

# I Love Chicago Guide



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Basic Information Helpful Hints-Parking  
Chicago's streets are laid out in a grid pattern. In the Loop (south of the Chicago River) State Street (which runs north-south) and Madison Street (which runs east-west) are the central dividing points. So north and south street numbers ascend as you move away from Madison's east and west ascend as you move away from State. Each block is represented by a hundred number; eight city blocks (or 800 numbers) equal one mile. Michigan Avenue (north of the Chicago River) is downtown Chicago's main thoroughfare. One more helpful hint: The Lake is east--always. Although the city of Chicago covers an area of approximately 25 miles to the north and south and 15 miles to the west, the major sites are located in a relatively concentrated area: the Loop with the financial district and retailing giant Michigan Avenue and the Near North Side with shopping and dining delights. If you have a car, my suggestion is to park it. Given good weather and an unhurried schedule, walking is the best way to discover all that is special about Chicago. The next-best way to get around is by the very extensive mass-transit system. Buses may be slow but the el (elevated trains) may be too fast for some; both offer a view while getting you to your destination. Taxis are expensive and they charge extra for each additional passenger. The Mayor's Office of Inquiry & Information, Room 100, Chicago IL 60602, (312) 744-5000, will supply a map of the city's Bikeway System and its rules if you would like to get around on two wheels. The best time to visit Chicago from a weather standpoint is autumn--when it's dry and the temperatures are in the high 50s. Spring tends to be wet and summer is hot and humid (average temperature 73~) but the presence of city beaches mitigates this fact. What can one say about winter? It's cold. The weather is 30~, but remember Chicago is known as the Windy City and despite claims that that refers to the long-windedness of former city-boosters, the wind-chill factor can be painful. Dress for the season. Layering of clothing is best because in any season the weather can be unpredictable. In winter, outerwear should include hat (with ear cover), gloves and boots that should be suitable for snow. First, about the city. True love is never blind. Chicago, like any city, can be unsafe in certain areas at certain times. Common sense must prevail regarding when you go and at what time you get there. Be sure of your destination in the evening and how you are going to get to it and back again. Secure your wallet or purse and do not flaunt cash or gold jewelry. Second, about the book. There is little about Chicago that is stagnant. Change is inevitable and desirable. Though at press time all information contained herein is correct, there will surely be changes. Phone numbers are included and it is recommended always to call ahead. These are the main information sources for tourists (and natives) concerning places, events and travel. Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau Inc. McCormick Place-on-the-Lake, 2301 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL 60616. 567-8500. Guides, brochures, maps and listings of current events. Helpful publications, helpful staff. OPEN Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm; Sat & Sun 9:30am-5pm. CLOSED Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day. Chicago Office of Tourism Visitor Information Center, 163 East Pearson; 280-5740. Also at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington (Randolph side); 267-5747. Brochures, maps, guides, monthly listings of current events. OPEN Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm. CLOSED Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day. Chicago Fine Arts Hotline ~346-3278. Recorded listing of cultural events

0c-t>curring in the city. |<br>Illinois Information Center<br>(800) 223-0121. Phone for a travel kit for Clli. |<br>cago or any other city or area in the state Of|<br>Ilinois. Available 7 daysï¼Œ 24 hours. |<br>International Vlsltors Center |<br>520 North Michigan. 645-1836. They plan and<br>set up itineraries for foreign visitorsï¼Œ both indï¼Œ<br>viduals and delegations. OPEN Mon-Fri 9arr~<br>5pm. ]<br>Parking is allowed on most Chicago streets--tl~<br>major exception being downtownï¼Œ where~<br>parking is allowed--though finding a spot is u~<br>ally difficult. Be sure to read the signs carefull~<br>your car may be ticketed or towed if illegaq<br>parked. Meters require a variety of arnoeq<br><br>

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