

Chicago Attractions & Facts

Museums, Art, and History

Art Institute of Chicago - Discover forty centuries of human creativity at the Art Institute of Chicago, which is one of the world's leading art museums.

111 S. Michigan Avenue

Admission: \$18.00

<http://www.artic.edu>

Field Museum - Meet Sue, the world's largest and most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton, and discover an extensive exhibition of objects illustrating art, archaeology, natural science and history in a natural history museum.

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive

Admission: \$29.00

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org>

Shedd Aquarium - The largest indoor aquarium in the world. Watch whales, dolphins, harbor seals, sea otters and penguins cavort at the extraordinary Oceanarium. In the Wild Reef exhibit, floor-to-ceiling windows provide a diver's view of sharks and other predators in 26 interconnected habitats.

1200 S. Lake Shore Drive

Admission: \$26.95

<http://www.sheddaquarium.org>

Museum of Science and Industry - Learn about science and technology with hands-on experiences. A collection of natural and man-made wonders include a Coal Mine and the 1930s Silver Streak train. The Omnimax Theatre is always an awesome visual experience.

5700 S. Lake Shore Drive

Admission: \$15.00

<http://www.msichicago.org>

Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum - The first planetarium in the western hemisphere boasts two planetariums, a high tech StarRide theatre, an interactive Astronomy Museum and a collection of historically significant scientific instruments. It is unique among Chicago museums in the variety of programs it offers to visitors. From the Big Bang to the stars overhead tonight, the Adler draws the audience into the experience.

1300 S. Lake Shore Drive

Admission: \$27.00

<http://www.adlerplanetarium.org>

Peggy Notebaert Natural Museum - Head to beautiful Lincoln Park and step into the Judy Istock Butterfly Haven which is a 28-foot-tall greenhouse aflutter with butterflies from seven different countries around the world.

2430 N. Cannon

Admission: \$9.00

<http://www.naturemuseum.org>

Chicago Cultural Center - This landmark building boasts two magnificent stained-glass domes, as well as music, dance and theater events, films, lectures, and art exhibitions.

78 E. Washington Street

Admission: Free

<http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org>

Famous Tourist Attractions

Navy Pier - Historic Navy Pier is Chicago's lakefront playground, and it's the Midwest's #1 tourist and leisure destination. Navy Pier showcases a unique collection of restaurants and shops in addition to unequaled recreational and exhibition facilities in a setting like no other.

600 E. Grand Avenue

Admission: Free

<http://www.navypier.com>

Millennium Park - Planned in 1997 in order to create new parkland in Grant Park, it has now evolved into the most significant millennium project in the world. Discover a state-of-the-art collection of architecture, landscape design and art that provide the backdrop for hundreds of free concerts, exhibitions, and tours. It is a spectacular gathering spot for family activities.

201 E. Randolph Street

Admission: Free

<http://www.millenniumpark.org>

Buckingham Fountain - One of the largest fountains in the world, it features 134 jets powered by 3 pumps. The 20-minute water display starts with small sprays until it reaches its full height of 150ft. and is accompanied with music and a computerized choreography of colored spotlights. It is constructed of Georgia pink marble. Open from mid-April through mid-October.

301 E. Columbus Drive

Admission: Free

<http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com>

Willis Tower (Formerly known as Sears Tower) - A triumph of ingenuity and innovation, Willis Tower stands tall on the Chicago skyline, at 1,450 feet and 110 stories high, Willis Tower is the tallest building in the western hemisphere. Step outside to the Ledge's glass boxes which extend out 4.3 feet from Skydeck.

233 S. Wacker Drive

Admission: \$15.95

<http://www.willistower.com>

John Hancock Observatory - A breathtaking 360° view stretches across four states; Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois including stunning views of Lake Michigan and a beautiful night cityscape.

875 N. Michigan Avenue

Admission: \$21.00

<http://www.hancock-observatory.com>

Lincoln Park Zoo - Lincoln Park Zoo is among the oldest zoological gardens in the country and is also among the most modern. It welcomes more than 3 million visitors each year, providing them with remarkable educational experiences as well as fun and enjoyment. Its intimate setting enables guests, to experience the thrill of gazing into the eyes of a lowland gorilla and standing toe to toe with giraffes. The historical structures, combine state-of-the-art animal and visitor facilities with beautiful architectural reflections of times past.

