

Sightseeing in the Second City



Get ready to see the many sides of Chicago, whether it's from high atop the Willis Tower or from the water on an Architecture River Cruise. Along the way, take time to stroll through world-renowned museums, sample Chicago traditions like deep-dish pizza and live blues, and catch a Broadway play.

Day 1

Start your day at the Museum Campus, home to three of Chicago's most popular museums: [The Field Museum](#), known for its blockbuster dinosaur and natural history exhibits; [the Shedd Aquarium](#), showcasing beluga whales, dolphins and a thrilling aquatic show in its Oceanarium; and the [Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum](#), featuring high-tech sky shows for virtual stargazing. Take a [Shoreline Sightseeing water taxi](#) to [Navy Pier](#), where you'll find the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the outdoor Skyline Stage, an IMAX Theater and a towering Ferris wheel. Board the [Odyssey](#) at Navy Pier for a luxury lunch cruise on Lake Michigan. For dinner, sample Chicago's famed deep-dish pizza at [Giordano's](#). Then head to [The Second City](#) for the improv antics of up-and-coming comedy stars.

Day 2

Get a panoramic view of Chicago from Willis Tower's [Skydeck Chicago](#), featuring the glass-enclosed Ledge that's suspended 1,300 feet up in the air. Then make your way to [The Art Institute](#), home to a renowned collection of works ranging from Warhol to Monet, along with the stunning Modern Wing. Nearby is beautiful [Millennium Park](#), where you'll discover the reflective [Cloud Gate](#) sculpture, the Crown Fountain (featuring video-projected faces of Chicagoans playfully squirting water) and the amazing outdoor Jay Pritzker Pavilion, which hosts musical events throughout the summer. Have lunch at the historic [Walnut Room](#), located in [Macy's](#) on State Street. Then spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the shops along State Street. Enjoy dinner at the [Italian Village](#), a downtown dining tradition since 1927. Afterwards, catch a [Broadway in Chicago](#) play on one of the storied downtown stages in the Loop Theater District. Later, head to [Buddy Guy's Legends](#), owned by the famed blues guitarist, to hear live blues in the city where it all began.

Day 3

Start the day on a high note from the 94th-floor [John Hancock Observatory](#) and step out onto the Skywalk, an open-air viewing deck that hovers 1,000 feet above the Magnificent Mile. Then see Chicago's cityscape by boat on [Chicago's First Lady](#), which boards at the Michigan Avenue Bridge. A guide from the [Chicago Architecture Foundation](#) points out more than 50 architectural gems as you wind down the Chicago River. For lunch, head to the rockin' [Hard Rock Cafe](#). Then take a trip to the [Museum of Contemporary Art](#), which showcases cutting-edge works by some of the most thought-provoking artists of our time. Afterwards, hit the [Magnificent Mile](#) to shop upscale boutiques on Michigan Avenue such as Chanel and Burberry, along with shopping centers that include Water Tower Place and the 900 North Michigan Shops (home of Bloomingdale's).