A Guide to Indianapolis

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

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Expected date of graduation: May 6, 2006

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Abstract

Indianapolis is the largest city in the state of Indiana, and the twelfth largest city in the United States with a population of over 800,000 people. This paper will examine the main tourist attractions of downtown Indianapolis, including White River State Park, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, the Indiana State Museum, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens, Circle Centre Mall, and the State Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. It also includes a brief history of the city, dining suggestions, hours for attractions, and admission prices to these sites.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my girlfriend, for her constant support throughout the entirety of this project. She was always there to help me edit my project and keep me on tract.

I'd like to thank my thesis advisor, Dr. Hawkins, for his support and knowledge about all things tourism related.

Finally, I'd like to thank brother and my parents, for their help with the planning and execution of this project. Without their support this project would not have been possible.

Project Rationale

At first, I was not sure what I wanted to do for my Senior Honors Project. However, I did know that I wanted to do a creative project that was tied in with my geography major, but I was unsure of what direction to go with it. I thought about doing an independent GIS project, but this did not incorporate all of my areas of interest. As I started my senior year, I began branching out and exploring some of the other classes offered by my department that were not required for my specific option, and I quickly realized that I really enjoyed my class in travel and tourism, as it combined my interest in learning about other cultures with my love of traveling. I soon decided my Honors Thesis would be related to travel and tourism, but I was unsure of exactly what to do with that subject.

I decided that some sort of travel video might be the way to go. The computer lab I work in specializes in video and sound editing, so I have had a lot of experience helping others with their video projects. However, I have never had the opportunity or reason to create a video of my own. I set out to make a video travel guide. My idea was to create a short video that was meant to be utilized as a reference to tourism attractions. Additionally, I wanted the video to be useable with mobile devices such as the Video iPod. By including maps, information screens, and voice commentary, my project could be used as a portable guide book as well as a video. I thought this would be a unique and challenging way for my to combine my geography major with the video editing knowledge I had gained throughout my years at Ball State University.

I decided to make my video guide about Indianapolis because I needed a big city with lots of attractions that was nearby. I intended to use this project to create a template for future video guides about other major cities around the world, and due to cost and convenience, I decided that Indianapolis had the attractions I was looking for and was within an easily drivable distance to allow for repeat filming. In addition, since moving to Indiana, I have had numerous opportunities to explore and experience the attractions Indianapolis has to offer. I wanted to share my information and enthusiasm for these locations with others.

A Guide to Indianapolis

Indianapolis is the capital of Indiana. It is the state's largest city as well as its cultural capital. Indianapolis is located in the center of Indiana along the White River. With a population of over 800,000 people, Indianapolis is the twelfth largest city in the United States. The city's population is roughly four times as large as the state's second largest city, Fort Wayne. When including the surrounding metro area, the population grows to about 2 million people.

History

Before it was settled, the land that would become Indiana was a large, expansive, forested area covering over 36,000 square miles. There were several capitals of Indiana or the Indiana Territory before the creation of Indianapolis. In 1800, the original capital of the Indiana Territory was Vincennes. By 1813, the capital of the territory had moved to Corydon. The government began looking for a location to build a new capital soon after Indiana became the 19th state in 1816 (Tenuth, 2004).

This new capital was to be in a more centralized location within the state. However, at this point, most of central Indiana was under the control of several Native American tribes. This obstacle was cleared in 1818 when the New Purchase treaty was signed. The treaty signed over the control of 8 million acres of central Indiana to the Indiana government. In 1820, the commission responsible for finding a location for the new capital selected an area located on a flat plane next to the White River. This location was ideal because the White

River would provide water access and transportation and the flat plain would make building the city easier. In addition, the site would be near the location of the future National Road (Tenuth, 2004).

There were several other names for the city before Indianapolis was selected as the official name. Some of the other suggested names were Tecumseh, Suwarrow, and Tuwarrow. The name Indianapolis means "city of Indiana." By 1821, there was a name for the new capital of Indiana, but the city had not yet been built (Tenuth, 2004).

