More than 42 kilometers of lakefront frame Chicago’s stunning urban skyline. Here in the heart of the Midwest, the nation’s third-largest city boasts soaring skyscrapers and colorful neighborhoods against a backdrop of sandy beaches and beautiful parks. This cosmopolitan playground bursts with things to do. Sightseeing options range from Chicago icons – such as Millennium Park’s Cloud Gate, Grant Park’s Buckingham Fountain and Navy Pier’s Ferris wheel – to fascinating history and architecture tours.

**Top 5**

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THE CITY

Chicago, the third largest city in the U.S., nuzzles the shores of picturesque Lake Michigan, which reflects the dazzling skyline. As a vibrant and international city, it boasts world-class museums, cuisine and nightlife. The numerous outdoor parks and miles of lakefront paths are a wonderful attraction for sporty types, while the exclusive theatres, shops & restaurants appeal to the sophisticated visitor. Chicago is also the birthplace of modern jazz and blues, so an excursion to one of its many clubs is a must for music novices and aficionados alike.

If you are a sports fan, Chicago’s world-class venues can accommodate almost every professional and amateur sport discipline imaginable. Whether you’re watching or playing, sports are an integral part of life in Chicago. During the baseball season the town is split. The South Side lives and dies with the White Sox while the North Side cozies up with the Cubs. The National League Cubs play at historic Wrigley Field while the American League White Sox call U.S. Cellular Field home. The NFL’s Chicago Bears take to the gridiron at Soldier Field and the United Center is home of the NBA’s Chicago Bulls. Hockey fans can watch the NHL Blackhawks, also at the United Center, or the minor-league Chicago Wolves at Allstate Arena. And soccer fans can see the MLS Chicago Fire at Toyota Park. There are numerous college sports teams in the area, as well as horse racing and auto races in the suburbs.

And if the Performing Arts are more to your taste, Chicago is the home of over 200 theatres hosting the Chicago Symphony, Chicago and Joffrey Ballet Companies, world renowned and “up and coming” local artists and musicians, Tony Award winning Broadway world premiers, Improvisation at Second City, and edgy original plays. Plan on spending a few hours somewhere like the State Street or Downtown Theatre Districts when you’re in Chicago, and be prepared to journey through fairytale wonderlands, discover dazzling sights and sounds, soak up thought-provoking story lines, and even laugh ‘till it hurts on any given day or night.

EVENTS

If it’s music you’ve come for, you’ll find every genre at live music clubs and outdoor events like Millennium Park concerts, Lollapalooza and the Chicago Blues Festival. Chicago’s calendar is packed with local street festivals, holiday celebrations and special events year round.

Learn more at:
www.visithetheusa.com/destination/chicago
Blues Festival (June)
The annual Blues Festival is Chicago's biggest music festival, and the largest one in the entire world to not charge an admission fee. Attendees number in the hundreds of thousands.

Photo: Adam Alexander Photography/Choose Chicago
Address: Millennium Park
Opening hours: June 8-10, 2018
Tickets: Free admission
Internet: www.bluesfestivalguide.com

Gospel Music Festival (June) Brining together the traditional and modern takes on the gospel genre rooted in Chicago's history, the Gospel Music Festival features performers from across the nation. Admission is free of charge.

Photo: Andrew Miller Photography/Choose Chicago
Address: Millennium Park & Chicago Cultural Center
Opening hours: June 1-2, 2018
Tickets: Free admission

Taste of Chicago (July) A grand-scale happening showcasing all Chicago's vibrant dining scene has to offer, with live music and entertainment to go along.

Photo: Andrew Miller Photography/Choose Chicago
Address: Grant Park
Opening hours: July 11-15, 2018

Chicago Jazz Festival (August-September) A Labour Day weekend celebration of the jazz genre featuring performers from all across the nation.

Photo: Adam Alexander Photography/Choose Chicago
Address: Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Park
Opening hours: August 30-September 2, 2018

Chicago Gourmet (September) A celebration of all things food, Chicago Gourmet features lectures and workshops by prominent chefs, seminars on wine and mixology, VIP culinary experiences, and delightful tastings.

Photo: Adam Alexander Photography/Choose Chicago
Address: Millennium Park
Opening hours: September 28-30, 2018

World Music Festival Chicago (September) The United States' largest and longest-lasting international music festival takes place in Chicago, introducing guests and city residents to music genres and instruments from all across the globe. Events take place at venues across the city.

Photo: Filipe B. Varela/Shutterstock.com
Opening hours: September 7-23, 2018
Internet: www.choosechicago.com/events-and-shows/concerts-and-music/world-music-festival-chicago/
Chicago Marathon (October)
With up to 45,000 yearly participants, the Chicago Marathon is among the global six World Marathon Majors.

Photo: Marcel Lesch/Shutterstock.com
Opening hours: October 7, 2018
Internet: www.chicagomarathon.com

Chicago International Film Festival (October)
The Chicago International Film Festival brings motion pictures from the across the world (and the state of Illinois) to the Windy City, showcasing the best of the world's cinematographic endeavor within a space of 2 exciting weeks.

Photo: hafakot/Shutterstock.com
Public Transport: October 11-25, 2018
Internet: www.chicagofilmfestival.com

Christkindlmarket Chicago (November-December)
Following the European (German) tradition of open-air Christmas markets, Chicago now boasts one of its own, with an additional location in Naperville.

Photo: Ranvestel Photographic/Choose Chicago
Internet: www.christkindlmarket.com

ZooLights at Lincoln Park Zoo (December)
Zoo grounds come to life every year around the Christmas holiday season, with spectacular light displays and shows, as well as entertainment for the whole family.

Photo: John Kershner/Shutterstock.com
Internet: www.lpzoo.org/zoolights-presented-comed-and-powershares-qqq-invesco

DO & SEE

Big Bus Tours
Chicago is renowned for its cultural offerings with more than 40 museums and a dedicated Museum Campus, home to The Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium and Adler Planetarium. Don’t miss the Art Institute of Chicago, which contains 300,000 works in its permanent collection, and Museum of Science and Industry, the largest in the Western Hemisphere. As the only U.S. city with five regional Tony Award-winning theaters, Chicago’s theater scene takes center stage.

