fishing gear, or just a picnic basket, and experience the beauty of one of Illinois' finest state parks.

For more information about camping reservations, fishing

regulations, and seasonal events, visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website.



POINT AND CLICK: Check out the Johnson Sauk Trail State Park Activities & Events



Explore the Historic Hennepin Canal

Winding its way across the entire county, the Hennepin Canal Parkway is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. Once a vital waterway connecting the Illinois River to the Mississippi River, the Hennepin Canal now serves as a scenic retreat for outdoor enthusiasts, history buffs, and anyone looking to experience the beauty of the Midwest.

In Henry County, the canal winds through picturesque landscapes, passing charming small towns, rolling farmland, and remnants of Illinois'

industrial past. Visitors can explore the preserved locks, aqueducts, and bridges, each telling the story of an era when waterways powered the economy.

BIKING & HIKING

One of the best ways to experience the Hennepin Canal is on foot or by bike. The Hennepin Canal Trail stretches over 100 miles providing a relaxing scenic journey along the historic waterway. This is prevalent by the trail being utilized as part of the Great American Rail Trail and the Grand Illinois Trail routes.

WATER ACTIVITIES & WILDLIFE

For those who love being on the water, kayaking and canoeing along the canal is a must. Unlike fast-moving rivers, the canal offers a calm and easy paddle, making it perfect for beginners and experienced kayakers alike. Glide past wildlife, historic structures, and scenic landscapes as you enjoy a peaceful day on the water.

Fishing enthusiasts will also love the canal, which is home to a variety of fish, including bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie. With plenty of spots along the banks and boat access points, it's a great place to

cast a line and enjoy the serenity of nature.

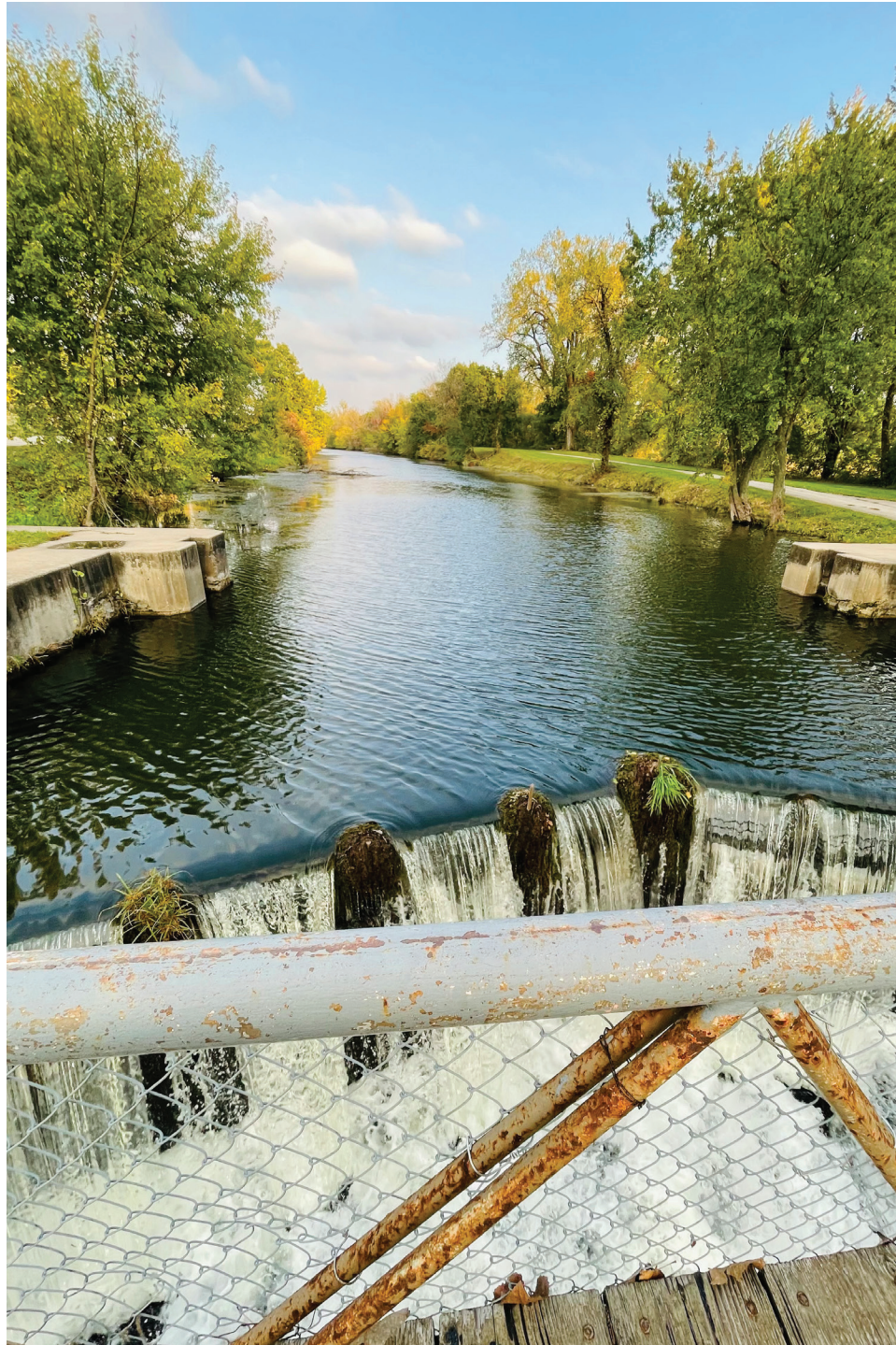
CHARMING SMALL TOWNS ALONG THE CANAL

One of the best parts of visiting the Hennepin Canal in Henry County is the opportunity to explore the welcoming small towns along its route.

- Colona – A great starting point for canal adventures, Colona offers easy access to the towpath and water activities, as well as local parks and picnic spots. Be sure to check out the Quad Cities Kayak River Adventures for rental information.
- Geneseo – Known for its quaint downtown, antique shops, and delicious dining options, Geneseo is a perfect spot to grab a meal or take a relaxing break.
- Atkinson – The small town is a gateway to outdoor fun, with nearby camping, motorsports park, and peaceful rural charm.
- Annawan – Just south of bridge 23, this small town boasts a charming downtown community with vintage ambiance and welcoming locals.

No matter the time of year, the Hennepin Canal offers a unique experience. Spring and summer bring lush greenery and perfect weather for biking, kayaking and fishing. Fall transforms the landscape with brilliant foliage, creating one of the most scenic bike rides in Illinois. And in winter, the canal trail becomes a snowy wonderland, ideal for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

The Hennepin Canal Parkway in Henry County is a must-visit destination for anyone looking to explore Illinois' rich history and breathtaking landscapes. Pack your gear, grab your camera, and set out on an unforgettable journey through one of Illinois' most scenic and historic waterways.



POINT AND CLICK:
Check out the Hennepin Canal
Activities and Events

Tee Off in Henry County

For golf enthusiasts seeking the perfect blend of scenic landscapes, well-manicured greens, and challenging fairways, Henry County is a must-visit destination. Whether you are an experienced golfer looking for a new course to conquer or a casual player seeking a relaxing round with friends, Henry County offers a variety of top-tier golf courses to suit every skill level.

From Cambridge to Geneseo to Kewanee, this area boasts some of the finest public courses in the region, each with its own unique character and charm. Get ready to swing, chip, and putt your way through some of the best golf experiences in Henry County!

