

2014 GUIDE TO LAKE COUNTY



explore [LAKE COUNTY]

INSIDE: Family fun | Restaurants, food & spirits | Performing arts | Seasonal events

Produced by Tribune Brand Publishing with Visit Lake County

FAMILY FUN

Fall into autumn in Lake County

Take a walk past a lake in the Lake County Forest Preserve to see reflected fall colors and all that nature offers this glorious season.



Cover photo by
Richard Schneider
provided by Visit Lake County

When the warm summer air turns as crisp as an apple from Didier Farms and Lake County's 30,000 acres of natural forest preserves turn gold and red, it's time to welcome back fall traditions and new adventures.

So much more than apples, find your perfect pumpkin at Didier Farms' Pumpkinfest, and enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities including a kiddie straw maze, a straw bale mountain and a petting zoo.

Get lost in Richardson's Adventure Farm and the World's Largest Corn Maze. This year's theme celebrates the 200th anniversary of "The Star Spangled Banner," and the 11-acre corn maze has

everything from cannon fire to our nation's flag to navigate. Climb the three-story observatory tower to see the design and then descend the zip line before warming up with some cider at a bonfire.

Get your scream on this year at Six Flags Great America with Goliath, the world's tallest, steepest and fastest wooden roller coaster. But don't catch your breath just yet. Six Flags is home to some of the scariest haunted houses around, and legend has it that the grounds are crawling with goblins and witches just waiting to give you a fright.

This is the time of year when everything seems warmer, despite the cool down. Let's grab some cider, slip on a comfy sweater, lean back and fall into autumn in Lake County.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

No autumn visit is complete without a trip to a pumpkin patch.

FAMILY FUN

TOP PICKS FOR FALL

With so much going on in the region this fall, it can be hard to know how to spend your time. Here are some top picks from Visit Lake County. For additional events, special offers and hotel packages, check out visitlakecounty.org.

TOP DESTINATIONS

DIDIER FARMS PUMPKINFEST

16678 W. Aptakisic Road, Prairie View. Through Oct. 31. Pumpkinfest is fun for the whole family including younger children. 847-634-3291, didierfarms.com/pumpkinfest

LAMBS FARM

14245 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville
The farm offers fall-themed events for the family and young children. 847-362-4636, lambsfarm.org

LONG GROVE'S APPLE FESTIVAL

Long Grove Historic Village, 307 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove. Sept. 28. Savor fall's most delicious harvest with apple-themed foods and events. 847-634-0888, visitlonggrove.com/event/apple-festival

RICHARDSON ADVENTURE FARM AND WORLD'S LARGEST CORN MAZE

909 English Prairie Road, Spring Grove. Full of adventure and all things fall, this year is bigger than ever at Richardson's. 815-675-9729, richardsonadventurefarm.com

TOP 3 INDOOR FAMILY FUN

GURNEE MILLS

6170 W. Grand Ave., Gurnee. Try some sweet treats, fall sales, and family fun at Rink Side Sports. 1-800-YES-SHOP, simon.com/mall/gurnee-mills

KEYLIME COVE INDOOR WATERPARK RESORT

1700 Nations Drive, Gurnee. No matter the weather outside, it's always a sunny 82 degrees inside. 877-360-0403, keylimecove.com

VOLO AUTO MUSEUM

27582 W. Volo Village Road, Volo. Enjoy a (not-so) haunted family friendly hayride. 815-385-3644, volocars.com

TOP 3 OUTDOOR FAMILY FUN

ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK

1 Lake Front Drive, Zion. Spend a fall evening warming up by a bonfire while roasting s'mores at a campfire. 847-662-4811

INDEPENDENCE GROVE AND LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE

16400 Buckley Road, Libertyville. Enjoy a family friendly bike ride or canoe adventure surrounded by fall forests. 847-968-3499, lcpd.org/ig_visitors_center



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Downtown Long Grove is ideal for a fall family stroll.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gurnee's KeyLime Cove Indoor Waterpark means its always time to swim.