With several of the world’s tallest buildings located here, Chicago is a showcase for modern masterpieces and historic landmarks by America’s greatest architects including Frank Lloyd Wright, Daniel Burnham and Louis Sullivan. Go above the view at 360 CHICAGO Observation Deck in the John Hancock Center.
(be sure to try the TILT experience, which leans you out over Michigan Avenue). Stay grounded but still take in the beautiful cityscape with a stroll along the Chicago Riverwalk, where you can enjoy a delicious meal or grab a drink right on the water. The Riverwalk can also serve as your launching point for an architecture tour or canoe trip down the Chicago River. Take the kids to Lincoln Park Zoo and Wrigley Field, two iconic and family-friendly attractions.

Learn more at:
www.visittheusa.com/destination/chicago

Architectural River Cruise

It’s one thing to gaze at Chicago’s famed skyline, and another altogether to view it on Chicago, Illinois’ popular architecture tour, the Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady Cruises. See the city’s iconic structures from the perspective of the Chicago River, where the skyline unfolds before you as you learn about each building’s architectural features and place in local history.

Photo: Mercury Skyline Yacht Charters, Inc.
Address: Michigan Avenue & The River, Chicago
Opening hours: Seasonal, see home page for more information: www.cruisechicago.com
Phone: +1 847 358 1330
More Info: Cruises leave from Chicago Riverwalk

The Field Museum

Visit the Galapagos, walk through a hall of glittering gems, step inside an earth lodge, or encounter the elaborate masks of the Pacific Islands: There’s so much to see and do at The Field Museum, a world-class natural history museum in the vibrant city of Chicago, Illinois. From temporary exhibits for traveling shows to an extensive collection of artifacts, The Field Museum showcases a variety of habitats, cultures, plants and animals throughout its hallowed halls.

Photo: Choose Chicago
Address: 1400 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago
Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm
Phone: +1 312 922 9410
Internet: www.visittheusa.com/experience/chicago-illinois-inspiring-curiosity-field-museum

Shedd Aquarium

It is at Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium, where you can stroll among the winding waters of the Amazon River, the legendary coral reefs of the Caribbean, the coastal beauty of the Pacific Northwest and the icy majesty of the Arctic – all in one visit. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan in the heart of downtown Chicago, Shedd Aquarium will transport you to aquatic wonders from all corners of the globe.

Photo: Choose Chicago
Address: 1200 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 939 2438
Internet: www.visittheusa.com/experience/chicago-illinois-underwater-explorations-around-world-shedd-aquarium
Navy Pier
With museums, theaters, parks, gardens and the iconic Centennial Wheel, it’s a perfect complement to the rich history and vibrant energy of Chicago. Navy Pier welcomes new events and features to its beloved location on the Lake Michigan waterfront, reflecting a dynamic city that continues to reinvent itself. There’s something for everyone here, whether you like to shop, ride, sightsee, cruise or stroll.

Photo: City of Chicago  
Address: 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago  
Opening hours: Opening hours vary by season:  
www.navypier.org/visit/hours-admission  
Phone: +1 312 595 7437  
More Info: At Streeter Dr. The pier itself is always open. Shops & attractions vary in hours.

Robie House
This 1909 creation is one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s most famous houses in the prairie style. It was designated by Wright himself as “the cornerstone of modern architecture”.

Photo: Sandra Cohen-Rose and Colin Rose/Flickr (image cropped)  
Address: 5757 S Woodlawn Ave, Chicago  
Phone: +1 312 994 4000  
Internet: www.gowright.org

Willis Tower (Sears Tower)
Although still commonly referred to as Sears Tower, North America’s tallest building was renamed Willis Tower in 2009 after Willis Group Holdings, a global insurance broker whose Midwest offices are housed there. In addition to being North America’s tallest building, it is the third-tallest building in the entire world. It was constructed in 1974, designed by architect Bruce Graham. The building’s Skydeck is a great place to admire a stunning view.

Photo: VICTOR TORRES/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 233 S Wacker Dr, Chicago  
Phone: +1 312 875 9696  
Internet: www.theskydeck.com  
More Info: Btwn Adams St & Jackson Blvd; enter Skydeck on Jackson Blvd (south side of building)

Cloud Gate
Cloud Gate n Millennium Park is also commonly referred to as "The Bean" because of its bean-like shape. It is one of the largest sculptures of its kind in the world, made from stainless steel plates. The sculpture’s surface reflects the city’s skyline and people around like a giant mirror.

Photo: Clayton Hauck/Choose Chicago  
Address: 201 E Randolph St, Chicago  
Phone: +1 312 742 1168
Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo is free, open every day of the year and offers something for everyone. Here you can take a stroll through Chicago's most visited gardens and meet animals from around the world. There is also an on-site café with pleasant refreshments.

Photo: alisafarov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2001 N Clark Street, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 742 2000
Internet: www.lpzoo.org

Grant Park

Grant Park is often referred to as "Chicago's front yard", and is a popular park among both tourists and locals. It is here that you will find some of the city's most popular attractions, including Buckingham Fountain, Millenium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago. This is also a place where many events take place, like the Chicago Blues Festival and The Taste of Chicago – the largest food festival in the world.

Photo: Adam Alexander/Choose Chicago
Address: 337 E Randolph Street, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 742 3918
Internet: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/grant-park

Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier

Chicago Shakespeare Theater is beautifully located on the Navy Pier, and offers an amazing view over the city. It is a small theater full of energy and drama that puts on shows with exceptionally talented actors.

Photo: Tracie Hall/Flickr (image cropped)
Address: 800 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 595 5600
Internet: www.chicagoshakes.com

Lake Michigan

Walking along the lake shore is just one of those things you should not miss when visiting Chicago. Lake Michigan is huge and feels more like a sea (larger in area than Denmark and Croatia). In the summer, people take out boats onto the lake, and go biking, walking or just enjoying the sun along its shore, which creates a beach-like atmosphere. There are lots of activities around, such as sailing, water taxi, early dinner cruises and night cruises.

