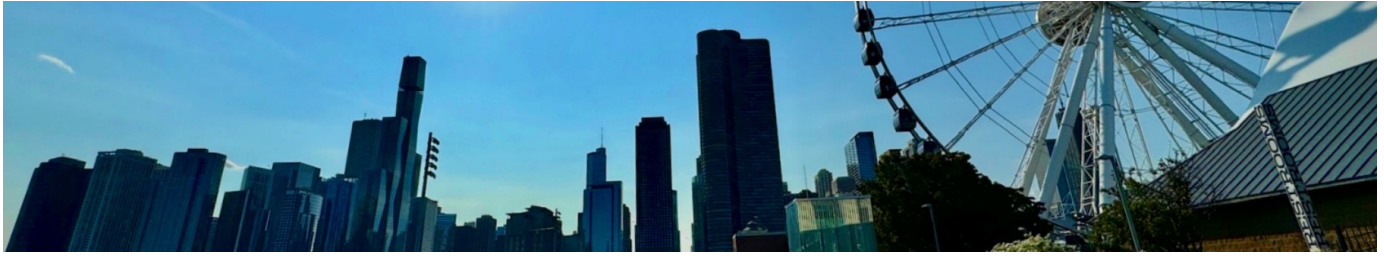


TRAVEL MAKES ME HAPPY

CHICAGO 2-DAY ITINERARY

A realistic weekend route with food stops, transportation & evening ideas



WALK | CTA / BUS | RIDESHARE • Times are flexible—this is a realistic route, not a race.

DAY 1

Downtown Icons + Architecture

8:00–9:00 AM

Breakfast near Millennium Park; keep it quick so you can start sightseeing early.

9:00–10:00 AM

Millennium Park + Cloud Gate (The Bean). Walk the park and snap photos before crowds build.

10:15 AM–12:15 PM

Art Institute of Chicago. Walk about 5 minutes from Millennium Park.

12:30–1:30 PM

Lunch at **Petterino's** in the Loop. Walk or take a short rideshare.

1:45–2:30 PM

Chicago Riverwalk. Walk north toward the river and enjoy the architecture along the way.

3:00–4:30 PM

Chicago Architecture River Cruise. Book ahead during busy weekends.

4:45–5:45 PM

Magnificent Mile + Water Tower area. Walk or take a short bus/rideshare.

6:00–7:15 PM

Dinner: **Pizzeria Uno** for classic deep dish or **Billy Goat Tavern** for a casual Chicago stop.

7:30–10:00 PM

Evening choice: a Broadway in Chicago/theater show, Riverwalk after dark, or rooftop drinks with skyline views.

DAY 2

Navy Pier + Museum Campus

8:30–9:30 AM

Breakfast in Streeterville or near Navy Pier.

9:30 AM–12:00 PM

Navy Pier. See the **Route 66 Begin road sign**, explore the pier, lake views and Centennial Wheel.

12:00–1:15 PM

Lunch **at Navy Pier**. Choose one of the pier's restaurants or casual food spots—no backtracking downtown.

1:30–2:00 PM

Bus or rideshare to Museum Campus.

2:00–4:30 PM

Choose the **Field Museum** or **Shedd Aquarium**. One major museum is more realistic for a short trip.

4:45–5:45 PM

Buckingham Fountain + Grant Park. Walk or take a short bus/rideshare from Museum Campus.

6:00–7:15 PM

Dinner in the Loop or near the theater district. **Petterino's** works well if you did not visit on Day 1.

7:30–10:00 PM

Evening choice: theater show, rooftop bar, or a sunset/evening stroll through Millennium Park and the Riverwalk.

KERRI'S TRAVEL TIP: SPLURGE ON THE ARCHITECTURE CRUISE

If you choose one paid experience, make it the Chicago Architecture River Cruise. It is one of our favorite ways to see the skyline and understand why Chicago's architecture is so special. [Check cruise times & tickets →](#)

Keep planning your Chicago trip

Scan for our full Chicago weekend guide, hotel ideas, food stops & travel tips.

