



# Chicago, IL



Chicago, Illinois, is located on the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan and is traversed by the Chicago and Calumet rivers. Chicago's earliest settlers included several Native American tribes, such as the Miami and Illinois, who named the "Chicago" River for the wild leeks growing in the watershed. The French, in collaboration with the Native Americans, built a substantial fur trading business along the river that lasted until the War of 1812. Following the war, Chicago experienced an influx of Americans who wanted access to the land that was obtained through government treaties with the Native Americans, who were displaced to land across the Mississippi River. With the addition of the railroad and canal, Chicago grew from a regional center to the second largest American city.

Chicago's art museums include the Art Institute of Chicago, which features Impressionist paintings, City Gallery, which features photographs of Chicago by Chicago photographers, Museum of Contemporary Art, Smart Museum of Art of the University of Chicago, Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, and The Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows. The city has many museums honoring its history and ethnic heritage, such as The Chicago History Museum, DuSable Museum of African American History, National Hellenic Museum, Oriental Institute Museum, Swedish American Museum, National Museum of Mexican Art, and Ukrainian National Museum. Science museums include The Field Museum, which focuses on natural history, Museum of Science and Industry, The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, International Museum of Surgical Science, and Adler Planetarium. The Chicago Children's Museum, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, The Museum of Broadcast Communications, and Pritzker Military Library are also located in Chicago. Historic house museums include the Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Charney-Persky House; Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House; Clarke House Museum, which is the city's oldest domestic structure; and the H.H. Richardson–designed Glessner House Museum.

Chicago has more than 250 performing arts venues that range from neighborhood clubs to historic music halls. The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, Chicago Cultural Center, The Chicago Theatre, Joffrey Tower, Goodman Theatre, Theater on the Lake, Court Theatre, Harris Theater, Orchestra Hall, Lookingglass Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Riverfront Theater, Oriental Theatre, Cadillac Palace Theatre, Bank of America Theatre, Broadway Playhouse, Victory Gardens, Civic Opera House, and Apollo Theatre are among the larger venues. These theaters host Broadway shows and other classic and contemporary plays; concerts by Blue Man Group, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Opera Theater, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Music of the Baroque, and Lyric Opera of Chicago; and dance presentations by the Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Company, and Shen Yun Show; and other national and local performers.

Chicago also has numerous improv comedy clubs, including The Second City, Laugh Factory Chicago, UP Comedy Club, ComedySportz, Wisecrackers Comedy Club, and Zanies.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Chicago's central business district is nicknamed the "Loop" and is a residential neighborhood consisting of thousands of condominiums, studio apartments, and lofts interspersed with office buildings and hotels.

Chicago's northernmost neighborhood is Rogers Park, which is home to Loyola University. Rogers Park is primarily a rental community, but condominiums, two-flats, and vintage single-family homes, including turn-of-the-century Victorians on larger lots, are also available on tree-lined streets. The residential areas of West Rogers Park are dominated by single-family homes including historic mansions and houses in the Georgian, Ranch, Victorian, and Bungalow styles. East Rogers Park has a mix of condominiums, apartments, low-rise flats, two- and three-story walk-ups, and various smaller single-family homes.

Newly constructed mansions located alongside Victorian townhomes and mansions built in the 19th century and listed on the National Register of Historical Places characterize the affluent Gold Coast, which is one of Chicago's 77 distinct community areas. New luxury high-rise condominiums and apartments and renovated gray and brownstone walk-ups are also available.

Brick construction dominates the Logan Square neighborhood, which features National Historic District mansions, mostly built in an eclectic style during the early 20th century, more modest houses of that era, and apartment buildings. Workers' cottages and larger brick homes have been renovated in Bucktown, a relatively small area of Logan Square, where contemporary architectural designs are interspersed with vintage buildings. Some older buildings have been converted into condominiums.

Another northside Chicago neighborhood is Wrigleyville, which has brownstones with large windows and interesting details that are located on shaded streets, rehabilitated Victorian graystones, two- and three-flat buildings, multi-unit condominiums, and apartments. Unique to Wrigleyville is the Wrigley Roof, which features small bleacher areas where Cubs fans can watch baseball games at nearby Wrigley Field. Alta Vista Terrace is a block-long landmark district of townhomes from the early 1900s that feature stained glass above the doors and other ornamental details and resembles an old English town.

### CITY STATS

2010

City Population	2,695,598
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	9,472,584
Per Capita Personal Income, Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL MSA	\$44,344

Located south of the Loop, Kenwood-Hyde Park is home to President Barack Obama and The University of Chicago. This neighborhood offers architecturally diverse mansions, large single-family homes, townhouses, high-rise condominiums, three- and four-story walk-up co-ops, and rental apartments. Because Hyde Park escaped the devastation of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, the neighborhood has some of the oldest houses in the city.

