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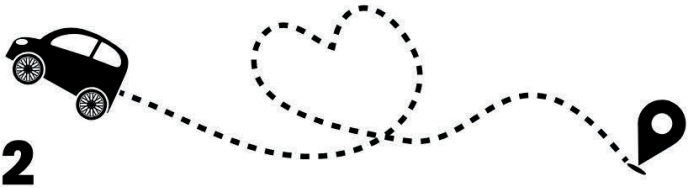
Follow our Facebook page to stay up to date with everything Nauvoo!

NAUVOO museum city

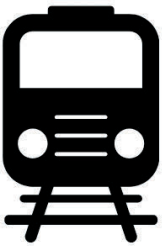
10000-2025

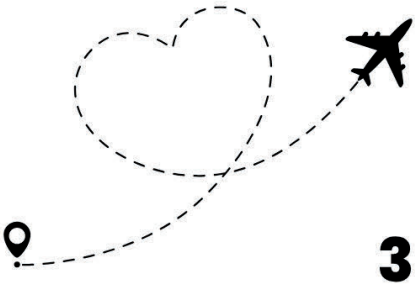
How to get to Nauvoo...

Find us from	Miles	Travel Time
Burlington, Iowa	29	30 Minutes
Fort Madison, Iowa	15	15 Minutes
Carthage, Illinois	23	30 Minutes
Chicago, Illinois	260	5 Hours
Davenport, Iowa	110	2 Hours
Saint Louis, Missouri	185	3 Hours
Salt Lake City, Utah	1235	21 Hours



Traveling to Nauvoo is easy once you know your options! Driving is a popular and scenic choice, with Highway 96 leading right into town. You can also fly into larger airports like Chicago or St. Louis, or choose a closer regional airport for a shorter drive. Another convenient option is taking the Amtrak to nearby Fort Madison, Iowa, and renting a car for the quick trip across the river to Nauvoo. However you get here, the journey is well worth it!





Events &

Nauvoo has a variety of events ...

...year round!

Untold Nauvoo Stories - 2nd weekend in February

This yearly history symposium reveals little-known stories about Nauvoo's past.

*sponsored by Nauvoo Untold Stories Committee

www.BeautifulNauvoo.com/Calendar

Nauvoo Historical Society Museum Opening Weekend - Mid-May

The opening weekend for the Weld House and Rheinberger Museums celebrated with an annual plant sale, live music and other activities.

*sponsored by Nauvoo Historical Society

Entertainment

Memorial Day Picnic - May
Enjoy a picnic in the City Park with a program honoring veterans.
*sponsored by Nauvoo Boy Scouts

God's Portion Day - First Sunday in June
Annual fundraising event for Saints Peter and Paul School featuring breakfast followed by a lively auction.
*sponsored by STS Peter and Paul

Nauvoo Fireworks - July 3rd
Watch the fireworks from Temple Hill with a performance by the Historic Nauvoo Brass Band at dusk.

*sponsored by Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce

Nauvoo and British Pageants - July
These large outdoor musical productions connect Nauvoo to the early history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

*sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Grape Festival - Labor Day Weekend

Celebrate the grape harvest in Nauvoo with a 5k run/walk, craft show, two parades, and a variety of other events.

*sponsored by Nauvoo Grape Festival Committee

Check out the Grape Festival website to sign up for events!

www.BeautifulNauvoo.com/Calendar

Festival on Wheels Car Show - Sunday Labor Day Weekend

Largest car show in the area!

*sponsored by Nauvoo Grape Festival Committee

Scarecrow Festival - 1st weekend in October

Mulholland Street is lined with decorated Scarecrows for the month. Judging and a Spooktacular Soup Supper the first week in October.

*sponsored by Nauvoo Betterment Association

Oktoberfest - Last Friday in October

Our German Heritage festival featuring Polka Music, German food, and dancing.

*sponsored by Nauvoo Historical Society

Pumpkin Walk - Last Saturday in October

Hundreds of lighted carved pumpkins line Mulholland Street. A fun Halloween parade, and various activities.