KROLL'S FALL HARVEST FARM

13236 W. Town Line Road, Waukegan. The famed corn maze will be open daily through Nov. 8 and new livestock includes baby goats and a donkey. 847-662-5733, krollsfarm.com

TOP SCORES

DUNGEON OF DOOM HAUNTED HOUSE

600 29th St., Zion. One of the top-voted haunted houses of the region, this year is bigger and scarier than ever with new screams around every corner. dungeonofdoom.com

FRIGHT FEST AT SIX FLAG'S HAUNTED HOUSES

I-94 and Route 132, Gurnee. Through Nov. 2. Open weekends; come dressed in a costume, ready to scream and ride coasters in the dark. 847-249-4636, sixflags.com/greatamerica/special-events

HAUNTED HOUSE OF MACABRE ASYLUM

882 Anita St., Antioch. Be prepared for zombies at this indoor and extreme haunted house, not for the faint of heart, Oct. 3 through Nov. 1. 847-395-1111

REALM OF TERROR

Kristoff's Entertainment Center, 421 W. Rollins Road, Round Lake Beach. Experience terror at one of the nation's premier haunted house attractions, Oct. 3 through Nov. 1. 847-363-8799, realmofterror.com

OKTOBERFESTS

FOX LAKE OKTOBERFEST

Lakefront Park, 71 Nippersink Blvd., Fox Lake. 6-11 p.m., Oct. 4. The adults-only festival includes live entertainment. 847-587-7474, discoverfoxlake.com

LINDY'S LANDING OKTOBERFEST

115 Park St., Wauconda. 4-11 p.m., Oct. 4. A German food buffet, music, beer and wine tasting, beer hall and Tri-BEER-athon. 847-526-9789, lindyslanding.net

LONG GROVE OKTOBERFEST

Various locations in Long Grove. Oct. 4-5, Oct. 11-12. German music, food and folk dancing along with family hayrides. visitlonggrove.com/event/oktoberfest

OKTOBERFEST

German-American Cultural Center, 259 W. Grand Ave., Lake Villa, 6:30 p.m. to midnight, Oct. 4. Nonstop music, great food and drink and a lot of fun. German dancers will perform charming Bavarian routines. 847-356-5484

TOP FESTIVALS

CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Paulus Park, 200 S. Rand Road, Lake Zurich. Oct. 10-11. Those 21 and older can sample an impressive variety of craft beer, enjoy food tastings and listen to live music. 847-438-4151, lakezurich.org

FALL BULB FESTIVAL

Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. 10 a.m.-4p.m., Oct. 11-12. More than 20 vendors will line the esplanade as visitors take in the beauty of falls' changing colors across the garden's 385 acres. Admission is free, with parking donation. 847-835-5440, chicagobotanic.org.

GREAT HIGHWOOD PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Highwood's City Park at City Hall, 17 Highwood Ave., Highwood, Oct. 17-19. Pumpkins take center stage with carving contests, displays and even a Pumpkin Run. 847-432-1924, highwoodpumpkinfest.com

RAY BRADBURY STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Genesee Theatre, 203 N. Genesee St., Waukegan. 10:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m., Oct. 31. Celebrate author Ray Bradbury's favorite holiday with the tellings of ghost stories, fables and creepy tales on the historic Genesee Theatre stage. This award-winning festival, now in its ninth year, presents a frightful family-friendly first act for all ages at 6:30 p.m. and a spooky second act recommended for those 12 and older at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for both acts; one act tickets also available. There will also be a 10:30 a.m. matinee for students. 847-782-2366, waukeganpl.org/Storytelling-Festival

PERFORMING ARTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENESSEE THEATRE

From arts to history, Lake County has it all

The historic Genesee Theatre, located in Waukegan, exudes Old World Hollywood elegance in a richly decorated landmark setting.

