See the actual places, hear the real stories, look for Lincoln in central Illinois.

#1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701
217-782-6817

For more information about the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition historic sites go to our web site at www.lookingforlincoln.com or contact us at 217-782-6817.

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Looking for Lincoln through central Illinois

The new state-of-the-art Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum provides visitors with an emotional, evocative and immersive journey through Lincoln’s life. But the Museum is just the beginning of a much larger Lincoln journey. The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition can take you on that astonishing journey through the landscape and the countless places where Lincoln traveled and lived. With unparalleled authenticity, the Lincoln sites in central Illinois make up the experience that we call “Looking for Lincoln.”

Lincoln spent almost 30 years of his life in central Illinois.
Looking for Lincoln Communities and Historic Sites

ATHENS

12 miles north of Springfield — 7 miles east of New Salem

ABRAHAM LINCOLN LONG NINE MUSEUM
200 S. Main Street
www.a-lincoln-long-nine.com

The Col. Matthew Rogers Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to the Long Nine Museum. In 1837 the citizens held a banquet for Lincoln and the eight other legislators who worked to move the Capital from Vandalia to Springfield. The site reveals details of the celebration and other Lincoln ties to Athens. While there tune to 88.9FM and hear a “talking building” tell its own story. The site is on Route 29 and is accessible to visitor going to or from New Salem.

For information: 217-636-8755

Hours: June 1 – September 1
Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

BEARDSTOWN

(45 miles from Springfield)

Beardstown, first settled in 1819, is one of the oldest towns in Illinois. Lincoln argued many cases in the Beardstown Courthouse, including his best known, “The Almanac Trial.” Lincoln was also installed here as a captain of the Sangamon County Company during the Black Hawk War. During the Senate race of 1858 he spoke to the people of Beardstown on the city square. Stephen A. Douglas had spoken prior to Lincoln’s speech.

Beardstown is a bustling river town, about an hour’s drive from Springfield. The community is nationally known as the home of the famous “Beardstown Ladies,” who have authored best-selling books on commonsense investing.

For information: Beardstown Chamber of Commerce, 217-323-3271

LINCOLN COURTHOUSE

101 West Third Street — Downtown Square

Built in 1844, this Cass County courthouse is where Abraham Lincoln used an almanac to win acquittal for “Duff” Armstrong in the celebrated “Almanac Trial.” Lincoln often appeared in the second floor courtroom, which still is used by the Circuit Court. Visitors will see the courtroom, an original 1857 almanac similar to the one Lincoln used, a famous Lincoln photo taken during the trial and the jail cell where Armstrong was held. The museum features an extensive collection of antique firearms and Indian arrowheads.

For information: 217-323-3271 or 217-323-3225

Groups: 217-323-4514 or 217-323-3442 (Group tours year-round)

Hours: April – November or by appointment (217-323-4514)
Lincoln probably spent more time in Bloomington than any other city in Central Illinois outside of Springfield. He had many close political and legal associates from this area, including David Davis, whose influence on Lincoln’s legal career and run for the presidency were crucial to Lincoln’s success. The McLean County History Museum, housed in an old courthouse on the square in Bloomington, is a good place to learn about the area.

Bloomington-Normal provides a variety of historic, educational, and entertaining attractions, including the Children’s Discovery Museum, the Miller Park Zoo, and in the summer, Shakespeare under the Stars. If you add galleries, unique retail shopping, dining and summer festivals, this area is a great place to visit.

**For information:** Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1-800-433-8226

**DAVID DAVIS MANSION**
**STATE HISTORIC SITE**

1000 E. Monroe — near east Washington and Davis Avenue

This beautifully restored 19th-century mansion tells the story of Lincoln and David Davis — two self-made men from very different backgrounds. Davis helped to shape Lincoln’s political career and was responsible, in part, for his success in obtaining the Republican nomination. The house, which contains a remarkable array of mid-19th-century modern conveniences, also serves to illustrate the life of a wealthy Victorian family. This is an environment that is not typically associated with Lincoln, but he often moved comfortably in circles that included politically and socially powerful men. The Davis Mansion is the best place to hear that part of Lincoln’s story.