*sponsored by Pumpkin Walk Committee

Kringlemart - 1st Saturday in December

Enjoy this authentic German Christmas celebration with vendors and food.

*sponsored by Nauvoo Historical Society

Check out our events calendar for a list of events in Nauvoo.

Stay in Nauvoo

Nauvoo offers a wide variety of lodging options to suit every traveler's style and budget. Stay in a charming bed-and-breakfast, relax in a fully furnished vacation home, or enjoy scenic views from a cozy cottage or campground. Whether you're looking for historic charm, modern comfort, or family-friendly convenience, you'll find the perfect place to unwind after a day of exploring. Many accommodations are just minutes from Nauvoo's historic sites, wineries, and riverfront, making your stay both relaxing and memorable.

Camping

Camp Nauvoo - Camp Nauvoo is located on 30 acres of land with river views. The facility is ideal for church youth gatherings, family reunions, weddings, RVs, retreats, tent camping and more!
1095 S Warsaw St, Nauvoo, IL 62354
217-453-9930
campnauvoo.org

Nauvoo State Park - This 148-acre park includes a 13-acre lake with a mile-long shoreline. Amenities: two playgrounds, pavilion (available to rent), hikes, lake, camping, fishing, boating, benches, tables.
980 S Bluff St,
Nauvoo, IL 62354
dnr.illinois.gov/parks/park.nauvoo.html

Bed-and-Breakfasts

The Nauvoo Grand - A luxury bed-and-breakfast just up Parley Street from the Midwest's largest collection of restored historic sites. Nestled behind a canopy of 145-year-old trees, in an intimate setting surrounded by idyllic orchards and vineyards.

2015 Parley St, Nauvoo, IL 62354
801-499-6636
thenauvoogrand.com

Willard Richards Inn - Enjoy the history of a grand country inn with modern and gracious appointments, and special attention to furniture and period decor. Situated only two blocks from historic Nauvoo's main street and across the street from where the Nauvoo and British Pageants are held, the Willard Richards Inn is a destination in itself.

950 White St, Nauvoo, IL 62354
217-453-9069
willardrichardsinn.com

www.BeautifulNauvoo.com/stay

Hotels

Hotel Nauvoo - The historic Hotel Nauvoo has been serving guests for over 150 years and is known for its charming rooms and award-winning dinner buffet. Stay right in the heart of downtown Nauvoo.

1290 Mulholland St
Nauvoo, IL 62354
217-453-2211
hotelnauvoo.com

The Inn at Old Nauvoo - Not your typical family inn; with over 10 different room types, sure to easily accommodate a family or group of any size. Enjoy an indoor heated swimming pool. Stroll down to the lobby and explore the Nauvoo souvenirs curated just for you.

1875 Mulholland St
Nauvoo, IL 62354
217-453-6527
innatoldnauvoo.com

www.BeautifulNauvoo.com/stay

Motel Nauvoo - Motel Nauvoo is conveniently located just a few blocks east of the Hotel Nauvoo, and just four blocks from Temple Square. All rooms are extra clean and cozy, with free high-speed internet.

1610 Mulholland St
Nauvoo, IL 62354
hotelnauvoo.com

Nauvoo Log Cabins - Capture the Pioneer Spirit in these authentic, hand-hewn, log cabin homes. These cabins will capture your heart and kindle your spirit.

65 N Winchester St
Nauvoo, IL 62354
217-453-9000
nauvoologcabins.com

www.BeautifulNauvoo.com/stay

Nauvoo Temple House Hotel - The Nauvoo Temple House Hotel (formerly The Woodruff Hotel) is a Nauvoo landmark. Located across the street from the beautiful Nauvoo Temple in the downtown Nauvoo Historic District, close to all the specialty shops, restaurants, art galleries, and the inspiring Nauvoo Pageant in July.

