

Abraham Lincoln
National Heritage Area

Visitors Guide

LookingForLincoln.org



Touching History

Get up close to the people and places
that Abraham Lincoln called home.

enjoy
illinois

In partnership with: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior



Visit the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

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Roman Retreat



South Of The Border



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Looking for Lincoln?

You'll find him here...in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area in the countless places in Illinois where Mr. Lincoln spent 30 years of his life. Few individuals have so profoundly influenced American history. And, still today, millions around the world are inspired by the story of Lincoln's rise from humble beginnings to President of the United States of America. Let us introduce you to the people, and share the stories, that shaped the man who would lead our nation through some of its most trying times. You'll experience the life and times of Lincoln as it unfolds before your eyes through amazing attractions such as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the Lincoln Log Cabin...and so many more. The stories and the storytellers come to life through living history programs and Looking for Lincoln Special Events. And, the people and communities you'll encounter on your historic adventure are just waiting to welcome you in and share their love of history and Lincoln with you.

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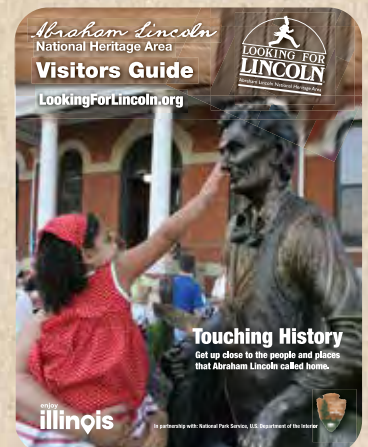
Young Mr. Lincoln, Pontiac

On the Cover: Young Mr. Lincoln, Pontiac



To help plan your historic trip to the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, visit **LookingForLincoln.org** and click on "Explore." You'll find direct links to all of the amazing sites, events and communities you'll discover here.

The information contained in this publication was compiled by the contractors who produced the guide for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, based on materials submitted. Looking for Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, Trittenhaus Design and their contractors assume no liability for the accuracy of the information or representations contained herein. Please note that admission prices and/or rates in this guide are based on the 2021/22 season. To assure accuracy, please call ahead to verify all information.



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The Lincoln Danville Knew



Danville & Vermilion County

Taking a stroll down Vermilion Street in Danville, circa 1850, you may very well have run into a tall, gangly, somewhat unkempt young attorney, rushing from his office to the nearby courthouse. A young man, probably wearing a tall stovepipe hat, would have been none other than Mr. Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln practiced law here from 1841-1859 as he traveled the now famous 8th Judicial Circuit in Illinois. Explore the Vermilion County Museum, replicating that early courthouse, as well as the adjacent Fithian Home, a Lincoln site on the National Register of Historic Places. Here you'll find many stories surrounding the people and places in the life of Lincoln the lawyer. Proud to be a part of the Looking for Lincoln National Heritage Area.

"If I find I have blessings at my disposal, Old Vermilion will come in for a bountiful share."

Abraham Lincoln
Noon February 11, 1861



100 W. Main St., Suite 146
Danville, IL 61832
(800) 383-4386
www.visitdanvillearea.com



WALK WHERE HE WALKED

Abraham Lincoln

DUELIST * ORATOR * LAWYER

FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT LINCOLN'S
LIFE IN HISTORIC
ALTON, IL

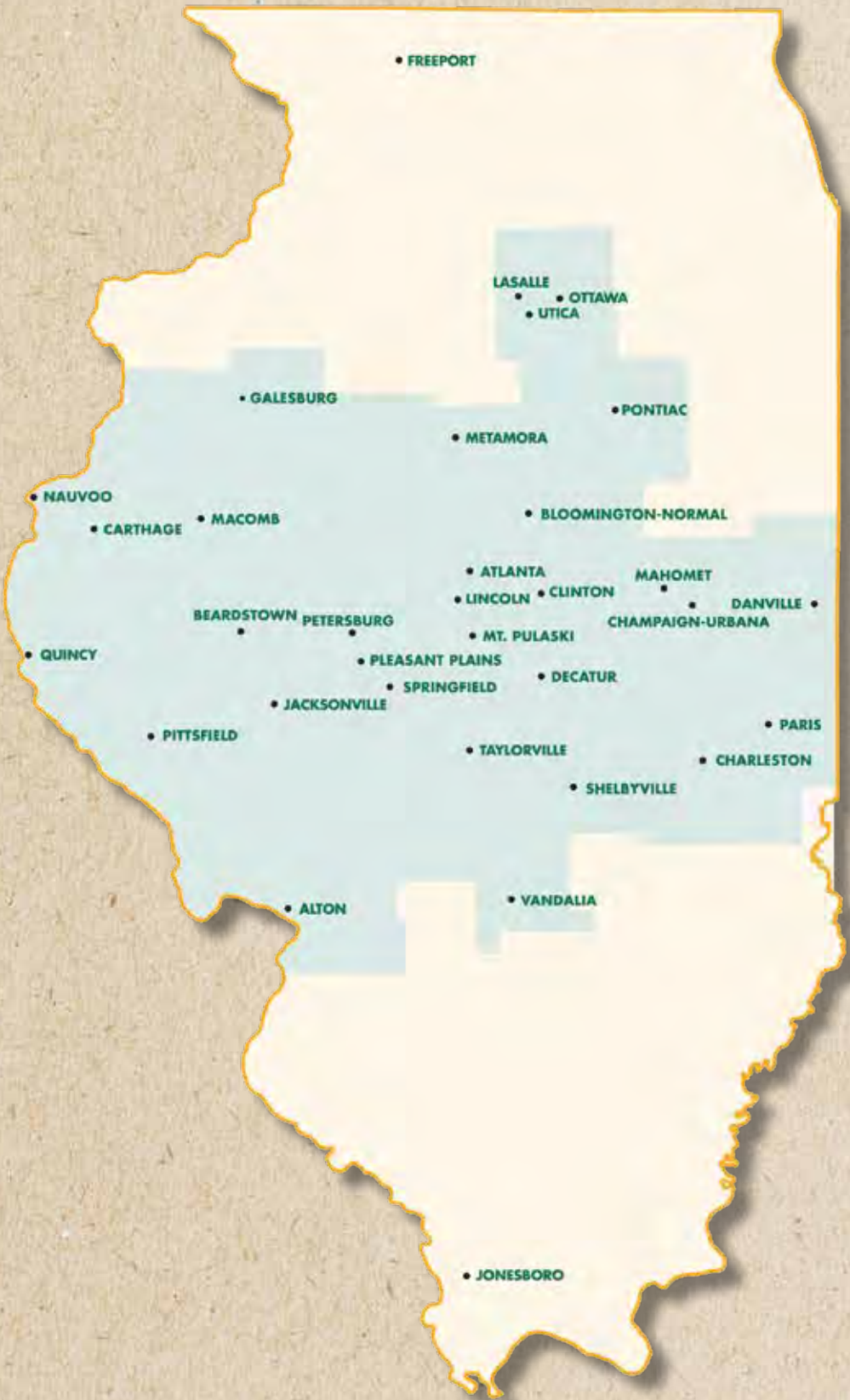
RIVERSANDROUTES.COM/LINCOLN
1-800-258-6645



Looking for Lincoln Communities

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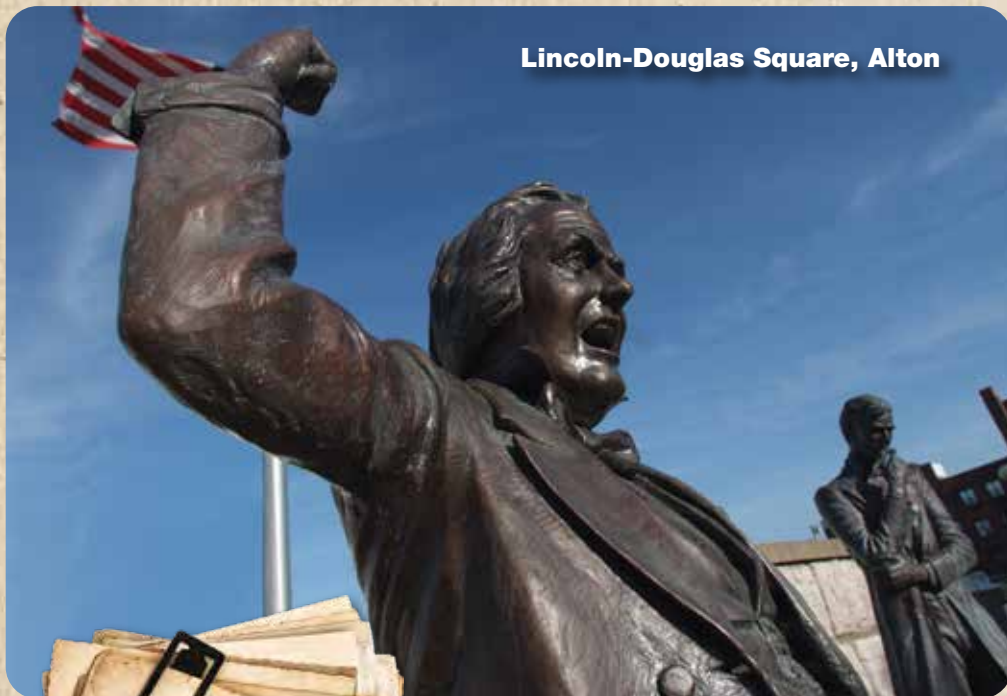
Alton

Begin your Lincoln adventure at the famous Lincoln-Douglas Square, site of the last “great debate” with the issue of slavery on the minds of everyone. Walk in the footsteps of Abraham and Mary Lincoln as they visited the area, or the Civil War soldiers – Confederate captives and their Union guards – many of whom are buried here. And, take in the landscape of the small Midwestern town where U.S. Senator and Alton resident, Lyman Trumbull, would author the 13th amendment, abolishing slavery in the United States.

