

CHICAGO, Illinois

Chicago is the largest city in the U.S. state of Illinois, and with over 2.8 million people is the third largest city in the United States. Located on the southwestern shores of Lake Michigan, Chicago is the third-most densely populated major city in the U.S., and anchor to the world's 26th largest metropolitan area with over 9.5 million people across three states.

After a series of wars with the local American Natives, Chicago was founded in 1833, near a portage between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River watershed. The city became a major transportation and telecommunications hub in North America. Today, the city retains its status as a major hub, both for industry and infrastructure, with its O'Hare Airport as the second busiest airport in the world. In modern times, the city has taken on additional dimension as a center for business and finance, and is listed as one of the world's top ten Global Financial Centers. Chicago is a stronghold of the Democratic Party, and has been home to influential politicians, including the current President of the United States, Barack Obama. The World Cities Study Group at Loughborough University rated Chicago as an alpha world city.

As of 2007, the city attracts 44.2 million visitors annually. Making use of its abundant resources, Chicago has a heritage for hosting major international, national, regional, and local events that include commerce, culture, entertainment, politics, and sports. In 2008, Chicago was chosen as one of the final four world city candidates to host the 2016 Summer Olympics and is the only American city on the list.

Globally recognized, Chicago has numerous nicknames, which reflect the impressions and opinions about historical and contemporary Chicago. The best known include: "Chi-town"; the "Windy City" with reference to Chicago politicians and residents boasting about their city; "Second City," due to the city generally being the second most prestigious in the nation in terms of transportation, culture, and finance; and the "City of Big Shoulders", referring to its numerous skyscrapers (which were invented in Chicago), described as being husky and brawling.

General/Tourism Information

<http://www.choosechicago.com/>

"The mission of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau is to promote Chicago as a premier destination for all types of customers, leveraging the assets of Chicago and generating revenue for its visitor industry.

This is accomplished through the sales and marketing of McCormick Place and Navy Pier as venues for major events.

The CCTB also promotes Chicago as an exceptional destination to the tourist, corporate and meetings markets, serving all Chicago venues.

The CCTB works in partnership with the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, the Chicago Office of Tourism, the City of Chicago, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism, as well as many other related associations in Chicago."

<http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do>

Notes: Cite for the city of Chicago. Tourism information under 'Exploring Chicago.'

<http://www.gochicago.com/>

"The Official Chicago & Illinois International Tourist Office Website."

<http://www.chicagotraveler.com/>

"Chicago Traveler is the perfect travel guide for the first-time or frequent visitor, offering information and links to help out-of-towners and locals alike plan a great visit to our wonderful city. We have travel attractions pages, hotel pages, tour information, maps and lists of useful links to other great Chicago travel resource sites for either business or vacation travel purposes."

<http://www.gochicagocard.com/>

"Admission to over 25 of the [best attractions, activities, and tours](#) are included with your Go Chicago Card. Do as much as you like each day for one low, affordable price. Tailor your own custom itineraries, allowing each person to do what is most fun for them. And with unlimited flexibility, you can change your plans on the fly."

Nightlife

<http://www.chicagonightlife.com/nightlife.asp>

"Chicago Nightclub & Bar alternatives by www.chicagonightlife.com Whether you're in the mood for a lounge, or you've strapped on your dancing shoes, We've got the answer to your nightlife needs. Check out our list of Chicago's newest and most popular nightclubs and bars."

<http://chicago.nightguide.com/>

"Welcome to NightGuide Chicago! Your guide to Nightlife for the Greater Chicago area."

<http://metromix.chicagotribune.com/barsandclubs/>

"Search more than more than [4,000 Chicago bars and clubs.](#)"

<http://www.10best.com/Chicago/Nightlife/>

"Unbiased Recommendations in Chicago, IL for the best Nightlife!"

Accommodation

- **Nightly**

<http://www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php/ChosenCity.Chicago/ChosenCountry.USA/>
(www.hostelworld.com)

“Hostelworld.com provides on-line confirmed bookings for hostels, budget accommodation centres and package tours, as well as comprehensive content such as city and country guides. All bookings are made securely, in real-time and are guaranteed for you. Our staff are from all over the world and have years of experience in the budget travel industry, having travelled extensively throughout over 75 countries around the world, for both business and pleasure.”

Notes: Offers 4 hostels in Chicago.

<http://www.hostelbookers.com/hostels/usa/chicago/> (www.hostelbookers.com)

“HostelBookers prides itself on being the only independent hostel booking site that has NO BOOKING FEES! With youth hostels and cheap accommodation in over 2,000 destinations worldwide, our aim is to be the number one site for student travel, backpackers and for the general traveller. Whether you want a [hostel in London](#), [Paris](#), [Rome](#), [Madrid](#), [Sydney](#), [New York](#) or any other worldwide destination, we can provide a selection of great hostels that will fit your budget and your expectations! And to help you get the most out of your trip we now offer a selection of [travel guides](#), [travel news](#) and [worldwide events](#).”

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<http://www.hostels.com/en/us.il.ch.html/> (www.hostels.com)

“Hostels.com is the ultimate resource for backpacking and hostelling. We employ a team of researchers who stay in touch with travellers worldwide to continually update our database of hostels. Hostels.com features the most comprehensive selection of hostels on the internet with almost 7,000 hostels listed. We are continually developing the site to meet your needs by enabling you to make online confirmed reservations at a growing number of these properties. Hostels.com also provides comprehensive content to the budget and independent traveller including travel stories, a travel newsletter and a FAQ on hostelling and backpacking. Other products available for purchase online include travel insurance, rail passes, adventure tours and activities.”

