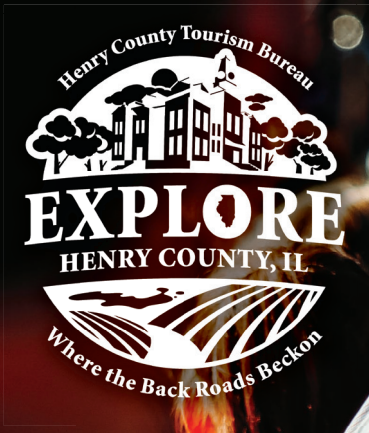


Explore HENRY COUNTY



Backroads
Music Festival



enjoy
illinois

www.explorehenrycounty.com

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.

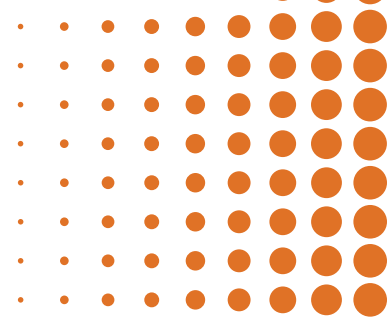
But what truly sets this area apart is its small-town charm. The friendly locals and welcoming atmosphere make everyone feel right at home. Exploring the back roads and hidden gems of the county allows you to connect with the community and discover all that Henry County has to offer.

VISION AND MISSION

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.

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.





Explore HENRY COUNTY



Cerno's Bar & Grill
Kewanee

From wineries and a brewery to fine dining and charming restaurants, Henry County has it all. Sip a local wine on the patio at Lavender Crest or indulge in homemade pie at the Purple Onion. Stop by Cerno's Bar and Grill to admire the 1898 bar built by Pabst Blue Ribbon. Discover these experiences and more in Henry County.

Explore the trail along the historic Hennepin Canal. Enjoy family time at one of the many campgrounds throughout the region. Visit our beautiful Johnson-Sauk Trail State Park, which features scenic trails, a lake, and a campground. Play a round of golf or grab your fishing pole—there is always plenty to discover along the backroads of Henry County.



Hennepin Canal



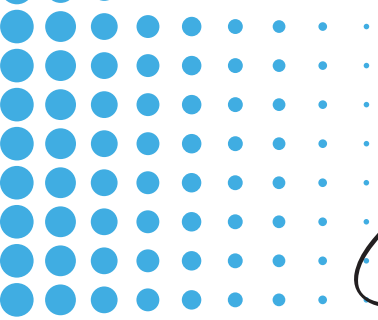
Wiley Park
Galva

Crossroads Cultural Connections brings diverse artists to Henry County year-round. Enjoy the Levitt Amp Music Series in Galva, shows at Bishop Hill's Creative Commons, and intimate outdoor venues in Cambridge. Don't miss concerts at Geneseo's Central Bank Pavilion or the summer series in Kewanee. Experience big music in our small towns.

With eleven communities hosting events year-round, there is always something to do in Henry County. Car shows and cruise-ins are some of our favorites. Outdoor markets, fairs and festivals you shouldn't miss include the Henry County Fair, Hog Days, State Street Market, Backroad Music Festival and more!



Henry County Fair
Cambridge



Spring Events



Art League
Geneseo

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.

Geneseo
Art Walk

Bishop Hill
Civil War Days

To honor their very own Company D, IL 57th Volunteer Infantry, Bishop Hill hosts Civil War Days. There is a living history encampment in the village park. Some of the programs that are scheduled are: artillery demonstration, an appearance by General John Logan, a Civil War Ball, a medical demonstration, and much, much more.



Civil War Days



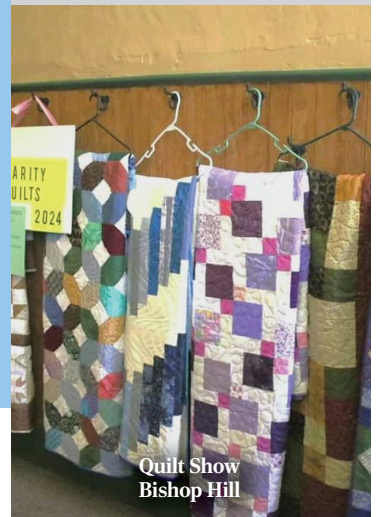
Wiley Park
Galva

Galva Arts Council is preparing for the Levitt AMP Galva Music Series... and we would love for you to join. Once again there will be free, family-friendly live music at beautiful Wiley Park in Galva. Events are rain or shine. Please bring your lawn chairs/blankets to sit on. Food vendors will be on site.

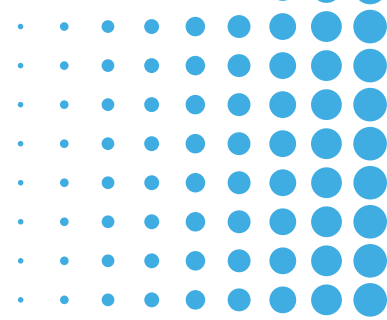
Levitt AMP
Music Series

Bishop Hill
Quilt Show

The Colony School comes alive for Bishop Hill's annual Quilt Show. As over 100 quilts will be on display for two days. The show supports local nonprofits. The event showcases antique, patchwork, and applique styles, alongside challenge quilts at the Steeple Building Museum. You don't want to miss this display of quilting talent.



Quilt Show
Bishop Hill



Festival Colona

Enjoy some community fun at the Memorial Day Festival in Colona where there will be exciting events happening all throughout Memorial Day Weekend. We can't wait to see you at the carnival, rocking out with live bands in the beer garden, pitching horseshoes, and cheering at the parade!

Colona Memorial Day Festival

Andover Fishing Derby

Bring the kids for Andover's annual Fishing Derby at Andover Lake Park. This catch and release event is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and maybe even reel in a prize. In the evening, head over to the pavilion for the pork chop supper, ice cream social and a moving salute to veterans. This event has a festive and welcoming atmosphere for visitors of all ages.



Bishop Hill Park

Be sure to check out the annual Doodle Folk Music Festival in Bishop Hill. Doodle was Bishop Hill's first folk musician. Enjoy folk music in the park all day long! All the park concerts are free and open to the public. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the music!

Bishop Hill Doodle Folk Music Festival

Tri-It Mini Triathlon

Enjoy the Quad Cities Kayak River Adventures Tri-It Mini Triathlon. Kick off your race series with a fun Kayak, Bike, Run with a fun race on the Rock River and along the scenic Hennepin Canal right in Colona Illinois.

It is an easy course and could be for the whole family with Give-A-Ways and food at the finish line!



Colona



Wiley Park
Galva



Central Schoolhouse Inn
Geneseo

Couples Get-A-Way

Where to Stay ...

- The Suites at Good's
- Aunt Daisy's B&B
- Central Schoolhouse Inn
- See the lodging guide on website for more options

Things to do ...

- Shop Local Boutiques
- Visit Museums
- Play a Round of Mini Golf
- Explore Bishop Hill
- Catch a Play by Richmond Hill Players
- Visit the Art Galleries
- Go Antiquing
- Attend one of our Community Events
(See Online Event Calendar for Listing)



Lavender Crest Winery
Colona

Relax & Recharge...

- Stroll Along the Hennepin Canal
- Camp or Explore Johnson Sauk State Park
- Relax with a Massage at the Spas
- Catch Live Music Performances

Where to Eat ...

