

**STIG ALBECK**

# **TRAVEL TO CHICAGO**



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# Chicago

Chicago

Area Map

Metro Map

City Map

Attractions



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Chicago

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Hello Chicago



## A visit to Chicago

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[www.ci.chi.il.us/tourism](http://www.ci.chi.il.us/tourism)

[www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com)

The great city of Chicago is beautifully located by Lake Michigan and in this modern city, urban Eastern USA meets the vast prairies that start immediately to the west of the city.

Chicago has a great variety of cultural activities, beautiful museums, restaurants and - typical for America - great shopping possibilities, but other recreational activities and entertainments are also plentiful. Lake Michigan runs alongside the city

centre and offers boat trips, picturesque walks and a range of activities in the area around the Navy Pier. If you want to experience the city from above, Chicago has some of the tallest skyscrapers in the world. These buildings offer a stunning view not only of the city, but also of the enormous Lake Michigan. From the seaside, the view of Chicago's skyline is equally impressive.

Enjoy your holiday!

## Historical outline

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With the help of the local Native Americans, French Jesuit monk Jacques Marquette and the Canadian explorer Louis Jolliet were the first Europeans to explore the area now known as Chicago. Although, their journey took place in 1673, the first permanent settlement was not founded until more than a 100 years later, in 1781, when Jean Baptiste Point du Sable from Santo Domingo established a settlement at the mouth of the Chicago River. The location was a strategically sound choice due to the connection between the large Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. In 1803, Fort Dearborn was built in the settlement as a defence against hostile native tribes, who regularly roamed the area. Following numerous attacks on the fort, the Native Americans were finally defeated in 1832 when the Americans beat the chief Black Hawk.

The victory over the Native Americans restored order in the area. In 1833 the settlement had 350 inhabitants, which officially made it a village. In 1837 the population reached 4,000, and Chicago became a town named after the natives' name for the area. The town's first railway line ran between Chicago and Galena and opened in 1848. Within a few years, many more railway lines were built to and from Chicago, and the town established itself as a regional centre for transport. The arrival of the railway, in addition to Chicago's favourable location at Lake Michigan, resulted in high migration to the town. In 1850 the population was around 30,000, and 10 years later, it had grown to 100,000. In 1870 Chicago had become one of the largest towns in the USA with a population of 300,000.

In 1871, during its period of rapid growth, Chicago experienced a devastating fire. It destroyed large parts of the town entirely and more than 17,000 buildings were lost. A rebuilding programme was immediately initiated, and new buildings began to spring up within weeks of the fire. The devastated areas provided opportunities to use the vertical space, and in 1885 the world saw its first skyscraper. It was the 55 metres (175 ft) tall Home Insurance Building with nine floors.

In 1893 the reconstructed town of Chicago was selected as venue for the celebrations of the 400th year anniversary of Christopher Columbus' journey to America. The town hosted the World Columbian Exposition, and visitors arrived to a modern town where the urban railway had opened only the year before.

The expansion of Chicago continued, and in 1909, the first overall town plan was made. The plan was called 'The 1909 Chicago Plan', but due to the many boulevards and parks it was referred to as 'The Paris of the Prairies Plan'.

At the end of the 19th Century, the value of land in central Chicago had risen dramatically. The continued growth led to a high demand for property in the town centre, and the new buildings grew taller than ever.

During the time of prohibition in the USA, Chicago became home to a number of syndicates. Al Capone and Frank Nitti were amongst the most famous leaders, and over the years, there were recurring clashes between rivalry syndicates.

In 1933 a great exhibition marked the town's celebration of its 100th anniversary. Chicago's fantastic progress, which had made it one of the USA's largest metropolises, was the theme of the exhibition. The depression of the 1930s left its mark also on Chicago, but the area still attracted some investment and research: In 1942, for example, Chicago University witnessed the world's first nuclear chain reaction, and with regards to local transport, after five year's construction work, the first subway section was opened in 1943.

The democrat, Richard J. Daley was elected Mayor in 1955, and his 21 years in office became epoch-making for the progress of the city. The 1950s saw Chicago's infrastructure expand rapidly. An extensive motorway network was built, which enabled the establishment of the suburbs, and Chicago gradually took the shape of a very large city. Investment also went into the international O'Hare Airport that became one of the world's greatest aviation hotspots.

The somewhat run-down city centre was modernised, and ever taller buildings shot up. The world's tallest building at the time, the Sears Tower, was completed in 1973, but the AON Centre and the John Hancock also rank amongst the world's tallest skyscrapers.

In the last few decades Chicago's downtown has been regenerated. New developments, such as Trump Tower, are numerous, and lovely recreational areas and activity centres are now found all along Lake Shore Drive. In 1994 Chicago hosted the opening match of the World Cup that took place in the USA, but the city also regularly stages other important sports events, concerts and exquisite museum exhibitions.

## Tour 1: Chicago

### 1. Union Station

**210 South Canal Street**

**Metro: Quincy/Clinton**

The monumental Union Station was built in neoclassic style in the period 1913-1925. At that time Chicago was the main railway junction with more than 300 trains passing through every day. This station is the last of Chicago's great historical stations to still be in use. The central hall with its vaulted glass ceiling is one of the most beautiful public spaces in the city.

