



VISIT CHICAGO IN 2009

New Attractions, Tours, Major Anniversary Celebrations, and Tony Award-Winning Theatre Put Chicago in the Spotlight Next Year

There is no better time to visit Chicago, the city that Lonely Planet Guidebooks just named the top U.S. city in the world. As the home of President Barack Obama and the U.S. Candidate city to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Chicago has captured the attention of the world.

In 2009, with new attractions, tours, and hotels; major anniversary celebrations; and an array of productions by Tony award-winning theatres, Chicago will continue to be a premier travel destination.

Here is what to look forward to in 2009.

All information and dates were correct as of press time.

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

Renzo Piano Modern Wing Opens at The Art Institute of Chicago

The new 264,000-square-foot Modern Wing designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano opens on 16th May 2009. It houses the Art Institute's collections of 20th century European painting and sculpture; contemporary art; architecture and design; and photography on three floors of galleries. The \$300 million project also features an outdoor sculpture terrace; a garden courtyard; and a 600-foot-long pedestrian bridge, the Nichols Bridgeway, linking the museum directly to Chicago's popular Millennium Park. www.artic.edu

Beluga Whales and Dolphins Return Home as Shedd Aquarium's Oceanarium Reopens

The beluga whales and Pacific white-sided dolphins return to their newly-renovated, 3-million-gallon saltwater home when the Oceanarium, one of the most successful conservation-based marine mammal habitats in the world, reopens at the Shedd Aquarium in early summer. www.sheddaquarium.org

Buckingham Fountain: A Chicago Icon Gets a Facelift

One of Chicago's most iconic attractions and Grant Park's crown jewel is undergoing a \$25 million renovation and restoration and reopens on 1st April 2009. The project also includes a restoration of the pathways and landscaping that surround one of the world's largest fountains. www.restorethefountain.com

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Centre Opens

Photographs, artefacts, rare documents, and Midwest Holocaust survivors' video testimonies recorded by Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation are featured at this new 65,000-square-foot, three-story museum designed by Chicago architect Stanley Tigerman in suburban Skokie, Illinois. It will likely be the last major Holocaust museum built in collaboration with Holocaust survivors. Its



19th April 2009 opening coincides with the anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
www.ilholocaustmuseum.org

New Gallery Devoted to Books and Magazines by Chicago Publishers at Chicago Cultural Centre

A collection of more than 1,500 books as well as numerous magazines, newspapers, independent “zines,” and comics is available for the public to read or browse through at the Chicago Publishers Gallery. Located in the Randolph Street Café of the Chicago Cultural Centre, the Gallery encourages exploration of Chicago’s wide range of publishing ventures in a comfortable setting. Although publications in the Gallery are not for sale or loan, the Shop at the Cultural Centre stocks numerous books by Chicago-area publishers.
www.chicagopublishersgallery.com

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Burnham Plan Centennial: Bold Plans Big Dreams

The celebration of the regional plan that shaped city planning and Chicago history begins on 19th June 2009 with the unveiling of two temporary pavilions in Millennium Park designed by acclaimed architects Zaha Hadid and Ben van Berkel. Hundreds of events, exhibits, concerts and building projects are planned to mark the 100th anniversary of Chicago architect Daniel Burnham’s Plan of Chicago. Most events take place from June to October. The pavilions stay open for five months before they are taken apart and recycled. www.burnhamplan100.org

Grant Park Music Festival: 75 Years of Outdoor Summer Concerts

The nation’s only remaining free, municipally-supported, outdoor summer classical music series of its kind offers performances throughout the summer at the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, one of the world’s best outdoor summer concert venues. The 75th anniversary season opens on 19th June 2009 and celebrates the Burnham Centennial with the world premiere of a symphonic and choral work based on the text of the Burnham Plan of Chicago. www.grantparkmusicfestival.org

Award-Winning Millennium Park Celebrates Five Years

More than 15 million people from all over the world have visited this award-winning centre for art, music, architecture and landscape design since it opened in July 2004. The 24.5-acre park features the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor’s hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Free events and activities to celebrate the Park’s 5th anniversary will be announced. www.millenniumpark.org

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial: Special Events, Exhibitions, and Concerts