Great Rivers & Routes

Tourism Bureau

200 Piassa Street, Alton
(800) 258-6645 or (618) 465-6676
riversandroutes.com



Lincoln-Douglas Square, Alton



Atlanta



Atlanta Museum, Atlanta

Visit this small town in the heart of central Illinois where Abraham Lincoln and Historic Route 66 overlap. The Atlanta History Museum tells the many stories of Lincoln's connections to this lovely little town. Each year travelers from around the world make Atlanta a stop on their cross-country U.S. Route 66 adventure and often include a visit to the famous Palm's Grill Café and the History Museum.

Destination Logan County

101 North Chicago Street, Lincoln
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com





**Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum,
Beardstown**



Beardstown

This charming little river town is one of the oldest in Illinois, nestled on the shores of the Illinois River. Here Abraham Lincoln the lawyer argued many court cases at the Beardstown Courthouse, including the famous "Almanac Trial" – where Lincoln used the Farmer's Almanac to prove his theory in a murder trial. During the Black Hawk War, Lincoln came to Beardstown to be installed as a Captain of the Sangamon County Company.

Beardstown Chamber of Commerce

101 West Third Street, Beardstown
(217) 323-3271
beardstownil.org

Bloomington-Normal



Convergence of Purpose, Bloomington

Outside of Springfield, Lincoln probably spent more time in Bloomington than in any other Illinois city. Here, Mr. Lincoln cultivated many close political allies and legal associates. Meet the people and hear the stories of this city during Lincoln's time with a visit to the McLean County Museum of History and the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site.

Bloomington-Normal Area CVB

3201 Circa Drive #201, Bloomington
(800) 433-8226 or (309) 665-0033
visitbn.org

**More about
Bloomington-Normal!**

(800) 433-8226
visitbn.org

Champaign County (Champaign-Urbana, Mahomet)

Lincoln often visited Mahomet and Champaign County as he rode the Circuit from 1841 – 1859. Throughout the year, Lincoln would travel through the area working on a variety of civil and criminal cases. Learn more about Lincoln's connections to the area at *Champaign County's Lincoln* exhibit at the Museum of the Grand Prairie in Mahomet and *Abraham Lincoln: Large Presence in a Small Town* at the Champaign County Courthouse in Urbana.

Visit Champaign County
17 East Taylor Street, Champaign
(800) 369-6151 or (217) 351-4133
visitchampaigncounty.org



**More about
Champaign County!**
(800) 369-6151
visitchampaigncounty.org

Charleston

Thomas and Sara Bush Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, were among the early settlers in the Charleston area. Today, you can experience what life was like for the Lincolns on a visit to the nearby Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. Later in his career, Abraham often visited the area, both for business and pleasure. He tried many cases here and in 1858, Charleston was the scene of the fourth Lincoln-Douglas Debate – witnessed by a crowd of over 12,000 people.

Charleston Tourism Office
520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston
(217) 348-0430
charlestantourism.org



**More about
Charleston!**
(217) 348-0430
charlestantourism.org



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LOOKING FOR
LINCOLN
Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS IN CLINTON

Sunset Inn and Suites: 217-935-4140
Town and Country Motel: 217-935-2121
Wye Motel: 217-935-3373

Clinton

Lincoln played an important role in the early development of Clinton, beginning in 1839 as a young lawyer with the 8th Judicial Circuit until he became the 16th President of the United States. Be sure to plan a visit to the mid-Victorian mansion that was home to Lincoln's Clinton law partner, the Honorable C.H. Moore. Afterwards stop by the Warner Library, where you'll find some of the oldest books and manuscripts in the county and features an exhibit that tells the story of Lincoln's influence in DeWitt County.



Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce

100 South Center Street, Suite 101,
Clinton
(217) 935-3364
clintonilchamber.com

More about
Clinton!

(217) 935-3364
clintonilchamber.com

Danville

The city of Danville was part of the now famous 8th Judicial Circuit in Illinois where a young prairie lawyer, destined for greatness, would practice law. Today, you can walk where Lincoln walked as you take a stroll down Vermilion Street and explore the Vermilion County Museum – replicating that early courthouse where Lincoln argued cases for his clients. Next door, you'll find the Fithian Home, a Lincoln site on the National Register of Historic Places. The people of Danville love sharing their many stories about Lincoln's time in their community.



Danville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

100 West Main Street #146, Danville
(800) 383-4386 or (217) 442-2096
visitdanvillearea.com

More about
Danville!
(800) 383-4386
visitdanvillearea.com



**Macon County Historical Museum,
Decatur**

**More about
Decatur!**

**(217) 423-7000
decaturcvb.com**

Decatur

Decatur and Macon County have a landscape rich in Lincoln history. Many “firsts” in Lincoln’s life happened in and around Decatur. It was the first home of the Lincoln family when they moved to Illinois. Downtown Decatur was the site of Lincoln’s very first political speech, and it was here that he was first nominated for the Presidency at the State Republican Party Convention. Today, the log courthouse where those cases were heard still exists in the Prairie Village at the Macon County Historical Society Museum.

Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

**202 East North Street, Decatur
(217) 423-7000
decaturcvb.com**



Atlanta - Elkhart - Lincoln - Mt. Pulaski



Courtesy of New Herald News

Our History. Your Adventure.



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f i

217.732.8687

Logan County Tourism
101 N. Chicago St. - Lincoln

www.destinationlogancountyil.com

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Freeport

When the national struggle over slavery became a wild fire across the Prairie State, Freeport was one of the cities selected for a debate between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln as they sought a seat in the United States Senate. Today, Freeport maintains Debate Square, a public space which commemorates that clash of titans in 1858.

Greater Freeport Partnership Visitor Center

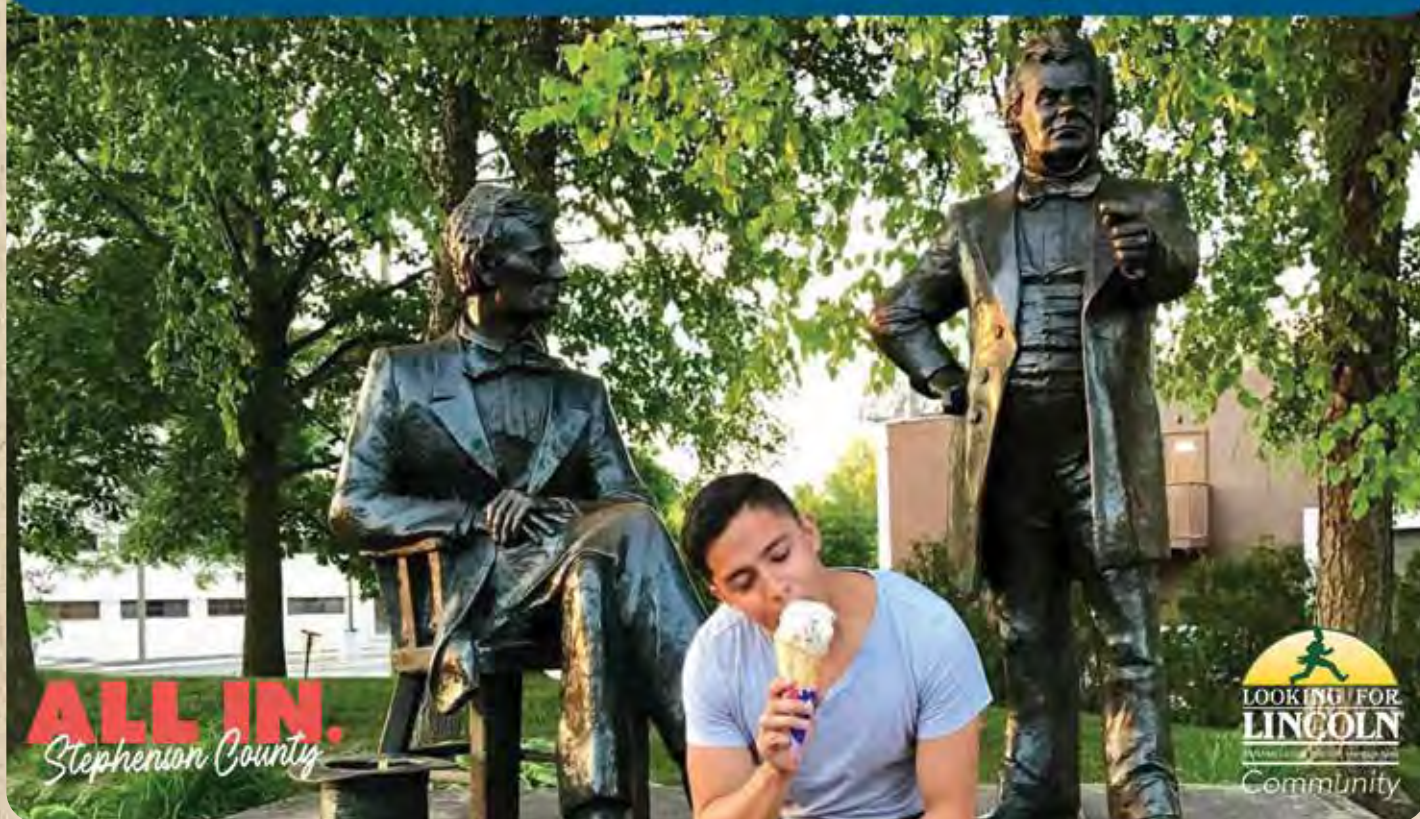
4596 U.S. Highway 20, Freeport
(815) 233-1350
greaterfreeport.com