- Geneseo Brewing Company hosts unique beers & hard seltzers
- Lavender Crest Winery features wine production, a wine tasting room, and a lunch cafe

Visit Website for:

- Restaurant Guide
- Lodging Guide
- Retail Guide
- Events Calendar



Richmond Hill Players
Geneseo



Blissful Branch Boutique
Kewanee

Attractions & Recreation

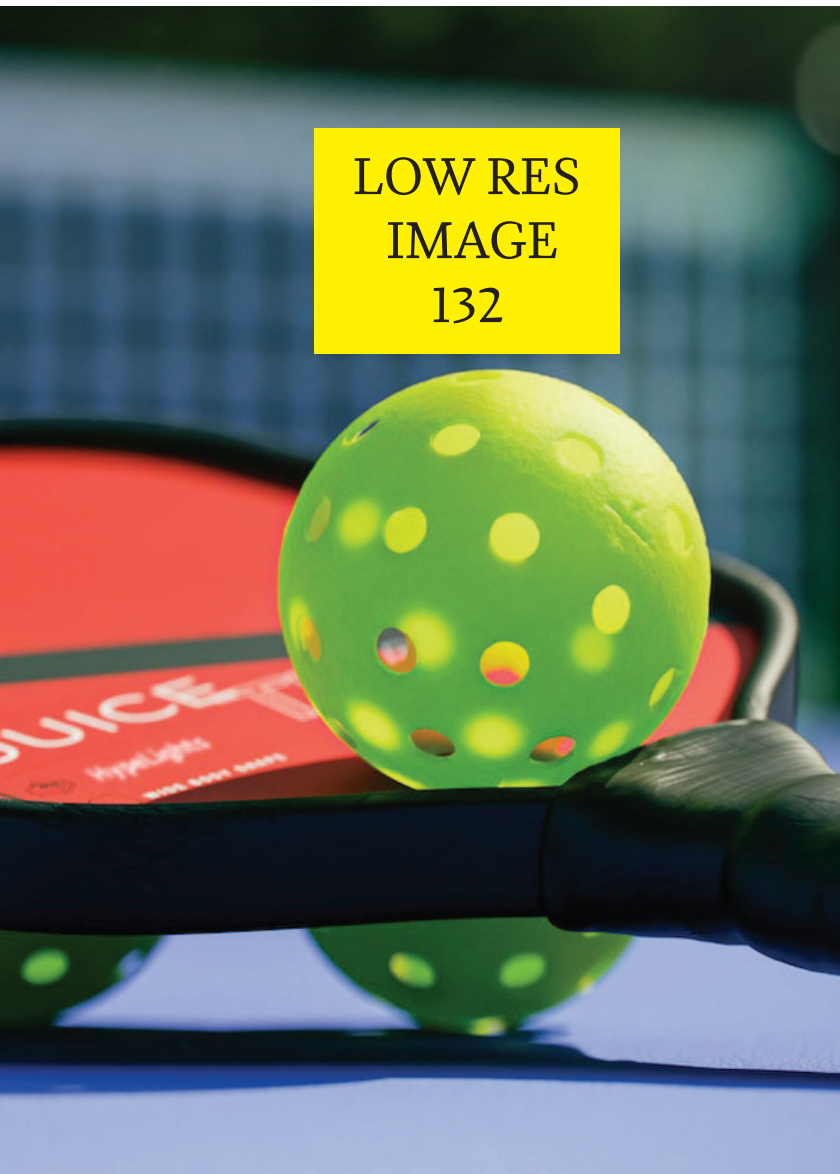
Henry County offers a range of picturesque campgrounds that provide a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Whether you're an avid camper or a first-time adventurer, Henry County's scenic landscapes and family-friendly amenities make it an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts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

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. With courts at city parks such as Windmont or Northeast Park in Kewanee and Richmond Hill Park in Geneseo, bring your paddles and enjoy a game of pickleball with the family.

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.



LOW RES
IMAGE
136



LOW RES
IMAGE
132



LOW RES
IMAGE
175

Winery - Events Center - Café

Lavender
rest
WINERY



Tucked away in the idyllic, open-sky country of Northwest Illinois, Lavender Crest Winery is the perfect place to host your event or enjoy a weekend of wine tasting.

Between their locally lauded reds and whites and their picturesque event venue, they're more than just a winery. They're the perfect venue for weddings, retirement parties, corporate functions and anniversaries. They also provide full-service catering services. Call them today to learn more about their event venue.

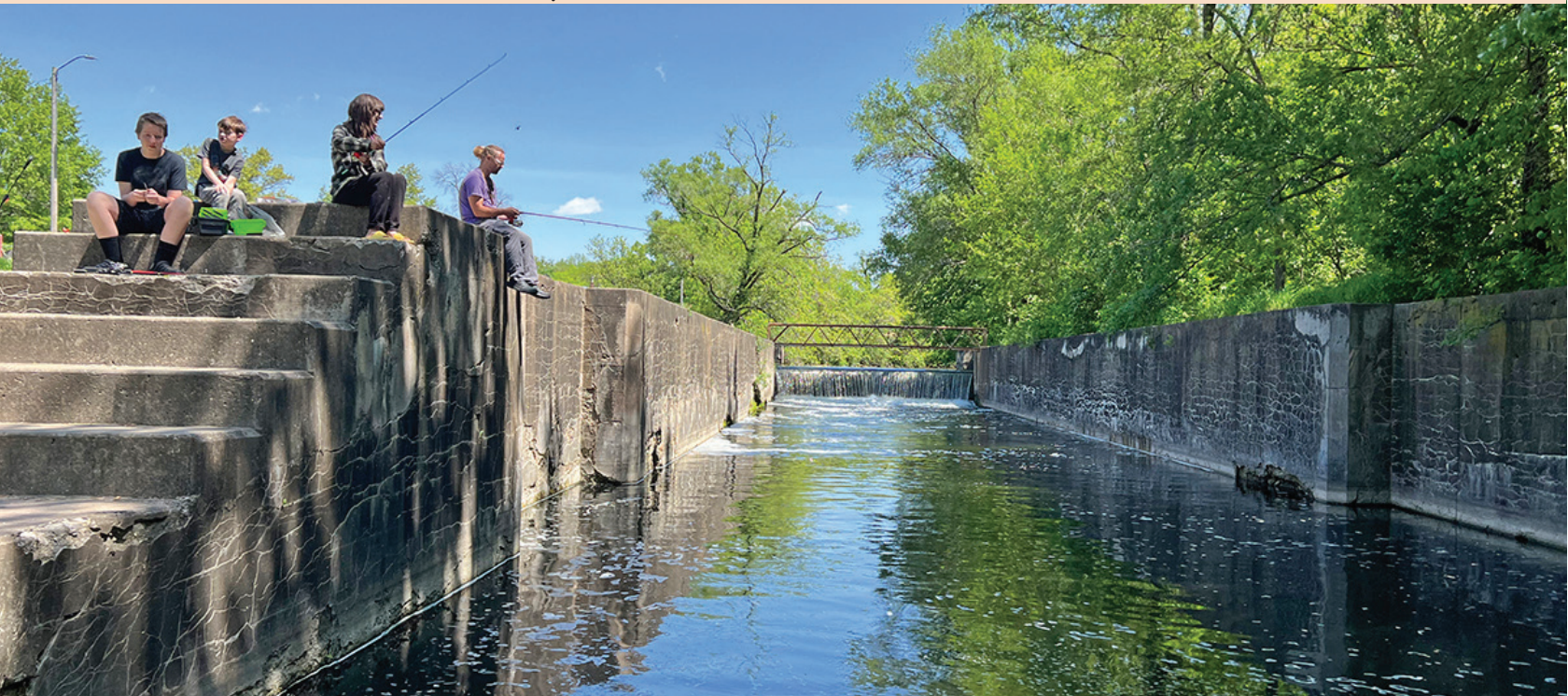
They're also a lunch restaurant, open daily for your enjoyment. Their menu is brimming with delicious dishes and award-winning wines. While you're there, you can visit their tasting room to take your taste buds on a tour of reds, whites, blushes, fruit wines and dessert wines. Visit the winery and lunch restaurant today.



