

Discover the World Girl Scouts Go Hostelling!



Chicago, a Girl Scouts kind of town: Sample OUTDOOR ADVENTURES itinerary

This itinerary sends you outside for fun and exploration around Chicago. Its companion itinerary, INDOOR ADVENTURES, is offered on separate pages. We encourage you to pick and choose what you want to do while in Chicago from both, or just follow them as written. One tool you will need is a CTA transit visitor pass, which you can purchase from the kiosk in the hostel when you arrive or have sent to you in advance directly from the Chicago Transit Authority. We hope that our recommendations illuminate the many things to do in Chicago and make your planning easier. Our contact information is below for your questions.

Arrive Friday late-afternoon

- Check-in at hostel anytime after 3pm, after your orientation by hostel staff settle into your rooms with linen and towels provided by the hostel.
- Hungry? Pick a place for dinner close to the hostel such as pizza at Giordano's (223 W. Jackson) or catch the #126 bus, from State and Adams, to Greektown for a great meal at Greek Islands (200 S. Halsted).
- Come back to hostel: play pool or ping pong, meet other guests, work on Girl Scouts Discover the World patch.

Saturday

- Start the day with a delicious, free continental breakfast in the hostel's dining room. Then take a stroll in the park along the lakefront. Early morning is beautiful in Chicago and the hostel is next door to Grant Park. Just walk east toward the sun and the lake to find a grassy spot with a view of the harbor.
- Explore Chicago's lakefront and best attractions on foot. Walk back to the massive Buckingham Fountain and take your postcard shots of the city skyline.
- Walk north from the fountain, through the park. Cross Jackson and then Monroe to find the east side of the winding BP Bridge that crosses over Columbus. Walking east to west over the BP Bridge is a dramatic entrance into the spectacular Millennium Park.
- Millennium Park thrills the senses with engaging sculptures and fountains. Explore the gardens in the summer and ice skate in the winter. If time permits, go to the Chicago Cultural Center with free art exhibits and Chicago information center across Michigan Avenue from Millennium Park.
- Lunch on the great lawn of the Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park is magnificent, with free lunch time concerts almost daily throughout the summer. Bring lunch with you or buy sandwiches at the Park Grill Café.
- Do you need a break? Stop back at the hostel, just six blocks south of Millennium Park, walk south on Michigan to Congress.
- Take in the grandeur of the city's major buildings from the relaxation of a river cruise with Chicago From the Lake cruises – pick up coupons at the hostel to get \$8 off each ticket. Departs from the River East Plaza at Illinois and McClurg Court. Take the #29 bus from the hostel.
- Walk east of catch the #29 bus along Illinois heading east to Navy Pier where you can grab dinner, take a ride on the Ferris wheel, or just enjoy spectacular views of the city.

During the summer, see the fireworks display just after sunset on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Getting back to the hostel is easy on the #29 bus.

Sunday

- Breakfast at the hostel.
- One of the best ways to see Chicago is a guided bike tour with Bobby's Bike Hike, a 3-hour bike tour starting at 9 am. Bikes, helmets and guide provided. See the elegant architecture of the Gold Coast, the green of Lincoln Park, the animals in the Zoo, and return along the lakefront. Mention you are a Girl Scout troop staying at the hostel when you are making your reservation and receive a special discount!
- Chicago is the USA's third coast and has miles and miles of beaches. Take bus #151 from Water Tower Place a short ride north to North Avenue Beach. Look for the big beach house shaped like a boat.

Planning Resources

Itinerary Destination Websites

Hostelling International Chicago	www.hichicago.org
Giordano's Famous Stuffed Pizza	www.giordanos.com
Girl Scouts Discover the World Patch	www.hichicago.org/groups_girlscouts.shtml
Buckingham Fountain	www.chicagoparkdistrict.com
Millennium Park	www.millenniumpark.org
Chicago Cultural Center	www.chicagoculturalcenter.org
Chicago From the Lake Cruises	www.chicagoline.com
Navy Pier	www.navy pier.com
Bobby's Bike Hike	www.bobbysbikehike.com
Chicago Beaches	www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

General Chicago Information

City of Chicago	egov.cityofchicago.org
Events and entertainment	www.explorechicago.org
Chicago Transit Authority	www.transitchicago.com

