

# Chicago Attractions

The Windy City has much to offer you, no matter what your age or interests. Sightseers can take in the architecture, lakeshore parks and sculptures. If you love museums, Chicago offers first-rate art, science and history options. In addition to famous deep-dish pizza, food lovers will find every world cuisine in every price range. At any time of year, you can enjoy Chicago's professional sports, events and festivals, beautiful parks and beaches, and performing arts.

Chicago is known for its picturesque skyline and is often considered the birthplace of the skyscraper. Its most famous skyscraper is the Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower. Also known as Skydeck Chicago, Willis Tower is the tallest building in the U.S.A.! It stands 1,353 feet, has 103 floors, and encompasses more than 4.5 million square feet of office space. If you're brave and love the thrill of heights, you can stand on the 103rd glass floor viewing platform appropriately named "The Ledge". It attracts over 1.3 million visitors every year!

Chicago is rich in educational institutes. Explore the outermost regions of space at the Adler Planetarium or delve into underwater worlds at the Shedd Aquarium. The Field Museum houses the most complete specimen of a Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil ever discovered. The skeleton, named Sue, a delightful name for a terrifyingly terrific dinosaur, has caused much controversy throughout the years. Found during an excavation in South Dakota in 1990, a five year legal battle ensued over ownership of Sue. It wasn't until 1997 that the Field Museum made the winning auction bid of \$8.4 million and moved her to Chicago. Sue now shares her home with Egyptian mummies, Mayan artifacts, meteorites, and taxidermy animal specimens.

The heart of Chicago is also rich in art. Intriguing sculptures are placed throughout the Windy City, particularly in beautiful Grant Park, along the shores of Lake Michigan. These artistic accents are supported by a local ordinance passed in 1978 that designates 1.33 percent of the construction or renovation budget for all public buildings to be used for commissioning and installing works of art. A few of the most famous sculptures include the 39 foot high "Miro" statue composed of steel, concrete, and bronze in the silhouette of a body, and a very large glass and stone mosaic by artist Marc Chagall named the "The Four Seasons". "The Picasso", is also another mysterious metal statue at the Daley Center. You decide what they represent!

With so many choices of events, art, education and fun, you'll want to stop in at an official Visitor Center to get maps, schedules and friendly advice. Then step out and explore this walk-able, friendly, fascinating city!

## Source(s):

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