

25 Top Things to do in Chicago

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Adler Planetarium Staffed by world-class researchers at the forefront of their field, the museum's real draw will always be the virtual-reality trips through time and space in the Sky Theater. **Museum Campus, 1300 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 922-7827**

Brookfield Zoo Set on 216 acres, the zoo is home to nearly 6,000 animals, including 3,000 invertebrates, representing 436 species. **8400 W 31st St, Brookfield, IL 60513 (708) 688-8000**

Chicago History Museum Not so long ago this vibrant museum was the stodgy ol' Chicago Historical Society, which let you cull through thousands of archived photographs and curio. Joining it are several permanent and temporary exhibits, including "Chicago: Crossroads of America," a treasure trove of historical objects. **1601 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60614 (312) 642-4600**

DuSable Museum of African American History The Hyde Park cultural hub is now one of the oldest African-American-focused museums in the country, displaying documents and artifacts from the lives of overlooked movers and shakers. **740 East 56th Place Chicago, IL 60637 (773) 947-0600**

Grant Park Spanning 319 acres of lakefront property, Chicago's "front yard" is filled with notable landmarks like the Millennium Park, Buckingham Fountain, the Art Institute and Museum Campus. **337 E Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 742-3918**

360 Chicago Formerly known as the John Hancock Observatory, 360 Chicago offers dining, sights and an interactive tour far above the city streets. A recent addition is the Tilt attraction, which allows visitors to step onto an enclosed platform that extends from the building at a 30-degree angle. **875 N Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 654-5019**

Lincoln Park Zoo See some 1,200 animals, from apes to zebras, at the oldest—and one of only a few free—zoos left in the country. It is small, only 35 acres, but attractions like the Kovler Lion House and the Regenstein Center for African Apes are worth the trip. **2001 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60614 (312) 742-2000**

Museum of Contemporary Art MCA houses one of the largest collections of modern art in the nation and frequently hosts major touring exhibits. In addition to its galleries, it also boasts a gift store, restaurant, theater, and sculpture garden. **220 E Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 280-2660**

Music Box For movie lovers who don't care for traditional Hollywood blockbusters there's no better theater than the Music Box, a two-screen cinema that shows the latest art house films and documentaries. **3733 N Southport Ave, Chicago, IL 60613 (773) 871-6607**

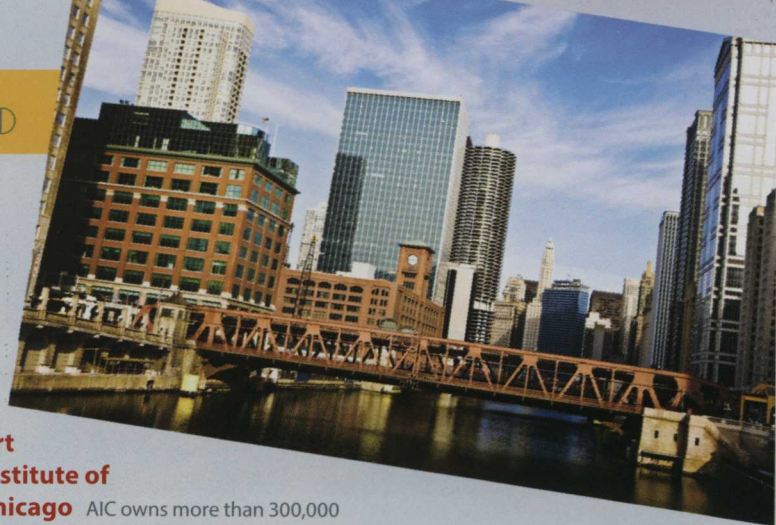
Navy Pier This tourist hot spot features shops, eateries, an IMAX cinema and a bevy of sightseeing boat tours. Pier Park is home to a 150-foot-high Ferris wheel, plus an old-fashioned swing ride and 18-hole mini-golf course. **600 E Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 595-5282**

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum From prairie and river ecosystems to the biology of Ice Age—mammals, nature and its conservation, the focus at this Lincoln Park museum situated alongside a lagoon is vast and varied. **2430 N Cannon Dr, Chicago, IL 60614 (773) 755-5100**

Water Tower Place If you're downtown and looking for a place to go on a shopping spree, this Michigan Avenue mall is just the ticket. **835 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611 (312) 440-3166**

Wrigley Field Even when baseball's not in season, there's plenty to do at this legendary stadium. Seasonal tours offer an insider peek at the Friendly Confines. **1060 W Addison St, Chicago, IL 60613 (773) 404-2827**

Green Mill Al Capone and other gangsters used to hang here in the 1920s, but these days it's all about the music. **4802 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60640 (773) 878-5552**



Art

Institute of

Chicago AIC owns more than 300,000 artworks and artifacts from all over the world—antiquity to the present—including Japanese prints, fragments of local buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Thorne Miniature Rooms. **111 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 443-3600**

Chicago Cultural Center Since being converted from the Chicago Public Library in 1991, this city-block-wide institution now offers free classical concerts. **78 E Washington St, Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 744-6630**

Chicago Riverwalk If you're looking for breathtaking views of some of Chicago's most gorgeous architecture, take a stroll along the Riverwalk. Featuring boat tours and water taxis as well as waterfront cafes and restaurants. **E Upper Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 742-7529**

The Field Museum Founded to house the biological and anthropological collections assembled for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, this massive natural history museum still packs 'em in with more than 30 permanent exhibitions. **1400 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 922-9410**

Lincoln Park Named for the 16th President of the United States shortly after his assassination in 1865. The park stretches along the lakeshore and contains the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Lincoln Park Conservatory and the Lincoln Park Cultural Center. **2045 N Lincoln Park W, Chicago, IL 60614**

Millennium Park This 24.5-acre park features Frank Gehry's Pritzker Pavilion and serpentine bridge; sculptor Anish Kapoor's 110-ton Cloud Gate (a.k.a. "The Bean"); and Jaume Plensa's Crown Fountain, with its ever-changing array of locals' faces spewing water very five minutes in the summer months. The Lurie Garden wows with year-round flower displays and monthly garden walks. **201 E Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60602**

Museum of Science and Industry If you're into exhibits loaded with interactive bells and whistles, this expansive Hyde Park locale is your ticket. **5700 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60637 (773) 684-1414**

National Museum of Mexican Art Visit the museum and you'll find a 6,000-piece permanent collection, rotating exhibits, performing-arts showcases and educational programming that represents an illustrious Mexican culture. **1852 W 19th St, Chicago, IL 60608 (312) 738-1503**

North Avenue Beach As one of Chicago's most popular beaches, it features a unique beach house inspired by a beached ocean liner. Visitors can hit the volleyball courts, grab a snack, rent a bike or take a dip in the waters of Lake Michigan. **1600 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60613 (773) 363-2225**

Shedd Aquarium This 75-year-old institution features favorites such as piranhas, frogs and snakes of the Amazon; rays, turtles and moray eel of the Caribbean; predator sharks and, the most storied of them all, a 100-plus-year-old Australian lungfish believed to be the longest-living fish in any aquarium in the world. **1200 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 939-2438**

Willis Tower Skydeck The second-tallest building in the country, this 1973 landmark features views from the 103rd floor which allow you to see as far as 50 miles out, and its newest feature, the Ledge, allows you to crawl into a glass cube structure suspended 1,353 feet off the ground. **Willis Tower, 233 S Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60606 (877) 759-3325**