Photo: Thomas Barrat/Shutterstock.com
Address: Lake Michigan, Chicago

Museum of Science and Industry

The Museum of Science and Industry is, at over 37,000 square meters, the largest science museum in the Western Hemisphere, with more than five hectares of exhibits. MSI is a vibrant institution with tons of dynamic displays, interactive exhibits and tours for everyone in your group, both kids and adults.

Photo: The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago
Address: 5700 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago
Opening hours: Daily 9.30am-4pm
Phone: +1 773 684 1414
Internet: www.visittheusa.com/experience/museum-science-and-industry-chicago-illinois-fun-all-ages
More Info: Located at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive
Lincoln Park Conservatory

Step inside and enjoy amazing flowers from all around the world at the Lincoln Park Conservatory. Here you will find tropical palms, exotic plants and flowers. No matter the time of the year, this park conservatory is always green and lush. Admission is free.

Photo: Nagel Photography/ Shutterstock.com
Address: 2391 N Stockton Dr, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 742 7736
Internet: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/lincoln-park-conservatory

Museum of Contemporary Art

Free guided tours and audio tours are available to help visitors fully experience their tour of the largest contemporary art museums in the U.S., which also features special programs in a 300-seat theater and a cafe owned by Wolfgang Puck.

Photo: Kevin Kipper/Shutterstock.com
Address: 220 E Chicago Ave, Chicago
Opening hours: Tue 10am–9pm, Wed-Thu 10am–5pm, Fri 10am-9pm, Sat-Sun 10am–5pm
Phone: +1 312 280 2660
Internet: www.mcachicago.org

Auditorium Building and Theatre

This historic Chicago landmark has a story to tell, and is still a functioning theater where you can watch ballet, concerts and drama performances. The Auditorium Building was designed by Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler and completed in 1889.

Photo: Teemu008/Flickr (image cropped)
Address: 50 E Congress Parkway, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 922 2110
Internet: www.auditoriumtheatre.org

Brookfield Zoo

Operated by the Chicago Zoological Society, the Brookfield Zoo offers several fun and educational activities for the whole family.

Photo: forksandspoons/Shutterstock.com
Address: 8400 31st St, Brookfield
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10am-5pm
Phone: +1 800 201 0784
Internet: www.brookfieldzoo.org

Wrigley Field

Wrigley Field in Chicago has been the home of the Chicago Cubs since 1916, making it one of the oldest ballparks still in operation, second only to Fenway Park in Boston.

Photo: Thechitowncubs/Wikimedia Commons
Address: 1060 W Addison St, Chicago

Soldier Field

Originally opened in 1924, Soldier Field was known as one of the great venues during the "Golden Age of Sports" and one of Chicago's most famous landmarks. Now, decades later, Soldier Field promises to continue the tradition
United Center

The United Center, home to the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago Bulls, is the largest arena in the United States. Since opening, the United Center has hosted over 200 events each year and has hosted over forty million guests since its opening in 1994.

Chicago Fire Soccer Club / Toyota Park

Chicago Fire Soccer Club is a Major League Soccer (MLS) based in Chicago. The organization is named for the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and was founded in 1997. In their first league season in 1998, the Fire won the MLS Cup as well as the U.S. Open Cup (the "double"). They have also won U.S. Open Cups in 2000, 2003, and 2006; in addition to the 2003 MLS Supporters' Shield. Toyota Park is the Fire's home stadium. Since the fall of 2011, the Chicago Bliss of the Lingerie Football League have also played in Toyota Park before making the Sears Center their home arena.

Adler Planetarium

Built in 1930, The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum in Chicago, Illinois, was the first planetarium built in the Western Hemisphere and is the oldest in existence today. From daily programs to exhibitions and special lectures, there are admission passes to fit your individual interests.

360 CHICAGO Observation Deck

Windy City’s extraordinary observatory on the 94th floor of the historic John Hancock Center offers 360-degree views of the iconic Chicago, Illinois skyline and beyond. When the weather is clear, you can see up to 80 kilometers and all the way to four different states. Check out the newly opened TILT experience, which has you step up to a full-length window that slowly tilts from the building right out over the city at a 30-degree angle.
Unity Temple

The only public service building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie period still remaining, Unity Temple is made of reinforced concrete. There are two separates parts to the building: the Unity Temple, for worship, made of high, skylit spaces, and Unity House, an are for congregation social gatherings that is connected by an entry-level foyer. Of the temple, Wright said: "Unity Temple makes an entirely new architecture — and is the first expression of it. That is my contribution to modern architecture". Advanced tickets are recommended.

Art Institute of Chicago

With over 300,000 works of art in its collection, the museum has something for everyone, and continues to be ranked among the world's best. Look for Edward Hopper's "Nighthawks" or Georgia O'Keeffe's "Sky above Clouds" - just a few of the beloved American paintings in the collection. The museum has the largest Impressionist collection outside of Paris, including works by Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet and Georges Seurat, as well as a remarkable international modern and contemporary collections, with art and artifacts spanning 5,000 BC to the present.

Big Bus Tours

With a flexible hop-on, hop-off policy, engaging guides and comfortable, open-top buses, exploring Chicago's best attractions and sights is as easy as it gets with Big Bus Tours. Choose a one-, or multi-day ticket, and you'll get the time and the insider's knowledge to size up the city on your own schedule. Big Bus Tours also offers handicap accessibility, pre-recorded Spanish audio tours and even a free cup of hand-roasted coffee from one of Chicago's finest, Corner Bakery. No worries if you want to spend hours at landmark attractions such as Navy Pier or Millennium Park; stops are frequent and many, making it possible for you to experience the key destinations in Chicago on your own terms.
EXCURSIONS

Explore Illinois and experience both the nonstop energy of a big city and the charm of friendly small towns. Beyond Chicago, shop at outlet malls for fabulous bargains, hike on wooded trails through scenic state parks and tour incredible Frank Lloyd Wright architecture. Take a nostalgic road trip on legendary Route 66, stroll historic small-town Main Streets to stop at diners and soda fountains for a glimpse of true Americana and visit Abraham Lincoln’s home in Springfield. Watch Illinois makers in action as they hand-craft beer at more than 80 breweries across the state and follow an Illinois wine trail.