Let's capture your wedding story - book your date today!

www.lavendercrest.com

Hennepin Canal Trail



BIKING & HIKING

One of the best ways to experience the Hennepin Canal is on foot or by bike. The Hennepin Canal Parkway Trail stretches over 100 miles.

The Hennepin Canal provides a wide variety of recreational activities including picnicking, walking, bicycling, camping, and snowmobiling.

WATER ACTIVITIES

For those who love being on the water, kayaking and canoeing along the canal is a must. 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.

CHARMING SMALL TOWNS

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.

Venture off the trail to explore Colona, Geneseo, Atkinson and Annawan.



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 journey through one of Illinois' most scenic and historic waterways.

Kewanee



Annual Events

Hog Days

This Labor Day weekend tradition honors Kewanee's title as the "Hog Capital of the World." This 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

A celebration of creativity that highlights the talents of local and regional artists. This festival showcases a variety of art forms, from painting, sculpture, photography, and performance art.

Enchanted Pumpkin Festival

A family-friendly event featuring creatively carved pumpkins, whimsical displays, and seasonal treats that capture the spirit of fall.



Everything You Need

The city of Kewanee is a must-visit destination for travelers looking for delicious local dining, scenic parks, rich history, and vibrant community events. Kewanee is a place where small-town hospitality meets big adventure. 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.

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

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

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.



Food Scene



Cerno's Bar & Grill
Kewanee



Maria's Pizza
Colona

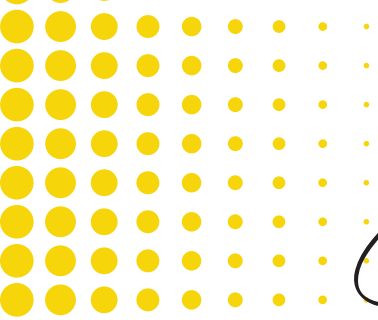
After a day of sightseeing and cultural exploration, grab a bite at **Cerno's Bar & Grill** in Kewanee. This historic bar is renowned for its inviting atmosphere and exceptional food that reflect its rich legacy. Its blend of time-honored charm and modern culinary delights creates a vibrant setting where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

Housed in a historic setting that echoes the town's storied past, **The Cellar Restaurant** in Geneseo not only serves up mouthwatering fine dining experiences but also offers an ambiance steeped in character.

There are so many amazing pizza options throughout the region that offer up mouth watering pies, but you can't go wrong with **Maria's Pizza** in Colona - a local favorite. Whether you are 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.

Midwesterners love their comfort food and love their breakfast. There are a few spots that you don't want to miss out on for both. **The Purple Onion** in Annawan is a true local favorite. This cozy eatery offers hearty breakfasts, homemade soups, and signature sandwiches. **Uncle Nolan's Diner** in Galva is a great stop for classic comfort food, friendly service, and a nostalgic small-town diner experience. **The Downtown Eatery & Bakery** in Kewanee is a spot to enjoy freshly baked pastries and a delightful breakfast menu.

Henry County has no shortage of coffee shops to keep you fueled for your day of exploring. Check out a list of these options and more restaurants on our website at ExploreHenryCounty.com.



Summer Events



Henry County Fair

At the Henry County Fair in Cambridge, celebrate summer with thrilling carnival rides, livestock shows, live music, delicious fair food, and family-friendly entertainment. The demolition derby and tractor pulls are always a fan favorite. It's a chance to celebrate our rich agricultural heritage with 4-H competitions. A cherished tradition, this fair promises fun for all ages.

Henry County Fair

Geneseo Music Festival

Summer in Geneseo is packed with festivities for 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. Take a stroll through the city park and shop from artisan vendors and don't forget to grab that lemon shakeup.



Music Festival



Cambridge

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 in Cambridge. Don't forget to vote for your favorite vehicle!

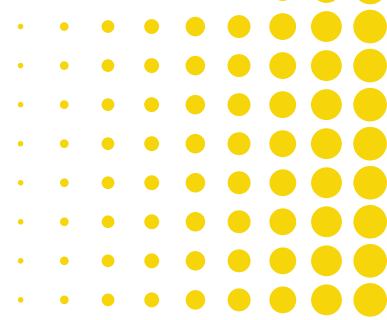
Cambridge Car Show

Midsommar Music Festival

The Midsommer Music Festival is a celebration of music, culture, and community spirit. Featuring live performances from talented musicians filling the village with melodies that resonate through its historic streets. Join for shows, and family friendly fun in the village park. Stick around for a traditional maypole decorating and dancing to the Colony School.



Bishop Hill



Art 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. There is something for people of all ages!

Prairie Chicken Arts Festival

Atkinson Heritage Days

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 .



Atkinson



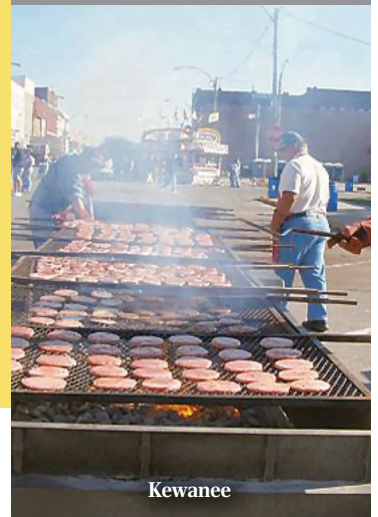
Galva

If country music is your passion, the Backroads Music Festival is the place to be. This annual event draws country music enthusiasts from across the Midwest to Galva's picturesque countryside. Backroads Music Festival delivers a high-energy experience with performances that get the crowd singing and dancing along.

Backroads Music Festival

Kewanee Hog Days

No visit to Kewanee is complete without experiencing Hog Days, honoring Kewanee's title as the "Hog Capital of the World." This festival features a lively parade, delicious pork dishes, thrilling carnival rides, and the 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.



Kewanee

Coco's Cookies and Coffee Shop.
Kewanee



Wiley Park
Galva

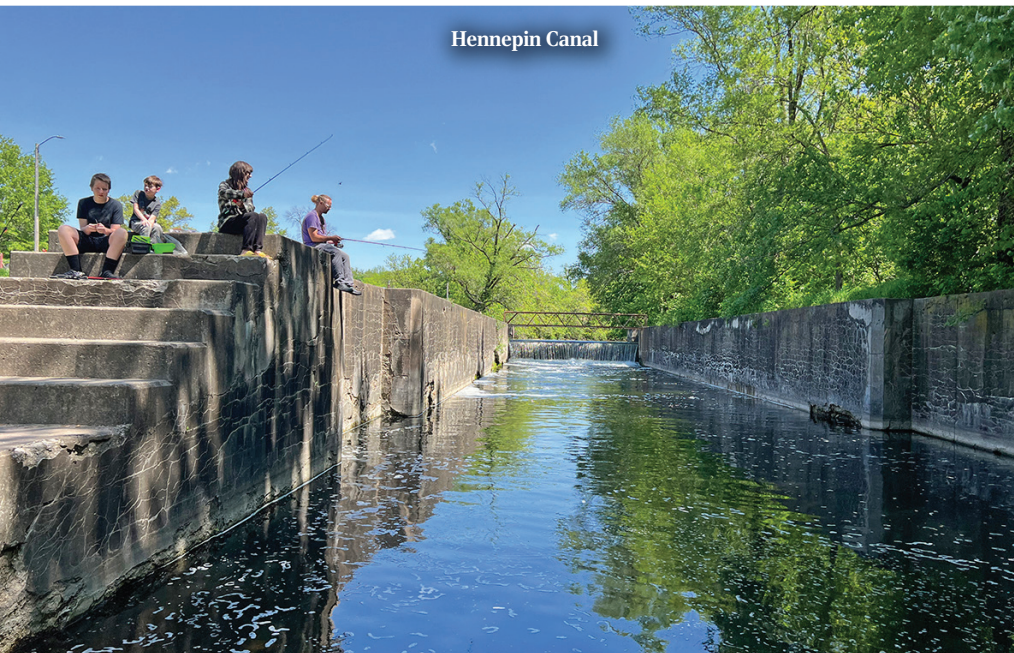


Family Fun Weekend

Hennepin Canal Trail

- Quad Cities Kayak Adventures
- Fishing
- Mini Golf & Disc Golf
- Johnson Sauk State Park
- Campgrounds

