

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

Adler Planetarium

America's First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. Following its 75th anniversary, the Adler began a transformation to become the world's leading space science center and inspire the next generation of explorers by sharing the personal stories of human space exploration and America's space heroes.

The museum is home to three full-size theaters, including the all-digital projection Definiti@ Space Theater, the Sky Theater which utilizes a Zeiss optical projector, and the Universe 3D Theater. It is also home to one of the world's most important antique instrument collections.

Location:

1300 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 922-7827

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org>

The Art Institute of Chicago

The **Art Institute of Chicago** is a world-renowned art museum housing the third largest permanent collection in the United States. An encyclopedic museum, the Art Institute collects, preserves, and displays works in every medium from all cultures and historical periods, and hosts special exhibitions as well. With a collection of more than 260,000 art works and artifacts, the museum has particularly strong collections of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painting, early 20th century European painting and sculpture, contemporary art, Japanese prints, and photography.

The Art Institute's **Modern Wing**, which opened in May 2009, showcases twentieth-century works from the museum's holdings of European painting and sculpture, contemporary art, architecture and design, and photography. The new Renzo Piano-designed building, with its serene limestone and glass facade, houses three floors of spacious, light-filled galleries; a vastly expanded education center that is free to the public; an outdoor sculpture terrace; a fine-dining restaurant; a double-height entrance and "main street" known as Griffin Court; and a garden courtyard. The Nichols Bridgeway, a pedestrian bridge also designed by Renzo Piano, connects the Modern Wing to Chicago's popular Millennium Park across the street.

Location:

111 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 443-3600

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.artic.edu/aic>

Bike Chicago

Bike and Roll Chicago offers fun, easy, and safe bike tours. Let's explore Chicago together! Learn the history, see the sites, take photos, and make new friends.

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

Location:

There are several different locations to choose from.
(888) BIKE-WAY

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.bikechicago.com/>

Buddy Guy's Legends

Since its opening in June of '89, **Buddy Guy's Legends** has built a reputation as the nation's premier blues club. Mr. Guy's personal reputation as the crowned king of Chicago's electric blues scene and his 50+ years in the music business have made Buddy a legend himself. As a blues club, Legends is distinguished for its innovative scheduling of local, national and international blues acts.

In the 21 years that Legends has been open, the stage has been graced by some of the world's most talented musicians. **Van Morrison, Willie Dixon, Albert Collins, Bo Diddley, The Rolling Stones, The Black Crowes, Dr. John, Lou Rawls, David Bowie, ZZ Top, Junior Wells, Slash, John Mayer, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Gregg Allman** and **The Pointer Sisters** are just a few examples.

Buddy Guy himself takes the stage every January, selling out over a dozen shows year after year, delighting crowds that have traveled from all over the world. There is only one place in Chicago to experience the finest blues seven nights a week, enjoy southern Cajun soul food and behold a major archive of blues memorabilia. That place is Buddy Guy's Legends. Voted "Best Blues Club" several times over by *Living Blues Magazine*, *Citysearch* and *AOL*, Legends continues to be a mecca for the blues.

Location:

700 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 427-1190

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.buddyguys.com>

Chicago Water Taxi

Travel to Chinatown via the Chicago Water Taxi, hop off to see the sites, and then take the boat back downtown when you are finished. The Water Taxi stops in Chinatown at 18th Street, near Ping Tom Memorial Park. It also makes stops on Madison Street, LaSalle/Clark Street, and Michigan Avenue. Trips to Chinatown are \$4 for a single ride or \$6 for an all day pass. Accessibility limitations. Please contact site for more information.

Location:

W. 18th St. & S. Wentworth Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 337-1446

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.chicagowatertaxi.com/>

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

Chicago White Sox

Come see the home of the **2005 World Champion Chicago White Sox!** The White Sox play 81 home games at **U.S. Cellular Field** each season. With a number of ticket options, you're sure to find a seat with a great view of the action while staying within your budget.

Location:

333 W. 35th St.
Chicago, IL 60655

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.whitesox.com>

The White Sox are in town May 3rd playing the Minnesota Twins at 7:10 PM and May 4th playing the Minnesota Twins at 1:10 PM.

Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain

Constructed in 1927, the iconic Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain is the centerpiece of Grant Park— Chicago's "Front Yard."

The Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain symbolizes Lake Michigan. It conveys the enormity of the Great Lake through its vast and impressive water displays. Some of the displays use approximately 15,000 gallons of water per minute, and the major display, which occurs every hour for 20 minutes, sprays water to a height of 150 feet from the ground.

Location:

Columbus Dr. (301 E.) & Congress Pkwy. (500 S.)
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 742-7529

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com>

Cloud Gate in Millennium Park

Cloud Gate is British artist Anish Kapoor's first public outdoor work installed in the United States.

The 110-ton elliptical sculpture is forged of a seamless series of highly polished stainless steel plates, which reflect Chicago's famous skyline and the clouds above. A 12-foot-high arch provides a "gate" to the concave chamber beneath the sculpture, inviting visitors to touch its mirror-like surface and see their image reflected back from a variety of perspectives.

Inspired by liquid mercury, the sculpture is among the largest of its kind in the world, measuring 66-feet long by 33-feet high.

Cloud Gate sits upon the AT&T Plaza, which was made possible by a gift from AT&T.

Millennium Park is located in the heart of **downtown Chicago**. It is bordered by Michigan Avenue to the west, Columbus Drive to the east, Randolph Street to the north and Monroe Street to the south. For more

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

information on retail, shopping, and attractions near Millennium Park, [visit Explore Chicago's neighborhood page](#).

Location:

201 E. Randolph St., between Michigan Ave and Columbus Ave
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 742-1168

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.millenniumpark.org>

Field Museum of Natural History

In one museum with millions of adventures, embark on a journey the whole family will enjoy. Come face to face with **Sue**, the world-famous **T. Rex**, and learn about the Age of the Dinosaurs, when prehistoric giants like Sue ruled the Earth 67 million years ago.

Explore the ocean floor of an ancient Cambrian sea in **Evolving Planet**, when arthropods, sponges and mollusks populated these shallow waters. See, hear and smell the swampy forest that was Chicago 300 million years ago and meet the dinosaurs that roamed the land where we now live.

Step into the windswept world of Ice-Age mammoth hunters as you walk through an 800-year-old pueblo in **Ancient Americas**. Experience what it was like cooking, eating and sleeping with your family in one small room. Then immerse yourself in Tenochtitlan, the island capital of the Aztec empire, and discover what it took to build this awe-inspiring empire.

There's even a place specially suited for your little Museum explorers! In the [Crown Family PlayLab](#), pint-sized scientists can dig up dinosaur bones, harvest corn, play in a Pueblo, feel the rhythms of instruments from around the world and play the part of a woodland creature as they crawl, hop and fly – all in a place just for kids!

Location:

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 922-9410

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.fieldmuseum.org>

House of Blues

The 1,500-person-capacity restaurant/concert venue/bar consists of four levels: an innovative multimedia restaurant, a classically designed music hall showcasing an elevating stage, and a bi-level Foundation Room enhanced with opera-style skyboxes walls covered with folk art.

The Back Porch Restaurant features Southern- and Cajun-inspired cuisine like jambalaya, as well as a selection of salads, sandwiches and pizzas, plus heartier pastas, steaks and 'cue. The Foundation Dining Room features an upscale menu in a quiet, refined atmosphere.

Diverse live music, from Aretha Franklin to Ted Nugent, War to current pop alternative bands, is usually booked seven nights a week.

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

Location:

329 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 923-2000

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.houseofblues.com/venues/clubvenues/chicago/>

John Hancock Center

One of the most iconic buildings of the city's skyline, the John Hancock Center offers a stunning view 1,000 feet up from the award-winning John Hancock Observatory. This building also includes many great places to eat, shop and see beautiful art. The Signature Room at the 95th and The Signature Lounge at the 96th both offer terrific views of the city while you enjoy food and drinks. For a ground-level dining experience, the independent L'Appetito is an inexpensive and authentic Italian deli. Behind L'Appetito is the fun gift store Elephants etc., which specializes in nostalgia candy and animal-themed gifts. Art lovers, be sure to stop by the 25th floor to see the three high-end art galleries located here—Valerie Carberry Gallery, Galleries Maurice Sternberg and Richard Gray Gallery.