Alexander Ralston -- former assistant to Pierre L'Enfant, the chief architect of Washington D.C. -- and Elias Fordham were selected to design Indianapolis. Because of Ralston, Indianapolis shares many similarities with Washington D.C. Both cities are symmetrical, and both spread out from the center with diagonal avenues. Indianapolis became the official capital of Indiana in 1824 (Tenuth, 2004).

In 1825, Indianapolis had only around 1,000 citizens, mostly subsistence farmers. By 1860, the population of the city had grown to 19,000 people. The population growth was largely influence by the National Road running right through the middle of the city (Tenuth, 2004).

During the Civil War, Indianapolis became the center of the state's war effort as a training center and troop gathering place. After the end of the Civil War, the population of Indianapolis began to rapidly increase. In 1870 there were around 50,000 residents, and by 1900 the population was up to around 170,000 people (Tenuth, 2004).

Today, the city of Indianapolis has over 800,000 citizens in the downtown area, which makes it the largest landlocked city in the United States. The city is home to two of the world's largest single day sports events, the Indianapolis 500 and the Brickyard 500 (Tenuth, 2004). In addition, the city has become the cultural center for the state of Indiana, containing many exciting attractions in its downtown area. These attractions will be the focus of this paper.

Guide to Downtown Attractions

White River State Park

White River State Park is located on the western edge of downtown Indianapolis and is Indiana's only urban state park (White River State Park, n.d.). The park is located on 250 acres of urban green space. Created in 1979, the park has been at the center of the major redevelopment of Indianapolis's historic Canal Zone. White River State Park is home to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, the Indiana State Museum and IMAX Theater, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Indianapolis Zoo, and the White River Gardens. Those seeking recreational activities can walk, jog, cycle, or even rent a paddle boat. The park also hosts several special events throughout the year including a Native American market and a jazz festival (Grass, 1997).

Eiteljorg Museum

The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art opened in 1989 and is one of the only museums dedicated to Native American art in the

United States. The museum is located on the eastern edge of White River State Park along West Street and Washington Street. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is closed Mondays between Labor Day and Memorial Day. The price of admission is $8 for adults, $7 for children 5 to 17 years old and students, free for children under four years old, and $7 for senior citizens 65 years old and above. The Eiteljorg is also home to its own restaurant, the Sky City Café, which specializes in food inspired by the Southwest and Native American cultures (Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, 2006).

Indiana State Museum

The Indiana State Museum is a collection of Indiana's cultural and natural history. Formerly housed in Indianapolis's old City Hall, the museum is now located in a brand new building in White River State Park. Exhibits exploring the history of Indiana from the prehistoric era to the modern day are featured in the museum. There are also several changing exhibits and an IMAX Theater located within the building. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is $7 for adults, $4 for children 3 to 12 years old, and $6.50 for senior citizens 60 years old and above. The Indiana State Museum is home to two restaurants, the Canal Café and Terrace and the L.S. Ayres Tea Room. The Canal Café is a cafeteria-style eating-place, and the Tea Room is an elegant re-creation of the upscale tea room that was located in Indianapolis's downtown L.S. Ayres department store from 1905 to 1990. The

Tea Room is only open for lunch, and reservations are recommended (Indiana State Museum, n.d.).

NCAA Hall of Champions

The NCAA Hall of Champions is a museum dedicated to the student athlete. The museum has exhibits featuring photographs, movies, interactive displays, and statues for all three divisions of the 23 NCAA sanctioned sports. The NCAA Hall of Champions is located in White River State Park near the White River. The museum's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed Mondays between Labor Day and Memorial Day. The price of admission is $3 for adults and seniors, $2 for students, and free for children 5 years old and below (NCAA Hall of Champions, n.d.).

Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens

The Indianapolis Zoo a world-class zoo located across the river from the rest of White River State Park. The zoo's current location opened in 1988. It is home to about 360 unique species of animals, including 14 endangered species. White River Gardens opened in 1999 and is located next to the zoo. The garden has many different types of plants blooming throughout the year and features an annual butterfly exhibit. The zoo and gardens are open year round, and as a result, they have varying hours throughout the year. During the summer months, from May 26th to September 4th, the zoo and gardens are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through

Sunday. The cost of admission also changes throughout the year. For the months of March through October the price for the zoo and gardens is $13.50 for adults, $8.50 for children 2 through 12 years old and seniors 62 years old and above, and free for infants 1 year old and below. Parking is an additional $5 per day (Indianapolis Zoo, n.d.).

Circle Centre Mall

Circle Centre is a Simon Mall located in the middle of downtown Indianapolis. It was constructed as a part of the recent urban renewal effort. The mall's exterior uses the facades from eight old buildings that date back to the 1800s. In addition, the mall offers 800,000 square feet of retail space and over 100 retail, dining, and entertainment choices (IUPUI, 2005). The Artsgarden, a glass dome poised over a busy intersection and connected to Circle Centre is home to over 300 free performances and art shows each year (Arts Council of Indianapolis, 2005). Located within the mall are seven traditional restaurants, eleven food court restaurants, and ten specialty food stores. The mall's normal hours are 10 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. There are affordable parking garages connected to the mall as well as some nearby street parking (Simon Malls, n.d.).

Monument Circle

At the heart of downtown Indianapolis is the State Soldier's and Sailors' Monument, commonly referred to as Monument Circle. The monument was dedicated in 1902 to all people from Indiana who died in the Civil War. The

monument is around 285 feet tall and was built with Indiana limestone (Indiana War Memorials, n.d.). The Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum is located within the monument. Those wanting a scenic view of Indianapolis can ascend the monument via stairway or elevator. The circular plaza located around the monument is a common gathering place and is used for festivals and other events throughout the year. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and there is no cost of admission. The elevator to the top of the monument costs $1 (IUPUI, 2006).

Conclusion

Indianapolis is a city that has recently begun to discover its identity as a cultural and tourism destination. It has made great strides in developing its tourism infrastructure and in creating new attractions. This paper has barely scratched the surface on the wide variety of attractions, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment opportunities available in Indianapolis. However, it is clear that this city has come a long way from its early days and has embraced its role as both Indiana's governmental and cultural capital.

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Addendum: Video Script

Introduction

Hello, my name is Alex Schmid and for the next few minutes I'm going to be showing you around one of my favorite cities, Indianapolis, Indiana. We'll visit some of the top destinations in the downtown, all within walking distance of each other.

On our tour, we'll be visiting the Eiteljorg Museum, the Indiana State Museum, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens, Circle Centre Mall, and Monument Circle.

If you are viewing this guide on a video iPod, feel free to pause at any information or map screen. We'll begin at the White River State Park Visitor's Center!

Guide to Downtown Attractions

White River State Park

White River State Park is located on the western edge of downtown Indianapolis and is Indiana's only urban state park (White River State Park, n.d.). The park is located on 250 acres of urban green space. Created in 1979, the park has been at the center of the major redevelopment of Indianapolis's historic Canal Zone. White River State Park is home to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art, the Indiana State Museum and IMAX Theater, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Indianapolis Zoo, and the White River Gardens. Those seeking recreational activities can walk, jog, cycle, or even rent a paddle

boat. The park also hosts several special events throughout the year including a Native American market and a jazz festival.

Eiteljorg Museum

Our first stop is the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art. Its one of the only museums dedicated to Native American art in the United States. Featured within the museum are traditional and contemporary pieces of art by such well known artists as T.C. Cannon, Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keeffe, Frederic Remington, and Kay Walkingstick. The museum also has its own restaurant, the Sky City Café, which specializes in food inspired by Native American cultures and the Southwest. The Eiteljorg is located on the eastern edge of White River State Park just down the street from the Indianapolis Convention Center. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The price of admission is $8 for adults, $7 for senior citizens, $7 for children and students, and free for children under four years old.

