

Toddlin' Back to Chicago

Chicago has something to offer everyone, from architecture aficionados to art addicts, from gourmands to sports fans. Since the AAO last visited for its annual meeting in 2000, a number of exciting new restaurants have sprung up and a new mayor has been elected, but the Windy City's great institutions remain among the finest in the world.

Here is JCO's annual guide to attractions in the AAO convention city, previewing this year's May 13-17 meeting.

Weather and Transportation

May is generally one of Chicago's most pleasant months, with highs in the mid-60s and lows near 50°F. Since rain is always a possibility and Lake Michigan breezes can be fierce, be sure to bring a jacket.

The city is served by O'Hare International Airport and the closer-in Midway Airport. Taxi fares to downtown run about \$40 from O'Hare and \$25 from Midway. Shuttle services are also available at around \$25 one-way from O'Hare and \$15 from Midway. Trains, known as the "El" because of their elevated tracks, are run by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA, www.chicagotransit.com), with a cash fare of \$2.25 per trip; three- or seven-day passes can be purchased at the airport CTA stations or at the two Chicago Visitor Centers (www.explorechicago.org).

Architecture and Tours

If architecture is your passion, bring walking shoes and a camera. Register early for the Chicago Greeter program (www.chicagogreeter.com), matching small groups of visitors with local volunteers who provide free guided walking tours of many Chicago neighborhoods. Larger groups are handled by the **Chicago Architecture Foundation**, which offers 85 walking, bus, bicycle, and Segway tours, plus a popular 90-minute Architecture River Cruise in which certified docents describe the history and architecture of more than 50 buildings along the three branches of the Chicago River. An early-evening tour is highly recommended.



Chicago skyline at sunset. Photo © Evgeny Moerman, Dreamstime.com.

Visit the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust website (www.gowright.org) for details on planning your own pilgrimage to the **Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio** in Oak Park, the Rookery in downtown Chicago (new home of the Trust's offices), or the Robie House on the University of Chicago campus in Hyde Park. AAO convention-goers staying on after the meeting can join the 37th annual Wright Plus architectural housewalk (May 21), featuring rare interior tours of eight private homes designed by Wright and his contemporaries, all in the Oak Park area (about 10 miles west of Chicago's Loop).

Other tour options abound in the downtown area and farther afield. **Chicago Trolley and Double Decker** offers hop-on, hop-off convenience in the heart of town. **Chicago Detours** provides multimedia culture-theme tours. **Chicago Cruises, City Segway Tours, Shoreline Sightseeing, and Walk Chicago** feature a variety of transportation options and tour themes.

Food tours are also available: **Chicago Dine**

Boldface names in this article are listed in the Directory on pp. 74-76 with their telephone numbers and street addresses. For a website link, call up the article in the JCO Online Archive at www.jco-online.com, and click on the boldface name within the text. The article can be accessed at no charge by clicking on its title on the JCO Online home page.

Around chauffeurs its guests on a “progressive dining tour” in luxury coaches; **Chicago Food Planet** visits historic mom-and-pop specialty stores and ethnic eateries, with a side of history and architecture; **Chicago Pizza Tours** lets visitors enjoy “Chicago One Slice at a Time”; and **Tastebud Tours** features the Gold Coast and Millennium Loop neighborhoods, including some of the city’s most famous restaurants.

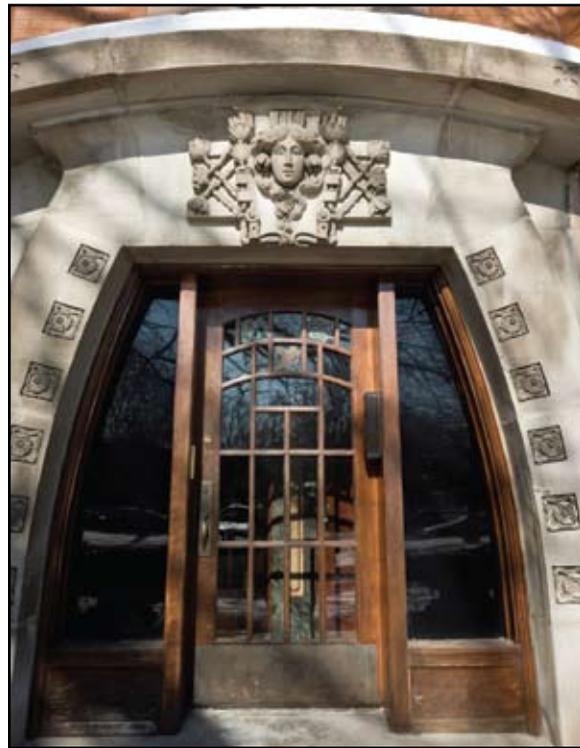
Chicago’s public art—murals, sculpture, and multimedia installations—is as varied and exciting as its architecture. Of the hundreds of artworks in public spaces throughout the city, “The Bean” (Anish Kapoor’s “Cloud Gate” sculpture in Millennium Park), Pablo Picasso’s sculpture in Civic Center Plaza, and Alexander Calder’s “Flamingo” may be the best-known examples. A detailed brochure with photos and locations is downloadable from www.cityofchicago.org.