Location:

875 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 751-3680

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.johnhancockcenterchicago.com>

Kingston Mines

Kingston Mines is Chicago's oldest & largest real blues club presenting two live bands on two stages seven nights a week. The restaurant serves award-winning barbecue ribs, wings, catfish, burgers & more until late night.

Location:

2548 N. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 477-4646

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.kingstonmines.com>

Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo is the country's most historic and distinguished zoological facility. Attracting an estimated 3 million visitors per year, the not-for-profit Lincoln Park Zoo is also one of the country's last remaining **FREE ADMISSION** zoos.

The zoo's newest feature, the **Pritzker Family Children's Zoo**, features North American wildlife. Four large outdoor exhibits feature black bears, red wolves, beaver and river otters. By bringing together animal habitats, interactive elements and educational activities, kids learn by touching, smelling, listening, building and playing.

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

At the state-of-the-art **Regenstein Center for African Apes**, huge glass windows give guests an opportunity to literally go nose-to-nose with curious and complex apes. The most expensive animal habitat created at the zoo to date, this \$26 million facility features 29,000-square-feet of naturalistic living space for endangered gorillas and chimpanzees. The facility encompasses the **Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes** which connects guests to science and conservation initiatives through an integrated program of research, science education and the conservation of wild populations.

A trip through the **Regenstein African Journey** will fully immerse visitors in the sights and sounds of Africa. This 75,000-square-foot-facility replicates the natural homelands of two dozen African species from the rain forests to the savannas to the lakes of Great Rift Valley. It is home to some of the world's rarest creatures like black rhinos, wild dogs, pygmy hippos and dwarf crocodiles. Glimpse the giant webs of orb spiders, peak inside the den of an aardvark, or simply enjoy the beauty of regal giraffes and doting lovebirds. An excursion through Regenstein African Journey is an educational adventure.

Admission is free for Lincoln Park Zoo.

Location:

2200 N. Cannon Dr.
Chicago, IL 60614
(312) 742-2000

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.lpzoo.org>

Michigan Avenue Shopping

The nickname "Magnificent Mile" -- hyperbole to some, an understatement to others -- refers to the roughly mile-long stretch of North Michigan Avenue between Oak Street and the Chicago River.

The density of the area's first-rate shopping is, quite simply, unmatched. Even jaded shoppers from other worldly capitals are delighted at the ease and convenience of the stores concentrated here. Taking into account that tony Oak Street is just around the corner, the overall area is a little like New York's Fifth Avenue and Beverly Hills's Rodeo Drive rolled into one. Whether your passion is Bulgari jewelry, Prada bags, or Salvatore Ferragamo footwear, you'll find it on this stretch of concrete. And don't think you're seeing everything by walking down the street: Michigan Avenue is home to several indoor, high-rise malls, where plenty more boutiques and restaurants are tucked away. Even if you're not the shop-till-you-drop type, it's worth a stroll because this stretch is, in many ways, the heart of the city, a place that bustles with life year-round (although it's especially crowded around Christmas and during the summer).

For the ultimate Mag Mile shopping adventure, start at one end of North Michigan Avenue and try to work your way to the other.

Location:

Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 409-5560

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.themagnificentmile.com/shopping/>

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

Navy Pier

Navy Pier consists of 50 acres of parks and promenades, gardens, shops, eateries and attractions. Visitors not only experience breathtaking views of the skyline, they can ride on the 150-foot-high Ferris wheel; spin on an old-fashioned musical carousel, the Wave Swinger, or catch a 3D movie at the **IMAX Theater**, featuring a six-story-high, 80-foot-wide screen.

Location:

600 E. Grand Ave
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 595-7437

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.navypier.com>

The Second City

The Second City has established itself as a Chicago landmark and a national treasure offering the best in Chicago comedy every night of the week.

The Second City has launched the careers of such comic greats as **John Belushi, Mike Myers, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner**, and others. Catch the next generation of talent today at Chicago's legendary comedy theater.