**For information:** 309-828-1084
**Hours:** January – December

Wednesday – Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(Last tour starting at 4:00 PM)

**LINCOLN’S BLOOMINGTON AND NORMAL ILLINOIS: A TOUR NARRATED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

In this CD-Audio, President Lincoln reminisces about the places he visited and their meaning to him. The tour includes sites in the historic downtown where Lincoln practiced law, the building where Jesse Fell suggested Lincoln run for the presidency and other sites. The accompanying booklet includes photographs, tour directions, maps and commentary. Special tour markers are placed at the designed stops on the tour.

The tour may be purchased for $19.95 at the Museum of History, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

**For information:** 309-827-0428, www.mchistory.org

**Hours:** Monday, Wednesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

*Labor Day to Memorial Day*
Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln’s father and stepmother, were among the early settlers of the Charleston area. Lincoln visited Charleston on legal business and for pleasure with some regularity. In 1858, Charleston was the scene of the fourth Lincoln-Douglas debate where an aspiring young politician and his rival, Douglas, debated the issue of states rights and race relations in front of a crowd of 12,000 people. It was to Charleston and nearby Lerna that Lincoln made his last trip from Springfield before going to Washington.

Typical of many university towns, this city of 21,000 offers a varied array of activities, including an art museum, concert halls, theatres, a bike trail, golf courses, parks, shops and restaurants, plus a delightful display of outdoor murals that illustrate the city’s history.

For information: Charleston Tourism Office, 217-348-0430

THE LINCOLN – DOUGLAS DEBATE MUSEUM

126 E. Street – Coles County Fairgrounds

This museum, built on the spot of the 4th debate, is the only one in Illinois that retraces the senatorial debates between Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. The museum provides a self-guided environment using interactive displays, audio selections, artifacts and photos that address the significance of the debates, what the issues were, and how these dialogues affected the county. The museum also includes an interpretive film, a children’s hands-on area, a gift shop and a life size sculpture of Lincoln and Douglas — the perfect photo opportunity.

For information: 217-348-0430

Hours: Open 7 days a week, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

LINCOLN LOG CABIN STATE HISTORIC SITE

400 S. Lincoln Highway — 8 Miles south of Charleston

This was the last home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, Lincoln’s father and stepmother. Today the site includes a working living-history farm developed around a two-room cabin. Nearby is a second farmstead that helps visitors understand rural life in Illinois during the 1840’s and enables them to compare two different styles of farming. The site also offers a broad array of interpretive programs, some of which are first person. In addition, a beautiful visitor center houses a museum, gift shop and an orientation theatre. The Reuben Moore State Historic Site is part of this complex and is within a five-minute drive. It was the site of a celebration dinner that Lincoln attended honoring his election to the presidency. The Shiloh Church & Cemetery State Memorial, where Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln are buried, is also nearby.

For information: 217-345-1845

Hours: May 1 – Labor Day
7 days a week, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
September 8 – April 30
Wednesday – Sunday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Call for more information
**DANVILLE**

(85 miles from Indianapolis — 120 miles from Springfield)

Lincoln’s connection to this city is a rich one. He argued cases here on the Eighth Judicial Circuit and practiced law in Danville from 1849 to 1859. He shared an office here with a local attorney, the only office he ever had outside of Springfield. It was in Danville where he made his final address in Illinois from a train bound for Washington and the presidency.

Danville is the first Illinois stop from the east on I-74. The variety and quality of parks and recreational opportunities make this city a popular one for the visitor who is interested in adventures in nature. Over 15,000 acres of public parkland include the Middle Fork River, the only federally designated scenic river in Illinois.

**For more information:** Danville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 217-442-2096 or 800-383-4386

**DR. FITHIAN HOME**

116 N. Gilbert — Corner Gilbert and Lafayette Streets

The home of Dr. William Fithian, built in 1855, is part of the Vermilion County Museum complex. Dr. Fithian was a prominent 19th century physician, who was a friend, client, and political supporter of Abraham Lincoln. On September 21, 1858, during his bid for a U.S. Senate seat, Lincoln made an impromptu speech from the second-floor balcony outside the bedroom he occupied. The room and the bed, in which Lincoln slept, are part of a tour of the Dr. Fithian home.

