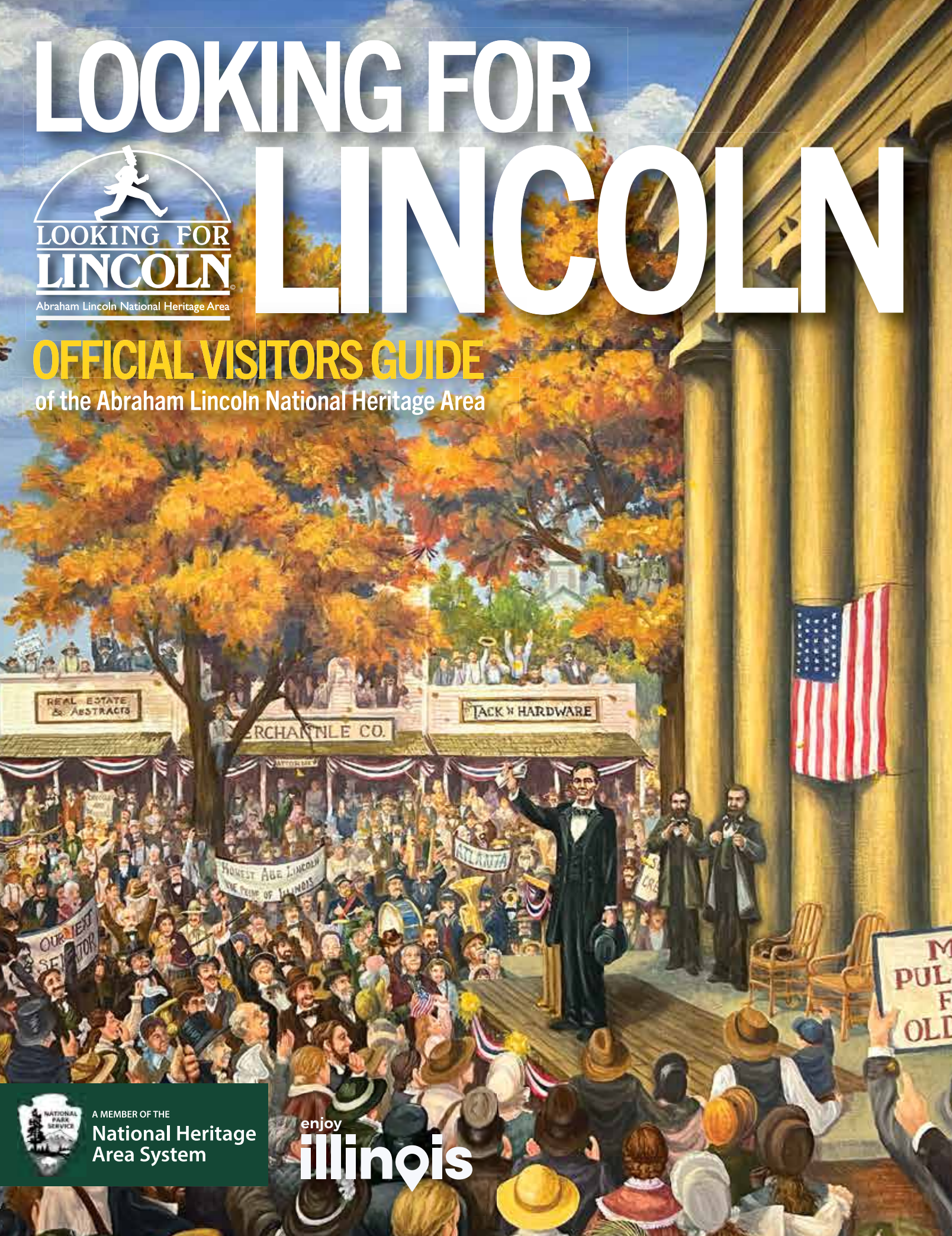


LOOKING FOR LINCOLN



OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE
of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area



A MEMBER OF THE
**National Heritage
Area System**

enjoy

illinois

Explore, Experience
and Enjoy...

UNFORGETTABLE FORGOTTONIA

LOOKING FOR LINCOLN
SELF-GUIDED 10 SITE TOUR

ENTERING
Abraham Lincoln
Nat'l Heritage Area

WORLD'S ONLY
GIANT LINCOLN LIVING
TOPIARY MONUMENT

MACOMB OPOLY
A FUN GAME CELEBRATING THE HEART OF ILLINOIS

HOME OF LIZZIE MAGIE -
INVENTOR OF MONOPOLY
(DISPLAY AT THE TRAIN STATION)

PLAY 365 DAYS A YEAR 24/7
ON MACOMB'S HISTORICAL
COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Numerous accommodations, shopping, arts & entertainment, casual
& fine dining, events & attractions plus sports, parks & leisure.
All these amenities neatly wrapped in simple small-town charm

RECREATION

MURALS

EVENTS

NATION'S LARGEST SEVEN
CIRCUIT PRAIRIE LABYRINTH

MAKE IT
UNFORGETTABLE
WWW.VISITFORGOTTONIA.COM



enjoy
illinois

WELCOME!

Illinois is immersed with opportunities
to explore the life of Abraham Lincoln,
one of the most influential individuals
in American history.

FIND YOUR LINCOLN STORY!



4

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS



12

COMMUNITIES



28

STORY TRAIL



30

SIGNATURE EVENTS



34

HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS



37

NPS PASSPORT



40

FUN FOR KIDS



44

TOURISM OFFICES

On the cover: "Lincoln in Lincoln" by Jennifer Boeke, 2008, on display at the Lincoln Heritage Museum, Lincoln



WHERE THE MOTHER ROAD Meets the River Road

Take a road trip like no other through the only place in America where the Mother Road of Route 66 meets the scenic beauty of the Great River Road. Walk in Abraham Lincoln's footsteps in the historic river city of Alton. Dine at historic roadside cafes, take a walk through the river bluffs and prairies and relax with a glass of locally crafted wine beside the Mighty Mississippi River. Your one-of-a-kind adventure begins at RiversandRoutes.com.

GREAT RIVERS & ROUTES
enjoy **illinois**



Atlanta - Elkhart - Lincoln - Mt. Pulaski



Our History. Your Adventure.

@TourLoCo 217.732.8687 Logan County Tourism 101 N. Chicago St. - Lincoln www.destinationlogancountyil.com enjoy **illinois**

WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?



A MEMBER OF THE
National Heritage Area System

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through their resources, NHAs tell nationally important stories that celebrate our nation's diverse heritage.

Looking for Lincoln unfolds the rich history and story of Mr. Lincoln's life and times across the 43-county Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area encompassing over 30 years of his life spent in Illinois. Be prepared to be inspired by experiencing through stories and storytellers, the facts, the figures, the places, the events, the impact of Lincoln's humble beginnings to his presidency of the United States.

No matter what your historic adventure is comprised of – from the elaborate Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, to the warm Lincoln Home National Historic Site, to inspirational history programs, to an informative wayside exhibit history trail stop - you will feel welcomed and sense the passion of the communities sharing Lincoln's history.



Courthouse Square
Macomb

Special events all year long, check the calendar of events at the website www.lincolnlogcabin.org or call 217-345-1845

Experience the living history program at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site May through October

We look forward to seeing you out on the farm, eight miles south of Charleston, Illinois, until then be sure to follow us on Facebook.

This ad sponsored by Lincoln Log Cabin Foundation and Charleston Tourism

Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna, IL 62140

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

The breadth of Lincoln's storied history is all encompassing throughout the 43 counties of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Each story told through exhibits, events, programs, and authentic historic attractions builds one upon another to reveal the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Each of these major historic attractions is sure to make a unique impact on your journey as you explore the life and times of Lincoln.

LET'S GO LOOKING FOR LINCOLN

Museum of the Grand Prairie
Mahomet



Abraham Lincoln Presidential
Library and Museum
Springfield

Bryant Cottage
Bement

C.H. Moore Homestead
Clinton

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

212 N 6th St, Springfield presidentlincoln.illinois.gov

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.

BRYANT COTTAGE STATE HISTORIC SITE

146 E Wilson St, Bement

enjoyillinois.com/explore/listing/bryant-cottage

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.

C. H. MOORE HOMESTEAD

219 E Woodlawn St, Clinton

chmoorehomestead.org

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the restored, fully-furnished mansion and spacious grounds whisk visitors back to the Victorian era. The historic house was once home to Clinton attorney, Clifton H. Moore. Visitors will enjoy tours of the mansion and carriage barn, view special exhibits and displays, including stories of the law partnership, political ties, and friendship shared by C.H. Moore and Abraham Lincoln during Lincoln's time in DeWitt County.

There's a whole lot more...

The David Davis Mansion

Over 150 Years of History



1000 Monroe Drive Bloomington, IL
309-828-1084

Tours: Wednesday-Saturday
9am to 3:30pm

Tours

Take a guided tour of the mansion and grounds, including Sarah Davis' beautiful heirloom garden, and two special exhibits.