Lincoln and Douglas in Debate, Freeport

**More about
Freeport!**
(815) 233-1350
greaterfreeport.com

A Taste of History in Freeport, IL



ALL IN.
Stephenson County

**LOOKING FOR
LINCOLN**
A National Historic Landmark
Community

Knox College, Galesburg



**More about
Galesburg!**

(309) 343-2485
experiencegalesburg.com

Galesburg

Old Main at Knox College in Galesburg is the only remaining original Lincoln-Douglas debate site – commemorated by large bronze tablets flanking the east door. Poet Carl Sandburg, possibly one of the most famous of all Lincoln scholars, was born in Galesburg and his birthplace is open to visitors today.

Galesburg Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

2163 East Main Street, Suite 200,
Galesburg
(309) 343-2485
experiencegalesburg.com

Hancock County (Carthage/ Nauvoo)

Located in west-central Illinois, Hancock County is home to 11 Looking For Lincoln wayside exhibits. Carthage, the county seat, is where Lincoln tried a murder case (and lost) and gave a speech during the 1858 senatorial campaign. Discover the community's Lincoln connections by visiting the Kibbe Hancock Heritage Museum and 6 of the Looking for Lincoln wayside exhibits. At nearby Nauvoo, experience the lives of the early members of the Mormon Church who settled along the banks of the Mississippi in 1839. Over 30 historic attractions are brought to life through year round living history interpretations and performances that share the stories of these early Illinoisans.

Carthage Chamber of Commerce

15 Main Street, Carthage
(217) 357-3024
carthage-il.com

Nauvoo Tourism Office

1295 Mulholland Street, Nauvoo
(217) 453-6648
beautifulnauvoo.com

**More about
Carthage!**

(217) 357-3024
carthage-il.com

**More about
Nauvoo!**

(217) 453-6648
beautifulnauvoo.com



Historic Nauvoo, Nauvoo

Jacksonville

Just west of Springfield, you can follow in Lincoln's footsteps through historic Jacksonville via the *Voices of Jacksonville*. This audio tour will take you to seven sites where you see the places and hear the stories of Lincoln and his association with Jacksonville. Tour the Governor Duncan Mansion and Woodlawn Farm, a stop on the Underground Railroad. You'll find intriguing and extraordinary stories of the life and times of Lincoln here.

Jacksonville Area CVB
310 East State Street, Jacksonville
(800) 593-5678 or (217) 243-5678
jacksonvilleil.org



Governor Duncan
Mansion, Jacksonville



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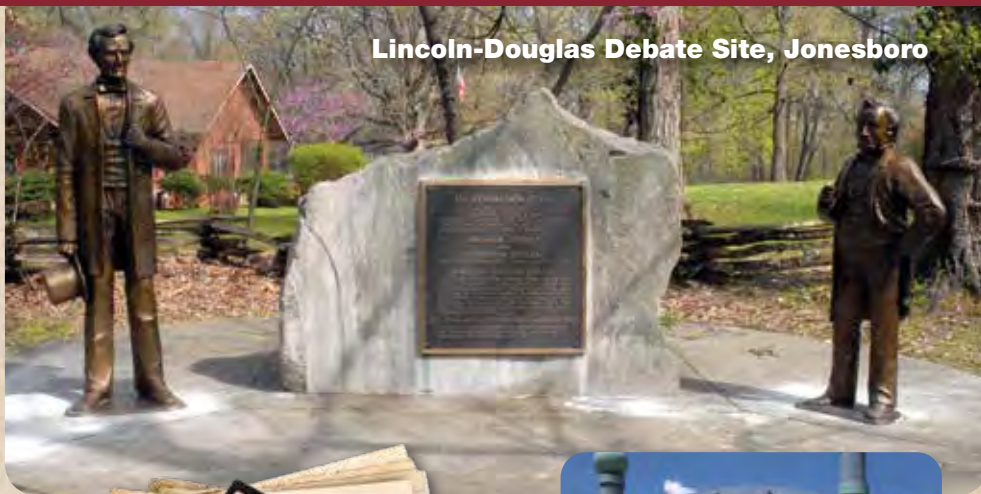
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217.243.5678 • 800.593.5678 | www.jacksonvilleil.org

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Site, Jonesboro



Jonesboro

Located in southern Illinois, the community of Jonesboro was the site of the third Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858. Lincoln spent the two nights surrounding the debate at the home of David L. Phillips in the adjacent town on Anna. Today, you can visit Lincoln Memorial Park in Jonesboro, the site of the debates. Walk in Lincoln's footsteps in Anna and Jonesboro as you follow the Lincoln Story Trail.

Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau
P.O. Box 378, Anna
(800) 248-4373 or (618) 833-9928
southernmostillinois.com

LaSalle County (LaSalle, Ottawa, Utica)



Reddick Mansion, Ottawa

Abraham Lincoln was no stranger to LaSalle County. He tried court cases in the community, was mustered out of the militia during the Blackhawk War, travelled on the Illinois & Michigan Canal and also served as an I&M Canal Commissioner. His most notable visit to LaSalle County took place on August 21, 1858. The first of seven Lincoln-Douglas senatorial debates was held in Ottawa's historic Washington Square. Retrace Lincoln's footsteps in LaSalle County.



Ottawa Visitor Center
1028 La Salle Street, Ottawa
(815) 434-2737
pickusottawail.com



Lincoln

The only town to be named for Lincoln – before he became President, Lincoln has a rich connection with this city and Logan County. As a lawyer on the 8th Judicial Circuit, Lincoln argued many cases at Postville Courthouse, a state historic site. At Lincoln College, you'll find the Lincoln Heritage Museum which houses a collection of rare Lincoln artifacts, treasures such as china, books and mourning clothing belonging to Mary Lincoln, as well as original correspondence from President Lincoln written during the Civil War.

Destination Logan County
101 North Chicago Street, Lincoln
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com



Railsplitter Covered Wagon, Lincoln



Macomb

Located in western Illinois, the community of Macomb has several Lincoln Connections. The community's focal point is the very unique Living Lincoln Topiary Monument. The sculpture was designed to be the center piece of Unforgettable Forgettonia's 10 site self-guided Lincoln tour, which also includes the McDonough County Courthouse grounds where Lincoln spoke on two occasions, The Randolph House Building where he stayed on at least three occasions, and the site on the historic Courthouse Square at which one of the earliest known photos of Lincoln was taken.

**Unforgettable Forgettonia-
Macomb Area Convention and
Visitors Bureau**
120 E. Calhoun St. #1, Macomb
(309) 833-1315
visitforgettonia.com



Living Lincoln Topiary Monument, Macomb





Our Story

LOOKING FOR LINCOLN
in BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

We are an Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Gateway Community,
and have 13 Looking for Lincoln stops.

Highlights include:

- Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center
- McLean County Museum of History
- David Davis Mansion
- Jesse Fell Home
- Miller-Davis Building
- Lincoln's Festival on 66



VisitBN

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL AREA
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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309.665.0033 / VisitBN.org

309.827.0428 / CruisinWithLincolnOn66.org

Metamora

Step back in time on the beautiful Metamora town square, surrounding the Metamora Courthouse. Metamora is also the hometown of Adlai E. Stevenson, U.S. Vice President under Grover Cleveland. Both Stevenson and Lincoln practiced law in the Courthouse here. Today, you can visit the courthouse and walk in Lincoln's footsteps.

