



CHICAGO, IL

DESTINATION GUIDE

*Where Urban
Energy Meets
Lakefront Serenity*



Welcome to Chicago

Chicago, often referred to as the “Windy City,” is a dynamic metropolis situated on the southwestern shores of Lake Michigan, boasting a unique blend of urban vibrancy and natural beauty. With its iconic skyline, diverse neighborhoods, rich cultural heritage, and a thriving arts scene, Chicago offers an unforgettable destination for travelers seeking a perfect mix of city excitement and tranquil lakeside escapes.

At the heart of the city, you'll find the Loop, Chicago's downtown core, where architectural marvels like the Willis Tower (formerly known as the Sears Tower) and the historic Chicago Board of Trade Building punctuate the skyline. Here, the Magnificent Mile beckons shoppers with its high-end boutiques, while cultural enthusiasts can explore world-class museums such as the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Foodies can indulge in the city's renowned culinary scene, including deep-dish pizza, Chicago-style hot dogs, and a diverse range of international cuisines.

Beyond the city's bustling streets, Chicago's green spaces provide a breath of fresh air. Millennium Park, home to the iconic “Bean” sculpture, offers a serene urban oasis, while the Lakefront Trail invites visitors to cycle, jog, or simply take in breathtaking views of Lake Michigan. Navy Pier, a lively entertainment complex along the waterfront, hosts everything from carnival rides to theater performances, making it a popular spot for both locals and tourists.

For those interested in history and culture, neighborhoods like Pilsen and Chinatown offer unique cultural experiences, while the annual Taste of Chicago festival showcases the city's culinary diversity. Music enthusiasts can immerse themselves in the city's jazz and blues heritage, with iconic venues like the Chicago Symphony Center and Buddy Guy's Legends.

Whether you're exploring world-class museums, taking in a ballgame at Wrigley Field, or simply strolling along the lakefront, Chicago's dynamic atmosphere and warm Midwestern hospitality make it a must-visit destination for travelers from around the globe.





Millennium Park

Nestled in the heart of downtown Chicago, Millennium Park is a modern urban oasis that seamlessly blends art, culture, and nature. Stretching across 24.5 acres, this vibrant public space has become an iconic destination, inviting both locals and visitors to explore its diverse attractions. Here's a glimpse of what you can expect when you visit Millennium Park:

1. Cloud Gate (The Bean):

At the heart of the park stands Cloud Gate, affectionately known as “The Bean.” Designed by artist Anish Kapoor, this reflective sculpture has become an emblem of Chicago. Its curved, mirrored surface invites you to capture your reflection and the city’s skyline in countless unique ways.

2. Crown Fountain:

Adjacent to Cloud Gate, the Crown Fountain is an interactive work of art by Jaume Plensa. It features two 50-foot glass block towers that display changing digital images of Chicago residents’ faces, which occasionally “spit” water to the delight of onlookers.

3. Jay Pritzker Pavilion:

Designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion is an architectural marvel. This outdoor concert venue hosts a variety of events, including live music performances, film screenings, and cultural festivals throughout the year. Its distinctive, undulating steel bandshell is a sight to behold.

4. Lurie Garden:

For a tranquil escape amidst the city’s hustle and bustle, the Lurie Garden offers a serene respite. This beautifully landscaped garden

features a blend of native plants and perennial flowers, providing a haven for both nature lovers and photographers.

5. Boeing Galleries:

Millennium Park’s Boeing Galleries showcase rotating exhibitions of contemporary art, offering a dynamic space for emerging artists to display their work.

6. Nichols Bridgeway:

Connecting Millennium Park to the Art Institute of Chicago, the Nichols Bridgeway is a stunning pedestrian bridge that provides panoramic views of the park and the city skyline. It’s a picturesque pathway for art enthusiasts and a great way to access the museum.

7. Wrigley Square & Millennium Monument:

The ornate Millennium Monument anchors Wrigley Square and features columns topped with statues representing different aspects of Chicago’s history. It’s a spot where history meets modern art and greenery.