**Chicago's North Shore**

Bordering Chicago, north along the shores of Lake Michigan, find numerous attractions including the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Baha’i House of Worship and the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Chicago’s elevated train brings you to Evanston, a lively city that’s home to Northwestern University.

**Heritage Corridor & Route 66**

Travel back in time on Route 66, nicknamed ‘America’s Main Street’. Revisit history along the Illinois & Michigan Canal, which is lined with state parks, historic sites and landscapes from rolling hills to bluffs. Discover the steep sandstone canyons and wooded trails of Starved Rock State Park.

**Rockford**

Just 60 minutes from Chicago O’Hare Airport, Rockford is the place to slow down and relax. Explore the Anderson Japanese Gardens, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Laurent House and the Coronado Theater. Kayak on the Rock River and play golf on 11 courses.

**DuPage**

Just 20 miles from Chicago, discover a tapestry of charming small towns with lush trails, family-friendly museums, zoos, parks and outdoor recreation. Enjoy fine dining, shopping and upscale accommodation, along with easy access to Route 66 and O’Hare International Airport.
Dining

Chicago’s culinary scene is filled with star chefs, unique ethnic eateries and award-winning fine dining restaurants known around the world. Just as famous is the Chicago-style hot dog and deep dish pizza. As a top food destination, the city boasts 7,300 restaurants in every price range and cuisine.

Learn more at:
www.visittheusa.com/destination/chicago

Le Colonial
Le Colonial offers French-influenced Vietnamese cuisine in an elegant setting. High ceilings, louvred shutters and rotating fans transport you to a time forgone, all the while treating you to an exquisite French-Vietnamese fusion menu.

Address: 937 N Rush St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 255 0088
Internet: www.lecolonialchicago.com

Spiaggia
Spiaggia is one of Chicago’s finest Italian restaurants, based in a glamorous setting on the Magnificent Mile. They have an award-winning wine list, and chef Tony Mantuano creates superb dishes to match.

Address: 980 N Michigan, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 5.30-10pm, Fri-Sat 5pm-11pm, Sun 5pm-10pm
Phone: +1 312 280 2750
Internet: www.spiaggiarestaurant.com

Portillo’s Hot Dogs
Portillo is a Chicago favorite, famous for its hot dogs and other delicious casual dining options. There is an outdoor patio where you can enjoy your food when the weather permits.

Address: 162 E Superior St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 266 3337
Internet: www.ginoseast.com

Gino’s East Pizzeria
Gino’s East is one of the best places in Chicago to try the world famous deep-dish style pizza. Foodies in-the-know consider a trip here a Chicago essential. There are multiple locations across town.

Address: 162 E Superior St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 266 3337
Internet: www.ginoseast.com
More Info: Additional locations in Chicago: 2801 N Lincoln Ave, 162 E Superior St, 521 S Dearborn St, and 8725 W Higgins St

Photo: Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock.com
Photo: klaikungwon/Shutterstock.com
Photo: Alexander Varbenov/Shutterstock.com
Photo: Carol Mellema/Shutterstock.com

Destination: Chicago, Illinois
Publishing date: 2019-03-19

Tempo

Tempo is an all-day and all-night restaurant on the trendy Gold Coast, with fabulous breakfast and brunch fare. The place is extremely popular, so it tends to get crowded at weekends. Cash only.

Photo: Alena Haurylik/Shutterstock.com
Address: 6 E Chestnut, Chicago
Opening hours: Open 24 hours
Phone: +1 312 943 4373
Internet: www.tempochicago.com

Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse

Enjoy a good steak at this classic American steakhouse, and come with an empty stomach – the staff serve huge portions. On the menu you will also find fresh seafood, a variety of side orders and tasty desserts. The atmosphere is vibrant and friendly.

Photo: White78/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1028 N Rush St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 266 8999
Internet: www.gibsonssteakhouse.com

Morton's

Morton's serves classic American steakhouse fare – of the finest quality – at its several worldwide locations. Its flagship restaurant in Chicago has been a staple of the local dining scene since 1978.

Photo: Solis Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1050 N State St, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5.30pm-11pm, Sun 5pm-10pm
Phone: +1 312 266 4820
Internet: www.mortons.com
More Info: Reservations recommended

Everest

Enjoy fine French cuisine curated carefully by Chef Joho, as you take in the breathtaking views of Chicago from the 40th floor of the Chicago Stock Exchange.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.com
Address: 440 S LaSalle St, Chicago
Opening hours: Tue-Thu 5.30pm-9pm, Fri 5.30pm-9.30pm, Sat 5pm-10pm
Phone: +1 312 663 8920
Internet: www.everestrestaurant.com
More Info: 40th Floor

Uno Chicago Grill

Uno first started in Chicago in 1943, when Ike Sewell developed deep dish pizza and opened a new type of restaurant at the corner of Ohio & Wabash. It was here that Ike served a pizza unlike any other that had been served before. When people tasted it, they wanted more of the same, and lines have been forming ever since.

Photo: Supitcha McAdam/Shutterstock.com
Address: 29 E Ohio, Chicago
Opening hours: Sun 11am-11pm, Mon-Fri 11am-1am, Sat 11am-2am
Frontera Grill

In 1994, Frontera Grill was ranked the world’s third-best casual dining restaurant by the International Herald Tribune. In 2007, Frontera Grill won the James Beard Foundation’s "Outstanding Restaurant” award, designating it the best restaurant in the U.S. In 2011, the Chicago Sun-Times called it “a study in the art of Mexican cookery”. Frontera Grill uses beautiful ingredients, often organic and custom-grown, to bring diners the bold flavors and immediate freshness that jump off the tongue—just as they do in Mexico.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com
Address: 445 N Clark St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 661 1434
Internet: www.rickbayless.com

Ditka’s

Named after the famous football player and coach Mike Ditka, Ditka’s is a restaurant and steakhouse like no other. Their portions are large enough to satisfy a linebacker but have a fresh and unique American flair. Handcrafted drinks and unique beers are the perfect opener to your meal; make sure to try their crab cakes and Da Pork Chop, a six-point Berkshire pork chop that is melt-in-your-mouth delicious. Reservations are recommended - and who knows, you just might see the Coach while dining there.