For a bird’s eye view of the entire Chicago area and beyond, visit **Skydeck Chicago**, with its glass-box ledges on the 103rd floor of Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), or the **John Hancock Observatory’s** open-air sky walk at 1,000 feet. Both locations are open late into the evening for spectacular views of the city at night.

Attractions

Visitors can obtain free or reduced rates for many area attractions with either the Go Chicago Card (www.smartdestinations.com) or the Chicago CityPass (www.citypass.com).

A bold new Modern Wing, designed by Renzo Piano, makes the **Art Institute of Chicago** the second-largest museum in America (next to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York). Exhibits on display during the AAO meeting include a photographic retrospective, “American Modern: Abbott, Evans, Bourke-White”; “June Wayne’s Narrative Tapestries: Tidal Waves, DNA, and the Cosmos”; and “The Challenge of American Style: Richard Morris Hunt and the American Renaissance in Architecture”. Nearby, **The Field Museum** of natural history showcases “The Horse” and “Design for a Living World”. The **Museum of Science and Industry** offers a display of



Art Nouveau apartment building doorway in Logan Square neighborhood on North Side of Chicago. Photo © Steve Geer, iStockphoto.com.

“Chicago’s Greenest Home” and a new version of “Body Worlds & the Cycle of Life”, with human specimens preserved through plastination.

The **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago** has exhibits by Jim Nutt, Susan Philipsz, and Thomas Ruff. The **Chicago Cultural Center** presents “Your Honor! The Mayors of Chicago, 1837-2011” in time to celebrate the election of incoming Mayor Rahm Emanuel. The **Chicago History Museum** is featuring “Lincoln Park Block by Block” and “Lincoln’s Chicago”. More specialized museums include the **Chicago Children’s Museum**, the **DuSable Museum of African American History**, the **Glessner House Museum**, the **Jane Addams Hull House Museum**, and the **National Museum of Mexican Art**.

Shedd Aquarium offers a special show on sea jellies; **Adler Planetarium** spotlights telescopes. Nature lovers may want to take in the **Lincoln Park Zoo**, the **Chicago Botanic Garden**, the **Notebaert Nature Museum** (featuring the Judy Istock Butterfly Haven and “Birds of Chicago”), the **Garfield Park Conservatory**, or the **Lincoln**

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(Map reprinted by permission of the Chicago Office of Tourism; www.explorechicago.org.)

Park Conservatory. Or just stroll around the gardens of **Millennium Park** or browse the shops, promenades, and attractions of the **Navy Pier**.

Performing Arts

Theatrical presentations during the convention include *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (for kids 3 and older) at the **Apollo Theater**; Blue Man Group at the **Briar Street Theatre**; Alan Bennett's *The Madness of George III* at the **Chicago Shakespeare Theatre**; *Peter Pan* at the **Chicago Tribune Freedom Center**; Sarah Ruhl's *Stage Kiss* at the **Goodman Theatre**; *Sex with Strangers* at the renowned **Steppenwolf Theatre Company**; and *The Gospel According to James* at the **Victory Garden Theatre**. For comedy fans, the legendary **Second City** offers dinner-show packages including *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies* and *Fair & Unbalanced*. The **Chicago Center for the Performing Arts** features improv comedy.

The **Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University** is showcasing two internationally recognized dance companies: Joffrey Ballet, with premieres from three rising choreographers (May 4-15), and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Ailey's *Revelations!* (May 18-22).

