

## Indianapolis Region

# Quality of Life

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“Indianapolis is the best of both worlds – all the sophistication of a modern metropolis, while retaining its hometown Hoosier demeanor.”

- *Home and Away* magazine

With the nation’s 12<sup>th</sup> largest city at its center and no shortage of thriving towns and small communities throughout the nine counties, the Indianapolis Region draws attention for being vibrant and progressive as well as culturally rich and hospitable.

### Greenways

#### Indianapolis Cultural Trail

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick is a world-class urban bike and pedestrian path that connect neighborhoods, Cultural Districts and entertainment amenities, and serves as the downtown hub for the entire central Indiana greenway system. The 8 mile trail provides downtown connectivity, bicycle friendliness and urban walkability to the city.



#### Monon Trail

The Monon Trail, completed in 2003, measures approximately 10.4 miles from 10th Street to 96th Street – the Marion-Hamilton county line, where it connects with the 5.2-mile Monon Greenway in Carmel. It also has direct connections to the Fall Creek Greenway and the Central Canal Towpath, which leads to the White River Wapahani Trail to form a trail network that reaches to the west side of the downtown district.

#### Central Canal

In the 1830’s, the Central Canal was envisioned as part of an eight-canal system to cross the state and link major points of commerce. After three years of construction and the introduction of railroads, debts halted the project, leaving the Central Canal with no connections to other navigable waterways. In 1881, the Indianapolis Water Company purchased the canal. The Central Canal is still a primary source of drinking water for the Indianapolis metro area and receives its water from the White River in the Broad Ripple area. The Central Canal Towpath provides connection from Broad Ripple to Downtown along the historic Indianapolis Water Company Canal.

Additional greenways traverse the region, including Eagle Creek Trail, Fall Creek Trail, Little Buck Creek Trail, Pennsy Rail Trail, Pleasant Run Trail, Pogues Run Trail, White River Trail, White Lick Creek Trail, Zionsville Rail Trail, Tracy Trail, Landersdale Trail, 146<sup>th</sup> Street Trail, Vandalia Trail, Carey Road Trail and many others.

### Bicycling

There are currently 64 miles of on-street bike lanes in operation in Marion County with another 200+ miles planned. With 25 stations and 250 bikes located on or near the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, the Pacers Bikeshare bicycles are available to anyone with a 24-Hour Pass or Annual Membership. Carmel also has a bike rental program with two downtown locations.

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## Top Communities and Housing

Indianapolis is the most affordable metropolitan home market in the United States, according to multiple rankings and surveys. Throughout the entire region, scores of exceptional communities offer diverse and plentiful lifestyle options, from college towns and planned communities to mid-sized cities and small towns. Whether you're looking for quiet country roads, bustling, child-filled soccer fields and parks, or sophisticated urban living, the Indianapolis Region has something for everyone. Here are just a few recent accolades:

Indianapolis: Top 10 Downtowns, *Livability.com*, 2015  
Carmel: #6 Best City for Kids, *Livability.com*, 2014  
Avon, Brownsburg, Fishers & Noblesville: Top Cities for Homeownership, *NerdWallet.com*, 2014  
Westfield: Best Towns for Families, *Family Circle*, 2014  
Carmel: #3 Best Place to Live in America, *Money*, 2014  
Johnson County: Where the Middle Class Thrives, *CNN*, 2014

## Museums

### The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is the world's largest children's museum, welcoming more than one million visitors each year. With a rich collection history of more than 80 years, the museum has been using objects to inspire imaginations and connect generations for decades.

The 472,900 square-foot facility houses more than 12,000 artifacts. Visitors can explore physical and natural sciences, history, world cultures, and the arts. Highlights include Dinosphere, a 1917 vintage carousel, full-size and miniature trains, Dale Chihuly's five-story Fireworks of Glass sculpture and the SpaceQuest Planetarium.

### Indianapolis Museum of Art

Founded in 1883, the Indianapolis Museum of Art is among the 10 largest and 10 oldest general art museums in the nation. With a collection of more than 54,000 works spanning 5,000 years, the IMA offers significant holdings of African, American, Asian, European and contemporary art, textiles and fashion art, as well as a growing collection of design arts.. Its \$25 million Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, located on 100 acres of untamed woodlands, wetlands, a lake and meadows adjacent to the museum, is one of the largest museum art parks in the country. The art park, completed in 2010, caps off a recent \$74 million expansion that features three new wings and 50 percent more gallery space.

### Eiteljorg Museum

Located in downtown Indianapolis, the Eiteljorg Museum houses an extensive collection of Native American art, as well as Western American paintings and sculptures collected by businessman and philanthropist Harrison Eiteljorg. The museum houses one of the finest collections of Native contemporary art in the World.

### James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home

The James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home is on the National Register of Historic Places and is located in the Lockerbie Square Historic District at 528 Lockerbie Street. It was named a National Historic Landmark in 1962. While never owned by Riley, the Hoosier Poet and author of *Little Orphan Annie* and *The Raggedy Man*, lived in the home for 23 years.

### President Benjamin Harrison Home

The Benjamin Harrison Home, in Indianapolis' Old Northside Historic District, was the home of the Twenty-third President of the United States. Harrison had the house built in 1870 and he lived there until his death in 1901.

## **NCAA Hall of Fame and Museum**

The NCAA Hall of Champions boasts two-levels of interactive exhibits to engage visitors and create a true-to-life understanding of what it takes to make the grade. On the first level, all 23 NCAA sports are represented and include a novice to historian trivial challenge, current team rankings, video highlights, and artifacts donated from colleges around the nation. On the second level, is a fully interactive area to compete virtually and hands-on, a media room displaying current games on seven television screens, and 1930's retro basketball gymnasium.