Events

Enjoy one of our 20+ yearly public events, including a celebration for Lincoln's Birthday, a Spring Festival and Easter Egg Hunt, seasonal car shows, the Glorious Garden Festival, Christmas at Clover Lawn, and more!

Shopping

Explore our collection of books, souvenirs, gifts, and more in the Clover Lawn Museum Shop, located inside the mansion.

Visit daviddavismansion.org to learn more and view our event calendar!



DAVID DAVIS MANSION STATE HISTORIC SITE

1000 Monroe Dr, Bloomington
daviddavismansion.org

Gaze through a window into the social and political life Lincoln knew at this stately 19th century mansion once owned by his friend, Judge David Davis and his wife, Sarah. History attributes part of Lincoln's success in obtaining the presidential nomination from the influence and support of Judge Davis.

FITHIAN HOME & VERMILION COUNTY MUSEUM

116 N Gilbert St, Danville
vermilioncountymuseum.org

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. That young man, probably wearing a tall stovepipe hat, would have been none other than Mr. Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln

practiced law here for about 18 years 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. Danville is an excellent jumping-off point to explore eastern Illinois.



Fithian Home & Vermilion County Museum
Danville

HISTORIC NAUVOO

290 Main St, Nauvoo
beautifulnauvoo.com

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.

HISTORY MUSEUM ON THE SQUARE

332 Maine St, Quincy
hsqac.org/history-museum

The History Museum on the Square houses permanent and rotating installations, displays, and artifacts from the pioneer era through modern times. A unique feature of the structure is the large, circular corner tower over the front entrance. A sculpture garden on the grounds features architectural artifacts from Quincy buildings that are no longer in existence. Many exhibits interpret the life and times of Lincoln.



History Museum
on the Square
Quincy

JOHN WOOD MANSION

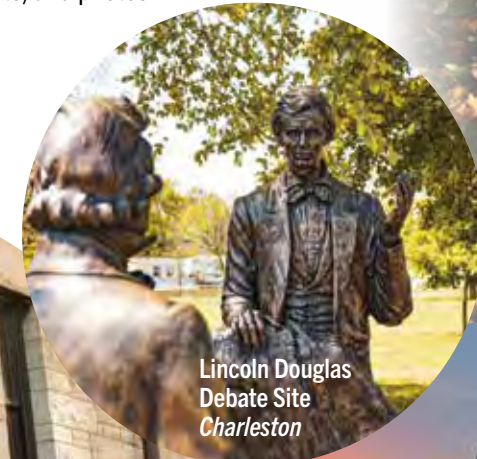
425 S 12th St, Quincy
hsqac.org/john-wood-mansion

Once the home of John Wood, Quincy's founder and Illinois' 12th Governor, the John Wood Mansion was home to a friend and supporter of Abraham Lincoln. The Wood family moved into their third Quincy home from a nearby, two-story log cabin in 1837. Later, the mansion was moved from its original site to its current location, about a block east, so Wood could build an even larger, octagonal mansion that was demolished in the 1950s.

LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE MUSEUM, CHARLESTON

126 E St, Charleston
charlestonillinois.org

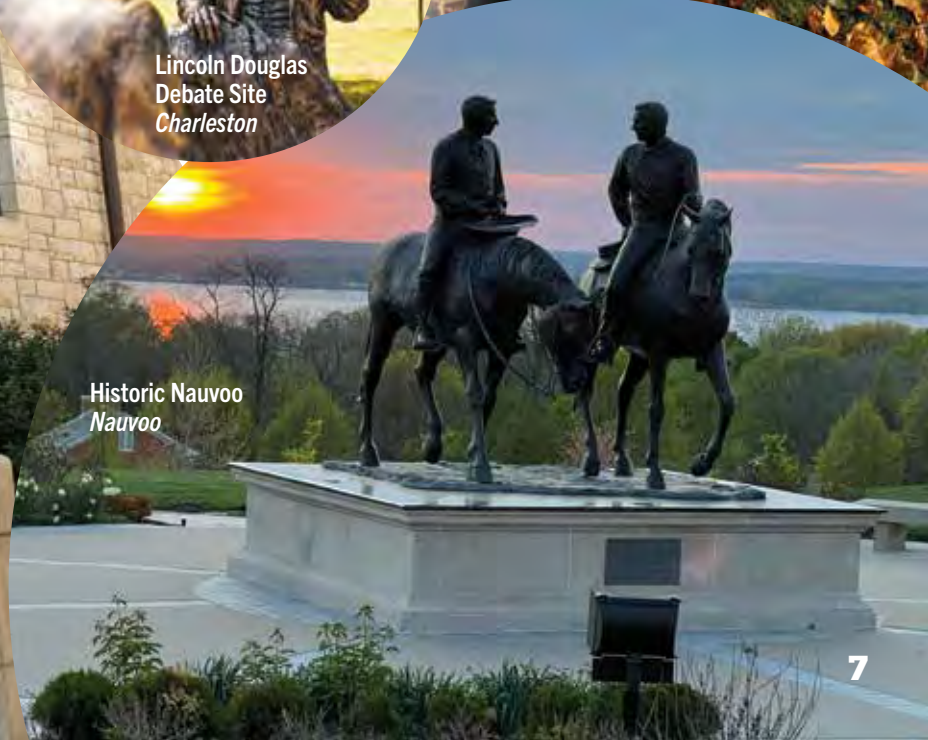
Retrace the senatorial debates of 1858 between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. The museum offers exhibits and interactive displays that tell the debates' story through film, audio selections, artifacts, and photos.



Lincoln Douglas
Debate Site
Charleston



John Wood Mansion
Quincy



Historic Nauvoo
Nauvoo



LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE MUSEUM, QUINCY

128 N 5th St, Quincy

lincolndouglasdebatemuseum.com

Located across the street from the debate site in Washington Park, the museum includes five state-of-the-art videos and four new exhibits. The Turning Point video and exhibit panels explain why the debate was so important, how it affected United States history, and its importance in defining the morality of slavery and catapulting Abraham Lincoln to national attention.

LINCOLN HERITAGE MUSEUM

1115 Nicholson Rd, Lincoln

museum.lincolncollege.edu

Discover over 100 rare artifacts from 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, ranked one of the "Most Amazing University Museums in the World" by bestcollegesonline.com in 2013.

STEP INTO HISTORY!

The Lincoln Home, Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, and Metamora Courthouse allow you to walk in Lincoln's footsteps, and experience sites where he lived, worked, and knew personally.



Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum
Quincy



Lincoln Home
National Historic Site
Springfield

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

426 S 7th St, Springfield

nps.gov/liho/index.htm

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 life of Lincoln – as a husband and father, a neighbor and friend, a lawyer and a politician.

LINCOLN LOG CABIN STATE HISTORIC SITE

402 S Lincoln Hwy, Lerna

lincolnlogcabin.org

Gain an understanding of rural life in 1840s Illinois as you explore humble prairie farmstead the last home to Thomas and Sara 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.



Lincoln Log Cabin
State Historic Site
Lerna



Courthouse
Metamora

LINCOLN TOMB STATE HISTORIC SITE

1500 Monument Avenue,
Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield
visitspringfieldillinois.com

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.

MCLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

200 N Main St, Bloomington

mchistory.org

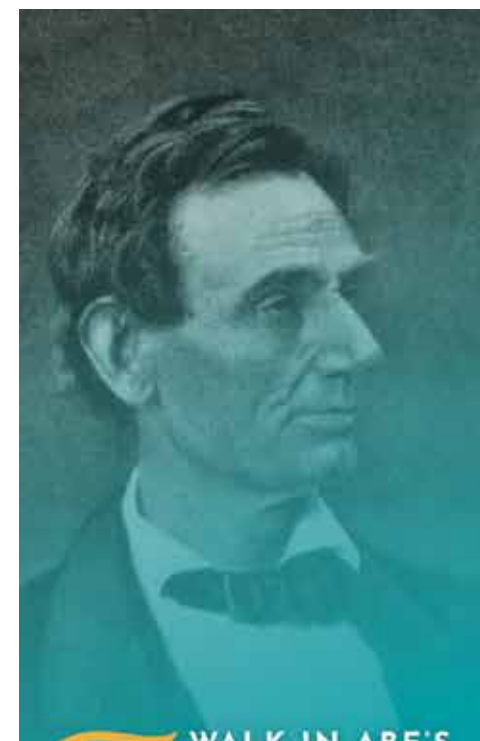
Hear stories of the people and landscape of McLean County through the years – including those who would have been Lincoln's contemporaries inside the beautiful old courthouse. Discover the "Abraham Lincoln in McLean County" exhibit examining Lincoln's work as an attorney in McLean County and on the Illinois 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.

METAMORA COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

113 E Partridge St, Metamora

<https://dnrhistoric.illinois.gov/experience/sites/central/metamora-courthouse.html>

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.



