Live as big or small as your heart desires! Nestled in the Illinois River Valley, the Greater Peoria area provides opportunities for a variety of lifestyles.

Live in the City of Peoria, with its urban amenities and hustle. Or choose a suburb, small town or rural life, with a laid-back vibe and community schools. Whatever you choose:

- High quality of life with a lower cost of living
- Easy commutes everywhere
- Gen. Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport
- A variety of great dining and entertainment options
- And, of course, world-class health care

**LET’S GET SPECIFIC**

**Education**

- Peoria ranks No. 6 in Illinois – and No. 1 outside the Chicago suburbs – with 14.2% of the population holding a post-graduate degree.
- Bradley University, ranked the No. 4 regional university in the Midwest
- University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, which partners with OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center and OSF Children’s Hospital of Illinois
- Peoria Richwoods a nationally ranked STEM high school; several area high schools rank among best in Illinois

**Exciting annual events**

Hundreds to choose from, but these are the most famous:

- Steamboat Days and the Steamboat Classic, world’s fastest four-mile foot race
- Morton Pumpkin Festival
- East Peoria Festival of Lights
- Santa Claus Parade – at 132 years, longest-running holiday parade in U.S.
- Summer Camp Music Festival
Picture this
- Peoria Heights Tower Park observation deck: panoramic views of the Illinois River Valley
- Grandview Drive, overlooking the Illinois River, proclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt as the “World’s Most Beautiful Drive”
- Wildlife Prairie Park
- Spirit of Peoria paddlewheel riverboat cruises
- Peoria Park District, with 60 square miles of woods, trails, recreation fields, golf courses and the Peoria Zoo

Sports
Our calendar is full of high-caliber sports events:
- Bradley University (NCAA Division I)
- Peoria Rivermen hockey (SPHL)
- Peoria Chiefs baseball (Midwest League, affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals)
- Illinois High School Association state championships in baseball, cross country and softball
- Peoria TT Grand National Motorcycle Championship

Arts and entertainment
Dating to vaudeville, we’ve given rise to entertainment icons like comedian Richard Pryor, opera singer Jerry Hadley and singer-songwriter Dan Fogelberg. Thanks to the Peoria Civic Center, the Peoria Riverfront Museum, Three Sisters Park and countless small- to medium-sized venues, both indoors and outside, the Greater Peoria area continues to draw national touring shows while nurturing local talent with opportunities like these:
- Peoria Symphony Orchestra, featuring world renowned guest artists
- Corn Stock Theatre
- Eastlight Theatre
- First Friday celebrations of local art and music

Food and drink
Greater Peoria is home to a large and eclectic selection of locally owned restaurants, craft breweries and wineries. Run the gamut from the world-class, upscale creations of Chef Dustin Allen at Edge to the original treats of Trefzger’s Bakery. Treat your taste buds from the comfort food at Blue Duck Barbecue Tavern to fried chicken at Gil’s Supper Club and the giant tenderloin sandwiches served at local joints throughout the area.

Check out hellogreaterpeoria.us – or better yet, COME VISIT.

Note: Business hours and activities may have changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please call ahead or check websites for up-to-date info.