LEARNING TRIPS

Learning trips are educational travel experiences that enable you to interact with experts who offer behind-the-scenes looks at area businesses, regional attractions, and domestic/international destinations.

On OLLI trips, you get to investigate and explore with your peers while receiving top-notch customer service – all travel arrangements are organized by staff so you can focus on learning and fun. All land excursions travel via our comfortable, easy-access OLLI shuttles or by charter coach.

To make your trip even more enjoyable, please note:

- All learning trip times in this brochure are approximate and subject to change. Please refer to your confirmation handout (mailed upon registration) for specific departure, tour, and arrival times.

- Many of our learning trips require walking and standing in various terrains and environments. To ensure your safety and to respect our hosts’ regulations, everyone is required to wear closed-toed shoes on all our trips.

- Each learning trip includes an activity level symbol. Before you register, make sure the activity level matches your abilities. This will ensure an enjoyable trip for you and those who travel with you.

1. **Russian Ethnic Dinner with Angela Weck**
   - **Monday, October 9, 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.**
   - OLLI’s ethnic dinner is back! This season, we invite you to celebrate Russian culture with an evening at Bradley University’s Michel Student Center ballrooms. Angela Weck, adjunct instructor for international studies at Bradley and frequent OLLI instructor and facilitator, will share her insights about the country while we enjoy authentic Russian cuisine. The menu will feature blini with smoked salmon and cream fraiche, Russian vinaigrette salad with beets, carrots, and potatoes, beef stroganoff over egg noodles and rye bread, and Russian cream with fresh berries for dessert. Beer, wine, and vodka will be available at the cash bar.
   - $44 – includes dinner, gratuities, and presentation.
   - Transportation not provided – meet us there!

2. **Draper Glass at Studios on Sheridan**
   - **Monday, October 23, 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
   - We’ll be treated to a private glass blowing demonstration and presentation with Jeremie Draper of J. Draper Glass in the Studios on Sheridan. Located in the former Sunbeam Bakery at Sheridan and Main streets, the studio resides in a building that has been transformed into a 22,000 square-foot haven for local artists to display their works and create new art in private studios. During the demonstration, Draper will discuss hot glass as a studio movement in America and will cultivate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the art of hand blown glass.
   - $38 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, presentation fees, and shuttle transportation.

LOCAL TRIPS

Get to know your community on these half-day excursions to local sites. The price includes meal, shuttle transportation, entrance fees, and tour guides. Detailed itineraries are mailed upon registration. Register early – these trips are usually limited to 28 and fill quickly. Please note: all times listed are approximate and subject to change.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

1. **Level 1**
   - Enter/exit vehicle with minimal assistance, climb some stairs, stand for up to an hour, and walk a few blocks indoors or out.

2. **Level 2**
   - Stand for over an hour, climb some flights of stairs, and walk on uneven surfaces, plus all Level 1 requirements.

3. **Level 3**
   - Be able to stand and walk for over 2 hours with minimal chance for sitting, be active for an extended period of time, be healthy, mobile, and able to participate in 3-5 hours of daily physical activity, plus all Level 1 and 2 requirements.

4. **Level 4**
   - Be able to participate in extended walking and standing beyond normal trip expectations, be able to participate in 6 hours of moderate physical activity, plus all Level 1, 2, and 3 requirements.

OLLI members pose for a group photo in front of a C-130 cargo aircraft during a recent tour of the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, in Peoria.
3. Peoria Sculptures and Monuments Tour  
**Friday, October 27, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
In honor of the late Jim Ludwig, who originally designed this trip, we are offering the popular tour once again. OLLI volunteer John Amdall has researched Jim’s notes and will serve as our guide. Ranging from Vanna Whitewall to Mother Teresa; from religious figures to a famous agnostic; from silly to serious; we will see a surprisingly rich and varied collection of public sculpture in plain sight, but that we don’t really notice. On this tour we’ll drive by dozens, stop at a few, and hear some history and anecdotes about treasures of the community. $35 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

