

## **Attractions**

### [Navy Pier](#)

600 East Grand Avenue, Chicago

Chicago's favorite playground on the lake including Chicago Children's Museum, IMAX theatre, live entertainment, shopping and restaurants.

### [Millennium Park](#)

Michigan Ave., between Monroe St. and Randolph St.

Famous Chicago area in the heart of downtown with beautiful landmarks, sculptures, summer concerts, and much more. It's close to the lake, Michigan Ave. shopping, the Art Institute, and so much more!

### [Shedd Aquarium](#)

1200 S Lake Shore Dr., Chicago

An enormous aquarium filled with fascinating creatures and stunning exhibits. You can listen to the songs of beluga whales, shiver as a shark swims above your head, marvel at delicate sea horse, and so much more! It's also located right next to many other Chicago attractions.

### [John Hancock Observatory](#)

875 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago

Includes two innovative, interactive features: Windows of Chicago and Soundscape using virtual reality technology and virtual audio experience.

### [Sears Tower Skydeck](#)

233 S. Wacker Dr. (enter at Jackson Blvd.), Chicago

Since 1974 this soaring structure has been the world's tallest building. Take one of the 100 elevators to the Skydeck Observatory on the 103rd floor for a spectacular view of the city.

### [Lincoln Park Zoo](#)

2200 N Cannon Dr., Chicago

Chicago's beautiful, and free, zoo is a world of wildlife in the shadow of skyscrapers. See everything from flamingoes to lions as you wonder through this lush park that's only minutes away from the center of downtown Chicago.

### [Chicago Botanic Garden](#)

1000 Lake Cook Road in Glencoe, Illinois

### [Antique Coach](#)

Permanent tour

Horse-drawn carriage tours of downtown Chicago, Michigan and Huron Streets.

### [J.C. Cutters, Ltd.](#)

Permanent tour

Northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Huron Streets, Chicago

Horse-drawn carriage tours.

### [Noble Horse](#)

Permanent tour

Chicago

Horse-drawn carriage rides, Michigan Ave. and Pearson St.

## **Museums**

### [The Art Institute of Chicago](#)

111 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

One of the great art museums of the world, they have a collection spanning 5,000 years of artistic expression. Paintings, prints and drawings, sculptures, photographs, video, textiles, and architectural drawings and fragments are complemented by a year-round schedule of exhibitions.

### [The Museum of Contemporary Art](#)

220 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago

One of the largest modern art museums in the United States, the MCA exhibits art that's thought-provoking and all created post-1945. The art umbrella covers painting, sculpture, photography, video, film and performance.

### [Field Museum](#)

1400 S. Lake Shore Dr, Chicago

The Field Museum's collection of biological, anthropological, natural, and historical items is one of the largest and finest in the world with over 20 million specimens. There are also always fascinating special exhibits to make the Field experience even better.

### [Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum](#)

1300 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago

The Adler Planetarium is the United States' first planetarium and it features two full-size planetarium theaters. The Astronomy Museum portion of the Adler contains one of the most important antique astronomy scientific instrument collections in the world.

#### [Museum of Science and Industry](#)

57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

This is an enormous museum great for adults just as much as kids. Some of the remarkable exhibits include a real German submarine, an Omnimax theater, and a detailed model of Chicago. There's something for everyone at this landmark on the south-side of Chicago.

#### [Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](#)

2430 N. Cannon Dr., Chicago

This nature museum is a refreshing break from the hustle and bustle of Chicago. You can meander through a butterfly-filled greenhouse as well as an airy, information-rich museum celebrating the beauty and intricacies of nature. It's a fun addition to a trip to its neighbor, the Lincoln Park Zoo.

#### [Chicago History Museum](#)

1601 N. Clark St., Chicago

A great way to get to learn about the past, present, and future of this marvelous city you're visiting. Dioramas, artworks, and antiques are just some of the ways this museum makes Chicago's history accessible.

