

Chapter 1 : Free Chicago Visitors Guide | View Online or Order a Free Copy

Chicago Traveler is the perfect travel guide for the first-time or frequent visitor, offering the best information & resource links to help anyone plan a great visit.

Art lovers can spend days wandering around the Art Institute of Chicago, music lovers can spend every evening listening to blues and jazz acts at historic venues like the Green Mill, while architecture fans can join guided tours of Downtown Chicago and see every Art Deco building the city has to offer. The Windy City is also a hub for shoppers – with the craft market at Lincoln Square, the endless supply of boutiques on Michigan Avenue, and city center malls like Water Tower Place. Top 5 Reasons to Visit Chicago 1. Sports Chicago is a sporting city. Food Chicagoans love to eat. Museums Chicago has a vast collection of galleries and museums to explore. Culture Chicago is also a city of art and music. Jazz is another speciality, and fans should catch a show at the Green Mill N Broadway St which was once owned by an associate of the infamous American gangster, Al Capone. What to do in Chicago 1. Chicago Designed in celebration of the year , Millennium Park is a feat of urban planning most famous for Cloud Gate, A. In the spirit of progressive design and fueled by the advent of a new millennium, the park is still ahead of its time with its focus on sustainability and accessibility. This makes it an awesome outing for all! Art Institute of Chicago: Visitors make pilgrimages here to see the colorful pointillist work of Georges Seurat, and masterpieces by Picasso. This means cutting edge research, constant expansion, and a focus on reaching the public at its center. Nicknamed the "Mag Mile" and running along Michigan Avenue, it is home to the Chicago Four Seasons and other excellent fine dining options. Museum of Science and Industry: They have gone above and beyond in their educational efforts: Go Cubs Wrigley Field, named after the all-American chewing gum of the 20th-century penny-candy era, was opened in Maintaining an air of maturity, this baseball park is one of the two oldest in the nation and home to the Chicago Cubs. With a weathered facade, a hand-operated scoreboard, and outfield walls covered in iconic ivy, Wrigley Field could not be more traditionally delightful. Top activities in Chicago.

Chapter 2 : A First-Timer's Chicago Travel Guide – Stories About Food

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There is an enclosed tunnel that links the station and airport but it takes approximately minutes to walk from one to the other. There are a number of hotels clustered around Midway, too – see the Southwest Side article for listings. Approximately three hundred aircraft are based on the field and approximately , take-offs and landings occur annually. Private jet charter companies such as DuPage Aerospace and Chicago Private Jets offer access to thousands of private aircraft based at airports in Chicago and across the United States. Onward connections to Denver. Very frequent service to destinations throughout the Midwest with connections to most of the US, Canada and Mexico. The main terminal is near the southwestern corner of the Loop. Services include bus charters, tours, shuttles, airport transfers, casino runs and daily scheduled routes throughout Michigan and into Chicago and Duluth as well as Milwaukee. Runs connect directly with both the Amtrak and Greyhound national networks, connecting passengers with some 60 other bus transportation companies in the U. More information about Indian Trails. Call Indian Trails at: Louis , St Paul and Toledo. Common destinations are Peoria, Normal, Champaign, Chicago. Some southern lines run from stations on the east side of the Loop. However, most expressway signs in the city have both the name of the expressway and the number. I the Stevenson Expressway will take you from the southwest city and the southwest suburbs to downtown Chicago. I called The Kennedy north of downtown comes in from the northwest city and northwest suburbs. I called the Edens Expressway comes in from the North Side and the northern suburbs to downtown. I runs south of the city in an east-west direction, linking with several north-south expressways. When traveling the tollway, always have a few dollars in cash and coins to pay at the booths, which are staffed on mainline toll plazas. If arriving on I from the southwest, or on I the Eisenhower Expressway, formerly and sometimes still called The Congress Expressway from the west, the skyline is also visible. If arriving from north or south on Lake Shore Drive U. Highway 41 a scenic introduction will be provided, day or night, on what has to be the most beautiful thoroughfare in the world. Block numbers are consistent across the whole city. Hence, a mile is equivalent to a street number difference of Each street is assigned a number based on its distance from the zero point of the address system, the intersection of State Street and Madison Street. Major thoroughfares are at each mile multiples of and secondary arteries at the half-mile marks. Thus, Western Ave at W 3 miles west of State Street is a north-south major thoroughfare, while Montrose Ave at N is an east-west secondary artery. In general, "avenues" run north-south and "streets" run east-west, but there are numerous exceptions. In conversation, however, Chicagoans rarely distinguish between streets, avenues, boulevards, etc. Interestingly, many of the angled streets in Chicago including Archer Ave. On foot[edit] Downtown Chicago is very walkable, with wide sidewalks, beautiful architecture, and an abundance of hotels, shopping, restaurants, and cultural attractions. The Chicago Pedway System is helpful for walkers looking to avoid cold or snow. It is a system of underground, ground-level, and above-ground passages that connect downtown buildings. By public transit[edit] The best way to see Chicago is by public transit. It is cheap basically , efficient at times , and safe for the most part. You can plan trips online with the RTA trip planner or get assistance by calling in any local area code between 5am and 1am. The RTA also has an official partnership with Google Maps, which can provide routes with public transit. Put simply, the CTA is Chicago. It is a marvel and a beast, convenient and irreplaceable. Fares are paid with a card system called Ventra. Passes can be bought and re-filled at kiosks in the lobby of every CTA station, or online. The kiosks accept cash and credit cards. You have the option of buying a pass, good for unlimited rides for a set number of days, or simply putting cash on the card. With an online account, you can add more credit to your card or buy additional unlimited ride passes as needed. At many stations, you can transfer to another L line at no additional cost. You can pay for up to six additional riders fares with a single Ventra card by simply passing the card back to your travel companion after you go through the turnstiles at L stations or telling bus drivers you are paying for multiple fares upon entering a bus