Hennepin Canal



Memorable Experiences

- Arcadia Family Fun Center
- Movie Theaters
- Community Events
- Live Music Venues
- Museums

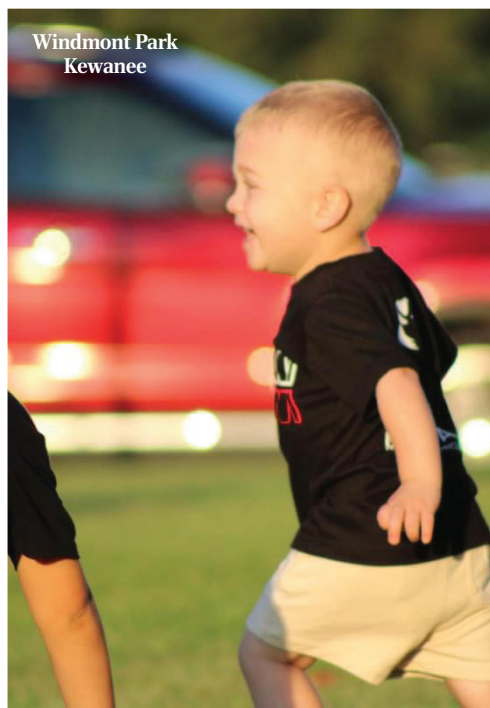
Where to Eat

There are so many amazing pizza options throughout the regions that offer up mouth watering pies, one of which is Charli's Pizza in Cambridge.

Hennepin Canal



Windmont Park
Kewanee



Savor cookies, pastry and sandwiches or indulge in some ice cream or a specialty coffee made from locally roasted beans at Coco's Cookies and Coffee Shop.

Visit Website for:

- Restaurant Guide
- Lodging Guide
- Retail Guide
- Events Guide

Attractions & Recreation

Every summer, Cambridge becomes the center of excitement with the Henry County Fair, one of the most anticipated events in the region. Favorite activities include Carnival Rides & Games, Concerts & Live Entertainment, Demolition Derby & Tractor Pulls, and Livestock Shows & Exhibits.

Enjoy some fun in the sun with the family while playing a round of Disc Golf at one of our three courses: Baker Park and Chautauqua Park in Kewanee and Richmond Hill Park in Geneseo.

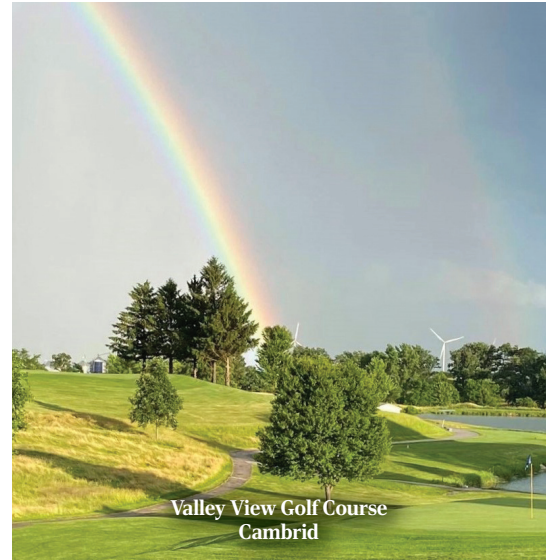
The Hennepin Canal has peaceful banks that set the stage for a leisurely stroll or a scenic bike ride. Whether you're a seasoned angler or a nature lover seeking tranquility, the canal's inviting ambiance is the perfect introduction to the county's natural splendor.

Johnson Sauk State Park awaits with its expansive trails, dense woodlands, and breathtaking vistas. The park is a haven for those looking to reconnect with nature.



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!



KEWANEE

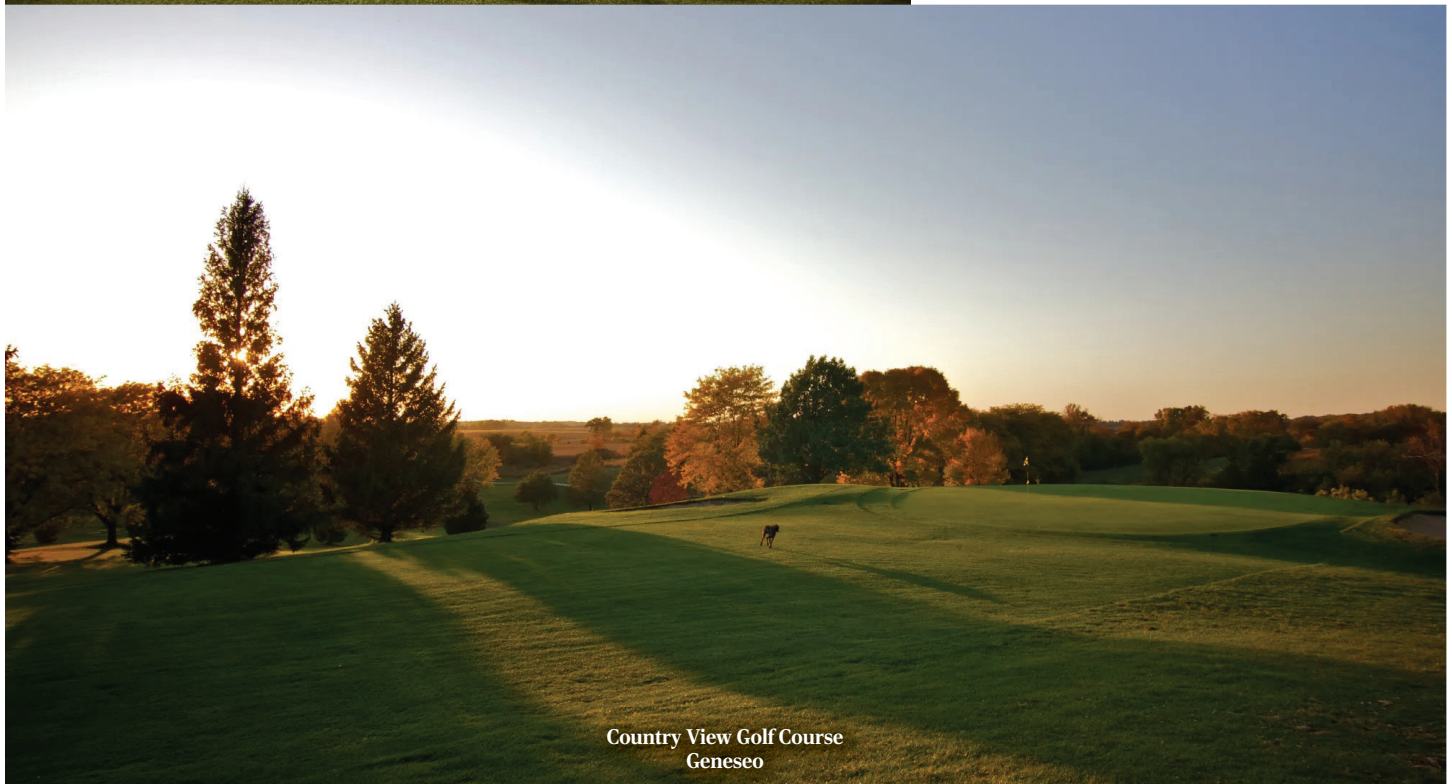
- Baker Park Golf Course
- Midland Golf Club

GENESEO

- Country View Golf Course
- Sugar Maple Golf Course

CAMBRIDGE

- Valley View Golf Course





Explore 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.

