



# Day Trips from Chicago

## Oak Park p207

Tour Frank Lloyd Wright's studio and see a slew of homes he designed for his neighbors. Ernest Hemingway's birthplace is here, too.

## Indiana Dunes p209

Sunny beaches, woodsy trails, ranger-guided walks and towering sand dunes feature at this national and state park combination.

## Milwaukee p210

Wisconsin's biggest city has a stellar lineup of beer, motorcycles, world-class art and a ballpark of racing sausages.

## Saugatuck & Douglas p212

These artsy towns boom in summer thanks to their golden beaches, piney breezes, fruit pies and their welcome one, welcome all mindset.

## Galena p213

Quaint it is, with perfectly preserved, Civil War-era streets set amid rolling, cow-dotted hills by the Mississippi River.

# Oak Park

## Explore

This suburb spawned two famous sons: novelist Ernest Hemingway was born here, and architect Frank Lloyd Wright lived and worked here from 1889 to 1909. The town's main sights revolve around the men. For Hemingway, a low-key museum and his birthplace provide an intriguing peek at his formative years. For Wright, the studio where he developed the Prairie style is the big draw, as is a slew of surrounding houses he designed for his neighbors. Ten of them cluster within a mile along Forest and Chicago Aves (gawking must occur from the sidewalk since they're privately owned). You could easily spend an afternoon here.

## The Best...

➔ **Sight** Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio (p208)

➔ **Place to Eat** Hemmingway's Bistro (p208)

## Top Tip

Stop by the Oak Park Visitors Center and buy an architectural site map (\$4.25), which gives the locations of all the Wright-designed houses in the area.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Car** Take I-290 west, exiting north on Harlem Ave; take Harlem Ave north to Lake St and turn right. There's a parking garage a few blocks down the road.

➔ **El** From downtown Chicago, take the CTA Green Line to its terminus at the Harlem stop, which lands you about a quarter-mile from the visitors center. The trip (one way \$3) takes 20 minutes; be aware that the train traverses some bleak neighborhoods before emerging into Oak Park's wide-lawn splendor.

## Need to Know

➔ **Area Code** 708

➔ **Location** 10 miles west of the Loop

➔ **Oak Park Visitors Center** (2888-625-7275; [www.visitoakpark.com](http://www.visitoakpark.com); 1010 W Lake St; ☎10am-5pm)

## WORTH A DETOUR

### ROUTE 66

America's 'Mother Road' kicks off in downtown Chicago on Adams St, just west of Michigan Ave. Within a three-hour drive you can see some vintage bits. Sadly, most of the original Route 66 has been superseded by I-55 in Illinois, though the old road still exists in scattered sections often paralleling the interstate. Keep an eye out for brown 'Historic Route 66' signs, which pop up at crucial junctions to mark the way.

The first primo stop rises from the cornfields 60 miles south in Wilmington. Here the Gemini Giant – a 28ft fiberglass spaceman – stands guard outside the **Launching Pad Drive In** (810 E Baltimore St). The restaurant is now shuttered, but the statue remains a quintessential photo op. To reach it, exit I-55 at Joliet Rd, and follow it south as it becomes Hwy 53 into town.

Motor 45 miles onward to Pontiac and the trinket-and-photo-filled **Route 66 Hall of Fame** (2815-844-4566; 110 W Howard St; admission free; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun). Cruise another 50 miles to Shirley and **Funk's Grove** (2309-874-3360; [www.funksmapplesirup.com](http://www.funksmapplesirup.com); ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri, from 10am Sat, from noon Sun), a pretty 19th-century maple syrup farm and nature preserve (exit 154 off I-55).

Ten miles later you'll reach the throwback hamlet of Atlanta. Pull up a chair at the **Palms Grill Cafe** (2217-648-2233; [www.thepalmsgrillcafe.com](http://www.thepalmsgrillcafe.com); 110 SW Arch St; pie slices \$3; ☎5am-8pm), where thick slabs of gooseberry, sour cream raisin and other retro pies tempt from the glass case. Then walk across the street to snap a photo with **Tall Paul**, a sky-high statue of Paul Bunyan clutching a hot dog.

The state capital of Springfield, 50 miles farther on, has several more sights including the **Cozy Dog Drive In** ([www.cozydogdrivein.com](http://www.cozydogdrivein.com); 2935 S 6th St; mains \$2-4.50; ☎8am-8pm Mon-Sat), reputed birthplace of the corn dog.

For more information, see **Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway** ([www.illinoisroute66.org](http://www.illinoisroute66.org)). And should you decide to keep on truckin', it's a lazy 2200 miles onward to the route's end in Los Angeles.