

PLACES TO EXPLORE. ROOM TO BELONG.

Indiana Lifestyle

Discover the beauty, culture and possibilities of the Hoosier State.

Presented by Kayode Kosemani, REALTOR®, PMP · eXp Realty



Shades State Park woodland · May 21, 2026. Photograph: Public Lands Institute, CC0. Original black-and-white image. [P1]

There is an Indiana that fills grandstands and brings audiences to their feet. There is also an Indiana of shaded trails, lake breezes, small downtowns and a Saturday afternoon with no urgent destination. Together, they make a state with a remarkably varied sense of place.

THE OUTDOORS

Beauty in the wide view—and the details

Indiana rewards curiosity. The northern shoreline, western ravines and southern hills offer different reasons to get outside. For someone thinking about living here, that variety matters: the places that restore you can become part of your ordinary calendar.



Pitcher's thistle blossoms, Indiana Dunes State Park · June 12, 2026. Gabriel Wahl / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; public domain. [P2]

A Lake Michigan way of life

Indiana Dunes National Park protects a landscape of beaches, dunes, wetlands, prairie and woods along 15 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, with more than 50 miles of trails. The separately managed Indiana Dunes State Park adds more than three miles of beach and distinctive dune habitats. [1-2]

The small bloom pictured here is another way to appreciate the Dunes: its appeal reaches beyond the horizon to the plants and habitats close at hand. Plan visits around current park conditions, permitted activities and seasonal access.

Forests, hills and a deeper history

At Shades State Park, sandstone cliffs and wooded ravines follow Sugar Creek; nearby Pine Hills Nature Preserve adds striking terrain. Farther south, Brown County State Park offers nearly 16,000 acres of wooded hills and ravines, with hiking, mountain biking and seasonal scenery. Nashville's arts-and-crafts setting adds another reason to linger. [3-4]



Woodland at Mounds State Park · May 23, 2026. Public Lands Institute, CC0. Original black-and-white image. [P3]

Near Anderson, Mounds State Park connects a day outdoors with Indigenous history. Its ten earthworks include the Great Mound, which Indiana DNR dates to around 160 B.C. Trails and interpretation invite visitors to pay attention to the landscape and the people whose history it holds. The photograph shows the park's woodland, rather than an earthwork. [5]

THE SPORTING SPIRIT

A state that knows how to show up



Racing at the Brickyard 400, Indianapolis Motor Speedway · July 26, 2026. Photograph: Brycenrichter, CC0. [P4]

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

The Speedway gives Indiana one of its unmistakable landmarks. Built in 1909, its 2.5-mile oval hosted the first Indianapolis 500 on May 30, 1911. Today, its racing calendar includes IndyCar and NASCAR competition. The photograph captures the 2026 Brickyard 400 beside the Pagoda—a reminder that this is a living sporting destination as well as a historic one. [6–7]



Gainbridge Fieldhouse exterior · May 22, 2026. Sarah Stierch / Missvain, CC0. Date verified against embedded metadata; see photo notes. [P5]

Gainbridge Fieldhouse

The basketball arena at the heart of downtown Indianapolis is Gainbridge Fieldhouse, home to the NBA's Indiana Pacers and the WNBA's Indiana Fever. Its calendar also makes room for concerts and other live events. Basketball offers another way to share the city: a game, a meal and an evening that feels bigger than the usual routine. [8]

Football adds its own gathering place at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts. Together, the Speedway, Fieldhouse and stadium give residents distinct ways to experience major sport throughout the year. [9]

AFTER THE FINAL WHISTLE

The lights come up on another Indiana

A rewarding place to live needs things to look forward to. Indiana's concert halls, theaters, museums and regional destinations provide plenty of ways to build an evening or a weekend around something you enjoy.