Lake County is home to some of the most unique and diverse art communities and theaters in the region.

See the best that Broadway has to offer at a performance in the round at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire and find out why this location holds the record for the most Joseph Jefferson Awards, Chicago's highest theatrical honors. Intricate costumes and award-winning performances combine with an intimate setting and create a truly unique theatrical event. This fall the Marriott Theatre welcomes "On the Town," "The King and I" and "The Wizard of Oz."

Join downtown Waukegan as it celebrates its art culture at ArtWauk, held the third Saturday of every month, near the beautiful shoreline of Lake Michigan. Meet some of the area's gifted artists, students and street performers while touring more than 20 independent art galleries and enjoying live music and local flavors at welcoming art spaces including Karcher Art Lofts, a renovated historical building that houses affordable living and work spaces for up-and-coming artists. Experience the grandeur

of Old Hollywood at the renovated Genesee Theatre. An ornately designed and richly decorated venue, this historical landmark was once the home of Jack Benny and has played host to several classic movie premieres. Experience the Genesee Theatre and spooky tale or two during the ninth annual Ray Bradbury Storytelling Festival, Oct. 31, celebrating Waukegan's own classic author.

All the world's a stage and Lake County's no exception. Independent theaters including the Citadel Theatre Co. in Lake Forest, the Clockwise Theatre in Waukegan and the PM&L Theatre in Antioch all encourage playwrights and directors to join forces with visionaries to create performances that inspire.

TOP 5 THEATERS

CITADEL THEATRE CO., 300 S. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest. 847-735-8554, citadeltheatre.org

CLOCKWISE THEATRE, 221 N. Genesee St., Waukegan. 847-775-1500, clockwisetheatre.org

GENESSEE THEATRE, 203 N. Genesee St., Waukegan. 847-782-2366, genesee theatre.com

MARRIOTT THEATRE, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. 847-634-0200, marriotttheatre.com

PM&L THEATRE, 877 Main St., Antioch. 847-395-3055, pmltheatre.com

TOP 5 MUSEUMS

CUNEO MANSION AND GARDENS, 1350 Milwaukee Ave., Vernon Hills. This historical site features decadent gardens, architecture and antique items. Open after remodeling in 2015. 847-362-3042, luc.edu/cuneo/about

GRAYSLAKE HERITAGE CENTER, 64 Hawley St., Grayslake. A state of the art history museum that hosts exhibitions. 847-543-1745, villageofgrayslake.com

GREAT LAKES NAVAL MUSEUM, 610 Farragut Ave., Building 42, Great Lakes. Learn about the United States Navy and how Lake County is home to the Navy's only "boot camp." 847-688-3154, greatlakesnavalmuseum.org

LAKE COUNTY DISCOVERY MUSEUM, 27277 N. Forest Preserve Road, Wauconda. Hosting "The President's Photographer: 50 Years Inside the Oval Office" exhibit, through Jan. 11, 2015. 847-968-3400, lcfdp.org/discovery_museum

VOLO AUTO MUSEUM, 27582 W. Volo Village Road, Volo. See hundreds of classic and movie cars like the

Batmobile and the Scooby Doo Mystery Machine. 815-385-3644, volocars.com

TOP 5 ART GALLERIES

ARTIST AT HEART, 344 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville. From parties to drop in sessions, the whole family can create works of art. 847-816-4865, artist-at-heart.net.

DEER PATH ART LEAGUE AND GALLERY, 400 E. Illinois Road, Second Floor, Lake Forest. Celebrating its 60th anniversary. 847-234-3743, deerpathartleague.org

PETER PATTERSON GLASSWORKS, 888 Tower Road, Suite E, Mundelein. The full-service glass blowing studio offers lessons and a shop. 847-949-0013, pattersonglass.com

ROBERT T. WRIGHT COMMUNITY GALLERY OF ART, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake. Located on the College of Lake County campus. 847-543-2240, gallery.clcillinois.edu

WAUKEGAN MAINSTREET, Downtown Waukegan. Explore the historic downtown's collection of galleries including Urban Edge, Dandelion Gallery and Tufo Gallery. waukeganmainstreet.org

RESTAURANTS, FOOD & SPIRITS

Eat up, drink up culinary options abound



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With dining options suitable for every taste bud, Lake County offers a wide variety of options for eating, drinking and going out, including The Vine in Grayslake.