WALK IN ABE'S Footsteps

The history of Jacksonville, Illinois, still bears the influence of one of our country's greatest citizens. Immerse in our legends on the Looking for Lincoln audio narrated wayside exhibits at the historic sites around town. Tour the Governor Duncan Mansion, stand where Lincoln gave an 1858 Senate campaign speech, and see the homes once owned by colleagues, allies, and friends of Lincoln. Between stops, explore the restaurants and shops in long-standing storefronts. No matter what your idea of a good time is, creating your own experiences comes as easily as discovering a bit of the past.



enjoy
illinois

jacksonvilleil.org



Mt. Pulaski Courthouse
Mt. Pulaski

MT. PULASKI COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

113 S Washington St, Mt Pulaski
destinationlogancountyil.com/mount-pulaski-courthouse

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.

MUSEUM OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE

950 N Lombard St, Mahomet
museumofthegrandprairie.org

Explore an extensive collection interpreting 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 Champaign County's past. 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.



Museum of the
Grand Prairie
Mahomet



NEW PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Broad Street, 2159E Cty 2, Barry
nps.gov/places/new-philadelphia-nhs.htm

Explore the New Philadelphia townsite, the first town in the United States to be platted and legally registered by an African American. The site interprets the story of Frank McWorter, a former slave, who founded the integrated community and the lives of other residents. The site features a walking trail and augmented reality app that allows visitors to experience New Philadelphia as it looked in the 1830s and 1840s.

NEW SALEM STATE HISTORIC SITE

15588 History Ln, Petersburg
lincolnsnewsalem.com

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.



New Philadelphia
Barry



New Salem
State Historic Site
Petersburg

OLD LINCOLN COURTROOM AND MUSEUM

101 W 3rd St, Beardstown
lincolninbeardstown.org

In the courtroom, Lincoln defended Duff Armstrong in the famous Almanac Trial, and this is the only courtroom where Lincoln practiced that is still in use today. The Beardstown Historical Museum collection includes historically and culturally significant objects and artifacts relating to the community, region, and the area's Native American Heritage.

OLD STATE CAPITOL STATE HISTORIC SITE

526 E Adams St., Springfield
visitspringfieldillinois.com

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.



Old Lincoln Courtroom
and Museum
Beardstown

POSTVILLE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

914 5th St., Lincoln
destinationlogancountyil.com/postville-courthouse

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.



Old State Capitol
State Historic Site
Springfield

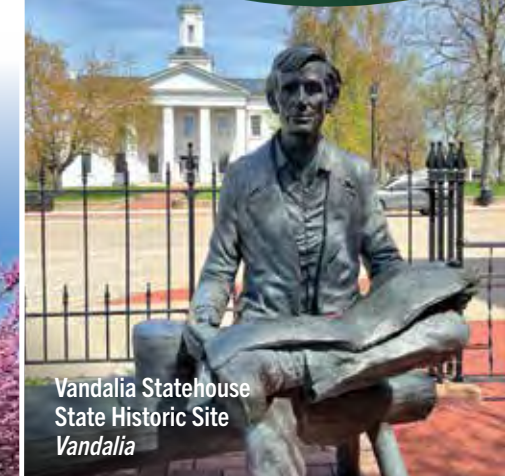
VANDALIA STATEHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

315 W Gallatin St, Vandalia
vandaliaillinois.com/for-visitors/explore-vandalia/old-state-capitol/

Step back in time to the early days of Illinois, a new member of the United States. 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.



Postville Courthouse
State Historic Site
Lincoln



Vandalia Statehouse
State Historic Site
Vandalia

lakeshelbyville.com

Discover more
by scanning
the QR code!

- * Recreation
- * Lodging
- * Attractions
- * Event Calendar
- * Lincoln
- * Area Maps
- * Guest Services

EXPLORE OUR COMMUNITIES

Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, is proudly represented by welcoming communities each showcasing a unique Lincoln experience along your journey. Set your GPS and map our coordinates, because all across the state, you will find a Lincoln adventure to explore.

LET'S GO DISCOVER

New Salem State Historic Site
Petersburg

Old Lincoln Courtroom
and Museum
Beardstown



Lincoln-Douglas Debate Site
Alton

Atlanta Public Library
Atlanta



ALTON

Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau
200 Piasa Street, Alton
(800) 258-6645 or (618) 465-6676
riversandroutes.com

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.

ATLANTA

Atlanta Public Museum & Welcome Center
114 SW Arch Street, Atlanta
(217) 746-6151 atlantamuseum.org

This small town was often a stop for Abraham Lincoln while he traveled the court circuit before becoming the 16th President of the United States. The Atlanta Public Museum tells the stories of Lincoln’s connection to Atlanta, the founding families he had close ties with, and the celebratory picnic honoring the Emancipation Proclamation. Join other travelers from around the world that make the Atlanta Public Museum and Welcome Center a stop on their cross-country traveling adventures. Other highlights to see while in town include the famous Paul Bunyon statue, Hawes Elevator, the old Mine and the Giant’s Museum.

BEARDSTOWN

Old Lincoln Courtroom
101 West Third Street, Beardstown
(217) 323-3225
lincolninbeardstown.org

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.





McLean County Museum of History
Bloomington

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Bloomington-Normal Area Convention
& Visitors Bureau
101 S. Madison Street, Bloomington
(800) 433-8226 or (309) 665-0033
visitbn.org

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.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Champaign-Urbana, Mahomet
Experience Champaign-Urbana
17 East Taylor Street, Champaign
(800) 369-6151 or (217) 351-4133
experiencecu.org

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 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.



Champaign County History Museum
Champaign

CHARLESTON

Charleston Tourism Office
520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston
(217) 345-2484
charlestonillinois.org/tourism

Thomas and Sarah 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. Lincoln tried many cases here and in 1858, Charleston was the scene of the Lincoln-Douglas debate. Be sure to visit the Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum while in town.

FIND EVEN MORE LOOKING FOR LINCOLN INFORMATION ONLINE



"The Convergence of Purpose" Statue
Bloomington

CLINTON

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

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.



Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum
Charleston

DANVILLE

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

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.



Vermilion County Museum
Danville



C.H. Moore Homestead
Clinton

Discover New Philadelphia

Founded in 1836 by Frank McWorter, a freedman, New Philadelphia is the first town in our nation founded and legally registered by an African American. In addition to founding this racially diverse community where African Americans and European Americans lived together in one of the most racially turbulent eras and regions of our country's history, Frank McWorter purchased freedom for himself and at least fifteen additional family members—all through his own enterprises. The McWorter family was known to help freedom seekers, and New Philadelphia became an important stop on the Underground Railroad.

This National Historic Site was designated as a unit of the National Park Service in December of 2022. Located three miles east of Barry, Illinois, visitors will find:

- A pavilion with seven interpretive wayside signs
- A self-guided augmented reality walking tour using a free downloadable app
- A butterfly garden and pollinator plot

You may also validate your "Passport to Your National Parks" booklet with the official National Park Service stamp and the NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program stamp at Barry City Hall or the Barry Library. Explore this historically significant site and learn about the perseverance of Frank McWorter!

New Philadelphia

Est. 1836

2150 E. County Road 2, Barry, Illinois
newphiladelphiaill.org
nps.gov/neph

SEQUOIA illinois



DECATUR

Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
202 East North Street, Decatur
(217) 423-7000
decaturcvb.com

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 History Museum.

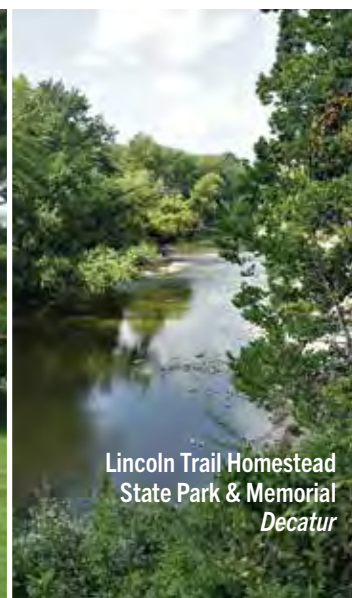
FREEPORT

Greater Freeport Partnership Visitor Center
110 W. Main Street, Freeport
(815) 233-1350
greaterfreeport.com