Metamora Courthouse
113 East Partridge Street, Metamora
(309) 367-4470 or (309) 367-4044
villageofmetamora.com/history



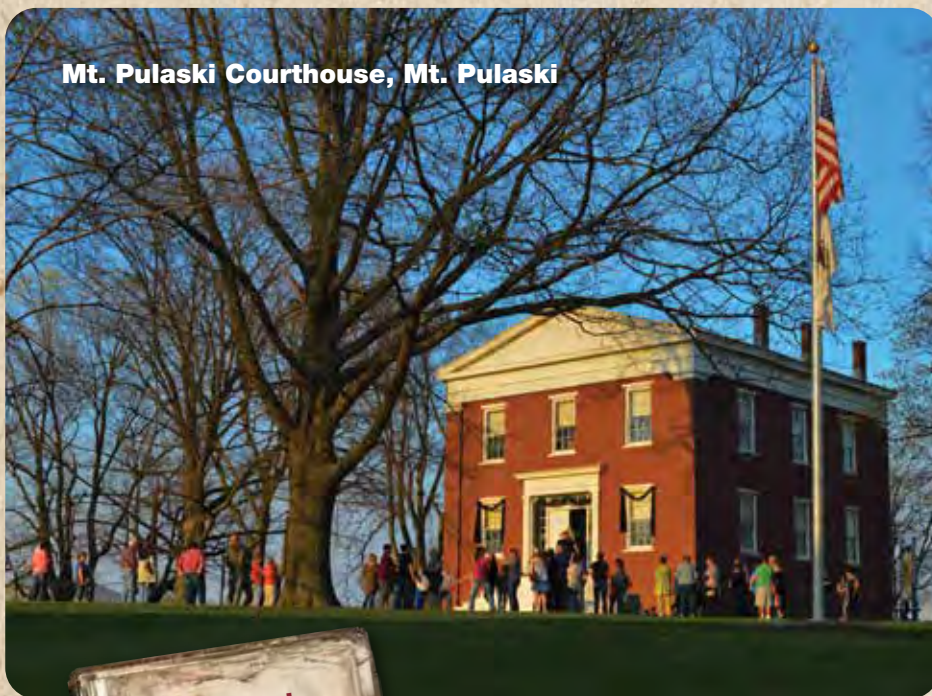
**Metamora Courthouse,
Metamora**



Mt. Pulaski

A small rural community in the heart of Illinois, Mt. Pulaski boasts a charming town square whose crown jewel is a beautiful red brick Greek Revival building that was the courthouse where Lincoln spent much of his time. In addition to the courthouse, you'll also find the Mt. Pulaski Museum and Welcome Center, as well as several quaint shops and restaurants. A trip to Mt. Pulaski is a chance to get off the interstate and explore the landscape that Lincoln the lawyer traveled throughout central Illinois.

Destination Logan County
101 North Chicago Street, Lincoln
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com



Mt. Pulaski Courthouse, Mt. Pulaski





Alexander House, Paris



Paris

The county was part of the Eighth Judicial Circuit from 1845 until 1853. During those years, Lincoln tried 50 cases in Paris, the county seat. Edgar County was one of the most populated counties on the circuit, and his legal practice here was instrumental in furthering his political career. Lincoln was also in the county in 1856 and 1858 giving political speeches. Milton Alexander, a prominent man in Paris, often entertained Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas at his home when they were in town.

Paris Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

105 North Central Street, Paris
(217) 465-4179
parisilchamber.com



New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg



Petersburg

History comes alive in New Salem at this reconstructed historic pioneer village where Lincoln lived and worked as a young man. Just two miles to the north, you'll find the picturesque community of Petersburg, where many of New Salem's residents are buried in the historic Oakland Cemetery – including Ann Rutledge – believed by many to be Lincoln's sweetheart during his time in New Salem. Famed author, Edgar Lee Masters, lived here and wrote about Lincoln and many inhabitants of New Salem. His home still stands in Petersburg.

Petersburg

(217) 632-4000
visitmenardcounty.com/history

Pittsfield

Visit the charming community of Pittsfield in Pike County. All three of President Lincoln's secretaries hailed from Pike County, and he counted many folks from the area among his friends. The homes of many of those friends are still standing. You can enjoy the stories and learn more about these early Pittsfield residents by taking the Talking Houses of Pittsfield tour. While most of the homes are still inhabited today, one small home, the Shastid House has been restored and is open for tours.

Pike County Visitors Center
224 West Washington, Pittsfield
(217) 285-2971
pikelincoln.com or pikeil.org



William Grimshaw House, Pittsfield

**More about
Pittsfield!**

(217) 285-2971
pikelincoln.com
or pikeil.org

Discover Abe Lincoln in Coles County



Charleston ~

Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum
Rally After the Debate Wayside
Charleston Riot Marker
Coles County Courthouse



Charleston Tourism Office
217.348.0430
Tourism@co.coles.il.us

Mattoon ~

Historic Mattoon Depot
Lincoln's Last Visit Wayside Exhibit
Lerna ~
Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site



Mattoon Tourism Office
1.800.500.6286
Tourism@mattoonillinois.org

Contact us on more ways to spend your time Looking for Lincoln in Coles County!



Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains



**More about
Pleasant Plains!**

(217) 481-4430
clayville.org

Pleasant Plains

Just down the road from Pleasant Plains, you'll find Historic Clayville. Established by the Broadwell family in 1824, the Broadwell Inn at Clayville would serve as a stagecoach stop and public house until 1847. During that time, stagecoach passengers, freight caravans, cattle drovers and lawyers like Lincoln riding the judicial circuit would stop to rest and prepare for the next leg of their journey. Today, the Broadwell Inn has been restored to capture the spirit of the 19th century stagecoach stop. The site features some wonderful living history festivals throughout the year.

Clayville Historic Site
12828 State Route 125, Pleasant Plains
(217) 481-4430
clayville.org



Young Mr. Lincoln, Pontiac

**More about
Pontiac!**
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

Pontiac

While riding the 8th Judicial Circuit, Abraham Lincoln frequently visited the community of Pontiac. Lincoln represented a number of local citizens in legal actions, and made connections here that helped him to rise to prominence in state and national politics. Today, the Lincoln Story Trail tells the many stories of Lincoln's connections to this lovely community. Each year, travelers from around the world make Pontiac a stop on their cross-country U.S. Route 66 adventure and visit many of the Route 66 attractions in the community.

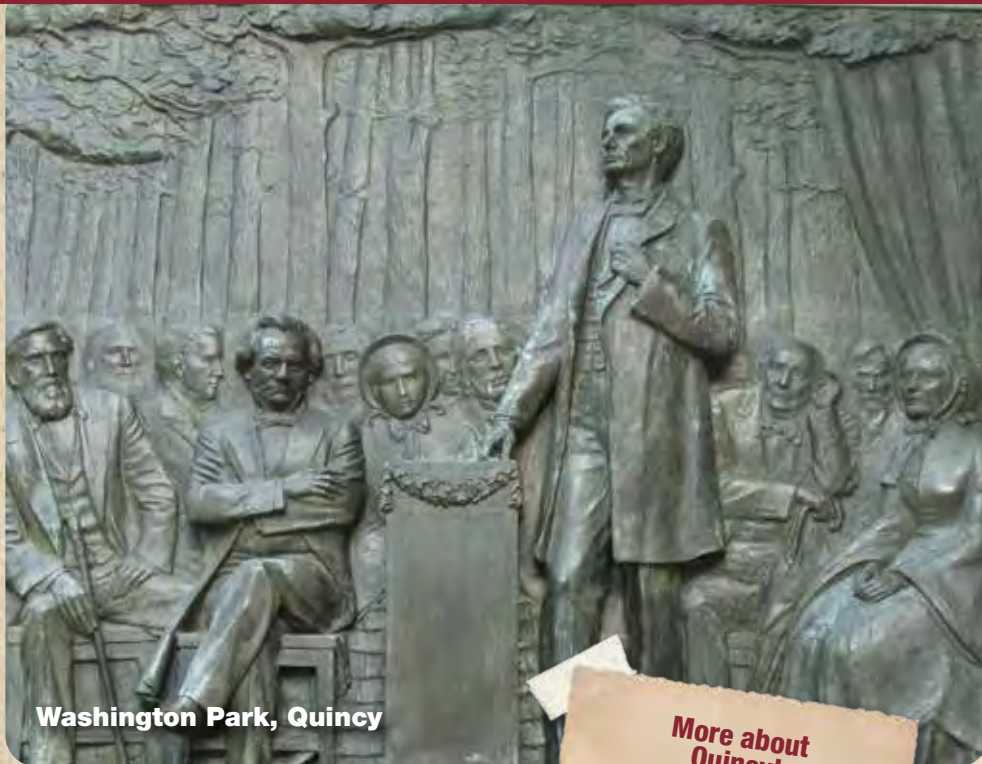
Visit Pontiac Illinois
115 West Howard Street, Pontiac
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

Quincy

Located along the mighty Mississippi, Quincy was a frequent stop for Mr. Lincoln where he counted some of its residents among his closest friends. Visit the historic Lincoln-Douglas debate site and Lincoln-Douglas Interpretive Center in the heart of downtown Quincy. Tour the home of famed abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor, Dr. Richard Eells, whose case was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. Get to know one of Lincoln's close political allies and founder of Quincy, Illinois' 12th Governor, John Wood, as you explore his impressive mansion.