### 2. Civic Opera Building

**20 North Wacker Drive**

**[www.lyricopera.org](http://www.lyricopera.org)**

**Metro: Washington**

The Civic Opera Building is a colossal public building from 1927-1929. The front of the construction boasts an impressive colonnade, and inside there is a hall with 3,400 seats. Viewed from the Chicago River, the building takes the form of a giant armchair of which the seat makes up the opera house, whilst the arms and the 45-floor high back are offices.

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### 3. Chicago Mercantile Exchange

**30 South Wacker Drive**

**[www.cme.com](http://www.cme.com)**

**Metro: Washington**

The Mercantile Exchange is a lively place. The busy stockbrokers and the general hustle and bustle of the exchange can be followed from a special observation deck.

### 4. Sears Tower



**233 South Wacker Drive**

**[www.the-skydeck.com](http://www.the-skydeck.com)**

**Metro: Quincy**

Sears Tower is Chicago's tallest building and one of the tallest in the world. It has 110 floors, stands 442 metres (1408 ft) tall, or 527 metres (1679 ft), if including the highest antenna. Sears Tower was built 1970-1973 and was until 1997 the tallest building in the world. There is an observation deck 412 metres (1313 ft) up on the 103rd floor, from which you can see all across Chicago.

### 5. Chicago Board of Trade



**141 West Jackson Boulevard**

**[www.cbot.com](http://www.cbot.com)**

**Metro: LaSalle**

Chicago's commodity futures exchange is the largest of its kind in the world. You can explore the place on your own or take a tour during which you will gain insight into the purpose of the different activities. The building is a beautiful art deco skyscraper completed in 1930 and standing majestically at the end of LaSalle Street. The two-storey lobby is rich in detail.

### 6. Field Building

**135 South LaSalle Street**

**Metro: Quincy/Monroe (Dearborn Line)**

In the years 1928-1934 the Home Insurance Building, which had been the world's first modern skyscraper, was demolished. In its place, Field Building was erected in art deco style. It was the last larger office building to be built before the depression and the Second World War cast an economic damper on major private construction initiatives.

## 7. Art Institute of Chicago

**111 South Michigan Avenue**

**[www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu)**

**Metro: Adams**

This beautiful museum displays works of art made in a wide variety of media. The collection is extensive and includes pieces from several thousands of years throughout the world. You can, for instance, enjoy works by European impressionists as well as modern American painters such as Edward Hopper.

## 8. Buckingham Fountain

**Grant Park**

**[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)**

**Metro: Harrison**

The large Buckingham Fountain in pink marble was built in 1927. It was modelled on a similar fountain made by the French Sun King, Louis 14th, at the castle of Versailles outside Paris. The Buckingham Fountain is, however, much bigger. The water shoots 40 metres (127 ft) up into the air, and on summer evenings a colourful lightshow takes place in the water. The fountain makes a fantastic viewpoint for Chicago's skyline.

## 9. Blackstone Hotel

**636 South Michigan Avenue**

**Metro: Harrison**

Chicago's most luxurious hotel, the Blackstone Hotel, dates from the beginning of the 20th Century. It was built in 1908-1910 and both building and decor are kept in the French beaux art style. The hotel is named after railway builder, Timothy Blackstone, whose house occupied this space before the hotel was built. Blackstone Hotel gradually became known as the Presidents' Hotel, as it has housed several American presidents, including Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.

## 10. Dearborn Street Station

**47 West Polk Street**

**Metro: Harrison**

The construction of Dearborn Street Station in 1885 established central Chicago as a traffic and travel hub. The elegant station with its bell tower is one of the oldest preserved railway stations in the USA.

Rail traffic to Dearborn Street Station gradually decreased, and in 1971 the railway service finally stopped. In the 1980s the station building was redeveloped and made into a mall and activity centre.

## 11. Field Museum of Natural History

**1400 South Lake Shore Drive**

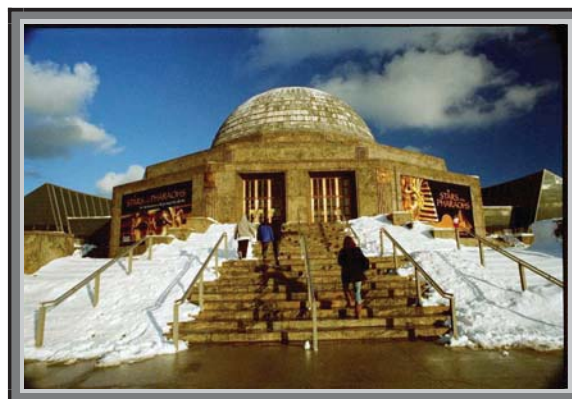
**[www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org)**

**Metro: Roosevelt**

Field Museum is regarded as one of the world's best natural history museums. It also holds a magnificent anthropological collection, which was initially put together for the great exhibition in 1893.

The museum's display includes the most well-preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex in the world and a collection of Egyptian treasures in connection with which you can descend into a reconstructed burial chamber.

## 12. Adler Planetarium



**1300 South Lake Shore Drive****[www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)****Metro: Roosevelt**

Chicago's modern planetarium stages exciting exhibitions with astronomical themes. The original building is from 1930, and the Sky Pavillon was added later. The planetarium is beautifully situated on the shore of Lake Michigan.