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**THE VERMILION COUNTY MUSEUM**

116 N. Gilbert
www.vermillioncountymuseum.org

Completed in 2002, this re-creation of the 1833 Vermilion County Court House showcases the county’s rich history. Upon entering the facility, visitors are greeted by a life-size bronze statue of Lincoln the circuit-riding attorney. In the Lincoln/Lamon law office display is the desk used by Lincoln and his law partner, Ward Hill Lamon, in their Danville office. The Lincoln Gallery displays other Lincoln-related artifacts, and the museum research library has a collection of over 400 Lincoln and Civil War Books.

**For information for both sites:** 217-442-2922

**Hours:** January 1 – December 31
Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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**DECATUR**

(40 miles from Springfield)

Macon County has a rich Lincoln history and many Lincoln “firsts.” Decatur was the first Illinois home of the Abraham Lincoln family, he was first nominated for the presidency at the state Republican Party convention, and he made his first political speech in downtown Decatur. The Rock Springs Center features a natural history museum and extensive hiking trails. Some of which pass through tall-grass prairie. Decatur also offers opportunities for recreation, including Lake Decatur, which is surrounded by parks, nature trails and a golf course. Scoville Park includes a children’s museum and nearby zoo, as well as a playground and picnic area. Decatur’s
central location makes it an ideal jumping off place to look for Lincoln.

For Information: Decatur Area Convention & Visitor Bureau, 1-800-331-4479

MACON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMPLEX

5580 North Fork Road — near Decatur Airport
www.mchsdecatur.org

This five-acre museum complex contains several period buildings that have been gathered on site to help interpret the heritage of the area, including Macon County’s first courthouse where Lincoln participated in five court cases dating back to the 1830’s. The Museum also features the “Lincoln Connection Exhibit” and a video that chronicles Lincoln’s arrival in Decatur/Macon County, and his early legal and political careers in the Decatur/Macon County area.

For information: 217-422-4919

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Every 4th Sunday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

GALESBURG

(50 miles from Peoria — 120 miles from Springfield)

Lincoln’s connection to Galesburg is an important one. Old Main at Knox College, the site of the 5th Lincoln-Douglas Debate, is the only original debate site still standing. Two large bronze tablets commemorating the debate flank the east door. Inside are additional historical displays open to the public, including a chair that Lincoln sat in while visiting friends in Galesburg prior to the debate. Old Main is also the home of the Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College. The center is widely renowned for its books and research that have vastly enriched our understanding of Lincoln’s life and presidency.

Carl Sandburg, noted both for his poetry and his Lincoln biography, was born in Galesburg, and the Carl Sandburg Birthplace State Historic Site is open to the public. Sandburg’s early years in Galesburg helped to shape his literary talents and his life-long interest in Lincoln.

For Information: Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1-800-916-3330

JACKSONVILLE

(36 miles from Springfield)

VOICES OF JACKSONVILLE—AN AUDIO TOUR
www.lincolnjacksonville.com

Abraham Lincoln had many professional connections and personal friends in Jacksonville. In 1856, he made an important antislavery speech in the Morgan County Courthouse Park in Jacksonville. The city is also rich in Civil War history and was a station on the Underground Railroad. Three Illinois Governors came from Jacksonville, including Governor Joseph Duncan, whose home is open to the public for tours. “Voices of Jacksonville” is an audio tour that brings all of these Lincoln connections to life by means of a special radio frequency at each of 7 stops. Start at the Jacksonville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 310 East State Street, to get a tour map.

For information: 217-243-5678 or 1-800-593-5678
Lincoln, known as the “namesake city,” is the only town to be named for Lincoln before he became president. In fact, he christened the city with the juice of a watermelon, which is commemorated by a “Looking for Lincoln” exhibit near the train station. He had many friends, owned property here and practiced law at Postville Court House while riding the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

The century-old Logan County Courthouse is one of the few Illinois courthouses still being used for its intended purposes. It sits on Route 66 on the square of the beautiful and thriving downtown area, featuring several unique shops, businesses and restaurants. For more information, visit the Information Station at the corner of Fifth Street and Route 66.