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com
Address: 100 E Chestnut St, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11am-10pm, Fri 11am-11pm, Sat 10am-11pm, Sun 10am-10pm
Phone: +1 312 587 8989
Internet: www.ditkasrestaurants.com

The Purple Pig

The Purple Pig provides exceptional fare in a lively environment, and at decent prices. On the menu you will find tasty dishes such as the Berkshire pork chop with fava salata and pork osso bucco with soft polenta and gremolata. Bon appétit.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com
Address: 500 N Michigan Ave, Chicago
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 11.30am-12pm, Fri-Sat 11.30am-2am
Phone: +1 312 464 1744
Internet: www.thepurplepigchicago.com

Shaw’s Crab House

Shaw’s Crab House is two establishments in one – a sophisticated seafood restaurant and a lively oyster bar. Here you’ll be treated to fresh fish, shellfish, oysters and sushi. The place can get packed, so do make a reservation.

Photo: garetsworkshop/Shutterstock.com
Address: 21 E Hubbard St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 527 2722
Internet: www.shawscrabhouse.com
If you’re craving Chinese or Thai food, head over to Big Bowl. The friendly staff serve fresh food at reasonable prices. The atmosphere is cozy, and the food is delicious with a focus on Asian flavors.

Photo: sarsmis/Shutterstock.com
Address: 60 E Ohio St, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 11.30am-10pm, Fri-Sat 11.30am-11pm, Sun 11.30am-9.30pm
Phone: +1 312 951 1888
Internet: www.bigbowl.com

Indulge in authentic Spanish tapas at Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba. The menu also offers other traditional dishes like paella, and, to wash it all down, try the Spanish drink sangria. Every Saturday and Sunday, a Spanish brunch is served. This is a restaurant where you can enjoy quality food for a reasonable price.

Photo: CatchaSnap/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2024 N Halsted St, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 4pm-10pm, Fri 11.30am-12pm, Sat 9am-12pm, Sun 9am-10pm
Phone: +1 773 935 5000
Internet: www.cafebabareeba.com

Locating a great cafe in Chicago poses no difficulty. Choose from large American chains or smaller, more intimate cafes that serve artisan coffee and hand-made pastries. They are scattered across the city, so enjoy one while taking a break from sightseeing and shopping.

Argo Tea has unique and tasty signature tea drinks, as well as traditional coffee choices. They blend their own tea, providing the customer with original drinks hardly found elsewhere.

Photo: Shulevskyy Volodymyr/Shutterstock.com
Address: 16 W Randolph St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 324 3899
Internet: www.argotea.com
More Info: Additional locations in Chicago: 819 N. Rush St.; 1 N. Dearborn St.; 140 S. Dearborn St.; 1 S. Franklin St.; 3135 N. Broadway; 435 N. Michigan Ave.; 222 Merchandise Mart, Ste. 113; 958 W. Armitage Ave.; and at Willis Tower, University of Chicago Medical Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and O'Hare Airport.
Cafe Selmarie
At Cafe Selmarie you can dive into cakes, pastries, tarts and cookies. They do not only have delicious desserts, but also a full-service espresso bar and Intelligentsia coffee.
Photo: Elena Veselova/Shutterstock.com
Address: 4729 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago
Phone: +1 773 989 5595
Internet: www.cafeselmarie.com

Atwood
Atwood offers customers an original interpretation of American cuisine. Here you can find something for everyone, including vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options.
Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1 W Washington St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 368 1900
Internet: www.atwoodcafe.com

Gallery Cafe
Located in the Wicker Park / Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago, this locally-owned coffee shop roasts all of its own coffee beans. Affordable breakfasts and lunches are made to order, with vegetarian options available. The cafe also displays works by local artists. Free Wi-Fi available.
Photo: Natalia Deriabina/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1760 W North Ave, Chicago
Public Transport: Blue Line to Damen O’Hare
Phone: +1 773 252 8228

The Wormhole Cafe
Enjoy your coffee while checking out the Wormhole's collection of 80s memorabilia, from retro movie posters to the 'Back to the Future' DeLorean. Also serves breakfast and lunch.
Photo: Stay_Positive/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1462 Milwaukee Ave, Chicago
Phone: +1 773 661 2468
Internet: www.thewormhole.us

Pick Me Up Cafe
This late-night diner and espresso bar is located close to Wrigley Field. A local favorite, Pick Me Up also has a full bar and serves a wide variety of menu options, including vegetarian. Street parking is available.
Photo: VGstockstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3408 N Clark St, Chicago
Public Transport: Red Line to Addison or Belmont; Brown Line to Belmont or Southport; or Purple Line to Belmont
Phone: +1 773 248 6613

Bridgeport Coffee Company
Bridgeport Coffee Company was founded in 2004. They roast their own coffee beans, which are sold to coffee bars and restaurants in Chicago and throughout the U.S. With a commitment to providing organic, fair trade products, Bridgeport Coffee Company has been named the Best Coffee Shop in Chicago by
TimeOut Chicago. Also serves breakfast and lunch.

Photo: illustrissima/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3101 S Morgan St, Chicago
Phone: +1 773 247 9950
Internet: www.bridgeportcoffeecompany.com

Intelligentsia
Intelligentsia coffee is served all over Chicago, but why not go straight to the source? While Intelligentsia is now a national chain with locations in Los Angeles and New York, this coffee roaster opened its flagship location on North Broadway in Chicago in 1995.

Photo: george photo cm/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1233 N Wells St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 229 1400
Internet: www.intelligentsiacoffee.com

Star Lounge Coffee Bar
With an ever-rotating menu of uniquely-flavored coffees, Star Lounge Coffee Bar serves Dark Matter Coffee, which is locally roasted by the owner. Come for the coffee and stay for the atmosphere and friendly staff.

Photo: Kichigin/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2521 W Chicago Ave, Chicago
Phone: +1 773 384 7827
Internet: www.starloungecoffee.com

Julius Meinl
Julius Meinl brings the atmosphere of a Viennese coffee house to Chicago. A well-known brand in Vienna, Austria and Central Europe, Julius Meinl Coffee is served in many leading cafes in Vienna. They also offer delicious Viennese dishes and pastries from the Julius Meinl Patisserie.