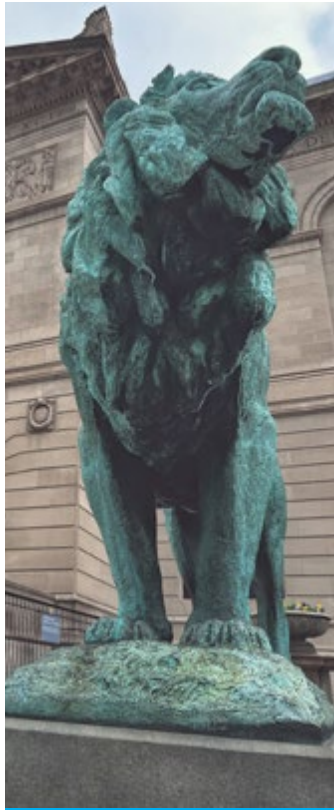
Millennium Park’s diverse attractions cater to a wide range of interests, making it a must-visit destination for art aficionados, families, and anyone looking to experience the cultural vibrancy of Chicago in a breathtaking urban setting. Whether you’re marveling at iconic sculptures, enjoying a live performance, or simply strolling through the beautifully landscaped gardens, Millennium Park offers an immersive and captivating experience that celebrates the city’s rich artistic and architectural heritage.



The Chicago Riverwalk

The Chicago Riverwalk is a picturesque urban oasis along the city’s riverbank. It offers a delightful mix of riverside dining, public art, scenic cruises, green spaces, and cultural events. This charming destination lets you savor the city’s energy while enjoying the calming presence of the Chicago River. It’s where Chicago’s vibrant present and architectural marvels meet the serene beauty of its waterfront.

Educational Stops



The Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute of Chicago is one of the oldest and most renowned art museums in the United States. Home to an extensive collection of artworks spanning centuries and cultures, the museum offers a profound artistic journey.



Museum of Science & Industry

Delve into the wonders of science and technology at the Museum of Science and Industry. This interactive museum features hands-on exhibits, historic artifacts, and immersive experiences that cater to curious minds of all ages.



Lincoln Park Zoo

Experience the charm of a world-class zoo in the heart of Chicago at Lincoln Park Zoo. This free-admission zoo is home to a wide variety of animals, beautifully landscaped gardens, and family-friendly attractions.



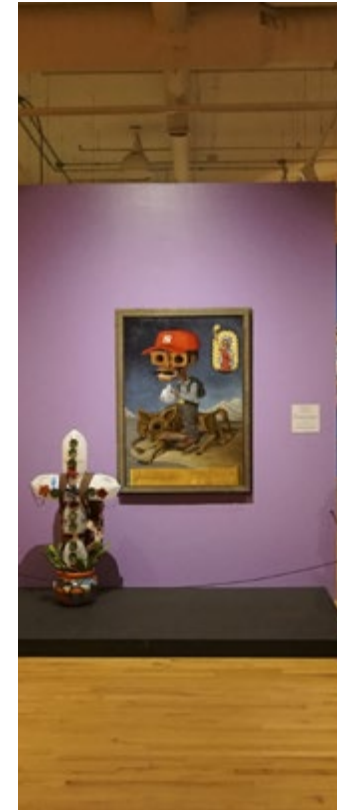
Field Museum

Uncover the mysteries of the natural world at the Field Museum. This renowned institution houses a vast collection of artifacts, including Sue, the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever discovered.



Adler Planetarium

Embark on a cosmic journey at the Adler Planetarium, where you can explore the wonders of space and astronomy. Engage with interactive exhibits, attend captivating sky shows, and gaze at the stars through powerful telescopes.



