



CHICAGO

CITY GUIDE

TO DO & TO SEE
TO EAT & DRINK
ARCHITECTURE

by @ny_scene



TO SEE
& TO DO



THE BEAN

Iconic sculpture in the most visited public plaza in the Midwest must make the cut among things to see in Chicago. Cloud Gate, aka the Bean, joyfully distorts the skyline afar, and the crowd up close. What is it about this piece by Anish Kapoor that attracts so many? Is it the gestalt, the playfulness, or it's simplicity? Located in the Millennium Park, the public artwork is one of the most well known attractions of the city; thus the overpowering crowd around it. Therefore, it is highly recommended to place your visit between 6 am and 8 am right after the park opens when there are minimal visitors around. These photos are taken at 7 am.



ROOKERY BUILDING

A Frank Lloyd Wright interior hosted in Root and Burnham designed shell. Mesmerizing Light Court is not only aesthetically pleasing but also problem solving. Through bringing light and air to its otherwise enclosed belly of the building, the design solves the daylight problem so many have wrestled in the 19th Century. Oriel Staircase, designed by Root and Burnham embodies intricate iron detailing. While Lloyd had replaced much of the iron and terracotta detailing in the lobby, he had done so through paying homage to the work of original architects through use of strong geometric patterns found in the staircase. While the building is a sight to see, it is not possible to fully visit it without going through certain hoops. The lobby which is open to public is easy to access and a lot to take in. The most well known feature, the Oracle stair; however, is only accessible through tours arranged by Frank Lloyd Wright foundation. Tours take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays days. More information is available on their website.



SKYDECK AT WILLIS TOWER

Do not attempt if you are scared of heights. 103 floors above the street level, Skydeck at Willis Tower turn the city into a carpet below your feet. Extending 4' out of the building, the Ledge is an all glass cube and once in a lifetime experience. How often do you stand in a glass box 1,353 ft above ground and see the city from a birds eye view? From the 8th tallest building in the world nevertheless. As I have learned in the Architectural Boat Tour, Freedom Tower in New York might be the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere but Willis Tower is the tallest building with the most usable sqft!