they have to initiate the reader to accept multiple fares on the same card. Most lines run on elevated tracks

€” get it? All train lines radiate from the Loop to every corner of the city. The "Loop" name originally referred to a surface-level streetcar loop, which pre-dated the elevated tracks. All lines lead to the Loop except the Yellow Line, which is a shuttle between the suburb of Skokie and the northern border of Chicago. Hours for the other lines vary somewhat by the day, but as a general rule run from about 4: Before you travel, find out the name of the train station closest to your destination, and the color of the train line on which it is located. The same map is also available online. There should be an attendant on duty at every train station. They cannot provide change or deal with money, but they can help you figure out where you need to go and guide you through using the machines. A CTA bus stop: Buses run on nearly every major street throughout the entire city, and in many cases, every four blocks apart. Look for the blue and white bus stop sign, which should show the route that the bus will take. Chicago has a large and comprehensive bus system, and buses typically run frequently. This allows Chicagoans to go to bus stops and wait for the bus without even looking at bus schedules, as buses usually run every few minutes apart. The major bus routes run every minutes apart during the morning and afternoon hours. In the evening, these same routes run about every minutes apart. The less traveled bus routes may run about minutes apart during the day. There are many bus routes that run 24 hours a day; these are called OWL routes and the bus stop sign usually has a picture of an owl to belabor that point. Overnight OWL service is approximately every 30 minutes. See individual district articles for major bus routes through different parts of the city. CTA buses accept transit cards but do not sell them. They also accept cash but do not provide change. Like any bus system, you pay exact fare or forfeit your change. If you are trying to get to a place with a non-accessible station, there will be alternate routes by bus so contact the CTA for more information. Crime on the CTA is low, but as with any major urban area, travellers should be aware of their surroundings, especially when travelling in the wee hours of the night. Some L cars have a button and speaker for emergency communication with the driver, located in the center aisle of the car on the wall next to the door. This is for emergencies only: Metra trains are fast, clean, and punctual, but unpleasantly crowded during rush hour. Generally, every car or every other car on the train has a bathroom. Although there are plans to change this in the future, none of the commuter trains currently accept CTA transit cards as payment. Buy your tickets before boarding the train at a window or one of the automated vending machines. Ten-ride, weekly, and monthly passes are available. If you have a group of four or more people, it may be cheaper to purchase a ten-ride card and have all of your fares punched from that one card. Keep in mind that Metra only accepts cash at this time. Digital tickets can also be purchased using the Ventra app for iPhone and Android. Pace provides paratransit services should you need to go somewhere inconvenient via CTA. By car[edit] Avoid driving in downtown Chicago if at all possible. Chicago-based parking tech companies such as ParqEx , SpotHero , and ParkWhiz allow booking off-street parking in advance after searching by location and price, often at rates that are heavily discounted. Although downtown streets are laid out on the grid, some streets have multiple levels which can confuse even the most hardened city driver. Even outside of the city center, street parking may not be readily available. If you do find a spot, check street signs to make sure that a no residential permit is required to park, and b parking is not disallowed during certain hours for street cleaning, rush hour or something along those lines. Parking restrictions are swiftly enforced in the form of tickets and towing €” be especially wary during snowy weather. On-street parking is handled by one-per-block kiosks, which will issue a slip for you to put in your front window. The kiosks will accept cash in the form of quarters ONLY, or credit cards. If you need to take or make a call, use a hands-free headset €” or better yet, pull over. Drivers on the city expressways can be very aggressive. For those used to driving on expressways in the Northeast US or Southern California, this may simply be a reminder of home. For everyone else, though, it may be intimidating. Check rates and book a reservation before boarding a bus. Some companies are closer than others--the better companies are located just up the main airport access road, while the lower-end discount agencies might be several miles away around the other side of the airport. When returning, be sure to allow plenty of time to find the rental lot, return the car, and ride the bus back to the terminal. Midway now has a consolidated rental facility hosting the rental counters and parking areas for all major companies.