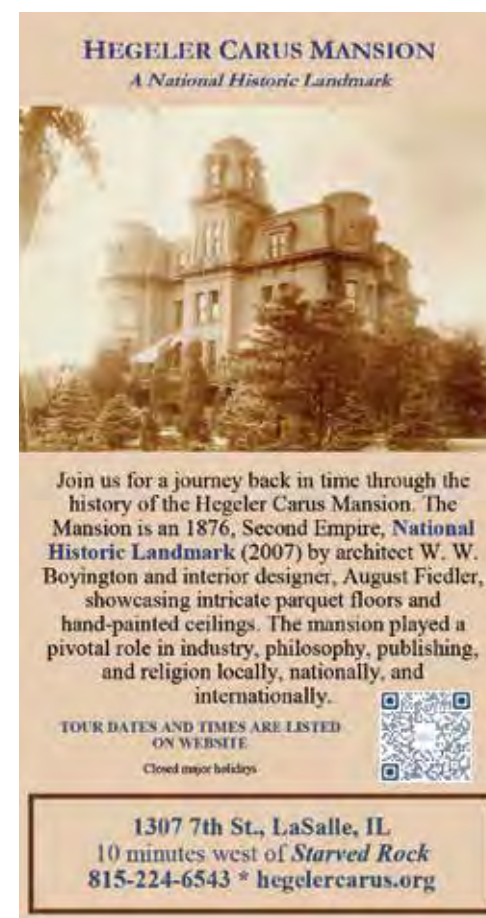
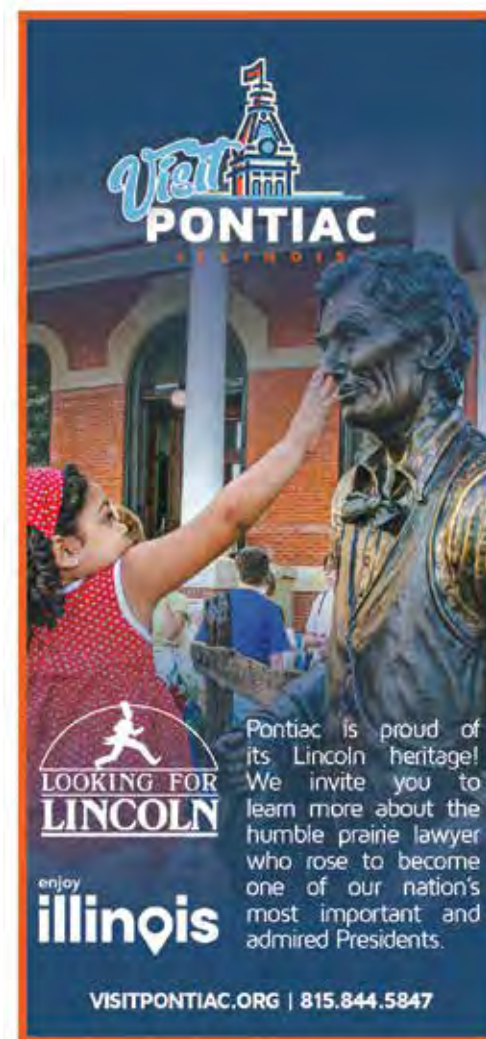
When the nation’s struggle over slavery was the largest talk in political debates in 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas reached a tipping point at the second of their seven debates in Freeport. Painted into a corner by Lincoln’s questioning, Douglas shed light on his true feelings regarding slave ownership and rights in what is now known as the “Freeport Doctrine.” This pivotal moment can be traced to a movement that eventually won Lincoln the presidency in 1860.



Macon County History Museum
Decatur



Lincoln Trail Homestead
State Park & Memorial
Decatur



OUR STORY

LOOKING FOR LINCOLN IN BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL



VisitBN

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

800.433.8226 / VisitBN.org

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
- Miller-Davis Building
- Train Funeral Marker
- McLean County Museum of History
- David Davis Mansion
- Jesse Fell Home

CRUISIN’ WITH LINCOLN ON 66 VISITORS CENTER

Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Free Admission on Tuesdays until 8 p.m.
CruisinwithLincoln66.org



enjoy
illinois

GALESBURG

Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau
2163 East Main Street, Galesburg
(309) 343-2485
experiencegalesburg.com

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.

HANCOCK COUNTY

Carthage, Nauvoo
Carthage Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 247, Carthage
(217) 357-3024
carthage-il.com

Nauvoo Tourism Office
1440 Mulholland Street, Nauvoo
visitnauvoo.illinois@gmail.com
beautifulnauvoo.com

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 six 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.

JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
310 East State Street, Jacksonville
(800) 593-5678 or (217) 243-5678
jacksonvilleil.org

Follow in Lincoln's footsteps via the "Voices of Jacksonville" audio tour, highlighting seven sites where you can see the places and hear the stories of Lincoln and his association with historic Jacksonville. Explore the Governor Duncan Mansion and Woodlawn Farm, a stop on the Underground Railroad, where you'll discover extraordinary stories of courage and perseverance. The Jacksonville Area Museum showcases artifacts and exhibits that highlight the city's rich past. Additionally, visit the Jacksonville African American Museum to uncover the pivotal role the community played in shaping local and national history. Each site offers a unique lens into the life and times of Lincoln.

FIND EVEN MORE LOOKING FOR LINCOLN INFORMATION ONLINE



WELCOME HILLSBORO!

The newest community welcomed into the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

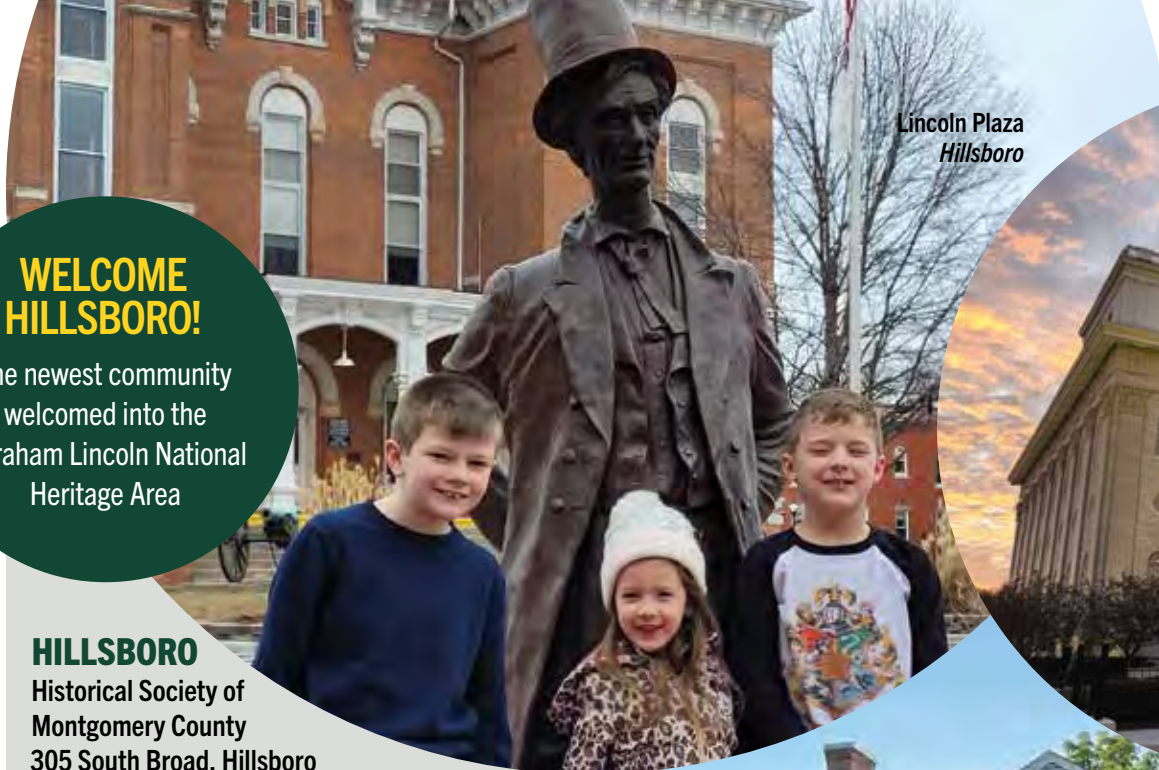
HILLSBORO

Historical Society of Montgomery County
305 South Broad, Hillsboro
montgomerycountyhistorical.com

Hillsboro is the newest community welcomed into the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. This historic town 45 miles south of Springfield has three sites on the National Register, along with many Lincoln stories to discover.

Lincoln visited Hillsboro many times from his early legislative years until he was elected President. As a lawyer, Lincoln filed court cases at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Lincoln spoke at political rallies on the courthouse steps in July 1843 and 1844. When he was a candidate for the United States Senate, he delivered a campaign speech in September 1858 at the Hillsboro fairgrounds. A portion of the fairgrounds racetrack is now a 1/3 mile paved walking trail for visitors with interpretations of the speech.

Don't miss the Lincoln statue, 'Among Friends,' on Lincoln Plaza, across from the Historic Montgomery County Courthouse. In 2005, sculptor John McClarey created this depiction of Lincoln as if he were stretching his back after a long carriage ride, happily arriving in Hillsboro. Lincoln often stayed with good friends 'Uncle Joe' and 'Aunt Jane' Eccles, who lived in a two-story house on the southeast corner of Berry and Water streets.



Lincoln Plaza
Hillsboro



Mormon Temple
Nauvoo



Governor Duncan
Mansion
Jacksonville



Carthage Jail
Carthage



Constitution Celebration
Lincoln Memorial Park
Jonesboro

JONESBORO

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

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.

