

Things to do in Chicago!

Attractions



Beaches

Chicago is blessed with miles and miles of sandy lakefront beaches. Build a sandcastle empire at [Foster Beach](#), cool off at trendy [Shore Club Chicago](#) (where you can reserve a daybed or a cabana) at [North Avenue Beach](#), or simply enjoy the view at [Rainbow Beach](#). If you're looking to get active, you can rent a jet ski, kayak, paddleboard, or fly board at [Chicago Water Sport Rentals](#) at 31st Street Harbor.



Chicago Riverwalk

You can't beat the views when you snag a glass of vino at City Winery or enjoy some local grub at Chicago Brewhouse. Several boat tours also have launch points along the Riverwalk, if you prefer to get out on the water. Post up at the Riverwalk nightly at 8:30pm and 9pm to catch Art on theMART, the 25-story light projection show across the water.



Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo is a world of wildlife in the shadow of skyscrapers. Located just minutes north of downtown, the zoo has been a natural, free oasis for generations of animal lovers. Visit the zoo to hear a lion's roar echo off nearby apartment buildings, see gorillas climb trees as the Willis Tower looms in the distance, or forget where you are as you immerse yourself in tropical rainforests, dry-thorn forests, or spacious savannas.

<http://www.lpzoo.org/>



Magnificent Mile

This portion of Michigan Avenue – which stretches between Lake Shore Drive and the Chicago River – beckons to shopaholics with department stores and luxury retailers like Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Macy's and Lord & Taylor. Additionally, The Magnificent Mile is home to several top-notch eateries. Check out your guide to the best shopping in the city, all within walking distance in downtown Chicago. <https://www.themagnificentmile.com/>



Navy Pier

From the Centennial Wheel and Pier Park attractions to consumer shows, galas, and festivals, there's always something exciting to do at Navy Pier!

<https://navypier.com/buy-tickets/>



The Skydeck

Step outside the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere at the Skydeck. 1,353 feet in the air, the Ledge's glass boxes extend out 4.3 feet. Advance purchase required (no walk-ins); tickets are selected based on date/time.

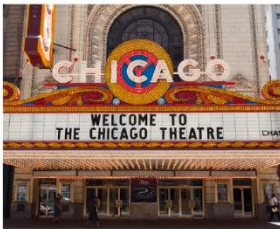
General Admission: \$35

Expedited Entry: \$55

<http://theskydeck.com/>

Things to do in Chicago!

Entertainment / Activity



Chicago Theatre

This beautiful, historic theatre offers everything from concerts to Broadway shows in the architectural building, as well as tours.

<http://www.thechicagotheatre.com/>



Comedy Shows: Second City

The Second City has been bringing the funny for over 50 years. Known for its many famous alums (including multiple Saturday Night Live stars, such as Tina Fey, Steve Carell, and Stephen Colbert), this storied spot hosts popular sketch shows & improv classes. Main Shows are 7pm and 10pm on the weekends, with single and group tickets available.

<http://www.secondcity.com/>



Live Music

Chicago has tons of music to offer.

[Sofar Sounds](#) is a global music community that connects artists and audiences through live music.

Attend a concert at the [Salt Shed](#).

Live blues at [Kingston Mines](#)

Tuesdays on the Terrace at the [MCA](#)



Chicago Architectural Boat Tour

Wendela's Lake & River Lake Architecture Tour takes you from the riverfront, through the locks and along the Lake Michigan shore. Experience Chicago's legendary architecture and the exceptional architects who created this ever- changing legacy for all to admire. Learn about Chicago's interesting lakefront landmarks, architecture and history, including Navy Pier, the Magnificent Mile, the Sears Tower, Buckingham Fountain, Grant Park, and many more along the way. Wendella also offers sunset, cocktail and other themed cruises. 90-minute Adult Ticket: \$40 45-minute Adult Ticket: \$25

<https://www.wendellaboats.com/boat-tours-cruises/>



Urban Kayak Tour

Urban Kayaks has a wide range of paddling options at two Chicago locations: the Chicago Riverwalk and the Lakefront at Monroe Harbor. No matter your experience, age or fitness level, there is an Urban Kayaking experience for you. Tours include Historic Chicago, Sunset Tour, and Riverwalk Intro Paddle. Urban Kayaks also offers an Intro to Paddleboarding class, one of the fastest growing recreational activities in the world!