Also on the south side, Chinatown is a part of the Armour Square community area, which encompasses its namesake park and U.S. Cellular Field, home of the Chicago White Sox baseball team. Housing is difficult to find in the Chinatown neighborhood; most of the homes are attached, significantly older, and include condominiums, lofts, and some townhomes. Over 300 new residences are under construction.

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## PARKS AND RECREATION

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Chicago Park District operates 570 parks, which feature 90 gardens, 10 bird and wildlife gardens, and 17 historic lagoons. Park amenities vary but may include outdoor pools; indoor pools, archery ranges; tennis, basketball, handball, racquetball, volleyball, and bocce courts; batting cages; bowling alleys; boxing gyms; chess tables; climbing walls; fitness courses, arcades and centers; football, baseball, cricket, and soccer fields; golf facilities; gymnasiums; horseshoe pits; ice, roller hockey, and roller skating rinks; playgrounds; skate parks; running tracks; water playgrounds; dog parks; and community gardens. Chicago also has 26 miles of open and free Lake Michigan shoreline, which includes 33 beaches and nine lakefront harbors.

Situated along the lakefront, Grant Park consists of over 300 acres of biking paths, gardens, public arts, such as Buckingham Fountain, and museums including the Art Institute. Located within Grant Park, Millennium Park is home to the Harris Theater, Jay Pritzker Pavilion, an outdoor concert venue; the interactive Crown Fountain; the contemporary Lurie Garden; Wrigley Square and Millennium Monument; McCormick Tribune Ice Rink and Plaza; and the Cloud Gate sculpture. Adjacent to Grant Park on its southern end, Museum Campus attractions include the Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, and Adler Planetarium.

Lincoln Park also lies along the lakefront and contains the Lincoln Park Zoo; Lincoln Park Conservatory; Theatre on the Lake; the Chicago History Museum; the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool; the North Pond Nature Sanctuary; North Avenue Beach and Oak Street Beach; numerous recreational facilities, including tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts, playgrounds, and ball fields; and statues of General Ulysses S. Grant and President Abraham Lincoln, among many others.

Chicago's full complement of professional sports teams include the Chicago Cubs (baseball), Chicago White Sox (baseball), Chicago Fire (soccer), Chicago Bears (football), Chicago Blackhawks (ice hockey), and Chicago Bulls (basketball).

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## EDUCATION

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Chicago Public School District educates 404,000 students in 472 elementary schools, primarily pre-kindergarten through grade 8, and 106 high schools. Besides neighborhood schools, the district operates career academies, classical schools, magnet schools, military academies, regional gifted centers, selective enrollment schools, small (under 600 students) schools, and schools devoted to special education. Charter and contract schools are also available in the district.

The city of Chicago has many opportunities for public and private higher education. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree



programs are offered at The University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Robert Morris University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago State University, Northeastern Illinois University, and Roosevelt University. Some of these universities have medical schools: University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago; The University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine; DePaul University's alliance with Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine, which houses the Chicago Medical School; and the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago. Rush University, which has an exclusively health science focus, is home to the Rush Medical College. Although the main Northwestern University campus is in Evanston, the Feinberg School of Medicine is located in Chicago.

Other universities have specialized courses of study. Columbia College Chicago is dedicated to education in the visual, performing, media, and communication arts. Kendall College limits its focus to culinary arts, hospitality management, business, and education. Shimer College features an interdisciplinary core curriculum that is grounded in the Great Books tradition. Adler School of Professional Psychology offers graduate-level degree programs in socially responsible practice of psychology. School of the Art Institute of Chicago provides undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs in a multidisciplinary approach to art and design. The John Marshall Law School is an independent law school.

The seven City Colleges of Chicago—Richard J. Daley College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Harry S. Truman College, Harold Washington College, and Wilbur Wright College—offer general and specialty education at the associate degree level. The Kennedy-King College, for example, is home to the Washburne Culinary Institute, Sikia banquet facility, Parrot Cage restaurant, public radio and television stations WKKC and WYCC, the French Pastry School, and Dawson Technical Institute, while Truman College offers an associate-degree nursing program and the state's only community college biotechnology program.

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## HEALTH CARE

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Chicago is served by 17 medical centers with more than 6,600 licensed acute-care beds. The city also has the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and five pediatric hospitals, including a Shriner's Hospital. Psychiatric care, long-term acute-care, and rehabilitation services are available in Chicago.