

Indelible Indy is a magnificent midwestern getaway

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Quick, name a great out-of-state city to visit that's within a five hour drive of Nashville. Atlanta? St. Louis? Maybe even Cin-

world's first institution to be accredited as a zoo, aquarium and botanical garden. It has a canal with gondola rides, a house that was occupied by the 23rd President, and Robert Indiana's original LOVE sculpture. Give

largest city not on a navigable waterway in the world." But even without a navigable waterway as a conduit for commerce with the rest of the world, it has become way more connected, complex and compelling than people outside the Midwest realize. Sure, it's been the site of a Super Bowl, several NCAA Final Four basketball championships (with another one coming in

it and you'll find that just up I-65 lies a beautiful gem of a city just waiting to be discovered and enjoyed. In fact, it'll probably call for a return visit.

So, what does Indianapolis have to offer? Well, some of just about everything. There's sports, history, art, and tons of stuff for kids and families to do. It's well documented that the sports scene in Indianapolis is rich and



A visit to Indy would not be complete without a stop at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



Visitors kiss the iconic bricks at the "brickyard."

cinnati or Louisville? Those all have their high points, but name another one. It has the world's largest sports facility, the world's largest children's museum, the world's first union station, and the

up? It's Indianapolis. That's right...The Circle City.

Indy's native son Kurt Vonnegut (who has a free memorial library dedicated to him in the city) once quipped that Indianapolis is "the



Paleontology Preparator of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis answers questions about Triceratops bones.

2021), and even hosts the NCAA's headquarters, but it's shocking that there is not more of a buzz around here about Indy. Look into

historic. Racing is almost synonymous with the Hoosier State, as is basketball. For racing fans, a visit to the Indianapolis Motor Speed-



Visitors to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis can see the Liberty Bell 7 Capsule which is on display.



A trip to Monument Circle provides visitors with a unique experience.



Children practice archeology at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

lap around the oval by bus in order to hear a bit of the history and see what it's like to celebrate a victory by kissing the bricks of the iconic track.

For its sports teams, the city has three gorgeous venues right

hibits that inform, engage, impress and delight. Dinosaurs, space adventures, science, historical and cultural experiences and hands-on activities are some of the things that combine to make this museum



The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site provides visitors with insight into the life and times of our nation's 23rd President.

downtown: Bankers Life Fieldhouse for basketball, Lucas Oil Stadium for football, and Victory Field for minor league baseball.

The grandeur of Lucas Oil Stadium was witnessed by the world during Super Bowl XLVI in 2012. Tennesseans looking for the closest road trip

a smash hit for kids and adults alike. The Dinosphere exhibits feature larger-than-life fossil displays, and visitors might even get a glimpse of on-duty paleontologists working with real dinosaur bones. Storytime exhibits engage the imagination, and immersive experiences in



Bears take a dip at the Indianapolis Zoo.

destination to support the Titans in 2016 will have a chance to see Andrew Luck and the Colts host Marcus Mariota and company in the state-of-the-art venue on November 20.

While Indy's sports scene is enough to make fans gaga with excitement, Indianapolis can thrill kids, too. At nearly half a million square feet, the Children's Museum of Indianapolis is the largest of its kind in the world. And those hundreds of thousands of square feet are chock full of interactive ex-

Egypt and China help kids get a feel for life in faraway places. For stellar off-planet experiences, the space area has an interactive zone dedicated to the International Space Station and a planetarium that shows a visually stunning video about the exploits of the Liberty Bell 7 capsule. For the smallest visitors, the Playscape area lets kids 5 and under explore and engage their senses in all kinds of sensory activities.

Wild outdoor adventures await at the Indianapolis Zoo, which

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way is a must. Just setting foot in the world's largest sports facility (that can accommodate over 400,000 spectators) is overwhelming, but adding a visit to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum and a tour of the track is nothing short of vehicular Valhalla. There's even a tour that lets visitors take a



Gondolier Drago sings to guests as they take a trip down a canal.

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