Calling Bloomington-Normal home is all about being in a great place to live, work and play.

When you live on the original Mother Road at the crossroads of Illinois — where Interstates 39, 55 and 74 intersect — everything you need or want is at your fingertips:

- High quality of life with a lower cost of living
- Easy commutes everywhere
- A variety of great arts, sports and entertainment options
- Air and rail via Central Illinois Regional Airport and Amtrak

So, you don’t ever have to leave home, but if you get that big-city itch once in a while … you’re about 2½ hours from Chicago or St. Louis and less than three from Indianapolis.

Here’s more about BN Great

Education

In addition to two public school districts covering pre-K through high school, nine private schools and two Illinois State University laboratory schools, BN is ranked one of the 10 best college towns in the U.S. These institutions give us definition:

- Illinois State University, the first public university in Illinois and ranked among the top 100 public universities in the nation
- Illinois Wesleyan University ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the nation
- Heartland Community College
- Lincoln College – Normal

Exciting Annual Events

BN offers a lot to choose from, but these are truly unique:

- Illinois Shakespeare Festival, acclaimed one of the 10 best theater festivals in the U.S.
- Gamma Phi Circus
- Sweet Corn Blues Festival
- Lincoln’s Festival on Route 66
- The Chief Del Thomas Annual Fire Truck Parade
Food and Drink
Eating and drinking local is a growing trend, and BN is right in step with a host of unique, locally owned restaurants and craft breweries. Epiphany Farms is a “farm-to-fork” operation serving original dishes to satisfy diverse tastes at four distinct restaurants. You also can dine on steak and seafood while serenaded by piano at Rob Dob’s Restaurant & Bar; go Asian with Mama Sue’s cooking at Thai House; try Indian at Signature India; dig the bold food and drink at the home of Destihl Restaurant & Brew Works; or check out the original Biaggi’s Ristorante Italiano.

Get Out and Do It
BN offers something for everyone, from the Mother Road, Historic U.S. Route 66, to upscale shopping at Von Maur, museums and hiking trails. A few examples of cool ways to recreate or just hang out:

• Uptown Normal and Downtown Bloomington shopping and restaurant districts provide an eclectic experience from home décor at Beyond Normal to the Farmer’s Market.
• The Den at Fox Creek Golf Course, designed by the late Arnold Palmer
• Dixie Truck Stop on U.S. 66 in McLean
• Evergreen Lake at Comlara State Park, an outdoors paradise with mountain biking, hiking, fishing, sailboarding, horseback riding, camping and much more.
• And BN is a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community.

Sports
• Illinois State University (NCAA Division I)
• Illinois Wesleyan University (NCAA Division III)
• Normal CornBelters baseball (Frontier League)
• Illinois High School Association state championship events in three sports
• Robust activities for all ages – including cricket – in both Bloomington and Normal

Arts and entertainment
BN has a rich cultural environment that ranges from national touring shows to local companies like Community Players Theatre, artists and up-and-coming musicians. Some of the most popular venues:

• Redbird Arena
• Grossinger Motors Arena
• Braden Auditorium
• Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts
• Castle Theatre

To discover more about Bloomington-Normal go to visitbn.org.
OR COME VISIT AND SEE FOR YOURSELF what BN Great is all about!