VALLEY VIEW CLUB - CAMBRIDGE

- 18 Holes of lush fairways and challenging greens
- Beautiful natural surroundings make for a peaceful round
- A course suitable for all skill levels, with vary challenges

SUGAR MAPLE GOLF CLUB - GENESEO

- Challenging layout with tree-lined fairways and tricky greens
- Relaxing atmosphere ideal for casual or competitive play
- Great for quick rounds without sacrificing quality play



COUNTRY VIEW GOLF COURSE - GENESEO

- Beginner-friendly course perfect for casual rounds
- Scenic rural setting with a relaxed pace of play
- Affordable rates make it accessible to all golfers

BAKER PARK GOLF COURSE - KEWANEE

- Challenging yet fair 18-hole course with a mix of open fairways and wooded areas
- Beautiful course design with scenic views and rolling greens
- Frequent tournaments and events make for an exciting golf experience

MIDLAND GOLF CLUB - KEWANEE

- A great course for beginners
- Friendly, welcoming atmosphere for all ages
- Affordable green fees make it a budget-friendly option

No matter which course you choose, Henry County's golf scene delivers an unbeatable mix of great courses, welcoming atmospheres, and breathtaking views. Grab your clubs and experience the best of Henry County golf today!

Feel the *Rhythm*

In Henry County, music is more than just entertainment - it's a way of life. From intimate brewery performances to grand outdoor concerts, the county's vibrant live music scene offers something for everyone. Whether you're tapping your toes to local bands in a historic setting, rocking out at an annual festival, or experiencing big-name acts under the stars, Henry County has become a must-visit destination for music lovers.

If you are looking for live performances, community gatherings, and unforgettable musical experiences, this is your guide to the best places to enjoy live music in Henry County.

KEWANEE

- Summer concert series in the park - hosted by the Chamber of Commerce
- The Flemish American Club - hosting occasional music performances

GENESEO

- Central Bank Pavilion - Seasonal concerts featuring regional and national acts in the heart of downtown
- Music Fest - Live bands and performances on multiple stages
- Geneseo Brewing Company - Rotating lineup of local musicians with an outdoor patio



GALVA

- Levitt AMP Music Series in Wiley Park
- Live music every Sunday throughout the summer
- Backroads Music Festival in the summer brings big-name acts to a quaint small town

CROSSROADS CULTURAL CONNECTION

- Hosting live performances in Cambridge, Bishop Hill and Galva year round
- Special one-night-only performances
- Events celebrating music, storytelling, and cultural heritage

BISHOP HILL

- Outdoor concerts in a historic Swedish settlement
- Music festivals and seasonal performances



No matter your musical preference, Henry County is the place to be for an unforgettable live music experience. Grab your friends, mark your calendar, and get ready to experience the rhythm of Henry County!



Kewanee Events

Throughout the year, Kewanee's calendar is packed with unique festivals, lively concerts, and cultural celebrations that offer something for everyone. Whether you're a music enthusiast, art lover, or simply looking to enjoy the seasonal spirit, Kewanee's signature events are sure to leave lasting memories.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

When summer arrives, the air in Kewanee is filled with the sounds of live music during the annual Summer Concert Series. Held at local parks and venues, this series features talented musicians and bands performing a range of genres, from classic rock and country to jazz and blues.

HOG DAYS

No visit to Kewanee is complete without experiencing Hog Days, a Labor Day weekend tradition that honors Kewanee's title as the "Hog Capital of the World." This iconic festival features a lively parade,



delicious pork dishes, thrilling carnival rides, and the famous Hog Days Stampede 5K race. Don't miss the chance to see the hog-calling contest, an entertaining spectacle that showcases both skill and humor. Hog Days is a beloved event that embodies the spirit of Kewanee and offers fun for all ages.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN ARTS FESTIVAL

Art lovers won't want to miss the Prairie Chicken Arts Festival, a celebration of creativity that highlights the talents of local and regional artists. This festival showcases a variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture,

photography, and performance art.

MORE ON 34

For treasure hunters and antique enthusiasts, More on 34 is a can't-miss event. This multi-town yard sale stretches along U.S. Route 34, offering miles of bargains, collectibles, and hidden gems. Kewanee serves as a prime stop along the route, with local vendors and residents participating in this massive sale.

ENCHANTED PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

As autumn leaves begin to fall, Kewanee transforms into a magical wonderland during the Enchanted Pumpkin Festival. This family-friendly event features creatively carved pumpkins, whimsical displays, and seasonal treats that capture the spirit of fall. Kids can enjoy pumpkin decorating, hayrides, and costume contests, while adults savor warm cider and stroll through the festive atmosphere.

Geneseo EVENTS

Geneseo is a charming town that bursts to life year-round with vibrant events that bring both locals and visitors together.

SPRING AWAKENS: ART WALK

As spring breathes new life into the town, Geneseo's Art Walk invites art lovers to explore local galleries, studios, and outdoor exhibits. Featuring works from talented regional artists, this event celebrates creativity and provides a perfect opportunity to discover unique pieces while strolling through Geneseo's picturesque streets.

SUMMER DELIGHTS: MUSIC FESTIVAL AND PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES

Summer in Geneseo is packed with festivities that make the most of warm weather and long days. The annual Music Festival in the Park draws music lovers from all around, offering live performances from local and regional bands. Bring a blanket, sit back, and enjoy the melodies heard in all corners of town.

Gearheads and transportation enthusiasts flock to Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, an event showcasing classic cars, vintage aircraft, and model trains.





With vehicle displays, interactive exhibits, and family-friendly activities, it's a celebration of transportation history that delights all ages.

FALL FESTIVITIES: STATE STREET MARKET

As leaves turn golden, Geneseo's State Street Market captures the spirit of autumn with a curated selection of artisanal goods, handcrafted items, and delicious seasonal treats. Stroll through downtown's vibrant atmosphere, discover unique finds, and savor the flavors of fall, all while enjoying live music and local fare.