Adult Tickets: \$40-65

<https://urbankayaks.com/kayak-tours/>



Art Institute of Chicago

Showcasing over 5,000 years of creativity in over one million square feet, the Art Institute of Chicago offers an entire world of art for your group to explore! As one of the country's largest art museums, the Art Institute of Chicago is a must-see for local, national, and international groups of all ages. Museum is closed Tuesdays/Wednesdays.

General Admission: \$25

<http://www.artic.edu/>

Things to do in Chicago!

Entertainment / Activity



Chicago Cultural Center

On any given day at the Chicago Cultural Center, you might find a free classical concert being performed, an art exhibition on display in one of the building's many galleries or tourists marveling at the world's largest stained glass Tiffany dome. Don't worry about paying for admission—nearly everything that happens in this building is free and open to the public. Housed in a structure that's as wide as an entire city block and dates back to 1897 (when it originally housed the Chicago Public Library), the Chicago Cultural Center provides a place for citizens and visitors alike to experience amazing art and beautiful architecture without spending a cent.

https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_culturalcenter.html



Adler Planetarium

The mission of the Adler Planetarium is to inspire exploration and understanding of our Universe. Placing value in an engaging, user-friendly museum, Adler Planetarium serves excitement and curiosity about space science and space exploration and programs based on credible science and educational research.

Adult Ticket: \$35

<http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/>



Shedd Aquarium

Meet 32,000 amazing animals and explore the world's oceans, rivers and reefs, right in the heart of Chicago. Adult Admission: \$40

Guided Tour: \$75

<http://www.sheddaquarium.org/>



The Museum of Science & Industry Chicago

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago—one of the largest science museums in the world—is home to more than 400,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits designed to spark scientific inquiry and creativity. They offer special exhibits, tours and Giant Dome Theater films as well.

Adult Ticket: \$22

<http://www.msichicago.org/>



Tour of Soldier Field

Come experience both the historic and modern-day journey of Soldier Field, dedicated to the men and women of the armed services and home of the Chicago Bears. Soldier Field is also host to world class concerts, college football, international soccer & rugby along with many other timeless events. Tour behind the scenes to include the South Courtyard, Doughboy Statue, Field, Visitor's Locker Room and Interview Room, Skyline Suite, and Colonnades.

Adult Ticket: \$15

<https://soldierfield.net/tours>



Crime Tours and Experiences

Escape into Chicago's underworld on a crime and mob tour. Travel through famous Chicago neighborhoods and explore historic crime scenes with great photo opportunities and true stories.

Tickets: \$42

<https://chicagocrimetours.com/>

Things to do in Chicago!

Sports



Chicago Fire

Soccer is one of the most popular sports in the world, so no sports city would be complete without a pro soccer club. The [Chicago Fire](#), named for the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, won the MLS Cup and U.S. Open Cup in their first season, as well as the U.S. Open Cups in 2000, 2003, and 2006.



Guaranteed Rate Field – White Sox

Guaranteed Rate Field is home to the Chicago White Sox. It's almost always possible to walk up and purchase tickets. Plus, the Sox gave Chicago its most recent World Series Championship in 2005.

<https://www.mlb.com/whitesox>



Wrigley Field – Cubs

The Cubs typically open their season in April and offer a variety of seats for every price point. For first-time visitors and super fans alike, there's nothing quite like sitting in the bleachers with an ice-cold drink and hot dog in hand. <https://www.mlb.com/cubs>



Soldier Field - Bears

Soldier Field is the historic home of the Chicago Bears. Opened in 1924, it is the oldest stadium in the league, and it's known for its iconic lakefront views. The stadium is the perfect place to tailgate, cheer on the Bears, or attend a concert.

<https://www.choosechicago.com/articles/sports-and-recreation/chicago-bears-football/>

Restaurants

- Sunda
- Happy Camper
- Aba
- Trivoli Tavern
- Time out Market
- Au Cheval
- Lil' Ba-Ba-Reeba
- True Food Kitchen
- Quartino Ristorante
- Eataly
- Pizza Portofino
- Tre Dita
- Lou Malnati's
- The Weiner Circle
- Portillo's

Looking for more to do around Chicago? Check out [this article](#) or [Chicago City Pass](#).