Quincy Area CVB

532 Gardner Expressway, Quincy
(800) 978-4748 or 217-214-3700
seequincy.com



Washington Park, Quincy

More about Quincy!

(800) 978-4748
seequincy.com

Shelbyville

Lake Shelbyville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

315 East Main Street, Shelbyville
(217) 774-2244
lakeshelbyville.com

In his years as a Circuit-riding attorney, Lincoln was often in Shelbyville practicing his trade at the Shelby County Courthouse. The Courthouse features a painting of the Lincoln-Thornton Debate. While the Lincoln-Douglas Debates are certainly more famous, the earlier Thornton Debate was Lincoln's first public appearance as a Republican and the first time he publicly addressed the anti-slavery notions that would be so important in his later years. This charming community on the hill overlooking the beautiful Lake Shelbyville is a must-stop on your Looking for Lincoln adventure.



Let's Debate, Shelbyville



More about Shelbyville!

(217) 774-2244
lakeshelbyville.com

Stop by our website at
LookingForLincoln.org
 for information on all
 the attractions located
 throughout the
 Abraham Lincoln National
 Heritage Area.





Clayville Historic Site
www.clayville.org
 12828 State Route 125
 Pleasant Plains, Illinois 62670
 Hours by appointment
 Phone: (217) 481-4430
 email: mail@clayville.org
2021 Events:
 May 15: Hammer-in
 June 23: Chris Vallillo
 Sept. 18 & 19: Fall Festival
 Dec. 4: Christmas with Santa
 Dec 10 & 11: Candlelight Christmas
 Ask about our rental program






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 Pontiac is proud of it's Lincoln
 heritage! We invite you to learn
 more about the humble prairie
 lawyer who rose to become one
 of our nation's most important
 and admired Presidents.
visitpontiac.org 815.844.5847

Lake Shelbyville



hike bike boat stay play & more

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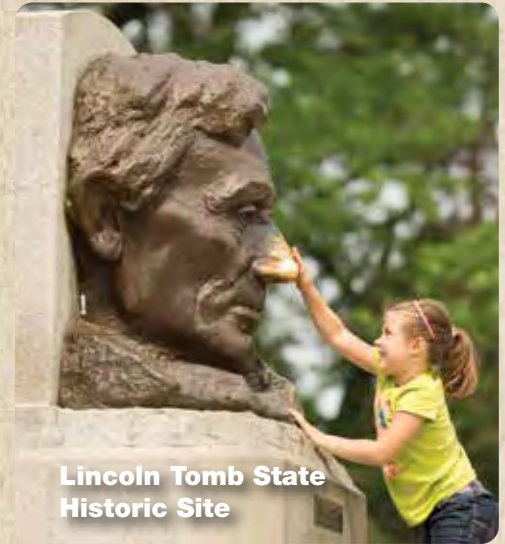
Springfield



Located in the heart of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, Springfield is the city Lincoln called home for nearly half his life. Springfield and central Illinois had a profound effect on Lincoln's life, as captured in these immortal words, "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything." Today, Springfield, Illinois' capital city, is home to numerous historic sites, attractions and events – including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the Lincoln Tomb, the Old State Capitol and the popular "History Comes Alive" program. In this city he loved, you'll truly experience Lincoln, the man.

Springfield Visitor Center
1 South Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield

(800) 545-7300 or (217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com



**Lincoln Tomb State
Historic Site**



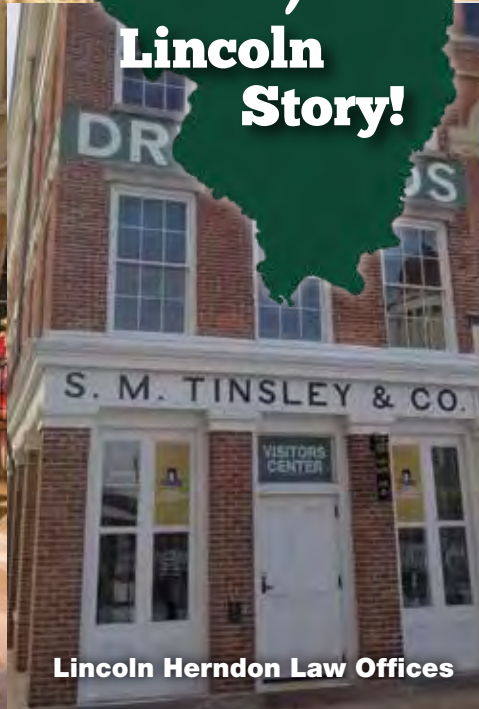
Lincoln's New Salem



Lincoln Home National Historic Site



**Lincoln Presidential
Museum & Library**



Lincoln Herndon Law Offices



Illinois Old State Capital

TAKE A ROAD TRIP BACK IN TIME.

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Taylorville

Taylorville is often referred to as “the last stop” because when Lincoln and other lawyers traveling the 8th Judicial Circuit arrived here it was usually their last stop before heading home to Springfield. The downtown courthouse square features the only statue of Abraham Lincoln with a pig commemorating Lincoln’s famous “writ of quietus.” The old courthouse that was the site of many Lincoln trials has been preserved at the Christian County Historical Museum complex. Totally restored using original construction specifications, this 1839 building includes interior furnishings echoing courtrooms of the period.

Greater Taylorville Chamber of Commerce
108 West Market Street # 2, Taylorville
(217) 824-4919
taylorvillechamber.com



**Lincoln vs. Courthouse Pigs,
Taylorville**



Vandalia

The capital city of Illinois from 1820-1839, Vandalia was the place where a young Abraham Lincoln officially began his political career as an elected state legislator from the village of New Salem in 1834. Mr. Lincoln would play an important role of the controversial effort to move the state capital to the city of Springfield. Today, the Vandalia Statehouse stands as an elegant reminder of Illinois’ early history as a new state. Nearby is the Fayette County Museum, featuring Lincoln-era memorabilia and the story of the people of Vandalia and Fayette County.

Illinois South Tourism
4387 N. Illinois St., Suite 200, Swansea
(618) 283-1152 or (618) 257-1488
vandaliaillinois.com/for-visitors
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**Vandalia State House State
Historic Site, Vandalia**

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1000 Monroe Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701 309-828-1084

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Closed legal holidays

Photo by Joe Horner/JH Photography & Design

This elegant Victorian Mansion was completed in 1872 for U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Davis and his wife Sarah. Davis played a major role in securing Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency. Tours of the Davis Mansion include Sarah's formal garden and an exhibit featuring Lincoln and the IL Eighth Judicial Circuit.

2021/2022 Calendar of Events

June 5, 2021

Champagne British Car Festival

July 16-17, 2021

Glorious Garden Festival

August 7, 2021

Antique Auto Show

September 18, 2021

Cruise-In at the Mansion

September 18, 2021

Picnic at the Mansion with the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band

October 31, 2021

Trick-or-Treat at the Mansion

December 11, 2021

Christmas at the Mansions

December 17 and 18, 2021

A Victorian Christmas with Santa

February 12, 2022

Lincoln's Birthday

April 9, 2022

Easter Egg Hunt

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Decatur is proud to be the home of 15 wayside exhibits. Each contains text, photos or graphics and a "rubbing medallion" where you can create a crayon rubbing as a souvenir to document your visit.

Four of the downtown Decatur waysides are further enhanced by original bronze sculptures called Bas-Relief. Similar to a copper penny in color and in style, the sculptures are designed so that visitors may "participate" in the event depicted and create a memorable photo.

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Please give us a call or stop in to pick up your brochure and follow the trail of Abe Lincoln in Macon County!

Decatur Area CVB
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Decatur Area

Convention & Visitors Bureau
of Illinois

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Special Events

The 43-county area in Illinois covered by the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area is a busy place! There is a lot going on throughout the year, and you are our special guest to enjoy these special events.

Just a few snapshots from past events!



Lincoln Days Civil War Reenactment



History Comes Alive



Lincoln in the District



Looking for Lincoln at the Illinois State Fair

Visit LookingForLincoln.org/events for the most up-to-date information about activities throughout the Land of Lincoln.

