



Abraham Lincoln
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Guide based on
standard operations.

Please visit our
website for COVID-19
procedures.

The Ultimate Visitor Guide

Everything you need to know to enhance your experience in one place



experience
ABEmazing



PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov P 217.558.8844 212 North 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701

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The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum redefines the possible in presidential complexes. The museum's exhibit space is considerably larger than exhibit space in any other presidential center. But what really sets our museum apart is the scope, creativity, and visitor engagement of its displays. Using advanced technologies normally reserved for theme parks, yet maintaining rigorous standards of scholarship, the museum presents a fully immersive experience enabling 21st-century visitors to inhabit Lincoln's life and times. The museum also displays one-of-a-kind Lincoln documents and artifacts drawn from the huge collection housed in our library building, a world center for research into Abraham Lincoln and Illinois history. Together, the library and museum make history engaging, both intellectually and emotionally.

NAVIGATING OUR CAMPUS

Our campus is split among three different buildings:

Museum is where guests will spend most of their time. It's where the Lincoln story is told through full-immersion exhibits, special effect theaters, and displays of original artifacts.

Library (*closed weekends and holidays*) is primarily for research. It houses millions of documents, photographs, and artifacts. Scholars and researchers will spend all day utilizing our resources. Guests are welcome to visit our Library and view various displays on the first floor.

Union Station is a historical venue that provides for additional exhibit space. Check out our [special exhibits](#) to see what experience is currently available.

Union Square Park provides a beautiful historic setting for a picnic. If you didn't bring a picnic, order lunch from our onsite Café (SUBWAY®) and walk across the street. During the summer season, various outdoor games are provided in the park area. The park features Mary Lincoln's flower garden, a statue of Abraham Lincoln by John McCleary entitled "A Greater Task," a statue of Lincoln sitting on a park bench by Mark Luden, and a Preston Jackson sculpture memorializing the 1908 Springfield race riot.



DID YOU KNOW? Union Station was opened in 1898 by the Illinois Central Railroad and the last passenger train left Union Station on April 30, 1971. The station is designed in the Romanesque Revival style, which is evident in its decorative stone and brick work, strong geometric form, and soaring clock tower.

THE LINCOLN EXPERIENCE

Our museum is self-guided and designed in such a way that no path is incorrect. Some will choose to visit our theater presentations first (they are timed so that guests can experience “Ghosts of the Library” first, then proceed right into “Lincoln’s Eyes”). Others may choose to take in the journeys or galleries first. We do recommend, if possible, to view Journey I prior to Journey II.

Plaza

As you enter our main plaza, you will be greeted by our friendly volunteers that will provide you with an overview. Get your photo taken with the Lincoln family.



TIP: All paths lead back to this main plaza area.

Journey I

Abraham Lincoln’s journey from the backwoods of Kentucky to Washington, D.C., is told in nine exhibits that comprise Journey One: The Pre-Presidential Years. Learn about Lincoln’s early and abiding quest for knowledge, his personal and family life, his parenting style, and the issues he confronted as a presidential candidate in 1860.



Family-Friendly Tip: Once in Journey I, just past the Log Cabin, a slave auction scene is depicted. This emotional scene can be startling to young children.

Journey II

Abraham Lincoln achieved what many men only dreamed of when he won the presidency in 1860. But the country was in crisis—the Civil War would begin just weeks after his inauguration, and Lincoln would wrestle with the human toll of battle and of slavery. Family tragedy struck as well, with the death of son Willie in 1862.

Cruel personal and political attacks that greeted the Lincolns when they arrived in Washington, D.C., gave way to an outpouring of grief following his assassination on April 14, 1865. Somber scenes of mourning illustrate Lincoln’s powerful hold on Americans.

Theaters

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is proud to host two fantastic theater presentations, which run throughout the day and are included with Museum admission. Daily show times are posted in front of each theater.

Union Theater is a state-of-the-art theater that features layered digital-projection screens and special effects. The 17-minute presentation, *Lincoln's Eyes*, is narrated by an artist who struggled to capture the sorrow, hope, vision, resolve and forgiveness he found in Lincoln's eyes. Strobe lights, loud noises, and seat vibrations are all part of this presentation and make it one of the most immersive features of the Museum.