WINTER WONDERLAND: CHRISTMAS WALK

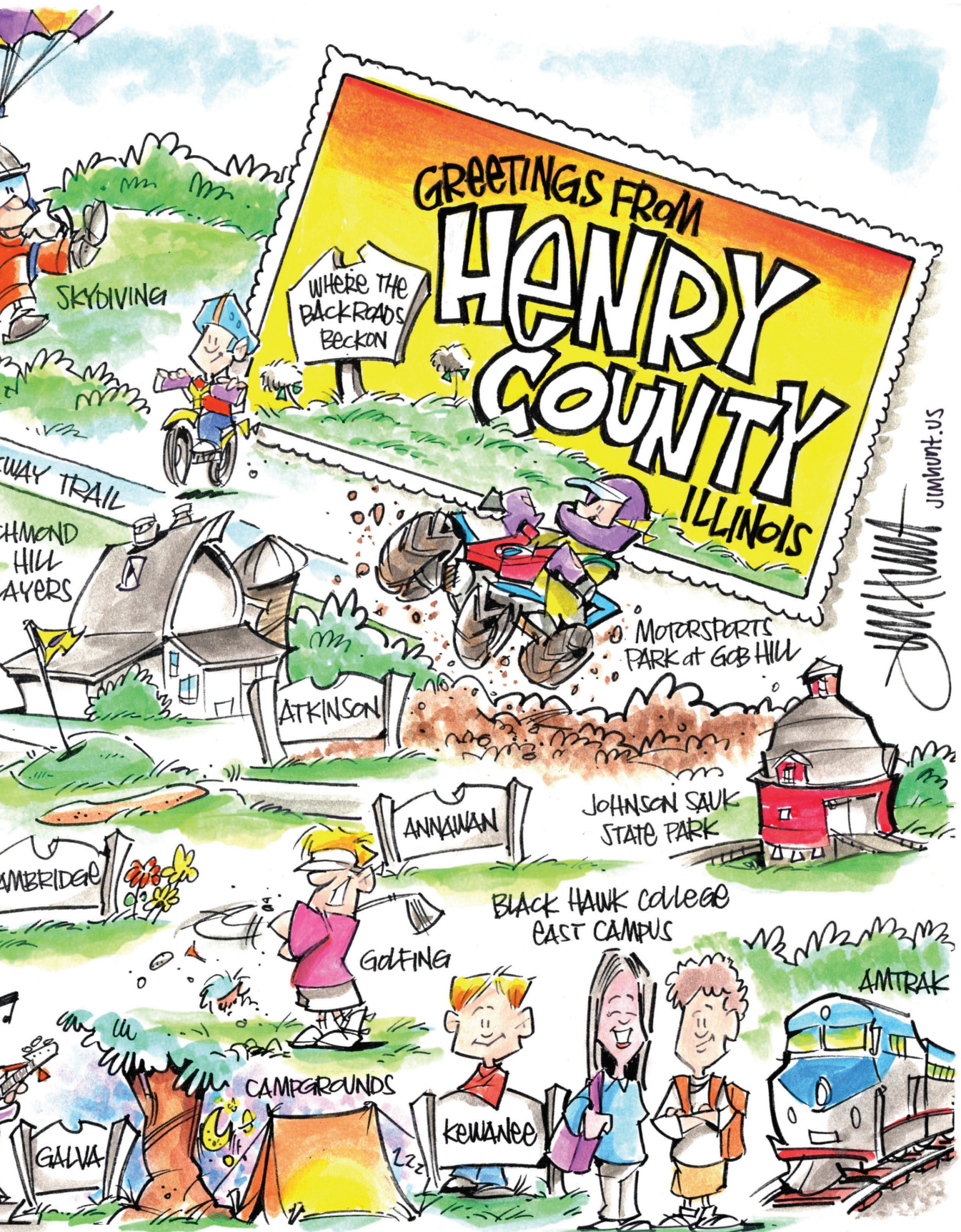
When winter arrives, Geneseo transforms into a holiday wonderland with its beloved Christmas Walk. Downtown shops and businesses



are adorned with festive lights and decorations, while carolers fill the air with holiday cheer. Horse-drawn

carriage rides offer a nostalgic experience, and children delight in visits with Santa Claus.





GREETINGS FROM
HENRY COUNTY
ILLINOIS

WHERE THE
BACKROADS
Beckon

SKYDIVING

WAY TRAIL

CHAMOND
HILL
AYERS

ATKINSON

MOTORSPORTS
PARK at GOB HILL

JOHNSON SAUK
STATE PARK

ANNKAWAN

BLACK HAWK college
EAST CAMPUS

AMTRAK

GOLFING

CAMPGROUNDS

Kewanee

GALVA

JIMMUNT.US



Savor the Charm of Lavender Crest Winery

Imagine sipping a perfectly chilled glass of wine on a sun-drenched patio, overlooking lush vineyards that stretch toward the horizon. The gentle hum of conversation, the scent of fresh grapes in the air, and the locally crafted wines create an experience that is both relaxing and unforgettable. Welcome to Lavender Crest Winery, a must-visit destination in Colona, where visitors can indulge in the finest Midwest winemaking

while enjoying the perfect blend of rustic charm and modern elegance.

Located on the west side of Henry County, Lavender Crest Winery is more than just a vineyard - it's a destination. Established in 2004, this boutique winery has become a favorite for both wine enthusiasts and casual visitors looking to experience the beauty and flavors of Illinois' wine country.

Pair your wine with a delicious

meal at the winery's bistro, where a curated menu of fresh, locally inspired dishes enhances your visit. Whether you choose a charcuterie board, a gourmet sandwich, or a savory entrée, every bite is designed to complement the winery's signature wines.

The bistro's warm and inviting ambience makes it an ideal spot for a romantic date, a leisurely lunch with friends, or a special celebration.



Lavender Crest Winery is more than just a place to enjoy a great glass of wine – its also a premier event venue. If you are looking for a place to host a wedding, bridal shower, corporate event, or private party, look no further. The winery's elegant banquet room and scenic outdoor spaces provide a picture-perfect setting for unforgettable moments.

Lavender Crest Winery is easily accessible from the Quad Cities, Peoria, and Chicago suburbs, making it an ideal day trip or weekend getaway for those seeking a taste of Illinois Wine Country.

After visiting the winery, explore the charming town of Colona or take a scenic drive through the countryside. The nearby Hennepin Canal Parkway offers a great place for a post-wine stroll or bike ride, making your visit a well-rounded experience.



Discover the Charm of Bishop Hill, Illinois

Annual Events You Can't Miss



Tucked away in the heart of Illinois, Bishop Hill is a historic village that comes to life with vibrant festivals and events throughout the year. Whether you're a music enthusiast, a vintage car aficionado, or a history buff, Bishop Hill has something for everyone. Mark your calendars and get ready to experience the warmth and charm of this beloved community.

MIDSOMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Kick off the summer season with the Midsommer Music Festival, a celebration of music, culture, and community spirit. Held in June, this event features live performances from talented musicians across various genres, filling the village with melodies that resonate through its historic streets.

ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

Rev up your engines for the Antique Car Show, a highlight of the summer held every August. Classic car enthusiasts gather to showcase beautifully restored vehicles from bygone eras. Stroll through the charming streets lined with vintage automobiles and chat with proud owners who are passionate about preserving automotive history.



AGRICULTURAL DAY

Embrace the autumn season with Agricultural Day, a tribute to the farming heritage that shaped Bishop Hill. Held in October, this event offers hands-on demonstrations of traditional farming techniques, antique farm equipment displays, and educational exhibits showcasing the importance of agriculture. Enjoy freshly harvested produce, artisanal goods, and homemade treats from local vendors.

Each festival offers a unique glimpse into the village's past and present, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

OLD SETTLERS DAY

Step back in time and celebrate Bishop Hill's storied past during Old Settlers Day in September. This cherished event honors the village's Swedish settlers with historical

reenactments, traditional crafts, and live demonstrations. The highlight is the Old Settlers' Parade, where costumed participants bring history to life, creating an unforgettable experience for all ages.



POINT AND CLICK: Check out the Bishop Hill Events Calendar

A Must-Visit Craft Beer Destination in Geneseo

Nestled in the charming historic downtown district of Geneseo, Geneseo Brewing Company is more than just a brewery - it's a gathering place where great beer, live music, and a friendly atmosphere come together to create an unforgettable experience.

Located in the heart of Geneseo, this brewery embraces the town's rich history while adding a fresh, modern twist to the local craft beer scene. Their expertly brewed small-batch beers pay tribute to traditional brewing techniques while offering innovative flavors that keep visitors coming back for more.

Not sure what to order? Their beer flights allow you to sample a variety of brews, making it easy to find your next favorite.

One of the highlights of visiting Geneseo Brewing Company is the live music scene. The brewery occasionally hosts talented local and regional musicians, transforming the space into an intimate concert venue. From acoustic sets to energetic performances, grab a pint and enjoy the tunes.

