

Illinois

Illinois is a midwestern state bordering Indiana in the east and the Mississippi River in the west. Nicknamed "the Prairie State," it's marked by farmland, forests, rolling hills and wetlands. Chicago, one of the largest cities in the U.S., is in the northeast on the shores of Lake Michigan. It's famous for its skyscrapers, such as sleek, 1,451-ft. Willis Tower and the neo-Gothic Tribune Tower. Illinois is known as the "Land of Lincoln" as Abraham Lincoln spent most of his life there. Inventors John Deere and Cyrus McCormick made their fortunes in Illinois by improving farm machinery. The tallest man in the world was born in Alton in 1918.



- Population: 12.67 million (2019) the sixth largest population.
- Capital: Springfield

The official currency of the United States is the U.S. dollar or American dollar.

What to eat in Illinois? Top 6 most popular Illinoisan foods:

- Italian Beef Sandwiches.
- Ranch dressing.
- Pizza.
- Corn.
- Deep dish pizza.
- Gyros.
- Popcorn.
- Hotdogs.

Illinois history

The first Europeans to visit Illinois were the French explorers Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette in 1673, but the region was ceded to Britain after the French and Indian War. After the American Revolution, Illinois became a territory of the United States, and achieved statehood in 1818.

Physical Features

Bordered by the Mississippi River on the west and the Wabash and Ohio Rivers on the southeast and south, the landscape of Illinois can be grouped into three main regions: the Central Plains, the Shawnee Hills and the Gulf Coastal Plain. The Central Plains: About 90% of Illinois is covered by the Central Plains region.



Man-Made Features

- **Willis Tower** (Holding the title of tallest building in the world for roughly 25 years, the Willis Tower is 1,451 feet tall. It was constructed in 1973)
- **Chicago River** (No, the river itself is thanks to nature. But the reverse flow? That was the product of ingenious engineering.)
- **Cahokia Mounds** (These mounds, located in Collinsville, were created thousands of years ago by people known as the "Mound Builders.")
- **Tribune Tower** is a neo-Gothic skyscraper
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What Illinois Produces

Illinois is a leading producer of soybeans, corn and swine. The state's climate and varied soil types enable farmers to grow and raise many other agricultural commodities, including cattle, wheat, oats, sorghum, hay, sheep, poultry, fruits and vegetables.

Famous People

John Deere (1804 - 1886) Invented the first successful steel plough; born in Vermont lived in Grand Detour.

Walt Disney (1901 - 1966) the creator of Mickey Mouse and founder of the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Theme Parks was born in Chicago, Illinois. One of the world's most creative pioneers and innovators in graphic arts.

Harrison Ford (1942 -) Actor made famous in Star Wars and as Indiana Jones in Raiders of the Lost Ark and its sequels; born in Chicago.

Robin Williams (1952 -2014) Actor made famous in the television show Mork and Mindy and movies such as Mrs Doubtfire & Toys; born in Chicago.

Bill Murray (1950 -) Actor made famous in Saturday Night Live and movies such as Ghostbusters and Groundhog Day; born in Evanston.

Ronald Wilson Reagan (1911 - 2004) The 40th President of the United States; born in Tampico.

Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865) The 16th President of the United States; moved from Kentucky to New Salem at the age of 21.