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Celebrate the 4th of July – in Galena

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This July 4th substitute rolling hills for suburban lawns and scenic river walks for city sidewalks. Turn the holiday weekend into a vacation in [Galena, IL](#).

The destination: A getaway destination in the northwestern most [corner of Illinois](#), [Galena](#) and its [surrounding small towns](#) have long been known for antique shops, ice cream parlors, wine tasting stops, historic sites, B&Bs and Grants home. But this is also a place that really enjoys celebrating Independence Day.

Main attractions: Watch artists at work and [see art work](#) in town and in nearby Elizabeth. Visit the reconstructed [Apple River Fort](#) in Elizabeth and the [Ulysses S. Grant Home](#) in Galena. See a 1830s lead mine shaft now at the [Galena Museum](#). View Galena, Apple Valley and the Mississippi River from a [hot air balloon](#). Take a walking tour with guides from the [Galena - Jo Daviess County Historical Society](#)/Galena Museum to hear about the town's miners, merchants and Civil War participants and see some locations used in the [Field of Dreams](#) movie (1989 movie adapted by Phil Alden Robinson from the novel Shoeless Joe by W. P. Kinsella). Galena, across the river from [Dubuque](#) and [Dyersville](#), IA where the movie was filmed, substituted for Chisholm, MN. \

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Celebrate the 4th of July – in Galena

Special to the holiday: Galena will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth this year with a "Land of Lincoln" themed 4th of July parade through town beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by entertainment on the Green Street Plaza and fireworks at dusk over Grant Park (rain date July 5). The [Eagle Ridge Resort](#), southeast of Galena, brings [rodeo clowns and trick riding](#) to its scenic grounds followed by a fireworks spectacle on July 4 and 5. But people can come Friday (wear pink because processed go to breast cancer research) to meet the cowboys and clowns.

Places to stay (and eat): The [Irish Cottage Boutique](#) Hotel on the road into downtown Galena is fun because it has some charming, comfortable suites, complimentary, excellent weekend breakfasts and Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub & Grill with its Irish dancers and authentic, straight-from-Ireland décor to hang out at night. Or stay at Eagle Ridge Resort, six miles southeast of Galena, because its grounds, spread across 6,800 hilly acres, include 4 golf courses and golf academy, the Stonedrift Spa, boating, fishing, horseback riding, tennis, hot air ballooning, hiking and complimentary bike rental. Eat at Eagle Ridge's [Woodlands Restaurant](#) which specializes in local products or go into Galena to [Fried Green Tomatoes](#) Restaurant in a mid 19th century building on Main Street, [Fritz and Frites](#), a German French combo bistro, also on Main Street or the [Green Street Tavern](#) in the still operating historic 1855 Desoto House Hotel.

How to get there: Galena is about 3 hours (160 miles) from Chicago, Take I-90 west to Rockford to connect to US Highway 20 west to Galena.

For more info: Galena/Jo Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 101 Bouthillier Street, Galena, 877-Go Galena (464-2536) or Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa 444 Eagle Ridge Drive, Galena, 800-892-2269

Jodie Jacobs

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Jodie Jacobs is an Examiner from Chicago. You can see Jodie's articles on [Jodie's Home Page](#).

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