**1410 South Museum Campus Drive****[www.soldierfield.net](http://www.soldierfield.net)****Metro: Roosevelt**

The first Soldier Field Stadium was built in the golden age of sport, 1922-1928, as a tribute to fallen American soldiers. Originally it could hold an audience of 74,000 (although an extra 30,000 could be admitted for special events). The style of the structure took inspiration from ancient Greek and Roman Stadiums.

**13. Soldier Field Stadium**

In 1971 the stadium became home ground for the football team Chicago Bears, and the same year the audience-capacity was reduced to 57,000. In 1994 it hosted the opening ceremonies of the World Cup. In 2002-2003 the stadium was refurbished, although the exterior of the old beautiful stadium was preserved.

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## 14. Museum of Science & History

## 57th Street/Lake Shore Drive

[www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org)

## Metro: East 63rd/Cottage Grove

Chicago's Museum of Science and History is one of the most interesting and exciting museums in the USA. It holds the legendary Silver Streak Zephyr Train and a German submarine from the Second World War. Amongst numerous other activities, you can descend into an underground coalmine or interact with intelligent robots.



## Tour 2: Chicago

---

### 15. City Hall-County Building

**121 North LaSalle Street/118 North Clark Street**

**Metro: Washington (Dearborn Line)**

Chicago's municipal government and regional administration have shared the City Hall-County Building since 1853. In this period, the building has been rebuilt 3 times. The current monumental neoclassic building was constructed 1905-1911.

### 16. Harris & Selwyn Theatres

**180-190 North Dearborn Street**

**Metro: State**

These twin theatres were built in 1922 by the New York producers Sam Harris and Edgar Selwyn. The Harris Theatre is built within the framework of Italian Renaissance, whilst the Selwyn Theatre is in a classic English style. The two theatres have staged many large performances, and have housed actors such as Audrey Hepburn, Boris Karloff and Mae West.

### 17. Chicago Theatre

**175 North State Street**

**[www.thechicagotheatre.com](http://www.thechicagotheatre.com)**

**Metro: State**

Chicago Theatre from 1921 was built in the spirit of its age, with grand ornamentations and proportions to accentuate the glamour of opening nights and large productions. The theatre is kept in the style of beaux art, and is the oldest building in this style in Chicago.

### 18. Mather Tower

**75 East Wacker Drive**

**Metro: State**

Mather Tower was erected in 1928 by the architect Herbert Hugh Riddle. This skyscraper is not only the narrowest of its kind, but the modernistic style also makes it the most beautiful. Both the exterior and the interior are rich on historical ornamentation from, for instance, the gothic period.

### 19. 333 North Michigan Building

**333 North Michigan Avenue**

**Metro: State**

This skyscraper from 1928 is built in art deco. At the base, the building is clad in polished granite, whilst the upper part is clad in limestone and terracotta.

### 20. Tribune Tower

**435 North Michigan Avenue**

**Metro: Grand**

In 1922 the newspaper, Chicago Tribune, arranged a competition for building the most beautiful skyscraper in the world. Hood & Howells won with their Tribune Tower, which was built in 1922-1925. The tower is 141 metres (449 ft) tall and is modelled on the Cathedral in Rouen, France.

## 21. Navy Pier



**600 East Grand Avenue**

**[www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com)**

**Metro: Grand**

Navy Pier was built as part of the town plan of 1909, which included the construction of two long piers running out into Lake Michigan (the other pier was never built).

Navy Pier Headhouse and Auditorium from 1916 are situated at the very end of the almost 1 kilometre/ 0.62 miles long pier. During the last few decades the pier has become increasingly popular as it stages a wide range of recreational activities and entertainments.

## 22. Museum of Contemporary Art

**220 East Chicago Avenue**

**[www.mcachicago.org](http://www.mcachicago.org)**

**Metro: Chicago (State Line)**

Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art holds more than 6,000 pieces from the post-war period to present day. The museum's collection includes paintings, installation art, photography and sculptures by, for instance, Andy Warhol and René Magritte.

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## 23. Water Tower

**800 North Michigan Avenue**

**Metro: Chicago (State Line)**

Chicago's Water Tower was one of the few buildings to survive the extensive fire of 1871. The tower, built in limestone, was constructed in 1869 and resembles a small European castle, when viewed against the tall skyscrapers. The tower, which has a visitors' centre, has become one of Chicago's landmarks.

## 24. John Hancock Center



**875 North Michigan Avenue**

**[www.hancock-observatory.com](http://www.hancock-observatory.com)**

**Metro: Chicago (State Line)**

The John Hancock Center, also known as Big John, was built in 1969. It has 100 storeys and is 344 metres (1096 ft) high. There is an observation deck on the 94th floor, which offers a fantastic view across Chicago city and Lake Michigan.

## 25. Palmolive Building

**919 North Michigan Avenue**

**Metro: Chicago (State Line)**

The Palmolive Building was the first of Chicago's skyscrapers to be built outside the immediate city centre. It is regarded as one of the best examples of the art deco style in American skyscrapers. The building was headquarters to the magazine Playboy from 1965 to 1989.

