

SPRINGFIELD & ST. LOUIS

March through the Midwest and connect modern politics with pioneering history. Begin your tour in Springfield exploring the history and impact of Abraham Lincoln before continuing to the home of the Gateway Arch.

Why Brightspark?

Safety And Security

We regularly conduct strict audits of our vendors, ensuring they act in accordance with safety, security, and quality standards.

Our Tour Directors

You deserve the best, so we only use experienced and enthusiastic Tour Directors who are experts on their destinations.

Quality, Custom Tours

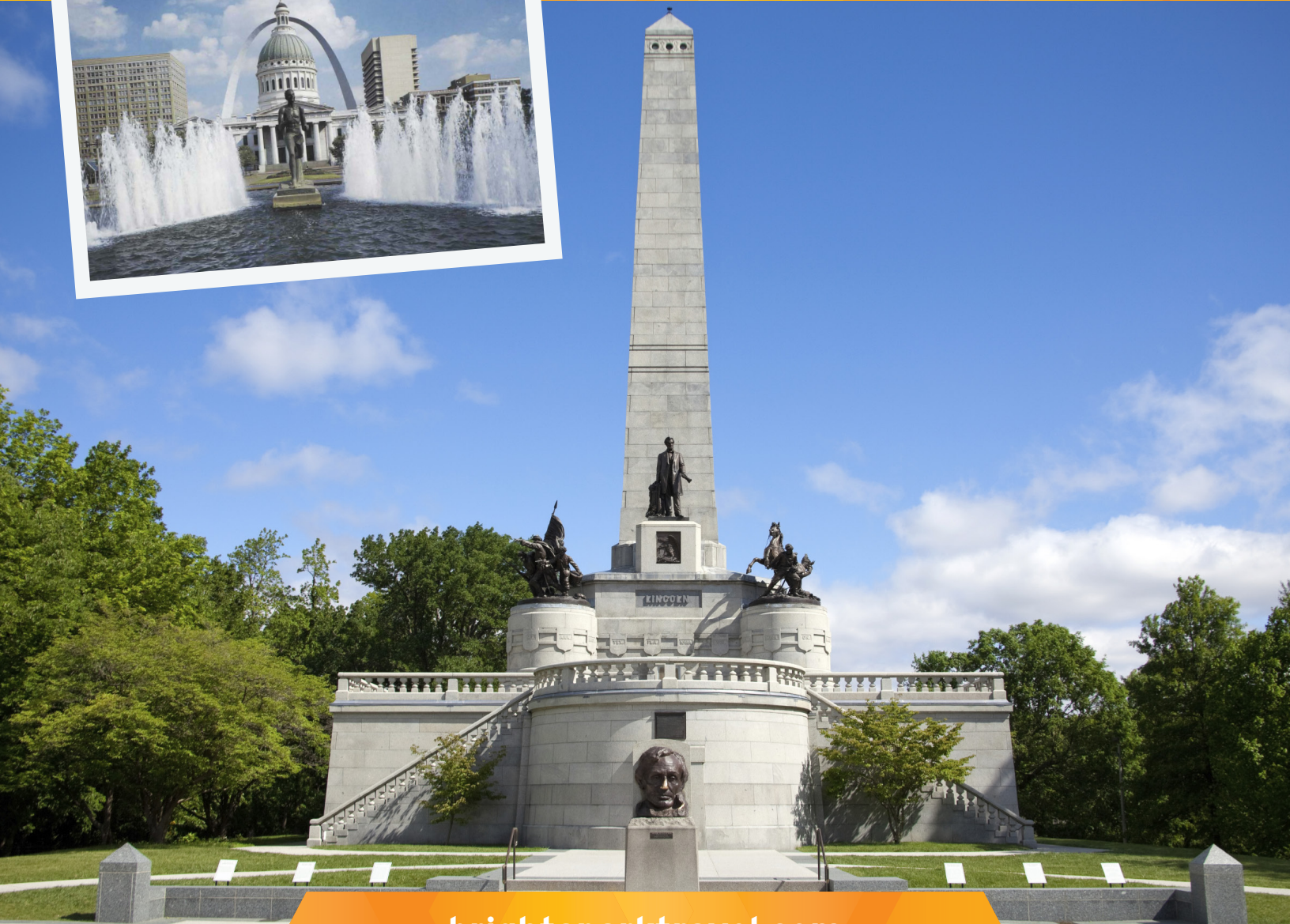
Our programs are designed for you, by you. From STEM-based DC tours to performance trips to some of our country's top music cities, we have a destination for every budget and every passion.