From a cozy restaurant with craft brew and spirits, to java and oolong in an independent coffee or tea house, to a rainforest adventure, any dining experience you're looking for can be found in Lake County.

Downtown Libertyville is a gourmet buffet of culinary experiences. Spend a weekend afternoon at Mickey Finn's Brewery and get to know why its homemade brews are some of the best around. From its original Gudenteit Hefewizen, to its mouthwatering American-style Amber Ale, the craftsmanship and care of all menu items will keep you coming back for more. Right down the street is one of the Chicago area's most widely acclaimed restaurants, Firkin. One of the coziest places to find yourself on a cool fall day, Firkin's wild display of colorful lights hanging from the rafters, some grass-fed burgers and more than 30 draft beers will warm you up.

Looking for some spirits? Let them find you at Illinois' first craft distillery, North Shore Distillery, where Derek and Sonja will give you a lesson on their award-winning gin, vodka and absinthe. Create your own Whiskey Trail adventure at the newly opened Copper Fiddle Distillery in Lake Zurich, home to award-winning bourbon and whiskeys from Midwestern sourced grains.

Bring the kids for a fun day at Rainforest Cafe in Gurnee Mills for a dining experience that transports you to a tropical world full of wild adventures. If pizza is your dish, it just takes one bite at Bill's Pizza and Pub in Mundelein to understand why Chicago's Best named the double decker as one of Chicago's top pizzas. Whether it's the pizza, the arcade, the unique decor or the tradition of throwing peanut shells on the ground, Bill's Pizza is a favorite for parents and kids year round.

One of the most enduring aspects of

Lake County is how its diverse collection of cultures is reflected in distinctive dining options. With an infused menu inspired by Mediterranean flavors, Bite 9 in Libertyville continues to evolve while focusing on all natural and fresh ingredients. Taste the difference of India's traditional tandoor clay oven cooking as succulent meats are prepared with traditional family-style recipes at Peacock Indian Restaurant in Vernon Hills. Steitz's Restaurant and Bar in Antioch is known for its combination of traditionally crafted German cuisine and classic American cuisine. Dine on the first Thursday of every month to experience German Day and enjoy panoramic views of beautiful Bluff Lake. In the winter, take a ride down their toboggan run.

From the first course, to the final bite of a sweet dessert, Lake County has the dish you're looking for.

TOP 5 UNIQUE DINING EXPERIENCES

BILL'S PIZZA AND PUB

624 Lake St., Mundelein
Family-friendly, Northwoods-inspired pizza and pub.
847-566-6508

CHESSIE'S RESTAURANT

200 Applebee St., Barrington
Dine on classic American cuisine in a retired train car.
847-382-5020

RAINFOREST CAFE

6170 W. Grand Ave., Gurnee
Family-friendly dining experience with a rainforest theme.
847-855-7800

THE SHANTY

38985 N. Route 41, Wadsworth
Seafood and steaks dining featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." 847-336-0262

RESTAURANTS, FOOD & SPIRITS

THE VILLAGE TAVERN

135 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove
Open since 1849, this historic and family-owned restaurant offers a classic-style design and their 35-foot-long bar is a favorite stop for many.
847-634-3117

CAFES AND TEA ROOMS

BEANS AND LEAVES CAFE

320 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove
Eclectic and cozy atmosphere with an artistic twist in quaint Downtown Long Grove. 847-821-0011