## 26. Bush Temple of Music

**100 West Chicago Avenue**

**Metro: Chicago (State Line)**

Around 1900, Chicago was the leading piano manufacturing centre in the world. The Bush Temple of Music is a celebration of this. The building is from 1901 and served as headquarters and showroom for the Bush & Gerts Piano Company. Created by the architect J. E. O. Pridmore, the building is an example of French Renaissance style.

## 27. Medinah Temple

**600 North Wabash Avenue**

**Metro: Grand**

Generally regarded as one of the most beautiful buildings in the entire USA, the Medinah Temple, from 1912, takes inspiration from Islamic, Middle-Eastern architecture. It is a religious centre built to house more than 4,000 worshippers.

The architecture is a curious mixture of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century industrial influences and beautiful, Islamic inspired ornamentations.

## 28. Chicago Varnish Company Building

**33 West Kinzie Street**

**Metro: Grand/Merchandise Mart**

The Chicago Varnish Company Building was built by the architect Henry Ives Cobb in 1895. The Dutch renaissance style with its red bricks and

contrasting light stones is otherwise rarely seen in the USA. The building was built as the headquarters of one of Chicago's leading varnish manufacturers.

## 29. Marina City



### 300 North State Street

[www.marina-city.com](http://www.marina-city.com)

**Metro: Grand/State**

Marina City is situated on the banks of the Chicago River. It was built 1959-1964 by architect Bertrand Goldberg. The exciting aspect of the two 60-storey twin towers is their division into accommodation and services on the top floors, parking in the middle part and a marina at the very bottom.

## 30. Reid, Murdoch & Co. Building

### 320 North Clark Street

**Metro: Merchandise Mart**

This building was constructed in 1914 as office space and a grocery warehouse for a wholesale grocery company. The industrial design makes it one of Chicago's most beautiful constructions of its time and an excellent representative of the many warehouses that sprung up along the riverside following Chicago's town plan of 1909.



## Day Tours from Chicago

### 31. Chicago River & Lake Michigan



Several companies offer boat trips on the Chicago River. The waterside gives an interesting and close-up view of the city's exciting architecture. Departures take place from, for instance, Michigan Avenue.

A boat trip on Lake Michigan is equally worthwhile. Chicago's skyline and especially the tallest building, Sears Tower, are truly impressive from the lakeside. The boats depart from Navy Pier.

Lake Michigan has several beaches where you can go swimming. Alternatively, you can visit the Illinois Beach Park North of the city where the sandy beaches stretch for more than 10 km/ 6.2 miles, and where there is a wide range of activities. In the winter, Illinois Beach Park becomes a popular destination for skiers to enjoy their sport close to the city.

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### 32. Long Grove Historic District

**307 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove, 60 km/  
37 miles NW**

**[www.longgroveonline.com](http://www.longgroveonline.com)**

Visiting the historical Long Grove is like returning to a 19<sup>th</sup> Century village in the mid-west. The village consists of more than 80 buildings from that period and includes both country cottages and town houses and even a beautiful church from 1847. To access the area, you cross an old, roofed wooden bridge.

Long Grove dates back to 1825, when the opening of the Erie Channel made it easier for people to emigrate westwards.

### 33. Anderson Japanese Gardens

**318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, 145 km/ 90  
miles NW**

**[www.andersongardens.org](http://www.andersongardens.org)**

The Anderson Japanese Gardens are truly beautiful. Their miniature landscape creates a harmonious and idyllic atmosphere. The gardens spread across 36,000 m<sup>2</sup> (14 acres) and include waterfalls, winding paths, rock formations, carp ponds and a tea-house in 16<sup>th</sup> Century Sukiya style architecture.

### 34. Coronado Theatre



**314 North Main Street, Rockford, 145 km/ 90  
miles NW**

**[www.centreevents.com/coronado](http://www.centreevents.com/coronado)**

When visiting the Rockford area, the Coronado Theatre is a 'must see'. Built in 1927, the architectural style is lavish with magnificent and colourful ornamentations in both the lobby and the large hall.

The style of the theatre is a unique mixture of Spanish castle and Italian villa, but it also includes Chinese dragons and a beautiful ceiling studded delicately with stars.

The building was originally a movie theatre, but following its restoration in 2000-2001, it was converted to an extravagant theatre for large stage performances and concerts with symphony orchestras. Over the years, the stage has been visited by names such as Bob Hope, the Marx Brothers, Liberace, Louis Armstrong and Sammy Davis, Jr.

### 35. Starved Rock State Park

**Utica, 145 km/ 90 miles SW**

**[www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)**

The beautiful natural resort of Starved Rock State Park runs alongside Illinois River. It is an area of great natural beauty, tranquillity and stunning views.

The park is best known for its famous rock formations of all together 18 canyons set within a relatively short distance from one another. The undulating landscape with its wooded areas, scenic waterfalls and the Illinois River form a sharp contrast to the surrounding flat prairie. The waterfalls increase in number and their flows intensify in the early spring. The French Canyon, LaSalle Canyon and St. Louis Canyon are amongst the last to dry up.

## 36. Springfield

**320 km/ 199 miles S**

[www.visit-springfieldillinois.com](http://www.visit-springfieldillinois.com)

Illinois' state capital, Springfield, was founded in 1821, and the young politician, Abraham Lincoln, played a decisive role in making Springfield the political centre of the state already in 1837.

Springfield has remained closely associated with Lincoln, and this historical connection with the former president continues to be one of Springfield's main attractions.