KEWANEE

- Chief Keokuk Campground
- Francis Park

GENESEO

- Geneseo Campground
- Whispering Pines Events & Lodging

COLONA

- Scott Family Park



Geneseo

Geneseo is a hidden gem that combines small-town charm with rich history, vibrant culture, and scenic beauty. It 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, Geneseo boasts an excellent walkability score, making it an ideal destination to unwind, rejuvenate, and make lasting memories with family and friends.

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.

Annual Events



The annual Music Festival in the Park draws music lovers from all around, offering live performances from local and regional bands.



State Street Market captures the spirit of autumn with a curated selection of artisanal goods, handcrafted items, and delicious seasonal treats.



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



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.



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.

History buffs will love exploring the Geneseo Historical Museum, housed in an 1855 mansion, where artifacts and exhibits tell the tale of the town's early settlers and railroad history.

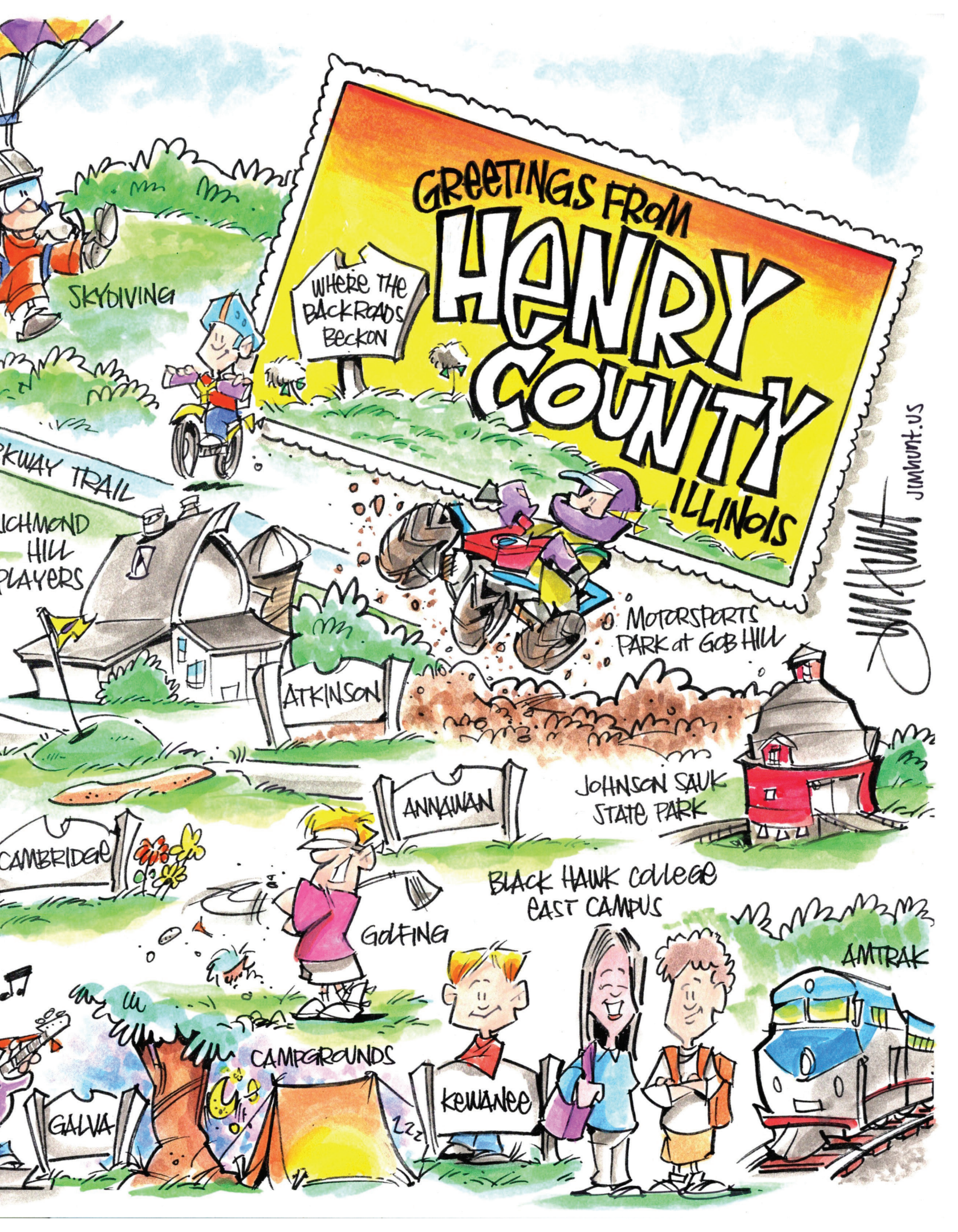


Feel the Rhythm

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.



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!



GREETINGS FROM
HENRY COUNTY
ILLINOIS

WHERE THE
BACKROADS
BECKON

SKYDIVING

PKWAY TRAIL

RICHMOND
HILL
PLAYERS

MOTORSPORTS
PARK at GOB HILL

ATKINSON

JOHNSON SAUK
STATE PARK

CAMBRIDGE

ANNAPAN

BLACK HAWK COLLEGE
EAST CAMPUS

GOLFING

AMTRAK

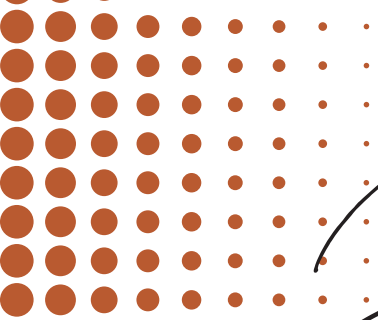
CAMPGROUNDS

Kewanee

GALVA

JIMHUNT.US

JIM HUNT



Fall Events



Farm Show

Trains, Planes & Automobiles

Gearheads 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.

Kicks off with a Stearman Bi-Plane Fly-In, then a guided tour of the Hennepin trail and ending with a car show!

Step back in time and experience the roots of American agriculture at the antique tractor shows in Geneseo and Atkinson. These events are a must see for history buffs, farming enthusiasts, and families alike. They feature vendors, demonstrations, great food and amazing displays.

Antique Farm Equipment Shows



Bishop Hill

Embrace the autumn season with Agricultural Day, a tribute to the farming heritage that shaped Bishop Hill. 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 goods from local vendors.

Bishop Hill Agricultural Days



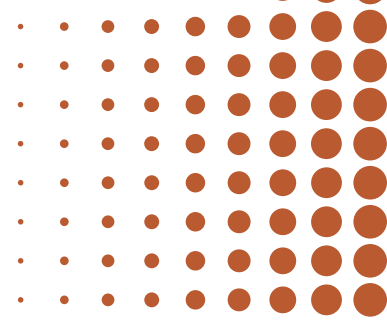
Car Show

Hennepin Hundred

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.



Hennepin Canal



Geneseo

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.

Geneseo State Street Market

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.



Kewanee



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.

Galva Craft Show

Annawan Canal Ambush

Athletes and fitness enthusiasts gather for the Annawan Canal Ambush Mini-Triathlon and 5K. This 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 kayaking, biking, and running, or opt for the 5K race, perfect for runners of all skill levels.



