

## Overview of Illinois

The vast mid-Western American state of Illinois offers both the giant, bustling city of Chicago, and the experience of small-town America. Illinois is one of America's major breadbaskets, with most of the state being covered in rich farmlands, dotted with agricultural communities and half a million acres of state parks mixed in. Tucked away in the rolling hills are some Amish communities carrying on their traditional way of life without modern conveniences.

The metropolis of Chicago, on the shore of Lake Michigan in the north of Illinois, is the focus for most visitors, with its amazing collection of museums and high-class shopping areas. Travellers who venture downstate can find plenty of other diversions, particularly those interested in history or outdoor activities.

The state capital, Springfield, 200 miles (322km) south of Chicago, is a city with a small-town atmosphere, renowned for once being the home of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th US President, who practised law here and was laid to rest in the local Oak Ridge Cemetery after his assassination.

Visitors seeking life in the open air are drawn to the expanse of natural beauty in south Illinois, where the Shawnee National Forest offers hiking, biking, camping, and fishing opportunities in serene woodlands.

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## Key Facts

### **Language:**

English is the most common language spoken but Spanish is often heard in the south-western states.

### **Passport/Visa:**

It is highly recommended that travellers' passports have at least six months' validity remaining after the intended date of departure from their travel destination. A visa is required for short visits unless travellers qualify for entry under the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables citizens of certain countries to travel to the US for a stay of up to 90 days without a visa. Visitors under the VWP need to register online three days before travel and have an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). This allows the US government to screen all visitors before travel. Visitors entering the country under the VWP must have a machine-readable passport (MRP) that has a barcode on the photo page. Travellers under the VWP must have passports that include biometrics if they wish to enter the country without a visa, which means that passports must contain unique personal data such as fingerprints or iris details. All passports must contain a digital photo image in order to travel visa-free. All visitors to the USA have a photograph and two fingerprints taken by an inkless scanner on arrival, including those travelling visa-free under the VWP. As part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), all travellers travelling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean region are required to present a passport or other valid travel document to enter or re-enter the United States. If departing from the USA, a valid passport is required by immigration authorities. Immigration officials often apply different rules to those stated by travel agents and official sources.

### **Currency:**

The official currency is the US Dollar (USD), which is divided into 100 cents. Only major banks exchange foreign currency. ATMs are widespread and credit cards are widely accepted. Banking hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm.

### **Electricity:**

Electrical current is 120 volts, 60Hz. Plugs are mainly the type with two flat pins, though three-pin plugs (two flat parallel pins and a rounded pin) are also widely used. European appliances without dual-voltage capabilities will require an adapter.

# Travel to Illinois

## Climate for Illinois

Most of Illinois has a humid continental climate, with hot, humid summers and cold winters. The southernmost part of the state borders on a humid subtropical climate, with milder winters. The weather in Illinois can be fairly extreme. In summer (June to August) temperatures rise to between 80F (27C) and 90F (32°C) and there is high humidity, while in winter (January to March) it can be wet and cold, with temperatures as low as 12F (-11C) and icy winds whipping off Lake Michigan. Snow is likely in winter. May and September are the most pleasant months, with reliably warm, sunny days.

## Health Notes when travelling to United States of America

There are no specific health risks associated with travel within the USA. Medical facilities are excellent, but expensive. Only emergencies are treated without prior payment and treatment can be refused without evidence of insurance or proof of funds. Good medical insurance is essential. Visitors must be fully vaccinated with the primary series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine to travel to the United States by plane if they are non-U.S. citizens.

## Safety Notes when travelling to United States of America

Travel within the United States is generally trouble-free, though travellers should be aware that the US shares with the rest of the world, an increased threat from terrorist incidents. Security has been heightened, particularly at airports. Restrictions on hand luggage apply and travellers are advised to check on the latest situation with airlines in advance. Travellers should also be alert to the dangers of car and street crime in cities and should use common sense and take basic precautions. Hurricanes are common between June and November, putting the southern USA, including the Gulf Coast and the eastern US at risk. There is a risk of wildfires in many dry areas in the US, particularly on the West Coast from March to November.

## Customs in United States of America

Laws vary from state to state, including speed limit, fines and punishment. The age at which alcohol may be legally bought and consumed is 21 years.

## Duty Free in United States of America

Travellers to the United States who are returning residents of the country do not have to pay duty on articles purchased abroad to the value of \$800 provided their stay was longer than 48 hours and their duty-free allowance was not used in the 30-day period prior. For passengers arriving from Samoa, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, a duty-free allowance of \$1,600 is allowed. The following items are included in this: 50 cigarettes and 10 cigars and 150 millilitres (5 fl. oz.) of alcoholic beverages or 150 millilitres (5 fl. oz.) of perfume containing alcohol. Restrictions may apply to goods from Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Burma (Myanmar), Angola, Liberia and Sudan. It is prohibited to import Cuban cigars from any country.

Travellers to the United States who are non-residents do not have to pay duty on the following items: 50 cigars or 200 cigarettes and gifts to the value of \$100 provided their stay in the USA is not less than 72 hours and that the allowance has not been used in the preceding six-month period.

Prohibited items for residents and non-residents include meat or meat products, poultry, narcotics, absinthe, plants, seeds, vegetables, fruits, soil, live insects and other living plants or animal pests. Fish is prohibited unless it carries disease-free certification. Wildlife and animals or their by-products carry restrictions. Dairy products and eggs from specified countries are not allowed. Firearms and ammunition are not allowed without the necessary license and permit.

## Doing Business in United States of America

In such a large country, filled with so many diverse groups, business practices may differ according to each state, however rarely to any large degree. The East Coast is traditionally more formal than the West Coast, though in states such as California, dress code and conservative appearance are as common as they would be in New York. Punctuality is important throughout the country and it is considered rude to be late for a meeting. Gift-giving is uncommon as it may be construed as bribery. Appropriate titles (Mr, Mrs, Ms) are used upon introduction and until otherwise stated. Americans favour politeness and greetings of 'Hello' and 'How are you?' are often expressed with sincerity. Business hours may vary in each state, but an 8am start and 5pm finish Monday to Friday is the most common with an hour over lunch.

Status and age are not necessarily indicative of seniority, nor do they carry much weight in themselves. Those doing business in the States should be mindful of this fact; foreigners should never make assumptions about someone's position or rank. Best practice is to be respectful to all parties. That said, the US upholds a hierarchal business structure, in which 'the boss' is the ultimate decision-maker. Senior leaders have the power of the last word, and can go against the grain just as easily as they can follow popular opinion. Foreigners should concentrate on winning over this individual, even if the greater group seems unsupportive. Americans value a direct style of communication. In this fast-paced, consumer culture 'time is money', and small-talk is viewed as unnecessary and wasteful. It's best for foreigners to get to the point quickly, speak about issues in a frank and open manner, and to avoid taking offence if someone questions or challenges them outright.