Ghosts of the Library is a dramatic and magical special-effects presentation that uses Holavision®—a proprietary technology—to explain the importance of the museum's complementary facility, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, in preserving not just the history of Illinois' favorite son, but of all Illinoisans. The 9-minute presentation is one of the most popular attractions at the museum and we recommend arriving at least five minutes before the posted showtime to see a behind-the-scenes look of the Presidential Library.



TIP: Hold on to your seat; there are special effects, lightning, strobes, and vibrations.



Family-Friendly Tip: Ghosts of the Library begins with a clap of thunder and then is very sedate. This Holavision theater is not 3D with flying objects.

Treasures Gallery

This exhibit area is reserved for a rotating display of some of the most precious Lincoln artifacts. View dozens of items that were a part of the Lincolns' lives. Family photos, china, and crystal from the White House provide glimpses of the Lincoln family's personal lives, while some of the world's most important documents remind us of Abraham Lincoln's impact on history.

Illinois Gallery

The Illinois Gallery boasts up to 3,000 square feet of changing exhibit space, which provides the flexibility to host large-scale national touring exhibits as well as our own in-house developed shows. The exhibits are traditionally changed annually, and the mission allows us the interpretive flexibility to stay relevant to our patrons beyond Lincoln's life and legacy. [See what is currently on display.](#)



TIP: Best for ages 8 and under and must be accompanied by an adult.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Hours / Days

The museum is open from 9am – 5pm Central time every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day. Last admission is at 4pm. Our day ticket includes everything on the campus. Wristbands are provided, so guests may enter/exit all day.



TIP: Plan at least 2 hours to explore the museum. Some guests will spend all day. Our least busy days are Sunday and Monday. April and May are heavy field trip months.

Tickets

Save time by purchasing your tickets online. ETicketing will be the delivery option. Be sure to print your tickets or have them available on your smartphone.

Prices

- Adults - \$15
- Senior (62+) - \$12
- Military (ID required) - \$10
- Student (ID required) - \$12
High school over the age of 16 or college student
- Children - \$6
4 & under - FREE



TIP: Accepted payment types are cash, credit/debit (M/C, Visa).



DID YOU KNOW: The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is a proud participant of the **Museums for All** program. The program supports those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits visiting the ALPLM for a minimal fee.

Be Prepared

To properly conserve our artifacts and other objects, the temperature is 70 degrees, so consider bringing a sweater. Additionally, only bring what is necessary as all bags and purses will be inspected. No food and drink will be allowed.



Family-Friendly Tip: Baby bottles/baby food/sippy cups may be used in designated children's area and Subway.

GETTING HERE

Springfield is the Illinois capital, centrally located in the state and very accessible. It's an easy drive from Chicago or St. Louis, a quick Amtrak ride away, and home to the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport (SPI).

The campus is located at 212 North 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

Via Automobile

- **BEST ROUTE: From I-55 South or North**, take Springfield's Clear Lake Avenue (Exit 98B): Proceed West on Clear Lake. Clear Lake will turn into Jefferson Street (one-way West).

When you see the skywalk, you are entering the campus.

The museum bus drop-off is located on the North side of Jefferson, between 6th and 7th Streets.

- **From Chicago**, take I-55 South to the IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.
- **From Champaign**, take I-72 West. Proceed to IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.
- **From St. Louis**, take I-55 North to IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.
- **From Jacksonville**, take US-36/I-72 East to I-55 North. Proceed to IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.
- **From Indianapolis**, take I-74 West to I-72 West. Proceed to IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.
- **From Peoria**, take I-74 East to I-155 South to I-55 South. Proceed to IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.
- **From Des Moines**, take I-80 East to I-74 East. Proceed to I-155 South to I-55 South. Proceed to IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.
- **From Kankakee**, take I-57 South to I-72 West. Proceed to IL-97/West, Clear Lake Avenue, Exit 98B.



TIP: Springfield has a one-way street system, use caution.