Old National Centre: a distinctive night out

Old National Centre is a memorable part of Indianapolis's cultural landscape. At 502 North New Jersey Street, the venue includes the Murat Theatre and an ornate lobby, with spaces that bring live performance into a setting with its own personality. Its role in the city is easy to appreciate: a show can be the occasion that brings friends together and turns an ordinary weeknight into a lasting memory. [10]

The wider concert scene offers different scales and moods. Gainbridge Fieldhouse welcomes arena audiences; Ruoff Music Center brings national touring acts to an outdoor setting north of Indianapolis; and Hilbert Circle Theatre is home to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. HI-FI in Fountain Square adds a more intimate live-music option. Check each venue's current calendar, accessibility information and ticket policies when planning a visit. [8, 11]

From a theater seat to a forest trail, Indiana gives you more than one way to spend a good weekend.

Culture that reaches beyond the stage

Indianapolis's attractions include the Children's Museum, Newfields, the Eiteljorg Museum, the Indiana State Museum and the Indianapolis Zoo. This mix makes it possible to return to the city with a different purpose: art one day, history another, or an outing shaped around curiosity and conversation. [12]

Keep exploring beyond Indianapolis

North central Indiana: South Bend, Mishawaka and the Notre Dame setting sit alongside destinations such as Elkhart's gardens and Lake Maxinkuckee. **Northeast Indiana:** Fort Wayne combines city attractions with access to the lake country of Steuben County. **Southeast Indiana:** Madison offers historic architecture and a calendar of community events. These places broaden the picture of what an Indiana visit—or an Indiana address—can mean. [13–15]

For a future resident, the useful question is personal: which surroundings make it easier to enjoy the life you want? Spend time in several regions, explore their everyday services and try the routes you would actually travel.

GETTING TO KNOW THE STATE

Nearly seven million individual stories

Indiana’s identity is shaped by longtime residents and newcomers, people building careers, raising children, studying, running businesses and enjoying later chapters of life. Statewide figures offer a useful starting point, while leaving room for the differences between communities and individual experiences.

A statewide snapshot	Figure	Reference period
Population	6,973,333	July 1, 2025 estimate
Households	2,716,009	2020–2024 ACS
Average household size	2.46 people	2020–2024 ACS
Foreign-born residents	6.3%	2020–2024 ACS
Language other than English spoken at home, age 5+	10.3%	2020–2024 ACS
Owner-occupied housing rate	70.6%	2020–2024 ACS

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Indiana QuickFacts. ACS figures are five-year estimates, not a September 2026 survey. Statewide statistics do not describe every neighborhood. [16]

The pleasure of an ordinary week

The best argument for a place often comes from the small things: the park you use regularly, the café where you meet a friend, the library you return to and the errands you can fit into a working day. Indiana’s cities, suburbs and smaller towns let you compare different combinations of space, activity and convenience.

A useful relocation visit should include an ordinary weekday. Test the commute at the time you would travel. Check access to health care, groceries, recreation and dependable internet. If schools are relevant to your household, verify attendance boundaries and available programs directly with the district.

Work is another part of the picture. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation identifies advanced manufacturing, life sciences, mobility, semiconductors and agbioscience among the state’s industry priorities. That breadth provides useful directions for career research; your own decision should rest on actual opportunities, pay and travel requirements. [17]

A CLOSER LOOK

Appreciate the place. Understand the details.

A positive view of Indiana is strongest when it makes room for practical questions. Enjoying a state and choosing a particular home are connected decisions, but each deserves its own research.

Safety: use local evidence

Safety varies by location, type of incident and time period. A single statewide label cannot tell you what daily life will be like at a specific address. Indiana State Police's crime-statistics resources provide a starting point for official data; local law-enforcement reporting can help bring the picture closer to the places you are considering. [18]

Compare the same offenses over comparable periods, check whether reporting is complete, and distinguish raw incident totals from population-based rates. Visit the area at different times and consider lighting, traffic, walking routes and access to emergency services. Demographic characteristics are not a substitute for safety evidence.

