

MT. VERNON
ILLINOIS

VISITORS GUIDE



Big Spring
Carnival



Cedarhurst Center
for the Arts



618 Axe
Bar & Grill



Live
Music



Parade
& Festivals

CREATIVITY IS CALLING

Welcome VISITOR

We're delighted to have you in Mt. Vernon — a city that celebrates culture, creativity, and community spirit. Whether you're here for a weekend getaway, visiting family, or stopping in for business, there's plenty to experience. Explore our charming downtown, filled with unique shops, inviting restaurants, and welcoming outdoor spaces. Don't miss the self-guided sculpture tour or a visit to **Cedarhurst Center for the Arts**, where art, nature, and culture collide.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find plenty to enjoy in our parks. **The Commons** downtown is a perfect spot to unwind and take in the sunset. We also recommend **Veterans Memorial Park** for picnics, family gatherings, and leisurely strolls. Experience the creativity of our community through festivals and events like **Friday's Food & Art**, **Fall Fest**, and **The Lights**. No matter the season, you'll find live music, great food, and warm, local hospitality around every corner.

As you explore Mt. Vernon, you'll discover our greatest asset is our people. Their warmth and kindness make every visitor feel at home. Enjoy your stay, and don't hesitate to reach out to our team if you need anything. We hope you leave with wonderful memories — and plans to visit again soon.

Warm regards,
Angela Schrum
Executive Director,
Mt. Vernon Tourism

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ALL ABOUT *The Arts*



LIVING CYCLE
YEARS IN THE MAKING
October 4, 2023 at January 1, 2024
EXHIBIT SPONSORS: Hunt and Donna Bender



Creativity is our heartbeat, a pulse that can be seen at the **Cedarhurst Center for the Arts** — home to one of the finest outdoor contemporary sculpture collections in the U.S. — and felt simply by walking around our vibrant streets.

Our **Art in the City Trail** is a celebration of public art and our creative spirit. Explore 20 iconic sculptures, unique installations, and inspiring displays located throughout town that bring our city to life.



Astral
Dance



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SEE THE FULL ART
IN THE CITY TRAIL.

TAKE A TRIP TO *the Past*



Jefferson County
Historical Village



Appellate
Courthouse



Jefferson County
Historical Village



C.E. Brehm Memorial
Public Library

While Mt. Vernon's roots extend deep into the past, it's always been a place for progress. Take a moment for quiet reflection at the elegantly built **Appellate Courthouse**, where President Abraham Lincoln tried a case. Investigate your own roots at the **C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library**, a must-visit destination for those researching genealogy.

To truly immerse yourself in our heritage, stroll through the **Jefferson County Historical Village**, where authentic, pioneer-era log cabins, a calaboose, and a one-room schoolhouse await. While learning about our past, visit the **Hall of Honor & Military Museum at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport**, a moving tribute to the brave people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, featuring artifacts, medals, and personal stories spanning generations.



THE GREAT *Outdoors*

One of the best ways to enjoy Mt. Vernon is to get outside and experience it!

PARKS & REC

From casual picnics to exciting festivals, our parks set the scene for an afternoon full of fun! At the heart of downtown Mt. Vernon, **The Commons** offers a welcoming green space to unwind or tune in to special events. Let the kids burn some energy on the playgrounds at **Veterans Memorial Park** and take in the scenery alongside a beautiful six-acre lake. On those hot summer days, cool down on the lazy river or zip down water slides at the **Aquatic Zoo Water Park**.

Rend Lake Recreation Area is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise with 160 miles of shoreline for boating and swimming, 20 miles of paved hiking and biking paths, and direct access to the **Wayne Fitzgerrell State Recreation Area**. An abundance of wildlife is perfect for anglers and animal enthusiasts alike.

GOLF

Hit the links at one of our gorgeous golf courses. Just minutes from downtown, **Indian Hills Golf Course** is the perfect spot for golfers of all skill levels to sneak in a quick round or enjoy a peaceful day on the greens. Challenge yourself at the scenic **Green Hills Golf Club** for a top-tier round. Throw in some extra fun with a round at **Rend Lake Golf Resort** about 20 minutes south of Mt. Vernon.