LOOKING FOR LINCOLN STORIES PODCAST SERIES

Looking for Lincoln Stories is a video and podcast series about the people, events, and places of Abraham Lincoln's life and times. These narratives of real-live events paint a picture of the vibrant history of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Listen on your favorite podcasting app while traveling through the Heritage Area, or play on your desktop.

www.lookingforlincoln.org/education/stories



Washington Square
Ottawa



LASALLE COUNTY

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

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, traveled 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. Be sure to take a journey back in time aboard the "Volunteer," a mule-pulled 1840's replica canal boat, as it coasts gently up and down the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Retrace Lincoln's footsteps in LaSalle County.

Lincoln Heritage Museum
Lincoln



LINCOLN

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

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. The Lincoln Heritage Museum houses an amazing collection of rare Lincoln artifacts, including 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.

MACOMB

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

Located in the western Illinois region legendarily know as Unforgettable Forgettonia, Macomb is a place of history, nature, and recreation. Don't miss the Lincoln sites, including the Living Lincoln Topiary Monument in which live flowering plants create Lincoln's beard.

The city is known for dozens of legends like musician "Big" Al Sears and civil rights activist C.T. Vivan. It's also the birthplace of Elizabeth "Lizzie" Magie, the inventive genius behind the board game Monopoly. The historic downtown square has been transformed into "Macombopoly," the world's largest Monopoly board, which boasts a free app to play the game on mobile devices.

Lincoln Living Topiary
Macomb



DISCOVER LINCOLN

discover **DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS**

www.downstateil.org | 618.257.1488

experience galesburg

enjoy **illinois**

food • festivals • art • music • history • golf • outdoors

experiencegalesburg.com

For your FREE Visitor's Guide, call 800-916-3330 or scan the QR Code.



Metamora Courthouse
Metamora

METAMORA

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

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.

MT PULASKI

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

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.



Mt Pulaski Town Square
Mt Pulaski



Lincoln's New Salem
Petersburg



Courthouse
Mt Pulaski

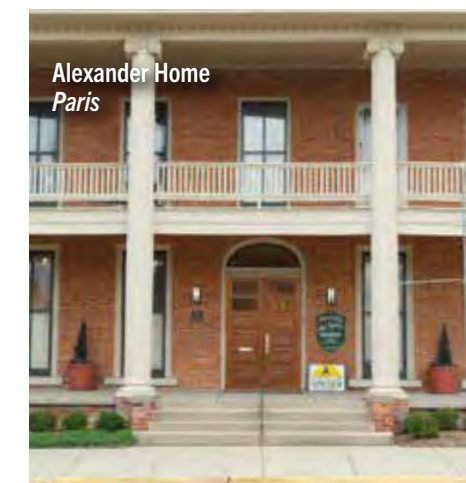


Lincoln's New Salem
Petersburg

PETERSBURG

Petersburg
(217) 632-4000
visitmenardcounty.com/history

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, is 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.



Alexander Home
Paris

PARIS

Paris Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
105 North Central Street, Paris
(217) 465-4179
parisilchamber.com

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.



HISTORY
ART
OUTDOORS

CHOOSE YOUR
ADVENTURE
LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE
SQUARE, FREEPORT



greaterfreeport.com/visit

LOOKING TO GET OFF THE BEATEN PATH, AND RECONNECT WITH NATURE?

TAKE THE SHAWNEE CHALLENGE

GET YOUR PASS
THE MOBILE EXCLUSIVE PASSPORT IS A COLLECTION OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TO EXPLORE DURING YOUR VISIT.

CHECK IN
WHEN VISITING A PARTICIPATING LOCATION, SIMPLY ENABLE LOCATION SERVICES, CHECK IN, AND EARN POINTS TOWARD REDEEMING PRIZES!

RECEIVE TEXT
YOUR PASSPORT WILL BE INSTANTLY DELIVERED TO YOUR PHONE VIA TEXT AND EMAIL AND IS READY TO USE IMMEDIATELY! YOUR PASS CAN BE SAVED TO YOUR PHONE'S HOME SCREEN FOR EASY ONE-TAP ACCESS.

enjoy
illinois
SOUTHERNMOSTILLINOIS.COM
@SOUTHERNMOST_ILLINOIS

Pittsfield Central Park
Pittsfield



Shastid House
Pittsfield

PIKE COUNTY

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

Pike County is home to the charming community of Pittsfield, as well as New Philadelphia National Historic Site. A walking trail and augmented reality app combine to allow visitors to experience New Philadelphia as it looked in the 1830s and 1840s. While visiting the nearby community of Pittsfield, be sure to experience the Talking Houses of Pittsfield / Looking for Lincoln Story Trail. Here, you will learn stories about early Pittsfield residents who knew Abraham Lincoln, including some who accompanied our 16th President all the way to the White House.

PONTIAC

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

While riding the 8th Judicial Circuit, Abraham Lincoln frequently visited 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 the area. 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 attractions.

Courthouse Square
Pontiac



Courthouse Square
Pontiac



QUINCY

Quincy Area Convention
& Visitors Bureau
532 Gardner Expressway, Quincy
(800) 978-4748 or 217-214-3700
seequincy.com

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 the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum in the heart of downtown. 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, John Wood, as you explore his impressive mansion.



Thornton Debate Site
Shelbyville

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 overlooking beautiful Lake Shelbyville is a must-stop on your Lincoln adventure.



Lincoln-Douglas
Debate Site
Quincy



HISTORY MUSEUM ON THE SQUARE

Discover History

Two Historic Locations,
Thousands of
Remarkable Stories

217-222-1835 • HSQAC.ORG

GOVERNOR JOHN WOOD MANSION



McLEAN COUNTY
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY

200 N. Main St. Bloomington, IL
mchistory.org ★ 309-827-0428



Lincoln in Bloomington-Normal
Mobile Audio Tour now available
on our web-based tour platform,
Tourient. Scan the QR code or visit
mchistory.tourient.app to begin.



Where Route 66
Meets Lincoln's Legacy



Visitors Center & Gift Shop
Local art, information, snacks and
more conveniently located on the
ground level of the Museum!

Abraham Lincoln Presidential
Library and Museum
Springfield

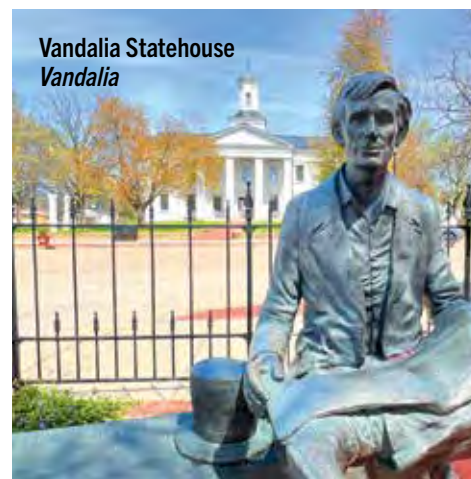
Lincoln Tomb
Springfield

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Visitor Center
Temporarily Located at 109 N. 7th Street,
Springfield
(800) 545-7300 or (217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com

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.

Vandalia Statehouse
Vandalia

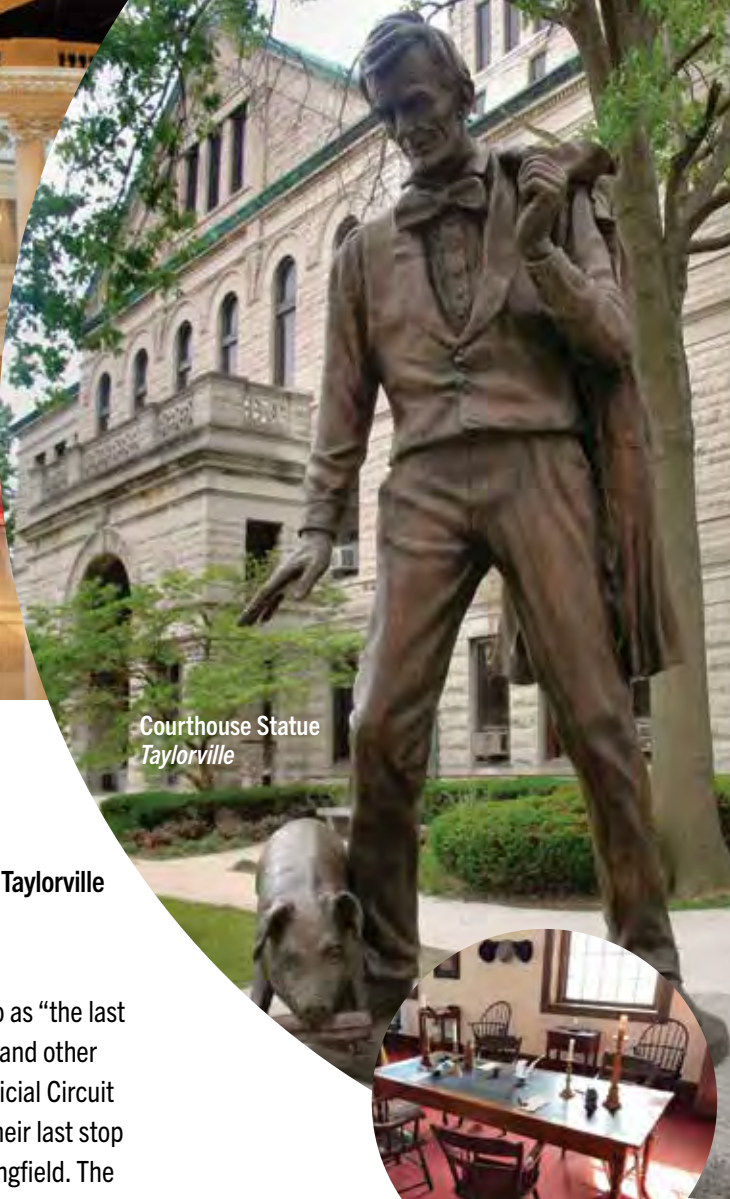


TAYLORVILLE

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

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.