The parking garage entrance is located on 6th Street, between Madison and Mason street; 501 E. Madison Street. Spaces for buses and RVs are available adjacent to the parking garage on the north side. If arriving via the Clear Lake exit, turn right on 6th Street, get in the left lane. Cross over Madison Street, the parking garage is on your immediate left. Minimal charge required at exit.

The museum parking garage accepts payment via cash, credit, or debit card. An attendant will be available to collect payment when leaving the parking garage. The museum entrance is located one block South of the parking garage at 6th Street and Jefferson Street.

Via Train The Amtrak station is located at 100 North 3rd Street, Springfield, Illinois, three blocks from the Presidential Complex. Follow Jefferson Street, walking three blocks to the East.



TIP: There is a coat room with lockers for bag check. Remember that all bags will be inspected.

Via Plane The Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport is located at 1200 Capital Airport Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 4 miles from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Taxi, Lyft, and Uber are available.

If renting a car, follow Capital Airport Drive to J David Jones Pkwy, continue onto North Walnut Street turning onto West Madison Street.

The museum parking garage is located on the corner of 6th Street and Madison Street.

The museum entrance is located one block South of the parking garage at 6th Street and Jefferson Street.

Visit Day

Welcome to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Our staff and volunteers are eager to greet you and get you started on your journey.

There are a few guidelines to ensure the safety of our guests and artifacts:

- All bags will be inspected.
 - No food, beverages, candy, or gum.
 - No firearms allowed.
 - Lockers are available for a minimal fee.
- Segways, shoes with wheels, and hoverboards are prohibited.
- Photography guidelines are posted at entrances of exhibits and theaters.
 - Flash photography is allowed only in the Plaza.
 - Non-flash photography and videography are allowed in Journey 1, Journey 2, Illinois Gallery, and the Treasures Gallery (unless otherwise posted).
 - Photography and videography are prohibited in the two theaters.
 - Selfie sticks are prohibited.
- The museum is a smoke-free facility.
- No pets or comfort animals allowed.

Accessibility

Our museum provides various services to ensure that all guests have a superior experience. If you have a specific request, please contact our Guest Services Division at 217-558-8914 for assistance two weeks prior to your visit.



TIP: Special arrangements can be made for guests who are visually impaired to touch the life figures in the plaza.

Guests may be dropped off at the museum, on either side of the building. Complimentary wheelchairs are available. Motorized wheelchairs are allowed, but not provided. Keep in mind that our parking garage is 1.5 blocks away from the museum entrance.

Service animals recognized under Illinois law and ADA are welcome and allowed.

Our two theater presentations are equipped with ADA devices for both the hearing and visually impaired. Assisted listening devices are available in the theaters. The enhanced audio device boosts the show soundtrack for the hearing impaired, while our visual device provides an audio narration of the show's action for the blind or visually impaired. Reflective captioning is available for the deaf. Theater staff set up the devices upon request, please arrive early to the showing.

Foreign language materials and theater scripts are available in the following languages:

- French
- German
- Japanese
- Mandarin
- Spanish



TIP: Request a Busy Bag upon arrival. They provide a variety of fidget toys, noise cancelling headphones, sensory maps, social stories, and a selection of Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Cards to aid in your visit and allow for a sensory friendly tour.



Family-Friendly Tip: A private nursing station is available in the first aid room.



Family-Friendly Tip: Complimentary single, double, and infant strollers are available.

WHILE YOU ARE HERE

WiFi

Need WiFi connection? Our network is ALPLM_Guest and the password is Lincoln1860!

Special Events

Living History (in which actors portray figures from the past) and other theatrical performances occur from time-to-time, focusing on Abraham Lincoln, his times, and his legacy. These mini-performances take place in the museum plaza, Union Theater, and outdoors in Union Square Park, and even in exhibit areas. Our Ford's Theatre exhibit, which depicts part of the stage and the Presidential box, is the scene of short performances, including Mrs. Wade, who came to the theatre after the recent assassination, and Jason Knox, who was a soldier back from the war and witnessed "the saddest tragedy ever enacted in the country." Both characters are based on letters they wrote at the time. Other Living History actors that can be seen throughout the year are Louisa May Alcott, Sarah Bush Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Ulysses S. Grant, President and Mary Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, and Civil War soldiers. Visitors entering the Cabinet Room exhibit may be greeted by an actor portraying Francis Carpenter, the artist who painted the famous portrait of Lincoln and his Cabinet upon which the exhibit is based. The actor, as Francis Carpenter, talks to visitors about the events leading up to the writing of the Emancipation Proclamation. The museum has a vigorous schedule of programs, such as book lectures, family fun events, and artifact demonstrations. Please visit our website for a [current list of events](#).

