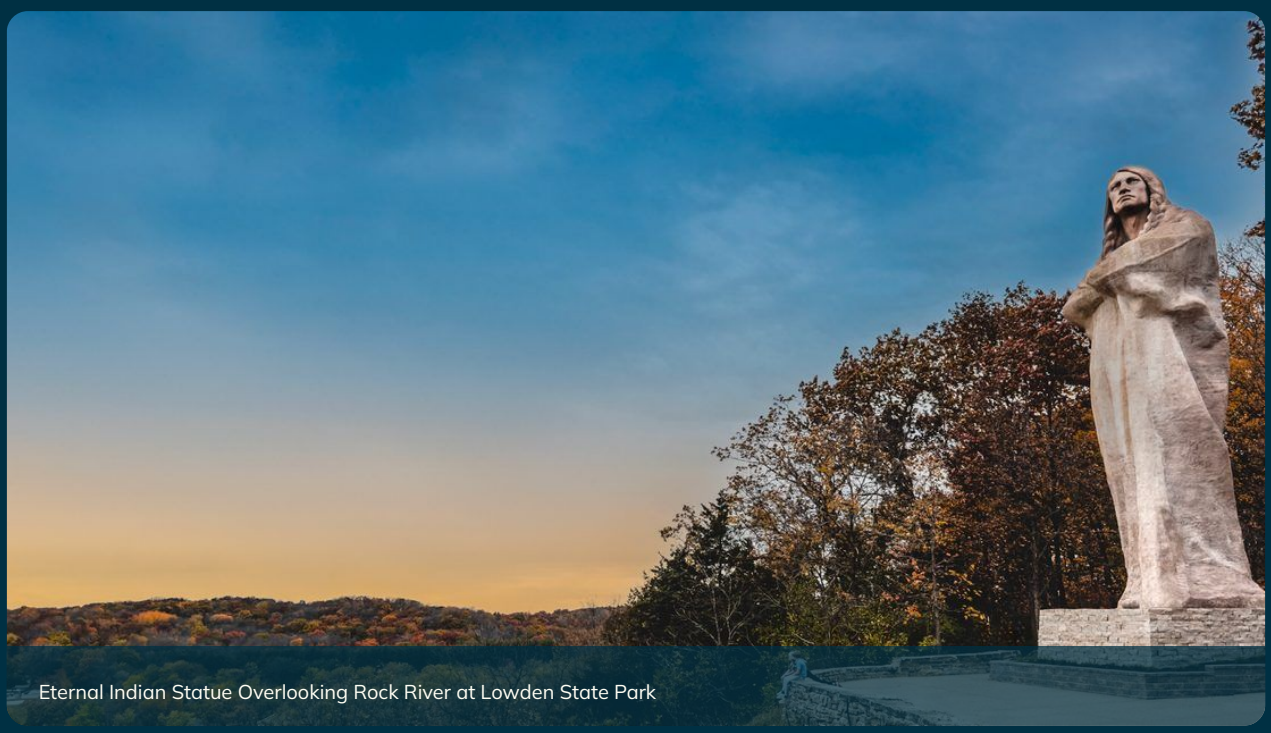
visit nw illinois

MOBILE GUIDE

ITINERARY · NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

OREGON, ILLINOIS FAMILY ADVENTURE: CASTLES, AXES, AND SCENIC PARKS

Set off on a family-friendly adventure through Oregon, Illinois. Commence with a visit to the Stronghold Castle, an architectural gem surrounded by vibrant fall foliage – perfect for families with kids. Next, experience the thrill of Rustic Ridge Axe Throwing, suitable for all ages, offering axe and knife throwing guided by patient founders. We encourage reservations to secure your family's spot. Conclude your excursion at Lowden State Park, a serene and picturesque spot adorned with fall colors. It's ideal for camping with the whole family, boasting a 50-foot statue paying homage to Chief Black Hawk and offering stunning vistas. Enjoy an adventure tailored for families with kids.



Eternal Indian Statue Overlooking Rock River at Lowden State Park

Half Day	3	Ogle County
HOW LONG	STOPS	COUNTY

OPEN ONLINE

Open the live itinerary
visitnwillinois.com/itineraries/oregon-illinois-family-adventur...