### 36a. State Capitol

The current State Capitol is the sixth building to serve this purpose in Illinois. It was built 1868-1888 and standing 110 metres (350 ft) tall it is the tallest classical Capitol in the USA. The beautiful dome is 28 metres (89 ft) in diameter. The fifth Capitol, which was built in 1853, is likewise open for visitors. Abraham Lincoln delivered many famous speeches here, prior to becoming president.

### 36b. Abraham Lincoln

[www.alincoln-library.com](http://www.alincoln-library.com)

In 2004 the modern Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum was opened. In addition to a biographical account, Lincoln's life is portrayed through an interesting collection of artefacts from that period. When Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, he was initially put to rest in the Capitol in Springfield, but was in 1874 moved to a large mausoleum in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. The monument in Oak Ridge is built in granite and has, at its centre, a 36 metres tall (115 ft) obelisk. There is also a bust of Lincoln made in bronze and created by the Danish/American sculptor Gutzon Borglum.

### 36c. New Salem State Historic Site



[www.lincolnsnewsalem.com](http://www.lincolnsnewsalem.com)

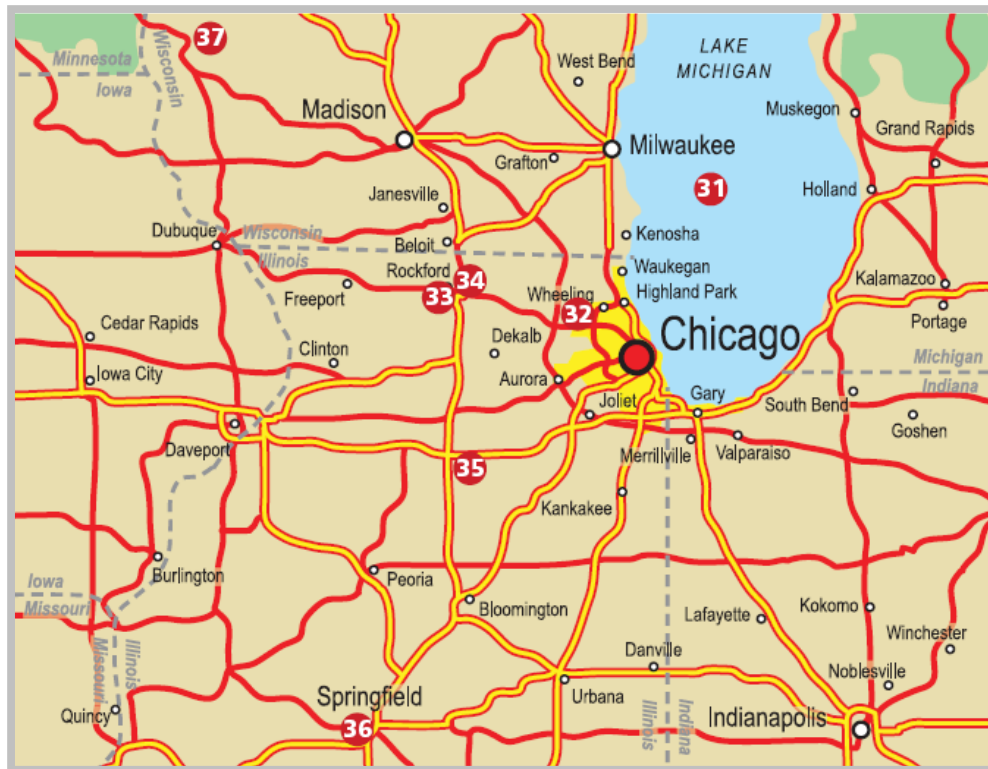
New Salem State Historic Park is situated northwest of Springfield, near the town of Petersburg. The park is a reconstruction of the village in which Lincoln lived for 6 years as a child and young adult in the 1830s. The park is essentially a celebration of Lincoln, but it is equally relevant to visitors with an interest in the American way of life in the mid-19th Century.

## 37. Wisconsin Dells

**315 km/ 196 miles NW**

[www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)

In Wisconsin Dells, the Wisconsin River has eroded the soft sandstone cliffs for hundreds of millions of years. This has resulted in the most extraordinary rock formations. The cliffs stretch for 8 km (5 miles) and are up to 30 metres (96 ft) high. Wisconsin Dells are best enjoyed from the riverside on board one of the tourist boats. In the summer, the area of the Wisconsin Dells becomes a huge amusement park with a range of theme parks, water worlds and other entertainments.