Hennepin Canal



Ryan's Round Barn
Johnson Sauk State Park
Kewanee



Jeny Lind Chapel

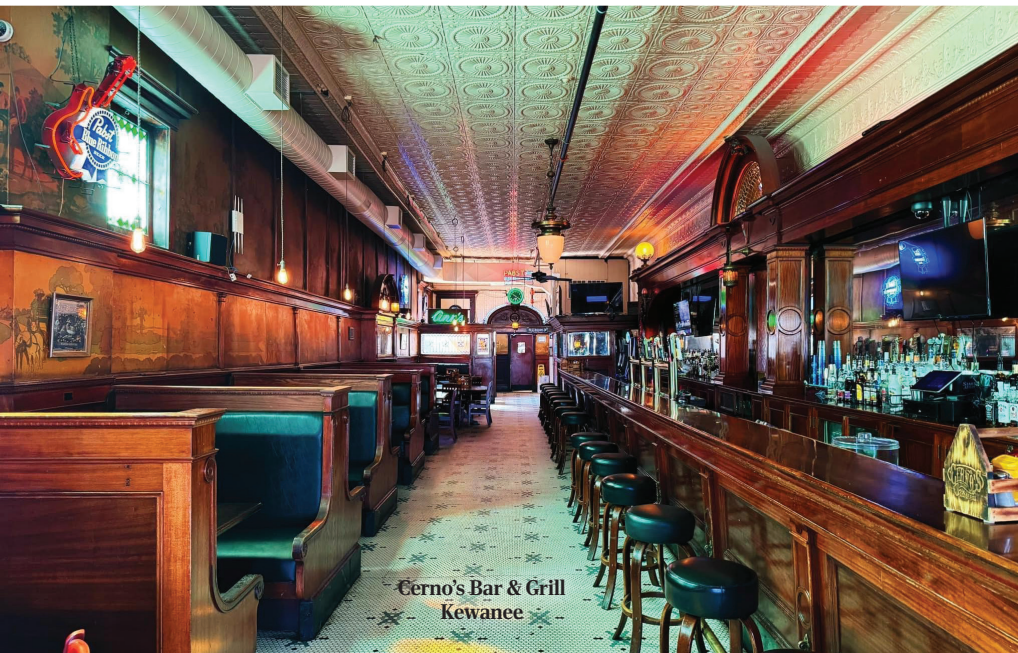
Explore

Where to Stay

The Suites at Good's
Aunt Daisy's B&B
Central Schoolhouse Inn
See the lodging guide on website for more options

Things to do and See

Hennepin Canal
Johnson Sauk State Park
Richmond Hill Players
Lavender Crest Winery
Museum Tour
Francis Park
Retail Shopping
Art Galleries
Round of Golf or Disc Golf
Village of Bishop Hill
Songbird Lane Antiques
Music from Crossroads Cultural Connection



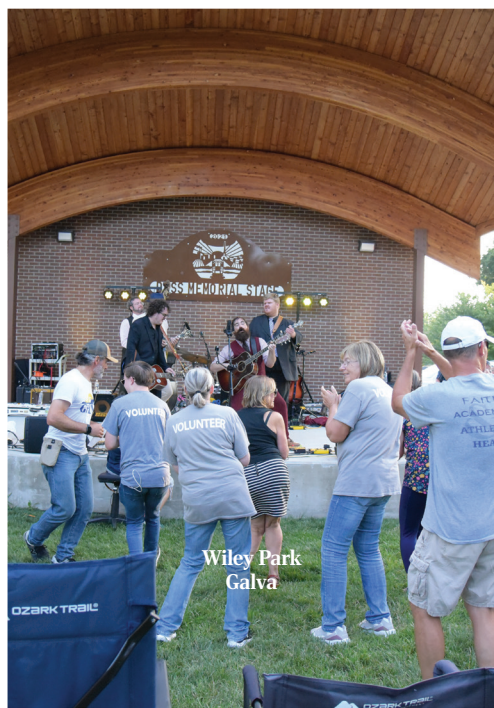
Cerno's Bar & Grill
Kewanee

Where to Eat

Cierno's Bar & Grill is full of historic details, but best known for their bar. Imported from Belgium, this bar was built by Pabst Blue Ribbon in 1898.
The Cellar Restaurant is alive with history. For over 53 years it has been known for "Food Worth Traveling For" in a historic setting in downtown Geneseo.



Henry County Museum
Bishop Hill



Wiley Park
Galva

Visit Website for:

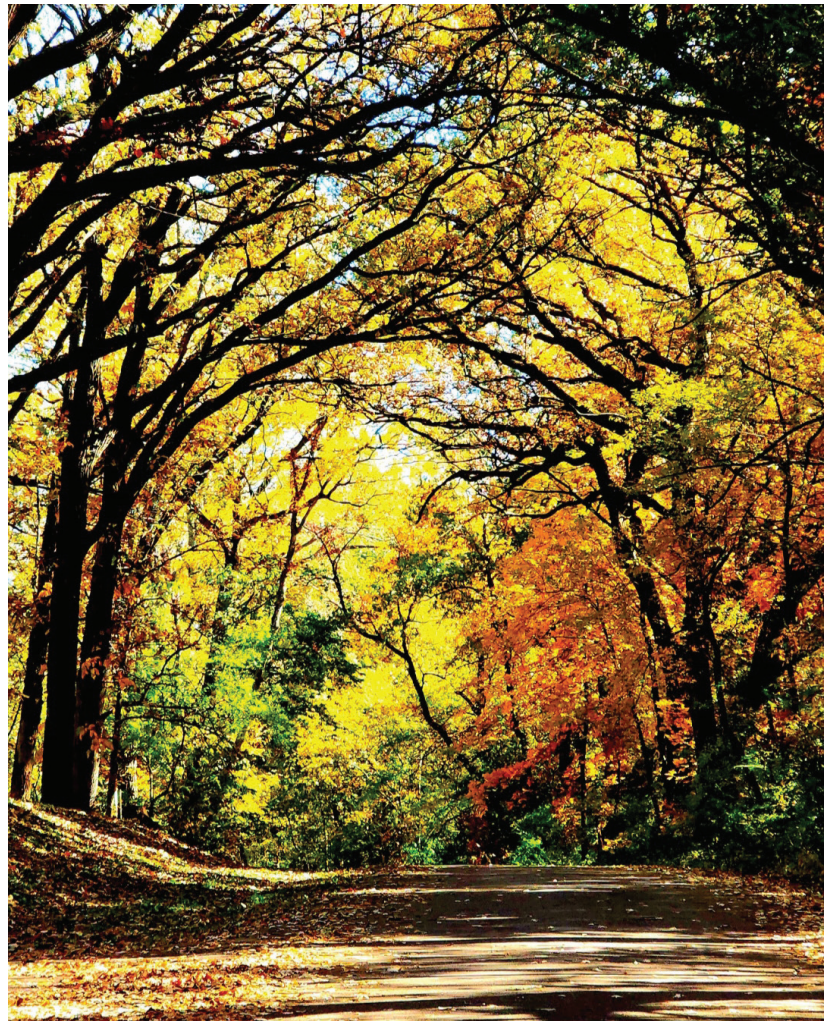
Restaurant Guide
Lodging Guide
Retail Guide
Events Calendar

Attractions & Recreation

Richmond Hill Players started as a dream of a half dozen people in 1968 when they staged a single production, Molière's "The Miser." The group converted the top floor of an old dairy barn to fit their needs and has never looked back. The recently renovated Barn now approximately 160 per performance in a rare and unique in-the-round environment beneath the original, rustic timbers.

No matter the season, Johnson Sauk Trail State Park has something special to offer. Spring and summer bring vibrant wildflowers and lively wildlife. But, 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.

Enjoy a delicious meal and great conversation at one of the many restaurants throughout the region offering patios for outdoor seating.



Richmond Hill Players
Geneseo



Johnson Sauk Park
Keweenaw

Weddings & Celebrations



Shadow lake
Geneseo

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.