## Communication in United States of America

The international country dialling code for the United States is +1. Mobile networks cover most of the country, especially all urban areas, and WiFi is widely available.

## Tipping in United States of America

A 15 percent tip is expected by taxi drivers, bartenders, hairdressers and waiters, but travellers shouldn't tip in fast-food or self-service restaurants. In expensive restaurants or for large parties, the tip should be 20 percent of the bill. It is normal to tip staff such as valets and porters in hotels; this is discretionary, although a minimum of \$5 is expected. Most services are customarily tipped if the service is good.

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## Airports in Illinois

### Chicago O'Hare International (ORD)

#### *O'Hare International Airport*

[www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com)

**Location:** Chicago Chicago O'Hare is located 17 miles (27km) northwest of Chicago.

**Time:** GMT -6 (GMT -5 from March to November).

**Contacts:** Tel: (800) 832 6352

**Transfer between terminals:** A free automated rail system, the Airport Transit System connects all terminals.

**Getting to the city:** Blue Line trains run every few minutes between the airport and downtown Chicago 24 hours a day; the journey takes around 50 minutes. For safety reasons travellers are advised against using the Blue Line at night. Travellers can also use the Pace bus service to get to downtown Chicago. Taxi ranks are situated outside the arrivals hall in each of the airport terminals; the fare is around \$40 for the 30 to 45 minute journey from the airport to downtown Chicago.

**Car rental:** Companies represented at the airport include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz, and National.

**Airport Taxis:** There are plenty of metered taxis outside, and a taxi to the centre of Chicago takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes and costs about \$40. But be prepared to pay twice as much during rush hour.

**Facilities:** Facilities at the airport include restaurants, bars, shops, duty-free shopping, bureaux de change, a bank, and ATMs. The Hilton Health Club provides a health club, sauna, steam room, and massage. There is a medical centre, baby-change facilities, a play area, and a 24-hour interfaith chapel. There are also many airport art exhibits to view as well as the Urban Garen, the first aeroponic garden in the world.

**Parking:** Parking at Chicago O'Hare is divided into the main lots, international lots, economy lots, and valet lots, with an additional free Cell Phone Lot for pick-ups and drop-offs. Fees range from around \$3 per hour at the main lots, or \$6 for two hours at the international lot, to \$17 per day in the economy lots. Valet parking is also available.

### Peoria International Airport (PIA)

#### *General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport*

[www.flypia.com](http://www.flypia.com)

**Location:** Peoria The airport is situated six miles (10km) west of the city of Peoria.

**Time:** GMT -6 (GMT -5 from mid-March to the first Sunday in November).

**Getting to the city:** Taxis, airport shuttles and rental cars are available at the airport. CityLink buses on Route 7 (the Garden Route) access Peoria International Airport between roughly 6.30am and 6pm on weekdays, and between 8.30am and 5pm on Saturdays. Late night access is offered via bus Route 13. Uber and other similar mobile app based taxi services are also available.

**Car rental:** Car rental companies represented at the airport include Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz and National.

**Airport Taxis:** Several taxi companies service the airport.

**Facilities:** Airport facilities include a restaurant, a bar, vending machines, children's play areas, a conference suite, an ATM, a lost and found, and a visitor information kiosk.

**Parking:** Parking is free at Peoria International Airport. Free airport shuttle buses transport passengers from the parking lot to the terminal if necessary.

## Moline Airport (MLI)

### *Quad City International Airport*

**www.qcairport.com**

**Location:** Moline The airport is located three miles (5km) from downtown Moline.

**Time:** GMT -6 (GMT -5 from mid-March to the first Sunday in November).

**Getting to the city:** The airport is accessible via the METRO bus, on Route 20 Blue. The METRO bus departs from the bus stop in front of the terminal twice an hour. Monday to Friday, operating hours are from 6.10am to 6.10pm; and on Saturdays from 8.40am to 6.10pm. There is no bus service on major holidays.

**Car rental:** Car rental companies represented at the airport include Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National. These companies are located in the public terminal inside Exits 6 and 7, on the east side of the terminal, near baggage claim.

**Airport Taxis:** The Metropolitan Airport Authority of Rock Island County (MAA) oversees the taxicab and shuttle services. Most of these services require a reservation, particularly at night. Taxis are available in designated parking stalls outside Exit 7, and can be called with the courtesy phone located at baggage claim.

**Facilities:** Airport facilities include ATMs, a business centre, work stations, a restaurant, and a gift shop.

**Parking:** There is a free drop-off and pick-up zone, as well as short and long-term parking lots. Short-term rates are \$1 for the first hour, and \$2 per hour thereafter up to \$15 for 24 hours. Long-term parking is \$1 per hour, with a daily rate of \$7. Weekly rates range from \$35 in the long-term lot to \$75 in the short-term lot.

## Chicago Midway Airport (MDW)

### *Chicago Midway International Airport*

**flychicago.com**

**Location:** Chicago The airport is located eight miles (13km) from downtown Chicago.

**Time:**

**Contacts:** Tel: +1 (773) 838-0600. Email: aviation@flychicago.com

**Getting to the city:** Passengers transferring to Chicago can rent a car, or hire a limo or taxi. The Chicago Transit Authority's Orange Line runs from the airport to downtown Chicago. There are also bus services from the airport to throughout the city. The Continental Airport Express has door-to-door service on shuttles leaving every 15 minutes.

**Car rental:** There are several car rental agencies based at Chicago Midway.

**Airport Taxis:** There are taxis available from the airport lower level to downtown Chicago or any other destination.

**Facilities:** The airport offers restaurants, cafes, gift shops, a business centre, yoga room, ATMs and a chapel.

**Parking:** There is a six-level parking garage attached to the airport by a covered walkway. Complimentary shuttle buses to the terminals run every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day.

## **Central Illinois Regional Airport (BMI)**

### ***Central Illinois Regional Airport Bloomington-Normal***

**Location:** Bloomington The airport is situated five miles (8km) east of Bloomington.

**Time:** GMT -6 (GMT -5 from mid-March to the first Sunday in November).

**Getting to the city:** The Tan line of the Connect-Transit bus service provides transport to the airport via the 'CIRA Terminal' stop. Taxis and rental cars are also available at the airport.

**Car rental:** Car hire companies represented at the airport include Avis, Hertz, and National.

**Airport Taxis:** Taxis are usually available at the airport, but for peak hours, or late at night, it is best to book a taxi in advance. Uber is also an option.

**Facilities:** Facilities at the airport include a conference centre, shops, a restaurant, and a coffee shop.

**Parking:** All parking is free at the airport and there is a free airport shuttle available to transport passengers between the parking lots and the terminal. Short-term parking is available for up to two hours, but there is no time limit for the long-term lot.

