

Name _____

Exploring Illinois: The Land of Attractions



Illinois, often called the "Land of Lincoln" and known for its rich history, diverse culture, and vibrant cities, offers a plethora of exciting tourist attractions. Whether you're interested in history, natural beauty, or modern entertainment, Illinois has something for everyone.

Chicago: The Windy City

Chicago, Illinois' largest city, is a cultural and architectural gem. The city's skyline is a testament to its iconic architecture, with landmarks like the Willis Tower (formerly known as the Sears Tower) and the John Hancock Center. Millennium Park, home to the famous "Bean" sculpture, is a hub of art and culture. Navy Pier offers family-friendly fun with rides and attractions, and don't forget to savor the city's renowned deep-dish pizza.

Historic Springfield: A Presidential Experience

Springfield, the state capital, is steeped in history. Visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to learn about the life and legacy of the 16th President of the United States. Explore the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, where Abraham Lincoln lived before becoming president. Don't miss the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln Tomb.

Starved Rock State Park: Nature's Beauty

Nature enthusiasts will be enchanted by Starved Rock State Park. Located along the Illinois River, it boasts 18 canyons and numerous waterfalls. Hike the scenic trails, go bird-watching, or enjoy winter activities like cross-country skiing. Starved Rock is a haven for wildlife and a stunning natural retreat.

Route 66: The Main Street of America

Illinois is proud to be part of the historic Route 66, known as the "Main Street of America." This legendary highway offers a nostalgic journey through charming towns and quirky roadside attractions. Visit the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac, where you can learn about the history of this iconic road.

Shawnee National Forest: A Natural Playground

Shawnee National Forest covers over 280,000 acres of southern Illinois, featuring rugged terrain, lush forests, and unique rock formations. Garden of the Gods, a popular spot within the forest, offers breathtaking panoramic views. You can hike, camp, fish, and even go horseback riding in this pristine wilderness.