Courthouse Statue
Taylorville



Vandalia Statehouse
Vandalia



VANDALIA

Illinois South Tourism
4387 N. Illinois St., Suite 200, Swansea
618) 257-1488
downstateil.org

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 State Fair Route 66 Experience



Springfield, IL

WHERE *History* MEETS THE *Road*



Springfield is Always
Legendary!



Abraham Lincoln, Route 66,
Unique Shopping, & Culinary Delights!



16th Annual
History Comes Alive
June 6 - August 10, 2025

Visit
Springfield
Illinois
WE'RE *More* THAN ONE DAY
PLAN YOUR ROAD TRIP AT:
WWW.VISITSPRINGFIELDILLINOIS.COM

enjoy
illinois

Let's Get Social!



@visitspringfield

FIND HISTORY ALONG THE STORY TRAIL

The Looking for Lincoln Story Trail is what you get when you combine pages of an open-air story book with a treasure hunt for dynamic learning.

FIND AN EXHIBIT

[LookingForLincoln.org/explore/communities](https://www.lookingforlincoln.org/explore/communities)

Finding the over 200+ wayside exhibits and locations around the Looking for Lincoln area can be tricky - history sometimes didn't happen on a main road. On our website, we've included an interactive map with precise locations for use on your mobile mapping device.

Over 200 wayside exhibits and statues are placed at significant sites in over 50 communities within the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Each represents intriguing stories and local people that played a key role in Lincoln's journey to greatness.

At each unique exhibit, the engaging story content is presented in a way that you are sure to walk away with added knowledge and interesting points steeped in Lincoln's history. Just as Lincoln was a one-of-a-kind person and president, you will have the opportunity to view a one-of-a-kind medallion with an image representing each exhibit. Take a piece of the story with you by using a piece of paper and a pencil to create your treasure of a Looking for Lincoln rubbing.

Across the land of Abraham Lincoln, plan your story trail and collect all 200 rubbings as a keepsake record of your adventure of learning. This is a fun activity to help you discover amazing stories and treasures of history.

The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area also invites you to find an array of itineraries on the official Looking for Lincoln website at [LookingForLincoln.org](https://www.lookingforlincoln.org). New itineraries are always in the works so continue to check back to find the latest ones available.

A trail, a story, a treasure beckoning you to explore countless places in Illinois all tied to where Lincoln lived for 30 years. Find over 200 wayside exhibit sites at: [LookingForLincoln.org/explore/communities](https://www.lookingforlincoln.org/explore/communities)

LET'S GO FIND YOUR LINCOLN STORY

Mr. Lincoln's Square
Clinton

Museum of the
Grand Prairie
Mahomet

Mr. Lincoln's Square
Clinton

All American Park
Quincy

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Spanning a 43-county area in Illinois, the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area boasts a calendar of uniquely special events that highlight the life and times of our 16th president. Consider each event a special invitation to you, our guest, to participate in living and learning about the life and times of Lincoln.

Find the most up-to-date information about activities throughout the Land of Lincoln at **LookingForLincoln.org/events**

History Comes Alive
Springfield

LET'S GO DISCOVER

Lincoln Days Civil War
Reenactment
Pittsfield

HISTORY COMES ALIVE

June 6–August 10, 2025 | Springfield Visitor Center,
Temporarily Located 109 N. 7th Street, Springfield
visitspringfieldillinois.com/Landing/HistoryComesAlive

History Comes Alive transports you back to 19th Century Springfield. Immerse yourself in Lincoln's hometown while meeting our largest cast of historical reenactors yet. Live performances, a variety of demonstrations, as well as special presentations of some of Lincoln's most famous speeches. Springfield is truly a city where History Comes Alive! Free downtown trolley service to historic sites Wed-Sat!

GRANDE LEVEE

June 14, 2025 | Vandalia State House State Historic Site, 315 W Gallatin St, Vandalia
dnrhistoric.illinois.gov/experience/sites/site.vandalia-state-house.html

The Grande Levee is a celebration of the grand receptions that took place during the 1800s to honor government dignitaries and important visitors when Vandalia was the seat of Illinois state government. Visitors can enjoy period demonstrations, the selling of wares, an Abraham Lincoln presenter, period folk music, children's area with fun period games, and tours of the Vandalia Statehouse. Event is free and open to the public.

FRONTIER SETTLEMENT DAY

September 13, 2025 | Quinsippi Island 1100 Quinsippi Island Rd., Quincy
logcabinvillagequincyil.com

Step back in time to the 1800s at the Log Cabin Village. Learn how felt hats and rugs were made, what church was like, and visit with the ladies who will be having tea. Other activities include wool spinning, chair caning, music and games. Food will be available for purchase, and stop by the Clat Adams cabin/store to see what's new. Frontier Day is held on Quinsippi Island, just past All America Park.

CONSTITUTION CELEBRATION

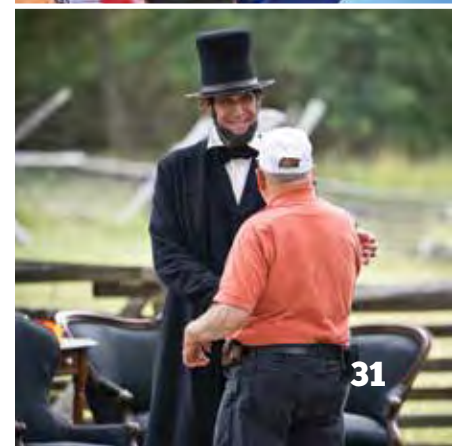
September 13, 2025 | 521 N Main St, Jonesboro
fs.usda.gov/recarea/shawnee/recarea/?recid=10673

On the 165th Anniversary of the famous Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Jonesboro celebrates at Lincoln Memorial Park. The program will include a 21-gun and cannon salute, and a minute of bell-ringing to mark the occasion. Soloists, speakers, and essayist will present the program. Children's games, music, and food begin at 4:30 pm, with the program at 5:30 pm. This event is a great opportunity to explore this beautiful, but often overlooked part of Illinois.

HARVEST FROLIC

September 27-28, 2025 | Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site,
402 S. Lincoln Hwy., Lerna | lincolnlogcabin.org/index.html

Come celebrate the arrival of autumn at the Harvest Frolic. The event is free and open to the public. Don't miss experiencing 19th-century life on the farm. Activities will take place at both the Lincoln and Sargent farms and will include children's games, crafts, hearth cooking, and activities. A number of artisans will be on site demonstrating their crafts including, spinning, pottery, broom making, blacksmithing, embroidery, and many other 19th-century crafts.



C.H. MOORE HOMESTEAD



DeWitt County Museum

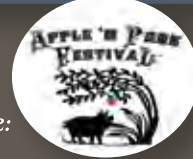
219 E. Woodlawn Clinton, IL 217-935-6066 chmoorehomestead.org Home of the Apple 'n Pork Festival



Open for Tours Tuesdays-Saturdays 10-5 and 1-5 Sundays (April-December)
Museum tours include the restored and fully-furnished Victorian mansion which was the home of C.H. Moore, one of Clinton's earliest and DeWitt County's most prominent citizens as well as a long-time friend of Abraham Lincoln; the original carriage barn; special exhibits featuring the Kent Collection, 19th & 20th Century Agriculture Collection, Historic Houses of DeWitt County Exhibit; and more.