4. Catholic Diocese and St. Mary’s Cathedral  
**Monday, November 6, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**
The Catholic Diocese of Peoria hosts two museums in the Spalding Pastoral Center: the Diocesan Museum and the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Museum. Our private, guided tour will feature two exhibits: the story of Fulton Sheen’s life, work, and cause for canonization; and the life of the First Bishop of Diocese of Peoria John Lancaster Spalding. We will also have the opportunity to tour the newly renovated St. Mary’s Cathedral, which will include a visit to the Saint Thomas More Chapel to view the collection of relics, and to the Lady Chapel with its own unique stories, such as Golden Roses of St. Térèse. After the tour, we will enjoy a catered lunch in the Spalding Center while viewing a movie (made in Peoria) about the life of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Each participant will also receive a gift blessed by Bishop Jenky. $28 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, presentation, gift, and shuttle transportation

5. Peoria County Coroner  
**Tuesday, November 14, 11:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
On this learning trip, we’ll meet the new Peoria County Coroner, Jamie Harwood, an elected official charged with investigating sudden, unusual, or traumatic deaths and assuring a scientific, forensic investigation is completed. Our tour will include a visit with the staff, a discussion about death investigations, what a typical day is like, a tour of the autopsy room and morgue, and a question and answer period. Harwood, a Certified Forensic Nurse, will also discuss how the office provides advocacy for the survivors, justice for the deceased, and a determination of cause and manner of death with the most efficient, evidenced-based, best practice methods. $25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

6. Caterpillar Inc. Archives  
**Friday, September 8, 11:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
Join OLLI as we peek inside the Caterpillar Archives, located in a state-of-the-art, climate controlled facility in Mossville. Our host, Caterpillar Heritage Services curator and historian Lee C. Fosburgh, will provide an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour and presentation. The archives contain a collection of six football fields’ worth of records, photographs, films, and objects documenting the world’s leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment. During our visit, we will also get a look at an antique tractor that is arguably one of the most important artifacts in the collection. $30 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

7. Luthy Botanical Garden  
**Monday, September 11, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**
Prepare for the blazing colors of fall as OLLI goes behind the scenes at Luthy Botanical Garden. Garden manager Bob Streitmatter, a frequent OLLI instructor, will present Designing for Autumn, during which we’ll learn just what plants “Play in Peoria.” During our visit, we’ll explore the garden, which encompasses five acres and offers over a dozen theme gardens (including woodland, rose, and hosta glade gardens), a conservatory, a rotating sculpture exhibit, and magnificent floral displays. Participants will also have an opportunity to learn more about some of the initiatives taken to make the garden greener through energy and water conservation. $32 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

8. Big Horse Vineyards  
**Thursday, September 14, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
Join OLLI as we travel to Lewistown for a visit to Big Horse Vineyards, where the owners grow grapes, make wine, and, most importantly, raise the beautiful and majestic Belgians and Clydesdales, which have been an Archdale family tradition for over 100 years. We’ll take a private tour of the horse stables and vineyards, and view the beautiful lake, vibrant fields, and green rolling meadows. After the tour, we will enjoy a private wine tasting. $35 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

**ACTIVITY LEVEL**
All trips listed in this section may require participants to stand for over an hour, climb some flights of stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, plus all Level 1 requirements.
9. Tree Trimming: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Thursday, September 21, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Every gardener makes decisions for the next generation when pruning a tree. Today’s pruning, or the failure to prune, will determine whether the tree will survive a wind storm 50 or 100 years in the future. Join John Amdall, frequent OLLI instructor, on this walking tour of Bradley’s campus to learn how a few key pruning principals can make all the difference. Amdall will share what he has learned as he points out the many examples of pruning around campus. A handout will be provided to help with your learning journey on tree pruning.

$27 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

10. Photography with Coke Mattingly

Thursday, September 28, 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a hands-on photography shoot! Coke Mattingly, OLLI instructor, will lead us on a Peoria photography adventure. We’ll meet for lunch followed by a short presentation about how to best capture a variety of subjects in the summer sun. Then we’ll head downtown to explore photo possibilities you may never have considered. Coke will assist each participant with tips and techniques while we take photographs. All participants must bring a camera or phone camera to the trip.

