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— ACCESSIBLE TOURISM —

Chicago Accessible City Guide

5-day itinerary



for people with
reduced mobility

Contents

3

DESTINATION: CHICAGO

4

AIRPORT ACCESSIBILITY

5

RECOMMENDED HOTELS

6

5-DAY ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL ITINERARY

19

MORE ACCESSIBLE ATTRACTIONS

21

TRANSPORTATION AROUND THE CITY

22

MEDICAL ATTENTION

23

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION





Destination: Chicago

For five years in a row, Chicago has been voted the best Big City in the United States by the readers of the prestigious international Condé Nast Traveler magazine. There are many reasons why it conquers the hearts of visitors: more than 70 neighborhoods with a unique atmosphere, world-famous museums, spectacular architecture, endless outdoor activities, prestigious restaurants...

The “Windy City” has strived to make its transportation system and many of its tourist attractions accessible to visitors with **reduced mobility**, thus becoming a friendly destination for **accessible tourism**.

In this guide we suggest ideas for a 5-day **accessible travel itinerary**. However, you can always select the information that interests you and plan your trip in the time you have. You will discover...

- What places can you visit as a wheelchair traveler.
- What activities are accessible in Las Vegas.
- What accessible transportation options are available and where you can find them..
- Which hotels we recommend from our catalog.



Airport accessibility

Chicago has four airports: Chicago-O'Hare International, Chicago Midway International, Chicago Rockford, and Dupage.

Chicago-O'Hare International Airport is the main airport. It is located northwest of the city and is operated by the Chicago Department of Aviation. For its part, **Midway International Airport** is located to the southwest and is managed by the Chicago Airport System.

Both have accessible parking for people with **reduced mobility**, elevators, loading areas with ramps, accessible maternity rooms and restrooms suitable for everyone.

O'Hare also houses an **accessible changing room** located in Terminal 2, next to gate F3. It consists of showers with seats for **wheelchairs**, a lowered washbasin, an **accessible WC** with grab bars, emergency cables and a table for changing diapers.

As always, you should contact your airline to request **wheelchair assistance**. You may also find additional information by visiting their web sites: [O'Hare Accessibility Guide](#) and [Midway Accessibility Guide](#).

Recommended hotels

TOP 5 IN CHICAGO



Hilton Garden Inn Chicago McCormick Place

Hilton Garden Inn Chicago McCormick Place is located just minutes from the McCormick Place Convention Center. The elegant accessible rooms provide the necessary comfort to guarantee a relaxed vacation.

[Book Now](#)

Waldorf Astoria Chicago

Waldorf Astoria Chicago is an accessible hotel for people with reduced mobility located in the heart of the Gold Coast neighborhood in downtown Chicago, surrounded by the famous Oak Street boutiques, gourmet restaurants and lively nightlife.

[Book Now](#)

Hampton Inn Chicago Downtown/Magnificent Mile

The Hampton Inn Chicago Downtown / Magnificent Mile is an accessible hotel where people with reduced mobility can enjoy a magnificent adapted trip. Close to the hotel the traveler will find The Magnificent Mile, the shopping and restaurant district.

[Book Now](#)

Homewood Suites By Hilton Chicago-Downtown

Homewood Suites By Hilton Chicago Downtown is located in Chicago's Art District, an excellent location for participating in accessible tourism in the city. There are also many restaurants within walking distance, and the Magnificent Mile shopping district is nearby.

[Book Now](#)

Doubletree Hotel Chicago Magnificent Mile

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago - Magnificent Mile is a contemporary and vibrant accessible hotel for people with reduced mobility. Located in downtown Chicago, it is within walking distance of the stores on Michigan Avenue and cultural attractions at Navy Pier.

[Book Now](#)



5-day accessible travel itinerary

Day 1

Start your day contemplating the best views. **The Skydeck**, the second tallest building in the Western Hemisphere, offers you the opportunity to take a spectacular photo of the city. Its famous observation deck, **The Ledge**, is accessible to wheelchair users.