The **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, under music director Riccardo Muti, presents Yo-Yo Ma performing Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto (May 12-14) and the Reinecke Quartet in chamber music by Franz Schubert, Franz Joseph Haydn, and Felix Mendelssohn (May 15). CSO musicians will also collaborate in an unusual program called "Mercury Soul", billed as "a cross between a 21st-century 'salon' and a club party", on May 13 at **Redmoon Theatre**. Elvis Costello will appear with The Imposters, his latest backup band, at the **Chicago Theatre** on May 15.

Restaurants and Nightlife

Dining suggestions are provided by our sister publication, *Sommelier Journal*. Some consider Grant Achatz's **Alinea** to be the finest restaurant



The Art Institute's bronze lions watch over Michigan Avenue. Photo © Peter Spirer, Dreamstime.com.

in America; in fact, the Michelin Guide recently awarded it three stars, the highest rating. Achatz has just opened a companion restaurant, **Next**, at which tickets are required instead of traditional reservations.

Laurent Gras's **L2O** was also crowned by Michelin with three stars. Other culinary temples in the city include the redoubtable **Charlie Trotter's**, **Avenues** in the Peninsula Hotel, **Balsan** and **RIA** at the Elysian Hotel, **NoMI** at the Park Hyatt, Jean Joho's **Everest**, **MK**, **Naha**, **Spiaggia**, **Topolobampo** (first Mexican restaurant to earn a Michelin star), **Tru**, and **Zealous**.

Chicago's steakhouses are led by the original **Morton's** and include all the national chains. A local favorite is **Benny's Chop House**. Other trendy locations recommended by insiders are **Arami** (sushi and ramen), **The Bristol** (new Midwestern), **Café Spiaggia** (next to Spiaggia), **Ceres' Table** (contemporary Italian-American), **Cibo Matto** (theWit Hotel), **Epic** (three floors and a rooftop bar), **The Gage** (Irish gastropub), **La Sardine** (French bistro), **Mercat a la Planxa** (designer tapas), **Piccolo Sogno** (pizza and pastas), **Publican** (Paul Kahan's down-home sister to his highly regarded Avec and Blackbird), and **Sprout** (French-American bistro).

Casual wine and cocktail bars also abound; top choices are **Pops for Champagne**, **Roof**, **Webster's Wine Bar**, and **The Violet Hour**. Of course, Chicago's blues scene is world-renowned, anchored by **Blue Chicago**, **B.L.U.E.S.**, **Buddy Guy's Legends**, **House of Blues**, and **Kingston Mines**. For traditional jazz and other live music, check out **Andy's Jazz Club**, **The Flat Iron**, **Green Mill Jazz Club**, **Underground Wonder Bar**, or **The Wild Hare** (reggae).

Shopping

Chicago's shopping mecca is the Magnificent Mile on Michigan Avenue, highlighted by **900 North Michigan Shops**, **The Shops at North Bridge**, and **Water Tower Place**. Other popular shopping districts include Oak Street (near North Side, off Michigan Avenue) and Wicker Park-Bucktown (northwest of downtown).

Art collectors should visit the **Fine Arts Building**, a National Landmark building designed specifically for working artists. For gallery hopping, try **Douglas Dawson Gallery** (ethnographic art), **Hildt Galleries** (19th- and 20th-century oils and watercolors), **Echt Gallery** (contemporary sculpture), **Mars Gallery** (contemporary), **McCormick Gallery** (contemporary), **Stephen Daiter Gallery** (photography), or **Zolla/Lieberman Gallery** (contemporary).

Sports and Recreation

On the North Side at Wrigley Field, the **Chicago Cubs** play three-game series with Seattle (May 10-12) and San Francisco (May 13-15). The **Chicago White Sox** follow at U.S. Cellular Field on the South Side with two-game sets against Texas (May 16-17) and Cleveland (May 18-19) and a three-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers (May 20-22).

Cyclists can rent equipment and arrange tours at **Bike Chicago** or **Bobby's Bike Hike**. Golfers will enjoy the two 18-hole courses (Port and Starboard) at **Harborside International Golf Center** in East Chicago, not far from downtown. Other noteworthy area courses include **Cantigny Golf and Tennis Club** (Wheaton), **Cog Hill Golf and Country Club** (Lemont), **Kemper Lakes Golf Club** (Hawthorn Woods), **Orchard Valley Golf Course** (Aurora), and **Pine Meadow Golf Club** (Mundelein).

