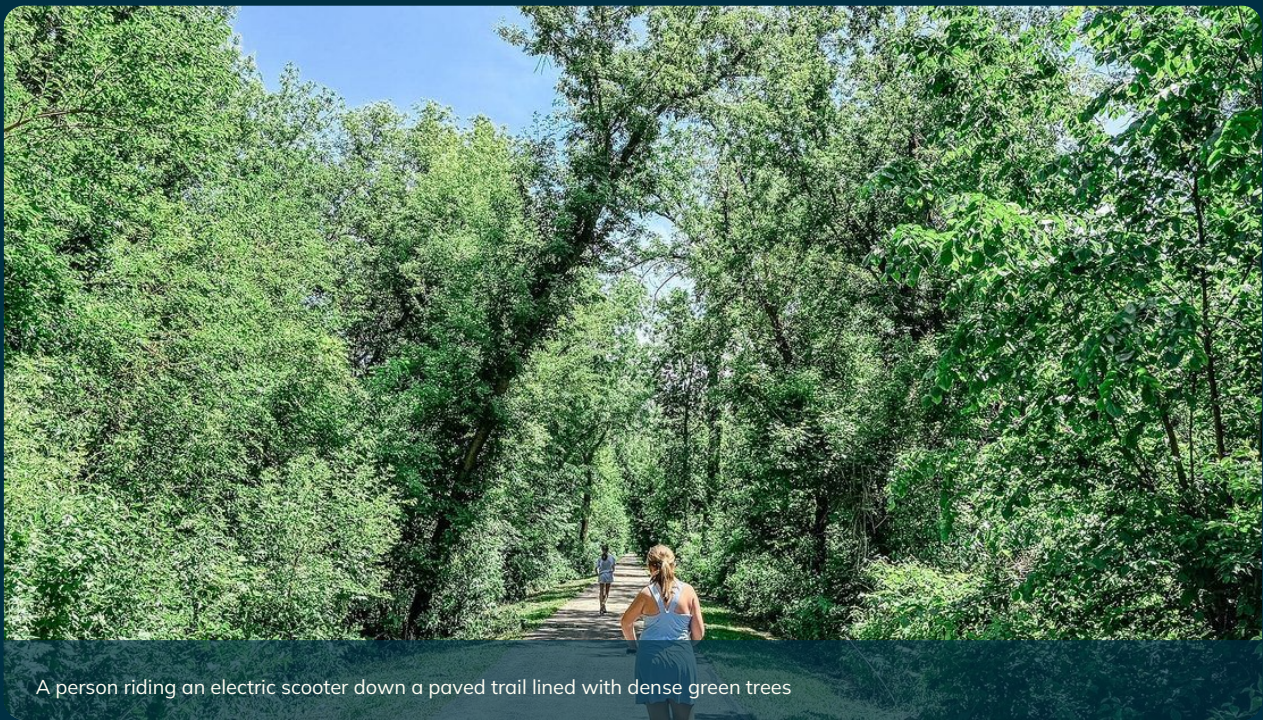


ITINERARY · NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

SAVANNA TRAIL RIDE & REFUGE

This NW Illinois day pairs easy, feel-good movement with wildlife-rich scenery and small-town wandering. Start with a downtown reset in Savanna, then cruise a paved stretch of the Great River Trail toward the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge, perfect for slow miles, lookout stops, and big skies. Wrap up with relaxed resort time that keeps you close to the trail and the river energy.



<div>Full Day</div> <div>HOW LONG</div>	<div>4</div> <div>STOPS</div>	<div>Carroll Coun- ty</div> <div>COUNTY</div>	<div>2</div> <div>BEST FOR</div> <div>Friends, Outdoors</div>
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OPEN ONLINE

Open the live itinerary
visitnwillinois.com/itineraries/savanna-trail-ride-and-refuge

DAY 1

THE TRIP

Created by Laura Boudreau from the SHRPA creator visit “Bike, Bites, and Backroads in NW Illinois”. Location: NW Illinois · Distance: < 10 Miles SHRPA creator visit: “Bike, Bites, and Backroads in NW Illinois”. Photo: Laura Boudreau.

DRIVING ROUTE

Open this day in Google Maps
www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&origin=Savan...



4 PLANNED STOPS

1

SCENIC STOP

Savanna

Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

Downtown Savanna makes an easy, inviting launch point—equal parts browse, stroll, and recharge. Pop into standout local stops like Savanna Military Surplus for an unexpected treasure hunt, then slow down at The Novel Bloom, a unique blend of bookstore, florist, and coffee shop that’s ideal for a laid-back break before heading outdoors.

Pro tip: In Savanna, double-check shop hours—some spots keep a limited schedule.

Address: Savanna, IL

OPEN IN MAPS



LODGING

Seven Eagles Resort and Campground

Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

Use Seven Eagles Resort & Campground as a comfortable home base along the Great River Road, with the bonus of direct access to the Great River Trail right out back. The motel suite setup offers space to spread out and a kitchen for simple meals, while outdoor fun like the pool and courts keeps the vibe light and summery between rides.

Pro tip: Head to the back of the resort to hop straight onto the Great River Trail without needing to drive.

Address: 9734 IL-84, Savanna, IL

[VIEW THIS PLACE](#) [OPEN IN MAPS](#)

Savanna

3

SCENIC STOP

Great River Trail

Thomson

WHY IT BELONGS

The Great River Trail anchors this experience from start to finish—a paved, Mississippi-adjacent route that's well-suited to bikes and even scooters on the stretch near Savanna. Expect shaded sections, long straightaways, and that classic late spring/early summer feeling of moving through green corridors. Keep an eye out for other trail users and small wildlife along the way.

Pro tip: Stay alert for wildlife on the pavement—turtles can blend into the trail edges.

Address: Great River Trail, Thomson, IL

[VIEW SOURCE](#) [OPEN IN MAPS](#)

4

SCENIC STOP

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Spring Lake

Savanna

WHY IT BELONGS

At Spring Lake in the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge, the pace shifts from rolling wheels to quiet observation. Start at the Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center to explore exhibits and talk with a ranger, then head out to trails and platforms connected to the Mississippi. This area rewards patience—scan the wetlands, look for nests, and enjoy wide-open views that change with the light.

Pro tip: Ask a ranger at the learning center where to look for notable wildlife activity before hitting the trails.

Address: IL-84, Savanna, IL

[OPEN IN MAPS](#)