The Second City is perfect for anyone who enjoys laughing and having a good time. With scenes, songs, and razor-sharp improvisation, The Second City is truly the best in Chicago comedy showcasing the city's brightest talent. There is no better way to entertain yourself, your friends and/or your associates.

Book your tickets today online at www.seconcity.com or, to book your group, contact our Group Sales Director at 312-664-4032.

Location:

1616 N. Wells St
Chicago, IL 60614
(312) 337-3992

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.seconcity.com>

Shedd Aquarium

The **John G. Shedd Aquarium**, a nonprofit institution dedicated to public education and conservation, is among the world's largest indoor aquariums. The facility houses more than 32,600 aquatic animals representing some 1,500 species of fishes, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, birds and mammals from waters around the world.

Beautifully situated on the shores of **Lake Michigan**, Shedd Aquarium is known as "The World's Aquarium."

Since its opening in 1930, the aquarium's mission has been to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the aquatic world. Today, this educational goal has gained urgency as more species acquire endangered status. Shedd Aquarium is committed to a number of projects designed to preserve threatened or endangered aquatic species.

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

The reimagined **Oceanarium**, a world-class marine mammal pavilion, is now open! Come and visit with the beluga whales, dolphins, sea otters, sea lions and penguins, and be among the first to experience

Location:

1200 S. Lake Shore Dr
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 939-2438

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.sheddaquarium.org>

[Skydeck Chicago \(formerly Sears Tower Skydeck\)](#)

See breathtaking views of Chicago from the **Western Hemisphere's tallest building**. No trip to Chicago is complete without a visit to **Skydeck Chicago**. Make it your first stop for a 360-degree view spanning over 50 miles and 4 states that you can't get anywhere else. The skyscrapers, sports stadiums, sculptures, green roofs, the expanse of Lake Michigan and miles of lakeshore – that is what you will see from the top of the Sears Tower. A recent addition, **The Ledge**, affords visitors a one-of-a-kind experience of Chicago through a glass floor, 1,353 feet above street level!

Get the insider story on the Sears Tower and explore the city's rich history through theater presentations and captivating exhibits. Pinpoint all of Chicago's best sights, including the **Water Tower**, [Wrigley Field](#) and [Millennium Park](#), with help from our **Skylights Tour** (available in English, German, Japanese, and Spanish), your own personal tour guide. And on your trips up and down, take in the show of the world's fastest multi-media elevator ride. It's all in your sights right here at the Skydeck Chicago. Get up here!

Location:

233 S. Wacker Dr.
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 875-9447

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.theskydeck.com>

[Theater in Chicago](#)

Highly respected for both the diversity and quality of its theater offerings, Chicago is known for producing highly creative works performed by top-caliber talent.

The city's theatrical diversity is evident in the sheer quantity of live productions that abound, from record-breaking Broadway shows and award-winning regional plays to experimental storefront and edgy fringe theater performances.

Brightly lit marquees along Dearborn and Randolph Streets mark an area in the Loop famously known as the Theater District. Within the span of four city blocks are such magnificently restored venues as the Cadillac Palace Theatre, Ford Center for the Performing Arts/Oriental Theatre, The Chicago Theatre, Bank of America Theatre and Goodman Theatre.

Location:

There are several theaters and locations. For more information on all the theaters in Chicago please visit <http://www.chicagoplays.com/> for tickets, locations, pricing and more.

Fun Things to Do in Chicago

Wendela Boat Tours

Gain vast amounts of Chicago building–knowledge with an architectural cruise down the super-famous Chicago River with [Wendela Boats](#).

[Your 60-minute architectural exploration via boat](#) begins at the Wrigley Building and winds through the heart of the city, past historic buildings by Mies van der Rohe to the cobs of Marina City. The guides all graduated from Wendella's extensive in-house education program (the equivalent of an undergraduate course in architecture), so even seasoned Chicagoans will likely find new facts to absorb with their mind-sponge.

Location:

400 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
312-337-1446

Website:

For additional information please visit <http://www.wendellaboats.com/>