Indiana State Museum

Next up is one of my favorite places in Indianapolis, the Indiana State Museum. It's a museum dedicated to Indiana's cultural and natural history. Exhibits explore the state's past from the prehistoric era to the modern day. There are also several art galleries, changing exhibits and an IMAX Theater located in the building. The Indiana State Museum is home to two restaurants, the Canal Café and the L.S. Ayres Tea Room. The Canal Café is a cafeteria-style

eating-place, and the Tea Room is an elegant re-creation of the upscale tea room that was located in Indianapolis's downtown L.S. Ayres department store from 1905 to 1990. While you are there be sure to try either the Tea Room's famous Chicken Velvet Soup or Chicken Pot Pie, but be sure to save room for my personal favorite dessert, the Ice Cream Pecan Ball. The Tea Room is only open for lunch, and reservations are recommended. The museum has recently moved to a brand new building located in White River State Park next to the Eiteljorg. It's open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $7 for adults, $6.50 for senior citizens, and $4 for children.

NCAA Hall of Champions

If you are a college sports fan, just a quick walk across the canal from the Indiana State Museum will bring you to the NCAA Hall of Champions. This museum has exhibits featuring photographs, movies, and interactive displays about all of the 23 sanctioned NCAA sports. The NCAA Hall of Champions is located in White River State Park next to the White River. The museum's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The price of admission is $3 for adults and seniors, $2 for students, and free for children 5 years and under.

Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens

Just across the White River from the NCAA Hall of Champions is the Indianapolis Zoo. It's home to around 360 unique species of animals, 14 of which are endangered. The White River Gardens are located next to the zoo. The garden

has many different types of plants blooming throughout the year and features an annual butterfly exhibit. The zoo and gardens are open year round, and as a result, they have varying hours throughout the year. During the summer months, the zoo and gardens are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The cost of admission also changes throughout the year. During the summer the combined price for the zoo and gardens is $13.50 for adults, $8.50 for seniors and children, and free for infants. Parking is an additional $5 per day.

Circle Centre Mall

Circle Centre mall is located in the middle of downtown Indianapolis. It was constructed as a part of a recent urban renewal effort. The mall's exterior uses the facades from eight old buildings that date back to the 1800s. In addition, the mall offers 800,000 square feet of retail space and over 100 retail, dining, and entertainment choices. Dining options include seven traditional restaurants, eleven food court restaurants, and ten specialty food stores. The mall's normal hours are 10 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. There are affordable parking garages connected to the mall as well as some nearby street parking. In fact, the mall parking lots are probably the most affordable day parking in downtown Indianapolis. I'd recommend parking here even if you are not planning on going to Circle Center.

Monument Circle

At the heart of downtown Indianapolis is the State Soldier's and Sailors' Monument, commonly referred to as Monument Circle. The monument was dedicated in 1902 to all people from Indiana who died in the Civil War. The Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum is located within the monument. Those wanting a scenic view of Indianapolis can ascend the monument via stairway or elevator. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and there is no cost of admission. The elevator to the top of the monument costs $1.

Visitor's Center

Now we've returned back to where we began our journey. The Visitor's Center is open from 9 am to 4 pm Mon through Thursday and 9 am to 5 pm Friday though Sunday. One option to consider when planning your trip is that for one price you can buy admission to all the attractions in White River State Park. You can even see the Indianapolis Indians baseball team play at nearby Victory Field. The Park Pass costs $39.50 for adults and $29.50 for Children.

Conclusion

I hope you have enjoyed our brief tour of downtown Indianapolis. However, we've only scratched the surface of things to do here. If you have the time, get out and explore. There is always something new to see. You'll find copies of the maps used in this guide located immediately following this video. Have fun in your travels in Indianapolis.