For more information: A. Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County, 217-732-8687

LINCOLN HERITAGE MUSEUM

300 Keokuk — Lincoln College Campus

This Museum contains a significant collection of Civil War and Abraham Lincoln-related artifacts that includes an original 1860 Lincoln Presidential Campaign Banner, the ballot box in which he cast a vote, an extremely rare copy of “Mortality” — Lincoln’s favorite poem written in his own hand — and many books, furnishings, and other personal Lincoln family items. The museum is located in the McKinstry Library on the historic Lincoln College campus.

For information: 217-732-3155, ext. 295

Hours: January 1 – December 31
Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday – Sunday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Closed Holidays

THE POSTVILLE COURTHOUSE
STATE HISTORIC SITE

914 5th Street

The Postville Courthouse is a reproduction of the first Logan County Courthouse which was in use from 1840 to 1847. Abraham Lincoln and other attorneys who traveled the Eighth Judicial Circuit practiced law here at this site. Exhibits and a tour of the building, provided by volunteers, showcase the typical activities of county government during the mid 1800’s.

For information: 217-732-8930 or 217-735-4977

Hours: April – September
Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 Noon – 5:00 PM
October – March
Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM
Any Time By Appointment
Mahomet

(10 miles from Champaign/Urbana — 40 miles from Bloomington)

This community is home to the spectacular Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, which features a popular golf course, botanical garden, bell carillon, covered bridge, and 3.3-mile bike/pedestrian path. Visitors will also enjoy fishing, boating, hiking and picnicking.

For information: 217-586-3360

THE EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM

Lake Of The Woods Forest Preserve at Rts. 47 & I-74

The Museum is a facility of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. The museum provides visitors with a glimpse of early-19th-century life, when Lincoln would have been traveling through Central Illinois as a circuit lawyer. Exhibits provide a rich context to better understand Lincoln's daily life and experience. Lincoln's direct connections with Champaign County are highlighted in the exhibit Champaign County's Lincoln.

For information: 217-586-2612

Hours: March – December
Daily, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
June, July & August
Monday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Metamora

(82 miles from Springfield — 11 miles from Peoria)

The heart of Metamora is its beautiful square in front of the courthouse, still used today for local celebrations as it was when Lincoln, the circuit riding lawyer, passed through town. A Looking for Lincoln Wayside Exhibit marks the area where Lincoln mediated conflicts and played horseshoes outside of court. Weekends are full of events on the square like band concerts, dances and Civil War re-enactments. Metamora, an easy 11 mile drive northeast of Peoria, was also hometown to Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice President of the United States under Grover Cleveland. The Metamora Courthouse and the Stevenson House are both on the National Register of Historic Places.

METAMORA COURTHOUSE
STATE HISTORIC SITE

113 East Partridge Street — Downtown Square

Lincoln was involved in more than 70 cases, including two harboring slave hearings and two murder cases — some before his friend and future Supreme Court Justice, David Davis. The renovated 1845 Metamora Courthouse is one of only two remaining original courthouses on the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The community museum on the first floor has artifacts from pioneer days through the Civil War, photographs and even history games.

For information: 309-367-4470

Hours: March – October
Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
November – February
12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM
Other times by appointment
Mt. Pulaski

(25 miles from Springfield — 12 miles from I-55)

Many of Lincoln’s friendships were created as he traveled from one courthouse to another on the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Lincoln had many friends in Mt. Pulaski. He spent a great deal of time arguing cases there in a courthouse that is still located on the square in the center of town and is surrounded by lovely old buildings reflective of small-town America.

Mt. Pulaski is a farm town that is only 12 miles from I-55 and 25 miles from Springfield. No matter how you get there, you will drive through some of the richest farmland in the state. This stop offers the opportunity to get off the main roads and see the country.

For information: Mt. Pulaski Visitor and Information Bureau, (217)792-3222 or 792-5657.