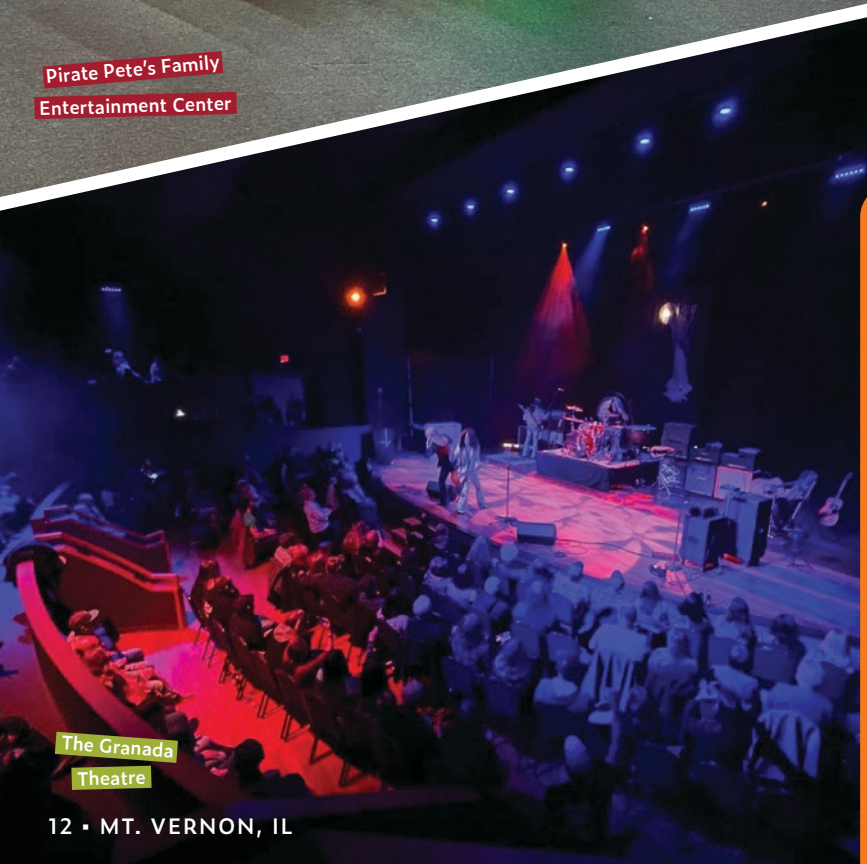
FARM EXPERIENCES

Add a little agritourism to the itinerary. Juicy blueberries are ripe for the picking at **Martin's Nest Blueberry Farm** mid-June through mid-July. Harvest an abundance of blackberries or create your own dazzling bouquet from 32 acres of native wildflower fields at **Blackberry Hollow Farms**.

When fall rolls around, **Marlow's Pumpkin Patch** is a fun and festive delight for people of all ages with a vibrant pumpkin patch, adult- and toddler-friendly corn mazes, a 30-foot slide repurposed from a grain silo, mini golf, and more. For a blend of traditional agriculture and modern fiber arts, the **Bernard Family Farm** is a must-visit. Take classes in fiber arts and meet the animals, including alpacas, Babydoll Southdown sheep, and English Angora rabbits, which make the art possible.



Pirate Pete's Family
Entertainment Center



The Granada
Theatre

INDOOR Fun

Cedarhurst Center
for the Arts

Travel
ake an
REAL
where i
home
EARTH
every



A rainy day doesn't stop the fun around here! Keep the good times rolling at **Nu Bowl Lanes** or test your aim in axe-throwing at **618 AXE Bar & Grill**. Raise the stakes at **R&J Tactical Lazer Tag**, complete with obstacles and hiding spots for an immersive experience, or visit **Pirate Pete's Family Entertainment Center**, Mt. Vernon's newest adventure zone.

Puzzlers, card collectors, and board game lovers will flock to **King City Games** for its welcoming atmosphere and unique finds. End the night with a live show at **The Granada Theatre**, a beautifully restored 1930s Art Deco landmark in the heart of downtown Mt. Vernon. Foster a creative spirit at the **Cedarhurst Center for the Arts** and nourish curious minds at the **C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library** for an afternoon of cultural enrichment.

FESTIVALS & Events

PawFest



SEASONAL EVENTS

SUMMER

Start summer on a sweet note at **Strawberry Festival**, a celebration of all things strawberry, including shortcake, treats, crafts, music, and more! Sip the best of our region's beers at the **Mt. Vernon Brewers Festival** or meet your new best friend at **PawFest**.

