ITINERARY

Chicago Architecture and Art Half-Day Tour (Afternoon departure)

DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DURATION
Chicago	Chicago	1 Days

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1

Day 1

Chicago City tour

ALL DAY

Start from the historic Michigan Avenue Bridge, take in the retro charm of the Tribune Tower and the elegant style of the Wrigley Building, and enjoy the scenery of the skyscrapers along both banks of the Chicago River. Visit the towering Trump Tower, experience the charm of "simplicity is the ultimate sophistication" at 330 North Wabash (formerly IBM Building/The Langham Chicago), and take photos with Marina City, known for its unique "corn cob" shape. Afterwards, you will arrive at the world of financial order — visit the Merchandise Mart, a global business center, and feel the perfect integration of culture and commerce at the entrance of the Chicago Opera House. Then explore the CME Group Building and witness its financial influence as the world's largest derivatives market. Next, tour the Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), once the tallest building in the world, visit the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), stop by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and appreciate Chicago's financial charm. Pass by the iconic Chicago Art Institute, a historic landmark founded in 1891, and admire its timeless architectural exterior. Finally, embark on your public space exploration journey: touch the mark of the starting point of Route 66, admire the exterior connotation of the top art museum, and interact with Cloud Gate in Millennium Park. Stop by the world-famous Buckingham Fountain, a grand illuminated fountain. Appreciate its magnificent architectural design and flowing waters, and experience the classic urban scenery and romantic vibe of Chicago while exploring the city’s iconic highlights. The tour concludes with a panoramic view of the city skyline, allowing you to savor Chicago's unique blend of architectural aesthetics, financial vitality, and cultural heritage.

Itinerary:
Tribune Tower + Wrigley Building + Michigan Avenue Bridge (20 mins) ? Trump Tower + 330 North Wabash + Marina City (10 mins) ? The Mart + Chicago Opera House + CME Group Building + Willis Tower (20 mins) ? Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) + Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (10 mins) ? The Art Institute of Chicago (Pass-by) ? Historic Route 66 Begin Sign + Art Institute of Chicago + Millennium Park & Cloud Gate (30 mins) ? Buckingham Fountain (10 mins) ? Chicago City Skyline (10 mins)

Total Duration: 3 hours

ALL DAY

Tribune Tower

In 1922, the Chicago Tribune co-publishers Col. Robert R. McCormick and Capt. Joseph M Patterson announced an international competition for the design of Tribune Tower. The winning entry was designed by New York architects John Mead Howells and Raymond Hood, who were selected from among more than 260 entries representing 23 countries. Nearly a century later, the soaring vertical lines, flying buttresses and rich embellishments on Tribune Tower remain undiminished in their power to draw the eye and inspire the imagination.

Wrigley Building

Known for its Spanish Colonial Revival style, the Wrigley Building features a distinctive white terra cotta facade. It stands proudly where Michigan Avenue crosses the Chicago River, a luminous white beacon known the world over as a beloved symbol of Chicago’s preeminence in architecture and commerce. Modern in its height and steel-frame construction, the Wrigley Building's facade nonetheless bears the weight of history. A second tower was commissioned shortly after the completion of the first, presenting a harmonious front to Michigan Avenue. The two buildings are linked by a third-floor bridge. They’ve been immaculately maintained since completion with regular cleanings to keep them sparkling white. Six different shades of gleaming white terra cotta become brighter as the building rises, and its facade is illuminated at night.

Marina City

Nestled along the Chicago River, Marina City stands as a testament to the city's architectural prowess and vibrant culture. Its iconic towers represent a unique blend of residential living and commercial space, embodying the innovative spirit of mid-century modernism. Today, Marina City continues to enchant with its rich history and dynamic atmosphere. The riverfront location beckons with scenic views and waterfront dining, inviting guests to savor the essence of urban living against the backdrop of Chicago's iconic skyline.

Willis Tower

Formerly known as the Sears Tower, Willis Tower has been an iconic part of the Chicago skyline since 1973. At 110 stories high, Willis Tower is also one of the largest skyscrapers in the world.

Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT)

The Chicago Board of Trade Building is home to the world’s oldest futures and options exchange. Holding court at the south end of LaSalle St., the Chicago Board of Trade Building presides over Chicago’s financial district. The regal 45-story skyscraper is the epitome of Art Deco styling. The plentiful gray Indiana limestone piers, dark windows and spandrels—so recessed they practically disappear—work together to give the building a striking vertical emphasis. Its streamlined, geometric and abstract exterior ornamentation, and the building’s throne-shaped massing, are also indicative of the period’s Art Deco trend. A faceless aluminum statue of Ceres, by artist John Storrs, sits atop the building’s pyramidal roof. The straight lines on her garment and her machine-made appearance make her the quintessential Art Deco ornament for this completely stylized structure.

The Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute of Chicago was founded in 1891. It is one of the oldest art galleries in the world and one of the three largest art galleries in the United States today. The museum houses art treasures from five thousand years and five continents, and can be called a museum of all nations. In particular, the masterpieces of French Impressionist painters are world-renowned. The masterpieces of masters such as Renoir, Picasso, and Van Gogh are priceless. Even the bronze lion statues on both sides of the gate have become the symbol of Chicago.

Millennium Park

Millennium Park is a large urban park in Chicago. On one side of the park is Chicago's busiest street, Michigan Avenue, and on the other side is the beautiful Lake Michigan. In the park, you can see the imprint of postmodern architectural style everywhere, so some professionals regard this park as a concentration of postmodern architectural style. Among them, the open-air concert hall, Cloud Gate and Crown Fountain are the three most representative postmodern buildings in Millennium Park.

Buckingham Fountain

Buckingham Fountain is a Chicago landmark in the center of Grant Park. Dedicated in 1927, it is one of the largest fountains in the world. Built in a Rocky rococo wedding cake style and inspired by the Fountain at the Palace of Versailles, it is meant to allegorically represent Lake Michigan. It operates from April to October, with regular water shows and evening color-light shows. During the winter, the fountain is decorated with festival lights.

WHAT'S INCLUDED & EXCLUDED

COST INCLUDES

- ✓ Transportation (The type of vehicle used will base on the number of guests on the day).
- ✓ English tour guide or driver-guide.

COST EXCLUDES

- ✗ Food and beverage.
- ✗ Attraction admission fee (Prices are subject to change without prior notice; Tickets should be purchased from the tour guide).
- ✗ Service fee (minimum US$15/person/day, Any child and Infant reserving a seat have to pay the service fees as well).
- ✗ Any personal expenses are not listed in Fee Included.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

- **Valid Passport** — must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the return date
- **Required Visas** — verify visa requirements for your destination and nationality before travel
- **Travel Insurance Certificate** — trip cancellation and out-of-country medical coverage (strongly recommended)
- **Credit Card & Cash** — for personal expenses and emergencies
- **Medications** — in original packaging with prescriptions, plus a copy stored separately

IMPORTANT TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Entry Requirements: Entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete. It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure all documents are valid and in order.

Local Conditions: Living standards and practices at the destination, and the standards and conditions with respect to utilities, services, and accommodation, may differ from those found in Canada.

Airport Arrival: Please arrive at the airport at least **3 hours before** international departures and **2 hours before** domestic departures. Reconfirm onward flights with the airline at least 72 hours in advance.

Government Travel Advice: Check Global Affairs Canada at **travel.gc.ca** for the latest travel advisories for your destination.