Continue by exploring the **Loop neighborhood**. In the area you can see the **Rookery Building**, a majestic architectural work that was a temporary city hall after the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

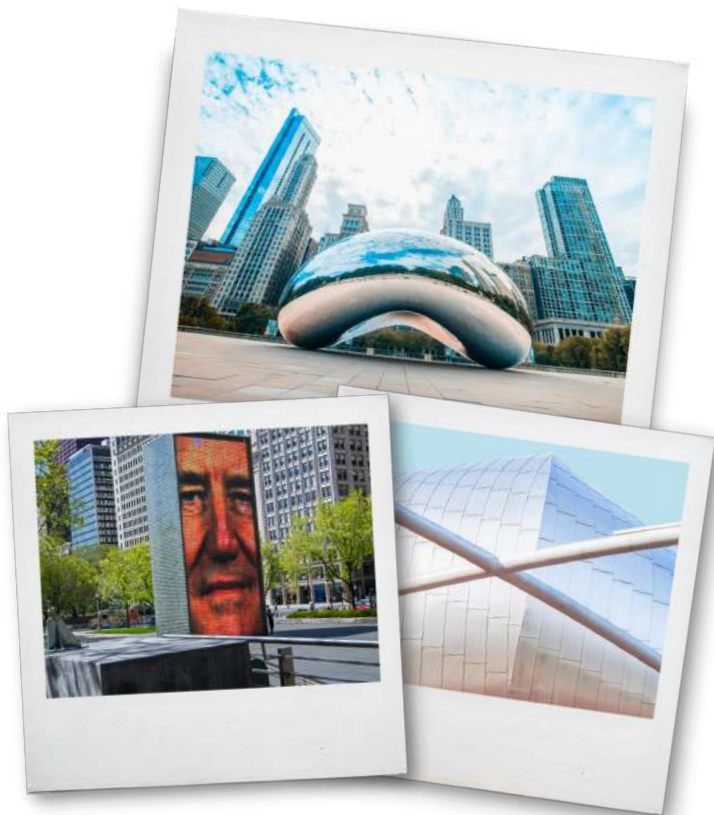
Also, be sure to snap a picture next to the

First Route 66 Sign in Illinois, located at 45-63 E Adams St.

You may want to visit the **Art Institute of Chicago**, considered to be one of the best art museums in the world. It houses more than 300,000 works, so it is convenient to take your time in order to be amazed by the exhibitions. **Wheelchairs**, crutches, canes, braces, walkers, and single-seat scooters are allowed in all areas of the museum. In addition, the place has accessible entrances, elevators and a **wheelchair rental service**.

In the afternoon you can tour **Millennium Park**. This artistic green space was designed so all visitors, regardless of their abilities, could enjoy it. As the [official website of the City of Chicago](#) points out, the park has **accessible parking** in all its underground garages, as well as **accessible restrooms**. Your inputs have the appropriate characteristics.

The park offers some of the most emblematic tourist attractions. You will come across the famous **Cloud Gate**, popularly known as "The Bean", an installation with a stainless steel surface where all the activity in the environment can be seen reflected. It was created by the British sculptor Anish Kapoor and has become one of his most famous works. Don't hesitate to take a picture.



The spectacular **Crown interactive fountain** is located nearby, designed by artist Jaume Plensa. It has become a meeting point for many locals. As indicated by [Choose Chicago](#), it lacks edges and deep water areas, so people with **reduced mobility** can approach and interact with it. The **Jay Pritzker Pavilion** or the **Millennium Monument** will also capture your attention.



Next, head to **Grant Park** and see the beautiful **Buckingham Fountain** – closed in winter – whose water show beautifies with lights when it starts to get dark.



If you have enough time to spare, you can wander around the **Museum Campus** and visit the [Field Museum of Natural History](#).

