Lincoln Visits Atlanta (Half Day)

Located about halfway between the Gateway communities of Springfield and Bloomington is the picturesque rural town of Atlanta. Here you’ll get a glimpse into Lincoln’s interactions and influence in the small, rural communities of the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Situated along historic, world famous U.S. Route 66, Atlanta’s history will give you a glimpse into the life and times of the people in this small farming community – people who would forge lifelong friendships with the man who would one day lead the nation. Explore that Lincoln connection and the stories of the people of Atlanta at the Atlanta Museum.

Located on the first floor of the building housing the Atlanta Museum, you’ll find one of the most famous diner stops along historic Route 66 – the Palm’s Grill Café. Restored to its original 1930s appearance, the Palm’s Grill has welcomed 66 travelers from around the globe – who’ve stopped in for a home-cooked lunch or dinner or a piece of their famous homemade pie and coffee.

Just across the street from the café, be sure to take your photo next to the famed Paul Bunyon statue. Don’t miss a once-in-a-lifetime selfie with the 19’ giant man holding a hot dog – and learn more about Paul’s giant brothers that can be found along Illinois’ Route 66 National Scenic Byway.

Atlanta’s agricultural history will give you a feel for the lives of Illinois farmers in Lincoln’s day and still today. Discover the history of Illinois’ rich grain producing, storing and shipping history – be sure to stop by Hawes Grain Elevator. Learn about the history of transportation in the last century at the nearby recently renovated Hieronymus Carriage House.

Step back to a simpler time at the Atlanta Public Library and Clocktower. Take a peek inside this beautifully restored and unique library building. Relax in front of the fireplace and have a chat with the local patrons who’ll be glad to share their own stories of life in Atlanta. Don’t miss a photo of the historic clocktower on the Library lawn that still runs on its original 1907 Seth Thomas mechanism.