Notes: Offers 5 hostels in Chicago.

<http://www.hichicago.org/>

“Located in the center of downtown Chicago and in the heart of Chicago’s thriving education district. HI-Chicago is very close to Lake Michigan and within walking distance of Millennium Park, Buckingham Fountain, the Art Institute, Field Museum and Shedd Aquarium. Our neighborhood is safe, fun and easy to get to from anywhere in Chicago. Activities from the hostel include free walking tours and excursions throughout the city. You will also receive discounts to many of Chicago’s best attractions, including Chicago Architecture Foundation, Bobby’s Bike Hike, Sears Tower and Hancock Observatory. The hostel has capacity for 500 guests and facilities include internet access, laundry and friendly staff to help you explore Chicago! We are open to serve you 24 hours a day, every day of the year.”

- **Long Term Accommodation**

Online

www.craigslist.org

“Local classifieds and forums for 450 cities worldwide - community moderated, and largely free.”

<http://chicago.backpage.com/gyrobase/classifieds/index>

Notes: Online community classifieds. Lists roommates and apartments to rent. Many furnished. Can search by rooms and apartments and by no broker fees. Very similar to Craigs List.

<http://chicago.sublet.com/>

“At Chicago.Sublet.com - you will find the perfect Chicago apartment rental, roommate, sublet or house for rent without the hassle Sublet.com is a Chicago rental marketplace where Chicago tenants and Chicago landlords match ALL their Chicago housing needs. Chicago.Sublet.com is not just for Chicago Sublets! At Chicago.Sublet.com people from all over the world sign leases from one day to one decade; furnished and unfurnished, with roommates and without roommates, with pets and without pets, with good credit and with bad credit, and at every price range. Chicago.Sublet.com prides itself on maintaining the most complete and updated database of every kind of Chicago rental. Everyday, new Chicago rentals are posted by Chicago owners, property managers, tenants and roommates. Whether your Chicago rental situation is unique or ordinary we can help you realize your Chicago rental needs.”

Classifieds from Newspapers

- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago Tribune

Hotels with long term options

<http://www.arlingtonhouse.com/>

“The Arlington House strives to meet and exceed its guest’s expectations by providing only high levels of quality from the beginning and service to the end. Monthly reservations are available but guests must speak directly with the manager of the Arlington House to discuss their accommodations in detail.”

<http://chicago-extended-stay.biz-stay.com/home.cfm>

“With current headquarters in Los Angeles, Biz-stay.com was launched in September 2000 to help travelers find high-quality extended stay lodging. To make the search process as simple as possible, lodging options are presented in a directory format according to general location. Biz-stay.com strives to serve as a comprehensive directory. Our [listing](#) rates are kept low enough to fit the budget of any quality accommodation provider.”

Notes: Includes links to a variety of extended stay hotels and short term apartments.

<http://www.furnishedapartmentschicago.com/>

“Furnished Short-Term & Corporate Apartment Rentals For Chicago & The Surrounding Areas”

Homestay

<http://www.homestayweb.com/index.html>

“When you become a member as a Guest, you can benefit in the following ways:

- 1. You can search for host families in the area you are planning to visit.*
- 2. You can see host families' profiles and *send emails to them.*
- 3. You can write your requirements on the "[Message Board](#)" and wait for *emails from a host family who are interested in you.”*

Notes: In multiple cities.

Shopping

- **Groceries**

<https://www.jewelosco.com>

<http://www.dominicks.com/>

<http://www.aldifoods.com/>

http://cubfoods.com/recipes-webapp/great_prices/index.html

"We work hard to negotiate the best deals possible and pass the savings to you. You'll find more than 4,000 price cuts every day at Cub."

<http://www.yellowpages.com/Chicago-IL/Grocery-Stores?t=supermarkets>

- **Health & Beauty**

<http://www.walgreens.com>

<http://www.cvs.com>

- **Clothing**

<http://www.seemoreshopping.com/home/index.html>

Transportation to Chicago

Flights: Chicago O'Hare International Airport (Airport Code ORD)

<http://www.flychicago.com/Ohare/OhareHomepage.shtm>

"O'Hare International Airport offers more connections to more cities, more often than any other airport in the world. In 2006, 56 passenger carriers operating out of 178 gates carried more than 76.5 million passengers at O'Hare."

To book flights:

www.travelocity.com

www.orbitz.com

www.statravel.com

www.cheaptickets.com

Transportation from O'Hare Airport to Downtown Chicago

<http://www.flychicago.com/ohare/groundtransohare/groundtrainohare.shtm>

Train: Chicago Union Station (Station Code CHI)

To book Train Tickets:

<http://tickets.amtrak.com/itd/amtrak>

"Here you'll find information to help you research your trip, find the best fare, book your tickets and get the most out of your Amtrak experience."

Bus: Chicago Greyhound Station

630 W HARRISON ST
Chicago, IL 60607

To book Bus Tickets:

<http://www.greyhound.com/>

Transportation within the Chicago Metropolitan Area:

<http://www.transitchicago.com/>

"We deliver quality, affordable transit services that link people, jobs and communities."

<http://www.rtachicago.com/>

"The RTA is the financial oversight and regional planning body for the three public transit operators in northeastern Illinois: the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra commuter rail and Pace suburban bus."

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/Transportation/>

"The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is responsible for city street, alley and sidewalk reconstruction, bridge maintenance, public way inspections and permits, and planter and median maintenance."

Social Security

To locate the nearest Social Security Office, please go to

<https://s044a90.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp>

