

Haunted and Historic Sites In Decatur, Illinois

And not necessarily mutually exclusive! Some of our historic homes and buildings are said to be haunted. Many are merely beautifully restored, architecturally aesthetic sites that must be seen to be appreciated. The Haunted Historic Decatur tour will educate and entertain the history buffs and the ghost hunters in your group. The greater Decatur area, in the heart of Illinois, is the first Illinois home site of Abraham Lincoln. He practiced law here, debated political opponents here, and was nominated for President here. Although you'll see many haunted sites touring Historic Decatur, you will not hear that Mr. Lincoln's spirit lingers here. You'll hear frequently, however, that, "Lincoln slept here."



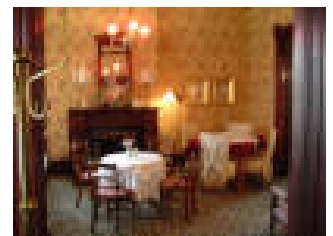
*Your tour begins on Day 1 with a 1:00 PM arrival at the **Macon County Historical Society Museum Complex**. You'll experience both indoor and outdoor exhibits highlighting the history of Macon County and central Illinois. Among the outdoor exhibits are the log courthouse, built in 1830, where Abraham Lincoln practiced law; a one-room schoolhouse an 1860's log cabin home and other structures. The museum itself contains interesting historic artifacts and many priceless documents, particularly in its "Lincoln Library" section. Knowledgeable staff and docents graciously guide you through the complex, "Where past accomplishments become the dreams for tomorrow." \$2.00 per person.*

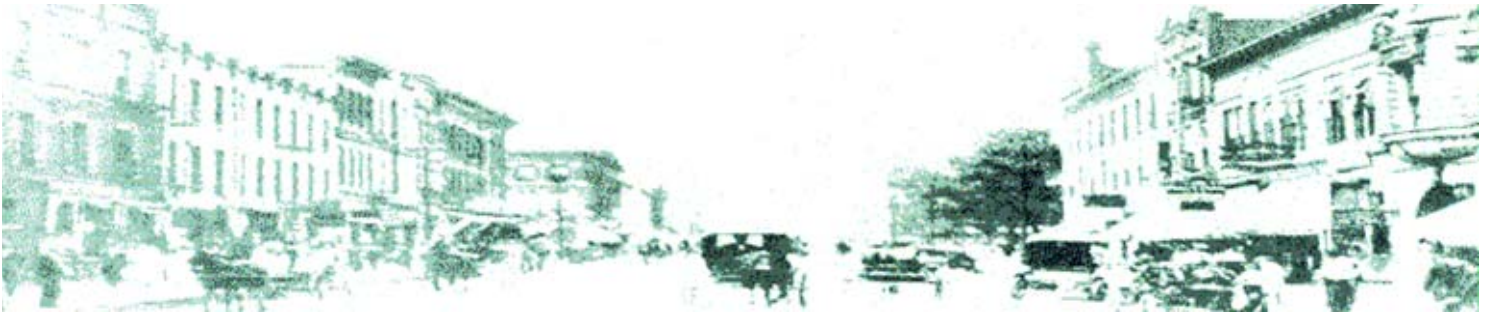
*Between the museum tour and dinner, your group will have the opportunity to spend an hour or two exploring the charming, **historic downtown business district**. Bursting with unique boutiques, specialty shops, and restaurants, you will also find five art galleries within a one-square block area. The oldest building still standing in Downtown Decatur was built in 1856 and first used as a church. Now restored, it holds apartments and commercial space. The hub of our thriving community, downtown is famous for its many street festivals and seasonally coordinated special events.*



***Dinner at the Circa 1860 Tea Room** will be a delight. This stick-style, mid-Victorian home, built in the 1860's, was being considered for demolition before being rescued and painstakingly restored by Architectural Restorations, Inc. The three women partners, wanting to share this wonderful home with the local community and visitors alike, decided to open an authentic tea room so all could enjoy the cozy ambiance of this house that was among the grandest of the city in its era. With your arrival at the restaurant between 5:00 – 5:30 PM, you'll enjoy a leisurely meal, and have time, if you wish, to explore this home and another one recently restored just down the block, before you embark on your haunted tour.*

"Circa," as it is affectionately known by Decaturites, offers sumptuous dinner entrees priced from \$12 to \$18. Menu selections and specials change daily. The restaurant features decadent, delicious desserts, too, and a complete array of hot and cold teas, and other non-alcoholic drinks. There is no alcoholic beverage service, but your group may bring their own, if desired. Circa 1860 is located at 411 W. Main Street.





At 7:00 PM, your group will be met at Circa 1860 by **Troy Taylor**, the Midwest's most famous ghost hunter and co-founder of **Haunted Decatur Tours**. Taylor is the author of more than three-dozen books about history and haunting in Illinois, including *HAUNTED ILLINOIS*, *WEIRD ILLINOIS* and several others. Taylor is also a public speaker on the subject of the paranormal, and has spoken to hundreds of private and public groups on a variety of paranormal subjects. With Troy as your guide, you will embark on your Haunted History Tour. This is the most popular tour of the most spirited sites in historic Decatur! Your tour lasts approximately 3 hours and includes not only the ghost stories behind each of the documented haunted sites, but the rich history as well. This tour is very popular with ghost buffs and history enthusiasts alike and includes such notorious sites as the Avon Theater, the Lincoln Theater, Millikin University, Greenwood Cemetery and many more! The tour involves a great deal of walking in the dark and on uneven ground, so please take that into consideration! Step-on tour, \$450 per busload. Reservations required. 1-888-446-7859



Following a peaceful night's rest at one of Decatur/Forsyth's welcoming and un-haunted (or are they) hotels, you'll board the bus for a catered brunch and private tour of one of the area's most prized sites, the Governor Richard J. Oglesby Mansion. This Italianate-style home is beautifully restored and furnished with many Oglesby family pieces. The home appears as it was during Governor Oglesby's residence.

Oglesby was a three-time governor of Illinois, elected in 1865, 1872 and 1885. Richard J. Oglesby was a huge supporter of Abraham Lincoln, and during his 1865-69 gubernatorial term, felt it his responsibility to carry out the instructions Lincoln had given in his second presidential inaugural address, to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

This home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1874, while Oglesby was serving as a United States Senator, the mansion's history includes a visit by General (and former U. S. President) Ulysses S. Grant, who made an address to a Civil War veteran's group from one of the home's verandas.

\$5.00 per person, includes tour and brunch.

There are several lodging choices for your Haunted/Historic Decatur Tour, with many of our fine hospitality providers offering special rates for your tour group. With 19 area hospitality providers and nearly 1,400 rooms, you're sure to find the one that fits your group's needs and budget. Call 1-800-331-4479 and ask for a list of providers and rates for the

[Experience!](#) Decatur tour itineraries.

The Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is pleased to bring you the Gourmet Experience Tour Itinerary, the Haunted/Historic Decatur Tour Itinerary, and coming soon, the Decatur International Arts Experience Tour Itinerary. All costs and fees associated with these itineraries are the responsibility of the tour operator. If assistance is needed with reservations or other information, contact The Decatur

Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 202 E. North Street, Decatur, Illinois, 62523. Call us at 1-800-331-4479 or email ian@decaturcvb.com.