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## Visiting Chicago with children

Brookfield Zoo (First Avenue/Ogden Avenue):  
[www.brookfieldzoo.org](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org)

Kiddieland (8400 West North Avenue, Melrose Park):  
[www.kiddieland.com](http://www.kiddieland.com)

Lincoln Park Zoo (Lincoln Park, 2200 North Cannon Drive):  
[www.lpzoo.com](http://www.lpzoo.com)

Shedd Aquarium (1200 South Lake Shore Drive):  
[www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org)

Six Flags Great America (Grand Avenue, Gurnee):  
[www.sixflags.com/greatamerica](http://www.sixflags.com/greatamerica)

## Shopping in Chicago

Michigan Avenue (Magnificent Mile)  
Bloomingdale's (900 N Michigan Avenue):  
[www.bloomingdales.com](http://www.bloomingdales.com)

Chicago Place (700 N Michigan Avenue):  
[www.chicago-place.com](http://www.chicago-place.com)

Chicago Premium Outlets (1650 Premium Outlets Boulevard, Aurora):  
[www.premiumoutlets.com](http://www.premiumoutlets.com)

Gurnee Mills Mall (6170 West Grand Avenue, Gurnee):  
[www.gurneemillsmall.com](http://www.gurneemillsmall.com)

Macy's (111 N State Street):  
[www.macys.com](http://www.macys.com)

Water Tower Place (35 N Michigan Avenue):  
[www.shopwatertower.com](http://www.shopwatertower.com)

Woodfield Mall (Schaumburg):  
[www.gowoodfieldmall.com](http://www.gowoodfieldmall.com)

## Public transport in Chicago

Transport in Chicago City:  
[www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com)

Chicago Airport:  
[www.ohare.com](http://www.ohare.com)

Metra Rail:  
[www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com)

Trains across the USA:  
[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

# Metro Map



## Facts about USA



### Political

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Official name        | United States of America         |
| Capital              | Washington                       |
| Government           | Federal republic                 |
| Head of State        | President George W. Bush         |
| Deputy Head of State | Vice President Richard B. Cheney |
| National day         | July 4                           |
| Date of independence | July 4, 1776 from Great Britain  |
| Primary religion     | Christianity                     |
| Language             | English                          |
| Area                 | 9,631,420 km <sup>2</sup>        |
| Population (2000)    | 281,421,000                      |

### Borders on

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| North | Canada, The Arctic Sea                           |
| South | Mexico, Gulf of Mexico                           |
| East  | The Atlantic Ocean                               |
| West  | The Pacific Ocean, Bering's Sea, Bering's Strait |



**Highest Mountains**

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Mount McKinley    | 6,194 meters |
| Mount Saint Elias | 5,489 meters |
| Mount Foraker     | 5,304 meters |
| Mount Bona        | 5,045 meters |
| Mount Blackburn   | 4,996 meters |
| Mount Sanford     | 4,949 meters |
| Mount Fairweather | 4,671 meters |
| Mount Hubbard     | 4,557 meters |
| Mount Bear        | 4,520 meters |
| Mount Hunter      | 4,442 meters |

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An advertisement for SKF. The background is a blue-tinted image of a woman with long dark hair smiling, with a wind turbine visible behind her. The text 'Brain power' is in large white font on the left. On the right, there is a block of text about wind energy and SKF's role. At the bottom left, there is a call to action to visit the SKF website. At the bottom right, the SKF logo is displayed in a white rounded rectangle.

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**SKF**

**Largest islands**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Hawaii                 | 10,414 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Kodiak Island          | 9,293 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Prince of Wales Island | 6,675 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Chichagof Island       | 5,388 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| St. Lawrence Island    | 5,135 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Admiralty Island       | 4,362 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Nunivak Island         | 4,209 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Unimak                 | 4,119 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Baranof Island         | 4,065 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Long Island            | 3.629 km <sup>2</sup>  |

**Largest lakes**

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lake Superior*     | 82,414 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Lake Huron*        | 59,596 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Lake Michigan      | 58,016 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Lake Erie*         | 25,745 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Lake Ontario*      | 18,529 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Great Salt Lake    | 4,400 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Lake of the Woods* | 4,390 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Lake Okeechobee    | 1,890 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Lake Pontchartrain | 1,630 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Champlainsee*      | 1, 130 km <sup>2</sup> |

\* partly in Canada

**Longest rivers\***

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Missouri           | 4,023 km |
| Mississippi        | 3,765 km |
| Yukon River        | 3,185 km |
| Rio Grande         | 3,034 km |
| St. Lawrence River | 3,058 km |
| Arkansas River     | 2,364 km |
| Colorado           | 2,333 km |

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Red River      | 2,189 km |
| Snake River    | 1,965 km |
| Columbia River | 1,857 km |
| Ohio River     | 1,579 km |

\* Some of the rivers run through other countries as well as the USA

### Largest cities (2006)

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| New York-Jersey City     | 18,818,000 |
| Los Angeles              | 12,950,000 |
| Chicago                  | 9,506,000  |
| Dallas-Fort Worth        | 6,004,000  |
| Philadelphia -Wilmington | 5,827,000  |
| Houston                  | 5,540,000  |
| Miami-Fort Lauderdale    | 5,464,000  |
| Washington-Arlington     | 5,290,000  |
| Atlanta                  | 5,138,000  |
| Detroit                  | 4,469,000  |