Chapter 3 : Chicago Travel Guide: What to See, Do, Costs, & Ways to Save

Visit Chicago for an unforgettable adventure. Discover the best hotels, restaurants and things to do with this highly curated Chicago travel guide.

Top 5 Things to See and Do in Chicago

1. Relax in Grant and Millennium Park Located right downtown, these gigantic parks provide a great place to hang out, have a picnic, or go for a run. You can also find people playing chess out here and during the summer they have a lot of free concerts. From photography to architecture to textiles, this museum houses a permanent collection that includes works by Eva Hesse, David Hockney, and Ellsworth Kelly. The museum is open daily from 10am-5pm. With a large Irish-American population, St. Navy Pier is sort of like a carnival in a city. It contains some rides, a Ferris wheel, lots of restaurants, a Shakespeare theater, boat tours, an oddly large number of beer gardens, and even miniature golf. Wright helped make Chicago architecture famous and this house is one of his best-known buildings. Discounts are available for students and seniors.
2. Other Things to See and Do Click the title to expand the text
3. Visit the Oriental Institute Museum Despite its name, the collection has nothing to do with the Orient, but instead is a huge archaeological collection of objects from ancient Egypt. It has changing art exhibits. Stop by the City History Museum This museum provides a good overview of the history of the city, especially of the Great Chicago Fire that burned down most of the city. See the Cubs play Locals are fanatical about their baseball team. Get in the spirit and head out to a game. Eat the famous pizza Chicago developed the deep dish pizza, as well as the stuffed crust pizza, and no trip is complete without trying at least one. The deep dish pizza was invented by Pizzeria Uno, which is now a national restaurant chain. Stroll down the Magnificent Mile This stretch along Michigan Avenue is known for its upscale designer boutiques. It features art that was created by Vietnam war veterans and, more recently, veterans from Iraq. This museum is open daily except Sundays and Mondays from 10am-5pm. Get acquainted with nature The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is a beautiful institution with roof-top gardens, and plenty of information about the ecosystems surrounding Chicago. This museum is open daily from 9am-5pm except on the weekends when it opens at 10am. Meet a local Chicago has a local greeter program, which offers free walking tours of various neighborhoods from a knowledgeable local. This is a great opportunity to see more of the city from a more intimate, ground-level perspective. I highly, highly, highly recommend doing this!! I love greeter programs!
4. Downtown Chicago runs right next to the shore and offers a little piece of nature in a city of skyscrapers. Standing at 1,000 feet storeys, visitors can take the elevator to the SkyDeck for panoramic views over Chicago. Visit Shedd Aquarium Shedd Aquarium is one of the most impressive aquariums in the country, known for its impressive architecture and for its advanced approach to animal care and handling marine environments. There are 32, different species of sea life. You can feed sharks, get to know some penguins, and even pretend to be an animal trainer for a day. Now the museum has 24 million objects, with everything from mummies, to gemstones, to dinosaur fossils. Grab a glass of wine at the City Winery Chicago Riverwalk, and enjoy some people watching. Visit the Adler Planetarium This is the first planetarium in the United States, with immersive theater programs, exhibitions, and other fun events including lectures. There are also awesome special events, like Adler After Dark. Hostels offer free WiFi, free linens, and free breakfast. My suggested place is: At the lower end of the price range, you can find free WiFi, private bathrooms, heating and air-conditioning, and parking. Some hotels offer free breakfast. Chicago developed the deep dish pizza, as well as the stuffed crust pizza, and no trip is complete without trying at least one. Chicago is also home to many farmers markets for some fresh fruit and veggies, but the prices tend to be a bit higher than the supermarkets. Transit cards are required to ride CTA trains and are available from vending machines located at all train stations. There are also visitor passes that will allow you to have unlimited rides for a specific amount of days. Redeem hotel points
5. Be sure to sign up for hotel credit cards before you go and use those points when you travel. This is especially helpful in big cities. Be aware that most hotels charge parking fees if you have a car, and adjust your budget accordingly. Couchsurf

