



# FIND WINTER WONDER

## EXPLORE SOUTHERNMOST ILLINOIS THIS SEASON!

LET'S GO >>

Winter has arrived in Southernmost Illinois, and with it comes a season full of cozy getaways, festive events, and breathtaking scenery. Whether you're chasing frosty forest trails, savoring local flavors, or exploring charming small towns, there's no shortage of ways to make the most of winter in Shawnee Forest Country.

In this newsletter:

ROAM FOR GNOMES  
IN GIANT CITY

GET COZY WITH  
A CABIN ESCAPE

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EXPERIENCES

HIKING IN THE  
WINTER

SIP & SAVOR:  
WINTER FLAVORS

UPCOMING EVENTS  
YOU CAN'T MISS



### THE GNOME ROAM IS ON! 🧝

Tucked in the stunning Shawnee National Forest, [Giant City State Park](#) is a hidden gem offering a unique experience for outdoor enthusiasts, families, and light adventure travelers: the wintertime **Gnome Roam**!

The Gnome Roam invites visitors to explore seven different trails while searching for whimsical winter gnomes scattered along the trails. The park provides a magical setting for adventure seekers from December 1st through February 28th when the Gnomes are on the trails.

Snap a photo of each Gnome you find, then take those photos to the [Giant City Visitor Center](#) for a cool, collectable patch!

SPOT THE GNOMES >



### BOOK A COZY CABIN ESCAPE 🏠

There's no better way to experience winter in Southernmost Illinois than with a cabin stay surrounded by nature. From rustic hideaways to luxury lodges with fireplaces and hot tubs, cabin and vacation rentals offer the perfect blend of relaxation and adventure.

Save 10% on a 2-night or more stay at select lodging during December through February with the code: GnomeRoam at the following locations:

[Southern Illinois Vacation Rentals](#)  
[The Dome at Blueberry Hill](#)  
[Oak Grove Cabins](#)  
[The Cabin at Mt. Glen](#)

[Windy Hill Acres Inn](#)  
[Rocky Comfort Cabins](#)  
[Shawnee Hills Hideaway](#)

BOOK YOUR ESCAPE >

### IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE SEASON 🎄

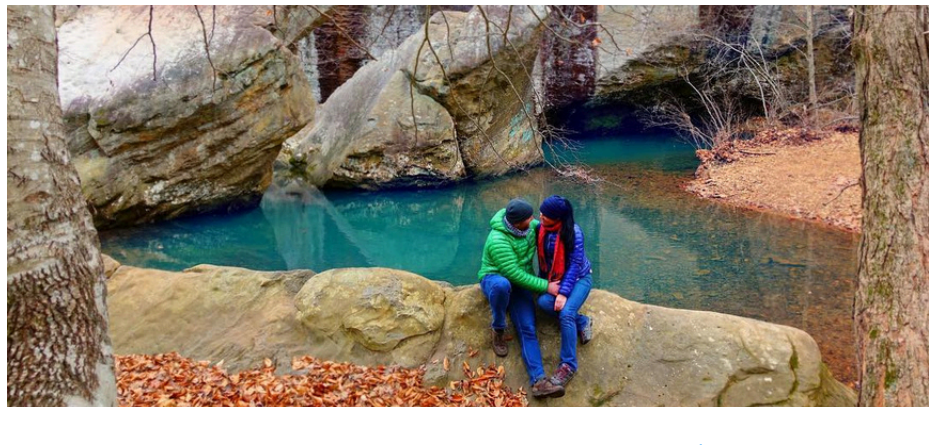


Find your festive spirit with these unique Southernmost Illinois experiences!

[Clad & Cordon Vineyard](#) near Creal Springs offers magical igloo rentals built for comfort, quality time, and taking in the winter atmosphere. Igloos are heated and seat 8, and include blankets, a Bluetooth speaker for music, and a complimentary charcuterie board.

Looking for the perfect tree to light up your home? Visit [Allen Farm](#) to pick your favorite from the lot. Or, if you're more adventurous, harvest your tree by hand in the Shawnee National Forest! Before you go, you must [purchase a permit](#) to cut an Eastern Red Cedar, and be sure to read all tips and regulations!

MORE WINTER EXPERIENCES >



### SHAWNEE FOREST WINTER HIKES ❄️

Winter is a great time to enjoy the quieter side of Shawnee Forest country. The cooler temperatures mean no bugs, and the trees are bare, allowing you to see much further into the forests. Bluffs hidden behind the summer foliage emerge dramatically into sight.

Hiking is available year-round, and winter offers a peacefulness that no other season can. If you are really lucky, the waterfalls will be flowing or frozen, either sight is beautiful!

If you don't want to explore on your own, go with a guide! [Hiking with Shawn](#) or [Bart Lane's guided hikes](#) are great options when looking to explore something new with a seasoned hiker.

WHERE TO HIKE IN SHAWNEE FOREST COUNTRY >



### SIP AND SAVOR WINTER FLAVORS 🍷

There's no better way to warm up after a frosty hike or day of exploring than with tastes of Southernmost Illinois. Cozy coffee shops, local wineries, and craft breweries are ready to welcome you in from the cold with seasonal favorites and regional flair.

Follow the [Southern Illinois Coffee Trail](#), running through December, and enjoy exclusive discounts and perks at more than 60 stops spread across 450 scenic miles.

Wineries, breweries, and distilleries throughout the region offer a perfect end to a winter afternoon. Sip mulled wine and warm sangrias in snow-covered vineyards or indulge in dark ales, stouts, and beers in the company of great people.

FIND BREWERIES, WINERIES + MORE >

### UPCOMING EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

- 12/4 CHRISTMAS IN THE COURTYARD
- 12/5 MURPHYSBORO TREE LIGHTING
- 12/6 CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE
- 12/6 LIGHTS FANTASTIC PARADE
- 12/7 CAROLS AT CANDLELIGHT
- 12/13 GENERAL LOGAN CHRISTMAS STROLL
- 12/13 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
- 12/14 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS OPRY
- 12/19 CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE
- 3/6 WINE + FOOD PAIRING WEEKEND



EXPLORE MORE LOCAL EVENTS >

There's all this and more in Southernmost Illinois! Plan your perfect winter getaway, weekend adventure, or week-long holiday vacation by visiting [southernmostillinois.com](#).

## #YESSITB

Tag us on your posts and use #yesITB to be featured on our social pages and future newsletters!

WERE YOU FORWARDED THIS EMAIL?  
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LET'S GO >>

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

[Take the survey >](#)