### Administrative regions

| State                 | Capital     | Area                      |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Alabama               | Montgomery  | 135,293 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Alaska                | Juneau      | 1,717,854 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Arizona               | Phoenix     | 295,276 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Arkansas              | Little Rock | 137,732 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| California            | Sacramento  | 411,912 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Colorado              | Denver      | 269,837 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Connecticut           | Hartford    | 14,371 km <sup>2</sup>    |
| Delaware              | Dover       | 6,452 km <sup>2</sup>     |
| District of Columbia* | Washington  | 159 km <sup>2</sup>       |
| Florida               | Tallahassee | 170,451 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Georgia               | Atlanta     | 154,077 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Hawaii                | Honolulu    | 16,377 km <sup>2</sup>    |
| Idaho                 | Boise       | 216,632 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Illinois              | Springfield | 149,998 km <sup>2</sup>   |



|                |                |                         |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Indiana        | Indianapolis   | 94,321 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Iowa           | Des Moines     | 145,743 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Kansas         | Topeka         | 213,283 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Kentucky       | Frankfort      | 104,749 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Louisiana      | Baton Rouge    | 134,382 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Maine          | Augusta        | 86,542 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Maryland       | Annapolis      | 32,160 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Massachusetts  | Boston         | 27,360 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Michigan       | Lansing        | 250,941 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Minnesota      | Saint Paul     | 225,362 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Mississippi    | Jackson        | 125,546 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Missouri       | Jefferson City | 180,693 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Montana        | Helena         | 381,156 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Nebraska       | Lincoln        | 200,520 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Nevada         | Carson City    | 286,367 km <sup>2</sup> |
| New Hampshire  | Concord        | 24,239 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| New Jersey     | Trenton        | 22,608 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| New Mexico     | Santa Fe       | 315,194 km <sup>2</sup> |
| New York       | Albany         | 141,205 km <sup>2</sup> |
| North Carolina | Raleigh        | 139,509 km <sup>2</sup> |
| North Dakota   | Bismarck       | 183,272 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Ohio           | Columbus       | 116,096 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Oklahoma       | Oklahoma City  | 181,196 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Oregon         | Salem          | 255,026 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Pennsylvania   | Harrisburg     | 119,283 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Rhode Island   | Providence     | 4,005 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| South Carolina | Columbia       | 82,965 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| South Dakota   | Pierre         | 199,905 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Tennessee      | Nashville      | 109,247 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Texas          | Austin         | 696,241 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Utah           | Salt Lake City | 220,080 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Vermont        | Montpelier     | 24,923 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Virginia       | Richmond       | 110,862 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Washington     | Olympia        | 184,824 km <sup>2</sup> |

|                            |                  |                         |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| West Virginia              | Charleston       | 62,809 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Wisconsin                  | Madison          | 140,662 km <sup>2</sup> |
| Wyoming                    | Cheyenne         | 253,554 km <sup>2</sup> |
| American Samoa**           | Pago Pago        | 199 km <sup>2</sup>     |
| Guam**                     | Hagåtña          | 541 km <sup>2</sup>     |
| Northern Mariana Islands** | Saipan           | 477 km <sup>2</sup>     |
| Puerto Rico**              | San Juan         | 9.104 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| US Virgin Islands**        | Charlotte Amalie | 346 km <sup>2</sup>     |

\* Federal capital, is not considered a state

\*\* Overseas territories

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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old  
Education: Chemical Engineer

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|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| George Washington     | 1789-1797 |
| John Adams            | 1797-1801 |
| Thomas Jefferson      | 1801-1809 |
| James Madison         | 1809-1817 |
| James Monroe          | 1817-1825 |
| John Quincy Adams     | 1825-1829 |
| Andrew Jackson        | 1829-1837 |
| Martin Van Buren      | 1837-1841 |
| William H. Harrison   | 1841-1841 |
| John Tyler            | 1841-1845 |
| James K. Polk         | 1845-1849 |
| Zachary Taylor        | 1849-1850 |
| Millard Fillmore      | 1850-1853 |
| Franklin Pierce       | 1853-1857 |
| James Buchanan        | 1857-1861 |
| Abraham Lincoln       | 1861-1865 |
| Jefferson Davis*      | 1861-1865 |
| Andrew Johnson        | 1865-1869 |
| Ulysses S. Grant      | 1869-1877 |
| Rutherford B. Hayes   | 1877-1881 |
| James Garfield        | 1881-1881 |
| Chester A. Arthur     | 1881-1885 |
| Grover Cleveland      | 1885-1889 |
| Benjamin Harrison     | 1889-1893 |
| Grover Cleveland      | 1893-1897 |
| William McKinley      | 1897-1901 |
| Theodore Roosevelt    | 1901-1909 |
| William H. Taft       | 1909-1913 |
| Woodrow Wilson        | 1913-1921 |
| Warren G. Harding     | 1921-1923 |
| Calvin Coolidge       | 1923-1929 |
| Herbert Hoover        | 1929-1933 |
| Franklin D. Roosevelt | 1933-1945 |

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Harry S. Truman      | 1945-1953 |
| Dwight D. Eisenhower | 1953-1961 |
| John F. Kennedy      | 1961-1963 |
| Lyndon B. Johnson    | 1963-1969 |
| Richard Nixon        | 1969-1974 |
| Gerald Ford          | 1974-1977 |
| Jimmy Carter         | 1977-1981 |
| Ronald Reagan        | 1981-1989 |
| George H. W. Bush    | 1989-1993 |
| Bill Clinton         | 1993-2001 |
| George W. Bush       | 2001-     |

\* President of the Confederate States of America (The Southern States)