## Chicago

Chicago is the major metropolis of America's heartland in northern Illinois. Around three million people live and thrive in a city of skyscrapers that appears to rise straight out of the waters of Lake Michigan.

Once a gangster's paradise, home to Al Capone and Bonnie and Clyde, the 'Windy City' today has a reputation as an international business and commercial capital with an eclectic mix of architecture, world-class theatre and art exhibitions, a fantastic local music scene, and thriving sports scene.

Chicago emerged after being destroyed in the Great Fire of 1871, when a large influx of immigrants in the early 20th century infused the city with diversity and the unmistakable sound of Chicago-style blues music. It now boasts soaring skyscrapers such as Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower), colourful neighbourhoods, a lakefront business district, a re-energised downtown district, unbeatable shopping along the famed Michigan Avenue, and top-class sports teams.

One thing that does not attract visitors to Chicago is the weather; the city's geographical location means it is breezy at best, and freezing and gale-ridden at worst. It is possible to ignore the weather though, especially in summer, while getting caught up in the myriad things to do, see, and experience in this Midwestern metropolis.

## Getting around in Chicago

Chicago has one of the largest public transportation systems in the country and getting around the city is fast and easy with an extensive network of train and bus routes. The train system is known as the 'L'; most visitors only use the 'L', but buses also cover every part of the city including the suburbs, albeit less regularly. Most trains run 24 hours a day, with Overnight or Night Owl services taking over between midnight and 5am on some lines.

The Metra commuter trains link the city to the outer suburbs, including Lake Michigan, Hyde Park, and McCormick Place. During the summer months, a free trolley system operates in the downtown area, connecting Chicago's top cultural attractions, shopping areas, and visitor destinations. Taxis are easy to find, and the metered rates are reasonable for short journeys. Although traffic is not as bad as in other major cities (outside rush hour), parking is expensive and difficult to find. Uber and Lyft are also available.

## Nightlife in Chicago

Chicago's unassuming nightlife scene comes as a refreshing change to some other big US cities. Most locals prefer to stay close to what they know and hang out at their local watering hole. However, Chicago still has its fair share of trendy bars, clubs, and cocktail lounges.

Popular areas for nightclubs, bars, and music venues include Lincoln Park, Wicker Park, and Lakeview, where revellers can find music clubs devoted to just about every genre, from R&B and jazz to alternative rock and indie. The city's waterfront nightlife is popular with residents and tourists alike, while the piano bar at The Drake Hotel is a local favourite.

Wells Street in the Old Town offers some great restaurants and bars as well as the popular Zanies Comedy Club. Chicago's gay scene is concentrated on a stretch of North Halsted Street in Lakeview, where men's bars dominate the strip.

The birthplace of house music in the 1980s, Chicago has plenty of clubs full of 20-somethings dancing to the latest offerings of the resident DJ. Many of these types of clubs pop up and disappear at a dizzying rate, while others have been around for decades.

The culture scene in Chicago is bustling with shows and plays running throughout the year at renowned Chicago theatre companies, such as the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the Goodman Theatre, and the Victory Gardens Theater.

Broadway-style entertainment can be found at the CIBC Theatre and the Cadillac Palace Theater. For lovers of classical music, a visit to Symphony Center to hear the Chicago Symphony Orchestra perform is an absolute must.

## Dining in Chicago

It has been estimated that there are more than 6,000 restaurants in Chicago, representing just about every cuisine across every price range imaginable. Visitors can experience eating an authentic Ethiopian meal or a true south Goan curry under the shadow of the Willis Tower.

While the city offers everything from haute cuisine to hotdogs with all the trimmings, its true specialty is the world-famous deep-dish pizza, invented at Pizzeria Uno in 1943, and now available throughout the city (though still served at its birthplace).

Chicago has been steadily earning a reputation as one of the cuisine capitals of America, with its concentration of award-winning chefs and highly acclaimed fine dining establishments. Around 25 restaurants in Chicago have earned Michelin stars, proving just how much fodder is available for discerning foodies. Top areas for dining include trendy Lincoln Park, Chinatown, Little Italy and Pilsen, a Mexican neighbourhood.

### **Club Lucky — \$\$**

*Italian*

Located in the Wicker Park area, this authentic and retro Italian eatery reminds one of wholesome Italian fare being cooked up in the kitchen by real Italian mammas. With homemade ravioli, Veal Parmigiana, and their flagship dish, Chicken Vesuvio with roasted potatoes, peas, white wine and garlic, this cosy Chicago favourite is one of the best when it comes to Italian cuisine. Open Monday to Friday for lunch and dinner. Saturday and Sunday dinner only. Reservations accepted.

1824 W. Wabansia Avenue  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.clubluckychicago.com](http://www.clubluckychicago.com)

### **Penny's Noodle Shop — \$\$**

*Asian*

Established by Thai native Penny Chiamopoulous, this simple and spacious Chicago eatery serves delicious authentic Thai cuisine and other Asian fusion dishes to perfection. Sample everything from Crab Rangoon - a crispy dumpling stuffed with cream cheese and seafood - and Tom Yum soup, to Hot Pepper Noodles and Thai ravioli dumplings stuffed with shrimp and pork and served with BBQ pork, lettuce, green onions, cilantro, and peanuts. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations not accepted.

950 W. Diversey Avenue  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.pennysnoodleshop.com](http://www.pennysnoodleshop.com)

### **Arun's — \$\$\$\$**

*Oriental*

Arun's has been called the finest Thai restaurant in the city. Dinner is an ever-changing fixed-price menu comprising of a gourmet banquet of 12 exquisitely presented courses that puts other Thai kitchens to shame. A special menu can be designed to suit individual tastes on calling ahead. The culinary experience is complemented by traditional Thai décor and displayed artwork. Reservations are required with a credit card. Closed Monday. Dinner only.

4156 North Kedzie Avenue, Irving Park (North Side)  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.arunsthai.com](http://www.arunsthai.com)

### **Everest — \$\$\$\$**

*French*

Towering above the city with commanding views from the 40th floor, Everest is one of the city's premiere French dining rooms offering the world-renowned cuisine created by Alsatian chef Jean Joho. His distinctive style is a blend of noble and simple ingredients for unusual flavour combinations, such as caviar or foie gras with potatoes or cabbage, drawing inspiration from the cookery of his native Alsace. Everest includes classics like lobster and lamb, as well as a vegetarian menu and some creative desserts. Closed Sunday and Monday. Dinner only. Reservations required.

440 South LaSalle Street, 40th Floor, One Financial Plaza building (The Loop)  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.everestrestaurant.com](http://www.everestrestaurant.com)



**Morton's of Chicago — \$\$\$\$**

*American*

King of the Chicago-style steakhouses, Morton's on North State upholds its reputation as the best steakhouse in the region with huge succulent steaks cooked to perfection. It is famous for its signature tableside menu presentation, where a trolley is rolled out containing main course selections that are described in detail by the server. The menu features a variety of cuts, including the house speciality, the 24-ounce (680g) porterhouse steak, as well as fresh fish, lobster, veal, and chicken. Open daily for dinner. Reservations recommended.