Dining

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum welcomes SUBWAY® as our dine-in cafe.

SUBWAY® is known for its fresh and healthy sandwiches and salads, made to order from the highest quality ingredients. In-house dining is available from 9am – 4pm CST daily. Outside food is not allowed in our café or on the terrace.



TIP: Due to limited seating, it is not possible for us to reserve space for groups. However, if you would like to plan a pre-ordered bag lunch for your group, please call SUBWAY® at 217-801-8071.



TIP: Many groups and families choose to order their lunches "to go" and enjoy a picnic in our adjacent Union Square Park.

Shopping

The museum store offers a vast array of items to commemorate your visit. Browse through our large selection of books related to President Lincoln to find the perfect read for the trip home. T-shirts are always a fun and practical way to remember your Museum experience. You may also purchase items from the [museum store online catalog](#).



TIP: The Presidential complex is located within the heart of the downtown Historic Business District. Our staff and volunteers love to share our city with our guests, and we encourage a quick stop at our Information Desk for dining and shopping experiences within walking distance. We are happy to create a route to the quaint shops and restaurants that are scattered along your journey to the numerous sites that interest you. Sample menus for downtown restaurants and hours of operation for most sites are also available to assist in planning your day.

Transportation around the City

There are numerous ways available for guests without cars to navigate the rich history Springfield has to offer. We recommend planning your transportation in advance.

Taxi/Uber/Lyft: Taxi service and ridesharing services are available in Springfield through apps such as Uber and Lyft.

Sangamon Mass Transit District (SMTD): SMTD is the bus service for the Springfield area. Maps are available at the Information Desk for your convenience.



TIP: Many hotels have shuttle service available to assist their guests to and from sites around Springfield. Inquire when making a reservation with a hotel.

LIBRARY RESEARCH

While scholars could spend a lifetime researching and studying the holdings, most guests find the Presidential Library a brief portion of their visit. As part of our effort to preserve them for future generations, our collections are housed in climate-controlled stack areas which are not open to the public for browsing. Visiting researchers may request items for use in the Reading Room, which will be retrieved by staff members.

Research hours are Monday through Friday – 9am – 4:30pm CST and closed Saturday–Sunday and official state holidays.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Springfield is the perfect weekend getaway. If you are planning a trip to visit our museum, consider staying the night and visiting other attractions. Visit the [Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) for complete details, or request a [visitor's guide](#). Please note that there are many more options available. We highlighted a few based on proximity and partnerships. All mileage is calculated from the museum.

Overnight Accommodations

Hotels within walking distance of the museum:

- Carpenter Street Hotel (0.3 miles) *
- Hotel Springfield on 4th (0.6 miles)
- Inn at 835 Bed & Breakfast (1.0 mile)
- Pasfield House Inn (1.0 mile)
- President Abraham Lincoln Springfield-Double Tree (0.3 miles) *
- State House Inn (0.5 miles) *
- Wyndham Springfield City Centre (0.3 miles) *

Springfield Hotels with Pools:

- Baymont Inn & Suites (South of downtown Springfield - 7.0 miles)
- Best Western (East of downtown Springfield - 2.7 miles)
- Courtyard Marriott (SW of downtown Springfield - 8.0 miles)
- Holiday Inn Express (SE of downtown Springfield - 5.0 miles)
- Microtel Inn & Suites (SE of downtown Springfield -4.8 miles)
- Northfield Inn (NE of downtown Springfield -4.8 miles)
- Wyndham Springfield City Centre (Downtown Springfield - 0.6 miles) *



TIP: *Some hotels listed partner with the museum and may have museum admission included with your stay. Contact them directly for details.