When the weather is warm, the brewery's outdoor patio is the perfect place to relax. Enjoy a cold beer under the open sky, chat with friends, and



soak in the laid-back, community-driven atmosphere. Whether you are catching some live music indoors or savoring a summer evening outside, GBC delivers an experience that goes beyond just great beer.

The historic town of Geneseo is known for its quaint downtown, charming boutiques, and welcoming community, making it a perfect getaway for visitors looking to explore small-town Illinois. A visit to Geneseo Brewing Company is a perfect way to cap off a day of shopping, sightseeing, or exploring the nearby Hennepin Canal Parkway.



Where Comfort Meets Hospitality

Henry County is a hidden gem that offers a perfect blend of small-town charm, scenic landscapes, and rich history. Whether you're visiting for a weekend getaway, a business trip, or a family vacation, the county's welcoming hotels and cozy inns provide the ideal place to relax and recharge.

EXPERIENCE SMALL-TOWN HOSPITALITY

Central Schoolhouse Inn

Immerse yourself in history at the Central Schoolhouse Inn, a beautifully restored schoolhouse that offers unique accommodations with vintage charm. Guests can enjoy cozy rooms with modern amenities while experiencing the building's rich architectural heritage, making it an unforgettable stay.

The Suites @ Good's

Experience warm hospitality at The Suites. In the heart of a family's 130-year-old furniture business lies a hidden gem - four beautiful luxurious suites that offer a dreamlike experience.

Aunt Daisy's Bed and Breakfast

Step into a world of elegance and comfort at Aunt Daisy's Bed and Breakfast. Known for its beautifully appointed rooms, exceptional service, and delicious breakfasts, this inn is a favorite for both romantic getaways and family vacations.



For travelers seeking well-known hotel brands with reliable amenities, Henry County also offers several excellent options. In Geneseo, guests can enjoy the comfort of the **Best Western & Regency Inn**, while Annawan features a **Best Western** known for its friendly service and modern facilities. Galva is home to the **Super 8**, offering budget-friendly accommodations with essential amenities. Kewanee provides multiple choices, including **AmericInn** for modern comfort, **Motel 6** for affordable stays, and the **Motorlodge**.



POINT AND CLICK: Check out the Henry Country Lodging Guide

Discover the Natural Beauty of Henry County Campgrounds

Henry County offers a range of picturesque campgrounds that provide a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Whether you're an avid camper or a first-time adventurer, Henry County's scenic landscapes and family-friendly amenities make it an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

EXPERIENCE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Henry County is home to several campgrounds that cater to different camping styles, from rustic tent sites to full-service RV hookups. Nestled among rolling hills, lush forests, and serene lakes, these campgrounds offer breathtaking views and abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation. Wake up to the sound of birds chirping, breathe in the fresh air, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty that surrounds you.

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

Beyond the campsites, Henry County offers a wide range of outdoor activities to keep visitors of all ages entertained. Explore miles of hiking and biking trails that wind through scenic landscapes, go fishing or kayaking in the county's tranquil lakes and canals, or simply relax by the campfire under a starlit sky. Families will appreciate the playgrounds, picnic areas, and organized events that make camping in Henry County a memorable experience for everyone.

ANDOVER

Looking for a day full of family-friendly fun, great food, and heartfelt community spirit? Head to **Andover, Illinois** for a pair of beloved annual events that celebrate the best of small-town life.

Start your morning at **Andover Lake Park** with the **Annual Fishing Derby**. Bring the kids, your fishing poles, and a sense of adventure—this catch-and-release event is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and maybe even reel in a prize!

Andover Lake Park's East Pavilion and Crippen Lake Pavilion are the center for the **Annual Pork Chop Supper, Ice Cream Social**, and a moving **Salute to Veterans**. Live music from a local band rounds out the evening, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere for visitors of all ages.

Whether you're a local or a first-time guest, Andover's June events are a perfect way to kick off the summer. Join us for a day full of fun, food, and community!

ORION

Experience the magic of autumn at the **Fall Festival** in Orion, Illinois! Celebrate the season with a fun-filled day featuring live music, delicious food trucks, artisan vendors, and family-friendly activities. Stroll through vibrant displays of fall décor, savor seasonal treats like caramel apples and pumpkin spice delights, and enjoy hayrides through the scenic countryside. With games for all ages, a lively parade, and a warm, welcoming community atmosphere, Orion's Fall Festival is the perfect way to make memories with family and friends. Don't miss out—plan your visit and join the fall fun in Orion!

GALVA

Galva invites visitors from near and far to experience a calendar packed with exciting annual events. From live music under the stars to lively festivals and charming craft shows, Galva's community spirit is on full display throughout the year.

LEVITT AMP GALVA MUSIC SERIES: SUMMER SOUNDS UNDER THE STARS

Each summer, Wiley Park comes alive with the sounds of the Levitt AMP Galva Music Series, a free outdoor concert series that attracts music lovers of all ages. Held on Sunday evenings from June through August, the series features a diverse lineup of talented musicians.

BACKROADS MUSIC FESTIVAL: A COUNTRY MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA

If country music is your passion,

the Backroads Music Festival is the place to be. This annual event, held each August, draws country music enthusiasts from across the Midwest to Galva's picturesque countryside. Featuring chart-topping artists and rising stars, Backroads Music Festival delivers a high-energy experience with performances that get the crowd singing and dancing along.

ANNUAL GALVA CRAFT SHOW: HANDMADE TREASURES AND LOCAL FINDS

As autumn leaves begin to fall, Galva welcomes visitors to its beloved Annual Craft Show, a celebration of creativity and craftsmanship. Held each fall, the craft show features a wide array of handmade goods, including home décor, jewelry, textiles, pottery, and seasonal decorations.





Shop Small, Discover Big

There's something magical about walking into a small, locally owned shop - the personal touch, the carefully curated collections, and the sense of community that fills the air. In Henry County, shopping isn't just about finding the perfect gift or home décor piece - it's about supporting passionate local business owners, uncovering hidden gems, and experiencing the charm of small-town hospitality.

From quaint boutiques and antique treasures to handcrafted goods and specialty foods, the communities within Henry County offer an unforgettable shopping experience for visitors and locals alike. So, if you are ready to shop small and discover big, let's take a tour through some of the best local retail gems in Henry County!

ANTIQUE SHOPPING

- Cambridge - Songbird Lane
- Geneseo - C&S Antiques, Main Street Antiques and Vintique Market
- Kewanee - Baysinger's Antiques

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING DISTRICTS

- Kewanee
- Bishop Hill
- Geneseo

So, whether you are looking for a handmade keepsake, a vintage find, or a cozy boutique experience, Henry County is the perfect place to shop small and discover big.



POINT AND CLICK: Check out the Henry County Retail Guide



ATKINSON

The charming village of Atkinson is a community that knows how to celebrate tradition, heritage, and camaraderie.

Heritage Days is Atkinson's signature festival, a beloved event that showcases the town's rich history and vibrant culture. Enjoy a parade featuring colorful floats, classic cars, and local marching bands. Explore craft booths showcasing handmade goods.

Step back in time and experience the roots of American agriculture at the **Vintage Farm Equipment Show**. This event is a must-see for history buffs, farming enthusiasts, and families alike.



ANNAWAN

Annawan is a charming village that knows how to bring people together. Throughout the year, this close-knit community hosts vibrant events that welcome visitors from near and far. Two standout celebrations—**Annawan Family Fun Days** and the **Annawan Canal Ambush Mini-Triathlon and 5K**.