EVENTS 2025

April 27 Abraham Lincoln & Ann Rutledge: Is the Story True?
Presentation by Guy C. Fraker



June 1-29 Quilt Show

August 3 Honey Through the Ages: A Tasting Journey
Presentation by Amber Boring Rutledge

Sept. 27 & 28 Apple 'n Pork Festival

November 28 Santa Night

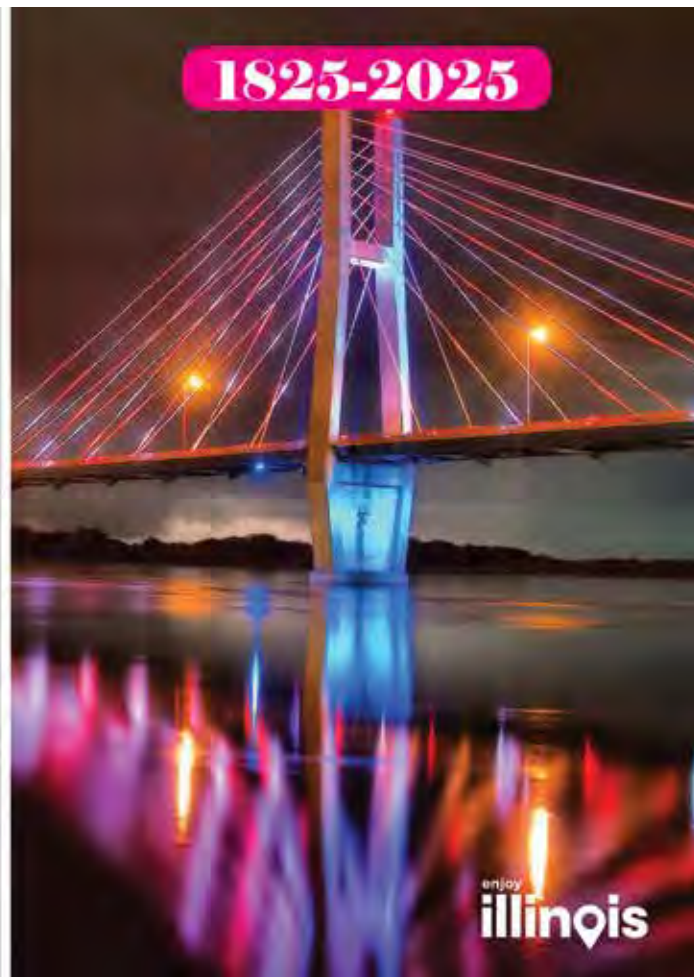
Nov. 28 and Dec. 5, 12, & 19
Holiday Candlelight Tours

Visit our website or these Facebook pages for more info!



Apple 'n Pork Festival
C.H. Moore Homestead & DeWitt County Museum

1825-2025



2025 TRAVEL GUIDE | Bicentennial Edition

QUINCY, IL

FEATURING

**THE BIG LIST
200 THINGS WE** 
ICONIC PEOPLE, PLACES & PASTIMES

GET YOUR COPY

SEE QUINCY.COM | 800.978.4748

Discover LINCOLN'S HISTORY in Decatur, IL

WAYSIDE EXHIBITS

"Music Please, Maestro!"
"Lincoln's Legacy"
"Choosing a President"
"The Rail-Splitter Candidate"
"Finding the Biggest Man"
"Wake Up, Lincoln!"
"Lincoln's First Political Speech"
"Lincoln on the Circuit"
"Coming to Illinois"
"Let Us All Be United"
"Getting There From Here"
"Lincoln's Decatur Ally"
"Settling in Illinois"
"Winter of the Deep Snow"
"A Favorite Lies Here"
"Macon County History Museum"

Lincoln was first nominated for the presidency in Decatur, Illinois by John Palmer and given the nickname

"The Rail-Splitter"



Decatur Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau
of Illinois



enjoy
illinois

FIND A ROAD TRIP OF EXPLORATION LIKE NO OTHER.

HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

Travel Illinois as Mr. Lincoln did as a prairie lawyer winding your way through the landscape of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Five different roads designated as American Scenic Byways, including the famous Route 66, each leading you on a drive of discovery with attractions and sites steeped in history of Lincoln's past travel journeys.

LET'S GO HIT THE ROAD

Sugar Creek Covered Bridge
Chatham

Route 66 Motorheads
Springfield

GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66!

Two distinct times in American history overlap in Central Illinois: Lincoln and Route 66. Discover even more amazing stories of our nation.

GREAT RIVER ROAD IN ILLINOIS greatriverroad-illinois.org

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.

HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD nationalroad.org

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.

ILLINOIS RIVER ROAD illinoisriverroad.org

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 ROUTE 66 illinoisroute66.org

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 gener-

ations 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.

MEETING OF THE GREAT RIVERS riversandroutes.com

Return to a time of simplicity and American values along the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway where the mighty Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers converge. The 33-mile Byway meanders its way through the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, beginning in Hartford and ending in Grafton at Pere Marquette State Park. Make plans to explore the spectacular scenery, archaeological finds, historic happenings, cultural experiences and memorable recreation along the way.



LaSALLE COUNTY
WHERE LINCOLN'S VOICE WAS FIRST HEARD

Enjoy LaSalle County
Come for the Beauty. Stay for the Adventure.

Heritage Corridor
Destinations

enjoy illinois

• Award winning lodging
• Home of Starved Rock State Park
• Outdoor Music & Dining

enjoylasallecounty.com





A NEW TRAVELING EXHIBIT FROM LOOKING FOR LINCOLN

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

ILLINOIS' Underground Railroad

The courageous stories of freedom seekers, and the multi-racial conductors who assisted them, are highlighted in a new exhibit about the Underground Railroad in Illinois. Learn about the network of people who collaborated to assist those searching for freedom and dignity.

Presented by
Looking for Lincoln

Find info, videos, schedule, and locations at www.IllinoisUGRR.org

PASSPORT TO YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

Explore and travel the Land of Lincoln and have it officially documented by a stamp on your passport.

Offering an entertaining way to explore the communities and landscapes where Lincoln lived, worked and traveled, the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area partners with the National Park Service to highlight the Passport to your National Parks program.

The program allows you to collect cancellation stamps at specific sites in participating Looking for Lincoln Communities, all while learning more about our 16th President.

Double your fun and rewarding experiences by combining your adventures of Looking for Lincoln while visiting National Park sites and recording it with a passport cancellation stamp. There are over 40 passport stamp locations designated in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

For the most up-to-date list of all the cancellation stamp locations, visit: LookingForLincoln.org/explore/passport-program



I&M CANAL

The Nation's First National Heritage Area

The Illinois & Michigan Canal was the nation's first National Heritage Area and overlaps the northernmost edge of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. The I&M Canal NHA is an outdoor museum where visitors can explore the diverse stories of this living landscape. It's a place to walk in the footsteps of Native Americans, French Explorers and Voyagers, canal workers, immigrants and even Abraham Lincoln. As a member of the Illinois legislature, Lincoln voted for the construction of the canal, served as a canal commissioner, and traveled along it as a canal boat passenger.

Discover these and many other stories as you explore the I&M Canal National Heritage Area. Take a ride on a canal boat, ride a bike on the towpath trail, or visit a historic canal town.

I&M CANAL VISITORS CENTER
754 First Street, LaSalle, IL
815.220.1848 • iandmcanal.org



CLINTON

ILLINOIS



EXPERIENCE

A TRUE AMERICAN HOMETOWN.
A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS IN CLINTON

Sunset Inn and Suites: 217-935-4140

Town and Country Motel: 217-935-2121

Wye Motel: 217-935-3373

Visit [Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com) for accommodations in our area.



HISTORIC SITE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FAMOUS ALMANAC TRIAL

OLD LINCOLN COURTROOM AND MUSEUM




Visit the only courtroom where Lincoln practiced law that is still in use. Plus, explore a museum of artifacts highlighting life along the historic Illinois River.

Open April - November
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10 am - 4 pm
or by appointment

Begin your Exploration
of Western Illinois here!

101 West Third Street
Beardstown, Illinois

www.LincolnInBeardstown.org



A photograph showing the interior of the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum. A group of people, including a woman, a young girl, a boy, and an older woman, are standing in a room with wooden paneling and a large wooden table. An American flag is visible in the background.



Clinton Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& Tourism Bureau

100 South Center Street | Suite 101 | Clinton, Illinois 61727

217-935-3364 | chamber@clintonilchamber.com

www.clintonilchamber.com



SCAN ME

The Lincoln Danville Knew



Danville & Vermilion County

Taking a stroll down Vermilion St in Danville (1850), you may well have run into a tall, gangly, somewhat unkempt young man, wearing a stovetop hat, rushing from his office to the nearby courthouse. Danville knew that young man well, as Abe Lincoln practiced law here from 1841-1859 as he traveled the now famous 8th Judicial Circuit in Illinois.

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

Abraham Lincoln

Noon February 11, 1861 • On his way to Washington



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



FUN FOR KIDS

Who better to share your Looking for Lincoln journey with than your very own Flat Lincoln!

On top of kid-friendly listings at LookingForLincoln.org, you can start discovering Lincoln history by snapping pictures with your very own Flat Lincoln. Go social and post it on Facebook using #FlatLincoln, and see if you make our favorites on our LookingForLincoln page!