$32 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

11. Henderson Funeral Home

Friday, October 6, 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Henderson Funeral Home has offered funeral services to the residents of the Pekin area for more than a century. During this trip, we’ll learn about the history of the family business, how it moved from a Colonial mansion in downtown Pekin to today’s modern facility on the outskirts of town, and how Greg and Marla Henderson are continuing the family tradition of providing compassionate service for loved ones’ final arrangements. Our tour of the new 9,200 square-foot facility will include the 350-seat chapel and dining area with kitchenette for family use during visitations or catered luncheons.

$27 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

12. Echo Valley Meats with Dave Alwan

Tuesday, October 10, 11:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join Dave Alwan, owner of Echo Valley Meats, as he discusses his role as the third generation in the meat business, the cattle business, and farming. In 1998, Dave started his own company because he wanted to make the best hams and smoked sausages. He traveled to Germany and Denmark to be trained by the best and enter the virtual gourmet shopping market. On this trip, we’ll learn all about his retail, wholesale, mail order, and fundraising company specializing in that old-fashioned butcher shop quality. We’ll also learn more about Dave’s appearance on Shark Tank and the phenomenal growth the company has since experienced.

$27 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

13. Midwest Technical Institute

Thursday, October 12, 11:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A recent New York Times article noted that many employers are now working with vocational colleges to provide students with the skills needed for factory workers. On this trip, we’ll learn more about the issue during our tour of Midwest Technical Institute, a year-round post-secondary school providing course offerings in vocational career fields. Our visit to the East Peoria campus will include insight into the eight occupational programs it provides for future welders, heating/air conditioning/appliance repair technicians, medical and dental assistants, medical coders, massage therapists, basic nursing assistants, and pharmacy technicians.

$25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

14. Caterpillar Inc.’s Parts Distribution Headquarters

Friday, October 13, 8:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Morton is the home of Caterpillar Inc.’s Parts Distribution Headquarters, the largest of 21 global Cat Parts Distribution Centers. We’ll enjoy a private tour of the facility and learn how the company delivers the right parts to the right place at the right time by utilizing a high-rise crane system, hands-free voice-pick technology, and goods-to-person stations. We’ll also learn how the Morton facility holds a critical role in a customer’s buying decision, as it handles the support after the sale of the machine.

$27 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

15. LG Seeds Quality Assurance Lab

Monday, October 16, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LG Seeds is part of AgReliant Genetics, LLC, one of the largest independent, seed-only organizations in the United States, producing seeds for corn, soybean, and alfalfa. On this learning trip, we will visit the LG Quality Assurance testing facility in Brimfield and learn how the products are assessed through over 33 different quality tests including warm and cold germination and electrophoresis. We’ll also learn more about the overall lab operations that help provide customers with products of the highest quality.

$28 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation
16. The Cookery with Chef Amanda  
Tuesday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
The Cookery, a Morton cooking school and catering business, is owned by Chef Amanda Pyle, a graduate of and instructor in the ICC Culinary Arts Program with more than 20 years of experience in the food industry. On our visit, we’ll learn more about the classes The Cookery offers on cooking skills that are fun, unique, technique-driven, and designed to take cooking skills to the next level. Chef Amanda will also provide a demonstration that includes a holiday appetizer and dessert, which will include a tasting, of course! $49 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, tasting, fees, and shuttle transportation

17. WTVP Peoria Public Television  
Tuesday, October 24, 11:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Experience a behind-the-scenes look at Peoria’s local public television station as we take a private tour of WTVP’s downtown studio. We’ll learn how the studio was designed by world-renowned studio creators Rees & Associates, how it was engineered to be soundproof and rock-solid against any vibration, and how it features a state-of-the-art lighting system constructed by Grand Stage of Chicago. Participants will also step onto the stage where local programs such as At Issue with H. Wayne Wilson and Consider This with Yvonne Greer are produced. $25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

