



## CHICAGO BEACHES

### ***Oak Street Beach*** ***1000 N. Lake Shore Drive***

During the season, Oak Street Beach is filled with sun worshippers and greased up bodies. Skaters, bikers, tourists, everyone finds their way here. This is absolutely one of Chicago's most popular and trendy gathering spots, and it's just steps away from Chicago's finest hotels and shopping along Michigan Avenue.

The wide sandy beach makes room for all the visitors (though finding your own patch on a sunny summer day can take some searching). Concrete patios on either side give the option of sand-free sunbathing. The beach is also popular in the evening for a stroll in the setting sun, with its spectacular, romantic scenery.

**Amenities:** Restrooms at Oak Street Beachstro.

**Added Attractions:** Bike path, beach volleyball, concrete patios.

**Admission and Parking:** Free; pay lot at North Ave (\$5-\$10), off-street difficult.

Where to Eat: Oak Street Beachstro, open for business from 11AM - 5PM daily through Labor Day, serving burgers, sandwiches and assorted pub grub.

Lifeguard on Duty: 9AM-9PM.

**Fido-Friendly:** No

Insider Info: Underground tunnels at Oak, and Division Streets and Chicago Ave. get you to the beach and to the bike path that rides along the shoreline from Hyde Park to Hollywood Avenue. Oak Street is also a great viewing area for the annual Air and Water Show each summer. (August 20 and 21, 2005)

### ***North Avenue Beach*** ***2045 North Lincoln Park West***

North Avenue Beach has a little something for everyone. Fitness enthusiasts can enjoy the Crunch Fitness mini-gym and the bike and running path along the shore that gives you a perfect view while you workout. The bike path runs along the Lakefront all the way to Navy Pier. The beach house is also a popular destination during the summer months. It's home to one of the most popular beachside restaurants, Castaways. Cool off with tropical drinks and specialty ice cream.

**Amenities:** Clean restrooms and changing rooms can be found at the boat-shaped beach house.



**Added Attractions:** Shops in the ship-shaped beach house, Crunch Fitness gym and NAB roller hockey court on the beach, more than 50 volleyball courts, beachside running/biking path and a chess pavilion.

**Admission and Parking:** Free; pay lot \$5-\$10, off-street parking difficult.

**Where to Eat:** Castaways, 2nd floor of the beach house. Grab a bite and cool off with a field of green salad with gorgonzola, burgers, wings, tropical drinks and specialty ice cream while enjoying live band performances. There are also concession stands, numerous drinking fountains and vendors along the beach.

**Lifeguard on Duty:** 9AM-9PM, May 25-Labor Day.

**Fido-Friendly:** No.

**Insider Info:** Plan to arrive early if you want to find parking, since the lot fills up quickly in the summer months.

***Foster Beach  
Lakeshore and Foster Ave.***

Foster Beach is the perfect destination for sun-bathers looking to escape the crowds. Small and easy to get around, you won't find hundreds of teenagers taking over the waters like you would at Montrose or North Avenue beaches. What you will find is a relaxing and comfortable area to hang out. The beach is far enough north that you often miss the tourists and the noise. The beach house offers handicapped-accessible restrooms and outdoor shower facilities.

**Amenities:** Restrooms, beach house, pedestrian underpass.

**Added Attractions:** Beach volleyball, basketball, tennis courts and bike racks.

**Admission and Parking:** Free; free lot.

**Where to Eat:** Del Lana's Deli, Sunshine Concessions booths along the beach. Drinking fountains along the beach.

**Lifeguard on Duty:** 9AM-9:30PM, May 25-Labor Day.

**Fido-Friendly:** Yes.

**Insider Info:** Free parking is available at the large lot just south of the beach, something that you sure won't find downtown.



## **Outside Chicago**

### ***Centennial Beach*** **500 W. Jackson Ave.** **Naperville**

A center for recreation in Naperville since 1931, Centennial Beach has proved to be an oasis of family fun within the desert of summer heat. Built from a limestone quarry, this historical facility boasts two acres of tested, re-circulated and chlorinated water for your safety and summer fun.

Water depths are maintained and marked for swimmers and divers of all ages and abilities, and floating rafts and piers offer places to rest after a vigorous swim. A diving area, complete with two one-meter boards and one three-meter board approved by the NCAA/USS are available for the qualified diver. What would a beach be without sand? Don't worry -- Centennial Beach features a large sand beach perfect for sandcastle builders, sun-tanners, and frisbee and volleyball players. A playground is also onsite, perfect for when the little ones tire of the sun and sand.

**Amenities:** Beach house, showers, locker rooms, first aid area.

**Added Attractions:** Beach volleyball, diving area.

**Admission and Parking:** \$10 non-residents; \$5 residents with county ID; \$2 after 6PM; free for children under 3; 5 visit guest cards cost \$20; off-street parking.

**Where to Eat:** Concession stand in beach house.

**Lifeguard on Duty:** June-July: 11AM-8PM. Aug.: 11AM-dusk.

**Insider Information:** While the per-person entry fees seem a bit steep, if you're looking for a beach to satisfy the needs of the entire family the extra expense might be worth it.

### ***Evanston Beach and Lighthouse***

To visit one of America's **best beaches** (according to *Travel and Leisure*), the Great Lakes' only North American landmark lighthouse, and one of the largest visual art centers in Illinois, you need only park your car once and wander a bit on a summer's Saturday or Sunday in Evanston, Illinois.

The [lighthouse](#) towers 117 ft. above Lake Michigan's sandy shoreline in northern Evanston. The towering trees surrounding the [Evanston Arts Center](#), the beautiful, historical structure that fronts the lighthouse, afforded even more distraction, never mind the beach, the dunes and the great people watching.



The lighthouse is only open for tours (\$5 - first come, first served) on Saturday and Sunday afternoons between May and September between 1PM – 4PM. Arrive really early and park before the crowds gather to watch the sunrise over Lake Michigan. The beach will be all yours except for the romantics, the dog walkers and joggers. While you are waiting for the morning sun to warm the sand, have breakfast at [Cafe Sarkis](#), famous for the world's best omelette's and favorite of North Shore celebrities and preppies who are slumming. Belly full, return to the beach, and when you need a break from the heat, meander through the little gardens surrounding the lighthouse, and watch the congregation of seagulls that gather just past the breakfront over the dunes.

At 1PM., be the first in line to take the [historical tour of the lighthouse](#). If you are willing to climb the 160 steps to the top, you will have a generous view of downtown Chicago and all points in between. Afterward, be sure to browse the North Shore Arts Center, where special exhibits of local emerging artists are the highlights.

#### ENDS

For more information or to obtain a brochure, call the Chicago & Illinois Tourist Office's Freephone Brochure Line on 08700 503410 or visit online [www.gochicago.com](http://www.gochicago.com)

**For further information on the city of Chicago's ongoing initiatives, please contact Jackie Cooper PR:**

Kerry Barnes

020 3047 4064

[kerry\\_barnes@jcpr.com](mailto:kerry_barnes@jcpr.com) or [chicago@jcpr.com](mailto:chicago@jcpr.com)