The major natural history center loans **wheelchair** in the ground floor's East entrance and has **accessible restrooms**. Please note that the center closes at five and does not sell tickets after four, so we recommend that you buy tickets well in advance.

Lastly, gaze out over the horizon from the **Adler Planetarium Skyline Walk**.





Day 2

After eating some delicious Chicago-style donuts for breakfast, embark on one of the **river tours**. There are several alternatives that will allow you to contemplate the spectacular architecture of the city on board. For example, [Wendella Tours & Cruises](#) and [Chicago First Lady](#), which have **accessible boats** that can accommodate **wheelchairs** and have **accessible restrooms**.





Next, stroll along the **Magnificent Mile**, the city's most famous shopping district. There you will be surprised by the facades of The **Wrigley Building**, the **Tribune Tower**, the

Historic Water Tower and the **John Hancock Center**, among others. In addition, there are a variety of restaurants and luxurious shops in the area.





You can go have a pleasant time at the **Navy Pier** for the remainder of the day, one of Chicago's main tourist attractions. It opened in 1916 and was previously used as a training center for the Navy. Today it hosts a variety of events, restaurants, shops, gardens, fireworks, and cultural attractions. Many ships and cruises also depart from here.

This iconic site is perfect to entertain yourself with your family or friends. It includes attractions such as the **Centennial Wheel**, the **Crystal Garden**, the **Chicago Children's Museum** and the **Chicago Shakespeare Theatre**.

All levels of Navy Pier are **accessible** via elevators for people with **reduced mobility**. As specified on its [official website](#), service animals are welcome. **Wheelchairs** are available at the service desk located at the main entrance.





Day 3

Explore the streets of the **Old Town neighborhood**, then step back in time at the **Chicago History Museum**, the city's oldest cultural institution. It will help you to know more about the destination you have visited. If you're driving, you'll find **accessible parking** in the garage at LaSalle and Stockton. As stated on its official website, the museum has an elevator, restrooms with grab bars and a **wheelchair loan service** (you must ask at the ticket office).

Take your time to visit the huge **Lincoln Park**. We especially recommend you visit the **Lincoln Park Conservatory**, where you can let yourself be carried away by the smells of the plants and enjoy the tranquility.

A short distance away is **North Avenue Beach**, which has an accessible promenade and accessible restrooms. It is an excellent place to watch the sunset and take a tour with your fellow travelers.

If you're up to it, you can go to the historic **Wrigley Field** and attend a memorable sporting event. Look at the calendar and buy your tickets well in advance. You will have a fun time. There is also the possibility of taking a tour of the stadium, which, according to its official website, is partially accessible to **wheelchair users** (they may not be able to enter certain areas such as the dugout).

WRIGLEY FIELD
HOME OF
CHICAGO CUBS





Day 4

Get ready to go to the largest science center in the Western Hemisphere, the **Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago**. Both children and adults will be able to learn from its exhibits.

Its official website dedicates a section to the **accessibility** of the exhibitions. To avoid surprises, check in advance which exhibits you can see without limitations.

Regarding the building, it has elevators and ramps to access all floors. Additionally, there are **accessible restrooms** and designated seating for those with **reduced mobility** in the Giant Dome theater.

If you travel in spring, the **cherry blossom trees of Jackson Park** will catch your eye just a short distance away.

Do not forget to take a picture next to the beautiful trees.

Take the opportunity to stroll around the beautiful **campus of the University of Chicago**, which is 1 kilometer (0.6 mi) away.

Also, you can visit the **Oriental Institute of Chicago**, a leading center for research on ancient civilizations. Its galleries, which have 350,000 objects, are dedicated to Egypt, Nubia, Persia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Anatolia and the Levant. It has an **access ramp**, galleries at the right height for **wheelchair users** and elevators.



To wind things up, we can return to the center to see some typical neighborhoods. **Chinatown** has a variety of restaurants and shops. You'll also see the spectacular **Chinatown Gate**, **Chinatown Square**, **Ping Tom Memorial Park**, and the **Pui Tak Center**.