Annawan Family Fun Days, held each summer, is a beloved tradition that brings the community to life with activities and entertainment for all ages.

In the fall, athletes and fitness enthusiasts gather for the Annawan Canal Ambush Mini-Triathlon and 5K. This thrilling event, held along the scenic Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park, combines physical challenge with the natural beauty of the area. Participants can compete in the mini-triathlon, which typically includes swimming, biking, and running, or opt for the 5K race, perfect for runners of all skill levels.



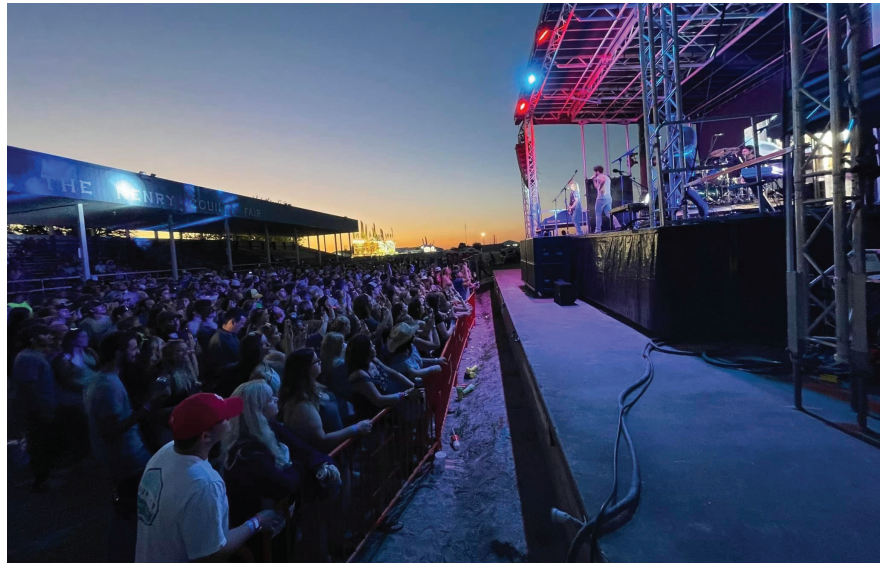
CAMBRIDGE

Come experience the vibrant community of Cambridge, Illinois, with a calendar full of must-see events that bring locals and visitors together. Don't miss out on these annual favorites:

At the **Henry County Fair**, celebrate summer with thrilling carnival rides, livestock shows, live music, delicious fair food, and family-friendly entertainment. A cherished tradition in Henry County, this fair promises fun for all ages!

Car enthusiasts, mark your calendars! Stroll through rows of classic and custom cars, chat with fellow car lovers, and enjoy food vendors and live music at the **Rotary Car Show**. Don't forget to vote for your favorite vehicle!

Embrace the beauty of fall at the **Fall Festival** with seasonal crafts,



delicious treats, pumpkin decorating, and activities for the whole family. The

festival captures the spirit of autumn and offers a perfect day out for all ages.

COLONA

Colona is a vibrant community that comes alive each year with a series of annual events that celebrate both its rich history and active lifestyle.

Every October, endurance athletes converge on Colona for the **Hennepin Hundred**, Illinois' premier point-to-point, all-trail ultramarathon. This race offers 100-mile, 50-mile, and 50-kilometer distances, all tracing the scenic Hennepin Canal State Trail from Sterling to Colona. Runners traverse historic locks, lift bridges, and picturesque autumn landscapes, fully supported by enthusiastic volunteers and aid stations. The event culminates in Colona, where finishers are greeted with festivities and the warm hospitality the town is renowned for.

For history enthusiasts, the **Fort**



Obie Rendezvous and Living History Encampment offers an immersive journey into the past. This event

recreates a pre-1840s encampment, complete with period-authentic tipis, demonstrations, and attire.

Discover the Rich History of Henry County

Henry County is a treasure trove of history, culture, and heritage. From pioneer settlements to Swedish immigration stories, agricultural innovations to industrial advancements, the county's museums offer a fascinating glimpse into the past. Whether you are a history buff, a curious traveler, or a family looking for an educational adventure, a tour of Henry County's museums is a must-do experience.

Pack your curiosity and embark on a historic journey through Geneseo, Cambridge, Bishop Hill, Kewanee, Andover and Galva, where each museum tells a unique story of the region's past.

HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Henry County Historical Museum, located in Bishop Hill, is a must visit for those eager to explore the region's deep historical roots. The museum houses an impressive collection of artifacts, photographs, and documents that trace Henry County's transformation from prairie land to thriving communities.

KEWANEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Kewanee, known as the "Hog Capital of the World", has a rich industrial



BISHOP HILL HERITAGE MUSEUM

Step back in time at Bishop Hill, a National Historical Landmark Village founded by Swedish immigrants in 1846. This living-history destination is home to several museums that tell the extraordinary story of religious refugees who built a self-sufficient community in the Illinois prairie.

ANDOVER HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

Tucked in the quiet town of Andover, the Andover Historical Museum offers a charming glimpse into pioneer life in the Midwest. Located in a former schoolhouse, the museum is home to historic artifacts, photographs, and documents that tell the story of Andover's early settlers and Swedish heritage. Nearby, visitors can explore the Andover Lutheran Church, one of the oldest Swedish-American churches in Illinois, adding another layer of history to this small but significant community.

A visit to Henry County's museums is not just about looking at old artifacts - it's about stepping into history and experiencing the stories that shaped these communities. Henry County is a destination that promises discovery, culture, and timeless charm. Start your journey today!

history, and the Kewanee Historical Society Museum captures this legacy beautifully. Located in a former bank building, the museum is filled with exhibits on early industry, agriculture, and transportation.

GALVA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Galva's rich history is preserved in the Wiley House Museum, an elegant Victorian home maintained by the Galva Historical Society. This beautifully restored house provides visitors with a glimpse into 19th century life, featuring period furnishings, vintage clothing, and historical artifacts.

GENESEO HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Located in a stunning Victorian-era mansion, the Geneseo Historical Museum takes visitors on a journey through time. This beautifully preserved home is filled with antique furnishings, vintage clothing, and artifacts that showcase life in Geneseo from the 1800s to the early 20th century.

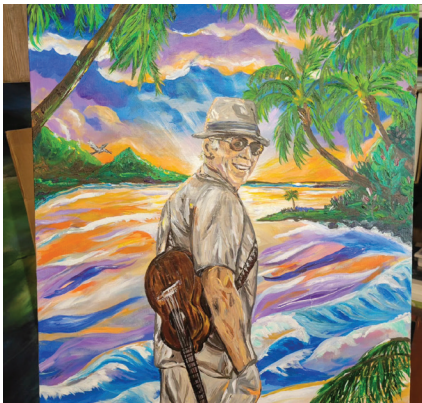
A Creative Escape for Art Lovers

From historic villages to charming downtowns, Henry County is a hidden gem for art lovers. Whether you are drawn to art galleries, local artisans, or immersive festivals, this creative community offers a vibrant arts scene that brings together culture, heritage, and artistic expression.

With art galleries showcasing local talent, hands-on workshops, murals depicting the history and culture, and festivals celebrating creativity, Henry County is the perfect art destination for visitors looking to be inspired.

