



# INDIANAPOLIS

## A DAY IN INDIANAPOLIS


- 9 AM** Enjoy a breakfast picnic in Holiday Park among the grand remains of statues from a New York skyscraper, torn down in the 1950s.
- 10 AM** Take a step back in time at the James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home, where the "Hoosier Poet" wrote "Little Orphant Annie."
- 11 AM** Kiss the yard of bricks marking the start and finish line at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway: a tradition of racecar drivers since 1996.
- 12 PM** Cycle through White River State Park to see *The Tent*: a sculpture by Donald Lipski, which is a colorful play on the Indy 500's checkered flag.
- 1 PM** Make a regional speciality: pound a pork tenderloin, bread it, serve it on a bun with a pickle, and voila: a tenderloin sandwich!
- 2 PM** Visit the Artspark—the 12-acre garden of the Indianapolis Art Center. You can take a selfie in front of John McNaughton's *Twisted House*: a lopsided cedar house whose roof hits the ground!
- 3 PM** Ogle a room of pickled brains and vintage medical tools at the Medical History Museum, to see what lab work was like before germ theory.
- 4 PM** Pat the bark of the Indiana Statehouse sycamore tree, grown from one of 500 seeds taken to the moon and back during the Apollo 14 mission.
- 5 PM** Stroll the 100 acres of the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art and Nature Park, one of the largest museum art parks in the country.
- 6 PM** In summer, pitch a blanket for an outdoor concert at Eagle Creek Park, one of the U.S.'s largest municipal parks.
- 7 PM** In August, grab dinner at the State Fair: start with grilled corn and finish up with an elephant ear (fried dough doused in cinnamon sugar).
- 8 PM** Flip through *50 Cities* by author Gabrielle Balkan, who grew up by the State Fair and graduated from Broad Ripple High School.

## WELCOME TO THE CROSSROADS OF AMERICA

Spring, summer, winter, fall—in this Hoosier's book, it's always a good time to visit Indiana's capital city. Indy is not only the largest city in Indiana, but it's also the second largest city in the Midwest, and the 11th largest in the nation. Indeed, Indiana's many people are what give the city its flair.


In spring, locals hit Conner Prairie, where the 1859 Balloon Voyage can take visitors 350 feet over this interactive history park. Summer kicks off with the Indianapolis 500: the world's largest single-day sporting event, where you can see 33 expert drivers race cars at over 200 miles per hour. Come fall, you'll want to toast poet James Whitcomb Riley as you enjoy a parade and local crafts at the Riley Festival in Greenfield. Winter warriors welcome the season by sledding hills all over, from Fort Harrison State Park to Hummel Park. And any time of year is a good time to spend a day at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Celebrate the area by reading a book by a local, like J. Patrick Lewis's *World Rat Day*, Bill Peet's *The Gnats of Knotty Pine*, or Barbara Shoup's *Everything You Want*.




**A'LELIA BUNDLES**  
b.1952

This award-winning journalist is the great great granddaughter of the U.S.'s first female self-made millionaire: Madam C. J. Walker.



**TWYLA THARP**  
b.1941

This Emmy Award-winning modern dancer grew up on a farm in nearby Portland.



**ROBERT INDIANA**  
b.1928

The pop artist well known for his LOVE image was born Robert Clark and renamed himself after his home state.

**GUARDIANS OF GA'HOOLE**  
Indy-born author Kathryn Lasky's fantasy series follows the adventures of a barn owl.

**DAVID LETTERMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
The very funny former *Late Show* host, born in Indy, sponsors a scholarship for telecommunications students at Ball State University.

**RAINBOW BRIDGE**  
Meet at this bridge in Broad Ripple Village for protests, art fairs, parades, and an annual rubber duck race.

**MICHAEL GRAVES**  
This Indy-born architect is famous for designing whimsical home goods for Target.

**CONNER PRAIRIE**  
Learn to throw a tomahawk at the Lenape Camp in this living history museum.

**EAGLE CREEK**  
Find hiking trails, canoe rentals, and even a Tarzan swing course through the forest canopy!

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE**  
English and American Sign Language are Indiana's two official languages. This is how you sign the letter "B."

**INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART**  
The colors of local artist Robert Indiana's LOVE print were inspired by the sign on the gas station where his father worked.

**FUNKY BONES**  
Characters from John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars* picnic on this skeleton sculpture in the Fairbanks Art and Nature Park.

**CORN ON THE COB**  
In the heart of the nation's corn belt, the area produces some of the tastiest corn in the U.S.

**INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY**  
This Marmon Wasp race car won the first Indy 500 in 1911, in 6 hours, 42 minutes, going at 75 mph.

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**  
A huge Brachiosaurus peers into the front of the world's largest children's museum.

**STATE PIE: SUGAR CREAM PIE**  
Shaker communities in the 1800s made this dessert with butter, maple syrup, vanilla, and cream when they were out of fresh fruit.

**THE RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**  
hosts an annual Cancer Center Prom—young patients can choose their own complimentary gowns and tuxedos.

**MUG-N-BUN DRIVE-IN**  
Carhops here serve onion rings and homemade root beer on a tray that attaches to your car window.

**INDIANAPOLIS ZOO**  
Here you'll find the world's largest orangutan center; these primates are highly intelligent and have a 7-foot arm span!

**DUCKPIN BOWLING**  
This popular Indy sport uses short pins and softball-sized balls without finger holes.

**BUTLER UNIVERSITY'S HINKLE FIELDHOUSE**  
The climax of the basketball movie *Hoosiers* was filmed here, with local students appearing in the scene.

**CROWN HILL CEMETERY**  
is home to one of the city's highest natural points, and the tomb of the "Children's Poet" James Whitcomb Riley.

**GARFIELD THE CAT**  
The illustrator Jim Davis, who lives in nearby Albany, based his lasagna-loving feline on the farm cats of his childhood home.

**LESTER HORTON**  
This influential modern choreographer, born in Indianapolis, was inspired by Native American tribal dances.

**KEKLA MAGOON**  
b.1980  
The award-winning author of *The Rock and the River* grew up in Fort Wayne and once worked for the Girl Scouts.

**REGINALD WAYNE "REGGIE" MILLER**  
b.1965  
Reggie played his entire NBA career with the Indiana Pacers and held a record for the most 3-point field goals.

**MICHAEL PACE**  
b.1946  
The former assistant chief for the Delaware Tribe of Indians works at Conner Prairie, where his great-grandmother established a trading post in the 1800s.

**WALKER THEATRE**  
**MADAME WALKER THEATRE**  
This National Historic Landmark is named for the self-made millionaire Madam C. J. Walker, who was a cosmetics tycoon.

**EITELJORG MUSEUM OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND WESTERN ART**  
This museum houses a large collection of Native American art and crafts, such as traditional Iroquois baskets.

**KURT VONNEGUT MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
A banned books exhibit looks at the dangers of censorship and celebrates the Hoosier author who championed free speech.

**KEY FACTS**

STATE	INDIANA
<b>NAMED FOR</b>	The state name plus <i>polis</i> , Greek for "city"
<b>FOUNDED IN</b>	1821
<b>STATE POPULATION</b>	6,633,053
<b>CITY POPULATION</b>	853,173
<b>CITY AREA</b>	361 square miles
<b>TALLEST BUILDING</b>	Chase Tower: 811 feet (49 stories)

**NICKNAMES**

- Crossroads of America
- Circle City
- Indy
- Naptown

**BEST PLACE TO ...**

See the "Dragon King of Hogwarts" (the skull of a *Dracorex hogwartsia* dinosaur): the Children's Museum

**BRAGGING RIGHTS**

Indianapolis's Wonder Bread was the first major company to distribute sliced bread, in the 1930s

**LOCAL LINGO**

Start your engines (It's time to race)

**CAN YOU FIND?**

5 race flags