1050 North State Street (River North)  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.mortons.com](http://www.mortons.com)

**Vermilion — \$\$\$\$**

*Indian*

High ceilings, crisp white tablecloths, and black and white photos on the walls create a sophisticated dining experience, where the Indian-Latin food is as contemporary as the restaurant. Indian tapas such as cilantro tamarind shrimp, coconut chilli mussels, and duck vindaloo arepa tantalise the tastebuds. Signature dishes include chilli-glazed blackened tamarind ribs served with amchur tortilla crisps and a sweet corn salsa, or fiery culinary delights such as the Desi goat curry in a rich Indian gravy served with naan. This restaurant lives up to its reputation as one of Chicago's finest eateries and does not disappoint. Reservations recommended on weekends. Open Monday to Friday for lunch and dinner. Saturday and Sunday dinner only.

10 W. Hubbard Street  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.thevermillionrestaurant.com](http://www.thevermillionrestaurant.com)

**Blackbird — \$\$\$\$**

*American*

Chicago's chicest diners and celebrity clientele flock to this sought-after addition to 'Restaurant Row'. Here, the smart minimalist interior is the perfect backing to the ornate food presentation and creative renditions of French-influenced contemporary American food. The exterior of the restaurant is as stylish as the food. The seasonal menu is creative yet simple and features dishes such as wood-grilled California sturgeon with English peas, braised peanuts, crispy bacon, and bourbon caramel. Closed Sunday. No lunch Saturday. Reservations recommended.

619 West Randolph Street (West Loop)  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.blackbirdrestaurant.com](http://www.blackbirdrestaurant.com)

**Mirai Sushi — \$\$\$\$**

*Japanese*

Top-quality sushi and sashimi dishes are found in this eatery which exudes a youthful ambience. Fresh fish is flown in daily for the sushi bar where several inventive chefs whip up a list of delicious offerings to order. Upstairs, the futuristic sake lounge is the city's most stylish place to enjoy its namesake and other cocktails. Dinner daily. Reservations recommended.

2020 West Division Street, Wicker Park  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.miraisushi.com](http://www.miraisushi.com)

**North Pond — \$\$\$\$**

*Modern Eclectic*

One of the prettiest settings in the city, North Pond is situated within the famous Lincoln Park, in a building that was originally an ice skaters warming house overlooking Chicago's skyline. In keeping with the natural setting, chef Bruce Sherman emphasises organic produce and simple but delicious seasonal cuisine. The wine list focuses on boutique vintners. Dinner Tuesday to Sunday, lunch Tuesday to Friday (June to September), brunch on Sundays. Reservations recommended. Jacket and tie recommended for dinner.

2610 North Cannon Drive, Lincoln Park  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.northpondrestaurant.com](http://www.northpondrestaurant.com)

### **Pizzeria Uno Chicago — \$\$**

*Italian*

Pizzeria Uno is famous for its original Deep Dish Pizza, a pie-like crust stuffed with meat and fresh vegetables and cheese. This Chicago-style pizza originated at Pizzeria Uno in 1943 and both locals and out-of-towners pack into the panelled rooms for a filling meal. Other delicious dishes on the menu include Angus Beef steaks, ribs, and inventive new creations such as Chicken Milanese or Spicy Chicken Flatbread. There is often a wait, but regulars maintain it is more than worth it. Open from 11am daily.

29 East Ohio Street  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.unos.com](http://www.unos.com)

### **Smoque BBQ — \$\$\$**

*Barbecue*

Voted the best barbecue in Chicago, Smoque serves traditional Midwest barbecue. Dishes like the applewood-smoked baby back and St Louis-style ribs, brisket (smoked for 15 hours), pulled pork (smoked for 12 hours), and sides like cornbread and mac and cheese. The restaurant is casual and diners stand in line to order at the counter. Smoque's location outside of downtown Chicago makes it inconvenient for some tourists, but it is located near an L station and most diners say it's worth the trip. Open Tuesday to Sunday 11am-9pm, closes 10pm on Friday and Saturday.

3800 North Pulaski Road, Irving Park  
Chicago, United States of America

[www.smoquebbq.com](http://www.smoquebbq.com)

## **Shopping in Chicago**

The Magnificent Mile on Michigan Avenue lies along an eight-block stretch, and has more than 460 stores that offer luxury items and fashion bargains to suit most budgets. There are also lovely restaurants and cafes aplenty to provide exhausted shoppers with refreshment. Another area worth exploring is Oak Street, which provides a renowned concentration of designers and salons.

Chicago is equally famous for its art and antiques dealers, which are congregated around the River North Gallery District. There are also good markets, some of which sell antiques. Visitors who head out on Sunday mornings shouldn't miss the Maxwell Street Market, which boasts more than 500 stalls selling everything under the sun. It's best to get there early and to bargain.

Malls and department stores in Chicago are generally open from 10am to 9pm Monday to Saturday; and 12pm to 6pm on Sundays. A sales tax of about 10 percent (the highest sales tax of any large city in the US) is levied on most products and is added at point of purchase, not on the price tag.

## **Climate in Chicago**

Chicago has an extreme continental climate with very hot summers and bitterly cold winters, its lakeside setting only slightly moderating the temperatures and adding some humidity to the atmosphere.

Chicago has distinct seasons, with a short spring, when temperatures are moderate and nights frosty. Summers are hot, sunny and humid, from June to the end of September, and are prone to thunderstorms. The daily average high in July is around 84F (29C). August is usually the wettest month of the year.

Autumn is a lovely time of year when the air is crisp and cool, with blue skies and sunshine. Winters (December to February) in Chicago are icy and prone to cold, harsh winds, with temperatures averaging between 32F (0C) highs in the afternoons and around 14F (-10C) lows at night. Snow is common.

## Sightseeing in Chicago

What this city lacks in New York bravado and LA style, Chicago makes up for in the astonishing variety of its architecture, vibrant culture, and thriving art scene, all of which are highlighted by the Art Institute of Chicago. It is also a truly family-friendly destination, with world-class attractions such as the Field Museum and Shedd Aquarium to delight the whole family.

With so much to see, it's worth getting a sense of perspective from the start. Travellers can visit the 360 Chicago or the Willis Tower Skydeck for views of the city from breathtakingly high up. Then they can check out Navy Pier for a 3D motion simulation of Chicago's fascinating history and exciting future. Afterwards, they can hop on a boat tour departing from the adjoining pier to explore the waterfront area.

A good option for visitors is the Go City card, which gives discounted admission to all the city's key attractions, shopping and dining discounts, various free tours, and a guide book. A Go City card also allows visitors to skip some long queues, which can be useful in peak season. The card is available from a number of tour operators or online.