A little further along, you can indulge in Italian charm in **Little Italy**, where the **Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii**, **Piazza DiMaggio** and the **National Italian American Sports Hall Of Fame** stand out.



Day 5

You can dedicate your last day to resting in your **accessible hotel**, buy a souvenir, spend the day at [Oak Street Beach](#), photograph the works of the **Wabash Arts Corridor**, go to the **Oak Park village** (birthplace of the writer

Ernest Hemingway) and/or or visit other tourist attractions that you have been wanting.

Below, we leave additional suggestions in our “More **accessible attractions**” section.



More accessible attractions

1 If you have little time to see the city, a good option is the **Big Bus Tours**. You will make a route through the main tourist places. However, you should keep in mind that a portion of its entire fleet of vehicles is accessible, therefore, we recommend contacting them at least 48 hours in advance to arrange for an accessible bus suitable to your needs.

2 The **Lincoln Park Zoo** has 19 reserved parking spaces for people with disabilities, wheelchair and ECV loan services at the Searle Visitor Center, accessible restrooms and accessible entrances in all buildings.

3 Although our itinerary will take us across the **Adler Planetarium**, you may want to see its interiors. For your information, the accessible entrance is located at the Leffmann Education Center. There are also assigned seats for wheelchair users in the theater, elevators, and accessible restrooms.

4 **The 606** is a railway trail connecting four parks and invites you to take a leisurely tour of Chicago. It gets its name from the zip code prefix shared by the locals. It has ramps to guarantee universal accessibility.



5 [The Chicago Theater](#) is accessible and ensures a good experience for viewers. He advises arriving an hour before the event begins. For any questions, you can write to disabledservices@msg.com or call 888-609-7599.

6 If you plan visiting the [Shedd Aquarium](#), bear in mind that it has free wheelchairs and walkers that can be requested at the information desk, accessible restrooms,

adult changing rooms, accessible seating in the amphitheater, and a private nursing staff.

7 Located a 25-minute drive from downtown Chicago, the [Morton Arboretum](#) is the place to be for nature lovers and outdoor activities enthusiasts. As indicated on its [official website](#), the visitor center, cafeteria, several trails and store are accessible.



Transportation around the city

It is essential that during your trip you can adequately navigate to all the places you want to visit. Therefore, do not forget to take a look at this list with pertinent information about transportation and mobility services.

- **Chicago Transit Authority**. 100% of vehicles (buses and cars) are accessible, while 103 of 145 train stations are accessible.
- **Metra**. This accessible train service spans six counties in the metropolitan area.
- **Regional Transportation Authority**. The regional public transport system is mostly accessible.
- **Pace Suburban Bus**. Accessible paratransit service.
- **Pacebus TAP**. Taxi Access Service.
- **All American Medical Supply**, **Howard Medical Company** and **Midwest Mobility**. Mobility equipment.



Medical attention

Remember that if a serious medical emergency arises during your trip, you can call **911**. If it is a minor problem, consult the hotel itself or go to a pharmacy.

There are several CVS Pharmacies open twenty-four hours in Chicago. You can also

check the [RxList](#) website to find the **nearest pharmacy**.

Traveling with **health insurance** is a practical necessity. If you need medications, take them with you in your hand luggage accompanied by a medical prescription.



Other useful information

Concierge Service

Travegali.com offers a **free Concierge service** to all its clients. It is dedicated to helping you find the best accessible room. It also helps with booking mobility equipment, accessible activities, airport assistance and accessible transportation.

Festivals and special events

Keep an eye out for **festival seasons**. Check out the dates on the **Choose Chicago** calendar. Perhaps you can add one of the events to the itinerary of your next trip.

Weather forecast

Chicago has very cold winters and hot summers. We recommend the following links to check the weather conditions:

- **AccuWeather** and **The Weather Channel**. Daily, weekly and monthly weather forecasts. Weather radar and air quality.
- **National Weather Service**. Detailed forecasts.

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