

Things to do in Chicago **(Distances provided are from The Drake Hotel)**

[Chicago Architecture River Cruise](#) (1.5 mi)

Led by the CAC's expertly trained docent volunteers, the river cruise tells the stories behind more than 50 buildings along the Chicago River. Hear how Chicago grew from a small settlement into one of the world's largest cities in less than 100 years. In just 90 minutes, you'll get the best overview of Chicago's architecture and its history.

[Museum of Science & Industry](#) (9 mi)

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago—one of the largest science museums in the world—is home to more than 400,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits designed to spark scientific inquiry and creativity.

[Field Museum of Natural History](#) (3.6 mi)

The Field Museum fuels a journey of discovery across time to enable solutions for a brighter future rich in nature and culture.

[Shedd Aquarium](#) (3.6 mi)

Like no other aquarium in the world, Shedd combines the best of early 20th-century “age of aquariums” characteristics—a diverse, global animal collection surrounded by eye-popping architecture—with 21st-century advances in animal care, environments and interpretation. Excellence and innovation are Shedd traditions, and they began with the founder.

[Art Institute of Chicago](#) (1.6 mi)

Located in downtown Chicago, the Art Institute is one of the world's great art museums, housing a collection that spans centuries and the globe.

[Navy Pier](#) (1.5 mi)

Originally completed in 1916 as part of Daniel Burnham's plan for Chicago, Navy Pier is an iconic city landmark inspiring discovery and wonder. Since its reopening in 1995, more than 180 million visitors have come to enjoy the Pier's 50 acres of unparalleled attractions and experiences. As Navy Pier enters its second century, the venue is evolving into an accessible, year-round centerpiece for Chicago's diverse arts and cultural treasures.

[Adler Planetarium](#) (3.9 mi)

Chicago's *Adler Planetarium* is America's first planetarium and a premiere resource for inspiring the next generation of space explorers.

[The Willis Tower](#) (built as the Sears Tower) - (2.3 mi)

Willis Tower is the heart of downtown Chicago and the future of work and play. The 110-story building is one of the tallest buildings in the world and the second tallest building in Chicago, making it impossible to miss when appreciating the city's skyline.

[Water Tower Place](#) (0.3 mi)

Water Tower Place is a Chicago landmark on the Magnificent Mile and renowned for its vast selection of over 100 stores. Beyond shopping, the eight-story mall also houses a number of restaurants and entertainment options, including a live theatre.

[The John Hancock Center](#) (now known as 360 Chicago) - (0.2 mi)

Financed by the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, the building was originally conceived to be the world's second tallest building. Construction of the tower was interrupted in 1967 due to a flaw that was discovered in an innovative engineering method used to pour concrete in stages. The engineers were getting the same soil settlements after the first 20 stories had been built as they expected for the entire 99 stories. This forced the owner to stop development until the engineering problem could be resolved and resulted in a credit crunch. The owner went bankrupt, which resulted in John Hancock taking over the project, which retained the original design, architect, engineer, and main contractor.

[Lincoln Park Zoo](#) (2.3 mi)

Lincoln Park Zoo is dedicated to connecting people with nature by providing a free, family-oriented wildlife experience in the heart of Chicago and by advancing the highest quality of animal care, education, science and conservation.

[Millennium Park](#)

Home of the '[Bean](#)' - (1.2 mi)

With 25 acres of awe-inspiring landscape, breathtaking architecture and an iconic collection of public art, Millennium Park is Chicago's premier green space.