## **Indianapolis Zoo and Botanical Gardens**

The Indianapolis Zoo, a private non-profit organization is the only institution accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the American Alliance of Museums as a zoo, aquarium and botanical garden. The primary points where people connect with animals and plants are within the Zoo's "biomes," or collection of habitats. The biome concept presents approximately 250 species of animals and more than 2,000 varieties of plants together in simulated natural habitats.

## **Conner Prairie Interactive History Park**

Conner Prairie is a living history museum in Fishers, that preserves the William Conner home (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) and recreates a slice of life in 19th century Indiana.

## **Indiana History**

The Indiana State Capitol, Indiana State Museum, Indiana State Library, Indiana World War Memorial, Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Monument are all located in downtown Indianapolis and afford residents and visitors alike an opportunity to learn about the Hoosier State in exciting ways.

## **Arts and Culture Venues**

Indiana Repertory Theatre/Indiana Roof Ballroom  
Clowes Memorial Hall  
Phoenix Theatre

Madame Walker Theatre Center  
Old National Centre/Murat Theatre  
Hilbert Circle Theatre  
The Palladium  
Paramount Theatre Center and Ballroom

## **Professional Sports Teams**

Colts - Football  
Pacers – Men's Basketball  
Fever – Women's Basketball  
Indianapolis Fuel – Ice Hockey  
Indianapolis Indians – AAA Baseball  
Indy Eleven – Soccer  
Indy 500 – Indy Car  
Brickyard 400 - NASCAR  
NHRA Nationals – Drag Racing

## **Recreation**

Golf Courses – Thirteen public golf courses are located in Marion County  
Lakes and Reservoirs – Eagle Creek Reservoir, Geist Reservoir, Morse Reservoir, Heritage Lake  
City Parks – Indy Parks manages 207 properties  
State Parks – White River State Park, Ft. Harrison State Park, Mounds State Park, Morgan Monroe State Forest, Atterbury State Fish & Wildlife Area  
Bark Parks – Four "bark parks" are located in Marion County  
Indiana State Fairgrounds – Home to the annual Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis Home Show, and Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show

## **Annual Festivals and Events**

International Violin Competition  
Drum Corps International World Championships  
Midwest Fashion Week  
Heartland Film Festival  
Gen Con  
Symphony on the Prairie  
Circle City Classic  
Indiana Black Expo  
Indy Jazz Fest  
Indianapolis 500 Festival  
Indiana State Fair

## Just For Fun

### Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library is dedicated to championing the literary, artistic and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist and Indianapolis native Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. The library serves as a cultural and educational resource facility, museum, art gallery and reading room. It supports language and visual arts education through programs and outreach activities with other local arts organizations.

Highlighted attractions of the library include a museum, art gallery and reading room. The museum features rare remnants from Vonnegut's life, including the author's Smith-Corona Coronamatic 2200 typewriter, an unopened box of the author's Pall Mall cigarettes discovered by his children behind a bookcase following his death, a series of rejection letters sent to the author by magazines, and a complete replica of his writing studio.

### Cultural Districts

Visit the Carmel Arts and Design District, Downtown Zionsville, and Indianapolis' Mass Ave, Fountain Square, Broad Ripple and The Wholesale District for a vast array of cutting edge restaurants, vibrant bars, and thought provoking art galleries.

### Dallara IndyCar Factory

The new Dallara IndyCar Factory in Speedway lets you take the wheel in realistic driving simulators.

### Indianapolis Motor Speedway

In addition to the Indianapolis 500, the speedway also hosts NASCAR's Brickyard 400. From 2000 to 2007, the speedway also hosted the United States Grand Prix for Formula One. The inaugural USGP race drew an estimated 400,000 spectators, setting a Formula One attendance record. In 2008, the speedway added the Indianapolis Motorcycle Grand Prix. On the grounds of the speedway is the

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, which opened in 1956. The museum moved into its current building located in the infield in 1975. Also on the grounds is the Brickyard Crossing Golf Resort, which originally opened as the Speedway Golf Course in 1929. The golf course has 14 holes outside of the track, along the backstretch, and four holes in the infield.

### Lucas Oil Raceway Park

is a racing circuit complex in Clermont. It has a 0.686-mile oval, 2.5-mile road course, and 4,400-foot drag strip.

### Westfield Grand Park

The 400-acre sports campus features 31 grass and synthetic field sport fields and 26 baseball and softball diamonds along with other visitor amenities.

### Plainfield Recreation and Aquatic Center

Splash Island Indoor Aquatic Center has recreational and programmed swim times year-round! The 20,000 sq. ft. aquatic center features a 5,742 sq. ft. leisure pool including three lap lanes, a two-story waterslide, zero depth entry, interactive children's play area, gentle winding river and a pulsating vortex.

### Sister Cities

Indianapolis has eight sister cities as designated by Sister Cities International.

-  Taipei, Taiwan (1978)
-  Cologne, Germany (1988)
-  Monza, Italy (1993)
-  Piran, Slovenia (2001)
-  Hangzhou, People's Republic of China (2009)
-  Campinas, Brazil (2009)
-  Northamptonshire, United Kingdom (2009)
-  Hyderabad, India (2010)

Visit [www.indypartnership.com](http://www.indypartnership.com) for information on additional arts and cultural amenities.