## Kids Attractions in Chicago

At first glance, the Windy City may not seem like a destination that caters well to little ones, but families on holiday in Chicago will find there are more than enough attractions and activities to keep kids busy.

On clear days, visitors can enjoy the panoramic views over the city from atop the iconic Willis Tower or the observatory atop 875 North Michigan Avenue. They can also enjoy a stroll through Lincoln Park or the Chicago Botanic Gardens if the sun is out.

The Navy Pier is a great place to walk along the docks and enjoy the spectacular views from the Ferris wheel and funfair rides. For larger scale amusement park fun, the renowned Six Flags Great America is on hand.

In inclement weather, unfortunately common in Chicago, parents should consider visiting one of the high-quality indoor playgrounds in the city. There are also several wonderful museums geared specifically towards children, such as the Chicago Children's Museum. With so many attractions on offer, children on holiday in Chicago will be just as enchanted with this city as their parents.

## Chicago Attractions

### Art Institute of Chicago

An impressive pair of bronze lions guards the entrance to the Art Institute of Chicago, a museum which houses one of the greatest art collections in the world. Works date from 3,000 BC through to the present, including a renowned collection of Impressionist art featuring numerous Monet paintings. The Institute has it all, from Japanese ukiyo-e prints and ancient Egyptian bronzes to masterpieces of 20th-century sculpture. Exhibits include paintings, drawings, photographs, textiles, sculptures, and architectural works. As if the permanent collection isn't enough to occupy visitors, an impressive programme of temporary and travelling exhibitions graces the museum. The Institute has three restaurants as well as a gift shop.

**Website:** [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu)

### Chicago Field Museum

Chicago's wildly popular Field Museum of Natural History in Lake Shore Drive is home to 'Sue', the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil ever found. The dinosaur came to rest here after being unearthed in South Dakota when the museum bought her remains for more than \$8 million. Sue is just one of the draws to the museum. It offers other marvels such as getting a bug's eye view in an underground adventure; descending into an Egyptian tomb; watching a glowing lava flow; and getting up close and personal with the man-eating lions of Tsavo. The museum specialises in interactive and diorama-type exhibits across its nine acres of exhibition space, and is a must-visit for families on holiday in Chicago.

**Website:** [fieldmuseum.org](http://fieldmuseum.org)

## Frank Lloyd Wright's Home

America's most renowned architect lived and worked in this complex, which served as private studio and architectural laboratory for the first twenty years of his career. Wright's haven started out as a simple cottage and was continually added on to by the architect, resulting in unusual features such as a balcony suspended on chains. The complex is administered by the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, which offers guided tours. The neighbourhood of Oak Park contains the world's largest concentration of Wright-designed buildings. Self-guided exterior audio tours of the 26 structures in the area are available.

**Website:** [www.wrightplus.org](http://www.wrightplus.org)

## Lincoln Park

**Admission:** Free.

Lincoln Park, beginning at North Avenue and following the shore of Lake Michigan northwards, is Chicago's largest park. It contains many things to see and do, such as beaches, a botanical conservatory, a golf course, grassy meadows, formal gardens, and sports fields. Pride of place is held by the standing statue of Abraham Lincoln, sculpted by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. His sitting Lincoln is in Chicago's other famous green lung, Grant Park. The most popular attraction within the park is the Lincoln Park Zoo, which not only houses hundreds of exotic animals, but offers experiences such as paddle boat rides, a virtual safari trip, and the Endangered Species Carousel with 48 artisan-crafted wooden animals that accommodates 50 riders at a time.

**Website:** [www.lpzoo.com](http://www.lpzoo.com)

## Six Flags Great America

Top of the list of attractions for families on holiday in Chicago is the Six Flags Great America. Featuring some of the country's most exciting theme park rides, such as the Dark Knight Coaster, the American Eagle, and the Condor, the Six Flags Great America Park is a great way to spend the day. The kids will love meeting their favourite comic book superheroes and cartoon characters. Visitors can also cool off on a hot day with the rides at Hurricane Harbor, the attached water park. The amusement park can easily occupy the whole family for a day, with numerous restaurants and snack bars for refreshments and some live entertainment on offer.

**Website:** [www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com)

## Shedd Aquarium

One of Chicago's best known attractions, the Shedd remains one of the world's largest indoor aquariums since its opening in 1930. The octagonal marble building houses more than 8,000 river, lake, and sea creatures. The main attraction is the Caribbean Coral Reef exhibit and other marine habitat recreations of the Amazon basin, the rugged Pacific Northwest coast, and the Great Lakes. Animals in the Shedd include otters, penguins, whales, sharks, sea turtles, and much more. The aquarium also features an indoor saltwater Oceanarium housing marine mammals; dolphin shows are scheduled there daily.

**Website:** [www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org)

## Rockford

Illinois' second city, Rockford, set in rolling hills, is just northwest of Chicago. It is worth a visit for culture vultures and golfers in particular. The city is known for its 'cultural corridor' of which the highlight is the Rockford Art Museum's stunning permanent collection focusing on 19th and 20th century works. There is also a wealth of private galleries and historical museums in the city centre. Rockford is known for its antique shops and markets, and many golf courses.

**Website:** [www.gorockford.com](http://www.gorockford.com)

## Navy Pier

Situated on Chicago's lakefront, Navy Pier has developed into one of the city's main tourist destinations, offering year-round attractions, events, and entertainment for the whole family. Navy Pier encompasses acres of parks and gardens, shops, and restaurants, as well as serving as an embarkation point for tour and excursion boats. Its 150ft (46m) Ferris wheel attracts more than eight million people a year. The Chicago Children's Museum is another of its attractions. Special temporary attractions and events are offered throughout the year.

**Website:** [www.navypier.org](http://www.navypier.org)



## Willis Tower (Sears Tower)

'You haven't seen Chicago until you've seen it from the Skydeck' is what many visitors will hear from locals and other tourists in the city. The iconic Sears Tower was renamed on 16 July 2009 to the 'Willis Tower', but the old name is still commonly used. Located on its 103rd floor, the Skydeck is 1,353 feet (412m) above street level and one of Chicago's most famous tourist attractions. Elevators whisk visitors up to the observation deck, where the views stretch out across the city and Lake Michigan, and as far as neighbouring states on a clear day. The Skydeck is completely transparent, so that visitors look straight down through the floor. Inside, there are some interactive exhibits and computer information terminals for a tour of the city's landmarks. The Willis Tower, standing at 110 storeys high, is one of the tallest buildings in North America and one of the tallest in the world.