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document bearing Abraham
Lincoln's authentic signature



Lincoln interpreter
poses in the
Lincoln Almanac
Trial courtroom
beside a painting
of Lincoln holding
an open copy of
the *Old Farmer's
Almanac* he used
to defend Duff
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Savage Musket – 58 calibre (right)
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Major Historic Attractions

Hundreds and hundreds of Lincoln stories have been gathered throughout the 43 counties of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area – stories told through authentic historic attractions, wayside exhibits, special events, and living history programs. Here are just a few of the major historic attractions you'll find as you "Look for Lincoln" in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (Springfield)

Get ready to be entertained, educated, and yes, mesmerized! From the humble beginnings of a young pioneer to his rise to the presidency, the story of Lincoln's life and times is captured through original artifacts, a partial reproduction of the 1860s White House, special effects theaters with ghostly images and high action and so much more. Visit here, step outside and look for Lincoln in the authentic attractions, living history events, and a Lincoln Story Trail scattered throughout the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.



Lincoln Heritage Museum (Lincoln)

Discover over 100 rare artifacts from our President Abraham Lincoln's life and the Civil War on the first floor. On the second floor, walk with Lincoln through a unique interactive visitor experience. Come see, hear and touch history at the Lincoln History Museum at Lincoln College, ranked one of the "Most Amazing University Museums in the World" by bestcollegesonline.com in 2013.



New Salem State Historic Site (Petersburg)

Explore the reconstructed pioneer village where Abraham Lincoln lived and worked as a young man over 150 years ago. Immerse yourself in the daily lives of the villagers as interpreters and actors in period dress bring history to life to tell the story of the life of Abraham Lincoln – store clerk, postmaster, citizen soldier and more.



Old State Capitol State Historic Site (Springfield)

Stand in the very room where Lincoln made his famous "House Divided" speech, or where he argued cases before the Illinois Supreme Court, spent hours discussing the issues of the day with his colleagues in the law library, served central Illinois as a member of the Illinois legislature, and finally, lay in state before his burial in Oak Ridge Cemetery.



Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site (Springfield)

Feel the majesty as you gaze upon the stunning granite monument that serves as the final resting place for our 16th president, his wife, and three of their four children. Surpassed only by Arlington National Cemetery in our nation's capital, Oak Ridge is the second most visited cemetery in the United States – welcoming visitors from around the globe.



Lincoln Home National Historic Site (Springfield)

Step into the world of the Lincoln family when you enter the only home he ever owned. Stroll through the lovely neighborhood surrounding the home for a rare glimpse into the daily lives of Lincoln – as a husband and father, a neighbor and friend, a lawyer and a politician.

Major Historic Attractions



David Davis Mansion State Historic Site (Bloomington)

Gaze through a window into the social and political life Lincoln knew when you visit this stately 19th century mansion once owned by Lincoln confidant and friend, Judge David Davis and his wife, Sarah. History attributes part of Lincoln's success in obtaining the Republican nomination for the presidency to the influence and support of Judge Davis.



Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site (Lerna)

Gain an understanding of rural life in 1840s Illinois as you explore this humble prairie farmstead – the last home to Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of the man who would become President. Today, you'll find a working, living history farm developed around the two-room cabin belonging to the Lincolns, as well as the Stephen Sargent Farm nearby.



Historic Nauvoo (Nauvoo)

Experience the lives of the early members of the Mormon church who settled along the banks of the Mississippi River in 1839 as the people of Old Nauvoo set the stage for one aspect of prairie life from 1839-1846. Over 30 historic attractions are brought to life through year round living history interpreters and performers who tell the story of these early Illinoisans.



Museum of the Grand Prairie (Mahomet)

Explore an extensive collection interpreting 19th and early 20th century life in east-central Illinois. Enjoy two floors of unique exhibits presenting the architecture, trades and occupations, decorative arts, and childhood and domestic life of the time. In the "Champaign County's Lincoln" exhibit, you can travel in a buggy with Lincoln, see a daguerreotype camera up-close and hear Lincoln's friends and neighbors talk about the early history of the community.



McLean County Museum of History (Bloomington)

Hear stories of the people and landscape of McLean County through the years – including those who would have been Lincoln's contemporaries inside the beautiful old courthouse. Discover the "Abraham Lincoln in McLean County" exhibit examining Lincoln's work as an attorney in McLean County and on the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit. It defines Lincoln's pivotal role in the anti-slavery movement and explores his last connections with the people of McLean County.



Mt. Pulaski Courthouse State Historic Site (Mt. Pulaski)

Stop in and visit one of only two remaining 8th Judicial Circuit Courthouses standing on their original site – and a frequent stop along the circuit traveled by Lincoln, the prairie lawyer. The Courthouse is restored, furnished and interpreted as an 1850s courthouse. Many of the court's records were destroyed in a fire years ago, but records still remain for two important patent cases tried by Lincoln in this building.



Postville Courthouse State Historic Site (Lincoln)

Imagine yourself arguing a point of law in this rugged, brown frame building – a reproduction of the building that served as the seat of Logan County government from 1840 – 1848. Reconstructed in 1953, the Postville Courthouse contains historical exhibits of the 8th Judicial Circuit, and a courtroom and offices furnished as they might have been when Lincoln worked as a circuit lawyer.



Metamora Courthouse State Historic Site (Metamora)

Be a spectator in the rooms where Lincoln argued more than 70 cases during his years as circuit lawyer. This beautifully renovated courthouse is one of only two 8th Judicial Circuit courthouses remaining on their original sites. In the community museum on the first floor, you'll find an array of artifacts from pioneer days through the Civil War.



Bryant Cottage State Historic Site (Bement)

Step into the historic parlor where Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln met on July 29, 1858 to negotiate their seven joint discussions that would famously become known as the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. History credits these debates as helping to launch Lincoln's Presidential candidacy two years later. This historic site also tells the story of the home owner Francis Bryant and his family.



Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site (Vandalia)

Step back in time to the early days of Illinois, a new member of the United States of America. The state capitol for Illinois from 1820 – 1839, the Vandalia Statehouse was the place Lincoln worked in his first years as an Illinois legislator. It was here he honed his skills as a legislator and gifted orator, and where his fellow legislators began to recognize his qualities as a leader of men.

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Highways and Byways Showcase Lincoln's Landscape

A great way to visit the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area is along any one of the five different roads designated as American Scenic Byways. While you're looking for Lincoln, explore the many landscapes of Illinois on these beautiful drives. Experience the Illinois that Mr. Lincoln knew as he traveled the countryside as a prairie lawyer.

Illinois Route 66



U.S. Route 66 is arguably one of the most famous roads in the world. And part of that iconic road crisscrosses the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area in Illinois. For generations of travelers, Route 66 represents the freedom of the road – the chance to leave the everyday behind and step back to a simpler time – to the main streets of small town America. Mr. Lincoln may have made his road trips on the back of a horse or in a buggy, but your trip along Illinois Route 66 will let you follow his trail through central Illinois.

For more on U.S. Route 66 in Illinois, contact us at:

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McLean County Museum of History

Highways and Byways Showcase Lincoln's Landscape

Great River Road in Illinois



For over 500 miles on Illinois' western border, you'll find the breathtaking views and majestic landscapes along the mighty Mississippi. And, for many of those miles, you'll be traveling in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Explore the country Lincoln loved as he rode from town to town as a prairie lawyer and a future president. Enjoy the banks and bluffs, the fields and prairies, and the waterways just as travelers during Lincoln's day would have experienced.

Great Rivers Country Tourism Office

581 South Deere Road, Macomb 61455
(877) 477-7007 or (309) 837-7460
greatriverroad-illinois.org

Illinois River Road



On the Illinois River Road, you'll travel the same path as early French explorers. Whether you want to hike the bluff trails, bike the historic canal towpaths, throw in a fishing line, canoe in one of the beautifully restored wetlands along the way, or just soak in the natural beauty as you travel between Looking for Lincoln communities – this is the perfect chance to immerse yourself in the rich history and beauty of the Illinois River Valley.

Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway

1028 LaSalle Street, Ottawa 61350
(815) 434-2737
illinoisriverroad.org

Historic National Road

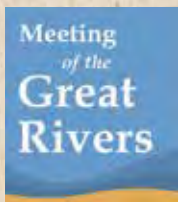


America's first highway, known as the Historic National Road, was built on big plans to join the already civilized East Coast with the western frontier. From 1830 to 1838, as a young Abraham Lincoln was finding his way as a prairie lawyer and state legislator, construction of the Illinois portion of the road was underway. Although by the 1850s railroads became the preferred method of East-West travel in the U.S., the Illinois section of the National Road holds the stories of nearly two centuries of American history.

National Road Association of IL

106 South 5th Street, Vandalia 62471
(618) 283-9380
nationalroad.org

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Looking for Lincoln Story Trail

Follow the story trail to find intriguing Lincoln stories unique to each Looking for Lincoln community. Told through a series of over 200 wayside exhibits and statues in over 50 Heritage Area communities – the stories describe the local people and events that played a key role in Lincoln's journey to greatness. Each exhibit includes a one-of-a-kind medallion containing an image from the exhibit story. With a piece of paper and a pencil, you can create your own Looking for Lincoln rubbing.