Couchsurfing started in the United States, and free accommodation offered can make up for the lack of hostels. Go on a free walking tour

This is a great way to learn the history behind the places you are seeing

and to avoid missing any must-see stops. Free Chicago Walking Tours has a number of interesting walking tours that can teach you about the history of the eclectic neighborhoods or show you all the scrumptious food the city has to offer. Tours are offered daily but require advance reservations. You can save money off your first rides with the following codes: It will show you how to easily collect and redeem travel points for free airfare and accommodation so you can get you out of your house faster, cheaper, and in comfort.

Chapter 4 : | Travel + Leisure

1., *Reviews of Chicago Lodging, Food, and Sights by other Travelers. TripAdvisor is the source for Chicago information.*

It was mostly swamps, prairie and mud long past the establishment of Fort Dearborn in and incorporation as a town in Chicago became a waypoint between the Great Lakes and the Wild West , where boats came to drop off settlers, and load crops and other goods from the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains. By , the reckless growth of the city was a sight to behold, full of noise, Gothic lunacy, and bustling commerce. But on October 8, Mrs. Most likely the cow story is fiction, but whatever the real reason, the Great Chicago Fire quickly spread through the dry prairie, killing and destroying virtually the entire city. The stone Water Tower in the Near North is the most famous surviving structure. But the city seized this destruction as an opportunity to rebuild bigger than before, giving canvas for several architects and urban planners who would go on to become legends of modern architecture. At the pinnacle of its rebirth and the height of its newfound powers, Chicago was known as The White City. Cream of Wheat, soft drinks, street lights and safe electricity, the fax machine, and the Ferris Wheel bespoke the colossus now resident on the shores of Lake Michigan. As every road had once led to Rome, every train led to Chicago. Chicago is also known as The Second City, which refers to its rebuilding after the fire – the current city is literally the second Chicago, after the one that disappeared in The local political world had scarcely more legitimacy in a town where voter turnout was highest among the dead and their pets, and precinct captains spread the word to "vote early, vote often. Today, Chicago is known as The Windy City. Walking around town, you might suspect that Chicago got this nickname from the winds off Lake Michigan, which shove through the downtown corridors with intense force. But the true origin of the saying comes from politics. Some say it may have been coined by rivals like Cincinnati and New York as a derogatory reference to the Chicagoan habit of rabid boosterism and endless political conventions. Others say that the term originated from the fact that Chicago politicians change their minds "as often as the wind. Daley and his father, former Mayor Richard J. Daley, ruled the city for decades in what can only be described as a benevolent dictatorship; as other Midwestern manufacturing cities like Cleveland and Detroit went into decline, Chicago thrived, transforming from a city of stockyards and factories to a financial giant at the forefront of modern urban design. While the city has many great attractions downtown, most Chicagoans live and play outside of the central business district. The good public transport, as well as its historical and current role as a major rail hub make Chicago one of the places best suited for visiting the United States without a car. Today, Chicago is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the United States, with the population almost evenly divided among whites, blacks and Hispanics. Chicago is also home to smaller communities of other origins, with the only Chinatown in the Midwest, as well as a Vietnamese community in Argyle, South Asians in Devon, and a Jewish community in the northern suburb of Skokie and surrounding neighbourhoods. However, decades of racist housing policies have also made Chicago a very racially segregated city; whites tend