**Website:** [www.theskydeck.com](http://www.theskydeck.com)

## Millennium Park

Millennium Park is one of Chicago's most popular destinations and is seen by Chicagoans as the crowning glory of their city. The award-winning park is famous for its innovative architecture and landscape design, featuring the work of several prominent artists, architects, and designers. The park's most outstanding feature is the state-of-the-art outdoor concert venue, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, which seats more than 4,000 people and hosts regular concerts. Another fascinating piece of architecture is the polished stainless steel Cloud Gate, shaped like a 66-foot (20m) long bean with a 12-foot (4m) high archway. Other interesting features include the Crown Fountain, the Lurie Garden, BP Bridge, and the Millennium Monument. Visitors can also enjoy changing exhibitions, local art works, and ice skating in winter.

**Website:** [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org)

## Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum

Located on Lake Michigan, the Adler Planetarium is America's oldest planetarium and boasts a number of theatres. Inside its doors, visitors and locals alike have marvelled at the heavens since 1930. There are also numerous exhibits at the Adler, from design labs to ancient astronomy, the interactive Mission Moon experience to an engaging walk through the history of the cosmos. The Adler hosts many special lectures and events and a visit is an absolute must for stargazers. It is a good family attraction in Chicago as the shows enchant all age groups and much of the programme is carefully designed for children.

**Website:** [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)

## 360 Chicago

Formerly known as the John Hancock Building, 875 North Michigan Avenue is Chicago's third highest skyscraper. Located on the 94th floor, 1,000 feet (305m) above street level, the 360 Chicago Observatory is the city's only open-air skywalk, with 360-degree views, a talking telescope, audio Skytours that provide an overview of the city with 16 stops, and the History Wall, with hundreds of photos illustrating Chicago's history. An annual 'Hustle Chicago' (formerly 'Hustle up the Hancock') stair climb race up the 94 floors is held every February. With a distinctive x-bracing exterior skin, its observatory competes with the facilities of the Willis Tower across town in the Financial District.

**Website:** [360chicago.com](http://360chicago.com)

## Chicago Children's Museum

The Chicago Children's Museum is a must for kids of all ages. Located on Navy Pier, the museum offers three storeys of interactive exhibits with plenty of hands-on fun. The main attraction at the museum is the three-storey tall replica of an 1850s Schooner, which is a huge climbing course. The 'Tinkering Lab', 'Waterways', and Dinosaur attractions are also highly popular with the little ones. Kids can play in anything from tree houses to model skyscrapers and furniture forts, and there are endless toys. Older kids will enjoy the organised craft activities and building workstations. Exhibitions and activities are frequently changed to keep everything new and exciting for regular visitors.

**Website:** [www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org](http://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org)

## Chicago Botanic Gardens

With plenty of wide-open space for kids to run around, the Botanic Gardens is one of Chicago's most beautiful attractions. During the summertime, travellers should be sure to explore the Rose Garden, where over 7,750 plants are in full bloom. A number of greenhouses, including a gorgeous orchid collection, can be explored in the gardens. There are also children's programmes available during the summer, as well as numerous fun events and exhibitions.

**Website:** [www.chicago-botanic.org](http://www.chicago-botanic.org)

## Chicago Loop

Stunning public art adorns downtown Chicago, created by world-renowned artists such as Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro, Alexander Calder, Marc Chagall, Henry Moore, and David Smith. Numerous walking tours of the Loop are available, with the Chicago Loop Alliance offering some free tours. Exploring the Loop includes some of the city's best-known works of art, including the Art Institute of Chicago, Millennium Park, the Aon Center Plaza, Thompson Center, Daley Center, Chase Plaza, Federal Plaza, the Chicago Board of Trade Building, and the Willis Tower (Sears Tower). Joining a tour is a great way to see the most scenic parts of the downtown Chicago Loop, although it is also fun to venture independently to the main artistic landmarks.

**Website:** [loopchicago.com](http://loopchicago.com)

## Buckingham Fountain

Often referred to as the city's front yard, Buckingham Fountain is one of the Chicago's most popular attractions. Located alongside Millennium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago in Grant Park, the fountain used to be the official starting point of the celebrated US Route 66. Donated to the city by Kate Buckingham on 26 August 1927 in memory of her brother Clarence, the fountain represents Lake Michigan and each sea horse symbolises a state bordering the lake. Water shows run every hour on the hour and last for 20 minutes. The last show of the night is at 10pm.

## Magnificent Mile

The stretch of Michigan Avenue in Chicago that runs from Chicago River to Oak Street is known as the Magnificent Mile. Famed for its nightlife, it also serves as the main thoroughfare between Chicago's Loop business district and the Gold Coast. Visitors will love discovering what the Magnificent Mile has to offer, from more than 460 exclusive stores and boutiques, to more than 200 restaurants. There is also historic architecture to be admired on a boat or trolley tour, including the Wrigley Building and 875 North Michigan Avenue (known locally as the John Hancock Center). Visitors can indulge in a deep dish pizza, stroll past media houses such as the Chicago Tribune newspaper, enjoy the local street performers, firework displays, or watch the Magnificent Mile change with the seasons.

**Website:** [www.themagnificentmile.com](http://www.themagnificentmile.com)

## Route 66 Sign

The world-famous Route 66 is colloquially known as the 'Main Street of America' or the 'Mother Road'. This is because it originally ran from Chicago through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, before ending in Los Angeles. The stretch of highway has been immortalised by famous singers such as Nat King Cole and even the Rolling Stones. The starting point in Chicago has moved a few times over the years and in 1933, the start (and end) was moved to Jackson and Lake Shore Drive. The starting point remained here, so even while Adams Street at Michigan Avenue is marked as the starting point, Route 66 has never departed from there. The recognised end of Route 66 is located at the intersection of Jackson Boulevard and Michigan Avenue (which is marked as the terminus). This landmark is a pilgrimage site for those interested in the pop culture of America.

**Website:** [www.historic66.com](http://www.historic66.com)

## Chicago History Museum

Chicago has a colourful and fascinating history, ranging from devastating fires to gangster assassinations. The Chicago History Museum represents this history through an intriguing collection of artefacts from the city's past. This includes the first passenger car to operate on the Chicago L system, Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls jersey, and seemingly every postcard ever made of Chicago. The admission cost includes an audio guide to help visitors make sense of all the exhibitions. The permanent collection is more than sufficient to capture the imagination, but the museum does also host regular temporary exhibitions and special events.

**Website:** [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)

## Chicago Beaches

While Chicago is not well-known as a beach holiday destination, its position on the shore of Lake Michigan gives the city access to an extensive network of waterfront recreational areas. There are over 26 miles (42km) of open and free lakefront to enjoy. These include popular spots such as Oak Street Beach and North Avenue Beach, the most fashionable places to see and be seen while enjoying the sun of a Chicago summer. The Rogers Park Beaches are also excellent: Howard Beach has a playground for children, while Pratt Beach offers tennis courts and jogging paths. Kathy Osterman Beach (formerly Hollywood Beach) is a great place for beach volleyball and has child-friendly shallow waters at the north end.