Photo: Cyndi58/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3601 N Southport Ave, Chicago
Phone: +1 773 868 1857
Internet: www.meinlus.com
More Info: Additional location at 4115 N Ravenswood Ave

The Coffee Studio
The Coffee Studio is a modern, independent espresso bar focused on expertly crafting delicious drinks and snacks from fresh locally-roasted coffee beans and simple, flavorful ingredients. Now serving wine and craft beers.

Photo: Sundays Photography/Shutterstock.com
Address: 5628 N Clark St in Andersonville, Chicago
Opening hours: Daily 6.30am-9pm
Phone: +1 773 271 7881
Internet: www.thecoffeestudio.com
More Info: Free Wi-Fi with purchase

Asado Coffee Co.
Pioneers of the brewed-to-order coffee movement, Asado Coffee Co. use ceramic drippers to brew your perfect cup of coffee and tirelessly pursue the art of coffee roasting, the products of
which are available for purchase.

Beverly Bakery
Beverly Bakery's custom coffees are brewed fresh daily and can also be ordered online. Stop by for breakfast or order a delicious pastry to go with your coffee.

Grand Lux Cafe
Indulgence and variety are the key words to define Grand Lux Cafe. Their menu features dishes from across the globe, including Thai, Malaysian, Caribbean, European, and classic American. Aside from ample portions that are perfect for sharing, Grand Lux Cafe also features several signature drinks and a wide selection of spirits to enhance your meal.

Ipsento
If you're looking for something different than an average cup o' joe, visit Ipsento. Their coffees are roasted on-site, and they feature a wide variety of drinks that you won't find anywhere else. Try the Nutella Latte, Cardamom Rose, or Pumpkin Latte when in season.

The Perfect Cup
For a great cup of coffee, try the Perfect Cup. They have coffee classics like lattes and espressos, as well as house specialties. They also offer a light breakfast or lunch, as well as delectable pastries.
For nightlife, head to the many cocktail lounges, sports bars or dance clubs that dot the entertainment landscape. Or get tickets to legendary comedy club The Second City. Famous jazz and blues clubs abound, as well as smaller venues that represent local musicians and quiet bars with small bands playing music from around the world. Keep in mind that the legal drinking age is 21.

Learn more at:
www.visittheusa.com/destination/chicago

The Signature Room/Signature Lounge
The Signature Room offers a breathtaking view from the top floor of the John Hancock center. Do not forget to try their Signature martini "Sidecar" once you are there.

Le Colonial Lounge
Le Colonial isn’t only a refined dining establishment, but also a lounge featuring a chic bar popular with the young, clubby set. It is located upstairs from the restaurant of the same name. The staff serve tasty cocktails in a comfortable and romantic setting.

Luxbar
Luxbar is a sophisticated two-story bar that features elegant marble floors and tables, mahogany walls and a stunning marble staircase that makes you feel like a movie star. Serves dinner as well as inventive cocktails.

The Original Mother’s
Division street is known for its bar scene, and Mother’s does not disappoint. A large venue with stylish antique sofas and easy chairs out front, with a lively dance floor in the back. The famed setting for the 1986 cult film, “About Last Night”.

BARS & NIGHTLIFE
Clayton Hauck/Choose Chicago
House of Blues

House of Blues is an international chain of clubs, which promote current rock bands and other various acts performing jazz, blues, soul, funk and pop music.

Buddy Guy's Legends

Buddy Guy's Legends is a world-famous live blues club named for Rock & Roll Hall of Fame legend, Buddy Guy. This is the place to go for blues!

Jazz Showcase

Jazz Showcase is a famous venue for live Chicago jazz since 1947. Here you can always find a good program, and on Sundays there are matinees with special discounts for students, seniors and musicians.

Redhead Piano Bar

Gather around the piano and sing along to live music. The Redhead Piano Bar's intimate atmosphere is conducive to connecting with old...
and new friends over a drink and a song. Business casual attire is required.

Photo: archimede/Shutterstock.com
Address: 16 W. Ontario Street, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 640 1000
Internet: www.theredheadpianobar.com

**Kingston Mines**

This is the place to go for live blues music. Kingston Mines has been around since 1968, and this is one blues locale that really delivers. Stay all night, since the music doesn't stop, with bands rotating on two stages until 3:30 a.m. Kingston Mines also has a late-night kitchen serving a full menu. Make sure to try the BBQ ribs.

Photo: Kohlhuber Media Art/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2548 N. Halsted St., Chicago
Public Transport: Brown Line or Purple Line to Fullerton or Diversey
Phone: +1 773 477 4647
Internet: www.kingstonmines.com

**Metro/SmartBar**

With nearly nightly live shows, Metro has been a staple of the Chicago music scene since it first opened in 1982, and has hosted major acts as well as promoted up-and-coming artists from the Chicago area and all over the nation. Smart Bar is located on the basement floor of Metro and follows the same principle of promoting artists on the rise. Come here Wednesday through Sunday nights to dance to some of the hottest DJs Chicago has to offer.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

**Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret**

Davenport's is definitely the place to go for entertainment and atmosphere, with a piano bar located in the front room, and a cabaret in the back.

Photo: Inga Dudkina/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1383 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago
Phone: + 1 773 278 1830
Internet: www.davenportspianobar.com

**The J. Parker**

Enjoy your drink with class and a spectacular view in one of the lounges of The J. Parker, sitting above the Lincoln Hotel.

Photo: Andrei Mayatnik/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1816 N. Clark Street, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 254 4747
Internet: www.jparkerchicago.com

**Three Dots and a Dash**

Owner of Three Dots and a Dash Paul McGee is one of Chicago’s favorite mixologist. His newest bar centers around a 16 drink menu, focusing on eight classics and eight new creations, and has a Hawaiian tiki bar feel. Make sure to try the famous Painkiller No. 3 and enjoy some snacks. It's a great place to mingle with Chicagoans.
must be 21 years old or older to enter.