MT. PULASKI COURTHOUSE
STATE HISTORIC SITE

Town Square

This courthouse is only one of two surviving Eighth Judicial Circuit courthouses in Illinois and the only one that is restored, furnished and interpreted as an operating 1850’s courthouse. This is an opportunity to spend time with the spirit of Lincoln and a chance to actually walk the floors where Lincoln walked. The story of this building and the town is lovingly interpreted by a devoted group of volunteers.

For information: 217-792-3222 or 217-792-3919

Hours: Year Round
Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM

MT. PULASKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AND WELCOME CENTER

The Historical Society Museum, which features an official “Looking for Lincoln” exhibit, is directly across the square from the courthouse. The society volunteers have a passion for their community’s rich local history, so they can offer a wealth of stories about Lincoln and his friends. They also provide a warm welcome to the many visitors who come to share their history.

For information: 217-792-3719

Hours: March 1 – December 31
Tuesday – Saturday,
12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM
Closed January – March. Call for a tour.
PETERSBURG

(25 miles from Springfield)

Petersburg is a scant two miles north of New Salem. Lincoln surveyed the city in 1836. Many former residents of New Salem are buried in Oakland Cemetery, among them Ann Rutledge, who was reputed to be Lincoln’s sweetheart. Edgar Lee Masters, who wrote about Lincoln and the many inhabitants of New Salem, was a resident of Petersburg. His home is still standing. Masters is also buried in Oakland Cemetery.

The square features shops, antique stores and restaurants plus the Menard County Historical Museum, featuring a special exhibit about Lincoln the Surveyor. Because it is such a quick drive from New Salem to Petersburg, many hungry visitors take advantage of this charming old town to rest and refresh. Like most river towns, Petersburg is picturesque and hilly and filled with beautiful old Victorian houses.

For information: Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, 217-632-7363

LINCOLN’S NEW SALEM
STATE HISTORIC SITE

Rt. 97 — 2 Miles South of Petersburg
www.LincolnsNewSalem.com

New Salem is a reconstructed pioneer village. Lincoln came here in 1831 and stayed for six years. While here, he served as a legislator, studied law and occupied a number of other positions. A trip to New Salem reveals the hard prairie life of rural Illinois in the 1830’s at the same time reflects a vigorous community. Included among the buildings are numerous log houses, a grist mill, a carding mill, doctors’ houses, a tavern and several stores — 23 structures in all.

Interpreters in period dress often demonstrate the daily tasks performed by the pioneers who lived here. The site includes a visitor center, a museum and an orientation film. Seven hundred acres in all, the park has picnic facilities, campgrounds, hiking trails, two restaurants and an outdoor theatre during the summer.

For information: 217-632-4000

Hours: May 1 – September 14
7 days a week, 9:00 AM — 5:00 PM
September 15 – October 31
Wednesday – Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
November 1 – February 28
Wednesday – Sunday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
March 1 – April 30
Wednesday – Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
If you are traveling to or from Springfield west on I-72, Pittsfield and Pike County are an easy stop off the highway. Lincoln’s three White House secretaries are associated with Pike County and Lincoln had many friends in this community. Pittsfield’s history is rich with people who knew Lincoln and the community has found a very unique way to share that history with visitors.

Pittsfield, in Pike County, is situated between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers which affords the perfect location for recreational spots. The area also includes 20 hunting lodges and bed and breakfasts that cater to hunters looking for wild turkey and deer. Plus there are many opportunities for the hiking enthusiast.

**THE TALKING HOUSES OF PITTSFIELD**

Many houses that Lincoln visited are still standing in Pittsfield. While it is possible to actually tour only one, the Shastid House, visitors can pull up in front of eight other houses and two sites and through the car radio listen as people who knew Lincoln and lived in those houses each tell their story. A map and information for the Talking House tour are available at the Pittsfield Visitor Center located at 224 W. Washington. The tour begins at the Visitor Center where staff is available during the week. Maps and brochures are always available at that location.

**For information:** Pike County Chamber of Commerce at 217-285-2971 or The Abe Lincoln Project of Pike County at 217-285-6995

**Visitor Center Hours:**
Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Lobby open 7 days a week

Lincoln counted many Quincy residents as his closest friends. He served with future U.S. Senator Orville H. Browning and future Governor John Wood in the Blackhawk War in 1832. His contacts with Quincyans in the state legislature and in Whig and Republican affairs were important to his political development.