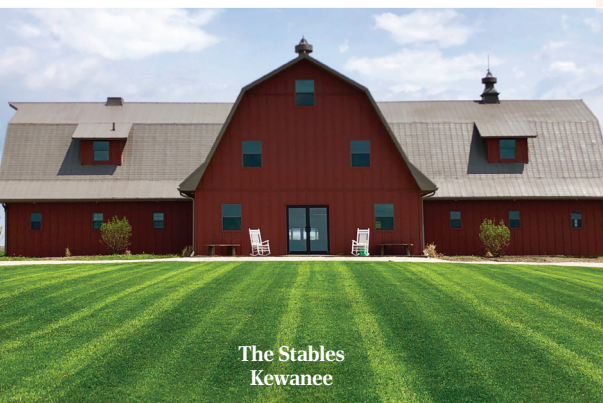
Located in the heart of Cambridge, **The Blackridge** is a beautifully renovated venue that blends historic charm with modern style, making it a versatile space.

Romance meets rustic elegance at **Lavender Crest Winery**, a premier venue known for its stunning vineyard views and relaxed atmosphere.

Steeped in history and full of charm, the **Central Schoolhouse Inn** is a restored 19th-century schoolhouse turned boutique inn and event venue.

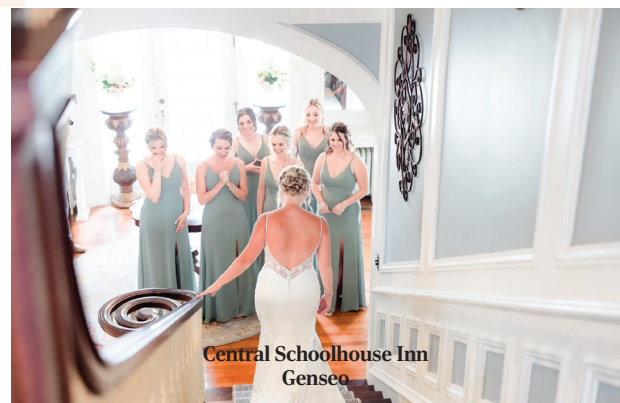
Waterfront serenity awaits at **Shadow Lake**. With a gorgeous water view, outdoor pavilion, and ample green space, this venue is especially popular for summer weddings, and outdoor receptions.

Tucked away in a wooded setting, **Whispering Pines** offers a quiet and enchanting venue for weddings and events.



The Stables
Kewanee

Point & Click: Check out the wedding guide on our website for more options!



Central Schoolhouse Inn
Geneseo

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, there is something for everyone!

Johnson Sauk State Park



HISTORY

The park's name originates from an ancient Sauk Native American trail that once wound through the area.

The park's centerpiece is a 58-acre lake that offers fishing and boating, as well as nearly 2.5 miles of shoreline to explore.

NATURAL BEAUTY

The park features several scenic trails that meander through dense woodlands, offering breathtaking views and a chance to spot wildlife.

The park also has modern and primitive campsites, making it perfect for both seasoned campers and first-timers.

RYAN'S 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!



Point and Click: Check out the Johnson Sauk Trail State Park Activities and Events



Nestled in the rolling prairies of Henry County, Johnson Sauk Trail State Park is a 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.

Shop Small - Discover Big

There is 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 decor piece, it is about supporting passionate local business owners, uncovering hidden gems, and experiencing the charm of small-town hospitality. Whether you are looking for a homemade keepsake, a vintage find, a cozy boutique experience, Henry County is the perfect place to shop small and discover big.



Black Sheep
Geneseo



Blissful Branch Boutique
Kewanee

Check out the Henry County Retail Guide





Harvesting Heritage

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.

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.



Henry County Fair

Highlighting livestock shows, local vendors, live music and family friendly activities.

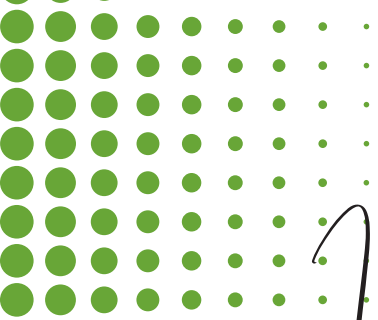
Bishop Hill Agricultural Days

Celebrates traditional farming techniques, old-world craftsmanship and Swedish agricultural heritage.

Antique Tractor Shows

Demonstrations, exhibits and great food!





Winter Events



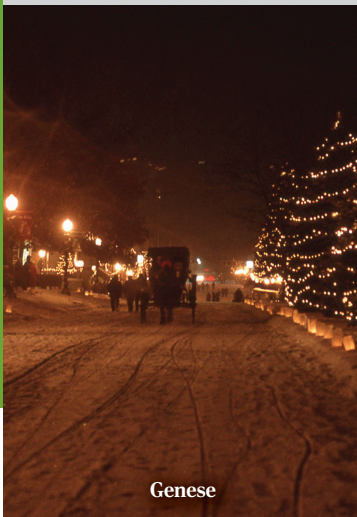
Kewanee

Hosted by the Kewanee Chamber of Commerce, the annual Lighted Christmas Parade invites residents, businesses, churches, schools and community organizations to take part in this holiday tradition. The celebration continues at the end of the parade route at Windmont and Northeast Parks, unveiling their illuminated holiday displays.

Kewanee Lighted Parade

Geneseo 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.



Geneseo



Galva

The city of Galva hosts their annual Ol' Fashioned Christmas celebration where you can see what a small town holiday welcome really means. Activities include various arts and craft activities with the Arts Council, horse drawn carriage rides, gingerbread house competitions and a lighted parade just to name a few.

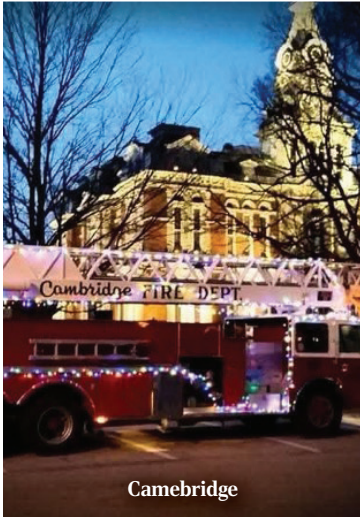
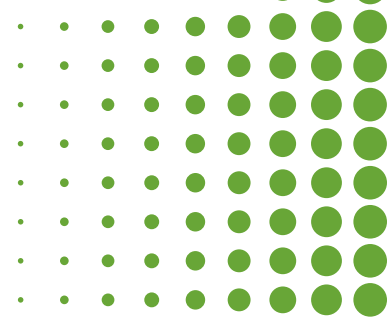
Galva's Ol' Fashioned Christmas

Bishop Hill Lucia Night

Experience a unique Swedish holiday! Luminaries line the sidewalks, and candles are in every window as free live music is performed at several locations. As you visit the shops and museums, Lucia girls will serve you drinks and sweets. Soup Supper is available as well as the Christmas tree lighting in the park.



Bishop Hill



Cambridge

Cambridge loves to usher in the holiday season with its annual Christmas in the Square. This family-friendly event features festive lights, caroling and community activities designed to bring everyone together in the heart of town. Attend the lighted parade, traditional tree lighting ceremony and holiday music performances.

Cambridge's Christmas in the Square

Bishop Hill Julmarknad

This Swedish Christmas Market is where the town transforms into a winter wonderland, with handmade crafts, baked goods, holiday shopping, and traditional Swedish carols filling the air. Sights, sounds, and aromas of Christmas past. Swedish folk characters will roam the village. Special music, Swedish food specialties, abundance of handmade wares, and antiques.