Photo: Bochkarev Photography/Shutterstock.com
Address: 435 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 5pm-2am, Fri 4pm-2am, Sat 4pm-3am
Phone: +1 312 610 4220
Internet: www.threedotschicago.com

**Billy Sunday**

When mixologist Alex Bachman and Yusho eatery chef Matthias Merges joined forces, they created Billy Sunday, a cozy, high concept cocktail bar. Their drink menu features unique ingredients such as quince, grenadine, and ambergris-laced palm sugar; their food menu has items like pig ears and a chicken liver spread. Each of their 10 signature drinks feature different spirits. If you prefer more straight up beverages, they are able to accommodate all tastes.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3143 West Logan Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60647
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 5pm-2am, Sat 5pm-3am, Sun 3pm-1am
Phone: +1 773 661 2485
Internet: www.billy-sunday.com

**The Berkshire Room**

Located in the Acme Hotel, the Berkshire Room is a popular night spot for Chicagoans. Benjamin Schiller’s Blue Collar Lagers menu has become famous for its variety and delicious offers. Executive Chef Chris Curren offers delicious food to complement the fantastic drink menu. Try the the Dealer’s Choice: you choose the liquor, flavor, and glassware, and the bartender crafts your drink from there.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com
Address: 15 East Ohio Street, Chicago, IL 60611
Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 11am-12am, Sat 10am-2am, Sun 10am-12am
Phone: +1 773 384 3333
Internet: www.theberkshireroom.com

**Parson’s Chicken & Fish**

Parson’s Chicken & Fish is a delightful bar that features a friendly outdoor atmosphere (weather and season permitting) and a great mix of food and drinks. Signature Negroni Slushies are a popular item. If you don’t try a Negroni Slushie, then opt for a Smoky Paloma; its ingredients include tequila, St. Germain, lime juice, San Pellegrino Pompelmo, mezcal, and salt.

Photo: Shane W Thompson/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2952 West Armitage Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647
Opening hours: Sun-Fri 6pm-2am, Sat 6pm-3am
Phone: +1 773 384 3333
Internet: www.parsonschickenandfish.com

**Punch House**

Punch House is a 1970s recreational room-themed basement bar. The laid back atmosphere makes the bar a great place to relax after a busy day out on the town. Try the Garrick Club: gin, cherry liqueur, raw sugar, lemon juice, and carbonation.

Photo: Tarik Kaan Muslu/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1227 West 18th Street, Chicago, IL 60608
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 6pm-2am, Sat 6pm-3am
Phone: +1 312 526 3851
Shopping is a big deal in Chicago. Don’t miss Michigan Avenue’s 13-block stretch, The Magnificent Mile, with more than 300 stores to explore, including major department stores, luxury boutiques and the can’t-miss, multi-level Water Tower Place mall.

Learn more at:
www.visittheusa.com/destination/chicago

The Magnificent Mile
A mile of exclusive luxury shops along North Michigan Avenue: Gucci, Escada, Prada, Cartier and all the other internationally famous high-end shops are represented here.

Photo: Alliance/Shutterstock.com
Address: N Michigan Avenue, Chicago
Internet: www.themagnificentmile.com

Bloomingdale’s Building
This is an eight-story shopping structure with upscale, luxury shops, including the Chicago flagship Bloomingdale’s location. It also houses restaurants and cinemas.

Photo: www.BillionPhotos.com/Shutterstock.com
Address: 900 N Michigan, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 11am-6pm
Phone: +1 312 915 3916
Internet: www.shop900.com

Water Tower Place
This is sophisticated shopping in a spectacular eight-level atrium building. Situated across from the Chicago Water tower, which is one of the only surviving structures of the 1871 great Chicago fire. There are restaurants and a cinema on-site.

Photo: Diego Cervo/Shutterstock.com
Address: 835 N Michigan Ave, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 11am-6pm
Phone: +1 312 440 3166
Internet: www.shopwatertower.com

Broadway & Clark Street
An assortment of chic, funky shops extend for several blocks west on Broadway, and north and south on Clark Street. Vintage clothing shops, stylish one-of-a-kind boutiques, and edgy shops with motorcycle gear inspired clothes and accessories all converge in these few blocks.
Piper's Alley

Having undergone several renovations over the years, this four-story mall located in historical Old Town Chicago was originally built in the 1970s. In addition to containing restaurants and shops, it is also the home to Second City, the renowned improvisational comedy group that has launched the careers of several famous comedians, such as SNL stars Chris Farley, John Belushi, Dan Akroyd and Tina Fey as well as "The Office" star Steve Carell. Catch a show today to glimpse tomorrow’s comedy stars.

Photo: michaeljung/Shutterstock.com
Address: 210 W North Ave, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 337 0436
Internet: www.pipersalleyparking.com

Andersonville Galleria

Part gallery, part boutique mall, find virtually everything at one of the nearly 100 locally-owned shops located at Andersonville Galleria. Located in Chicago’s Andersonville neighborhood, it features deli, clothing, accessories, and home furnishings at some of its unique stores.

Photo: stacyarturogi/Shutterstock.com
Address: 5247 N Clark St, Chicago
Public Transport: Red Line to Berwyn stop
Phone: +1 773 878 8570
Internet: www.andersonvillegalleria.com

Block Thirty Seven

Five stories and an entire city block of shopping, dining and entertainment, Block Thirty Seven (also known as 108 North State Street) is located in the heart of the Loop in downtown Chicago. Browse contemporary goods at shops like Akira, Eileen Fisher, and Sabon.

Photo: LuckyImages/Shutterstock.com
Address: 108 N State St, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 261 4700

Century Shopping Centre

This seven-level vertical shopping center was originally built as a 3,000-seat theater in the 1920s. It now houses a seven-screen theater complex housed on the center’s upper floors as well as the Aveda Institute of Chicago, a CVS pharmacy and shops offering personal services. Parking is available in the garage adjacent to the mall.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2828 N Clark St #44, Chicago
Phone: +1 773 929 8499
Internet: www.thecenturychicago.com

Randolph Street Market

Vintage is always vogue at the Randolph Street Market Festival, home to the Chicago Antique Market, Indie Designer Market, Modern Vintage Chicago and the Holiday Market. Enjoy music, food and drinks as you browse.
ikram
High-end women’s boutique carrying a mix of American, European and Japanese designs and named after owner Ikram Goldman, who has styled Chicago’s elites.