1200 Mulholland St
Nauvoo, IL 62354
217-453-2182
woodruffhotel.com

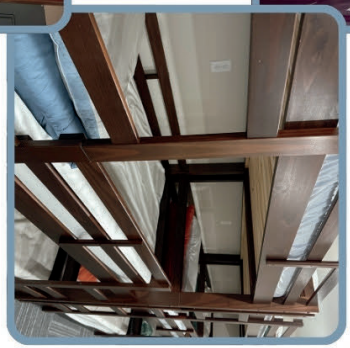
Nauvoo Vacation Villas, LLC -The Nauvoo Vacation Villas offer beautiful overnight, weekly or monthly accommodations for any traveler. This unique property offers one- and two-bedroom units. The two-bedroom units have full kitchens and washer and dryers in-unit.

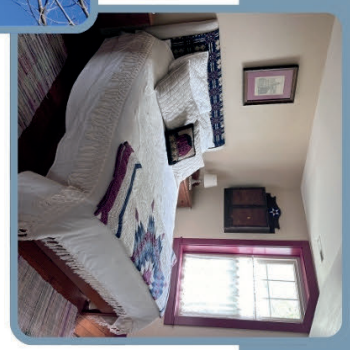
2372 N County Rd 900
Nauvoo, IL 62354
217-453-6717
nauvoovillas.com

www.BeautifulNauvoo.com/stay

Homestays

Experience Nauvoo like a local with a homestay rental. Whether it's through Airbnb, VRBO, or a local host, these short-term rentals offer the comfort and charm of a private home - often with historic touches unique to Nauvoo. Enjoy the convenience of a fully-furnished space, complete with a kitchen, cozy living areas, and plenty of room to relax after a day of exploring. Perfect for families, couples, or groups, homestays let you settle in and make the most of your time in this beautiful riverside town. There are many options for homestays in Nauvoo: visit our website for a full list of options.
beautifulnauvoo.com/stay





www.BeautifulNauvoo.com/stay

Eat in Nauvoo

Annie's Custard & Cafe - Well-loved Nauvoo sweet shop famous for frozen custard. 1320 Mulholland Street

Baxter's Vineyards & Winery - Oldest winery in Illinois. Enjoy the tasting room, gift shop, and The Wine Barrel, Nauvoo's local bar. 2010 Parley Street

Fireside BBQ - Texas style BBQ right in the heart of downtown Nauvoo. 1240 Mulholland Street

Nauvoo Fudge Factory - Local favorite featuring homemade fudge and candy. 1215 Mulholland Street

The Groovy Grandma - Home-cooked food like Grandma used to make at this groovy 70's themed diner. 1505 Mulholland Street

Hotel Nauvoo - Serving Nauvoo dinner for 150 years! Featuring an award-winning buffet.
1290 Mulholland Street

Lock 19 -
Smash burgers, fish and chips, falafel, and more!
1395 Mulholland Street

The Red Front -
A variety of quick and tasty food options with many grab-and-go favorites.
1305 Mulholland Street

Press House Winery -
Locally-owned vineyard and winery owned by the Koechle family since 1900.
2142 N County Road 800

Sunset Hill Shave Ice and Soda Co.-
Authentic Hawaiian shave ice and sodas.
1490 Mulholland Street

Experience Nauvoo

Nauvoo is a history-rich town with many historic sites to explore. Strolling the streets of Nauvoo, visitors are transported back in time to an era filled with charm and nostalgia. The town's rich history is evident in every corner, from the beautifully preserved architecture to the fascinating museums that offer a glimpse into the past. Whether you're interested in delving into the town's pioneer roots or simply soaking in the small-town atmosphere, you'll discover a treasure trove of stories just waiting to be uncovered.

Museums

Nauvoo is filled with unique museums and historic landmarks that bring its rich past to life. Explore artifacts from the region's earliest Native American cultures, see how pioneers lived and worked along the Mississippi River, and learn how waves of immigrants shaped the community. Civil War history, river life, and the growth of early industries are all captured in engaging exhibits—some housed in intimate "mini-museums," others in entire historic buildings. Each stop offers hands-on displays, rare collections, and unforgettable stories, making Nauvoo a place where history isn't just remembered—it's experienced.

Find out why Nauvoo is called Museum City!