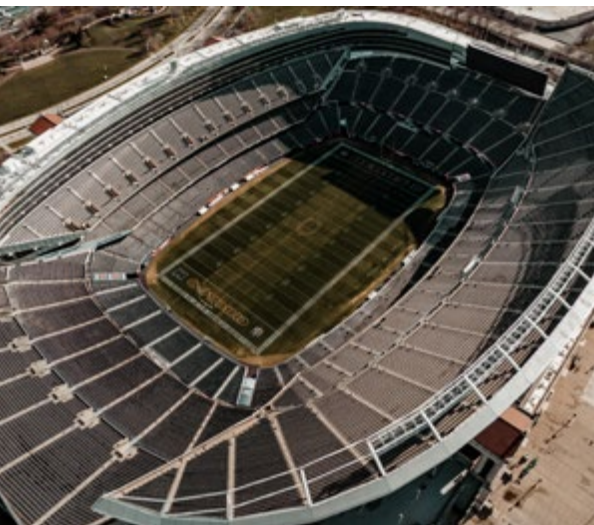
National Museum of Mexican Art

Experience the vibrant world of Mexican art and culture at the National Museum of Mexican Art. Join a guided docent tour to explore its extensive collection of Mexican and Mexican American art, from traditional folk art to contemporary works.



Shedd Aquarium

Dive into aquatic adventures at the Shedd Aquarium, home to a diverse array of marine life from around the globe. Explore fascinating exhibits, get up close to dolphins and beluga whales, and learn about conservation efforts to protect our oceans.



Soldier Field

Explore the historic Soldier Field in Chicago with a private tour that takes you behind the scenes of this iconic football stadium. Discover its rich history, get up close to the field, and learn about the legendary moments that have taken place within its walls. This tour offers an exclusive and in-depth look at one of Chicago's sports and cultural landmarks.

Catch a Bear's Game while in town (If in season).



Wrigley Field

Wrigley Field is the historic home of the Chicago Cubs and a cherished baseball stadium. While in the Wrigleyville area, you can soak in the lively atmosphere surrounding the ballpark. Enjoy local dining options, sports bars, and the energy of game day when the Cubs are in town. It's a quintessential Chicago experience for sports enthusiasts and visitors alike.

Catch a Cubs' Game while in town (If in season).



Exploring the Heart of the Windy City

Willis Tower

Ascend to the top of the Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower, one of the tallest buildings in the world. The Skydeck offers awe-inspiring views of Chicago and a thrilling glass-bottomed platform known as “The Ledge” for those brave enough to step out over the city.



Mag Mile Exploration

Stroll along the Magnificent Mile, known for its upscale shopping, dining, and cultural attractions. This bustling avenue is a shopper's paradise, featuring renowned retailers, department stores, and charming boutiques, making it a perfect place for retail therapy and exploration.

John Hancock Observatory

Rise to incredible heights at the John Hancock Observatory, one of Chicago's most iconic skyscrapers. From the 360 Chicago Observation Deck, you'll enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the city, Lake Michigan, and beyond. It's an ideal spot for capturing stunning photos and taking in Chicago's skyline.



Arch Boat Cruise

Embark on an Arch Boat Cruise along the iconic Chicago River, where you'll glide past the city's architectural marvels. This narrated tour offers a fascinating glimpse into Chicago's history, from its early days to its modern skyscrapers, all while cruising under stunning bridges and through the heart of downtown.

Medieval Times

Step back in time to the era of knights, jousting, and medieval feasts at Medieval Times. This unique dinner and entertainment experience invites guests to witness thrilling tournaments, enjoy a hearty meal, and immerse themselves in a medieval world of chivalry and valor.

The Chicago Cultural Center

This stunning Beaux-Arts building is home to free art exhibitions, performances, and events. It's known for its breathtaking Tiffany glass dome.

DuSable Museum of African American History

This museum showcases the history and achievements of African Americans in Chicago and the United States.

The Second City

For comedy enthusiasts, The Second City is a world-famous improvisational comedy club and training center that has produced many comedy legends.

Garfield Park Conservatory

One of the largest conservatories in the United States, this botanical garden features a stunning collection of plants in indoor and outdoor gardens.

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Located in Lincoln Park, this museum focuses on natural history and environmental education, featuring exhibits on local wildlife and ecosystems.