Weather and property conditions also deserve attention. Indiana's emergency-preparedness guidance covers storms, flooding and extreme temperatures. Review property-specific flood information, drainage and maintenance history, and plan for seasonal conditions. For outdoor outings, use current park alerts and trail or beach restrictions. [19]

Housing: compare the whole cost

A home search can include established houses, newer construction, condominiums and rental options, depending on the local market. Compare the purchase price or rent with the full cost of living there: taxes, insurance, utilities, association charges, transportation and maintenance. Ask what changes after a purchase, rather than assuming the current owner's costs will become yours.

Statewide housing averages can offer context, but they cannot price an individual property. Recent comparable sales, condition, inspection findings, financing and your expected length of ownership matter more to a specific decision.

Investment: let the property earn the conclusion

Indiana's attractions and economic activity are reasons to investigate opportunities. An investment decision still needs a property-level plan. Test realistic income against vacancy, repairs, management, taxes, insurance, financing and reserves. Confirm the proposed use with the relevant local authority and review applicable zoning, rental rules and association restrictions before relying on a business model.

Consider the intended users and how the numbers change if costs rise or income falls. Event crowds and a busy concert calendar do not, by themselves, establish rental demand or permission for short-term rentals. No investment return or appreciation is assured.

READING NOTES

The facts and photographs behind this feature

Research checked September 21, 2026. Data periods are stated where used. Venue schedules, access and policies may change. Numbered sources below are clickable.

1. National Park Service · Indiana Dunes

2. Indiana DNR · Indiana Dunes State Park

3. Indiana DNR · Shades State Park

4. Indiana DNR · Brown County State Park

5. Indiana DNR · Mounds State Park

6. IMS · About the Track

7. IMS · The First Indianapolis 500

8. Gainbridge Fieldhouse · About

9. Lucas Oil Stadium · Official site

10. Visit Indy · Old National Centre
11. Visit Indy · Live Music Venues

12. Visit Indy · Museums & Attractions

13. Visit Indiana · North Central region

14. Visit Indiana · Northeast region

15. Visit Indiana · Southeast region

16. U.S. Census Bureau · Indiana QuickFacts

17. IEDC · Industries

18. Indiana State Police · Crime Statistics

19. Indiana DHS · Get Prepared

Photograph dates, credits and reuse

- P1. Public Lands Institute - Shades State Park - 001.tif

May 21, 2026 · Public Lands Institute · CC0
- P2. Pitcher’s thistle blossoms at Indiana Dunes State Park (55378376853).jpg

June 12, 2026 · Gabriel Wahl / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service · public domain
- P3. Public Lands Institute - Mounds State Park - 004.tif

May 23, 2026 · Public Lands Institute · CC0
- P4. Racing at the 2026 Brickyard 400.jpg

July 26, 2026 · Brycenrichter · CC0
- P5. Golden State Valkyries at Indiana Fever - May 2026 - Sarah Stierch 13.jpg

May 22, 2026 · Sarah Stierch / Missvain · CC0

All five location photographs meet the May 1, 2026 cutoff based on source capture records or embedded camera metadata. P5’s page description lists 2025, but its EXIF capture date and GPS date both read May 22, 2026; the photographed event is also documented for that date. Images are scaled without changing the depicted scene. P1 and P3 were supplied in black and white.

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RELOCATE • BUY • SELL • INVEST

Make your next Indiana move a considered one.

There is much to appreciate here: the scale of a Speedway occasion, the anticipation before a show, the quiet of a woodland walk and the possibility of building routines that feel like your own. Indiana offers compelling places to explore—and good reasons to look more closely.

Start with the life or investment you want to build

If you are relocating, bring your preferred timeline, daily travel needs and housing priorities. If you are buying or selling, bring your goals and questions. If you want to invest in Indiana real estate, bring your intended property use, budget, financing assumptions and appetite for ongoing management.

We can use that starting point to discuss locations, review relevant market information and identify practical next steps for your circumstances.

Thinking about moving to, buying in, selling in or investing in Indiana? Let's talk.

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