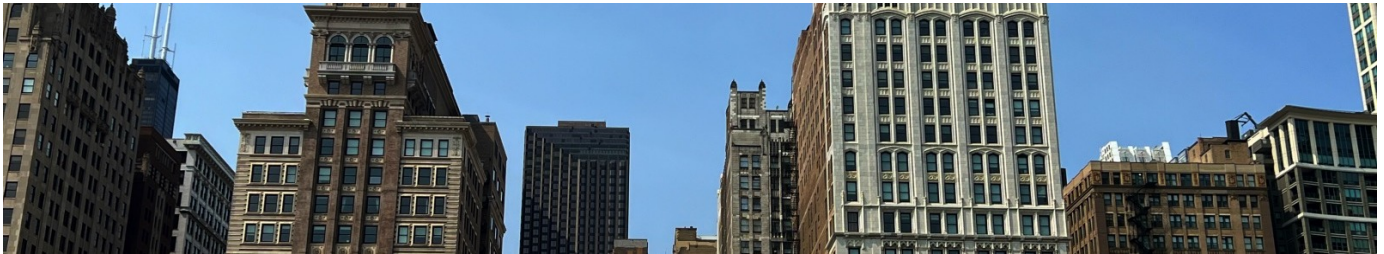


TRAVEL MAKES ME HAPPY

CHICAGO 3-DAY ITINERARY

Downtown icons, Lincoln Park, Lake Michigan, Navy Pier & museums



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

Lincoln Park + Lake Michigan

8:00–9:00 AM

Breakfast in Lincoln Park. Take CTA or rideshare from downtown.

9:00–11:00 AM

Lincoln Park Zoo — FREE. Enjoy the grounds and skyline views at an easy pace.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Lincoln Park Conservatory. Walk from the zoo.

12:15–1:30 PM

Lunch in Lincoln Park or Old Town.

1:45–4:30 PM

North Avenue Beach if weather permits. Otherwise, stroll the lakefront and Lincoln Park area.

5:00–6:00 PM

Return to your hotel and refresh. CTA or rideshare.

6:30–8:00 PM

Dinner: **Pizzeria Uno** for deep dish or **Billy Goat Tavern** for something casual.

8:00–10:00 PM

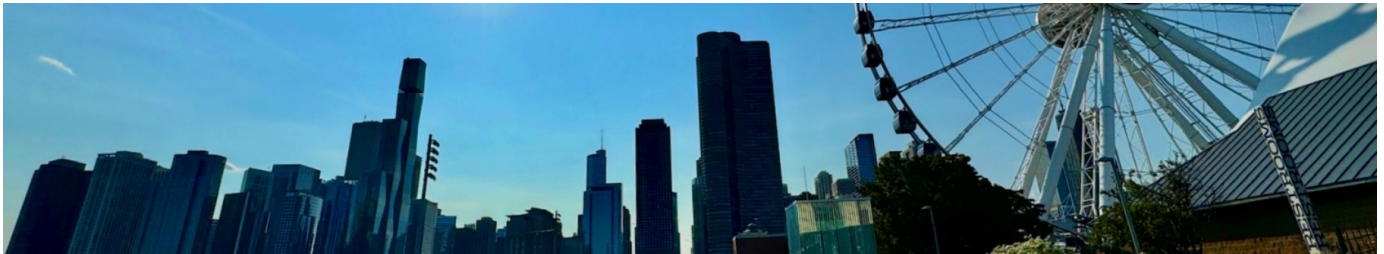
Theater show or rooftop drinks. Reserve popular rooftops and shows ahead on weekends.

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 →](#)

DAY 3: NAVY PIER + MUSEUM CAMPUS

Keep the route moving east to south—without unnecessary downtown backtracking



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

DAY 3

Navy Pier + Museum Campus + Grant Park

8:30–9:30 AM

Breakfast in Streeterville or near Navy Pier.

9:30 AM–12:00 PM

Navy Pier: **Route 66 Begin road sign**, lake views, shops and Centennial Wheel.

12:00–1:15 PM

Lunch and/or drinks **at Navy Pier**. Stay in the area and enjoy one of the pier's many food options.

1:30–2:00 PM

Bus or rideshare to Museum Campus.

2:00–4:30 PM

Choose the Field Museum or Shedd Aquarium.

4:45–5:45 PM

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

6:00–7:15 PM

Dinner in the Loop. Try **Mr. J's Dawgs** for a casual Chicago-style stop or return to a favorite downtown area.

7:30–9:30 PM

Pick up **Garrett Popcorn**, then finish with Millennium Park, the Riverwalk after dark, or a rooftop bar.

QUICK PLANNING NOTES

- Pick only one major Museum Campus attraction for this itinerary.
- Beach plans are weather dependent—use the lakefront/Lincoln Park as your backup.
- Check theater and architecture cruise times before your trip and adjust dinner accordingly.
- CTA and buses are useful, but a short rideshare can save valuable time on a 2- or 3-day visit.

Keep planning your Chicago trip

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