18. Peoria City Hall  
Thursday, October 26, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Peoria City Hall, recently voted as the “Most Beautiful City Hall in America,” is well known for its priceless art and architecture. Stacy Peterson, Communications Specialist with the City of Peoria, will be our guide as we take a private tour and learn about all the planning, politics, and Peorians involved in constructing the Flemish Renaissance-style building. We’ll see the building’s Italian marble wainscoting, copper cupola bell tower, ornamented stepped gables, and the open atrium rotunda with a stained glass skylight. We will also visit the Council chambers and meet staff who will provide further insight about the city’s headquarters. $25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

19. Peoria Police Department  
Monday, October 30, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
On this trip, we’ll visit the Peoria Police Department and tour the building that has served as its headquarters since 1994. The facility features a 50-seat community/training room, an enclosed sallyport, an in-house crime lab, and locker rooms, shower facilities, and workout space for use by department personnel. During our tour, we will view holding cells, line up rooms, interview rooms, the evidence room, and a museum that highlights equipment, photographs, and evidence collected over the last 80 years. We’ll also visit the adjacent Emergency Communications Center, and observe the trained staff handling emergency calls for all of Peoria County law enforcement, fire, and ambulance services. $25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

20. Peoria County Animal Protection Services (PCAPS)  
Thursday, November 9, 11:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Join OLLI for a private tour of Peoria County’s Animal Protection Services (PCAPS) with Director Bridget Domenighini. During our visit, we’ll have the opportunity to meet four-legged friends available for adoption (or currently receiving care), including dogs, cats, and small or unusual animals. We will also see the recently created Cat Room, where cats available for adoption live as a group. Our tour will also include an overview of volunteer opportunities, animal control laws, issues regarding overpopulation and inhumane care, and how residents can help abandoned, neglected, or abused animals in our own communities. $25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

21. FOLEPI Floatmaking  
Friday, November 10, 9:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Join OLLI for a unique behind-the-scenes look at the East Peoria Festival of Lights parade. You’ll have the chance to see the “Folepi Construction Company” and some of its staff: a merry band of volunteers who design and build the floats. During our tour, we’ll meet some volunteers who work year-round designing, welding, and maintaining the floats (and their 500,000 lights) and learn how the floats evolve from concept to reality. Chamber of Commerce Director Rick Swan will also join us to discuss the latest commercial developments throughout the City of East Peoria. $25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation
22. Midwest Food Bank ① ②
Monday, November 13, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Midwest Food Bank, a faith-based, ecumenical nonprofit organization, was founded in 2003 when the Kieser family began providing food from their family farm in McLean County. Today, the organization serves more than 600 food pantries and organizations throughout the Midwest with warehouses in Bloomington, Peoria, Morton, Peachtree City, and Indianapolis. We’ll tour the Peoria facility and talk with Terri Campion about the donations, distributions, and volunteers that allow Midwest Food Bank to feed more than 225,000 people each month. We’ll even get “hands-on” during our visit to help prepare food for a delivery.
$27 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

23. OSF Rehabilitation Services ① ②
Thursday, November 16, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
We will tour the Sheridan Avenue location and learn more about OSF’s occupational and physical therapy programs and the Adaptive Driving School (a driving evaluation and training program). We will learn about other programs offered by OSF Rehabilitation Services and gain insight how therapy works to reduce fall risk and how exercise can slow and prevent many aging processes. With 17 clinic locations, OSF Rehabilitation Services continues to expand and be a prominent leader in the healthcare industry.
$25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

24. Grand View Alzheimer’s Special Care Center ① ②
Friday, November 17, 9:15 am – 1:45 p.m.
Grand View Alzheimer’s Special Care Center is one of the newest assisted living care facilities in our community. During our tour, we’ll learn how the staff approaches memory care and dementia while incorporating each resident’s life story, interests, and preferences into a unique support plan. Our tour will also include information about how residents can choose between long-term assisted living arrangements and short-term respite care, the different forms of dementia, and what to do when a loved one has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease.
$25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

25. The Community Festival of Nativities ① ②
Thursday, November 30, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
A nativity scene, also known as a creche, is a special exhibition during the Christmas season of art objects representing the birth of Jesus. The Community Festival of Nativities is an interfaith group of individuals and churches in Peoria providing a free exhibit of nativities and musical performances by local artists. On this trip, we’ll enjoy a private, pre-show tour of the December event that features more than 500 nativities on display from 30 countries. While we visit some of the sites, Monsignor Charles Beebe of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria will provide background and insight about the displays.
$25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation

26. The Mill: A New Artist Colony in the Warehouse District ① ② ③
Friday, September 1, 11:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
When updates to the Murray Building displaced several art studios, Peorians Ted and John Wahlfeld stepped up to offer artists a new space in the Wahlfeld Building, once known as “The Mill.” During our visit, we’ll enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour with Ted Wahlfeld to learn about the history of the building and visit with artists who now work in newly renovated spaces. We’ll also have the opportunity to visit Whiskey City Architectural Salvage, a building occupant that sells everything from old barn siding, doors, and windows, to doorknobs, address numbers, and a cornucopia of other reclaimed odds and ends.
$25 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation
28. Komatsu
Friday, November 3, 9:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Komatsu America is the second-largest manufacturer and supplier of construction equipment on our continent. The Peoria facility is part of the company’s network of 12 plants in North America dedicated to the manufacture, marketing, financing, and distribution of equipment and parts. On this tour, we’ll see a large truck frame welded from start to finish and walk through the assembly line of mining trucks. We will be walking and on our feet for the entire tour. Per Komatsu regulations, it is imperative that you meet the activity level requirements before registering. $25– includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation.

ACTIVITY LEVEL
All trips listed in this section may require participants to participate in extended walking and standing beyond normal trip expectations, participate in 6 hours of moderate physical activity, plus all Level 1, 2, and 3 requirements.

29. Illinois River Biological Station
Thursday, September 7, 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Join OLLI as we travel to Havana to visit with the staff who coordinate the fish and vegetation monitoring and research at the Emiquon Preserve, oversee the zooplankton research project concerning effects of invasive species (Asian carp) on native ecosystems, and various other research programs focusing on large river ecosystems. The trip will include a walking tour of the field station and a hands-on electrofishing demonstration on the Illinois River. We’ll spend part of our tour on a boat, and you may get up close and personal with some wet fish, so please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear! $39 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation.

30. Hot Iron Blacksmith
Thursday, October 19, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
If you haven’t yet had the opportunity to participate in this popular learning trip, here is your chance to tour a modern-day version of a traditional blacksmith shop. Our visit will include an introduction to what a traditional blacksmith may have made 100 years ago, as well as what is currently made for the discriminating home decorator who favors handmade house jewelry made from iron. The blacksmith shop is fully equipped with operating machinery and tools dating from the 19th century. Demonstrations on the use of these will be included in the visit. Participants will be standing throughout the entire trip. $35 – includes lunch, gratuities, tour, and shuttle transportation.

REGIONAL TRIPS

Spend time with OLLI enjoying travel throughout Illinois and nearby states. The price of each trip varies, but includes meal, charter coach transportation (unless otherwise indicated), entrance fees, gratuities, snacks, and tour guides. Detailed itineraries are mailed upon registration. Register early – these trips are usually limited to 40 and fill quickly. Please note: all times listed are approximate and subject to change.

ACTIVITY LEVEL
All trips listed in this section may require participants to stand for over an hour, climb some flights of stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, plus all Level 1 requirements.

31. Art Institute of Chicago with Donna Carr Roberts
Wednesday, September 13, 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Get acquainted – or reacquainted – with the Art Institute of Chicago when we spend a day admiring the collection of the second largest art museum in the United States. We’ll explore the Modern Wing, a 264,000 square-foot addition designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, and its amazing selection of contemporary art. In addition, participants will enjoy a keynote lecture in Rubloff Auditorium, experience docent-led presentations in front of many of the museum’s masterpieces, and watch artist demonstrations throughout the museum. Donna Carr Roberts, Bradley University’s Slane College Artist-in-Residence, will join us to enhance our experience by sharing her artistic insights. $109 – includes museum admissions, presentations, lunch, gratuities, snacks, and charter coach transportation.

