

# A 2-Day Free Trip Plan to Champaign & Urbana

This itinerary offers a balance of indoor and outdoor activities, cultural immersion, and local dining, ensuring an unforgettable experience of Champaign-Urbana's hidden gems and vibrant community life.

## Day 1: Cultural and Natural Wonders

1. Start your day at **Meadowbrook Park**. Enjoy a morning walk or jog along the trails and admire the **Wandell Sculpture Garden**.
2. Explore the **community garden** and perhaps have a light picnic near the playground, where you can relax and let children play.
3. Head to the **Krannert Art Museum**. Spend a few hours exploring the diverse art collections and special exhibits. The museum's architecture and continuous updates make it a rich cultural experience.

### Evening:

Visit **Exile on Main St**. This unique shop offers a variety of vinyl records, and vintage clothes, and has a vibrant local scene. It's perfect for music enthusiasts looking to expand their collection.

## Day 2: Local Markets and Relaxing Greens

1. If it's a Tuesday, don't miss the **Champaign Farmer's Market at Neil & Washington**. Engage with local farmers, try some fresh local produce, and enjoy the community vibe.
2. Spend your afternoon at Busey Woods. Enjoy a walk along the trails, and if you're lucky, join a local researcher or naturalist for an impromptu educational session on the local fauna.

### Additional Nearby Attractions

- **University of Illinois Arboretum:** A living laboratory including the Japan House, gardens, and the Idea Garden. It's a serene place to enjoy more of the outdoors and get inspired by the landscape designs.
- **The Virginia Theatre:** A historic building hosting various performances and events. Check out what's on during your visit—it could be a concert, a movie, or a play.
- **Downtown Urbana:** Explore local shops, cafes, and restaurants. It's great for an evening stroll or dinner after a day of exploring.
- **Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center:** Especially if you're traveling with kids, this nearby water park can be a refreshing stop during the summer months.

## Dining Recommendations

- **Black Dog Smoke & Ale House:** Known for its exceptional BBQ, it's a must-visit for a hearty meal.
- **The Bread Company on Goodwin:** Offers a European café atmosphere, perfect for a more relaxed, sit-down meal.
- **Maize Mexican Grill:** A beloved local spot for authentic Mexican dishes—ideal for a flavorful dinner.

## Travel Tips

- Choose a centrally located hotel or a charming bed and breakfast in Urbana to stay close to all these activities.
- Renting a car might be convenient for exploring at your own pace, especially for places like **Busey Woods** and **Meadowbrook Park**. However, public transportation and biking are also viable options in this bike-friendly community.