The hallmark Lincoln connection to Quincy was the historic 6th debate with Senator Stephen A. Douglas, a turning point in the campaign and in Lincoln’s political career. Located in the heart of the downtown historic district, the recently enhanced Lincoln-Douglas Debate Plaza in Washington Park serves as the focus of the Lincoln legacy. At Quincy, Lincoln made his strongest stand yet against slavery. In addition a new Lincoln-Douglas Interpretive Center, across from the debate site, is scheduled to open in the summer of 2009.

One block south of Washington Park is the restored home of Dr. Richard Eells, an abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor whose case was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Governor John Wood Mansion is located at 12th and State and is the home of Quincy’s founder, the 12th governor of Illinois, and Lincoln’s close political ally.

**For information:** 217-228-4515
SPRINGFIELD

(200 miles from downtown Chicago — 100 miles from St. Louis)

Springfield is the heart of Lincoln country. Lincoln moved from New Salem to Springfield in 1837 and left as president-elect in 1861. When visiting Lincoln’s Home, the Old Capitol, Lincoln’s Law offices, the Lincoln Depot and the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, visitors will begin to understand how this man grew from a fledgling lawyer to a president. Springfield provides insights into Lincoln’s personal life as well as his political career.

But Springfield isn’t just about Lincoln. It is a state capital with museums and sites appropriate to a capital city. Route 66 cuts through Springfield and attracts visitors from all over the world. A totally restored and furnished Frank Lloyd Wright prairie-style house, a water park, a zoo and a brand new natural history exhibit at the Illinois State Museum are just some of the other options the city provides. There truly is something for everyone.

For Information: Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1-800-545-7300

OLD CAPITOL STATE HISTORIC SITE

Downtown Mall

This majestic structure with its imposing porticoes and original facade allows guests to imagine the state capitol building as it was when Lincoln lived and worked in Springfield. It is here that he practiced law before the Supreme Court, spent hours with his professional associates in the law library, served as a legislator, and most importantly, in 1858 gave his famous “House Divided Speech.” It is also here that his body lay in state when he was brought back to Springfield after his assassination. Original pieces are mixed with antique furniture and artifacts, successfully re-creating the building as Lincoln would have known it.

For information: 217-524-3971

Hours: May 15 to September 7
7 days a week, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
September 8 – May 14
Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
In a stunning combination of scholarship and showmanship, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum immerses you in Lincoln’s world and time. Journey from a rustic Indiana cabin to the Executive Mansion in the nation’s capital; follow the fate of America’s 16th president and share the joys and sorrows of a family—and a nation.

In the Ghosts of the Library, our Lincoln historian tackles the question: “Why save all this stuff?” As he muses over artifacts and documents, he is joined by ghosts of Civil War soldiers and even Abraham Lincoln himself to reveal why history matters. In Lincoln’s Eyes, you peer through a window to Civil War America in this vibrant, multi-screen presentation. The Treasures Gallery rotates our priceless artifacts that range from the extraordinary to the everyday.

The heart of the Lincoln legacy is at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

For more information: 800-610-2094

Hours:  
Library Public Hours  
Monday – Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Library Research Hours  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM  
Sunday: Closed  
The Manuscripts, Audiovisual, and Lincoln collections are not open on Saturdays. The entire Library is closed on state holidays.

With more than 12 million items in its collections, the Presidential Library is the premier repository for Illinois history — including the most complete holdings of pre-presidential Lincoln materials found anywhere. It is a public, non-circulating research facility. Free admission.
LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
8th and Jackson

This is the only home that Lincoln ever owned. He and his family lived here from 1844 until they left for Washington in 1861. A tour of the home and the surrounding 4-block area provides a glimpse into Lincoln’s life, revealing Lincoln as husband, father, neighbor, politician, and president-elect. The historic neighborhood, which appears much as Lincoln would have remembered it, includes two restored houses that provide exhibits, neighborhood wayside exhibits, and a Visitor Center with films and displays that further tell the story of the Lincolns in Springfield.