Outdoor Activities

Nauvoo's scenic setting along the Mississippi River offers plenty of outdoor activities surrounded by natural beauty. Visitors can enjoy walking and biking along tree-lined trails, birdwatching along the Mississippi Flyway, or picnicking and fishing in the Nauvoo State Park. Whether you're exploring quiet riverbanks or watching the sunset from the bluffs, Nauvoo's peaceful landscapes invite you to slow down and connect with nature.

Experience Nauvoo

NAUVOO HISTORIC SITES

The Nauvoo Historic Sites owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are open year-round for tours of homes and businesses built in the 1840s or restored to their condition from that era. Free tours and activities, including wagon rides, introduce you to the religious history and culture of Nauvoo from 1839-1846. Live performances between June-October tell the stories of individuals and their faith. Start your visit at the North Visitors' Center, pick up a site brochure, see schedules, and obtain tickets for select activities.

Nauvoo Family Search Center
217-453-6347
locations.familysearch.org
1195 Knight Street
The FamilySearch Center in Nauvoo is a free public resource where visitors can explore their family history and build their family tree. Staffed by friendly volunteers, the center offers access to genealogy databases that can only be accessed at the Nauvoo location via historical records. They offer personalized assistance for beginners and experienced researchers alike.

Nauvoo Historic Sites
North Visitors' Center
290 Main Street
877-577-2603
nauvoohistoricsites.org
Start your visit to the historic sites of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the North Visitors' Center. Learn about the daily performances and tours, in order to plan your day.

Check out the church website for details.

Nauvoo Illinois Temple

50 N Wells Street
217-453-6252
churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/nauvoo-illinois-temple
The Nauvoo Illinois Temple is a sacred place of worship for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a prominent feature of the city. **Not open to the public**.

Experience Nauvoo

Nauvoo Historical Society

Nauvooilhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
nauvoohistoricalsociety.com
The Nauvoo Historical Society preserves the rich history of Nauvoo, Illinois. Through its two museums, archival collections, and educational programs, the Society highlights the history of the many communities that have shaped Nauvoo—including Native American, early pioneer, religious, and immigrant groups. Visitors may explore exhibits, attend talks, and discover a deeper understanding of the people and events that make Nauvoo unique.

Rheinberger House Museum

Weld House Museum

...and beyond!

Historic Carthage Jail and Visitors' Center
310 Buchanan Street,
Carthage, Illinois
217-577-2603
nauvoohistoricsites.org
Carthage Jail, located about 20 miles southeast of Nauvoo, is the restored historic site, operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were killed by a mob on June 27, 1844.

The Legacy Theater
217-357-9479
thelegacytheater.com
The Legacy Theater is a performing arts venue featuring live entertainment in a family-friendly, community setting in Carthage, Illinois.

Frequently Asked

What's the weather like in Nauvoo?

Nauvoo experiences all four seasons, and each brings its own unique weather challenges. Read our tips below to plan what to wear and bring:

Spring – Wet but warm. Temperatures rise into the 50s and 60s, with lows around freezing. Expect a mix of snow transitioning to rain. Layers are key for staying comfortable during the fluctuating weather.

Summer – Hot and humid! The heat combined with high humidity can make Nauvoo feel even warmer. Average temperatures are in the mid-80s, with lows in the 60s. Humidity can reach 100%, so be prepared for the heat and keep an eye on heat advisories.

Fall – Warm and cool. Fall days in Nauvoo are simply beautiful, but temperatures can vary widely. Highs often reach the 80s, while lows can dip into the 40s. Sometimes, this happens on the same day, so layers are essential!

Winter – Cold and snowy. Expect lows around 19°F and highs around 35°F, though temperatures may fluctuate. Dress warmly, and be ready for possible winter weather delays or cancellations.

Questions

What to eat?

Nauvoo has several delightful, locally-owned restaurants. If you're visiting with a larger group, please plan ahead and contact your desired restaurant to ensure they can accommodate your party. Our local eateries are always grateful for your support!

Nauvoo does not have a full grocery store. Dollar General and Casey's Gas Station offer some grocery items, but, for a wider selection, you'll need to travel to Carthage, Keokuk, Fort Madison, or Burlington. If you're passing through any of these towns on your way to Nauvoo you can stop and stock up, saving you a separate trip.