Industry Experience

With over 50 years of experience providing custom tours, Brightspark is a leader in student travel.

Travel Protection & Incident Coverage

With our 24/7 emergency hotline, comprehensive general insurance, and an industry-leading refund guarantee program, we've got you covered.



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Day 1:

- Board your private motor coach and travel to Springfield.
- On the way, stop at **New Salem Village** in Petersburg. The historically-reconstructed site depicts the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early years.
- Visit **Oak Ridge Cemetery**, established in 1865. Since then, it has become the country's second-most visited cemetery. The site includes memorials to Illinois veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. It is also the final resting place of President Abraham Lincoln.
- Tour the **Old State Capitol**, a Greek Revival building where then-Senator Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" speech. This is also the site where Barack Obama, later our 44th president, announced his candidacy.
- Get an intimate look at Honest Abe's family life during a visit to **Lincoln's Home and Neighborhood**. Originally a simple structure, the Lincolns remodeled and expanded the home to fit their growing family. They lived in the house until Abraham Lincoln was elected president, at which time the family relocated to the White House in Washington, DC. Take note as you walk down the stairs: one of the banisters is original to the house!
- While at the **Illinois State Capitol**, sit in on a session of the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate or explore the history of this architectural marvel. At one time, the building was the tallest capitol in the nation and had water-powered elevators.
- After dinner, experience the spooky side of the state capital on a **walking ghost tour**. By the light of lanterns, your group will hear haunting stories of Lincoln's life and death, Mary's White House séances, spiritualism, and odd occurrences at Lincoln's tomb.

Day 2:

- Explore the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**. Travel through the stages of his life through exhibits, presentations, and life-size displays. From his childhood through his final day, experience the legacy of our 16th president.
- Board your private motor coach and travel to **St. Louis**.
- Ascend the **Gateway Arch**. The stainless steel arch is the tallest man-made monument in the Western Hemisphere (standing 630 feet tall). It opened to the public in 1967 (20 years after it was designed) and honors our westward expansion.
- Embrace adventure at the **City Museum**, an eclectic space that uses repurposed materials to bring out your sense of play. Built in a former warehouse by a trained sculptor, the immersive exhibits ask visitors to climb, crawl, and walk – no maps allowed!
- Depart for home.

THREE-DAY TRIP

Additional attractions include:

- Discover a world of wonder at the **St. Louis Science Center**, originally established as a planetarium in 1963. The museum complex uses more than 700 interactive exhibits to ignite scientific curiosity in visitors of all ages.
- Discover a treasure of American architecture with a tour of Springfield's **Dana Thomas House**, built by Frank Lloyd Wright. Every room offers new surprises, including stunning stained glass, subtly-placed butterflies, and eccentric decor.
- Explore the **Illinois State Military Museum** on a guided tour.
- Spend an evening at **Knight's Action Park**, featuring mini golf, go-karts, a driving range, and a variety of carnival rides.
- Tour the **Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and Museum**, a farm and estate once owned by the former president and Union Army leader, includes 19th century buildings and a museum with Civil War exhibits.
- Get a behind-the-scenes look at America's national pastime with a tour of **Busch Stadium**.
- Travel the world at **Six Flags St. Louis**. "Missouri's Coaster Capital" features six themed areas representing Spain, France, England, the US, Missouri, and Illinois.
- Enjoy dinner to the tunes of a Dixieland band on a **Gateway Riverboat** cruise.