Guided Pilsen Neighborhood Mural Walking Tour

The Guided Pilsen Neighborhood Mural Walking Tour isn't just a passive viewing experience; it's an interactive journey that fosters a deeper connection with the neighborhood and its residents. Participants have the chance to ask questions, share their own perspectives, and even contribute to the ongoing mural art scene. This immersive approach ensures that every visitor leaves not only with a greater appreciation for Pilsen's art but also with a sense of having actively engaged with the neighborhood's rich cultural tapestry.



Pilsen's streets are adorned with a kaleidoscope of murals, each telling a story of the neighborhood's history, Mexican heritage, social issues, and artistic expression. Your knowledgeable guide will provide context and insights, allowing you to delve deep into the narratives behind these remarkable artworks.

Interactivity is at the heart of this tour. As you stroll through Pilsen's colorful streets, you'll have the chance to engage with local artists and community members.



EMBRACE your inner FOODIE.

Chicago's food scene is a vibrant tapestry of culinary traditions, reflecting the city's rich cultural diversity and innovative spirit. It's a place where classic comfort foods and innovative fine dining coexist harmoniously, making it a food lover's paradise.

Our team's top picks.

Giordanos Pizza

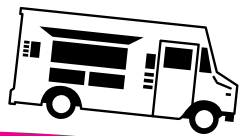
Giordano's Pizza is a Chicago legend, known for its deep-dish pizza. It's a must-visit for groups looking to savor this iconic Chicago dish. Their stuffed pizza is a hearty, cheesy delight that's perfect for sharing.

Portillos

Portillo's is a Chicago favorite offering a diverse menu of classic comfort foods. Groups can enjoy Chicago-style hot dogs, Italian beef sandwiches, and mouthwatering chocolate cake.

Carnivale

A vibrant Latin-inspired restaurant with colorful decor and a lively atmosphere, perfect for large celebrations.



the food truck scene



Food trucks in Chicago offer a diverse range of culinary delights, from gourmet sandwiches and tacos to international cuisines and desserts. The city has seen significant growth in its food truck community in recent years, and you can often find food trucks parked at various locations throughout the city, including parks, festivals, and popular neighborhoods.



Best spots for large groups.

Unos Pizzeria

Uno's Pizzeria is where the deep-dish pizza craze began. Groups can indulge in their famous "Original Chicago Deep Dish Pizza" while enjoying a cozy and welcoming atmosphere.

Margaritaville

Margaritaville brings a taste of the tropics to Chicago. This lively restaurant offers an island-inspired menu with dishes like seafood, and burgers.

The Signature Room at the 95th

Located in the John Hancock Center, this upscale restaurant offers breathtaking views of Chicago and a menu suitable for large parties.

Gibsons Steakhouse

Known for its classic steaks and Chicago-style hospitality, Gibsons has ample seating for groups.

Lou Malnati's Pizzeria

If you want to introduce your group to Chicago's famous deep-dish pizza, Lou Malnati's has plenty of space for you and your friends.

Jimmy Johns or Firehouse Subs

Boxed sandwiches make for the perfect group lunch picnic anywhere in Chicago.

Café Ba-Ba-Reeba

A lively tapas restaurant, perfect for groups looking to share small plates and experience a taste of Spain.

Big Star

A trendy taco spot in Wicker Park, Big Star has outdoor and indoor seating options suitable for groups looking for a fun, casual experience.

Maggiano's Little Italy

Famous for its family-style Italian cuisine, Maggiano's has spacious dining areas and can handle large parties with ease.

Hard Rock Cafe

The Hard Rock Cafe in Chicago is not only a great place for rock 'n' roll enthusiasts but also for groups seeking American classics. Their menu includes burgers, sandwiches, and salads in a music-themed setting.



Dinner / Dance Cruise

Enjoy a fun night to remember as you cruise along Lake Michigan.

Pizza on the Move

Thin crust, deep dish, or something in between, these trucks are dishing out slice surprises that'll make you come back for more.

Global Bites

Prepare your passport for a global food adventure! Chicago's food trucks bring the world's flavors right to your plate.

Burger Joyrides

Grab a napkin (or three) and prepare for the burger joyride of your life.

Taco Trucks

From classic carne asada to crazy creative fusion combos, these trucks are like culinary treasure chests you won't want to miss.