Chicago is an important national site for the Bicentennial celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birth (lincolnbicentennial.gov). Beginning in February, various special events, exhibitions, and concerts commemorate Lincoln’s life and historic contributions. The celebration includes *Lincoln Treasures*, a special exhibition at the Chicago History Museum (www.chicagohistory.org) that incorporates the Museum’s prized Lincoln artefacts; a Chicago Symphony Orchestra (www.cso.org) tribute featuring the legendary James Earl Jones narrating Aaron Copland’s inspirational work *Lincoln Portrait*; and a gathering of all things “Abe” including appearances by historical characters at Navy Pier. (www.navy pier.com)



CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE AND REAL ESTATE

Facade Revealed at Louis Sullivan Landmark

The restored façade and cast iron ornamental work of Chicago architect Louis Sullivan's landmark building at State and Madison streets (formerly Carson, Pirie, Scott) is being revealed in July 2009. One of the most important structures of early modern architecture and a classic example of the Chicago School of architecture, it has been redeveloped as the Sullivan Centre, a mixed-use retail/office building.

Block 37 Grand Opening in the Loop

With a grand opening scheduled for fall, this mixed-use development bounded by State, Dearborn, Randolph and Washington Streets, features a four-story mall including retailers such as Zara, Apple Computer, Puma and Lululemon, and a 16-story office building that is already home to CBS2's new studios. Plans include a hotel and residences to be phased in at a later date.

Water Tower Place Redevelopment Brings New Stores

Home to Chicago's largest and most exclusive collection of retailers, Water Tower Place has undergone a major redevelopment that includes 49 new, expanded, relocated and remodelled stores as well as renovated common areas and amenities. New stores include American Girl Place, Betsey Johnson, Aeropostale, CUSP, Coach and Adidas. Additional stores open in 2009. www.shopwatertower.com

Trump Hotel & Tower: World's Tallest Residential Project Completed

At 92 stories and a height of 1,362 feet, the building will be the second tallest in Chicago and the tallest residential building in the world when it is completed later in December 2008. The river walk retail shops and Sixteen restaurant's outdoor terrace, with one of the best views in the city, open in the Spring 2009, when the entire project is scheduled to be completed. www.trumpchicagohotel.com

HOTELS

theWit Hotel: Eco-Friendly Luxury in the Loop

Opening in May, theWit – A Doubletree Hotel is a 298-room eco-friendly luxury hotel in the heart of Chicago's Loop and Theatre District. It features a 40-person private screening room, a rooftop indoor/outdoor lounge, an upscale Gastro Pub, and a chef-driven fine dining restaurant. www.thewithhotel.com

Hotel Felix: Upscale Boutique in the Gold Coast/River North

This 225-room upscale boutique property in the Gold Coast/River North emphasizes beautiful craftsmanship and environmentally conscious design. Opening in the spring, the hotel features a 1926 historic exterior, a contemporary two-story lobby with a uniquely designed water element, and a restaurant with a lounge and outdoor café. www.hotelfelixchicago.com

TOURS

Chicago Neighbourhood Tours Offer Four New Bus Excursions



Discover something new about Chicago's diverse communities with these new half-day bus excursions that highlight the history, traditions and people of Chicago.

www.chicagoneighborhoodtours.com

- *Art Around Town* – View hundreds of mosaics, paintings, sculptures and monuments throughout the city to see why Chicago is a leader in promoting public art. Spot artwork in and around building lobbies, parks, plazas, viaducts and other surprising places.
- *Albany Park* – Travel to the neighbourhood where more residents were born around the globe than in any other Chicago community. Visit international restaurants and groceries and the Cambodian American Heritage Museum.
- *Land of Lincoln* - To commemorate the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial, visit Civil War gravesites, the Stephen A. Douglas Tomb and Monument, and Lincoln monuments throughout the city.
- *Make Big Plans: Burnham Centennial* - Grasp the genius of the plan that remade the face of Chicago. Highlights include a special exhibit at the Harold Washington Library Centre; excursions to Jackson Park, Burnham Park, Northerly Island and Lincoln Park; and a visit to the graveside of Daniel Burnham, chief author of the Plan of Chicago, at the famed Graceland Cemetery.