For information: 217-492-4241, ext. 221

Hours:
Open daily, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day

LINCOLN – HERNDON LAW OFFICES STATE HISTORIC SITE
Downtown Mall

These offices are the only ones still standing where Lincoln practiced law. He moved into the building in 1843, and William Herndon became his partner in 1844. They were still partners when Lincoln left for Washington. The offices occupied by Lincoln and Herndon are here. The building also contains a post office and the only Federal Court in Illinois between 1840 and 1848. The first floor of the site also houses Tinsley Dry Goods, where you’ll find a great selection of souvenirs and original items to give as gifts or to help you remember your time in the Land of Lincoln.

For information: 217-524-3971

Hours:
May 15 – September 7
7 days a week, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
September 8 – May 14
Saturdays only, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
It is said that Abraham Lincoln and his wife Mary often visited Oak Ridge Cemetery while they lived in Springfield. They were both impressed by the setting. Remembering that time, Mary insisted that Lincoln be buried at Oak Ridge. The magnificent and imposing tomb designed by world-famous sculptor Larkin Mead stands on a slight rise and provides a dramatic image as visitors enter the cemetery. The tomb contains the remains of the entire family with the exception of Robert, who is buried at Arlington Cemetery. The 114th Regiment Illinois, a volunteer infantry reactivated Civil War unit, performs a stirring flag ceremony in front of the tomb at 7:00 PM each Tuesday evening during the summer.

For information: 217-782-2717
Hours: March 1 – October 31
Daily, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
November 1 – February 28
Daily, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Closed Sunday and Monday

As you walk around downtown Springfield, watch for the “Looking for Lincoln” wayside exhibits consisting of more than 49 “story-boards” re-creating the Springfield that would have been so familiar to Lincoln.

LINCOLN DEPOT
(GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD)

10th and Monroe

The day that Lincoln left to assume the presidency, many close friends came to the depot as a gesture of their affection. In response he gave a very famous impromptu speech of farewell. A video recounts that story and describes the events that were taking place in the country as Lincoln traveled to Washington. Self guided tour.

For information: 217-544-8695 or 217-788-1356
Hours: May 1 – August 31
7 days a week, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
TAYLORVILLE

(27 miles from Springfield)

Taylorville is known as “the last stop” because as Lincoln and his fellow lawyers rode the 8th Judicial Circuit, Taylorville was often the last town they visited before returning to Springfield. To commemorate the city’s ties to Lincoln, a statue and Looking for Lincoln wayside exhibit were recently installed on the courthouse square which is the center of a vibrant business district.

For information: 217-824-4919

THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Rts. 29 & 48 on Morrison Drive

This museum complex is home to the first Christian County courthouse which was built in 1839 and served as the courthouse until 1856. Moved from downtown Taylorville to another location it was moved to the museum complex in 1967. The building has been restored to its original specifications and serves as an interpretive center where visitors can hear stories about Lincoln on the circuit. Tales include a local favorite involving Lincoln and some very noisy pigs under the courthouse. The museum complex also includes a prairie schoolhouse, a train depot, a two-story brick farmhouse built in 1854, and a log house built in 1820.

For information: 217-824-6922

Hours: April – November 30
Thursday – Saturday,
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
December 1 – March 31
Saturday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
or by appointment

VANDALIA

(80 miles from Springfield — 75 miles from downtown St. Louis)

Vandalia is where Lincoln officially started his political career when he was elected legislator while at New Salem. Vandalia was the state capital from 1820 to 1839. Then it was moved to Springfield, partly through Lincoln’s efforts. Across from this imposing building is a small park where visitors can sit with a statue of Lincoln, rest, and have a photo taken with the capitol in the background.

Vandalia is located right at the junction of I-70, US-51 and IL-185 and is the western terminus of the old National Road. The spot is marked by the Madonna of the Trails, an impressive 18 foot statue. Across the street is the Fayette County Museum, which houses items of the Lincoln-era.