GREEN TEA-IST

647 Bank Lane, Suite 116, Lake Forest
From connoisseurs to the novice, the Green Tea-ist serves up rare and exciting tea experiences. Learn from the experts about tea from around the world and try something new. 847-735-0400

HANSA COFFEE ROASTERS

755 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville
Truly one-of-a-kind coffee blends roasted on site, sourcing rare and fine coffees. 847-226-8815

IT'S ALL GOOD COFFEE AND ESPRESSO

2780 Sheridan Road, Zion
Delicious cafe-style food and gourmet coffee and wine. 847-872-1009

SOMETHING'S BREWING

82 Center St., Grayslake
Independent coffee shop with a casual and welcoming atmosphere in Grayslake's main street. 847-543-8600

ETHNIC AND INTERNATIONAL

BITE 9

212 S. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville
Using the highest quality, all natural and fresh ingredients, Bite 9 delivers flavor with fusion-inspired dishes and never uses processed foods, artificial flavors or corn syrup. 224-433-6997

KARMA ASIAN FOOD & FINE WINE

510 E. Route 83, Mundelein
Asian fare with a Western twist. Chef Choi's dishes are interesting in their presentation yet very approachable and comfortable. 847-970-6900

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY

307 Hawthorn Center, Vernon Hills
Enjoy authentic, scratch-made Italian-American cuisine in an upscale and comfortable restaurant setting. 847-918-0380

PEACOCK INDIAN RESTAURANT

700 N. Milwaukee Ave., Unit 130, Vernon Hills
From succulent meats cooked in the tandoor (clay oven) to the aromatic sauces, the Peacock emphasizes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Karma Asian Food & Fine Wine in Mundelein exemplifies modern Asian fusion cuisine.

bold flavor served in the traditional family-style for dinner and a large lunch buffet featuring a variety of delicious selections. 847-816-3100

STEITZ'S RESTAURANT AND BAR

25400 W. Bluff Lane, Antioch
German food, drink and spirit is served up. 847-395-4050

TOP BREW PUBS

BEER MARKET

1270 S. Milwaukee Ave., Vernon Hills
Featuring 500-plus microbrews including organic, gluten-free and seasonal options. 847-955-1900

LAKE BLUFF BREWERY

16 E. Scanton Ave., Lake Bluff.
Small craft brewery with high standards and fine handcrafted beer. 224-544-5179

LIGHT THE LAMP

10 N. Lake St., Downtown Grayslake
Owned by a group of neighborhood Blackhawks fans and serving hockey-themed handcrafted beer. 847-752-8489

MICKEY FINN'S BREWERY

412 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville
Handcrafted and award-winning brewpub catering to nightlife and live concerts. 847-362-6688

TIGHTHEAD BREWERY

161 N. Archer Ave., Mundelein
Fresh, quality craft beer, serving seasonal brews and brewery tours. 847-970-174



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Shanty's roasted halibut.

WINES & SPIRITS

COPPER FIDDLE DISTILLERY

532 W. Route 22, Lake Zurich
Sample whiskeys and gins from locally sourced grains or learn about the process on a tour. 847-847-7609

LYNFRED WINERY

971 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling
Satellite location to Illinois' oldest and largest family-owned winery. 847-229-9463

NORTH SHORE DISTILLERY

28913 Herky Drive, Unit 308, Lake Bluff
Try award-winning vodka and gins after touring the distillery. 847-574-2499

VALENTINO VINEYARDS

5175 Aptakisic Road, Long Grove. On-site 20-acre vineyard, growing more than 6,000 vines and specializing in more than 20 varieties of wines. 847-634-2831

VIGNETO DEL BINO WINERY

42150 Crawford Road, Antioch
Newly opened to the public, this 10-acre winery has more than 2,000 grapevines, a tasting room and gift shop. 847-886-4080

