

Reminiscing on Rt. 66

Springfield—

No Route 66 trip through Springfield is complete without a visit to **Bill Shea's Historic 66 Museum**, jam-packed with Route 66 memorabilia. Bill has become an international icon representing all that was good on Route 66. Leave plenty of time to hear some amazing stories.

Snack at the **Cozy Dog Drive-In**, the sometimes haunt of Route 66 artist Bob Waldmire, who's father is famous for inventing the hot dog on a stick, commonly known as a corn dog. This is a must stop for your groups!

Before leaving town, travel Wabash Ave. (1926-30 alignment) and visit the last of the three giant "brothers" on IL Route 66—the **Lauderbach Giant**. The **Lauderbach Giant** lost his head during the tornados in the spring of 2006, but thanks to his popularity, he was restored and his head replaced.

For a trip to our Lincoln sties we can inter mingle these places amongst your day:

Start the day early with Abraham Lincoln sites abound, the **Lincoln Home National Historic Site**, a restored four-block neighborhood with a quaint, Quaker-brown residence - the only home Lincoln ever owned - and the home of the Lincoln family for 17 years (1844-1861) - as its centerpiece. Your group will enjoy a guided tour of this national treasure, conducted by National Park Service Rangers. Stop by the Lincoln Home Visitors Center first to view the free audio-visual programs and exhibits.

At the world class **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum** visitors will see the most complete collection of Lincoln documents and artifacts in the world. The new facility presents Lincoln as he has never been presented before, using the latest interactive technology, film & drama. Here you will see the details of Lincoln's life from cradle to grave, be sure to allow plenty of time for this great museum. After you've grabbed a bite to eat at the café located inside its off to the ...

Lincolns Tomb, this beautiful monument marks the final resting place of Abraham, Mary Todd, Tad, Eddie and Willie Lincoln. (Oldest son, Robert, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.) Abraham Lincoln was buried in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery at the request of Mrs. Lincoln after his assassination in 1865. This cemetery is the second most visited cemetery in the United States. (**Ask about the free Civil War Retreat Ceremony held at the tomb each Tuesday evening during the summer.**)

Spend a lovely afternoon at ***New Salem Village*** state historic site, set in the 1800's this log cabin village will take you even further back in time. Here young Abe Lincoln settled in 1831 and lived six years, he studied law, was elected state legislator, appointed postmaster and started a general store. We are soon walking the same paths Lincoln and his neighbors walked 170 yrs ago! Step into doorways of log buildings lit by candlelight; hear the ring of the blacksmith's hammer and the old stories told in front of the fire.

Let the ***Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau*** help you find a great place for dinner, from the local fare to the historic; you name it we've got it.

To wrap up the evening we'll follow in the footsteps of Lincoln during **Lincoln's Ghost Walk** using the sites as the backdrop for the stories on this moderately paced walking tour through the ghostly history & stories surrounding Lincoln's life and death.

If time allows you might want to take an hour and half out of your day to visit the ***Dana-Thomas House***. It was 1902 in Victorian Springfield when local socialite and activist, Susan Lawrence Dana, hired a rising young architect from Chicago to remodel her family home. What resulted and remains today is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's finest prairie-style homes, complete with original furniture, art glass doors, windows and light fixtures. The rich history and architectural significance of this elaborately restored residence will add an unforgettable dimension to your tour of historic Springfield.

Contact the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau for group planning details and for group friendly hotels that offer an assortment of overnight

packages to fit your needs, from this central location we can help you find a great stay while you travel to the surrounding Route 66 stops. 800-545-7300