You’ll Love
Trip #26 and
Class #28

A docent at Wheels o’ Time gives OLLI a tour of a Rock Island steam locomotive.
32. Hamilton

Wednesday, September 27, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

OLLI members have been eagerly anticipating this trip – and it’s here! Hamilton is the story of one of America’s Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington’s right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation’s first Treasury Secretary. Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B, and Broadway, Hamilton is the story of America then, told by America now. On this trip, we will travel to downtown Chicago for a matinee performance of the musical, preceded by a group lunch near the theatre.

$129 – includes admission fees, tours, lunch, gratuities, snacks, and charter coach transportation.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

All trips listed in this section may require participants to stand and walk for over 2 hours with minimal chance for sitting, be active for an extended period of time, be healthy, mobile, and able to participate in 3-5 hours of daily activity, plus all Level 1 and 2 requirements.

33. Kelleher’s Roots in Iowa with Pat Sullivan

Wednesday, September 6, 6:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m

Peorians know Kelleher’s as a local Irish pub, but on this trip you’ll learn the rest of the story! Join Pat Sullivan, owner of Kelleher’s, as we journey back to the quaint Midwestern town of Elkader, Iowa where the Irish Kelleher family immigrated in the 1700s. We’ll visit highlights along the town’s historic River Walk, including the Carter house, a neoclassic structure of 18 rooms built in the 1850s as a “mirror” or double house for the Carter brothers and their families. We’ll also tour the Opera House, which features unique characteristics such as a horseshoe balcony, ruby glass chandelier, and a period stage curtain advertising Elkader’s past. We’ll also tour the Clayton County Jail, built in 1870, that now serves as a bed and breakfast. Our lunch break will be spent (of course) at a local Irish pub!

$129 – includes admission fees, tours, presentations, lunch, gratuities, snacks, and charter coach transportation.

34. Funks Grove and DESTIHL Brewery

Friday, September 22, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Spend a day with OLLI as we explore the hidden gems (literally) in the small McLean County town of Funks Grove. Bill and Emma Funk will provide a private tour of the Funk Prairie Home and its adjoining Gem Museum, the largest one-owner gem and mineral collection in the world. We’ll partake in a lunch buffet at the Dixie Trucker’s Home, a Route 66 historic site in nearby McLean. In the afternoon, we’ll enjoy a private tour of the new DESTIHL brewery to learn about its history, why the brewmasters boycott bland beer, and get a glimpse (or taste) of what they’ll soon be brewing.

$89 – includes admission fees, tours, lunch, gratuities, snacks, and charter coach transportation.

35. Historic Autos and Swiss Cottage with Jim Wilhelm

Tuesday, October 3, 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Jim Wilhelm, host of WTVP’s Illinois Adventure series, is back by popular demand to accompany us to two unique sites in Rockford. Our first stop will be the 1865 Tinker Swiss Cottage, a rare example of Victorian exotic architecture. In the afternoon, we’ll spend time at the Historic Auto Attractions Museum, where history meets entertainment. In addition to the Batmobile, Elvis’ car and memorabilia, a JFK secret service car, presidential limousines, and a 1953 Corvette, we’ll also view rare memorabilia from the world’s most famous and beloved entertainers. It’s a unique day you won’t want to miss!

$119 – includes museum admissions, presentations, lunch, gratuities, snacks, and charter coach transportation.

36. Illinois State Research and Collections Area with Michael Wiant

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Michael Wiant, Interim Director of the State Museum, Director of Dickson Mounds Museum, and frequent OLLI instructor, will guide us through two Springfield sites dedicated to historical preservation: the Illinois State Museum and the Illinois State Research and Collections Center (RCC). The museum maintains collections of art, history, anthropology, and natural history which are critical resources to its education, research, publication, and exhibition programs. The RCC is a 97,000 square-foot facility that houses the vast collections that range in size from the microscopic to the colossal – from pollen grains to mastodon fossils. This unique trip, highlighted by the amazing insights of Dr. Wiant, will provide a glimpse of the state’s collections, with archaeology, geology, and decorative arts in between.

$129 – includes museum admissions, presentations, lunch, gratuities, snacks, and charter coach transportation.

Love OLLI’s Learning Trips?

Be sure to sign up on page 32 for our weekly email newsletter to stay informed of last-minute “pop-up” trips!