visit nw illinois

MOBILE GUIDE

SIGNATURE TRAIL · NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

PIE, COFFEE & COUNTRY ROADS

Eight independent bakeries, coffee shops and an orchard across all four counties: scratch sourdough in Amboy, 140,000 scones in Sterling, a 1942 family bakery in Rock Falls and a fruit-and-honey orchard to finish. One day, four counties, no drive-through.



Fresh-baked goods at Folsom's Bakery, a family bakery in Rock Falls, Illinois, since 1942

Full Day	8	4	3
HOW LONG	STOPS	COUNTIES	BEST FOR
		Carroll County, Lee County, Ogle County, Whiteside County	Food Lovers, Friends, Budget-Friendly

OPEN ONLINE

Open the live itinerary
visitnwillinois.com/itineraries/pie-coffee-and-country-roads

DAY 1

THE ROUTE

Every one of these towns has exactly one place people mean when they say “the bakery.” This trail strings eight of them together on back roads, in the order the map actually puts them, and asks only that you pace yourself. Share things. Most of these places sell out by early afternoon, so go clockwise and go early.

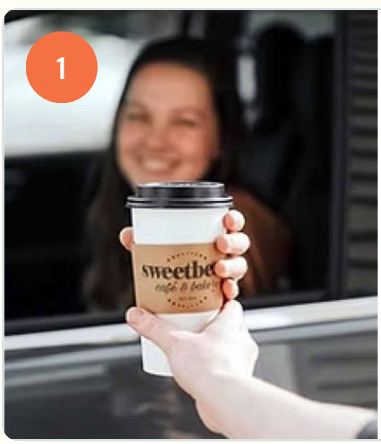
A loose loop: Byron down to Amboy, west to the Sauk Valley, on to Erie and Fulton, then north into Carroll County. About 150 miles all in, on roads that are the point.

DRIVING ROUTE

Open this day in Google Maps

www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&origin=42.12...

8 PLANNED STOPS



FOOD & DRINK

Sweetbean Cafe & Bakery

45 min - Byron

WHY IT BELONGS

Breakfast in Byron: locally roasted coffee, cinnamon rolls and muffins made that morning, plus pies, cookies and a proper lunch menu if you are starting late.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Byron



FOOD & DRINK

The Village Bakery

30 min - Oregon

WHY IT BELONGS

An Illinois Made honoree in downtown Oregon, baking with locally sourced ingredients and employing adults with disabilities. “We Bake a Difference” is on the wall and it is not marketing. Coffee, frozen drinks and ice cream too.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Oregon



FOOD & DRINK

Busy Bee Bakery

45 min - Amboy

WHY IT BELONGS

Downtown Amboy, and the reason to put this trail on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning: scratch sourdough, pies, cinnamon rolls and coffee cakes, plus quiche, meat pies and biscuits and gravy if you want lunch out of it. Closed Monday to Wednesday.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Amboy

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FOOD & DRINK

Air Play Espresso & Bakery

30 min - Sterling

WHY IT BELONGS

Sterling's coffee institution, open since 2010 and voted the Sauk Valley's favourite six years running. They have sold north of 140,000 fresh-baked scones; order one, and use the alley drive-through if the queue is out the door.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Sterling



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FOOD & DRINK

Folsom's Bakery

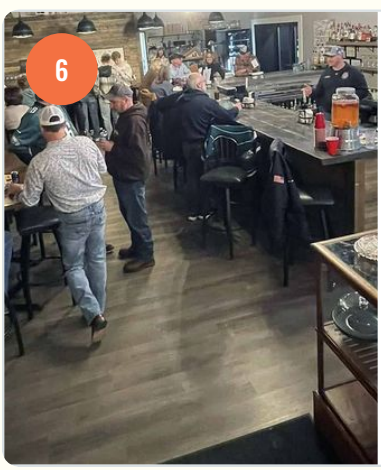
20 min - Rock Falls

WHY IT BELONGS

Across the river in Rock Falls, a family bakery carrying on a tradition that started in 1942: donuts, breads, cookies, cakes and pastries, plus pizza on Fridays. A quick in-and-out stop by design.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Rock Falls



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FOOD & DRINK

Harvest Bakery & More

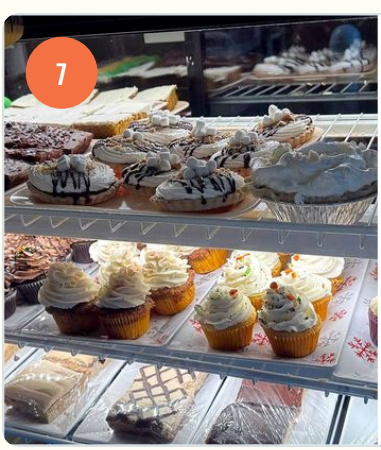
1 hr - Erie

WHY IT BELONGS

Erie's town triangle, in a restored hundred-year-old building: a family bakery that is also a full restaurant, so this is the lunch stop. Open Tuesday through Saturday for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Erie



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FOOD & DRINK

Krumpets Restaurant & Bakery

45 min - Fulton

WHY IT BELONGS

A block from Fulton's levee and the Dutch windmill: pastries and an espresso bar alongside made-to-order breakfast, soups and daily specials, six days a week.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Fulton



8

ATTRACTION

Center Hill Orchard & Apiary

45 min - Mount Carroll

WHY IT BELONGS

Finish in the Carroll County hills with cherries, peaches, pears, apples, berries and honey from the same farm. Fruit is picked to order at peak ripeness and availability swings with the season, so call before you drive out.

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Mount Carroll