



Start at the Visitors Center at 927 South Harrison Street and cross Harrison Street going west along Washington Boulevard. If you look to your left, you will see the Grand Wayne Convention Center. The [Fort Wayne Fire Fighters Museum](#) (1) will be on your right. The Museum is in Engine House #3 and was built in 1893. The firehouse's size doubled in 1907 as the city's business district grew. At that time, this was the city's largest firehouse. In 1972, the firehouse was retired and a new one was constructed on Main Street. The museum shows artifacts from Fort Wayne Fire Fighters throughout history, including changes in tools used to fight fire as well as the development of a paid fire-fighting staff.

Leave the museum and continue west on Washington Boulevard. As you are walking, look to your left to get a glimpse of the entrance to Parkview Field, home of the TinCaps. The large building ahead on the right is the main branch of the [Allen County Public Library](#) (2). The library is home to one of the top genealogy research libraries in the country. This branch of the library was recently built for \$65 million.

Continue west on Washington Boulevard, and then turn right onto Ewing Street. You'll see Trinity English Lutheran Church's large building on your left. **Walk north two blocks on Ewing.** As you pass the intersection of Wayne and Ewing Streets, look left to see the Chamber of Commerce Building, which opened in 1926. You'll pass First Presbyterian Church on your right, as well, before coming to the intersection of Ewing and Berry Streets. **Turn left onto Berry Street** to see the [University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center](#) (3).

Now owned by the University of Saint Francis, the Mizpah Shrine Temple was built in 1924 with a goal to provide a community center for speakers and theatrical events in Fort Wayne. When the facility opened in 1925, the first public event was a Chicago Grand Opera Company performance. Over time, there were various owners and financial difficulties, but the venue continued to host movies, performances, events, and even an indoor golf course.

Next, turn around and go east on Berry Street for two blocks and then turn left on Harrison Street. As you are walking down Berry, check out Cindy's Diner – a historic diner serving the whole world “15 at a time “ – located at the corner of Berry Street and Maiden Lane.

Walk north two blocks on Harrison before turning right on West Columbia Street—there's a large green sign hanging that reads “Columbia Street West” where you need to turn. Look for Stoners Funstore, a Fort Wayne fixture since 1949, on your left as you walk up Harrison Street. You've now reached [The Landing](#) (4), comprised of Harrison, Columbia, and Calhoun Streets. The Landing is Fort Wayne's first historic district and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It's one of the last clusters of 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings in the area and got its name from its location at the end of a canal docking area. After the use of the canal declined, The Landing was home to the city's first interurban electric railway station. Look for the white historical marker in front of 111 West Columbia Street for more information about this district.

Continue on Columbia Street and then turn right to go south on Calhoun Street. Walk one block south and the [Allen County Courthouse](#) (5) will be ahead on the left. The entrance faces east. The Courthouse cost \$817,000 when it was built from limestone from Bedford, Indiana, in 1902. Restored before its one hundredth birthday, visitors can take a pre-scheduled self-guided or docent-led tour.

To see the Lincoln Tower (6), or pop into the Lincoln Tower Soda Fountain, turn left on Berry St. after you pass the courthouse. The Lincoln Tower will be on your right. At the time the Lincoln Tower was completed in November 1930, it was the tallest building in Indiana. This Art Deco building was made in the same style of the Empire State Building, which was completed in 1931. The Lincoln Tower Soda Fountain has been open since the 1930s. Stepping into the Soda Fountain is like walking back in time to the 1960s, with flavored cokes, spritzly sodas, and bar stools. Stop in for a refreshing mid-walk soda or snack.

Continue south on Calhoun Street until you reach Jefferson Boulevard. From there, turn right and walk past the Botanical Conservatory until you reach the [Embassy Theatre](#) (7). This building opened in 1928 as the Emboyd Theatre and was used as a movie palace and vaudeville house. Complete with a pipe organ and 250-room hotel, the Emboyd had the biggest acts of its time. The name changed to the Embassy Theatre in 1952. As times changed in the 1960s and 1970s, the Indiana Hotel adjacent to the theater closed, and in 1972, the Embassy was slated to be demolished. Fortunately, community members were able to save the Embassy with two days to spare.



The Theatre offers tours and other events for a small fee; check their website for dates and availability. In front of the theater, look on the ground for plaques with information about the theatre and its history.

Now turn around and head east on Jefferson Boulevard. On your way, you'll pass the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to your right on South Clinton Street. The church's architecture was last renovated in 1980. **Next turn left on Clinton Street to head north.** Cross Washington Boulevard and look for the Cathedral Museum (8) on your right. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend sponsors the museum, which is a great place for visitors to explore the growth of the Catholic Church in the Fort Wayne area by looking at Church artifacts and the history of its changing cathedral downtown.

From the Cathedral Museum, turn right on Wayne Street to walk east one block and then turn left Barr Street. You'll pass the Barr Street Market, the oldest public space in Fort Wayne. [The History Center](#) (9) is at the intersection of Barr and Berry Streets and is home to the collections of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society. Visitors can see exhibitions about historic life in Fort Wayne as well as innovations from Allen County. The building itself is the 1893 City Hall building which John F. Wing and Marshall S. Mahurin designed.

From the History Center, you can choose to return to the Visitors Center or continue on to the Old Fort, an additional mile of walking. To head back to the Visitors Center, go west (left) on Berry Street for three blocks. On your way, you'll see the front of the courthouse and pass the Lincoln Tower again.

When you come to the intersection of Harrison and Berry Streets, take a left on Harrison. Walk two more blocks south, and you have arrived back at the Visitors Center.

If you'd like to continue on, turn left on Berry Street to walk one block east, and then turn right onto Clinton Street. Walk one block north until you reach [Freimann Square](#) (10) on your right at the intersection of Main and Clinton Streets. Frank Freimann, the former president of Magnavox Company, donated money to the city, which was used in 1971 to develop the park. In the center of the park, check out the statue of General Anthony Wayne, for whom Fort Wayne is named.

Freimann Square also hosts festivals and community arts events.

To get to the Old Fort, walk north on Clinton Street (continuing the direction you were headed). After you cross Superior Street, look for a small triangular plaque for the Headwaters Park and Clinton Parade, and make a right turn toward the fountain and splash pad. When you reach the fork in the trail, take the widest and middle trail. On the right, take the bridge over the Saint Mary's River. Take the bridge across, and you'll see the [Old Fort](#) (11) ahead on your left. In 1794, General "Mad" Anthony Wayne led the efforts to rebuild the fort, which for years had been a fur trading post. Today, what visitors will see is a copy of the 1816 design by Major John Whistler, which served as the final active fort before it was permanently decommissioned in 1819. If you're lucky, you can see an historical reenactment, but generally the Fort is not staffed.

Cross back over the bridge and take a left through the park. Return to Clinton Street, and walk south until you reach Berry Street. Take a left on Berry Street and head west for two blocks; then turn right onto Harrison Street. Walk two more blocks south and you have arrived back at the Visitors Center.

Full walking tour is 3.4 miles or about an hour, while the tour without a visit to the Old Fort is 2.3 miles and approximately 45 minutes.

Correspond with numbered locations

★ Denote points of interest