to be concentrated in the more affluent North Side, while blacks and Hispanics tend to be concentrated in the poorer South and West Sides. An exception to this rule is the neighbourhood of Hyde Park, where the University of Chicago is located, which stands out as an ethnically-diverse middle class neighbourhood in an otherwise black-dominated, poverty-stricken South Side. Talk[edit] As with most other American cities, English is the main language spoken in Chicago. However, Chicago is also home to large migrant populations from Latin America, and Spanish is also commonly heard. Government services are generally available in both English and Spanish. Various Asian languages may be spoken at businesses in neighborhoods dominated by Asian migrants. Although there are also large ethnic Italian and Polish communities in Chicago, most of these people have already lived in the US for several generations, and as such generally do not speak their ancestral languages. Traditionally, English was spoken in Chicago with distinctive accents, and you may still occasionally encounter the classic Chicago accent when speaking to older white working class Chicagoans. However, the classic Chicago accent is now moribund, and most younger white Chicagoans speak with a general Midwestern accent. On the other hand, the accents of many black Chicagoans retain certain features of Southern accents that are a legacy of the Great Migration of

African-Americans from the South in the 20th century.

Chapter 5 : Chicago Things to Do, Events, Restaurants, Hotels & Vacation Planning

Your guide will share the lawless history of Chicago's criminals, gangsters and mobsters as you explore the city's most famous crime scenes. Your tour takes you through River North, the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park, Old Town, the Loop and Magnificent Mile.

So, where do you start with such a HUGE city to conquer? Willis Tower is definitely a morning thing, while a sunset Architecture Tour is the perfect time to cruise the river! Willis Tower Willis Tower is a pretty iconic destination for many reasons – all of which make it difficult to get to the top without spending hours. Be sure to get there right when it opens, and definitely on a weekday if you can. Not only is it in a beautiful spot, but the pastries and food there are incredible. Eat lunch and get multiple pastries. Sneak said baked goods into iO Theatre. Eat sneakily while watching show. Leave crumbs as your criminal calling card. Feel like Al Capone. I was pretty skeptical about iO. Michael did the research on this one, so he knew I would like it, but anyway. We were laughing from beginning to end. We quoted it for days after. I wished that we had more time in Chicago to see another show because it was so good. A little pricier and racier. I know this is a dessert-filled day. And not simply because you can recreate a large and iconic portion of Ferris Bueller side note: While you are at the Art Institute, walk down to The Bean. It is swarming with people so beware. However, there is a caveat. We waited for almost 2 hours before we got seated, and we arrived there at the all hallowed hour of 3PM, where the universe has always agreed that most restaurants are empty. With no reservations, and a long wait at any time of the day, we recommend setting aside a few hours for this treat and going during the day. Foodie heaven street, am I right? The tour guide explains each building in detail, noting the time period in which it was built, what it was originally used for, and what it was modeled after, with tons of interesting stories about the city, the people, and how Chicago grew to be the huge city it is today. Choose the later evening tour so that you can take photos of Chicago at sunset. It was incredibly delicious, the wait was almost nothing, and look at that cheese. A Chicago travel guide must.

Chapter 6 : Chicago Travel Guide - Expert Picks for your Chicago Vacation | Fodor's

There are plenty of fun things to do in Chicago and we're here to help you plan your next vacation or business trip to our fair city. Explore the official tourism website for Chicago and find guides to events, attractions, restaurants, hotels, getting around the city and other vacation planning help.

