Albany’s Famous Faces

Abraham Lincoln
16th President of the United States

Upon entering Albany on a train named Erastus Corning Jr., a signal was flashed to the Dudley Observatory which fired off a twenty one gun salute, signaling President Elect Lincoln had entered the city. Lincoln had stopped at the Capital City on his way to Washington to his inauguration. Keep reading for a Lincoln-inspired itinerary through Albany!

New York State Museum Library & Archives
222 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12230 | 518-474-5877
Abraham Lincoln was not only a well-practiced lawyer, but also very book smart. His passion for reading enabled him to have a wide knowledge on a variety of topics. If he was practicing today in Albany, he probably would head over to the The New York State Library and Archives to catch up on everything that’s happened! The NYS Library and Archives are housed in the Cultural Education Center, and have a wide variety of resources available to the public. A few years ago, the NYS Archives displayed their preliminary version of the Emancipation Proclamation penned by Lincoln himself that they house in the archives! That copy of the Emancipation Proclamation is the only surviving version handwritten by Lincoln after the other final draft burned in the Chicago Fire of 1871, and is kept in safe-keeping at the NYS Archives. While it currently isn’t on display, there are plenty of other interesting documents to peruse!

New York State Capitol Building
Washington Ave. and State. St., Albany, NY 12242 | 518-474-2418
Lincoln visited Albany twice. Once as part of his pre-inaugural tour, and again posthumously after he was assassinated. His body was laid to rest in the former Capitol building, where thousands gathered to pay their respects. The Capitol Building tour is fun, free and informative! On the tour you will encounter the Million Dollar Staircase which has hundreds of faces carved into the structure, and if you look hard enough you may find the bust of Lincoln himself carved in. On the tour you will also be taken through the Assembly Chamber, where an old clock sits. This clock was present when Lincoln spoke in the Chamber, as well as when he was brought through for his funeral tour. The building has quite a story to tell, and taking one of the free guided tours of the NYS Capitol is a great way to discover another part of Albany’s storied past!
Did you know that at one point, John Wilkes Booth and Lincoln were both in Albany at the same time, staying at hotels only blocks away from each other? Booth was performing in a local performance of The Apostate at Gayety Theater when Lincoln stayed in Albany on his way to his inauguration. Fairfield Inn by Marriott is located only blocks away from where Lincoln and Booth stayed in Albany. If you’re looking to stay close to where both Lincoln and Booth stayed in Albany, this hotel is as close as it will get!

Jack’s Oyster House
42 State Street, Albany, NY 12207 | 518-465-8854
The 16th President of the United States had a passion for food, specifically oysters! Lincoln loved oysters so much that they were featured in a political cartoon about his thoughts on the two Democratic nominees, Stephen Douglas and John Breckinridge. Had circumstances been different, perhaps Lincoln would’ve stopped in at Jack’s Oyster House, which has been a staple of the Albany landscape since 1913. Stop by for an unforgettable, timeless meal.

theREP
111 N. Pearl St., Albany, NY 12207 | 518-445-7469
It is infamously known that Abraham Lincoln was a fan of the performing arts, an interest which led to his assassination at the hands of John Wilkes Booth. There are plenty of theatres for you to enjoy the performing arts in Albany. Capital Repertory Theatre, known locally as theREP, has been an outlet for creativity in Albany for more than thirty years, and remains one of the best venues to see a show today.

Fairfield Inn & Suites
74 State Street, Albany NY 12207 | 518-434-7410
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TRAVELING WITH A GROUP?

Contact our team!

Jay Cloutier
Director of Sales
Discover Albany
25 Quackenbush Square Albany, NY 12207
518.434.1217 ext.301
jcloutier@albany.org | www.albany.org

Group Friendly Restaurant Options

Better Bite
The Hollow Bar & Kitchen
C H Evans Brewing Co.
Jack’s Oyster House
at the Albany Pump Station
The Century House
Lucky Strike Social
The City Beer Hall
New World Bistro Bar
Dave and Buster’s
Olde English Pub & Pantry
dp’s Brasserie
Recovery Sports Grill
Druthers Brewing Company
Warehouse Grill & BBQ

Jay Cloutier will assist in planning an itinerary for your groups, including the perfect hotel and cuisine choices.