DIRECTORY

Attractions and Tours	Address*	Phone
Adler Planetarium	1300 S. Lake Shore Drive	(312) 922-7827
Art Institute of Chicago	111 S. Michigan Ave.	(312) 443-3600
Chicago Architecture Foundation	224 S. Michigan Ave.	(312) 922-3432
Chicago Botanic Garden	1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe	(847) 835-5440
Chicago Children's Museum	700 E. Grand Ave.	(312) 527-1000
Chicago Cultural Center	78 E. Washington St.	(312) 744-6630
Chicago Detours	25 E. Washington St.	(312) 350-1131
Chicago Dine Around	70 W. Madison St.	(312) 437-3463
Chicago Food Planet Food Tours	830 N. Michigan Ave.	(212) 209-3370
Chicago History Museum	1601 N. Clark St.	(312) 642-4600
Chicago Pizza Tours	27 N. Wacker Drive	(800) 979-3370
Chicago Trolley and Double Decker Co.	615 W. 41st St.	(773) 648-5000
City Segway Tours	400 E. Randolph St.	(312) 819-0186
DuSable Museum of African American History	740 E. 56th Place	(773) 947-0600
The Field Museum	1400 S. Lake Shore Drive	(312) 922-9410
Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio	951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park	(312) 994-4000
Garfield Park Conservatory	300 N. Central Park Ave.	(312) 746-5100
Glessner House Museum	1800 S. Prairie Ave.	(312) 326-1480
Hancock Observatory (John Hancock Center)	875 N. Michigan Ave.	(888) 875-VIEW

Attractions and Tours

	Address*	Phone
Jane Addams Hull House Museum	800 S. Halsted St.	(312) 413-5353
Lincoln Park Conservatory	2391 N. Stockton Drive	(312) 742-7736
Lincoln Park Zoo	2001 N. Clark St.	(312) 742-2000
Millennium Park	201 E. Randolph St.	(312) 742-1168
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago	220 E. Chicago Ave.	(312) 397-4010
Museum of Science and Industry	57th St. and Lake Shore Drive	(773) 684-1414
National Museum of Mexican Art	1852 W. 19th St.	(312) 738-1503
Navy Pier	600 E. Grand Ave.	(312) 595-7437
Notebaert Nature Museum	2430 N. Cannon Drive	(773) 755-5100
Shedd Aquarium	1200 S. Lake Shore Drive	(312) 939-2438
Shoreline Sightseeing	474 N. Lake Shore Drive	(312) 222-9328
Skydeck Chicago (Willis Tower)	233 S. Wacker Drive	(312) 875-9447
Tastebud Tours Chicago	550 N. Kingsbury St.	(219) 929-6648
Walk Chicago Tours	1-99 N. Michigan Ave.	(708) 557-5400

Performing Arts

Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University	50 E. Congress Parkway	(800) 982-ARTS
Apollo Theater	2540 N. Lincoln Ave.	(773) 935-6100
Briar Street Theatre	3133 N. Halsted St.	(773) 348-4000
Chicago Center for the Performing Arts	777 N. Green St.	(312) 733-6000
Chicago Shakespeare Theatre	800 E. Grand Ave.	(312) 595-5600
Chicago Symphony Orchestra	220 S. Michigan Ave.	(312) 294-3000
Chicago Theatre	175 N. State St.	(312) 902-1500
Chicago Tribune Freedom Center	650 W. Chicago Ave.	(888) PPANTIX
Goodman Theatre	170 N. Dearborn St.	(312) 443-3800
Redmoon Theatre	1463 W. Hubbard St.	(312) 850-8440
The Second City	1616 N. Wells St.	(312) 337-3992
Steppenwolf Theatre Company	1650 N. Halsted St.	(312) 335-1650
Victory Garden Theatre	2433 N. Lincoln Ave.	(773) 871-3000