Collect all 200 rubbings as a record of your trip through the land of Abraham Lincoln!



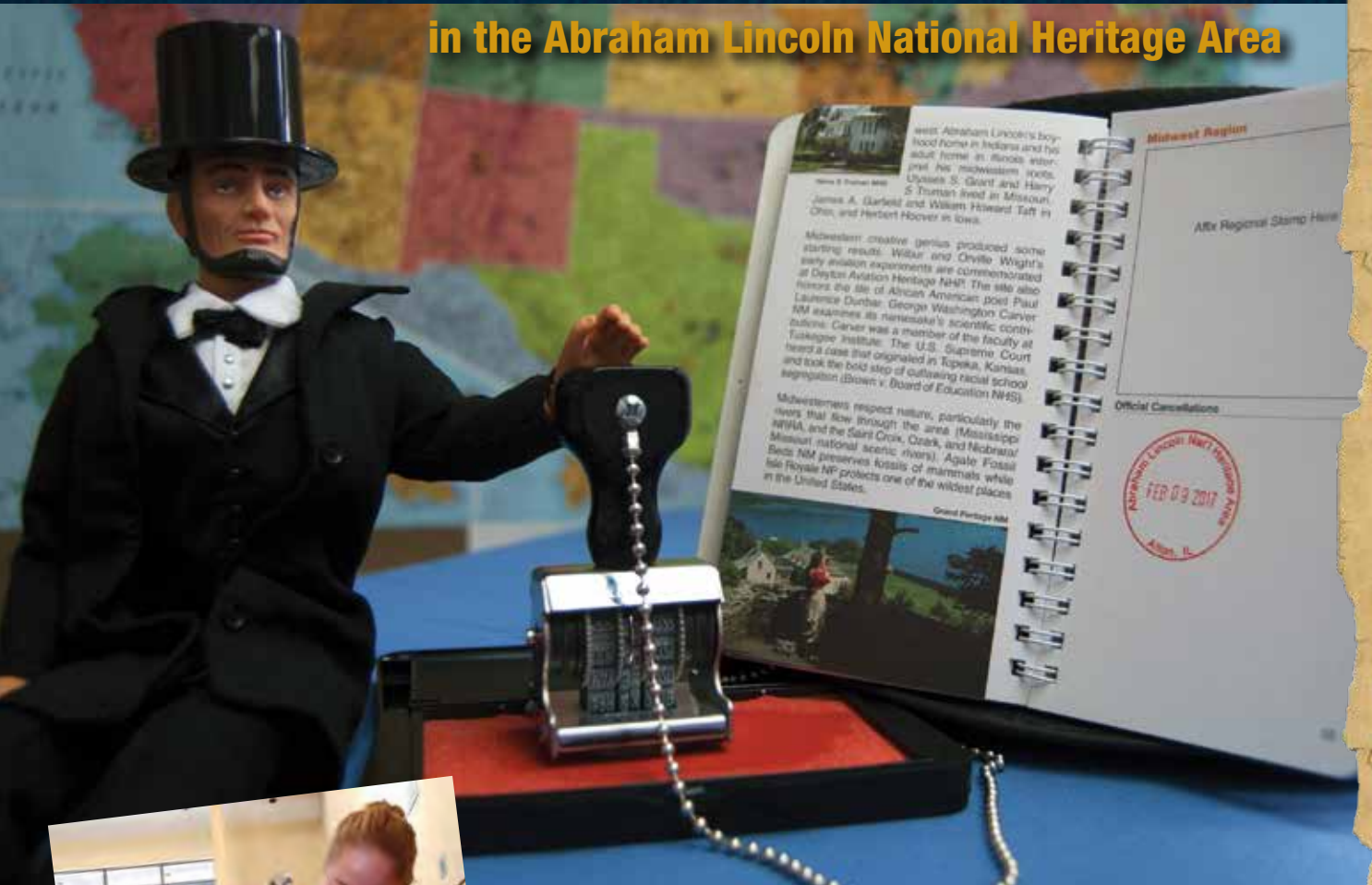
Travel Planning Made Easy

Through a series of suggested itineraries, you can visit the countless places in Illinois where Lincoln lived and traveled for nearly 30 years. Along the way, you'll meet the people and discover the stories unique to each community and area of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Through amazing historic attractions, story trail exhibits, and living history special events, you'll come to know the man that was Abraham Lincoln. You'll find an array of itineraries on the official Looking for Lincoln website at **LookingForLincoln.org**. Be sure to check back often as new itineraries are added as they become available.



PASSPORT TO YOUR *National Parks*

in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area



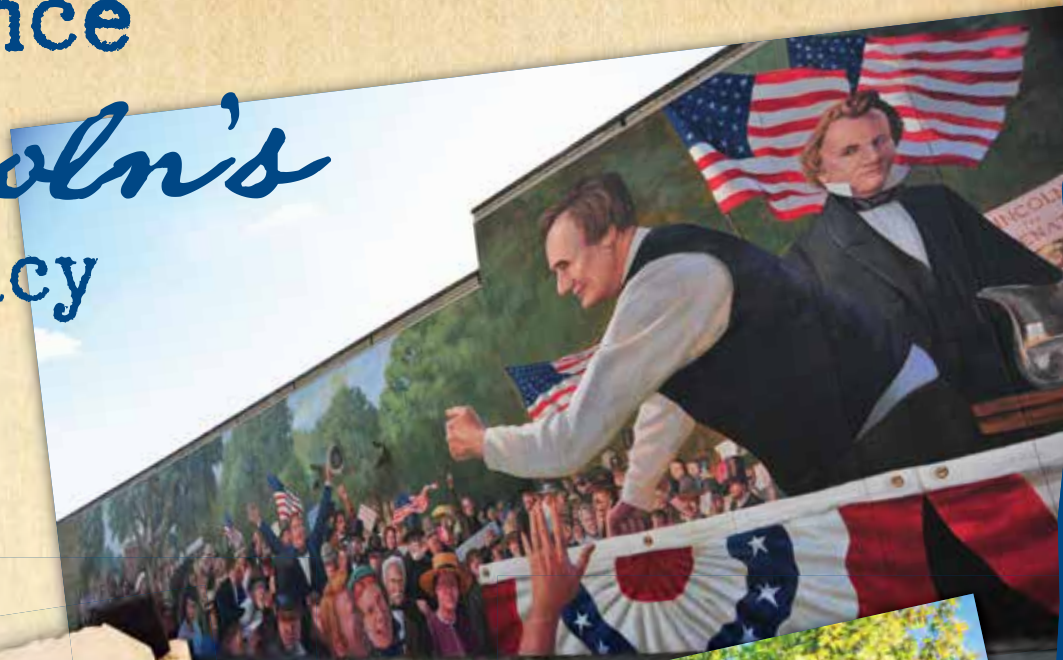
Explore the communities and landscapes where Lincoln live, worked, and traveled through the **Passport to Your National Parks** program. You can collect passport cancellation stamps at specific sites in participating Looking for Lincoln communities as you Look for Lincoln! There are over 40 passport stamp locations in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

For the most up to date list of all the **Passport to Your National Parks** cancellation stamp locations, visit:

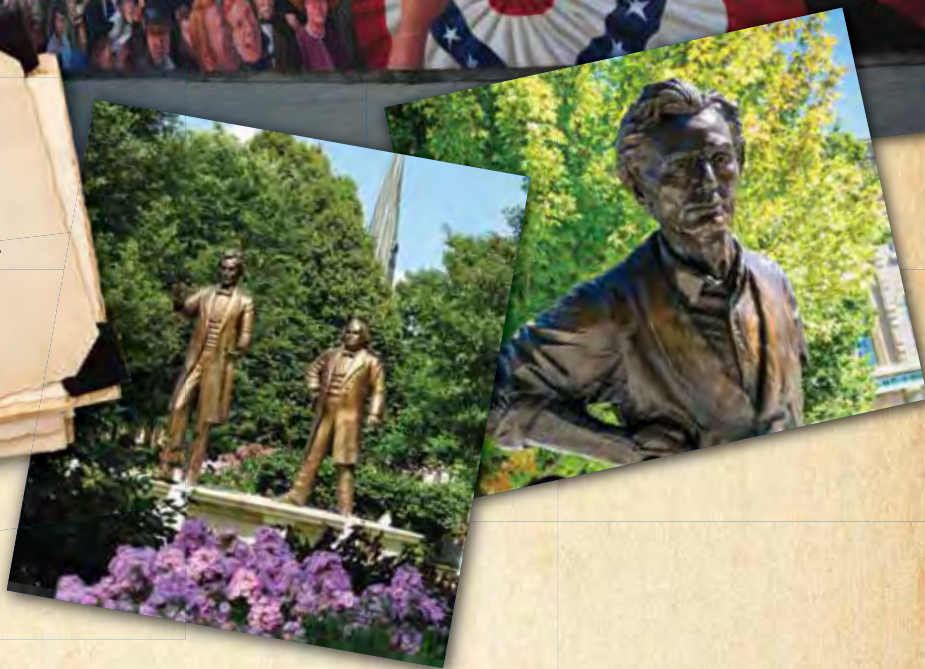
LookingForLincoln.org/Explore/NPSPassportProgram