Celebrate Independence Day with a bang at the **July 4th Salute to Freedom** festival. Later in the summer, keep your eyes on the sky during the **Midwest Aviation Expo** at the **Mt. Vernon Outland Airport**.

FALL

Roll through for the **Ironclad Art** festival, an homage to motorcycle art, metal, and industrial creativity.

Take a trip back in time during **Heritage Festival** at the **Jefferson County Historical Village**. Experience vintage crafts, period demonstrations, and educational activities.

For one of the biggest highlights of the fall season, **Mt. Vernon Fall Fest** transforms the heart of downtown into a vibrant display of community spirit and creativity with live performances, a parade, and delicious food.

Midwest
Aviation Expo



Savage - Upcycled
Fashion Show

WINTER

Witness stunning feats of creativity at the **Savage - Upcycled Fashion Show**, where all outfits on the runway are entirely designed from repurposed materials.

Get in the holiday spirit with **The Lights at Cedarhurst**.

What is usually the grounds of the **Cedarhurst Center for the Arts** transforms into a winter wonderland of glowing lights and spirit-lifting installations.

SPRING

With warmer weather just around the corner, the **Herb & Garden Show** helps green thumbs get into gear for planting season with plants, gardening tools, décor, and expert presentations.

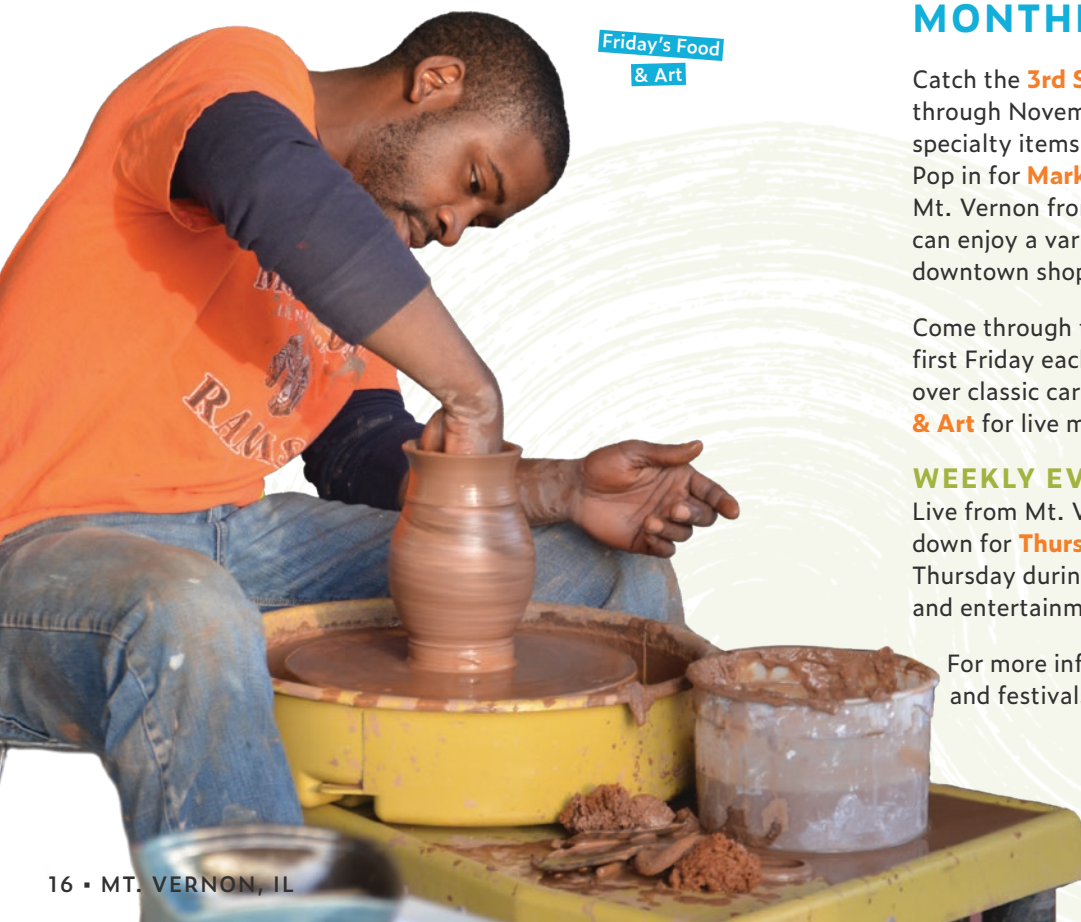




Market Days &
Hop the Shops



Kingsmen
Cruise-In



Friday's Food
& Art

MONTHLY EVENTS

Catch the **3rd Saturday Flea Market**, held March through November, where you can browse collectibles, specialty items, crafts, and more from local vendors. Pop in for **Market Days & Hop the Shops** in downtown Mt. Vernon from March through August, where you can enjoy a variety of vendors, live entertainment, and downtown shops.

