



AMERICAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL
"Bringing Global Perspectives to Future Leaders"

Museums: A Guide to Chicago's Museums and their Free Days



Museums and Cultural Attractions

Chicago's cultural institutions explore a variety of subjects including history, modern art, African-American culture, astronomy and natural history. Some museums offer free admission daily and others are free on designated days. If a museum charges admission on the day you choose to visit, be sure to inquire about student discounts.

Museum Information

(Dates subject to change. Call museums for more information.)

Always Free

CenterSpace Gallery at Gallery 37

66 E. Randolph Street
M-Th 10-7 F 10-6 Sa 10-5 Su 11-5
312.744.8925
www.gallery37.org

Chicago ArchiCenter

224 S. Michigan Avenue
M-Su 9-6:30
312.922.3432
www.architecture.org

Chicago Beaches and Parks

Various locations
312.742.PLAY (7529)
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

Chicago Cultural Center

78 E. Washington Street
M-Th 8-7 F 8-6 Sa 9-6 Su 10-6
www.cityofchicago.org/tourism/CulturalCenter/

Chicago Tourism Center

72 E. Randolph Street
312.744.6630

City Gallery at the Historic Water Tower

806 N. Michigan Avenue
M-Sa 10-6:30 Su 10-5
312.742.0808
www.cityofchicago.org/Tourism/ThingsToDo/CityGallery/CityGallery.html

Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library Center

400 S. State Street
M-Th 9-9 F-Sa 9-5 Su 1-5
312.747.4300
<http://www.chipublib.org/001hwlc/001hwlc.html>

DePaul University Art Museum

2350 N. Kenmore
M-Th 11-5 F 11-7 Sa-Su 12-5
773.325.7506
<http://museums.depaul.edu/artwebsite/>

Garfield Park Conservatory

300 N. Central Park Avenue
Daily 9-5 Th 9-8
312.746.5100
www.garfield-conservatory.org

Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art

756 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Closed Monday
Tu-Sa 11-5 Th 11-7:30
312.243.9088
<http://outsider.art.org>

Jane Addams Hull House

800 S. Halsted Street
Tu-F 10-4 Su 12-4
312.413.5353
<http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull>

Lincoln Park Conservatory

2400 N. Stockton Drive
Daily
312.742.7736
<http://www.chicagotraveler.com/attractions/lincoln-park-conservatory.html>

Lincoln Park Zoo

2200 N. Cannon Drive
Daily 9-5 (buildings close 4:30)
312.742.2000 (parking is not free)
www.lpzoo.com

Loyola University Museum of Art

820 N Michigan Avenue
 Closed Monday
 Tu 10-8 (free)
 W-Su 10-5 (suggested \$6 admission)
 312-915-7600
<http://www.luc.edu/luma>

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum

1852 W. 19th Street
 Closed Monday
 Tu-Su 10-5
 312.738.1503
<http://www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org>

Museum of Contemporary Photography

600 S. Michigan Avenue
 M-Sa 10-5 Th 10-8 Su 12-5
 312.663.5554
www.mocp.org

The Smith Museum of Stained Glass Navy Pier

700 E. Grand Avenue
 312.791.6049
http://www.navypier.com/things2do/rides_attract/smith_museum.html

Navy Pier

600 E. Grand Avenue
 M-Th 10-8 F&Sa 10-10 Su 10-7
 312.595.PIER (7437)
www.navypier.com

Newberry Library

60 W. Walton Street
 Closed Monday
 Tu-Th 10-6 F-Sa 9-5
 312.943.9090
www.newberry.org

The Oriental Institute Museum

1155 E. 58th Street
 Closed Monday
 Tu-Sa 10-6 W 10-8:30 Su 12-6
 773.702.9520
www.oi.uchicago.edu

The Renaissance Society of University of Chicago

5811 S. Ellis Avenue Bergman Gallery, Cobb Hall 418
 Closed Monday
 Tu-F 10-5 Sa&Su 12-5
 773.702.8670
<http://www.renaissancesociety.org>

The Smart Museum of Art

5550 S. Greenwood Avenue
 Closed Monday
 Tu-F 10-4 Th 10-8 Sa&Su 11-5
 773.702.0200
<http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu>

Special Free Day: Monday

The Adler Planetarium

1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
 9:30-4:30 daily (\$16-20 W-Su)
 312.922.STAR (7827)
www.adlerplanetarium.org

Chicago Historical Society

Clark Street at North Avenue
 Su 12-5 M-Sa 9:30-4:30
 312.642.4600 (\$12 Tu-Su)
www.chicagohistory.org

Museum of Science and Industry

57th Street and Lake Shore Drive
 M-Sa 9-5 Su 11-4 (\$11 other days)
 773.684.1414
www.msichicago.org

The Shedd Aquarium

1200 S. Lakeshore Drive
 M-F 9-5 Sa-Su 9-6 (\$8 W-Su)
 312.939.2438
www.sheddnet.org

**(Free Days Vary For Some Above
 Over the Course of the Year)**

Special Free Day: Tuesday

The Adler Planetarium

1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
9:30-4:30 daily (\$16-20 W-Su)
312.922.STAR (7827)
www.adlerplanetarium.org

Museum of Contemporary Art

220 E. Chicago Avenue
Closed Monday
Tu 10-8 W-Su (\$6 w/ ID) 8-5
312.280.2660
www.mcachicago.org

The Shedd Aquarium

1200 S. Lakeshore Drive
M-F 9-5 Sa-Su 9-6 (\$8 W-Su)
312.939.2438
www.sheddnet.org

Museum of Science and Industry

57th Street and Lake Shore Drive
M-Sa 9-5 Su 11-4 (\$11 other days)
773.684.1414
www.msichicago.org

Special Free Day: Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday

Wednesdays:

Clark House Museum

1827 S. Indiana Avenue
Tours W-Su 12, 2pm (\$9 w/ ID Th-)

Glessner House Museum

1800 S. Prairie Avenue
Tours W-Su 1, 3pm (\$9 w/ ID other)
312.326.1480

www.glessnerhouse.org

Clark and Glessner House Tours can
be done together for \$12 Th-Su
First Come, First Server, Call Ahead

Thursdays:

Chicago Children's Museum

700 E. Grand Avenue
Su-W&F 10-5 Th&Sa 10-8 (\$8)
312.527.1000

www.chchildrensmuseum.org

Thursday Free 5-8 p.m.

The Art Institute of Chicago

111 S. Michigan Avenue
Sa-Su 10-5 M-F 10:30-5 (\$7 w ID)
Thursday Open Free 5-8pm
www.artic.edu
312.443.3600

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

2430 N. Cannon Drive
M-F 9-4:30 Sa&Su 10-5 (\$7 w/ ID)
773.755.5100

www.naturemuseum.org

Sundays:

DuSable Museum of African American History

740 E. 56th Place
Tu-Sa 10-5 Su 12:5 (\$2 w/ ID)
773.947.0600

www.dusablemuseum.org

Notable Sites

The Field Museum

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
9-5 daily (\$7 w/ StudentID)
312.922.9410
www.fnmh.org

International Museum of Surgical Science

1524 N. Lakeshore Drive
Tuesday to Saturday 10-4 (\$4 w/ ID)
312.642.6502
www.imss.org

Swedish American Museum and Children's Museum of Immigration

5211 N. Clark Street
Tu-F 10-4 Sa-Su 11-4 (\$3 w/ ID)
773.728.8111
www.swedishamericanmuseum.org

Museum of Broadcast Communications

78 E. Washington Street
312.629.6000
www.museum.tv
Closed For Construction

Spertus Museum

618 S. Michigan Avenue
312.322.1747
www.spertus.edu/
Main Galleries Closed for
Remodeling; public programming,
shop, and library are still open

The Peace Museum

100 N. Central Park Avenue
Th-Fr 1-6 Sa-Su 12-4
773.638.6450
www.peacemuseum.org
Closed for Renovations

Chicago: A Galaxy of Museums

Chicago is world renowned for its amazing collection of museums. Most are open everyday, some offer free admission and many have weekly free days. Visitors to Chicago should plan to spend a day at the Museum Campus. The family friendly park-like atmosphere conveniently joins the Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, and The Field Museum at Roosevelt Road and the Lake.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium/Oceanarium offers the world's largest indoor collection of aquatic mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and fish. On April 2003, the Shedd Aquarium unveiled its NEW permanent exhibit, Wild Reef - Sharks at Shedd. Totalling more than 750,000 gallons of water, this exhibit allows guests to have an intimate encounter with more than 30 sharks, one of the largest and most diverse shark exhibits in North America, and a coral reef exhibit housing more than 500 aquatic species demonstrating the crucial role coral reefs play in the health of oceans.

Also, the museum's magnificent Oceanarium is the world's largest marine mammal pavilion. The Oceanarium is home to Beluga whales, dolphins, Alaskan sea otters, seals and penguins in habitats replicating their natural environments. Guests are allowed to watch one of the Aquarium's daily feedings in the newly renovated exotic Coral Reef exhibit, where a diver hand-feeds the fish and describes the different species of fish. There is a set fee for both exhibits.

After exploring the oceans, visitors can gaze up at the heavens in nearby Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum. The museum allows guests to lean back and relax as the Planetarium sky show takes them on a journey into outer Theatre shows transport visitors to space. The Sky Pavilion and StarRider planets, moons, and distant galaxies, and cover the latest topics in space news.

Mummies, Egyptian tombs, Native American artifacts, dinosaur skeletons and more than 16 million other specimens for the fields of anthropology, botany, geology and zoology are on display at The Field Museum. A recent addition to the museum is Sue, the largest, most complete, and best-preserved Tyrannosaurus rex fossil yet discovered.

The city's oldest cultural institution is the Chicago Historical Society (North Avenue and Clark Street). Through artifacts, photographs, paintings and video presentations, the museum tells the story of Chicago, from the early frontier days to the present. Museum highlights include the Hands-On History Gallery with "please touch" artifacts; an exhibit and film on the Great Chicago Fire of 1871; and the American History Wing that documents American history from the revolution to the aftermath of the Civil War.

The Museum of Science and Industry (57th Street and Lake Shore Drive) is one of the city's most popular attractions. With exhibits including a full-scale, working coal mine, a 3,500 square foot railroad exhibit of The Great Train Story, and a pulsating sixteen-foot model of the human heart, the museum is a Chicago classic that should not be missed. The museum's Henry Crown Space Center allows visitors to blast off in a simulated space shuttle ride and view the Apollo 8 spacecraft.

Additionally, the National Time Museum, which opened January 26, 2001, is currently located in the Museum of Science and Industry's North Court. This museum includes hundreds of exquisite timepieces from the collection of Seth Atwood, featuring timepieces that date back to ca. 800 BC, which come in many shapes and sizes.

Also in the Hyde Park neighborhood is the DuSable Museum of African-American History, located at 740 East 56th Place. This museum is dedicated to the collection, documentation, preservation and study of the history and culture of Africans and Americans of African descent. Performances of music and dance, film presentations, and educational seminars are also offered.

The cultural diversity of Chicagoans has created a unique demand for neighborhood museums that focus on a particular ethnic heritage. Mexican, Polish, Lithuanian, Swedish, Greek, and Jewish residents and visitors can find collections featuring their histories.

With the world's largest Polish population outside of Warsaw, it is not surprising that Chicago is home to the Polish Museum of America (984 N. Milwaukee Avenue) featuring art archives, costumes and a 30,000-volume library.

Other neighborhood museums include the following: the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture (6500 S. Pulaski Road), the Swedish American Museum Center (5211 N. Clark Street), Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center (168 N. Michigan Avenue) and the Ukrainian National Museum (721 N. Oakley Boulevard).

The Midwest's first and the nation's largest Mexican museum is located in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Admission is free to the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum (1852 W. 19th Street). After a recent expansion, the Museum now offers 68,000 square feet of Mexican culture through a variety of art exhibits, art classes, theater, and music and dance events.

Chicago is also proud to be home to the new National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum (1801 S. Indiana). The collection includes more than 500 works of art, including paintings, drawings, and sculptures, created by more than 95 artists from around the world, all of who served in the Vietnam War. An audio-visual presentation and artifacts of war are also on display.

Chicago's visual arts selection is dazzling. The Art Institute of Chicago (111 S. Michigan Avenue) is one of the world's leading art museums with a renowned impressionist and post-impressionist collection of works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, Van Gogh and others. Visitors can study classics such as Sunday Afternoon on the Isle of La Grande Jatte (Seurat), as well as later masterpieces such as Nighthawks (Edward Hopper), or Inventions of the Monsters (Salvador Dali). The Kraft Education Center helps young visitors appreciate art from around the world with interactive computers, videos and games.

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences (2430 N. Cannon Drive) is the only museum that specializes in the ecology and natural history of the Midwest, from the Great Lakes to the prairies, natural to the urban areas. The Nature Museum offers six permanent exhibits examining the relationship between people and nature and the impact humans have on their environment.

Several Chicago museums explore particular aspects of the visual arts. The objective of the Museum of Contemporary Photography (600 S. Michigan Avenue) is to display the many roles of photography throughout history. The Terra Museum of American Art (664 N. Michigan Avenue) features the art of the U.S. with works by artists including Whistler, Cassatt, Sargent, Chase, Hopper and Wyeth. A more unusual form of visual art can be viewed at the Museum of Holography (1134 W. Washington Street) where visitors can be amazed by the three-dimensional images created by lasers.

The work of local and emerging artists is frequently featured in the galleries of the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington Street). Located in a landmark building boasting the world's largest tiffany stained-glass dome, broad marble staircases, and colorful mosaics, the Cultural Center offers free programs daily, including concerts, films, lectures, and dance performances. It is also home to the free-admission Museum of Broadcast Communications, featuring the Radio Hall of Fame and a large collection of archives highlighting some of America's greatest moments in radio and television. Guided tours of the Cultural Center take visitors through galleries with changing exhibits, theater and a concert hall.

Chicago offers a number of museums that cater to visitors with specific interests such as the International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Drive.