



**Chicago's museums**

By planning your strategy, you can keep travel time down as you visit your favorite stops or explore a new attraction.

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# Here's a rundown on museum hours, costs

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Here is a list of famous and not-so-famous Chicago cultural centers, along with information on admissions, parking and special programs.

**Chicago Public Library Cultural Center**  
78 E. Washington St.  
312-346-3278

Monday-Thursday, 9-7; Friday, 9-6; Saturday, 9-5; closed holidays and Sundays except for special performances.

Admission is free.

The center calls itself the "most comprehensive free arts showcase in the country."

A look at its calendar, packed with hundreds of classical and folk music performances, poetry readings, films, lectures and dramatic programs, lends credence to the claim.

Grant Park Underground Garage — pull in southbound far left lane of Michigan just past Randolph.

Tip: Every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. a classical soloist performs in the domed Preston Bailey Hall on the third floor.

Also, as part of its 10th anniversary, the center was offering a show of the works of 50 Midwestern folk and contemporary artists through Dec. 30.

**The Art Institute of Chicago**  
Michigan Avenue at Adams Street  
phone 312-443-3600

Open Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 10:30-4:40; Thursday, 10:30-8:30; Saturday, 10-5; Sunday and holidays, 12-5; closed Christmas.

Suggested fee of \$4.50 adults, \$2.25 children/seniors/students. (Tuesday free).

This is a world-class art museum with some of the finest French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings in the U.S.

Parking in underground Grant Park lot. Enter from northbound North Michigan at Monroe Street just north of the institute. Admission is \$6 for 6-12 hours, \$3.75 all day Sunday.

Junior museum downstairs for kids.

Tip: Call the museum about special family programs, such as artist demonstrations and guided gallery walks, every Saturday and Sunday.

**DuSable Museum of African-American History**  
740 E. 56th Place  
312-947-0600

Open Monday-Friday, 9-5; Saturday-Sunday, 12-5; closed Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Adults \$2; students ages 13-18 and senior citizens \$1; children under age 13, 50 cents. Free to school

groups with teachers.

First of its kind in the nation, the museum is both a collection of African and Afro-American art and artifacts and a research center. Free parking.

Tip: Most of the galleries are self-guided but the museum's tour guides are energetic and highly knowledgeable.

**Express-Ways Children's Museum**  
Lincoln Park Cultural Arts Center  
2045 N. Lincoln Park West  
312-281-3222

Tuesday-Friday, 12-4:30 p.m.; Wednesday for families with preschoolers 9-12. Adults \$2, children \$1.

This is a hands-on museum for youngsters. Call about special programs.

Park on the street or a block away for \$2.50 at Park West Parking, 2036 N. Clark.

**Field Museum of Natural History**  
Lake Shore at Roosevelt Road  
312-922-9410

Open daily 9-5; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Suggested fee of \$4 for families; \$2 adults; students ages 6-17 with ID \$1; seniors 50 cents; military personnel and children under age 6 free. Thursday is a free day for everyone. Free parking.

Ten acres of exhibits dramatize

4.5 billion years of natural history with life-like dioramas and rare artifacts.

Take kids to the Place for Wonder on the ground floor where they can pet a stuffed polar bear and touch the tooth of a woolly mammoth.

Tip: Weather permitting, pick up a sandwich in one of the museum eateries and walk to Grant Park for a lakeside break.

**Fine Arts Research and Holographic Center**  
1134 W. Washington Boulevard  
312-226-1007

Wednesday-Sunday, 12:30-5 p.m.; group tours by appointment. Admission with tour \$3.50, unguided \$2.50. Parking on street.

Ever-changing collection of uncanny 3-D reproductions that will boggle your mind. Lectures and workshops on various aspects and applications of holography. No youth section, but its fascinating to most youngsters.

Tip: Don't miss the "gift shop," a little display case packed with holographic goodies that outshine some of the gallery pieces. Also, Greektown lies about four blocks east on Halsted Street for the post-museum munchies.

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