Goorin Bros.
Four generations of the Goorin family have been bringing quality headwear to the U.S. for over 100 years. These hat makers have two locations in Chicago.

Leaders1354
Leaders 1354 has been Chicago’s leading source for stylish street wear since 2002. Located in Wicker Park, Leaders 1354 also has a web-based store where you can order online.

Chicago Premium Outlets
Enjoy discounts on your favorite brands at 120 outlet stores, such as Banana Republic, Calvin Klein, J. Crew and Kenneth Cole.

The Shops at Northbridge
These four levels of world-class shops and restaurants encompass seven blocks of the Magnificent Mile.

Woodfield Mall
Surround yourself with fashion, food, and fun with the most distinctive collection of shopping, dining and entertainment. Woodfield has the finest collection of department stores and specialty shops in the Great Lakes region including...
Nordstrom, Macy's, Lord & Taylor, JCPenney, Sears and nearly 300 stores and restaurants.

Photo: gpointstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 5 Woodfield Shopping Center, Schaumburg
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 11am-6pm
Phone: +1 847 330 0220
Internet: www.simon.com/mall/woodfield-mall

Garrett Popcorn Shop

What makes Garrett Popcorn special? They hot air pop their signature blend of kernels, which they then mix into their secret family recipes. Every batch is handmade daily and the result is an irresistible snacking sensation, which has generated lines of historic proportions outside of their retail locations for decades.

Photo: Nomad_Soul/Shutterstock.com
Address: 401 N Michigan Ave Ste 1700, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 10am-8pm, Fri-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 10am-7pm
Phone: +1 888 476 7267
Internet: www.garrettpopcorn.com

American Girl Place

If you have a daughter, niece, or relative who is a fan of dolls, you must stop and visit the American Girl Place while in Chicago. Specializing in custom dolls to fit given physical descriptions as well as story-centric dolls, American Girl has the perfect gift for any little girl. Choose from hundreds of options including skin color, hair color and style, outfit, eye color, and a plethora of other options. Also on-site is a restaurant, photo studio, doll hair salon, and plenty of souvenirs. Check their website before visiting for special offers.

Photo: michaeljung/Shutterstock.com
Address: 835 North Michigan Ave, Chicago
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 10am-8pm, Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 9am-6pm
Phone: +1 877 247 5223
Internet: www.americangirl.com

Fashion Outlets of Chicago

Dive headfirst into some of the best shopping in town at the Fashion Outlets of Chicago, located only 24 kilometers from downtown Chicago. This expansive, indoor outlet destination is packed with over 130 designer stores featuring savings of up to 75% off. Anchored by Bloomingdale’s The Outlet Store, Neiman Marcus Last Call, Nordstrom Rack, Saks Fifth Avenue Off 5th and Forever 21, the Fashion Outlets stands apart as the only multi-level shopping outlet in the U.S. Midwest.

Photo: AnemStyle/Shutterstock.com
Address: 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 10am-7pm
Phone: +1 847 928 7500
Internet: www.visittheusa.com/experience/fashion-outlets-chicago-illinois-designer-brands-just-outside-city

Destination: Chicago, Illinois
Publishing date: 2019-03-19
TOURIST INFORMATION

Passport / Visa

Citizens of the Schengen countries, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Kingdom of Brunei can visit the United States for up to 90 days without applying for a visa (as well as citizens of Andorra, Lichtenstein, Monaco and San Marino). Citizens of these countries must obtain an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) before traveling. All other travelers must obtain a visa before visiting the United States. International travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the country.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Airport

Chicago has two airports: O’Hare International Airport and Midway Airport. O’Hare is approximately 18 miles (30 km) northwest of the city center. Midway Airport is 6.5 miles (10 km) southwest of the city center. The Blue Line train takes passengers to and from O’Hare and downtown Chicago and runs 24 hours a day. The Orange Line train takes passengers to and from Midway airport and downtown Chicago and also runs 24 hours.

Taxis take about 20-30 minutes to get to the city center.

Best Time to Visit

Contrary to what its nickname – “Windy City” – implies, winds aren’t too much of a concern, and the nickname itself ties in with Chicago's political history more than its climate. The best times to visit are around Christmas season (for the festive lights and holiday atmosphere), or, if higher temperatures are what you prefer, any time from late spring (April) to early fall.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport

Chicago has an excellent system of trains, buses and a commuter rail. Pay in cash on the bus and in exact change. Transit cards may be purchased at selected outlets, which eliminates the hassle of needing exact change. You may also call and get exact directions on public transport to and from any destination in the city. RTA Travel Information service is available seven days a
week, including holidays, 04.45-1.00 for travel information on CTA, PACE, and Metra.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair
Phone: +1 312 836 7000
Internet: www.transitchicago.com
More Info: For Hearing Impaired +1 312 836 4949

Taxi

It is very easy to find a taxi downtown or near the Miracle Mile. There is no extra charge for baggage or credit card use, and tipping is optional.

Yellow Cab Company: +1 312 829 4222
Checker Taxi Company: +1 312 243 2537

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Pharmacy

Walgreens is open 24 hours, seven days a week and there are a number of Walgreens in downtown Chicago.

Photo: Gemma Garner
Address: 757 North Michigan, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 664 8686
Internet: www.walgreens.com

Post

The Main Post Office is located on 433 West Harrison Street. Visit the website for more information.

Photo: Andy Fuchs
Address: 433 West Harrison Street, Chicago
Phone: +1 312 983 8030
Internet: www.usps.com
More Info: Toll free +1 800 275 8777

Telephone

Country Code: +1 Area Code Chicago: 312 or 773

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

110 volts, 60 hz Standard two-pin plugs

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
2.84 million

Currency
Dollar, 1 $ (USD) = 100 cents

Internet
www.visittheusa.com/destination/chicago

Newspapers
Chicago Tribune
Chicago SunTimes
The Reader
Time Out Chicago
(weekly magazine with event listings)

Emergency numbers
911

Tourist information
Chicago Office of Tourism
Chicago Cultural Center
77 E. Randolph Street
Chicago Water Works
163 E. Pearson Street
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