



FUN IN THE FALL

EXPLORE SOUTHERNMOST ILLINOIS THIS SEASON!

LET'S GO >>

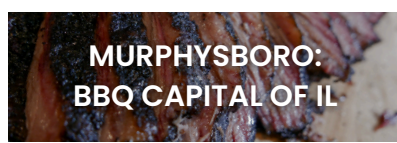
Fall in Southernmost Illinois is bursting with color, flavor, and festive fun! Cool hikes through golden forests to harvest festivals and cozy winery patios, there's no better time to explore all our region has to offer.



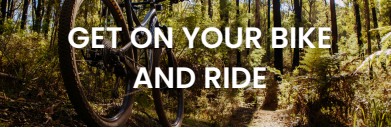
APPLE HARVEST SEASON IS HERE



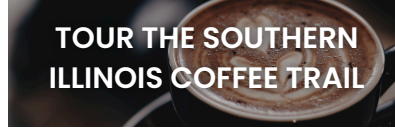
PUMPKIN PICKING 101



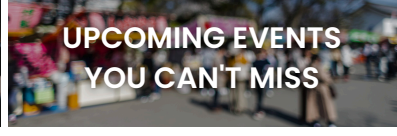
MURPHYSBORO: BBQ CAPITAL OF IL



GET ON YOUR BIKE AND RIDE



TOUR THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS COFFEE TRAIL



UPCOMING EVENTS YOU CAN'T MISS

CRISP, SWEET, AND LOCAL: APPLE SEASON IS HERE!

Nothing says fall in Southernmost Illinois like the arrival of fresh, local **apples**. Celebrate the season by stocking up on crisp, flavorful varieties, sipping fresh-pressed cider, and savoring homemade apple treats at local orchards!

Flamm Orchards in **Cobden** is known for its farm store offering a delightful lineup of seasonal treats. Rendleman Orchards in **Alto Pass** pairs gorgeous orchard views with fresh apples, cider slushies, and other seasonal produce. Mileur Orchard in **Murphysboro** offers delicious apples, homemade baked goods, and a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere.

Apple Festival is a four-day event in downtown Murphysboro featuring free entertainment, carnival rides, pageants, food trucks, and apple-themed treats. Take part in the fun festivities from September 10-13, 2025.

ORCHARDS IN SOUTHERNMOST IL >

PUMPKIN PICKING 101: FINDING THE PERFECT PICK

Whether you're carving, painting, decorating, or baking it, choosing the perfect pumpkin makes all the difference. Here are some tips to use when searching for your favorite falltime gourd:



Choose a pumpkin that feels heavy for its size and has a hard skin.



A sturdy, green stem means the pumpkin is fresh + will last longer.



Find a size suitable for carving. Go smaller if it will be used for cooking.



Carry gently and avoid dragging pumpkins on the ground.

Ready to get picking? Rendleman Orchards features an expansive **U-Pick Pumpkin Patch** that is open from late September through October.

U-PICK PUMPKIN PATCH INFO >



MURPHYSBORO, IL: WHERE BBQ REIGNS SUPREME

Murphysboro is one of the top BBQ destinations in the US, home to legendary pit masters and the city's nationally recognized cook-off: Praise the Lard. The cook-off, hosted by **17th Street BBQ**, brings BBQing teams from across the country together to compete for coveted titles and share deliciously cooked meats.

Pat Burke, founder and owner of **Pat's BBQ and Catering**, has won 182 Grand Championships, including three Grand World Championships for his BBQ skills.

17th Street, Pat's, and all the other BBQ establishments that have made Murphysboro their home have earned recognition for contributing greatly to the economy in Murphysboro and in the entire state of Illinois.

SMELL WHAT'S COOKIN' IN MURPHYSBORO >

TWO WHEELS AND TONS OF FUN: EXPLORE SHAWNEE FOREST COUNTRY ON A BICYCLE!

Crisp air, colorful foliage, and winding trails make every bike ride a scenic adventure. From Tunnel Hill State Trail to the Touch of Nature bike trails and all the Shawnee Forest Country in between, there's a route for every skill level. Whether you're a casual rider or a seasoned cyclist, fall in Southern Illinois is made for two wheels and breathtaking views.

EXPLORE THE TUNNEL HILL STATE TRAIL >



GET YOUR CAFFEINE FIX ALONG THE COFFEE TRAIL

Back by popular demand, the **Southern Illinois Coffee Trail** is brewing up another season, now running even longer from August 1 through December 31. With over 60 coffee shops across 450 miles, it's the perfect excuse to pair your adventures with the perfect cup. Enjoy iced coffee after a sunny hike, sip something warm on a crisp fall morning, and take advantage of exclusive discounts and perks along the way.

GET YOUR COFFEE TRAIL PASSPORT >

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

- 9/6 HARVEST FESTIVAL @ ALTO VINEYARDS
- 9/11 MURPHYSBORO APPLE FESTIVAL
- 9/18 PRAISE THE LARD BBQ COOKOFF
- 9/26 WINEMAKER DINNER @ FEATHER HILLS
- 10/4 BIG MUDDY MONSTER BREW FEST
- 10/4 SHAWNEE SASQUATCH FESTIVAL
- 10/10 LITTLE GRASSY GETDOWN
- 11/7 WINE + FOOD PAIRING WEEKEND
- 11/13 CHRISTMAS BARN SALE TRAIL
- 11/21 THE BUFFALO TRO @ TOUCH OF NATURE



EXPLORE MORE LOCAL EVENTS >

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