MURALS

Visitors to Kewanee shouldn't miss the History in the Paint Public Art Tour. This captivating tour showcases stunning, hand-painted murals located in the downtown area, each depicting a facet of Kewanee's history. The Hidden Treasures section at the



bottom of each mural description provides an opportunity for discovery, inviting visitors to explore and unravel more of Kewanee's artistic offerings.

Geneseo is emerging as another regional art destination, boasting three art galleries, a music store, a music academy, and an ongoing mural project that has brought five murals to life in the past few years.

ART GALLERIES

Kewanee is home to Gallery on Second, a vibrant art space offering original artwork and handmade items. The gallery showcases a diverse range of pottery as well.

Geneseo boasts a vibrant arts scene with several notable galleries

enriching its cultural landscape. The Geneseo Art League, Smith Studio and Gallery and Rutabaga Art are all situated in the downtown district and collectively contribute to Geneseo's dynamic and accessible art community.

Bishop Hill is a haven for art and pottery enthusiasts, offering Hantverk Galleri, J Goard Pottery, The Colony Store just to name a few. And the Bishop Hill Creative Commons offers a place to showcase art, crafts, workshops and music.

No matter what kind of art you love, Henry County invites you to explore, create, and be inspired. Pack your creativity and discover the artistic heartbeat of Henry County.

Weddings & Celebrations

Whether you're planning an intimate wedding, a milestone celebration, or a corporate gathering, Henry County, Illinois, offers a beautiful mix of charming, rustic, and elegant venues perfect for any occasion. From scenic vineyards to restored historic buildings, here are some of the top spots to consider for your next big event:

For those who love country charm, **The Stables in Kewanee** offers a cozy, rustic setting with modern amenities. This renovated barn venue is ideal for weddings, reunions, or private parties. Its spacious layout, natural wood beams, and country ambiance provide the perfect canvas to customize your event. Guests will love the laid-back atmosphere and scenic surroundings.

Romance meets rustic elegance at **Lavender Crest Winery**, a premier venue known for its stunning vineyard views and relaxed sophistication. With both indoor and outdoor event spaces, couples can say "I do" against a backdrop of lush vines or host a reception inside the inviting winery. Delicious in-house catering and, of course, local wine make this venue a favorite for weddings and receptions.

Steeped in history and full of charm, the **Central Schoolhouse Inn** is a restored 19th-century schoolhouse turned boutique inn and event venue. Perfect for smaller weddings, bridal showers, or weekend



gatherings, this unique space combines vintage details with modern comfort. The Inn's quaint character and central Geneseo location make it a hidden gem for hosting memorable celebrations.

Located in the heart of Cambridge, **The Blackridge** is a beautifully renovated venue that blends historic charm with modern style, making it a versatile space for weddings, celebrations, and community events. Originally built in 1905, it retains unique architectural features like original hardwood floors and a grand staircase, while incorporating contemporary touches like a stylish hedge wall for photo ops.

Waterfront serenity awaits at **Shadow Lake**, one of Geneseo's most

scenic event venues. With a gorgeous lake view, outdoor pavilion, and ample green space, this venue is especially popular for summer weddings and outdoor receptions. Whether you're planning a casual gathering or an upscale celebration, Shadow Lake's natural beauty adds a peaceful and romantic vibe to any event.

Tucked away in a wooded setting, **Whispering Pines** offers a quiet and enchanting venue for weddings and events. Its private location, outdoor ceremony spots, and rustic reception area make it ideal for couples looking for a nature-inspired celebration. The venue also includes overnight accommodations and amenities to make your special day stress-free and unforgettable.

Harvesting Heritage

Exploring the Agriculture of Henry County

When you visit Henry County, you are stepping into the heart of the Midwest – where rolling fields of corn and soybeans, historic family farms, and innovative agriculture efforts shape the landscape and culture. Agriculture is more than just an industry here; it's a way of life.

From **farmers' markets** and pumpkin patches to hands-on farm experiences, there are numerous ways to experience Henry County's rich agricultural heritage for those who appreciate the beauty and importance of farming.

If you love fresh, locally sourced food, Henry County's farmers' markets and agricultural festivals are a must-visit. The area's farmers markets are vibrant community gathering places where visitors can

browse fresh produce, baked goods, handmade crafts, and local honey.

Henry County hosts several annual festivals celebrating its farming heritage and rural traditions.

- **Henry County Fair** – One of the most beloved summer traditions highlighting livestock shows, local vendors, live music and family-friendly activities.

- **Bishop Hill Agricultural Festival** – Festival celebrating traditional farming techniques, old-world craftsmanship, and Swedish agricultural heritage.

- **Antique Tractor Shows** – Featuring demonstrations, exhibits and great food.

Whether you are looking for family-friendly farm experiences, fresh farmers' markets, or an in-depth look at agriculture, Henry County is the perfect destination for agritourism.



Kewanee

The city of Kewanee, named 'The Friendliest Small Town in America' by Rand McNally in 2013, citing good cheer, genuine courtesy and community service as hallmarks of the town, is a must-visit destination. Hop off the Amtrak and start exploring.

Food lovers will find plenty to enjoy in Kewanee, from classic diners to locally owned favorites that serve up homestyle meals with a Midwest twist.

- **Cerno's Bar & Grill** - A historic tavern featuring delicious burgers, fresh-cut fries, and an old-school bar atmosphere that dates back to 1898.
- **Country Morning Coffee** - Where freshly roasted, handcrafted coffees and delectable baked goods await you in a cozy, inviting atmosphere.
- **Coco's Cookies and Coffee Shop** - Savor cookies, pastry and sandwiches or indulge in some ice cream or a specialty coffee made from locally roasted beans in a cozy boutique setting.
- **Downtown Eatery and Bakery** - Enjoy freshly baked pastries and a delightful breakfast menu in a cozy, historic setting.

For nature lovers and outdoor adventurers, Kewanee's parks offer scenic beauty, recreation, and peaceful escapes.

- **Windmont Park** - A picturesque oasis with a lake, walking trails, picnic areas, and a playground, perfect for a relaxing day outdoors.
- **Northeast Park** - Known for its disc golf course, ball fields, and open green spaces, the park is a great spot for family-friendly fun.



- **Francis Park** - A hidden gem just outside of Kewanee, featuring hiking trails, historic buildings, and picnic areas surrounded by serene nature.

Kewanee is rich in history, and visitors can explore its past through its well-preserved buildings, museums, and landmarks.

- **Kewanee Historical Society Museum** - A treasure trove of artifacts, exhibits, and stories that showcase Kewanee's industrial past and cultural heritage.
 - **Ryan's Round Barn** - Located in nearby Johnson Sauk Trail State Park, this iconic 20th-century barn is an architectural marvel that gives visitors a glimpse into early farming life.
 - **Historic Downtown Kewanee** - Strolling through downtown, you'll find beautiful old buildings, charming storefronts, and a glimpse into Kewanee's vibrant history.
- Kewanee's growing arts scene is on full display through its stunning **murals**, which celebrate the town's



heritage, creativity, and local pride. These large-scale works of art add a splash of color and tell the stories of Kewanee's people, industries, and traditions. Visitors can take a self-guided mural tour and admire the artwork scattered throughout town.

With its fantastic restaurants, stunning parks, rich history, colorful murals, and lively events, Kewanee is the perfect destination for visitors looking to experience Midwestern charm at its finest. Whether you're here for a weekend getaway or just passing through, Kewanee will welcome you with open arms.

