Welcome to Illinois!

FTA Revenue Estimating and Tax Research Conference 2013
Illinois has a population of 12.8 million, fifth largest in the country.
Illinois is also the country’s fifth largest economy, at $644 billion in Gross State Product.
When compared internationally, the state would rank as the world's 19th largest economy.
With over 65 million total passengers in 2011 (4th in the world) and flights to 60 international destinations (4th in the US), O’Hare International Airport is Illinois’ connection to the world.
Illinois History and Interesting Facts
600 to 1400 – Native American establish a settlement at the Cahokia Mounds, One of the largest in North America

1673 – Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet explore along the Illinois River

1818 – Illinois becomes the 21st State

1839 to 1844 – The city of Nauvoo is founded and then quickly abandoned by the Mormons

1861 – Abraham Lincoln becomes the 16th president of the United States
Cahokia Mounds encompasses 3.5 square miles and 80 mound structures built by early Native American tribes. The area is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
The Illinois State Fair started in 1853 and continues to run to this day. A key attraction is a life-size sculpture of a dairy cow made out of 600 lbs. of butter.
As the tale goes, on October 8\textsuperscript{th} of 1871 a cow kicked over a lantern in the barn of Catherine O’ Leary. The resulting blaze was the start of the Great Chicago Fire.
In 1884, Chicago became home to the world’s first metal framed skyscraper, the nine-story Home Insurance Building.
Responding to a ban on serving ice cream sodas on Sunday, Evanston drug store owners started offering ice cream with syrup - creating the ice cream sundae in 1890.
Constructed in 1926, US Rte. 66 spanned 301 miles connecting Chicago to East St. Louis. Remaining portions of the route have been designated as national scenic byway.
The first franchised McDonald’s opened in Des Plaines in 1955.
One of the world’s strongest particle accelerators is housed at Fermilab in Batavia.
Illinois leads the nation in the production of pumpkin thanks in part to Morton, IL – ‘The Pumpkin Capital of the World’
To celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, Chicago dyes its river green each year.
Illinois has over 6,000 regional, county, municipal, and single purpose governments – more than any other state
Between 1818 – 1837, Illinois moved its capital from Kaskaskia to Vandalia and finally to Springfield
Introduction to Springfield, Illinois
The New Madrid seismic zone has been the epicenter for some of the worst ever recorded earthquakes. The zone is about 325 miles south of Springfield.
Illinois has had six capitol buildings since it became a state in 1818. The current capitol building is the tallest (at 361 ft.) of any traditional style capitol building in the country.
President Abraham Lincoln lived in Springfield for much of his early life. Plan on visiting Lincoln’s home, law office, and tomb next year.
Opened in 2005, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum maintains the extensive Lincoln Collection consisting of 1,600 documents and 280 artifacts relating to the president.
Springfield is home to the Dana-Thomas House, one of just over 120 different structures in Illinois famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed.
There are 669 golf courses in Illinois and 12 in the Springfield area
While in Springfield, try some of the state’s best BBQ by visiting the Doctor of BBQ at 5th and Stanford.
The Horse Shoe sandwich is a local delicacy of Springfield. The sandwich is made of toasted bread, generally hamburger or pork loin, french fries and a special recipe cheese sauce. No trip to Springfield is complete without trying one!
Thank You!
And we look forward to welcoming you next year!
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