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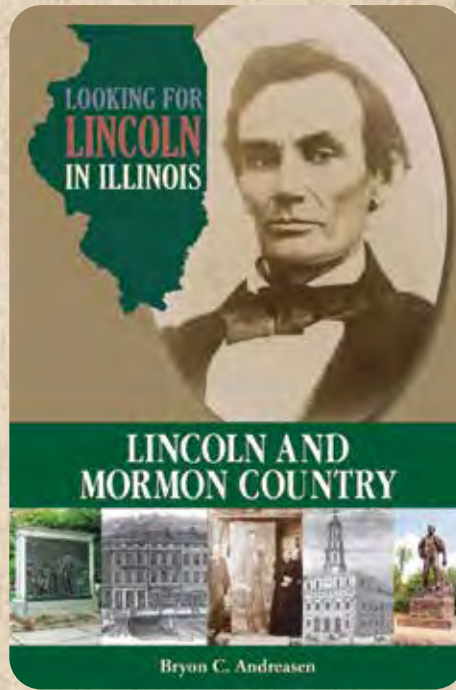


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Your Guides to the Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln

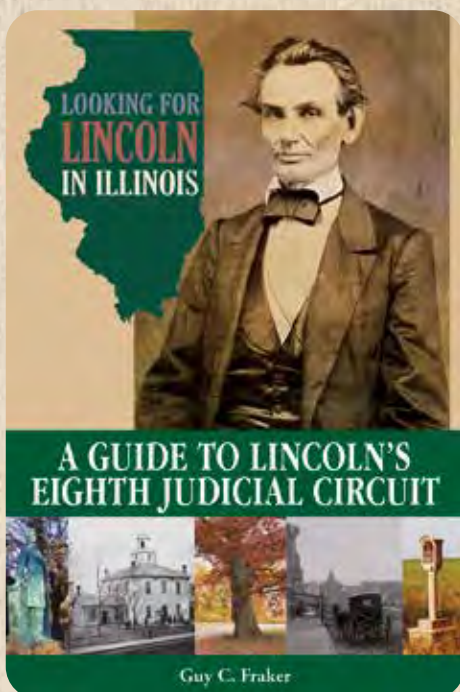
Want to learn more about the life, times, and legacy of Abraham Lincoln in central Illinois? Need some help planning your next Lincoln exploration? The Looking for Lincoln book series will help you do just that. The book series examines Lincoln's rise to greatness from his central Illinois roots and shares the region's history, culture, and significance in not only the Lincoln story – but in the story of our nation. The series, a collaborative effort between Southern Illinois University Press and the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, currently features four full-color, heavily illustrated guidebooks:

***Lincoln's Springfield*; *Lincoln and Mormon Country*; *A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit* and *Historic Houses of Lincoln's Illinois*.** For information on ordering your copy of one, or all, of the Looking for Lincoln books, visit our website at LookingForLincoln.org.



Lincoln's Springfield is a carefully researched, richly illustrated guide to the Springfield, Illinois, locations on the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail. These engaging stories bring Abraham Lincoln's hometown of Springfield alive to readers.

Lincoln and Mormon Country tells more than thirty fascinating and surprising stories that show how the lives of Lincoln and the Mormons intersected from the Mormon capital of Nauvoo to the state capital of Springfield. The book's maps, historic photos, and descriptions of battles, Mormon exhibitions, and events connect the stories to their physical locations.



A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit is a guidebook to the 8th Judicial Circuit. Author Guy Fraker guides travelers through the prairies to the towns Lincoln visited regularly as he practiced law in east central Illinois. Plan your trip traveling in Lincoln's footsteps on the 8th Judicial Circuit using this step-by-step guidebook.

Historic Houses in Lincoln's Illinois, features 22 historic buildings in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area that are open to the public to visit. Each site links today's visitors with a place Lincoln loved, a home of a Lincoln friend or colleague, or a spot that illuminates Lincoln's era and legacy in central Illinois.

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Tourism Offices

Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition

P.O. Box 5398
Springfield, IL 62705
217-492-8366
LookingForLincoln.org



Bloomington-Normal Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

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visitbn.org

Charleston Tourism Office

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(217) 348-0430
charlestontourism.org

Danville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

100 West Main Street #146, Danville 61832
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visitdanvillearea.com

Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

202 East North Street, Decatur 62523
(217) 423-7000
decaturcvb.com

Destination Logan County

101 North Chicago Street, Lincoln 62656
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Galesburg Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

2163 East Main Street, Suite 200
Galesburg 61401
(309) 343-2485
experiencegalesburg.com

Greater Freeport Partnership Visitor Center

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(815) 233-1350
greaterfreeport.com

Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau

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heritagecorridorcvb.com

Illinois South Tourism

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illinoisouth.org

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(800) 593-5678 or (217) 243-5678
jacksonvilleil.org

Lake Shelbyville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

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peoria.org

Quincy Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

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YouTube

Looking for Lincoln Online

For all of the latest information on what's happening in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, be sure to follow us online! From **Twitter** "live feed" historical reenactments, to special giveaways and promotions via **Facebook**, great videos from around the National Heritage Area on **YouTube**, to beautiful photos on **Instagram**. Also stay up-to-date with information and links through the Looking for Lincoln website **LookingForLincoln.org**.

We'll make sure you have everything you need to plan your next adventure in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

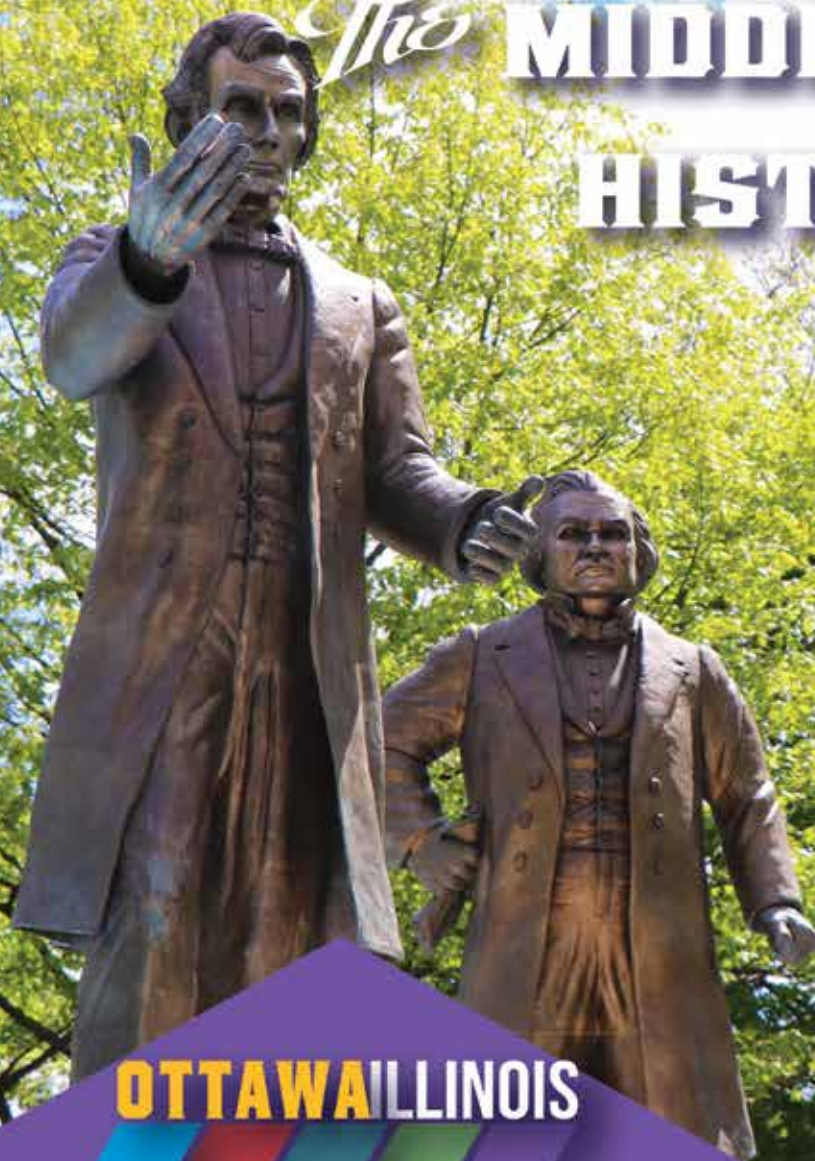
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