

HISTORY

Chicago was founded in the 18th century as a trading post between French traders and Native American populations. In 1833, it officially became a city and grew rapidly thanks to its strategic location as a rail and port hub. In 1871, it was devastated by the Great Chicago Fire, but the reconstruction led to architectural innovation and the construction of the first skyscrapers. Between the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it became a major industrial center and a key destination for African Americans during the Great Migration.

Today, it is famous for its bold architecture and skyscrapers such as the iconic John Hancock Center. It is also known as an international hub for finance, culture, commerce, industry, education, technology, telecommunications, and transportation.

It has one of the highest gross domestic products (GDP), generating over 919 billion in 2024.

Chicago is a major tourist destination, with 55 million visitors in 2024 coming for its cultural festivals, beaches, and restaurants. The city is also famous for its deep-dish pizza.



Shown above is one of the most famous attractions in Chicago: the Willis Tower. It is 442 meters tall (527 meters including the antennas) and has 110 floors. One of its most popular features is The Ledge, a set of glass balconies suspended over the void.

Chicago's Millennium Park is one of the most famous and most visited urban parks in the United States. Located in the heart of the city, next to Grant Park and along Michigan Avenue, it is known for its contemporary architecture, iconic art installations, and green spaces designed for cultural and recreational events.

One of the park's most important landmarks is The Bean, a symbol of Chicago. Created by Anish Kapoor, it is made of polished stainless steel that reflects the skyline in spectacular ways. Its shape resembles a large bean, which is how it got its nickname.



The Magnificent Mile is Chicago's famous shopping avenue, located along Michigan Avenue. It features luxury stores, boutiques, department stores, and shopping centers. Along the avenue, you can also find historic hotels, well-known restaurants, and iconic skyscrapers. The street connects the Chicago River to Lincoln Park, passing through the city's main tourist district. It is one of the most visited areas in Chicago, known for its events, parades, and Christmas lights.



Shown above is Navy Pier another major tourist attraction it is a pier on the Lakefront with many attractions to enjoy: rides, restaurants, shops, and cruises on Lake Michigan.