TOP 5 NIGHTLIFE HOT-SPOTS

AUSTIN'S SALOON AND EATERY

481 Peterson Road, Grayslake
Delicious food with a lively nightlife atmosphere. 847-549-1972

GABE'S BACKSTAGE LOUNGE

214 Green Bay Road, Highwood
Late-night venue known for local bands and touring favorites. 847-266-1313

LIBERTYVILLE MAINSTREET (MICKEY FINN'S AND FIRKIN)

160 E. Cook Ave., Libertyville
Historical charm and small-town character meets young professionals and vibrant nightlife. 847-680-0336

PORT OF BLARNEY

27843 W. Grass Lake Road, Antioch
Festive ambiance and called "The Key West of the Midwest." 847-395-4122

TIMOTHY O'TOOLE'S

5572 Grand Ave., Gurnee
Perfect for sports fans, watch the game on any of 30 flatscreens. 847-249-0800

SWEET TREATS

CACAO SWEETS & TREATS

122 Center St., Grayslake
An all-natural ingredient boutique-style bakery specializing in truffles and cakes. 847-223-2253

D.W. ANDERSON'S AT KEYLIME COVE

1700 Nations Drive, Gurnee
Old-fashioned soda fountain with a special 15-flavor sundae served in a mock sink. 262-656-8033

LONG GROVE CONFECTIONERY CO.

220 Robert Parker Coffin Road, Long Grove
Handmade, gourmet chocolates known around the world, and crafted in the heart of quaint Downtown Long Grove. 847-459-3875

POPCORN FACTORY OUTLET

13970 W. Laurel Drive, Lake Forest
Premium popcorn of every color and flavor at outlet prices. 847-247-3342

SOMETHING SWEET IN ANTIOCH

891 Main St., Antioch
Voted Best Candy Store in 2013 Daily Herald Reader's Choice. 847-838-9350

SEASONAL EVENTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

The Chicago Botanic Garden transforms annually during Wonderland Express.

Lake County is a magical place to spend the holiday season. Picturesque towns put on their holiday best with concerts, lighting displays, special treats and holiday markets. This festive season, enjoy the historic sites, quaint downtowns and hospitality that is Lake County.

LIGHTS GALORE

Downtown Long Grove holiday festivities include the annual Christmas tree lighting Nov. 15, old-fashioned horse drawn carriage rides

from 1-4 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 21, and weekend visits with Santa. visitlonggrove.com

Take a magical trip to a wonderland of twinkling lights and holiday beauty at the Chicago Botanic Garden for Wonderland Express, Nov. 28 through Jan. 4, 2015. 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. chicagobotanic.org/wonderland

Grayslake Downtown Tree Lighting Festival takes place 5:30-8 p.m. Nov. 28. Santa arrives at the Holiday Tree, corner of Center and Whitney streets, followed by sleigh rides and shopping at the Holiday Market at the Grayslake Museum.

847-223-6888

The village of Vernon Hills presents the Drive Thru Holiday Light Show on the magnificent grounds of the Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, 1350 N. Milwaukee Ave., Vernon Hills. Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. daily, Nov. 28 through Jan. 3, 2015. 847-367-3700; vernonhills.org

PUBLIC ART, SONG

Take a turn through Dicken's Holiday Village in downtown Antioch Nov. 8 through Jan. 2, 2015. Olde England comes alive with lifelike figures representing scenes from the Dickens Era. antiochchamber.org

Enjoy songs of the season at the Viking Park Singers Annual Holiday Concert, 3 p.m. Dec. 7, at Viking Park Dance Hall, 4374 Old Grand Ave., Gurnee. 847-623-7788; gurneeparkdistrict.com

SANTA TIME

Visit the Christmas Nook at Gurnee Mills and have your child's picture taken with Santa. For Santa's hours, holiday store events and shopping times, visit simon.com/mall/gurnee-mills/news-trends-and-events.

Find Saint Nick and his helpers at Westfield Hawthorn Shopping Center in Vernon Hills for a photo. For Santa's hours, store events and shopping times, visit www.westfield.com/hawthorn.