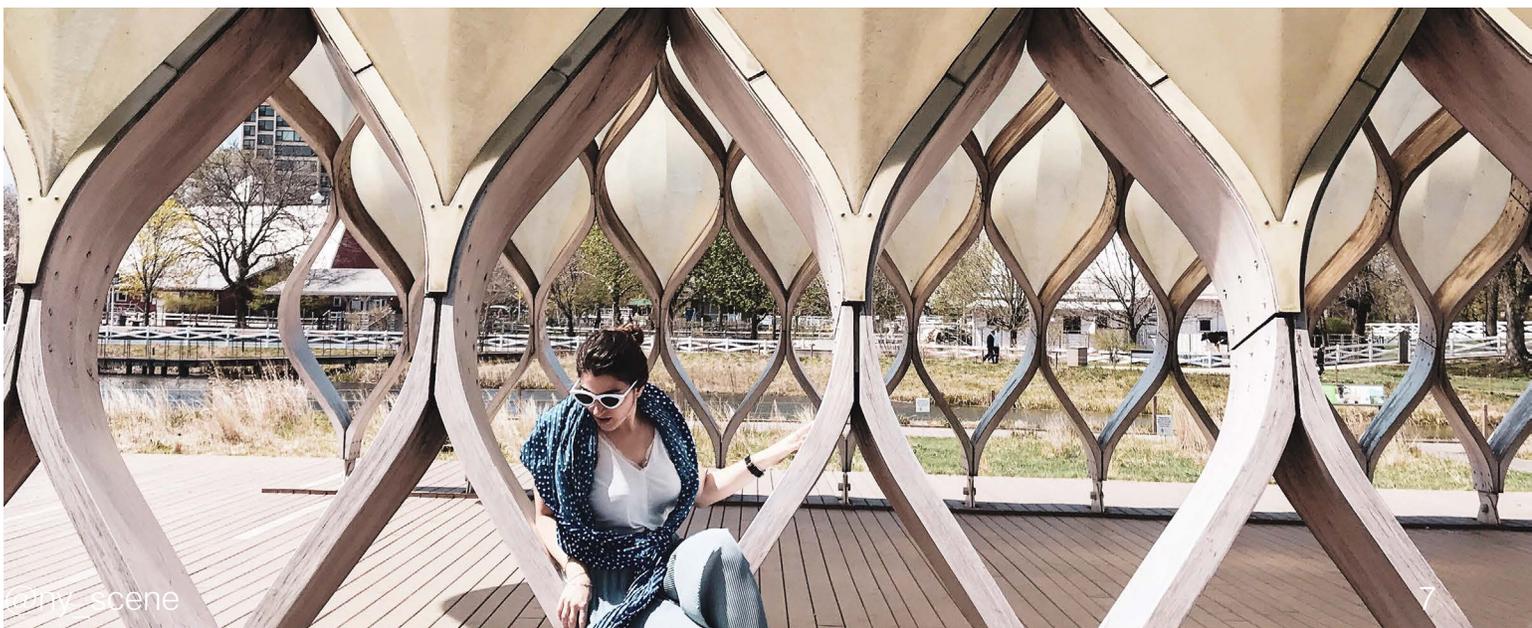
ARCHITECTURAL BOAT TOUR

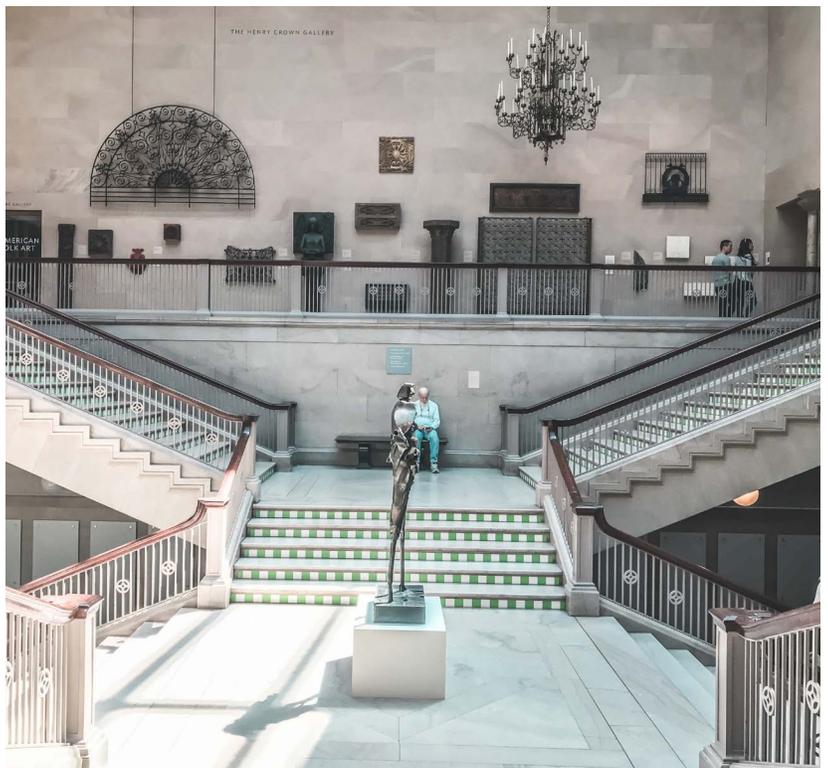
Ninety minutes spent well. You may be an architecture and design nerd, or you may not care at all. Where ever you might land in that spectrum this tour is a must. Chicago is known for it's iconic architecture. The city was home to some of the most well known architects from Mies van der Rohe to Frank Lloyd Wright. Moreover, it is where art deco, modernism, and post-modernism lives alongside one another. After the great Chicago fire in 1871, the city was literally rebuilt from the ashes. Therefore, in order to truly experience the city and scratch the surface of understanding it, learning about it's built environment is a must. Chicago Architecture Foundation has an amazing boat tour where significant structures are explained not only historically but also socially and aesthetically in an engaging manner. Plus, there is a bar.



Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park

When you want to take a break from the built environment and embrace the nature, Lincoln park is a green oasis located North in a residential neighborhood. Situated along the lake, the park is enjoyable to walk around and slow the pace down a little. Most striking feature is the honeycomb boardwalk. As this is a great instagrammable location, it is worth venturing out from the city center for a little bit. Another attraction that was quite fun yet strange was the Lincoln Park Farm Animals Zoo. Expect a lot of kids running around along with sheltered cows, sheep, hogs and so on.





The Art institute of Chicago

Visiting minimum of one museum when traveling is a must for me. I pick art whenever I can, well personal preference. The building is a work of art in an of itself. From it's grand staircases to contemporary addition, the structure offers plenty of moments to not only observe the art but other visitors. There's something poetic about the building positioning the visitors as the work to be seen wouldn't you agree? Whichever era peaks your interest, you will find it here. For all popular culture geeks out there, yes this is the museum from Ferris Bueller and you might find people dressed up like him.



TO EAT &
TO DRINK

BEATNIK



LITTLE GOAT DINER





3 ARTS CAFE

THE ALLIS



@ny_scene



DUCK DUCK GOAT

BELLEMORE





ARCHI TECTURE



From its cityscape to restaurant scene, Chicago is a dynamic city with much to do and much to explore. Yes, deep dish pizza is a classic, but the city has much more to offer than pizza and no ketchup hotdog. It's architecture is a collection of modernism and postmodernism and contemporary architecture.

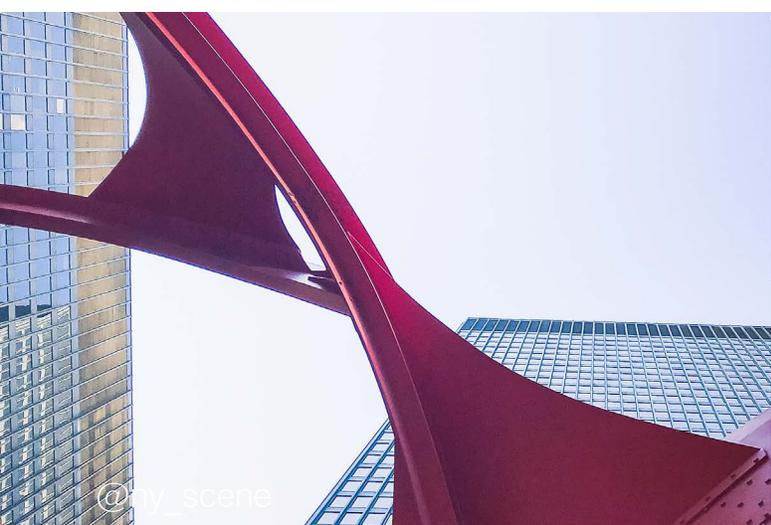
Architecture of the city is the reflection of history of American Architecture. Because majority of the city was destroyed in 1871 due to Great Chicago Fire, the architects had a bare palette to work on. Thus, designed through collaboration with famous architects and engineers buildings in Chicago are known for their innovative nature.

The fire, leading way to a new skeletal structure; steel framing, was the instigator for skyscrapers. Louis Sullivan, famous architect, also known as "Father of Skyscrapers" coined the term 'form follows function'. Among most striking buildings are the Marina Towers, John Hancock building and the Willis Tower



While the structure and form creates a unique skyline, the facades have a story of their own. As seen on top left and bottom right, University Club Chicago (bottom left) and Chicago Athletic Association (top right) carry classical facade treatment vertically throughout. On the other hand, Bloomingdale's facade is reminiscent of Islamic architecture, in the middle of downtown Chicago.





With public plazas and elevated railroads and the river walk, Chicago's street scene is quite photographable. Especially by the river, the city presents quite a few moments to enjoy the scene and immortalize it. For New Yorkers, public plazas with giant sculptures is no new news. Yet Alexander Calder's Flamingo juxtaposed against a steel frame building is still a sight to see.