DAY 1

THE TRIP

Created by Rockford and Beyond from the SHRPA creator visit “Uncover Oregon, IL”. Location: Oregon · Distance: < 10 Miles What to bring: Closed toe shoes; Energy for axe throwing; Spirit of adventure. SHRPA creator visit: “Uncover Oregon, IL”. Photo: rockfordandbeyond.

DRIVING ROUTE

Open this day in Google Maps

www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&origin=Orego...

3 PLANNED STOPS

1

SCENIC STOP

Stronghold Castle

Oregon

WHY IT BELONGS

Nestled in the tranquil setting of Oregon, Illinois, the Stronghold Castle stands as a testament to architectural magnificence. Originally erected in 1928 by Walter Strong, the owner and publisher of the Chicago Daily News, this remarkable castle encompasses a fascinating array of features, including sixteen bedrooms, nine bathrooms, and eight fireplaces. A prominent focal point is the awe-inspiring 'Great Hall,' measuring an impressive 55 by 34 feet, with a soaring 34-foot ceiling. The estate's exterior is a visual delight, especially during the fall season when the surrounding foliage bursts into vibrant colors. As you step inside, you're transported into a realm reminiscent of a Harry Potter narrative, complete with concealed tunnels and enchanting passageways. The Stronghold Castle is not just a relic of the past; it now serves as a venue for summer camps and guided tours, offering a magical and immersive experience. Furthermore, this remarkable castle is available for private events and group stays, providing an unparalleled backdrop for your gatherings and retreats.

Pro tip: Call to book a tour, do not fill out the online form as they do not get the responses

Address: 2MW3+JQ, Oregon, IL

VIEW SOURCE OPEN IN MAPS

2

SCENIC STOP

Rustic Ridge Axe Throwing

Oregon

WHY IT BELONGS

During our visit to Rustic Ridge Axe Throwing, we had a fantastic time trying our hand at this growing recreational activity. As beginners, we were pleasantly surprised by how enjoyable and accessible axe throwing proved to be. The founders were incredibly patient and provided us with valuable guidance, ensuring we quickly acclimated to this exciting new experience. We were also delighted to discover that they offered an option to try knife throwing, which added an exhilarating dimension to our visit. The cost for this activity is $20 per person per hour, and potential discounts are available for larger groups or parties. It is advisable to make reservations in advance, and arrangements can be made for special time slots outside regular hours. While guests are permitted to bring their own food, external drinks are not allowed, as Rustic Ridge Axe Throwing offers a variety of non-alcoholic beverages and snacks for purchase. Whether you're a novice or an experienced thrower, Rustic Ridge Axe Throwing is an excellent choice for a unique and thrilling adventure

Pro tip: Be sure to wear closed toed shoes

Address: 117 N 4th St, Oregon, IL

OPEN IN MAPS



3

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Lowden State Park

Oregon

WHY IT BELONGS

Located just north of Oregon in Ogle County, Lowden State Park stands as a pristine sanctuary along the Rock River. Steeped in local folklore, the park's origins trace back to Chief Black Hawk, a prominent Native American leader. As he left the region after the Black Hawk War, he was captivated by the area's natural beauty, urging his captors to protect it as he and his people had done. In honor of this legacy, Lowden State Park was established with a dual purpose: preserving the unspoiled landscape and inviting visitors to revel in its breathtaking allure. This commemorative site, dedicated to Governor Frank O. Lowden for his service during World War I, boasts panoramic views of the Rock River valley. A focal point of the park is a monumental 50-foot statue, crafted from concrete and exuding a commanding presence, overseeing the valley. Sculpted by the renowned artist Lorado Taft, this striking masterpiece pays homage to Native Americans and is most commonly associated with Chief Black Hawk. To capture the sculpture's full magnificence, one can best appreciate it from IL Rt. 2, where the setting sun breathes life into it, though its splendor remains captivating throughout the day and across the seasons. An ongoing endeavor to restore and preserve the statue is currently underway, making this park not only an homage but a living testament to the region's heritage. Lowden State Park also serves as an ideal destination to witness the vibrant autumn colors as the trees change, making it a perfect spot for a family camping excursion.

Pro tip: Be sure to visit the statue

Address: 1411 N River Rd, Oregon, IL

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Oregon