Come through for the **Kingsmen Cruise-In**, held the first Friday each month, May through October, to ogle over classic cars before you stop over at **Friday's Food & Art** for live music, food, and artist showcases.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Live from Mt. Vernon, it's Thursday night! Come on down for **Thursday Night Live** at **Cedarhurst** every Thursday during the summer months for live music and entertainment.

For more information about Mt. Vernon events and festivals, visit enjoymtvernon.com.

BITES & Sips

You've seen our creativity, now taste it. Mt. Vernon offers a rich array of eateries, from fast casual to award-winning dining.

Drop in at **Double Overtime Grill** for casual fine dining that offers American cuisine with a Southern Illinois flair. Its laid-back atmosphere is an ideal fit for family dinners while the full bar makes for lively group get-togethers.

Treat your tastebuds at **Casa Raya Mexican Restaurant & Taqueria** with authentic, time-honored Mexican dishes that blend traditional spices with locally sourced ingredients. Add a hand-crafted margarita or cocktail to sip between every savory bite.



RARE
Chop House



**Mexican Restaurant
& Taqueria**



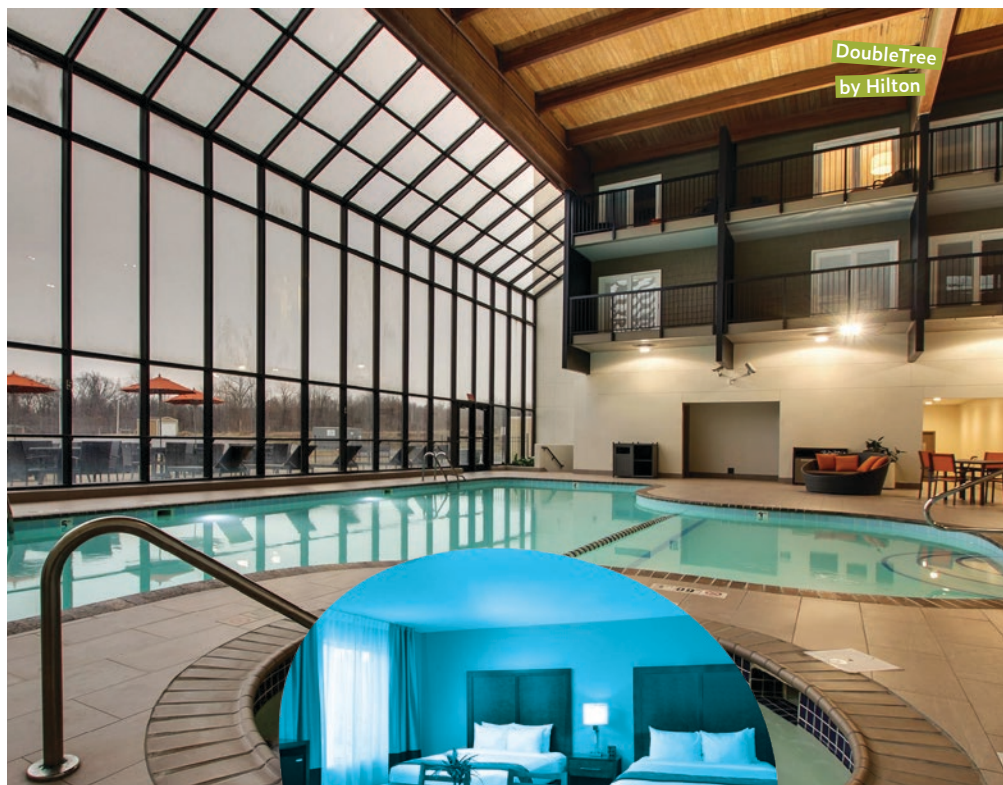
Double
Overtime Grill

Follow the mouth-watering smell of smoked meat over to **The Frosty Mug** for delectable barbecue dinner entrees served with a side of live music and homey hospitality.