Geneseo

Geneseo is a hidden gem that combines small-town charm with rich history, vibrant culture, and scenic beauty. Located just 20 minutes east of the Quad Cities, Geneseo is known for its beautifully restored Victorian homes along tree-lined streets that evoke a Norman Rockwell painting.

Recognized as one of the top 10 most photogenic towns in Illinois, the downtown area is vibrant with a thriving retail business, colorful festivals, parades, local theater, and ice cream socials, offering a picture-perfect representation of life in Geneseo. Additionally, downtown Geneseo boasts a variety of unique shops featuring gifts, clothing, home furnishings, furniture, restaurants, and antiques.

For the outdoor enthusiasts, the **Hennepin Canal and Trail** offers a scenic backdrop for hiking, biking, and fishing. During winter, the park transforms into a picturesque spot for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The campground right on the trail makes for a perfect spot to spend some time in the great outdoors.

Geneseo is known for its lively arts community, showcased through events like the **Geneseo Art Walk**, seasonal festivals and the **Richmond Hill Players** community theater. Shoppers will love browsing the town's locally owned boutiques and antique shops, perfect



for finding one-of-a-kind treasures.

Dining in Geneseo is a treat, with cozy cafes like the **Geneseo Donut Shop**, locally owned restaurants like **State Street Café**, fine dining establishments like **The Cellar**, and classic Midwestern hot spots serving up delicious homestyle meals. Whether you are craving a hearty breakfast and

a cup of coffee roasted locally at **The Local Motive**, or a craft beer at the local brewery, Geneseo's culinary scene has something for every taste.

With its quaint charm, vibrant local culture, and welcoming atmosphere, Geneseo is a perfect destination for a weekend getaway or a leisurely road trip stop.

Colona

Colona is a hidden gem for those looking to escape the hustle and bustle and reconnect with nature, family fun, and small-town hospitality. Whether you're passing through or planning a weekend stay, Colona has something for every traveler—from scenic trails to unforgettable pizza.

Nature lovers and adventure seekers will fall in love with the **Hennepin Canal Trail**, which runs right through Colona. The tree-lined path winds past charming bridges, wildlife-rich wetlands, and quiet spots ideal for a picnic or photo op.

For those who like to stay close to nature, Colona is a great basecamp. The area offers **family-friendly campgrounds** with options for both tent and RV campers. Spend the night under the stars, enjoy a campfire with friends, and wake up to the sound of birds and rustling leaves.



After a day of adventure, there's no better way to satisfy your appetite than a visit to **Maria's Pizza**—a local favorite known for its mouthwatering pies and welcoming atmosphere.

Whether you're in the mood for a classic pepperoni or something a little more adventurous, Maria's serves up homemade, crave-worthy pizza that keeps locals and visitors coming back.



Atkinson

Tucked away is the charming town of Atkinson, which offers a perfect blend of delicious dining, high-speed excitement, and small-town hospitality. Whether you're a food lover, a motorsports enthusiast, or just looking for a relaxing Midwest getaway, Atkinson delivers an experience that keeps visitors coming back.

For thrill seekers, **Atkinson Motorsports Park** is a must-visit destination. As one of the premier off-road riding parks in the region, it



attracts ATV and dirt bike riders of all skill levels. The park boasts miles of well-maintained trails, challenging tracks, and open riding areas, making it the perfect spot for high-speed fun in a safe and family-friendly environment.

After an action-packed day at the

motorsports park, you'll want to refuel with a delicious meal from Atkinson's locally loved restaurants. This small town offers big flavors, whether you're craving homestyle cooking or a quick bite with friends.

- **The Barn** - A true hidden gem, this welcoming eatery serves up classic American comfort food, from juicy burgers to hand-breaded tenderloins.

- **Lisa's Place** - a family-friendly restaurant known for its down-home cooking, daily specials, and homemade pies and desserts

Galva

Galva is a hidden gem for music lovers, art enthusiasts, and foodies looking to experience the best of small-town charm with a vibrant cultural scene. Whether you're visiting for a live concert, a creative arts event, or a delicious meal at a locally loved restaurant, Galva offers a warm, welcoming atmosphere that makes every visit special.

- **Levitt AMP Music Series** - One of the town's biggest draws, this free outdoor concert series takes place in Wiley Park, bringing nationally recognized artists and local talent to the stage. Running throughout the summer, this event offers a family-friendly atmosphere with food vendors, craft beer, and plenty of space to relax and enjoy the music.

- **Backroads Music Festival** - A must-attend event for country music fans, this festival brings big-name acts to the heart of Galva each August, creating an unforgettable experience for concertgoers.

The Galva Arts Council plays a key role in promoting creativity and culture, offering art exhibits, workshops, and community-driven projects that showcase the talent and passion of local artists.

- **Community Art Projects & Murals** - Walking through downtown, visitors can admire colorful murals and public art installations that reflect Galva's rich history and creative spirit.

- **Creative Workshops** - The Galva Art Council frequently hosts painting classes, photography lessons, and hands-on craft workshops, giving visitors a chance to unleash their own creativity.

No visit to Galva is complete without indulging in its fantastic local dining scene. From cozy diners to beloved eateries, the town is home to some truly delicious small-town eats.

- **The Old Bank Coffee Shop** - Experience the perfect blend of cozy charm and delicious handcrafted coffee - a must-visit spot for great



brews and warm hospitality!

- **Special Kneads Bakery** - Indulge in delicious homemade treats with a purpose, where every bite supports a heartfelt mission.

- **Mary's Family Dining and Lounge** - Enjoy homestyle cooking and a welcoming atmosphere where great food and friendly service make you feel right at home.

- **Uncle Nolan's Diner** - Stop in for classic comfort food, friendly service, and a nostalgic small-town diner experience.

With its unforgettable music events, thriving arts community, delicious restaurants, and welcoming small-town charm, Galva is a perfect destination for a weekend getaway or a day trip.

Annawan



Nestled along the east side of Henry County, the charming village of Annawan is a must-visit destination for travelers looking to experience delicious local dining, vibrant community events, and the beauty of the Hennepin Canal. Annawan offers the perfect mix of Midwestern hospitality and natural beauty.

Annawan may be a small town, but it's big on flavor! Visitors will find locally loved restaurants that serve up delicious homestyle meals, fresh ingredients, and a warm welcome.

- **Purple Onion** - A true local favorite, this cozy eatery offers hearty breakfasts, homemade soups, and signature sandwiches that keep visitors coming back.
- **Micks Bar & Grill** - Taco Night, Pizzas and more served up along with delicious drinks and a party room!
- **Paxton's Corner Coop** - A family-oriented ice cream shop and bakery that receives high praise time and

time again.

For outdoor lovers, the **Hennepin Canal** is a true hidden treasure. Running along the north side of town, the canal provides visitors with opportunities to hike, bike, fish, and kayak while taking in the peaceful Midwest landscape. Whether you're looking for a leisurely paddle, a scenic picnic spot, or an energizing bike ride, the Hennepin Canal is a must-see attraction in Annawan.

Annawan embodies the quintessential small-town charm that makes the Midwest so special. Visitors will find a welcoming community, historic charm, and year-round events that bring the town to life.

Pack up the car, bring your appetite, and visit Annawan - where beautiful scenery and hospitality meet!

Orion

Tucked away along the western side of Henry County, just a short drive from the Quad Cities, Orion is a picture-perfect small town where welcoming restaurants, a beautiful park, and lively community events make every visit special. Whether you're stopping by for a delicious meal, a stroll through the park, or a fun-filled festival, Orion offers authentic Midwest hospitality that keeps visitors coming back.