There is nothing quite like a night out to a show in Chicago. With so many shows to choose from, get out and enjoy the amazing things Chicago has to offer! The Windy City has some of the top museums in the world. Try the Go Chicago Card for best deals on museums. North Avenue Beach is located near the historic neighborhood of Lincoln Park, and is a good beach to check out as a traveler. Bring your dog to the Montrose Dog Beach for a fun afternoon off the leash! The go-to Chicago destination for shopping and delicious restaurants, a trip to the Magnificent Mile needs to be squeezed into any Windy City trip itinerary. Window shop at some of the high-end stores like Prada or Burberry and then grab a bite to eat at any of the tasty spots in the area. Helpful Articles A lot of work goes into planning a trip to Chicago! Where should you go? What should you do? Who should come with? We know how many questions you have going into your next trip, and we have answers that cover all the bases! The Top 10 Sights in Chicago: Want to get to know the Windy City on a more personal level? If it starts to pour, you can still tour Or check out museums, shop, dine and more! Chicago Tours Take a ride out on Chicago waters during fun boat tours! For a cool way to see the Windy City, taking Chicago boat tours can let you enjoy the pretty outdoors, fresh air and exciting experience of being on a boat. Boat tours in Chicago can be especially romantic in the evenings, when lovebirds can view the sunset from aboard a boat. There are plenty of excellent Chicago food tours to pick from including highly rated Tastebud Food Tours which offers guests a memorable Chicago-style culinary experience at a leisurely pace. Who says you have to break the bank to visit Chicago?

Chapter 7 : Chicago Travel Guide: Blown Away By The Windy City

Chicago is a city with an appetite for food, of course, but also for design, history, and culture. Come here to marvel at the cutting-edge architecture or take in the gorgeous views of Lake.

Terrace at the Trump N. An outdoor oasis boasting views of the east side of Chicago, Terrace at the Trump is a great place to grab a cocktail and take in the scenic skyscraper surroundings. State St, Chicago IL. It boasts an impressive Champagne list, cocktails and small plates in a swanky but comfortable atmosphere surrounded by floor to ceiling windows. Being a champagne lover, stumbling upon this place while out shopping made my evening, and I would highly recommend it to anyone else who enjoys a good glass of bubbly. Pops for Champagne TIP: While the Signature Room the restaurant on the same floor requires a reservation, the lounge is open to anyone who would like to grab a drink and take in the spectacular city scene. I love Italian food and fortunately for me and fellow carb cravers Chicago does it well. Small plates are served in a lively and bustling atmosphere. The perennially busy restaurant attests to the quality of its cuisine. However, beyond the amazing food, what stood out to me was the spectacular service. Flakey butter crust, fresh mozzarella, exclusive sausage blend, vine ripened plum tomatoes my mouth is watering just thinking about it. There is generally a wait for breakfast, but the food is well worth the wait. Menu items are fairly basic, but each contain a unique and delicious twist that make them memorable and delicious. I also loved the Mammoth and Mummy exhibits. Wendella Architectural Boat Tour: But after being recommended to me by numerous people, I decided to give it a try. I absolutely loved the tour and would recommend it to anyone visiting the city. The guides are very informative and the views from the Chicago river are beautiful. Take a selfie in the bean with the rest of the tourists. Ladies, leave your purse at home. In Portland, I always walk around with my purse unzipped. However, walking with an open purse in a city like Chicago can make you a target for pick pocketers.

Chapter 8 : Chicago - Wikitravel

Chicago Travel Guide - View the KAYAK Chicago city guide for the best Chicago travel tips. To help you organize your Chicago trip ideas, this Chicago visitors guide provides travel information and trip tips about how to get there, where to stay, what to do, where to eat and more.

Chapter 9 : Things to Do in Chicago | Find What to Do in Chicago calendrierdelascience.com

Chicago Travel Tips Best Months to Visit The best times to visit Chicago are April through May and between September and October, when the temperatures are warm, a variety of festivals take place.