## Events in Chicago

### Chicago Blues Festival

**Friday June 05, 2020 to Sunday June 07, 2020 (5 - 7 June 2020)**

**Where:** Grant Park

The Chicago Blues Fest is one of the biggest outdoor, free blues events in the world. The festival features more than 70 international, national, and local Chicago artists, spread over five stages, and at night the festivities continue in blues clubs all over the city. The Blues Fest is the city's biggest music festival and attracts about 500,000 people every year. Past performers have included huge stars like Ray Charles, B.B. King and Bonnie Raitt. For more information check out the official website listed below.

<http://www.chicagobluesfestival.us>

### Magnificent Mile Lights Festival

**Friday November 20, 2020 to Saturday November 21, 2020 (20 -21 November 2020)**

**Where:** North Michigan Avenue

The official start of the winter holiday season in Chicago is signalled by the lighting of more than a million white lights along the Magnificent Mile. It occurs during a procession of Micky Mouse and his Disney friends, concluding with a spectacular fireworks show over the Chicago River.

The whole winter wonderland weekend gears towards the holiday season, with special offers and family entertainment. Numerous stages have live music while the grand tree-lighting ceremony is one of the highlights. It's an unmissable and exuberant November display in Chicago.

<http://www.themagnificentmile.com>

## Airports in Chicago



## Chicago O'Hare International (ORD)

*O'Hare International Airport*

<http://www.flychicago.com>

**Location:** Chicago Chicago O'Hare is located 17 miles (27km) northwest of Chicago.

**Time:** GMT -6 (GMT -5 from March to November).

**Contacts:** Tel: (800) 832 6352

**Transfer between terminals:** A free automated rail system, the Airport Transit System connects all terminals.

**Getting to the city:** Blue Line trains run every few minutes between the airport and downtown Chicago 24 hours a day; the journey takes around 50 minutes. For safety reasons travellers are advised against using the Blue Line at night. Travellers can also use the Pace bus service to get to downtown Chicago. Taxi ranks are situated outside the arrivals hall in each of the airport terminals; the fare is around \$40 for the 30 to 45 minute journey from the airport to downtown Chicago.

**Car rental:** Companies represented at the airport include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz, and National.

**Airport Taxis:** There are plenty of metered taxis outside, and a taxi to the centre of Chicago takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes and costs about \$40. But be prepared to pay twice as much during rush hour.

**Facilities:** Facilities at the airport include restaurants, bars, shops, duty-free shopping, bureaux de change, a bank, and ATMs. The Hilton Health Club provides a health club, sauna, steam room, and massage. There is a medical centre, baby-change facilities, a play area, and a 24-hour interfaith chapel. There are also many airport art exhibits to view as well as the Urban Garen, the first aeroponic garden in the world.

**Parking:** Parking at Chicago O'Hare is divided into the main lots, international lots, economy lots, and valet lots, with an additional free Cell Phone Lot for pick-ups and drop-offs. Fees range from around \$3 per hour at the main lots, or \$6 for two hours at the international lot, to \$17 per day in the economy lots. Valet parking is also available.

## Chicago Midway Airport (MDW)

*Chicago Midway International Airport*

[flychicago.com](http://flychicago.com)

**Location:** Chicago The airport is located eight miles (13km) from downtown Chicago.

**Time:**

**Contacts:** Tel: +1 (773) 838-0600. Email: [aviation@flychicago.com](mailto:aviation@flychicago.com)

**Getting to the city:** Passengers transferring to Chicago can rent a car, or hire a limo or taxi. The Chicago Transit Authority's Orange Line runs from the airport to downtown Chicago. There are also bus services from the airport to throughout the city. The Continental Airport Express has door-to-door service on shuttles leaving every 15 minutes.

**Car rental:** There are several car rental agencies based at Chicago Midway.

**Airport Taxis:** There are taxis available from the airport lower level to downtown Chicago or any other destination.

**Facilities:** The airport offers restaurants, cafes, gift shops, a business centre, yoga room, ATMs and a chapel.

**Parking:** There is a six-level parking garage attached to the airport by a covered walkway. Complimentary shuttle buses to the terminals run every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day.

## Springfield

The state capital of Illinois, Springfield owes its prominence and position to its most famous citizen, beloved former American president Abraham Lincoln. The city started out as a little pioneer settlement in 1820, called Calhoun after a South Carolina senator of that name.

The senator fell out of favour and in 1832 the town was renamed Springfield, just before a young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, decided to make the frontier town his home. Soon after he had settled in, Lincoln decided to up the town's status to state capital, a legislative effort that he seemed to accomplish without too much trouble. To this day, Springfield retains its status as state capital, despite the powerhouse of Chicago in northern Illinois.

The civil war brought some economic benefits to the town, with new industries opening. Springfield also became an important link in the state railway system. Today the city has a thriving economy and tourist trade thanks to having been Lincoln's home town.

It is also well located midway between Chicago and St Louis on historic Route 66. The city has retained its small-town charm and is an interesting tourist destination, with a number of worthy museums and galleries.

### Sightseeing in Springfield

Springfield is a city in which it is possible to step back in history to the lofty days of Abraham Lincoln. Visitors can explore Lincoln's home and the neighbourhood that has been carefully preserved and restored to be as the famous president would have remembered it.

The Lincoln Library and Museum holds famous documents hand-written by Lincoln, and the Oak Ridge Cemetery holds his tomb. Apart from the slew of historic sites and landmarks named for Lincoln, Springfield offers many museums, galleries and parks, and shopping destinations.

Springfield's status as the state capital ensures that the city boasts a number of worthy Illinois establishments, such as the Illinois State Museum, the Illinois State Capitol, and the Illinois State Military Museum.

Springfield makes visitor's welcome, with tourist centres and information kiosks sprinkled throughout the city, and a number of first-class guided tours on offer. There are also some well-organised self-guided tours available in Springfield tourist hubs.

## Springfield Attractions

### Lincoln's Home

The pretty two-storey home of Abraham and Mary Lincoln in Springfield was the only home the lawyer and president ever owned. He and his wife lived in the house between 1844 and 1861, when he was elected President. The home has been restored and stands as it was in 1860 in the midst of a four-block historic neighbourhood, which the National Park Service is restoring. The neighbourhood, like the house, will also soon appear much as Lincoln would have remembered it. The house can only be explored on a guided tour and a time slot is assigned with each ticket; there is no admission cost.

**Website:** [www.nps.gov/liho](http://www.nps.gov/liho)

### Oak Ridge Cemetery

Abraham Lincoln was buried in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery after his assassination in 1865. Today it is the second most visited cemetery in the United States, being the resting place not only of Lincoln but several other notable historic figures, including famous poet Vachel Lindsay. Lincoln's tomb monument was designed by Larkin Mead and is one of the highlights of the Historic Monument Tour by guided audio. The cemetery is surrounded by rolling prairie landscapes and thousands of old trees.