2001 N. Clark Street

Admission: Free

<http://www.lpzoo.org>

Chicago Neighborhoods

Chicago is the largest city in the state of Illinois. The population totaled 2,851,268 million residents as of July 1, 2009. It is the most populous city in the Midwestern United States and the third most populous city in the USA. Its metropolitan area, commonly named "Chicagoland," is the 27th most populous metropolitan area in the world. Chicago is the county seat of Cook County, the second largest county in the United States by population. Chicago is comprised of many unique neighborhoods which form a quilt of cultural diversity, residential variety and boundless community energy. The following is a list of the better known and frequented neighborhoods:

Albany Park, Andersonville, Beverly, Bridgeport, Bronzeville, Bucktown, Chinatown, Englewood, Gold Coast, Streeterville, Greektown, Humboldt Park, Hyde Park, Lakeview, Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, Little Italy, Logan Square, Loop, Marquette Park, Pilsen, Ravenswood, River North, River West, Rogers Park, Roscoe Village, South Loop, South Shore, Ukrainian Village, Uptown, West Loop, Wicker Park, and Wrigleyville.

<http://neighborhoods.chicago.il.us>

Shopping

Magnificent Mile - The Magnificent Mile is one of the top ten hospitality, fine dining and retail districts in the world, making it one of the Great Avenues of the world. Each of the Great Avenues has its own unique features, distinguishing it as a premier commercial center, while all provide visitors, local employees and residents with a world-class urban experience. This experience is the result of seven values: historic setting, spectacular streetscape, innovative architecture, distinctive retail, high-quality fine dining, world-class hotels, and premier office space.

<http://www.themagnificentmile.com>

Three vertical shopping centers tower over a district overflowing with luxury retailers, unique shops, popular stores, along with amazing restaurants making for pure retail bliss. Learn more by visiting their websites:

Water Tower Place

<http://www.shopwatertower.com>

Shops at North Bridge

<http://www.theshopsatnorthbridge.com>

The 900 Shops

<http://www.shop900.com>

State Street, "That Great Street" - runs through the heart of Downtown Chicago. Its intersection with Madison Street marks the base point for Chicago's address system. Beautiful State Street, features the former Marshall Field's which is now a Macy's. You will also find Nordstrom Rack, Filene's Basement, TJ Maxx, Loehmann's and H&M. If you get hungry while shopping, you are within walking distance to the Atwood Cafe in the Hotel Burnham, Heaven on Seven on Wabash, the 7th floor of Macy's which has an express version of Frontera Grill, Park Grill, The Gage and a variety of other choices. Visit the Sullivan Center, (formerly known as Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co.) a historical landmark building at One South State Street.

Tours

The Chicago Trolley & Double Decker's Signature Tour - For 17 years the Hop On Hop Off sightseeing tour has been the gold standard for entertaining and informative tours. Covering 13 miles and 18 stops, the Signature Tour is an eye-popping adventure through the heart of Chicago, giving you the option of Hopping On and Off at your choice of stops to visit the hottest retail, cultural, and family attractions.

<http://www.coachusa.com/chicagotrolley>

Chicago River Architecture Tour - The Chicago River provides the ultimate setting to view Chicago's magnificent architectural structures. The expert docents will provide you with unique insight into Chicago's Architecture. The Wrigley Building, one of Chicago's most recognizable architectural treasures, is the perfect location to start the journey. Traveling through the heart of the city, you will be provided with an in-depth perspective on Chicago's architectural heritage. Whether you're a serious student of architecture, a visitor to Chicago, or a Chicagoan wanting to have a better understanding of the city, the Chicago River Architecture Tour appeals to all levels of interest.

<http://www.wendellaboats.com>

History

The Great Chicago Fire was a conflagration that burned from Sunday, October 8, to early Tuesday, October 10, 1871, killing hundreds and destroying about 4 square miles (10 km²) in Chicago. There were a few buildings that did not get destroyed. The Chicago Water Tower was one of them. The principal reason; the Water Tower was one of the few buildings that was made out of limestone rather than wood. Though the fire was one of the largest U.S. disasters of the 19th century, the rebuilding began almost immediately and spurred Chicago's development into one of the most populous and economically important American cities.

The World's Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) opened in May and ran through October 30, 1893. Forty-six nations participated in the fair. The first world's fair included the construction of national pavilions, constructing exhibits and the naming of national "delegates" (i.e., Haiti selected Frederick Douglass to be its delegate). The Exposition drew nearly 26 million visitors. It left a remembered vision that inspired the Emerald City of L. Frank Baum's Land of Oz and Walt Disney's theme parks. Disney's father Elias had been a construction worker on some of the buildings at the fair.

Recent Chicago Sports Victories

Chicago Bears - Super Bowl 1985 Season
(Super Bowl XX was played on January 26, 1986)

<http://www.nfl.com>

Chicago Bulls - 6 NBA Championships from 1991-1998

<http://www.nba.com>

Chicago White Sox - World Series 2005

<http://www.chisox.com>

Chicago Blackhawks - Stanley Cup 2010

<http://www.chiblackhawks.com>