Located in the heart of town, **Orion Central Park** is a beautiful green



space that offers a relaxing retreat for families, picnickers, and outdoor lovers.

- **Playground** - Whether you are looking for a place to let the kids play or a peaceful stroll, the park's well-

maintained play areas are perfect for all ages.

- **Community Gatherings** - The park often serves as a hub for town events, summer concerts, and holiday celebrations.

With its charming Main Street, welcoming restaurants and coffee shop, beautiful park, and exciting annual events, Orion is the perfect place to experience small-town charm at its finest.

Cambridge

In the heart of Henry County, Cambridge is a quaint, welcoming town known for its delicious restaurants, lively music scene, historic courthouse, beautiful parks, and exciting annual events – including the renowned **Henry County Fair**.

Every summer, Cambridge becomes the center of excitement with the Henry County Fair, one of the most anticipated events in the region.

- Carnival Rides & Games – Classic fair attractions bring thrills for all ages, from Ferris wheels to bumper cars.
- Concerts & Live Entertainment – The fair features big-name country, rock, and local music acts, drawing music lovers from across the region.
- Demolition Derby & Tractor Pulls – Feel the adrenaline rush as roaring engines and smashing metal light up the fairgrounds.
- Livestock Shows & Exhibits – Celebrate Henry County's rich agricultural heritage with 4-H competitions, livestock displays, and farm exhibits.

Beyond the fair, Cambridge is home to festivals and celebrations throughout the year, offering something for everyone. **The Fall Festival, Concert in the Park series** and **Christmas in Cambridge** are events that showcase the heart and soul of small-town life.

Cambridge's scenic parks and historic landmarks offer the perfect places to relax, explore, and enjoy the beauty of this small town.

College Square Park is the hub for community events throughout the year while **Hand Park** is great for kids and nature lovers alike. The



Henry County Courthouse stands proudly in the heart of town and is a stunning piece of architecture and local history.

Music lovers will appreciate Cambridge's vibrant local music scene, with live performances happening throughout the year. In addition to the Henry County Fair entertainment, be sure to check out

the event calendar with **Crossroad Cultural Connections**. They provide music year-round in Cambridge and surrounding communities. No matter the season, Cambridge has a thriving music culture that makes every visit unforgettable.

Come explore Cambridge, a town where history, hospitality, and entertainment come together.

Woodhull

Just off Interstate 74, Woodhull is a welcoming small town filled with beautiful parks, delicious local restaurants, and exciting annual events. With its convenient location and proximity to other charming towns like Cambridge, Orion, and Bishop Hill, Woodhull is the perfect place for travelers and families looking for an authentic Midwestern experience. Whether you're stopping by for a meal, a festival, or a peaceful day at the park, Woodhull offers a warm, friendly atmosphere that makes every visit memorable.

Travelers along I-74 will find

Woodhull to be an ideal place to take a break, grab a bite to eat, and explore small-town charm just minutes from the highway. Located only 30 minutes from the Quad Cities and close to towns like Galva and Kewanee, Woodhull offers a peaceful escape without straying too far from the road.

For those looking to enjoy some fun in the sun, Woodhull parks provide a relaxing space to enjoy nature, exercise, and gather with family and friends. **Woodhull Park** is the heart of the community, this park features a playground, picnic area,



and plenty of green space perfect for family outings, afternoon strolls, and casual sports.

Andover

The quaint village of Andover is a hidden gem for visitors looking to explore fascinating history, and a beautiful park. Founded in 1835, Andover is one of the oldest Swedish settlements in the Midwest, making it a destination full of heritage, charm, and small-town warmth.

- **Augustana Lutheran Church & Jenny Lind Chapel** – Built in 1850, the Jenny Lind Chapel was the first Swedish Lutheran church in the Midwest and remains a significant historical landmark. The nearby Augustana Lutheran Church, established in 1867, showcases stunning architecture and is a site of cultural and religious importance.

- **Andover Historical Museum** – Housed in a charming old schoolhouse, this museum tells the story of Andover's Swedish settlers, featuring artifacts, photographs, and exhibits that bring the town's history to life.

For those who love historical architecture and cultural heritage, Andover offers a unique glimpse into the past while preserving its small-town charm.

For those who enjoy the great outdoors, **Andover Lake Park** is a beautiful, serene retreat where visitors can unwind and explore nature.

- **Fishing** – The peaceful lake is perfect for casting a line.

- **Walking Trails & Picnic Areas** – Enjoy the scenic walk along the water, take in the picturesque views, or have a picnic under the shade of towering trees.

With its deep historical roots and scenic lake park, Andover is a charming getaway that offers visitors a perfect blend of history, nature and small-town hospitality. Whether you're exploring the historic churches or enjoying a lakeside afternoon,



Andover invites you to experience the warmth and charm of this hidden gem in Henry County.

Bishop Hill

Step back in time and experience the rich history, artistic charm, and vibrant culture of Bishop Hill. Founded in 1846 by Swedish immigrants, this beautifully preserved village offers visitors a unique blend of Scandinavian heritage, delicious cuisine, thriving arts, and annual celebrations that bring history to life.

Visitors can enjoy hearty, homemade meals in cozy, historic settings that make dining here a true experience.

- **The Filling Station** – A local favorite, this charming spot serves up mouthwatering breakfast, homemade soups, and delicious pies in a welcoming setting.

- **P.L. Johnson's Dining Room** – A historic dining experience where visitors can enjoy classic Midwestern dishes with a Swedish twist.

- **The Colony Store** – More than just a café, this shop offers Swedish candies, specialty foods, and locally made treats perfect for taking a taste of Bishop Hill home with you.

History comes alive in Bishop Hill, where well-preserved buildings and museums tell the story of the town's Swedish settlers and their lasting impact. You will get lost in time visiting the **Bishop Hill Heritage Museum, Colony Church, and Henry County Historical Museum.**

Throughout the year, Bishop Hill comes alive with cultural celebrations, lively festivals, and traditional Swedish events that attract visitors from across the region.

- **Jordbruksdagarna** (Agricultural Days) – Experience 19th-century farming demonstrations, Swedish folk music, horse-drawn wagon rides, and craft vendors in this tribute to Bishop Hill's agrarian roots.



- **Lucia Nights** – This magical Swedish Christmas Festival lights up the town with candlelit streets, traditional music, Swedish treats, and performances celebrating the legend of Saint Lucia.

- **Bishop Hill Midsommar Music Festival** – A joyful summer celebration featuring traditional Swedish folk dancing, live music performances, and a maypole raising ceremony.

- **Colony Days** – Honoring Bishop Hill's founding settlers, this festival

includes parades, reenactments, craft fairs, and delicious Swedish food.

- **Julmarknad** (Swedish Christmas Market) – The town transforms into a winter wonderland, with handmade crafts, baked goods, holiday shopping, and traditional Swedish carols filling the air.

Bishop Hill is a thriving hub for artists, musicians, and creatives, with a strong tradition of folk art, handcrafted goods, and live performances.

With the historic charm, rich culture, delicious food, vibrant arts scene, and exciting events, Bishop Hill is a truly unique destination. Whether you are exploring its museums, attending a lively festival, admiring handmade art, or enjoying a Swedish-inspired meal, you'll find yourself captivated by this charming village.



Check out the event calendar for all the Henry County Happenings



POINT AND CLICK: Check out the Henry County Events Calendar