Campgrounds Nearby:

- Double J (Chatham, South of Springfield -10 miles)
- Lincoln Trails Family Camp Ground (Tallula, NE of Springfield - 15 miles)
- New Salem State Park (Petersburg, NE of Springfield - 20 miles)
- Riverside Park (NE of downtown Springfield - 4.4 miles)
- Sangchris Lake State Park (Rochester, East of Springfield - 15 miles)
- Springfield KOA (South of Springfield - 12 miles)

Dining & Drinks

During your museum visit, we recommend taking a break and enjoying lunch at our onsite SUBWAY®. Many guests enjoy taking SUBWAY® to go and eat lunch in our historic Union Square Park. Below are dining and drinking options for the remainder of your stay.

Downtown Fine Dining:

- Anchors Away (0.4 miles)
- Grille at City Centre (0.6 miles)
- Loukinens' on Fourth (0.7 miles)
- Maldaner's (0.4 miles)
- Nick & Nino's Penthouse (0.6 miles)
- Saputo's (0.6 miles)
- Vele (0.6 miles)

Downtown Casual Dining:

- 6th Street Café (0.3 miles)
- Brewhaus (0.3 miles)
- Café Moxo (0.3 miles)
- Long Nine Junction (0.2 miles)
- Springfield Carriage Company (0.8 miles)
- Tacology 101 (0.3 miles)
- The Alamo (0.1 miles)

Downtown Microbreweries:

- Anvil & Forge Brewing (0.3 miles)
- Buzz Bomb Brewery (0.4 miles)
- Craft Beer Bar (0.7 miles)
- Obed & Isaac's (0.7 miles)
- Terra Ferment (.2 miles)

Coffee Shops:

- Caribou Coffee (SW side of Springfield - 0.6 miles)
- Custom Cup (Downtown Springfield - 0.7 miles)
- Grab-A-Java (Southside of Springfield -1.5 miles)
- Wm Van's (Downtown Springfield - 0.6 miles)

Wineries:

- Danenberger Farms (New Berlin, West of Springfield - 16 miles)
- Hill Prairie (Oakford, NW of Springfield - 32 miles)
- Sheedy Shores (Loami, West of Springfield - 21 miles)
- Walnut Street (Rochester, East of Springfield - 7.9 miles)
- West of Wise (Petersburg, NW of Springfield - 19 miles)

Illinois Made Springfield: Indulge in the flavors and products at our local businesses honored by the Illinois Made program through [Enjoy Illinois](#).

Additional Tour Options

The average visit at the Presidential Museum is 2 – 2.5 hours. Here are a few other experiences to add to your Springfield adventure.

Downtown Tours:

- 1908 Race Riot Walking Tour (Visitors Center - 0.2 miles)
- Dana-Thomas House (1 mile)
- Edwards Place (small admission fee - 0.6 miles)
- Elijah Iles House (0.8 miles)
- Illinois State Capitol (0.7 miles)
- Kidzeum of Health and Science (small admission fee - 0.3 miles)
- Lincoln Depot (0.5 miles)
- Lincoln Family Pew (0.4 miles)
- Lincoln-Herndon Law Office (Visitors Center - 0.2 miles)
- Lincoln Home (0.6 miles)
- Illinois State Museum (0.9 miles)
- Old State Capitol (0.2 miles)

Nearby Historical Tours:

- Air Combat Museum (3.8 miles)
- Illinois State Military Museum (2.2 miles)
- Lincoln Tomb and War Memorials (1.8 miles)
- New Salem Historic Site (20 miles)
- Springfield & Central IL African American History Museum (1.5 miles)



Tip: The above tours are free, but do accept and appreciate donations.

Memorials:

- Camp Butler National Cemetery (7.0 miles)
- Illinois Firefighters Memorial (1.0 mile)
- Illinois Korean War Memorial (2.2 miles)
- Illinois Police Officers Memorial (1.0 miles)
- Illinois State Police Memorial Park (0.7 miles)
- Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial (2.1 miles)
- Purple Heart Memorial (1.5 miles)
- World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial (2.1 miles)

More Springfield Experiences:

- [Sites and Attractions](#)
- [Art & Entertainment](#)
- [Recreation](#)
- [Shopping](#)

CONTACT US

For additional information, please call 217-558-8844 or visit our website:
www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov