

Visiting Chicago— Some suggestions

Here are some activity suggestions for Saturday and Sunday when you won't be in the woods. Selected guidebooks and current newspapers listing entertainment in town this weekend will be available near Registration for your assistance; please ask for them.

Chicago is a large, diversified city with many attractions such as great art museums, a beautiful lake and lakefront, good restaurants of many varieties, and interesting nightlife. Unlike many other American cities, Chicago has several very livable neighborhoods....exploring on foot can be interesting throughout most of the north side up as far as Irving Park Road (4000N).

Entertainment:

Although Sunday starts are as early as 9 a.m., you may wish to enjoy an activity after dinner. Lots of interesting nightlife is available in generally safe neighborhoods. Chicago is known as the home of the blues, an up-tempo, driving but appealing sound that was the genesis of rock back in the '50's.

- B.L.U.E.S. (2519 N Halsted) Catch first set at 9 p.m.; sit up front against the wall for best seat
- Buddy Guy's Legends (754 S Wabash) nearer downtown but not as cozy
- "Cats" at the Shubert Theater (22 W Monroe) (312) 902-1400. Classical old theater in loop.
- Hubbard Street Dance Company, Palace Theater (151 W Randolph) (312) 902-1400
- House of Blues (329 N Dearborn) big ticket acts in showroom setting
- "Sept 11..." Traveling photo show of significant impact; Union Station (Canal & Adams)
- Jazz Showcase (59 W Grand) Big-name jazz performers in River North classy showroom
- Pop's for Champagne (2934 N Sheffield) Jazz quartets in new showroom near Lincoln Park
- "Vagina Monologues" Apollo Theater (2540 N Lincoln) (773) 935-6100 Educational.
- Second City (1616 N Wells) (773) 337-3992 Call for info on this home of Saturday Night Live comics. No advance reservation needed; inexpensive.
- Zanies (one block south of Second City) best of stand-up comics.

Activities:

Here in no particular order, are a few of our favorite activities:

- Visit the Lincoln Park zoo, particularly the new Great Ape House
- Lakeshore: go for a walk or rent a bike for a tour of our 17-mile lakefront path starting at the new Museum Campus and adjacent Grant Park
- Navy Pier: huge Ferris wheel, restaurants, views, lake cruise boats (\$5 up), Omnimax
- Art Institute: Impressionists and Miniature Rooms are among our favorite attractions. The current exhibit is "Ansel Adams at 100" but may be tough to get into
- Field Museum: natural history across Grant Park from Art Institute; Sue, largest dinosaur exhibit
- Shedd Aquarium/Oceanarium: live whales in massive new exhibit. Museum Campus
- Frank Lloyd Wright Studio, Oak Park: continuous tours until 4 p.m.
- Window shop along Michigan Avenue, The Magnificent Mile: Stop for a late lunch at Water Tower Place (a vertical mall), or a drink at the Garden Court off the 17th floor lobby of nearby Ritz Carleton Hotel or on the 95th floor of the adjacent Hancock building

Restaurants:

Chicago restaurants are inundated by suburbanites on weekends; the best strategy on Saturday night is to eat early (5 p.m.); if you come in much after 6 p.m., you'll find waits of an hour and more. Not only will you enjoy an unhurried meal, but you'll have time after dinner to catch a show, go for a walk, or catch an evening sunset cruise. Here are some of our current favorites:

- Chicago pizza (thick crust or stuffed double crust) Pizzerias Uno and Due (29 E Ohio)
- Brew Pubs: Goose Island (1800 N Clybourn) and Rock Bottom (State & Grand)
- Italian: Scoози (410 W Huron), Maggiano's (510 N Clark)
- Greek: Chicago's Greektown is centered on 200 N Halsted. Any restaurants there would be great.
- Japanese: Matsuya (3469 N Clark) Great sushi bar, udon and tempera.
- Chinatown: (2400 S Wentworth) any restaurant; all good no matter how disreputable looking
- Hard Rock Cafe (63 W Ontario) good for kids