**Website:** [www.oakridgecemetery.org](http://www.oakridgecemetery.org)

## Lincoln Library and Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library opened in October 2004, with the Museum opening the following year. They are part of a \$115 million complex dedicated to the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln and form the largest presidential library complex in the nation. The library houses the world's largest collection of Lincoln material, with more than 46,000 items. Included in this collection are nearly 1,500 documents written or signed by Lincoln, including handwritten copies of the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address. The collection also contains important family documents and artefacts, such as the Lincoln's marriage license, a tablecloth from their wedding reception, the nameplate from their front door, and Mr Lincoln's shaving mirror. The museum has been designed to be an immersive experience, using creative exhibits which take visitors through phases of the president's life from his boyhood cabin in Indiana to his funeral in Springfield.

**Website:** [www.presidentlincoln.illinois.gov](http://www.presidentlincoln.illinois.gov)

## Knights Action Park

Knights Action Park is a family entertainment centre outside of Springfield. Featuring an arcade, driving range, batting cages, go-karts, mini golf, kiddie rides, and a Ferris wheel, the park is a great place to let children run around after touring historic Springfield. The water park is where the whole family can enjoy bumper boats, water slides, a wave pool, pedal boats, and a lazy river. Added attractions at Knights Action Park are the Route 66 Twin Drive-In Theater, offering nightly double features, and Trade Winds Pub & Eatery. All these can be visited in one day and the variety of activities and amusements ensures people of all ages will find something to enjoy. Visitors should note, however, that opening times and days vary for different attractions.

**Website:** [www.knightsactionpark.com](http://www.knightsactionpark.com)

# Currency

The official currency is the US Dollar (USD), which is divided into 100 cents. Only major banks exchange foreign currency. ATMs are widespread and credit cards are widely accepted. Banking hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm.

## Exchange rate for 1 USD - U.S. Dollar

<b>0.00</b> BMD Bermudan Dollar	<b>0.93</b> EUR Euro	<b>0.80</b> GBP U.K. Pound Sterling	<b>152.99</b> JPY Japanese Yen	<b>1.37</b> CAD Canadian Dollar	<b>0.91</b> CHF Swiss Franc
<b>1.52</b> AUD Australian Dollar	<b>39.40</b> UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia	<b>443.91</b> KZT Kazakhstani Tenge	<b>93,075.00</b> LBP Lebanese Pound	<b>4.86</b> LYD Libyan Dinar	<b>6.86</b> BOB Bolivian Boliviano
<b>0.00</b> NPR Nepalese Rupee	<b>0.00</b> OMR Omani Rial	<b>0.00</b> QAR Qatari Rial	<b>1.35</b> SGD Singapore Dollar	<b>10.82</b> SEK Swedish Krona	<b>0.00</b> TTD Trinidad Tobago Dollar
<b>0.00</b> VEF Venezuelan Bolivar	<b>58.11</b> DOP Dominican Peso	<b>0.00</b> HRK Croatian Kuna	<b>16.95</b> MXN Mexican Peso	<b>610.53</b> XOF West African CFA Franc	<b>0.00</b> PGK Papua New Guinean kina
<b>0.00</b> BSD Bahamian Dollar	<b>0.00</b> FJD Fiji Dollar	<b>0.00</b> HNL Honduran Lempira	<b>133.87</b> DZD Algerian Dinar	<b>0.00</b> MMK Myanma Kyat	<b>0.00</b> BWP Botswana Pula
<b>3.72</b> PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol	<b>938.44</b> CLP Chilean Peso	<b>386.84</b> AMD Armenia Dram	<b>23.29</b> CZK Czech Koruna	<b>17.63</b> MDL Moldova Lei	<b>139.89</b> ISK Icelandic Krona
<b>12,582.40</b> UZS Uzbekistan Sum	<b>3.72</b> ILS Israeli New Sheqel	<b>0.71</b> JOD Jordanian Dinar	<b>0.00</b> KWD Kuwaiti Dinar	<b>38.15</b> UYU Uruguayan Peso	<b>0.00</b> MUR Mauritian Rupee
<b>0.00</b> NIO Nicaraguan Córdoba	<b>10.88</b> NOK Norwegian Krone	<b>4.03</b> PLN Polish Zloty	<b>3.75</b> SAR Saudi Riyal	<b>0.00</b> LKR Sri Lanka Rupee	<b>36.79</b> THB Thai Baht
<b>3.66</b> AED U.A.E Dirham	<b>5.09</b> BRL Brazilian Real	<b>4.63</b> RON Romanian New Leu	<b>7.81</b> HKD Hong Kong Dollar	<b>610.53</b> XAF Central African CFA Franc	<b>25,405.70</b> VND Vietnamese Dong
<b>878.36</b> ARS Argentine Peso	<b>0.00</b> XCD East Caribbean Dollar	<b>0.00</b> GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal	<b>10.06</b> MAD Moroccan Dirham	<b>0.00</b> BHD Bahrain Dinar	<b>1.00</b> PAB Panamanian Balboa
<b>1.70</b> AZN Azerbaijan Manat	<b>3,920.00</b> COP Colombian Peso	<b>88.42</b> KGS Kyrgyzstan Som	<b>362.00</b> HUF Hungarian Forint	<b>10.89</b> TJS Tajikistan Ruble	<b>16,073.70</b> IDR Indonesian Rupiah
<b>47.95</b> EGP Egyptian Pound	<b>1,358.84</b> KRW South Korean Won	<b>7,456.52</b> PYG Paraguayan Guaraní	<b>4.74</b> MYR Malaysian Ringgit	<b>508.31</b> CRC Costa Rican Colón	<b>1.67</b> NZD New Zealand Dollar
<b>277.87</b> PKR Pakistani Rupee	<b>91.39</b> RUB Russian Rouble	<b>18.51</b> ZAR South African Rand	<b>3.13</b> TND Tunisian Dinar	<b>0.00</b> BBD Barbadian Dollar	<b>1.82</b> BGN Bulgarian Lev
<b>32.33</b> TRY Turkish Lira	<b>57.28</b> PHP Philippine Peso	<b>32.31</b> TWD New Taiwan Dollar	<b>1,164.84</b> NGN Nigerian Naira	<b>0.00</b> XPF CFP Franc	<b>0.00</b> GHS Ghanaian Cedi
<b>0.00</b> JMD Jamaican Dollar	<b>0.00</b> ANG Neth. Antillean Guilder	<b>0.00</b> BND Brunei Dollar	<b>108.90</b> RSD Serbian Dinar	<b>7.24</b> CNY Chinese Yuan	<b>6.94</b> DKK Danish Krone
<b>3.49</b> TMT New Turkmenistan Manat	<b>83.42</b> INR Indian Rupee				