

4 Bloomington, Indiana



Monroe County Courthouse

Bloomington is a town of many faces. It is the home of Indiana University, an important center for limestone and for electronic industries, a recreational center near state parks and lakes, and the county seat, or center of government, of Monroe County.

Bloomington is 760 feet (232 meters) above sea level. The average temperature during the day in winter is 36°–38°F, and a humid 87°–88° F in summer. The average annual precipitation is 44 inches (112 cm.). It is normal to have some nights in winter when the temperature drops to 0° F, but the average nighttime temperature is 17°–19° F in winter, with summer evenings averaging 63°–64° F.

Since its founding in 1818, Bloomington has grown to a city of nearly 70,000 people. The university has grown since its founding in 1820 to include more than 38,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff members on the Bloomington campus. IU, with its eight campuses, is the largest university in the state of Indiana.

Monroe County is one of 92 counties, or governmental units, in Indiana. The population of the state is 6 million, and the state capital is Indianapolis, which has a population of about 782,000 people. Among the leading agricultural crops in Indiana are soybeans, corn, nursery and greenhouse products, vegetables, popcorn, and mint, grown extensively in the fertile, flat land of northern and central Indiana. The principal industries in the state are metal products, transport equipment, motor vehicles and equipment, and industrial machinery and equipment, mainly manufactured in Indianapolis and near the Great Lakes ports of northwestern Indiana.

The state name, Indiana, comes from the American Indians who used to live here; the county name, Monroe, is in honor of James Monroe, the U.S. president when the county was formed; and the city name, Bloomington, is said to have been chosen by settlers who were pleasantly impressed by the abundance of blooming trees and flowers in southern Indiana.

Monroe County residents consider themselves lucky to enjoy the cultural advantages of Indiana University, the active commerce and industry in the community, easy access to the natural scenery of hills and forests, and the recreational facilities of nearby state parks and Lake Monroe. We hope you, too, will enjoy the Bloomington area and your experience at Indiana University.

Time Zones

The United States is divided into four continental time zones. They are Eastern Standard Time (EST), Central Standard Time (CST), Mountain Standard Time (MST), and Pacific Standard Time (PST). Between late April and late October, many areas operate on Daylight Saving Time. This means clocks are moved forward one hour in order to give more daylight time at the end of the normal working day. Unfortunately, not all areas

change to this time, so that traveling and telephoning across time zones during these months can be confusing.

Beginning in April, 2006, Indiana will observe Daylight Saving Time. Currently, some areas of Indiana lie in the Eastern time zone, and others lie in the Central time zone. As this publication goes to press, the U.S. Department of Transportation is considering whether all counties should be part of the same time zone. This decision will be made before Daylight Savings Time is implemented.

When someone refers to a certain time, for example, over the telephone, that person means the time where he or she is. Check carefully about times when arranging for travel or calling long-distance.

Time is reported in 12-hour intervals, using a.m. for morning and p.m. for afternoon and evening until midnight. 12 a.m. is midnight; 12 p.m. is noon.

