

# PEORIA: AN OVERVIEW

Whether you're writing for sports or event planners, meeting planners, or leisure tourists, you'll find just the story you're looking for in the Peoria Area. We have the best of the Midwest in the vibrant Peoria Area and its numerous surrounding communities—all in a beautiful setting along the Illinois River Valley.

The cities of Peoria and East Peoria boast a riverside downtown with hotels, dining, shopping, festivals, nightlife and culture-providing plenty of options for fun within walking distance. Our picturesque, **outlying towns** are bursting with natural beauty, stimulating cultural experiences, a variety of outdoor recreation hot spots, great entertainment, distinctive restaurants and more.

Our area is rich with history dating all the way back to the 1600's with its discovery by French explorers Joliet and Marquette. We serve as the cultural hub of Central Illinois with a symphony, a ballet, and countless theatres and galleries. We offer affordable, first-class **facilities** for meeting and event planners. And as a sports destination, no one can compare. We currently host major events such as NSA B World Series, Grand National TT Motorcycle Races, and The State Farm Tournament of Champions. Additionally, Peoria is the host site for seven Illinois High School Association (IHSA) sports and activities finals.

We are conveniently located in the heart of the Midwest, right on I-74 and I-39. Additionally, U.S. 24 runs right through our area, which has been named one of only 126 **National Scenic Byways** in the United States. We're only 2-3 hours from the metropolitan areas of Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis. With nearly 5,000 hotel rooms and an **international airport** eight minutes from downtown; the Peoria Area is fun, easily accessible, and a great value.

## CONTACT



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