For larger groups or events, catering is a convenient option. Several local restaurants offer catering services or box lunches that can be ordered in advance to ensure your group's dining needs are met.

Where to Stay?

Nauvoo offers a wide variety of lodging options to suit any traveler. Whether visiting with large groups or traveling solo, our hotels provide comfortable accommodations. If you're seeking a more intimate experience, there are charming bed-and-breakfast options, offering cozy rooms and delicious meals.

For families or those planning a longer stay, Nauvoo has a variety of homes available for rent. Many of these properties can accommodate large families and include full kitchens, making your stay even more homey. Some rentals offer beautiful temple views, and a few are actual historic pioneer homes.

If you're craving an outdoor adventure, Nauvoo has plenty of camping options. Whether you're looking for tent camping, RV spots, or camper accommodations, you'll find the perfect site from which to enjoy the natural beauty of Nauvoo.

What to do?

There's something exciting happening practically every month! Throughout the year, you will find many events sponsored by a variety of groups in Nauvoo. From the Nauvoo Pageants in July to the Grape Festival over Labor Day weekend, and the Scarecrow Stroll and Pumpkin Walk in October, there's truly something for everyone. Don't miss the Untold Stories event in February, and be sure to check our Facebook page for updates on happenings in town.

With so many historical sites to explore, you'll want to plan to visit for several days if you hope to see them all. Be sure to check out our Itineraries page to help plan your Nauvoo trip. And, of course, don't forget to explore our charming downtown shopping area, with a diverse selection of stores to suit all tastes.

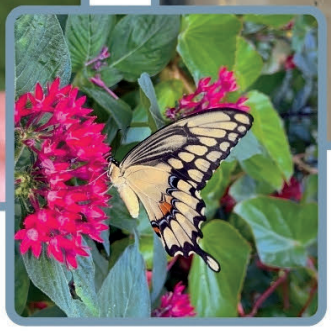
What about the bugs?

One of the most common comments from visitors to Nauvoo is about the variety of bugs! The local insect population can be surprising if you're not used to it. The most unusual of these bugs is the mayfly. These short-lived, messy insects appear in large numbers a couple of times a year, typically in the summer. They only live for one day, but during their brief appearance, they are everywhere. Though they can appear overwhelming, they are completely harmless.

In the summer, mosquitoes are prevalent, and, after dark, it's recommended to use bug spray. During the day, you may also encounter biting gnats. These are repelled by vanilla or specialized gnat sprays; regular bug spray doesn't deter them.

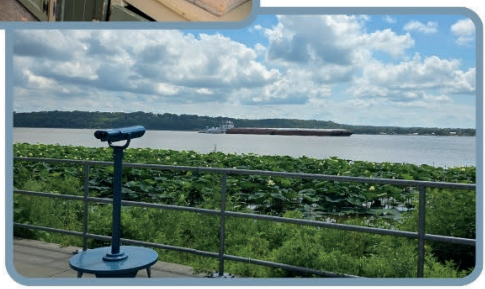
And don't forget about chiggers, which live in grassy areas and can cause an itchy rash. If you're planning a picnic, it's a good idea to use a blanket and to avoid sitting on the grass for long periods.

But not all bugs are unwelcome! Our favorite is the lightning bug, or firefly. Watching them light up a summer evening is pure magic and one of the most enchanting sights you will experience in Nauvoo.



Why Nauvoo?

Nauvoo, Illinois is a charming river town rich in history, faith, and natural beauty. Visitors are drawn to its well-preserved 19th-century architecture, vibrant religious heritage, and scenic location along the Mississippi River. The town offers a unique blend of historical exploration and modern comforts: Tour museums by day, then relax at one of the area's award-winning wineries in the evening. Nauvoo also features a variety of welcoming places to stay, from cozy bed-and-breakfasts and historic inns to family-friendly vacation rentals. Whether you're interested in history, culture, wine tasting, or simply a peaceful retreat, Nauvoo invites you to slow down and enjoy its timeless charm.



NAUVOO museum city