Bishop Hill

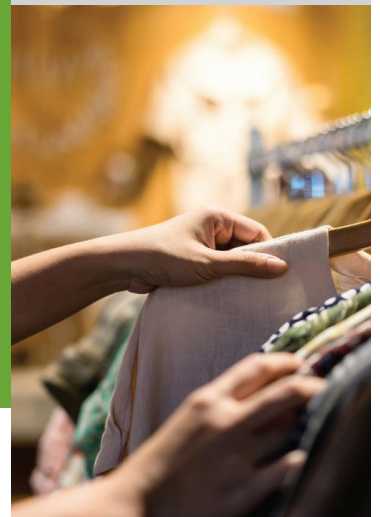


Atkinson shines bright in the holiday season when they host their annual Christmas Festival. Highlights include a tree lighting ceremony, cookie walk, photo booth, and ugly sweater contest just to name a few. And you don't want to miss the lighted parade.

Atkinson
Christmas Festival

Christmas Open House

Holiday shopping is strong in the quaint downtown districts throughout the region. You can find something for everyone. Everything from antiques to fashion clothing and accessories to childrens gifts. Supporting small businesses is a passion for our communities that shines even brighter in the holiday season!





CoCo's Coffee and Cookies
Kewanee



Hennepin Canal

Friends Weekend

Things to do and See

- Hennepin Canal
- Retail Shopping
- Art Galleries
- Round of Golf or Disc Golf
- Kayak Adventures
- Movie Theaters

Enjoy some fun in the sun at one of the 20+ public parks around the region.

Experience small town life in one of the various community events taking place year round.

Catch live music from Crossroads Cultural Connection, Geneseo Brewing Company, or at the Central Bank Pavilion



Central Bank Pavilion
Geneseo

Where to eat

Stay caffeinated with a signature coffee or energy drink at one of the 10+ coffee shops around the region. Some feature baked goods with others offer amazing savory sandwiches.

Lavender Crest Winery in Colona features wine production, a wine tasting room, banquet space and a cafe that serves lunch daily.

Visit Website for:

- Restaurant Guide
- Lodging Guide
- Retail Guide
- Events Calendar



Entwined
Bishop Hill



Local Motive
Geneseo

Attractions & Recreation

Get out of the cold and take an art glass or a spin on the pottery wheel at our local artisan locations throughout the region.

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.

Arcadia Family Fun Center offers a variety of fun activities for all ages, including a 14-lane bowling alley, an arcade, a restaurant, laser tag and much more!

When the snow blankets the ground, enjoy some snowmobiling along the Hennepin Canal. Grab your gear and enjoy a day on the lake or canal ice fishing with family or friends. There is still plenty to explore.





Americinn
Kewanee

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.

With a blend of period charm and modern amenities, the bed and breakfasts provide a cozy, intimate setting that feels like stepping into a storybook.



Point and Click:
Check out the Henry County Lodging Guide



Central Schoolhouse Inn
Geneseo



Backroads Music Festival

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. Galva offers a warm, welcoming atmosphere that makes every visit special.

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.

At Allenia Space, the resident designer and artist personally select experiences and products that reflect and enrich the small town character. They believe in creating a community serving place that extends the town's history and intellectual capital.

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

One of the town's biggest draws, the Levitt AMP Music Series is a free outdoor concert series that take place in Wiley Park, bringing nationally recognized artists and local talent to the stage.

The Backroads Music Festival is a must-attend event for country music fans. This festival brings big-name acts to the heart of Galva each August.



Hennepin Trail

ANNAWAN

Nestled along the east side of Henry County, the charming village of Annawan offers a 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, fesh ingredients and a warm welcome.

For outdoor lovers, the Hennepin Canal is a true hidden treasure. The canal offers opportunities to hike, bike, fish, and kayak while taking in the peaceful Midwest landscape.



The Barn Atkinson

ATKINSON

Tucked away is the charming town of Atkinson. Whether you are a food lover, a motorsports enthusiast, or just looking for a relaxing Midwest getaway, Atkinson delivers.

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.

You will want to refuel with a delicious meal from Atkinson's locally loved restaurants!



Hennepin Trail

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.

Nature lovers and adventure seekers will fall in love with the Hennepin Canal Trail, which runs right through Colona. The area offers a near-by family-friendly campground with options for both tent and RV campers.

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.



Fall Festival

ORIN

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.

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.

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.



WOODHULL

Just off Interstate 74, Woodhull is a welcoming small town filled with a beautiful park and delicious local restaurants. 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.

For those looking to enjoy some fun in the sun, Woodhull's 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.



Charter House

ANDOVER

The quaint village of Andover is perfect for exploring a 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.

For those who love historical architecture and cultural heritage, Andover offers a unique glimpse into the past while preserving its small-town charm. Won't want to miss the Augustana Lutheran Church, Jenny Lind Chapel or the Andover Historical Museum.

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



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.

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

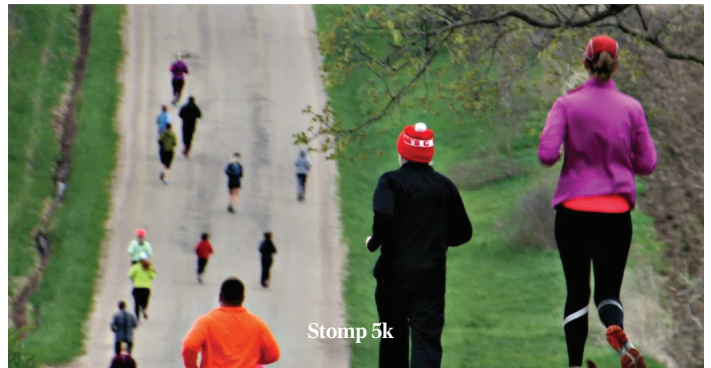
and Christmas in Cambridge are events that showcase the heart and soul of small-town life.

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.



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.

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.

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.

Rooted in History



Henry County Historical Museum
Bishop Hill

The Henry County Historical Museum, located in Bishop Hill, is a must visit for those eager to explore the region's deep historical roots.

Kewanee, known as the "Hog Capital of the World", has a rich industrial history, and the **Kewanee Historical Society Museum** captures this legacy beautifully.

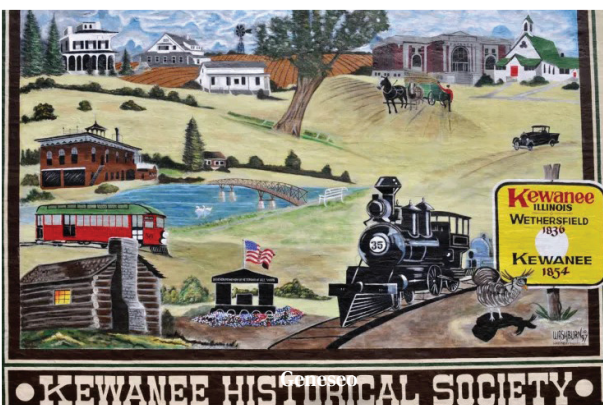
Galva's rich history is preserved in the **Wiley House Museum**, an elegant Victorian home maintained by the Galva Historical Society.

Step back in time in **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.

Located in a stunning Victorian era mansion, the **Geneseo Historical Museum** takes visitors on a journey through time.

Tucked away in the quiet town of Andover, the **Andover Historical Museum** offers a charming glimpse into pioneer life in the Midwest.



Point and Click: Check out more information on our website



Geneseo

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.

A Creative Escape



Visitors to Kewanee shouldn't miss the History in the Paint Public Art Tour. This captivating tour showcases hand-painted murals each depicting a facet of Kewanee's history.

Geneseo is another regional art destination, boasting three art galleries, a music store, a music academy, and an ongoing mural project.

The Galva Arts Council has been dedicated to bringing people together to promote and participate in the arts.

Kewanee is home to Gallery on Second, a vibrant art space. 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.

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.



Point and Click: Check out more information on our website.



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. Pack your creativity and discover the artistic heartbeat of Henry County.



Check out the event calendar

For all the Henry County Happenings

Point and Click: Henry County Events Calendar