For a taste of the finer things in life, **RARE Chop House** serves up an exquisite menu, tastefully selected wines, and an elevated atmosphere. Just one bite will tell you exactly why they won the Enjoy Illinois Delicious Destination Award from the Illinois Office of Tourism.



FOR A COMPLETE
RESTAURANT GUIDE,
SCAN THE QR CODE.



PLACES to Stay

There's a lot to experience here in Mt. Vernon. Instead of packing it all into one day, we have a collection of hotels, conveniently located near I-57 and I-64, that are the perfect place to rest your head and extend your stay.

For easy, breezy trips, check into the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**. Start the day with a complimentary hot breakfast buffet and unwind in the evening with a dip in the heated, saltwater pool.

The **DoubleTree by Hilton** offers a four-star experience, complete with an on-site restaurant and bar, a large, indoor, heated pool, meeting and event space, and comfortable rooms. Don't forget to grab a warm cookie at check-in!

For larger groups, **America's Best Value Inn**, **Comfort Suites**, **Days Inn**, **Drury Plaza Hotel**, and the **Fairfield Inn & Suites** provide plenty of rooms for your party (pets included at select locations) to relax and unwind.

If you're seeking no-frills, budget-friendly options, **Motel 6**, **Quality Inn**, **Royal Inn**, and **Super 8 by Wyndham** offer all the essentials, including free Wi-Fi, for a comfortable stay.

FIND THE *Right Spot*

FOR YOUR STAY

HOTEL	ROOMS	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE	PETS	GYM	POOL	BREAK-FAST
America's Best Inn	46	222 S. 44th St.	(618) 244-4343	abvi.com				
Comfort Suites	80	404 S. 44th St.	(618) 244-2700	choicehotels.com			Indoor	
Days Inn	48	205 Potomac Blvd.	(618) 241-0160	daysinn.com			Indoor	
DoubleTree by Hilton	200	222 Potomac Blvd.	(618) 244-7100	doubletree.hilton.com			Indoor	
Drury Plaza Hotel	180	145 N. 44th St.	(618) 246-5201	druryhotels.com			Indoor/ Outdoor	
Fairfield Inn & Suites	70	217 Potomac Blvd.	(618) 244-2300	fairfieldinn.com/mvnfi			Indoor	
Holiday Inn Express	117	300 Potomac Blvd.	(618) 242-6710	hiexpress.com			Indoor	
Motel 6	80	220 S. 44th St.	(618) 213-9349	motel6.com				
Quality Inn	63	201 Potomac Blvd.	(618) 270-3848	qualityinn.com			Indoor	
Royal Inn	37	750 S. 10th St.	(618) 244-3224	motelroyalinn.com				
Super 8 Motel	60	401 S. 44th St.	(618) 241-0363	super8.com				



Shopping

Calling all retail therapy enthusiasts and thrift store thrill seekers! Mt. Vernon gives a whole new definition to shopping sprees. From stylish boutiques to curated consignment stores, shoppers will delight in unique finds and those have-to-have-them goods for yourself, your home, and anyone on your shopping list.

RESALE SHOPS

Rejoice in the thrill of the hunt with our **Mt. Vernon Resale Trail**. This is your all-access map to discovering Mt. Vernon's extensive resale, thrift, and consignment stores. From vintage fashion to treasured collectibles, this guide puts you on the path toward hidden gems and truly one-of-a-kind finds.

BOUTIQUE & SPECIALTY SHOPS

To help you find all our local specialty shops, we've created the **Mt. Vernon Boutique & Specialty Shop Trail**. This handy guide charts a thoughtfully designed journey through our unique stores across town. Handcrafted goods, shop tools, one-of-a-kind gifts, bookstores, and more can be found along this path. Give yourself plenty of time to explore more than 40 locally owned boutiques, specialty, and resale shops.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
EXPLORE THESE TRAILS
AND MORE SHOPPING
EXPERIENCES.

THE MAKINGS OF A *Masterpiece*

In a city that's all about Creativity Redefined, consider this guide your painter's palette. From our vibrant downtown to the rich scenery of our outdoors, each section in here is a unique hue to color an unforgettable Mt. Vernon experience. We've given you a preview of life here, but the imagination can only go so far. So, grab your fishing gear, lace up your sneakers for the Art In the City Trail, and be ready to snap plenty of pics. Mt. Vernon has all the makings for a trip that'll look and feel like a masterpiece.

STOP BY OUR VISITORS CENTER!

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