Chicago for Kids Audio Tour: Unique Way to Learn About the City

Kids can go on adventures throughout the city with this audio tour and interactive Web site. It features eight destinations plus games and challenges that highlight the rich culture and history of Chicago. Stops include Millennium Park, the "L", the Picasso Sculpture, and North Avenue Beach. Interviews with famous Chicagoans including former Chicago Cub Ryne Sandberg and cheesecake manufacturer Marc Schulman provide kids with the ultimate insider's view of Chicago. www.downloadchicagotours.com

Chicago Architecture Foundation Launches Four Walking Tours

See the architectural capital of the world and its rich legacy from a fresh angle.

www.architecture.org

- *Palmer House Hilton* - Go behind-the-scenes and explore the history and legacy of an historic Chicago landmark and learn the details of its recent renovation.
- *River North: Transformation of a Neighbourhood* – See how an industrial area was transformed into a residential neighbourhood and a centre for art and design.
- *Daniel Burnham: Architect, Planner, Leader* – Celebrate the centennial of the Burnham Plan of Chicago by visiting buildings and sites where Daniel Burnham and his colleagues helped recreate Chicago as a model for the modern American city.
- *Sculpture in Lincoln Park* - See how world-famous artists have transformed the landscape of one of Chicago's most beautiful parks with sculpture and art installations.

THEATER

Broadway Comes to Chicago

Highlights of the 2009 Broadway in Chicago (www.broadwayinchicago.com) season in the historic Downtown Theatre District include:

- *Monty Python's Spamalot*, an outrageous musical comedy starring Richard Chamberlain, 20th January – 1st February 2009
- *Chicago: The Musical* with John O'Hurley, a sensational tale of sin, corruption and all that jazz, 25th February – 8th March 2009



- *A Bronx Tale*, a vivid depiction of a child's tough youth in the 1960s with Chazz Palminteri, 10th – 22nd March 2009
- *Mary Poppins*, the world's most famous nanny arrives in Chicago beginning 11th March
- *A Chorus Line*, the multi-award winning story of 17 dancers at an audition, 14th April – 3rd May 2009
- *Legally Blonde*, the hilarious film is Broadway's new smash hit musical, 12th May – 31st May 2009
- *Addams Family*, the weird and wonderful family comes to life in a musical, 13th November – 10th January 2010

Tony Award-Winning Theatres Call Chicago Home

Four Chicago theatres, Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, have all received the prestigious Regional Tony Award, more than any other city in the nation. 2009 highlights at these theatres include:

Steppenwolf Theatre, www.steppenwolf.org

- *The Seafarer*, an eerie, darkly humorous tale by celebrated playwright Conor McPherson featuring Steppenwolf ensemble members including John Mahoney (of NBC's *Frasier*), examines how we face the demons of our past as we struggle to find redemption, until 8th February 2009
- *Art*, a heated debate over modern art colours this rich comic study of male friendship, 5th February – 7th June 2009

Goodman Theatre, www.goodmantheatre.org

- *Desire Under the Elms*, featuring Brian Dennehy in the master playwright Eugene O'Neill's classic family drama that hauntingly mingles love and loathing, 17th January – 22nd February 2009
- *Rock 'n' Roll*, Tom Stoppard's sweeping and passionate play spans two countries, three generations and 22 turbulent years, at the end of which love remains-and so does rock 'n' roll, 2nd May – 7th June 2009

Victory Gardens, www.victorygardens.org

- *Living Green*, a modern day homage to "A Raisin in the Sun," this timely new work asks "What happened to our families as we 'moved up' and fled the black communities that nurtured us?", 23rd January – 1st March 2009
- *Blackbird*, William L. Petersen of CBS-TV's *CSI* stars in this searing two-person drama about the destructive cycle of desire and illicit love, 3rd July – 9th August 2009

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, www.chicagoshakes.com

- *Sweet William*, Michael Pennington, one of Britain's leading Shakespearean actors, performs a one-man show he created based on the Bard's work, 3rd – 22nd February 2009
- *Twelfth Night*, a tale of mistaken identity and unlikely love, is Shakespeare's most perfect comedy, 29th March – 7th June 2009

Chicago's Olympic Bid

In June of this year, the International Olympic Committee selected Chicago as the U.S. Candidate city to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The final selection will be made in October 2009. Chicago is honoured to be competing for the privilege of hosting the 2016 Olympic and



Paralympic Games alongside such world-class cities as Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.
www.chicago2016.org

Visitors and Chicagoans planning to entertain out-of-town guests can receive Chicago brochures, reserve hotel accommodations and receive trip-planning assistance by visiting www.cityofchicago.org/tourism. Brochures and information on Chicago's events and activities are also available at the Visitor Information Centres. The centres are located at Chicago Water Works, 163 East Pearson Street at Michigan Avenue and the Chicago Cultural Centre, 77 East Randolph Street. For those calling from outside the United States, Mexico and Canada, please call 001-312-201-8847.

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

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