For information: Vandalia Chamber of Commerce, 618-283-2728
Lincoln began to hone his skills as a legislator and an orator in this impressive white brick building. It is here that his fellow legislators began to recognize his leadership skills. The building is an elegant Federal style structure, which was built by city residents in a failed attempt to keep the capital in Vandalia. All three branches of state government were contained in this building for the first time in the state’s history. Totally restored and appropriately furnished, a tour of this building is a lesson in the early politics of Illinois and Lincoln’s place in that story.

**For information:** 618-283-1161

**Hours:**  
*May 1 – September 7*  
7 days a week, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
*September 8 – February 28*  
Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
*March 1 – April 30*  
Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Turn your trip into an adventure! History can be interesting, educational, inspiring and FUN — yup, we said FUN. We have developed a very special program for families traveling with kids that will lead them to the quirky, intriguing and little-known facts and stories that can take a history trip and make it a history adventure.

Just check out our web site for the “Looking for Lincoln History Hunt.” There are photos, little-known facts, history clues and even a challenge called “What the Heck is this?” Before you leave home, just visit us at www.lookingforlincoln.com and click on the History Hunt icon. We’ll help you solve the Mystery of History in the Land of Lincoln.
LOOKING FOR LINCOLN
FOR LINCOLN STORY TRAIL!

If you would like the experience of Looking for Lincoln and want to know all about the places he has been and the people he knew as he traveled across hundreds of miles throughout central Illinois, then we invite you to explore the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail. Visit our web page at www.lookingforlincoln.com, where you will find information on the more than 210 wayside exhibits placed in 50 communities across central Illinois. Some will have one or two waysides, while others may have as many as 15 or 18. Springfield actually has 48 to keep your interest between visits to the famous historic sites of the capitol city, Lincoln’s hometown!

The wayside exhibits serve as storyboards that tell us Abraham Lincoln’s unique connection to each of the communities, describing friendships, law cases and important political events, all leading to his presidential election and life in the White House. Each of the exhibits holds a unique “medallion” so you can collect rubbings that depict interesting and noteworthy Lincoln experiences. Go to the web site to find maps and web links that will lead you on this exciting journey across the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail!!

When visiting the following communities, look for at least one wayside exhibit. All exhibits are expected to be installed by Summer, 2009.

“LOOKING FOR LINCOLN STORY TRAIL “

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th># of Exhibits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
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<td>Vandalia</td>
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</table>

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The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area was established by Congress in 2008, to mark the significance of the Lincoln legacy encompassing the 30 adult years of his life spent in Illinois, leading up to his election as the 16th president of the United States. This is where Lincoln chose to live and where he studied, married, raised a family, practiced law and pursued his passion for politics. The Heritage Area, managed by the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, will work with the National Park Service over the next 15 years, to advance the preservation, interpretation, education and heritage travel potential of the 42 counties of central Illinois. The Heritage Area will work to develop themes related to Lincoln the Lawyer, Lincoln and Civil Rights, The Underground Railroad and Lincoln and the Civil War. The Heritage Area also explores the landscape during Lincoln’s time here and its evolution over the years. For further information or to make a contribution to their preservation efforts, visit www.lookingforlincoln.com.

The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition is a consortium of central Illinois Historic sites and communities, that have a common Lincoln history, and have joined together to create a Lincoln experience throughout central Illinois. The Looking for Lincoln project is based on stories — stories that provide context to Lincoln’s life — stories that teach — stories that are rich in detail, evocative and colorful — unique stories that build connections and set the stage for a better understanding of Lincoln, his friends, his family, his world.

Under the leadership of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition and with the crucial support of partners like the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the National Park Service, visitors now have the opportunity to literally walk in Lincoln’s footsteps.

2009 is the Lincoln Bicentennial. Illinois is celebrating throughout the entire year with lots of great events. Make plans to enjoy the festivities. Go to www.lincoln200.net and click on the calendar of events.

To learn more about travel opportunities to the Lincoln Douglas Debate sites, go to www.lookingforlincoln.com and click on this link.

To experience the Looking for Lincoln Storytrail go to www.lookingforlincoln.com and click on the Storytrail logo.

To find great ideas for Illinois travel itineraries and packages be sure to check www.enjoyillinois.com.