



For decades, I called Chicago home. I still return frequently to visit family and friends. Whenever possible I include visits to Chicago's exceptional museums and cultural places. I've been going to many of my favorite locations since my youth. Most of these places have maintained their popularity for a very long time.

Whether you're traveling for a weekend or longer, Chicago is a city with a multitude of world-class attractions. Flights leave Denver day and night so it's easy to find a non-stop to Chicago. To help you plan a trip to Chicago, I'm sharing a list of my Chicago and North Suburban favorites.

**CITY- (NORTH)**

**Lincoln Park Zoo**

This city zoo doesn't charge an admission fee and is open every day. It's conveniently located just minutes from the Magnificent Mile. The zoo has 15 animal habitats on more than 35 acres. The Farm-in-the-Zoo section has interactive exhibits that includes newly hatched chicks, harvesting vegetables, and exhibits about beehives.

**CITY**

**Looking Down from Above**

Chicago's skyscrapers offer two panoramic views. At 360 Chicago (in the John Hancock Center on Michigan Avenue), patrons can look down from the 94th floor of Chicago's fourth-tallest building. This view showcases Lakeshore Drive and Chicago's lakefront.

Another option is the Skydeck at Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower). For an additional thrill, visitors can venture into glass balconies on the

103rd floor that extend 4.3 feet from the second tallest building in the western hemisphere.

**Art Institute of Chicago**

From ancient to modern art, visitors can admire creative endeavors that were created around the world. The artwork is housed in eight buildings that are adjacent to Millennium Park and Maggie Daley Park.

While at this museum, treat yourself to a fine dining experience at Terzo Piano. The menu was created by award-winning chef Tony Mantuano. The restaurant is located on the Third Level of the Modern Wing.

**Navy Pier**

The pier is situated on 50 acres and offers year-round inside and outside attractions as well as a wide range of eating options. Popular venues include an assortment of river and lake boat tours, an Imax Theatre, Landshark Beer Garden, a 150-foot Ferris wheel, and the Chicago Children's Museum.

**Museum of Contemporary Art**

Unlike most museums that have permanent galleries, the MCA chooses to rotate its collection that focuses on works created from the 1920s to the present. It offers tours that fit special interests.

**CITY (MUSEUM CAMPUS ADJACENT TO SOLDIER FIELD)**

**Shedd Aquarium**

The Shedd Aquarium is one of the world's largest indoor aquariums. It has more than 32,000 animals in a wide variety of aquatic ecosystems



ranging from the Amazon to the Polar regions. Special exhibits and presentations are available every day.

#### Adler Planetarium

America's first planetarium has kept up with the times by offering state of the art exhibits and creating itineraries that help people streamline their visit. Some may choose to learn more about the cosmos while others can engage in hands-on activities. Check the online schedule for daily shows that can enhance your visit.

#### The Field Museum

With 350,000 square feet of public space on three levels, this massive museum engages young and old to learn about 4.6 billion years of natural history under one roof. Special exhibits come and go. Popular permanent exhibits include SUE the T-Rex, Inside Ancient Egypt, and the Ancient Americas.

### CITY (SOUTH)

#### Museum of Science and Industry

Put on your walking shoes to explore the largest science museum in the western hemisphere. Interactive experiences are found throughout the last remaining building from Chicago's World's Fair of 1893. It's advisable to purchase online tickets for the onboard tour of the U-505 submarine, Robot Revolution, and/or the coal mine tour. Take a break at Finnegan's Ice Cream Parlor and get a souvenir at the ToyMaker3000 exhibit.

### SUBURBS (NORTH)

#### Scenic Drive- Lake Shore Drive to Sheridan Road

The scenic and longest route to the northern suburbs is via Lake Shore Drive and Sheridan Road. Sheridan Road snakes through the heavily wooded northern suburbs that border Lake Michigan.



By far the prettiest segment of Sheridan Road lies between Lake Forest and Evanston. Notable landmarks include Lake Forest College and the stately mansions in Lake Forest, the redeveloped area of the former Fort Sheridan, Ravinia Park and Rosewood Park and Beach in Highland Park, North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Baha'i House of Worship and Gilson Park in Wilmette, and Northwestern University and Grosse Point Lighthouse in Evanston. The Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette is one of eight in the world and the only one in North America. As you drive, keep a look out for a few Frank Lloyd Wright homes and a plethora of unique jumbo sized homes. In Glencoe consider taking a small detour to the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

If you'd like to visit multiple city attractions, consider a Chicago CityPass. It will reduce your admission costs substantially. For additional travel tips, feel free to contact me at [sandy@sandraborNSTein.com](mailto:sandy@sandraborNSTein.com).