#### [Above & Beyond](#)

Permanent exhibition

National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum

1801 S. Indiana Avenue, Chicago

Exhibit, comprised of imprinted dog tags, ...for more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War. This is the first new permanent Vietnam War memorial, other than The Wall in Washington, D.C., to list all those killed in action.

#### **Nightlife**

[Metromix Chicago](#) is a great way to find interesting nightlife in the [River North area](#), and it's all within a few blocks of the Renaissance Hotel!

#### [Andy's](#) (Jazz Music)

11 E. Hubbard St., Chicago

312- 642-6805

#### [House of Blues](#)

House of Blues® Chicago

329 N. Dearborn

Chicago, IL 60610

312.923.2000

#### [Blue Chicago](#)

736 N. Clark St., Chicago IL 312-642-6261

This 1940's-style bar has live blues music nightly. They feature Chicago's best blues musicians and vocalists and there's a warm, friendly atmosphere.

#### [Kingston Mines](#)

2548 North Halsted, Chicago IL 60614 - 773-477-4646

#### [Buddy Guy's Legends](#)

754 S. Wabash, Chicago IL, 60605 - 312-427-0333

Other jazz clubs:

<http://www.centerstagechicago.com/music/clubs/styles/jazz.html>

#### [Howl at the Moon](#)

26 W. Hubbard St., Chicago IL - 312-863-7427

This unusual saloon-like club features a fun atmosphere complete with dueling pianists who encourage diners to belt out familiar tunes. It's a real Chicago favorite.

#### [Celtic Crossings](#)

751 N. Clark St., Chicago IL 312-337-1005

Here's a true Irish pub with a comfy atmosphere, an authentic Irish vibe, good food and even live Irish music.

## **Art & Architecture**

### [Architecture in Chicago](#)

Chicago's most identifiable claim to fame resides in its architecture. Considered a veritable museum of modern architecture, it is the birthplace of the skyscraper.

### [Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts](#)

1012 N. Dearborn

The mission of The Palette & Chisel Academy of Fine Arts is to foster growth in the visual arts, provide a place for serious artists to work, and enrich the community with programs of art education, appreciation and exhibitions.

### [Riverwalk Gateway](#)

Available for viewing year-round

400 E. Wacker Dr. (at the river's edge)

Chicago

Chicago's largest work of public art to date, Riverwalk Gateway by Ellen Lanyon tells the history of Chicago and its river. The magnificent 336-foot long wall installation consists of sixteen narrative panels and twelve decorative panels.

### [Chicago Cultural Center Website](#)

Visit the Chicago Cultural Center website. The city's architectural showplace for the lively and visual arts presents free programs and exhibitions. Open every day except holidays.

### [Chicago Landmarks Before The Lens](#)

Ongoing

Chicago Cultural Center, Landmark Chicago Gallery

78 E. Washington Street, Chicago

Presented by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, this exhibition features 72 black and white photographs of 24 landmarks and historic districts by Richard Nickel, Barbara Crane, Bob Thall, and Stephen Beal.

### [CitySpace](#)

Permanent exhibition

2x12-foot architect's model of downtown Chicago, models of new Chicago buildings, interactive virtual tours of skyscrapers, videos of tours and interviews with famous architects, and an architecture timeline.

### [Martin D'Arcy Gallery of Art](#)

Tuesday - Saturdays 12noon - 4pm when classes are in session

6525 N. Sheridan Road

The Martin D'Arcy Museum of Art is Loyola University Chicago's museum of Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque art.

## **Music & Dance**

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### [Chicago SummerDance](#)

June 12 - August 24, 2008

Spirit of Music Garden, Grant Park

601 S. Michigan Ave., between Harrison and Balbo, across from Columbia College

The 11th annual Chicago SummerDance festival of free outdoor public dancing and live music returns June 12 - August 24, 2008

## **Recommended Restaurants**

[Vermilion](#)

[Tizi Melloul](#)

[Park Grill](#)

## **Shopping**

### [The Merchandise Mart](#)

222 Merchandise Mart Plaza

Chicago, IL 60654

312.527.4141

[The Magnificent Mile Shopping Guide to Michigan Avenue](#)