



**Expect the UNEXPECTED**

A mystery tour through the Blackhawk Waterways of NW Illinois offers unique accommodations, unusual attractions and out-of-the-ordinary experiences your groups will love!

[visitnorthwestillinois.com](http://visitnorthwestillinois.com)  
800-678-2108

ILLINOIS ARE YOU UP FOR AMAZING? *All in*

Reader Service Card #603



800-772-0750 — [www.visiteffinghamil.com](http://www.visiteffinghamil.com)

**Effingham**  
EAT • STAY • PLAY

ILLINOIS



**Effingham Performance Center**

Reader Service Card #725

# Good times bloom in Lake County



Bright Encounters tram tour, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Ill.

PHOTO: VISIT LAKE COUNTY

Located just north of Chicago on Lake Michigan, Lake County in Illinois offers natural beauty, entertainment and shopping.

With group-friendly attractions such as the Chicago Botanic Garden, Key Lime Cove Indoor Waterpark Resort and Long Grove historic district, there's plenty to see and do.

Nature enthusiasts will enjoy a walk through the lush displays in the 385-acre Chicago Botanic Garden. Open year-round, it features 23 gardens and three native habitats, beautifully situated on nine islands surrounded by lakes. The new Learning Campus, exclusive flower shows and special events throughout the year make the garden an even more spectacular venue. Come holiday time, the garden turns into a winter wonderland with its magical model railroad and colorful holiday lights display. Meeting rooms can accommodate up to 400 people with on-site catering.

"We're blessed with so many types of activities for groups from outdoor excursions to the Ravinia Music Festival and beautiful Tempel Lipiz-

zans to amazing home tours of the Sanfilippo Estate, Gold Pyramid House and Wandering Tree Estate," said Jayne Nordstrom, partnership and group tour manager for Visit Lake County. "Popular group stops include Six Flags Great America for thrill-seekers, shopping paradise at Gurnee Mills, and the Volo Auto Museum/Antique Village for car and antique enthusiasts."

History buffs can discover military life at the Great Lakes Naval Museum.

New experiences include a behind-the-scenes tour at the Dungeon of Doom Haunted House in the fall, candy-making classes at Sweet Pete's, glass-blowing demos at Peter Patterson Glassworks or a boat ride on the Chain O'Lakes.

In nearby Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, the Jelly Belly Center offers a free, guided tour aboard the Jelly Belly train.

Tour planners can find more than two dozen themed itineraries on Visit Lake County's group tours webpage. 📄

**Visit Lake County**  
800-525-3669  
[visitlakecounty.org](http://visitlakecounty.org)