Restaurants and Nightlife

Alinea	1723 N. Halsted St.	(312) 867-0110
Andy's Jazz Club	11 E. Hubbard St.	(312) 642-6805
Arami	1829 W. Chicago Ave.	(312) 243-1535
Avenues	108 E. Superior St.	(312) 337-2888
Balsan	11 E. Walton St.	(312) 646-1400
Benny's Chop House	444 N. Wabash Ave.	(312) 626-2444
Blue Chicago	536 N. Clark St.	(312) 661-0100
B.L.U.E.S.	2519 N. Halsted St.	(773) 528-1012
The Bristol	2152 N. Damen Ave.	(773) 862-5555
Buddy Guy's Legends	700 S. Wabash Ave.	(312) 427-1190
Café Spiaggia	980 N. Michigan Ave.	(312) 280-2750
Ceres' Table	4882 N. Clark St.	(773) 878-4882
Cibo Matto	201 N. State St.	(312) 239-9500
Charlie Trotter's	816 W. Armitage Ave.	(773) 248-6228
Epic	112 W. Hubbard St.	(312) 222-4940
Everest	440 S. LaSalle St.	(312) 663-8920
The Flat Iron	1565 N. Milwaukee Ave.	(773) 489-0011
The Gage	24 S. Michigan Ave.	(312) 372-4243
Green Mill Jazz Club	4802 N. Broadway Ave.	(773) 878-5552
House of Blues	329 N. Dearborn St.	(312) 923-2000

*Chicago unless otherwise noted.

DIRECTORY (cont.)

Restaurants and Nightlife

Restaurants and Nightlife	Address*	Phone
Kingston Mines	2548 N. Halsted St.	(773) 477-4646
L2O	2300 N. Lincoln Park W.	(773) 868-0002
La Sardine	111 N. Carpenter St.	(312) 421-2800
Mercat a la Planxa	638 S. Michigan Ave.	(312) 765-0524
MK	868 N. Franklin St.	(312) 482-9179
Morton's	1050 N. State St.	(312) 266-4820
Naha	500 N. Clark St.	(312) 321-6242
Next	955 W. Fulton Market	(see website)
NoMI closed for renovations!!	800 N. Michigan Ave.	(312) 239-4030
Piccolo Sogno	464 N. Halsted St.	(312) 421-0077
Pops for Champagne	601 N. State St.	(312) 266-7677
Publican	837 W. Fulton Market	(312) 733-9555
RIA	11 E. Walton St.	(312) 880-4400
Roof	201 N. State St.	(312) 239-9509
Spiaggia	980 N. Michigan Ave.	(312) 280-2750
Sprout	1417 W. Fullerton Ave.	(773) 348-0706
Topolobampo	445 N. Clark St.	(312) 661-1434
Tru	676 N. St. Clair St.	(312) 202-0001
Underground Wonder Bar	650 N. Dearborn St.	(312) 266-7761
The Violet Hour	1520 N. Damen Ave.	(773) 252-1500
Webster's Wine Bar	1480 W. Webster Ave.	(773) 868-0608
The Wild Hare	3530 N. Clark St.	(773) 327-0868
Zealous	419 W. Superior St.	(312) 475-9112

Shopping and Galleries

Douglas Dawson Gallery	400 N. Morgan St.	(312) 226-7975
Echt Gallery	222 W. Superior St.	(312) 440-0288
Fine Arts Building	410 S. Michigan Ave.	(312) 566-9800
Hildt Galleries	617 N. State St.	(312) 255-0005
Mars Gallery	1139 W. Fulton Market	(312) 226-7808
McCormick Gallery	835 W. Washington Blvd.	(312) 226-6800
900 North Michigan Shops	900 N. Michigan Ave.	(312) 915-3916
The Shops at North Bridge	520 N. Michigan Ave.	(312) 222-1622
Stephen Daiter Gallery	230 W. Superior St.	(312) 787-3350
Water Tower Place	835 N. Michigan Ave.	(312) 440-3166
Zolla/Lieberman Gallery	325 W. Huron St.	(312) 944-1990

Sports and Recreation

Bike Chicago	239 E. Randolph St.	(312) 729-1000
Bobby's Bike Hike	465 N. McClurg Court	(312) 915-0995
Cantigny Golf and Tennis Club	27W270 Mack Road, Wheaton	(630) 668-3323
Chicago Cubs	1060 W. Addison St.	(773) 404-CUBS
Chicago White Sox	333 W. 35th St.	(866) SOX-GAME
Cog Hill Golf and Country Club	12294 Archer Ave., Lemont	(866) 264-4455
Harborside International Golf Center	11001 S. Doty Ave. E.	(312) 782-7837
Kemper Lakes Golf Club	24000 N. Old McHenry Road, Hawthorn Woods	(847) 320-3450
Orchard Valley Golf Course	2411 W. Illinois Ave., Aurora	(630) 907-0500
Pine Meadow Golf Club	1 Pine Meadow Lane, Mundelein	(847) 566-4653

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