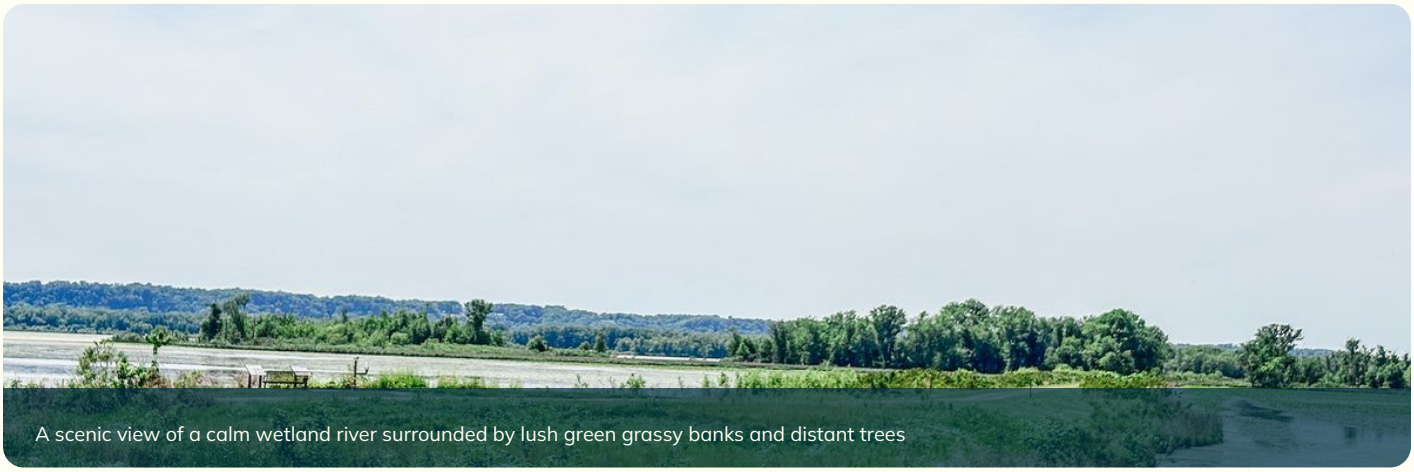
ITINERARY · NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

SAVANNA, IL: ESCAPE TO NATURE

Savanna, IL, is the ultimate destination for outdoor enthusiasts seeking the perfect blend of adventure, dining, and entertainment. The guide is perfect for those who want to immerse themselves in nature, enjoy meals in scenic settings, and top off their day with a unique concert experience. The whole day will be spent outside!



A scenic view of a calm wetland river surrounded by lush green grassy banks and distant trees

Full Day	5	Carroll County	2
HOW LONG	STOPS	COUNTY	BEST FOR
			Couples, Outdoors

OPEN ONLINE

Open the live itinerary
visitnwillinois.com/itineraries/savanna-il-escape-to-nature

DAY 1

THE TRIP

Created by goingandexploring from the SHRPA creator visit “Capturing the Charm: Insider's Guide to Savanna, IL”. Location: Savanna · Distance: > 10 Miles What to bring: cash; binoculars; barbecue supplies (if you want to cook dinner instead of going out to eat). SHRPA creator visit: “Capturing the Charm: Insider's Guide to Savanna, IL”. Photo: Tiffany | Going and Exploring.

DRIVING ROUTE

Open this day in Google Maps

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

5 PLANNED STOPS

1

SCENIC STOP

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center

Thomson

WHY IT BELONGS

Start your day at the Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center. This educational center offers visitors an immersive experience, with interactive exhibits and guided tours that highlight the importance of wetlands and the diverse wildlife that call them home. The center features walking trails, observation decks, and a variety of programs designed to educate and inspire a deeper appreciation for nature. On the first and third Thursdays, as well as the third Saturdays of each month from May through September, you can pre-register for a golf cart tour of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. If the tour isn't available, you can spend the morning walking the available trails.

Pro tip: Contact (815) 273-2732 or stewardsumrr@gmail.com to pre-register for a golf cart tour

Address: 7071 Riverview Rd, Thomson, IL

VIEW SOURCE OPEN IN MAPS

2

SCENIC STOP

Poopy's Pub

Savanna

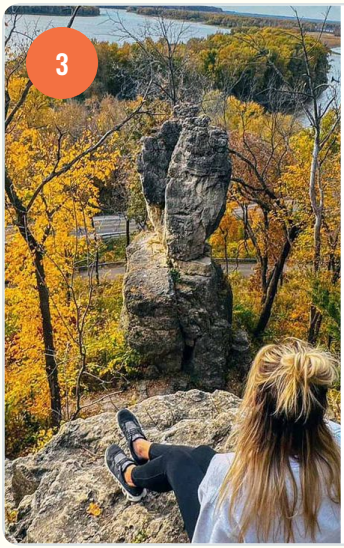
WHY IT BELONGS

After exploring the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, stop by Poopy's Pub on the way back to Savanna. Poopy's Pub is a biker-friendly tavern offering American grub. They have a huge outdoor patio with plenty of outdoor seating. They also have kayaking available - a three-hour trek to the Savanna Marina with transport back to Poopy's! Whether you enjoy the outdoor patio or the outdoor adventures, Poopy's is worth checking out!

Pro tip: Kayaking - Booking guarantees your spot. walk-ins allowed but not guaranteed

Address: 1030 Viaduct Rd, Savanna, IL

VIEW SOURCE OPEN IN MAPS



3

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Mississippi Palisades State Park

Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

The next adventure is Mississippi Palisades State Park. This free state park offers stunning views and diverse natural beauty along the Mississippi River. Known for its dramatic bluffs, lush forests, and scenic trails, the park features over 15 miles of hiking paths that wind through rugged terrain and lead to breathtaking overlooks. Visitors can explore the park's rich history, including ancient Native American petroglyphs, and enjoy activities such as birdwatching, picnicking, and photography.

Address: 16327A IL-84, Savanna, IL

VIEW THIS PLACE OPEN IN MAPS

Savanna

4

SCENIC STOP

Rustic River Cabins Savanna Illinois

Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

Once it's 3 PM, it's time to check in and drop off your belongings at Rustic River Cabins. After 3 PM, you can use the lockbox code provided to access your key and settle in. Nestled on a bluff with stunning views of the Mississippi River, these charming cabins feature private porches, fire pits, fireplaces, and a cozy, inviting atmosphere, making them ideal for a weekend retreat. Fire up the barbecue, enjoy the views, and start making dinner.

Pro tip: bring food + barbecue supplies to make dinner

Address: 1000 Calhoun St, Savanna, IL

VIEW SOURCE OPEN IN MAPS

5

SCENIC STOP

The Rhythm Section Amphitheater

Mt Carroll

WHY IT BELONGS

What better way to end the day than an outdoor concert? The Rhythm Section Amphitheater, nestled in a picturesque outdoor setting, is a haven for nature enthusiasts and music lovers alike. This open-air venue combines stunning natural surroundings with top-notch acoustics, offering an unparalleled experience for those who cherish the great outdoors. With its spacious grounds and scenic backdrop, the amphitheater hosts a variety of live performances and community events, allowing visitors to enjoy vibrant entertainment while immersed in the beauty of nature.

Pro tip: $10 parking, cash only parking, bar, and food trucks

Address: 13137 IL-78, Mt Carroll, IL

VIEW SOURCE OPEN IN MAPS