

## Itinerary #12 – Southern Illinois

Starting in Golconda, this 108-mile trip will take you along the southernmost border of Illinois to Cairo. Begin your trip by exploring locks and dams as well as historical structures, then take State Route 146 to Brookport. Continue the trip on State Route 45 to New Grand Chain. Along the way, stop and see all that Massac County has to offer, from state parks to Superman! In New Grand Chain, take State Route 37 to your final stops in Pulaski and Alexander Counties. There you'll find nationally recognized sites such as a wildlife refuge and historic districts as well as the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Sites to see & things to do (listed from east to west)

Attraction	Description
Golconda-National Register Community, Historic District Golconda, Illinois	The beautiful town of Golconda is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to a state-of-the-art boating and fishing marina on the Ohio River. The Main Street Program enhanced the charm and beauty of the downtown and has many special activities throughout the year.
Buel House Golconda, Illinois	Built in 1837, this two-story log house has two rooms on each floor. It is believed to be the only remaining Illinois structure linked to the tragic walk that took the lives of many Cherokees. Contact: (618) 683-9702.
Lock and Dam #51 – Staff Houses Golconda, Illinois	Original powerhouse building and lockmaster housing for Dam #51. Four residence structures have been renovated for upscale heritage tourism lodging. Plans call for the powerhouse building to become an interpretive and visitor center. Beautiful views of the Ohio River at this location. Contact: (618) 683-6702.
Smithland Lock & Dam Pope County Illinois	Completed in 1976, this US Army Corps of Engineers facility is where huge river barges lock through the world's largest twin navigational system. Visitors' Center provides history and information. Contact: (618) 564-2315.
Kincaid Mounds Massac County, Illinois	This is the earliest discovered culture in Massac County covering the Indian Knoll settlement through Mississippian period. There has been no public development yet, but artifacts will be housed at Fort Massac Museum in Metropolis, once excavation begins.
Metropolis, Illinois	This is the only city in the country named Metropolis. It has adopted Superman as its favorite son and holds an annual celebration. Nearby is Illinois' oldest state park, Fort Massac, which features a replica of the fort built in 1794.
Ft. Massac State Park and Museum Metropolis, Illinois	The Fort Massac Museum houses artifacts, history and a miniature replica of the fort. It is one of five former French forts in the Illinois park system. Indians were believed to have first used the site followed by Hernando de Soto. Contact: (618) 524-4712. <a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/lewisandclark/mas.htm">www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/lewisandclark/mas.htm</a>
Superman Statue Metropolis, Illinois	Commemorating Metropolis' favorite and self-proclaimed son, this bronze statue is located on the courthouse square. Contact: (618) 524-5518.
Ohio River Locks and Dam #53 Pulaski County, Illinois	Built in the 1930s to regulate the depth of the Ohio River, the lock and dam boasts an observation area for viewing the river traffic.
Olmsted Lock and Dam Project Olmsted, Illinois	An observation area allows visitors to view the work being done on this lock and dam, the largest inland river project ever undertaken by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Contact: (618) 742-6456.
Mound City National Cemetery Mound City, Illinois	This cemetery, one of 12 original national cemeteries, was started in 1864 as a burial place for both Union and Confederate service members who died at Mound City Military Hospital. The cemetery contains over 2,700 "unknown" Union graves and one marked simply

	<p>“Confederate Spy.” The caretaker’s house will soon become an interpretive center. Contact: (800) 248-4373.  <a href="http://www.illinoiscivilwar.org/cwmoundcitycem.html">www.illinoiscivilwar.org/cwmoundcitycem.html</a></p>
<p>Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge  Mound City, Illinois</p>	<p>The Refuge site includes 1,000-year-old cypress/tupelo trees, over 182 species of birds, 47 specimens of mammals and 54 species of amphibians and reptiles. Wildlife observation, hiking, canoe trails, hunting and fishing are a few of the activities offered. Contact: (618) 634-2231.</p>
<p>Cairo Historic District  Cairo, Illinois</p>	<p>At the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, Cairo fought floods, launched steamboats, forged railroads and spearheaded the thrust of General Grant and the Union Army into the South. Cairo is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic district is enclosed by Park, 33<sup>rd</sup>, Sycamore, 21<sup>st</sup> Center, Cedar and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets and the Ohio River. <a href="http://www.illinois.gov/visiting/historic.cfm">www.illinois.gov/visiting/historic.cfm</a></p>
<p>Cairo Public Library  Cairo, Illinois</p>	<p>An example of Queen Anne architecture built in 1883; Mrs. Alfred B. Safford had the red brick building constructed as a house as a memorial to her husband. Now a public library, it houses collections of Civil War documents, antiques and paintings. Contact: (618) 734-1840.  <a href="http://www.ohwy.com/il/p/plil0068.htm">www.ohwy.com/il/p/plil0068.htm</a></p>
<p>Cairo Custom House Museum  Cairo, Illinois</p>	<p>A rare example of Romanesque architecture, this limestone structure was completed in 1872. Within the Custom House is placed the flagpole from General Grant’s flagship, the Tigress, which carried Grant to the battle of Shiloh in 1862. Contact: (618) 734-1019.  <a href="http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy990446.html">www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy990446.html</a></p>
<p>Confluence of Ohio and Mississippi Rivers  Alexander County, Illinois</p>	<p>Two rivers, the Ohio and the Mississippi, merge near the city of Cairo. Visitors will note how the Ohio waters become a blue ribbon rippling in contrast with the brown Mississippi currents.</p>
<p>Fort Defiance Park  Alexander County, Illinois</p>	<p>The park overlooks the meeting of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Fort Defiance, the Civil War post commanded by U.S. Grant, guarded the confluence and became the supply base for the western thrust into the Confederacy.</p>