Contact Information

Emily Piga, Group Sales Manager
312.583.2216 • groups.chicago@hiosa.org

Hostelling International Chicago
24 E Congress Pkwy
Chicago IL 60605-1226

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Saturday

- Breakfast at the hostel.
- Have fun with fish at the massive Shedd Aquarium and Oceanarium. In addition to the main aquarium, visit the Oceanarium with sea otters, dolphins and beluga whales. Conveniently, bus #146 picks you up just one block from the hostel, at Congress and State.
- Visit Chicago Cultural Center in the old Chicago Library where you will find free art exhibits, information center, a spectacular Tiffany dome, and free concerts. Located along Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Washington, across the street from Millennium Park.
- Time for lunch. Downtown Chicago is awash in lunch places. Enjoy a tasty meal three blocks from the hostel at Exchequer. Grab a coupon or mention the hostel to receive 10% off.
- Do you need a break? Stop back at the hostel, just six blocks south of Washington on Wabash.
- Refueled, rested and ready to shop, find your way north on Michigan Ave, Chicago's Magnificent Mile. When you get to the historic Water Tower at Chicago Avenue you will find American Girl Place. Take the subway, Chicago's "L," to Grand or Chicago and head east.
- Visit one of our city's tallest buildings by going up the nearby Hancock Observatory just one block from American Girl Place— don't forget your camera! Buy your discount tickets at the hostel before you go for only \$11.
- For a wonderful Chicago dining adventure at an economical price, go to Café Iberico, a Chicago institution with tasty Spanish tapas. Located just a few blocks west of Michigan

Avenue at the corner of Chicago and LaSalle. Get back to the hostel easily on the CTA Brown or Red Lines.

Sunday

- Breakfast at the hostel.
- The famous French Impressionists abound in the world famous Art Institute of Chicago. Worth the trip alone is Georges Seurat's greatest work, and one of the most remarkable paintings of the 19th century, A Sunday on La Grande Jatte–1884. Find the Art Institute just a short walk from the hostel at Adams and Michigan.
- Chicago's free Lincoln Park Zoo is a classic and easy to get to on the #151 bus from downtown. Make this your stop for lunch in the central food court.
- If you still have time and energy, you can make a quick stop to the free Lincoln Park Conservatory featuring many seasonal exhibits and an amazing permanent collection of varieties of flora.

Planning Resources

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Girl Scouts Discover the World Patch	www.hichicago.org/groups_girlscouts.shtml
Shedd Aquarium	www.sheddaquarium.org
Chicago Cultural Center	www.chicagoculturalcenter.org
Exchequer	www.exchequerpub.com
American Girl Place	www.americangirlplace.com
Café Iberico	www.cafe-iberico.com
Art Institute of Chicago	www.artic.edu
Lincoln Park Zoo	www.lpzoo.com
Lincoln Park Conservatory	www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

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Chicago, a Girl Scouts kind of town: Itinerary Alternatives

We list other things to do in Chicago that we recommend including many more museums and attractions.

Museums

- Field Museum of Natural History www.fieldmuseum.org
Sue, world's largest T-Rex, world cultures, Egyptians, Evolving Planet
- Adler Planetarium www.adlerplanetarium.org
StarRider Theater, digital projection galaxy tour.
- Museum of Science and Industry www.msichicago.org
2-for-1 coupon at hostel. Fairy Castle, Coal Mine, Genetics, Space Center, Omnimax Theater
- Museum of Contemporary Art www.mcachicago.org
Hostel discount half off with coupon. Exhibitions of the most thought-provoking art created since 1945.
- National Museum of Mexican Art www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org
Celebrating Mexican art past and present, located in Pilsen neighborhood.
- Chicago History Museum www.chicagohistory.org
Devoted to the rich multicultural history of Chicago and Illinois.
- DuSable Museum of African American History www.dusablemuseum.org
Interprets the historical experiences and achievements of African-Americans.
- Notebaert Nature Museum www.chias.org
Connect to the natural world through scientific learning and environmental programs.

Attractions

- Willis Tower Skydeck www.the-skydeck.com
\$12 tickets from the hostel. Tallest building in the Americas, Chicago history exhibits
- Chicago Architecture Foundation www.architecture.org
Discount coupons from hostel for \$3 off walking tours. River cruises, bus tours and bike tours also available.
- Chicago From the Lake www.chicagoline.com
Discount coupons at hostel for river and lake boat cruises.
- Chicago Chinese Cultural Institute www.chicagocci.com
Tours of Chinatown and other special opportunities. Mention you are a Girl Scout troop staying at the hostel for a special walking tour rate.