### Vice Presidents since 1929

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Charles Curtis         | 1929-1933 |
| John Nance Garner      | 1933-1941 |
| Henry A. Wallace       | 1941-1945 |
| Harry Truman           | 1945-1945 |
| Alben W. Barkley       | 1949-1953 |
| Richard M. Nixon       | 1953-1961 |
| Lyndon B. Johnson      | 1961-1963 |
| Hubert H. Humphrey Jr. | 1965-1969 |
| Spiro T. Agnew         | 1969-1973 |
| Gerald R. Ford         | 1973-1974 |
| Nelson A. Rockefeller  | 1974-1977 |
| Walter F. Mondale      | 1977-1981 |
| George H. W. Bush      | 1981-1989 |
| J. Danforth Quayle     | 1989-1993 |
| Albert A. Gore Jr.     | 1993-2001 |
| Richard B. Cheney      | 2001-     |



## Holidays

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| January 1                   | New Years Day             |
| Third Monday in January     | Martin Luther King Day    |
| January 20 every 4 years    | Presidential inauguration |
| Third Monday in February    | Washington's birthday     |
| Last Monday in May          | Memorial Day              |
| July 4                      | Independence Day          |
| First Monday in September   | Labour Day                |
| Second Monday in October    | Columbus Day              |
| November 11                 | Veterans Day              |
| Fourth Thursday in November | Thanksgiving Day          |
| December 25                 | Christmas Day             |

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**Various facts**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Currency             | US dollar  |
| Currency code        | USD  |
| Time zones           | Eastern Standard Time/EST (UTC-5)<br>Central Standard Time/CST (UTC-6)<br>Mountain Standard Time/MST (UTC-7)<br>Pacific Standard Time/PST (UTC-8)<br>Alaska Standard Time/ASKT (UTC-9)<br>Aleutian Standard Time/AST (UTC-10)<br>Hawaii Standard Time/HST (UTC-10) |
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| Internet domain      | .com   |
| Country calling code | +1   |

| <b>Climate – New York</b> | <b>Mean temperature<br/>°C</b> | <b>Precipitation<br/>millimetres</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January                   | -0.2                           | 84                                   |
| February                  | 0.8                            | 79                                   |
| March                     | 5.7                            | 99                                   |
| April                     | 11.3                           | 93                                   |
| May                       | 17.0                           | 106                                  |
| June                      | 22.0                           | 85                                   |
| July                      | 24.8                           | 105                                  |
| August                    | 24.1                           | 104                                  |
| September                 | 20.1                           | 91                                   |
| October                   | 14.1                           | 84                                   |
| November                  | 8.6                            | 107                                  |
| December                  | 2.5                            | 92                                   |

**Source:** WorldClimate ([www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com))

| Climate – Miami | Mean temperature<br>°C | Precipitation<br>millimetres |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| January         | 6.9                    | 53                           |
| February        | 9.1                    | 45                           |
| March           | 11.9                   | 46                           |
| April           | 16.1                   | 19                           |
| May             | 20.8                   | 10                           |
| June            | 26.2                   | 9                            |
| July            | 28.4                   | 65                           |
| August          | 27.1                   | 77                           |
| September       | 24.3                   | 40                           |
| October         | 18.3                   | 33                           |
| November        | 11.7                   | 35                           |
| December        | 7.6                    | 59                           |

**Source:** WorldClimate ([www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com))

| Climate – Denver | Mean temperature<br>°C | Precipitation<br>millimetres |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| January          | -1.2                   | 14                           |
| February         | 0.7                    | 16                           |
| March            | 3.8                    | 34                           |
| April            | 9.0                    | 45                           |
| May              | 14.0                   | 63                           |
| June             | 19.3                   | 43                           |
| July             | 23.0                   | 47                           |
| August           | 21.8                   | 38                           |
| September        | 16.8                   | 28                           |
| October          | 10.7                   | 26                           |
| November         | 3.8                    | 23                           |
| December         | -0.5                   | 15                           |

**Source:** WorldClimate ([www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com))

| Climate – Los Angeles | Mean temperature °C | Precipitation millimetres |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| January               | 13.5                | 67                        |
| February              | 14.1                | 59                        |
| March                 | 14.8                | 46                        |
| April                 | 16.0                | 22                        |
| May                   | 17.4                | 3                         |
| June                  | 19.5                | 1                         |
| July                  | 22.0                | 0                         |
| August                | 22.4                | 3                         |
| September             | 21.6                | 5                         |
| October               | 19.5                | 8                         |
| November              | 17.0                | 40                        |
| December              | 14.4                | 40                        |

**Source:** WorldClimate ([www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com))

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| Climate – Seattle | Mean temperature<br>°C | Precipitation<br>millimetres |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| January           | 4.5                    | 141                          |
| February          | 6.3                    | 107                          |
| March             | 7.5                    | 94                           |
| April             | 9.5                    | 64                           |
| May               | 12.8                   | 42                           |
| June              | 16.0                   | 38                           |
| July              | 18.4                   | 20                           |
| August            | 18.6                   | 27                           |
| September         | 15.8                   | 47                           |
| October           | 11.5                   | 89                           |
| November          | 7.3                    | 149                          |
| December          | 4.7                    | 149                          |

**Source:** WorldClimate ([www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com))

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform. He is looking towards a silver train car with several windows. The scene is set outdoors under a clear blue sky.

## About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to [travelstig@gmail.com](mailto:travelstig@gmail.com) (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit [www.stigalbeck.com](http://www.stigalbeck.com).

*Bonne Voyage!*