Indianapolis, Indiana, was founded in 1821 on the White River as a planned city for the new seat of Indiana’s state government. The city’s square mile design reflects the plan for Washington, DC, with its central circle, radiating streets, and zoned usage of building sites for the Statehouse, a county courthouse, a city market, and other civic buildings.

Monument Circle in the center of downtown is the site of the Indiana State Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument, with the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum housed in the interior of the monument. The Indiana World War Memorial Plaza Historic District comprises 6 blocks of monumental public architecture that includes the World War Memorial Building, which houses a museum that depicts Hoosier involvement in military conflicts from revolutionary times to current actions.

Many attractions and festivites are located in the downtown’s Canal & White River State Park. The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center is home to the Indiana Historical Society’s exhibits. The Indiana State Museum conveys the city’s history. The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, IMAX Theater, Victory Field, Indianapolis Zoo, and the NCAA Hall of Champions are all located in the park.

Indianapolis Museum of Art is located on 152 acres of gardens and grounds and contains works from numerous cultures and eras. The historic Oldfields–Lilly House & Gardens is an elegant 26-acre estate on the museum grounds. The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park; 100 Acres is adjacent to the museum’s main campus and includes a contemporary sculpture park, woodlands, wetlands, meadows, and a 35-acre lake.

The Children’s Museum Indianapolis, Morris-Butler House Museum, James Whitcomb Riley Home and Museum, Indianapolis Firefighters Museum & Historical Society, IPS Crispus Attucks Museum, National Art Museum of Sport, and Rhythm! Discovery Center, which specializes in percussion instruments, are also located in the city.

Broadway, contemporary, classic, and original dramas and musicals are produced at Indianapolis’s many theaters: Murat Theatre, Clowes Memorial Hall, Phoenix Theatre, Theatre on the Square, IndyFringe Basile Theatre, Indianapolis Repertory Theatre, Footlight Musicals, Candlelight Theatre at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, and 2Raven Players.

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra performs at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Concerts by the Ensemble Music Society and Indianapolis Early Music are held in the Indiana Historical Society. Other music venues include the Madame Meridith Theatre Voge Jazz Kitchen, Old National Centre, Hi-Fi White Rabbit Cabaret, Emerson Theater, Rathskeller, Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Slippery Noodle Inn, and Radio Rady. The Farm Bureau Insurance Lawn at White River State Park, Hilpich Music Center, and the MacAllister Amphitheater, which hosts the Indy Parks Performing Arts Festival, are outdoor music venues.

Dance Kaleidoscope, Motus Dance Theatre, Ted and Boards, and ComedySportz Indianapolis are other performing arts organizations.

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

Condominiums and apartments dominate many of the downtown’s residential districts, such as The Canal and White River State Park, Market East, Chatham Arch and Meridian Avenue, Wholesale District, and North Meridian. Single-family homes are available in other downtown neighborhoods, including the city’s first historic district, Lockerbie Square, which features closely-spaced renovated frame cottages and brick houses on tree-lined cobblestone and brick streets. Housing options from cottages to Victorian Queen Anne–style homes are available in Old Southside. St. Joseph features Civil War-era cottages, row houses, single-family homes, and newly constructed condominiums and recently renovated apartments.

Housing options further from the downtown area include the 16 Tech neighborhood’s new Stadium Lofts, which are located within the original confines of the old Bush baseball stadium. Herron-Morton Place Historic District is known for its collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century residential architecture, especially in the Queen Anne style. Fall Creek Place has many restored historic houses with tree-lined streets and parks. The Cottage Home neighborhood features brightly colored cottages that are adorned with gingerbread trim, porches, spindles, and fish scale shingles. Woodruff Place offers Queen Anne–style homes. Georgian Revivals, English Tudors, Bungalows, American Foursquares, and Colonial Revivals. Mostly built between 1870 and 1900, brick and wood frame Italianate and Queen Anne mansions dominate the Old Northside neighborhood, which was once home to President Benjamin Harrison.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Indy Parks operates 207 park properties with amenities that include soccer and rugby fields, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, 5 indoor and 16 outdoor pools, 13 golf courses, 4 off-leash dog parks, and 9 greenways. Kuntz Memorial Soccer Stadium features two FIFA regulated game fields, seating, locker rooms, and other facilities. The sole ice rink in the city is located in Perry Park. Garfield Park is home to the Garfield Park Arts Center and MacAllister Amphitheater and also has a Conservatory and Sunken Gardens. Riverside Regional Park’s Lake Sullivan Sports Complex features the Indy Cyclone’s facilities that include the historic Major Taylor Velodrome, as well as a skate park.

The Eagle Creek Park, the city’s largest park, has two nature centers (the Earth Discovery Center and the Ornithology Center), a swimming beach, a marina, hiking trails, off-leash dog park; fishing; playgrounds; golf course; canine companion zone; and A Go Ape Treetop Adventure Course, which allows participants to explore the park while navigating through the treetops.

Indianapolis is home to many professional sports, including the Indiana Fever (women’s basketball), Indiana Pacers (basketball), Indianapolis Colts (football), Indianapolis Indians (baseball), Indy Fuel (hockey), and Indy Eleven (soccer). The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is located in Speedway, a town surrounded by Indianapolis.

**EDUCATION**

Indianapolis Public Schools serves approximately 30,000 students in 54 elementary, 1 middle school (grades 6–8), 5 middle/high schools (grades 7–12), and 2 additional middle/high schools (grades 6–12). Magnet programs are available at all grade levels.

Opportunities for higher education are available at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis, a public university that has a School of Medicine; School of Dentistry, School of Nursing, and School of Public Health among its 17 schools. Among the city’s private universities, Marian University has a School of Nursing and a new College of Osteopathic Medicine. Pharmacy and physician assistant studies are available at Butler University. University of Indianapolis has undergraduate programs and graduate programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, and nursing. Martin University offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The Art Institute of Indianapolis prepares students for careers in design, fashion, media arts, and culinary. Christian Theological Seminary provides only graduate degree programs.

Associate degrees in various fields are available from Ivy Tech Community College, Harrison College, Medtech College, Lincoln College of Technology, Kaplan College, National College, International Business College, and Brown Mackie College.

**HEALTH CARE**

The following hospitals are located in Indianapolis:

- Community Hospital East: 263 staffed beds
- Community Hospital North: 298 staffed beds
- Community Hospital South: 158 staffed beds
- Eskenazi Health: 352 staffed beds
- Franciscan St. Francis Health-Indianapolis: 385 staffed beds
- Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital: 1,263 staffed beds
- St. Vincent Hospital & Health Services: 779 staffed beds
- St. Vincent Seton Specialty Hospital: 74 staffed beds

Indianapolis is also served by the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, 2 long term acute facilities, 2 psychiatric facilities, and a rehabilitation hospital.

**CITY STATS**

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<th>Category</th>
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