

Welcome to South Bend, Indiana



A city of history, urban renewal, and excitement

Founded as a fur-trading settlement and incorporated as a city in 1865, South Bend's location on the St. Joseph River and proximity to the rail line between Chicago and Detroit led to it becoming a major industrial center. Soon, the Singer Sewing Company, Oliver Chilled Plow Corporation, and the Bendix Corporation each called South Bend home. Studebaker cars were also built in South Bend until the early 1960s, a heritage the city still cherishes and celebrates at the Studebaker National Museum.

Since then, education, health care, and small business have come to the forefront of South Bend's economy. Beacon Health System, which includes Memorial Hospital in downtown South Bend, is the second largest employer in the city, after the University of Notre Dame.

Today, efforts continue to spur growth, and the greater South Bend-Elkhart Region, which is home to over 800,000 people, has been a leader in economic development for the State of Indiana. Innovation Park and Ignition Park, dual-certified technology parks, have attracted many businesses to the area. In addition, Notre Dame is working with the City of South Bend to develop the Tech and Talent District in the heart of the city, where opportunities for collaboration between researchers and industry partners will drive innovation and advancement for the community.



Small town feel, big city amenities.

The University of Notre Dame is deeply engaged with the vibrant and growing City of South Bend. South Bend offers many of the same amenities of larger cities but within a more accessible and affordable environment. South Bend delivers world-class entertainment: Broadway plays, historic museums and homes, outdoor festivals, and top-of-the-line sporting events are all available.

Regional treasures and traditions are minutes away

Nearby cities like Mishawaka and Elkhart offer unique dining and shopping options and breweries, while Goshen and Shipshewana are a gateway into the area's historic and distinctive Amish community.

Less than 45 minutes away, the Indiana Dunes National Park, which has 50 miles of trails, dunes, wetlands, and prairies in addition to public sandy beaches on the beautiful Lake Michigan, is a favorite for locals year-round.

Several nearby beach towns in Southwest Michigan, like New Buffalo, Saugatuck, and Three Oaks, offer antiques, boutique shopping, and dozens of wineries and orchards, as well as hiking and paddling activities. Regardless of the season, there is plenty to see and do.

South Bend is a hub for exploring some of the Midwest's premier tourist destinations and is just hours away from Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Nashville, and more.



With its rich history, vibrant culture, and boundless opportunities, South Bend continues to thrive as a welcoming destination to live, work, and explore. Explore your career in South Bend at nd.edu/community/south-bend-our-home.