Many sites around the state have Flat Lincolns ready to give you for free, or download a Flat Lincoln at:

LookingForLincoln.org/explore/flat-lincoln



Museum of the Grand Prairie
Mahomet



Experience Lincoln's Rich Legacy

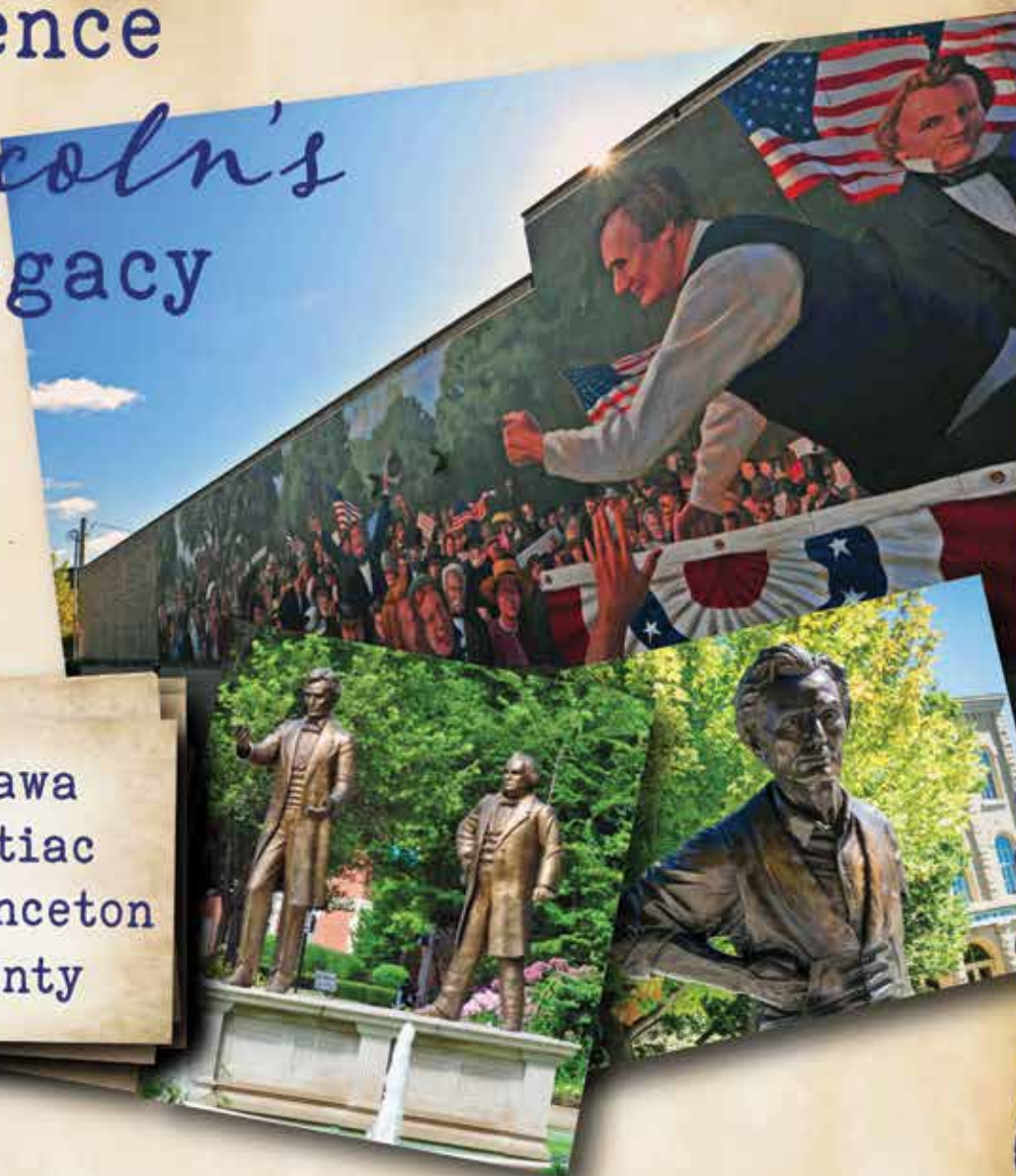
Joliet Ottawa
La Salle Pontiac
Lockport Princeton
LaSalle County



Practicing law in Pontiac, debating for a senate seat in Ottawa, speaking at rallies in Joliet and Princeton and journeying along the I&M Canal in Lockport and La Salle, these cities provide a rich backdrop for your next historical adventure.



Call today for your
FREE Travel Guide!

844-944-2282 HCDestinations.com



LEARN THE TRUE STORY OF THE PEOPLE WHO
SOUGHT FREEDOM AND THOSE WHO
TRIED TO HELP THEM


QUINCY
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MUSEUM
Dr. Richard Eells House

415 JERSEY STREET
QUINCY, IL, 62301

OPEN SATURDAYS, 1-4PM
OR CALL 217.223.1800
TO RESERVE A TOUR


WWW.QUINCYUNDERGROUNDRAILROAD.ORG

Discover Abraham Lincoln in Coles County




Charleston

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



Mattoon

- Historic Train Depot
- Lincoln's Last Visit Wayside
- Mattoon Public Library Local History Center
- Dodge Grove Cemetery



Lerna

- Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site

Contact us for more ways to look for Lincoln in Coles County!

Charleston Tourism
217.348.0430 • tourism@co.coles.il.us

Mattoon Tourism
1.800.500.6286 • tourism@mattoonillinois.org

discover **DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS** enjoy **illinois**

TAKE A DEEPER DIVE INTO HISTORY

BOOKS & 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.



For information on ordering
your own copy of the Looking
for Lincoln books, visit:
LookingForLincoln.org



WILLIAM WATSON HOTEL

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ALL WARS MUSEUM

PIKE COUNTY'S LINCOLN

LINCOLN'S PIKE COUNTY

FEATURING THE TALKING HOUSE TOUR

Explore the history of the families that knew Lincoln personally via this self-guided tour of 13 unique properties including the Pike County Courthouse and William Watson Hotel on the historic Pittsfield Square.

pikelincoln.com
pikeil.org

LOOKING FOR LINCOLN

enjoy **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 CVB

101 S. Madison Street, Bloomington
(800) 433-8226 or (309) 665-0033
visitbn.org

Charleston Tourism Office

520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston
(217) 345-2484
charlestonillinois.org/tourism

Danville Area Visitors Bureau

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

Decatur Area CVB

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

Destination Logan County

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

Discover Downstate Illinois

4387 North Illinois Street, Suite 200
Swansea
(618) 257-1488
downstateil.org

Experience Champaign Urbana

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

Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau

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

Greater Freeport Partnership Visitor Center

110 W. Main Street, Freeport
(815) 233-1350
greaterfreeport.com

Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau

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

Heritage Corridor CVB

801 East US. Highway 6, Utica
(800) 746-0550 or (815) 667-4356
heritagecorridorcvb.com

Jacksonville Area CVB

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

Lake Shelbyville Area CVB

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

**Unforgettable Forgottonia
Macomb Area CVB**

c/o Train Depot
120 East Calhoun Street, Macomb
(309) 833-1315
visitforgottonia.com

Ottawa Visitors Center

1028 La Salle Street, Ottawa
(815) 434-2737
visitottawail.com

Peoria Area CVB

456 Fulton Street, #300, Peoria
(800) 747-0302 or (309) 676-0303
peoria.org

Quincy Area CVB

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

Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau

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

**Starved Rock Country Welcome Center
& Illinois Made Gift Shoppe**

248 W. Canal Street
Utica, IL 61373
(800) 746-0550 or (815) 667-4356
hcdestinations.com

Visit Pontiac Illinois

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

**Visit Springfield
Springfield Visitor Center**

Temporarily Located at 109 N. 7th Street
Springfield
(800) 545-7300 or (217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com

FIND EVEN MORE LOOKING FOR LINCOLN INFORMATION ONLINE



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 2025/26 season. To assure accuracy, please call ahead to verify all information.

Printed in the USA March 2025 30M

LINCOLN Was Here!

The MIDDLE OF
HISTORY

In Ottawa IL, you can feel HISTORY all around you. Find yourself in the very place where Lincoln held his first debate! Tour downtown Ottawa, IL and come face to face with history as you gaze upon a series of murals depicting the town's exciting past. You can even learn the shocking story of The Radium Girls...All that and more awaits you in scenic City of Ottawa, IL 90 miles from Chicago in *The Middle of Everywhere!*

Murals



Radium Girls



Washington Square Park



Find Your New Destination Here:

OTTAWA VISITORS CENTER
(815)-434-2737

Visit Our Website Here:

VISITOTTAWAIL.COM



Discover a new way to explore the museum



LINCOLN UNLOCKED

A NEW DIGITAL EXPERIENCE



HEADPHONES
RECOMMENDED
FOR THE BEST EXPERIENCE



Augmented
Reality



Link
Devices



Accessibility
Features



Tours



Abraham Lincoln
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

212 North 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701 | 217-558-8844
PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov



DOWNLOAD
THE
APP

Visit LincolnUnlocked.com