

Free Attractions In And Around Chicago

Chicago Children's Museum

<http://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org>

Free 5 to 8 pm on Thursdays and free 15 and under first Monday of every month

Chicago Cultural Center

www.chicagoculturalcenter.org

Always free

Art Institute of Chicago

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/>

Except for the free day, Thursday, a monetary donation is required to enter. The suggested amount is \$12 for anyone age 15-55 and \$7 for kids age 6-14, student's age 15 or older with an ID and senior citizens age 56 or older. You can give less than these amounts, but you must give something to get a receipt from the cashier to enter. Children 5 and younger are not expected to pay. In Jun, July and August, the museum is also open from 5 to 9pm. Thursday and Friday with free admission thanks to a sponsorship by Target.

Millennium Park

<http://www.millenniumpark.org/>

Always Free

Field Museum of Natural History

<http://www.fieldmuseum.org>

The Field Museum is offering 52 days a year when general admission is FREE! Target's sponsorship is making it possible for The Field Museum to offer FREE general admission on the second Monday of each month from 9 am to 5 pm. Other regularly scheduled FREE General Admission Days in 2009: January: 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th February: 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th September: 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 30th October: 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th November: 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th December: 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th

Shedd Aquarium

<http://www.sheddaquarium.org>

On our Community Discount Days, general admission is free, and packages including Wild Reef are available at a discounted rate. Shedd's 52 discount days a year take advantage of civic and school holidays to make family visits more convenient. 2009 Community Discount Weeks are on the following dates in June (14 through 19), and Oct. (4 through 9). 2009 Community Discount Days are on the following dates for Mondays and Tuesdays in September (21, 22, 28 and 29) October (2, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27) and November (2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, and 30). Ford Motor Company Fund sponsors community Discount Days. If you sign up for their email list you will get emails for special discounts.

Adler Planetarium

<http://www.adlerplanetarium.org>

Admission is free on the following dates compliments of Charter One. January 5, 12-16, 20, 27 February 3, 9-13, 17, 24 March 3, 10, 17 April 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26 June 7-12 September 1, 8, 14, 18, 22, 29 October 6, 13, 20, 27 November 3, 10, 17, 24 December 1, 8, 15, 22

Museum of Science and Industry

<http://www.msichicago.org>

Free days April 22, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 19 October 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 November 11

Garfield Park Conservatory

<http://www.garfield-conservatory.org>

Always Free

Lincoln Park Conservatory

<http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com>

Always Free

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

<http://www.chias.org/>

Thursdays there is a suggested donation.

National Museum of Mexican Art

<http://www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org>

Closed many holidays but Always Free

The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago

(Oriental actually means ancient Near East like Egypt)

<http://oi.uchicago.edu>

Admission is Free. Suggested Donation: \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children under 12.

Smart Museum of Art

<http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/general>

Always Free

Museum of Contemporary Photography

<http://www.mocp.org>

Always Free

Chicago Botanic Garden

<http://www.chicagobotanic.org>

Admission Free

As of March 13, 2009, the parking rate for cars will increase to \$20.

Jane Addams Hull House Museum

http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/hull_house.html

Always Free

Chicago Architecture Foundation

<http://www.architecture.org/index.html>

Free

Dusable Museum of African American History

<http://www.dusablemuseum.org>

Sundays are Free

Wilmette, IL

Wilmette Historical Museum

<http://www.wilmettehistory.org>

Free – donations always welcome

Wheaton, IL

Cantigny

<http://www.cantignypark.com>

\$7/car or \$4 in the evenings – All attractions are free once you're inside

Cosley Zoo

<http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/pgs/parks/cosley/default.html>

Always Free

Glen Ellyn, IL

Lake Ellyn Park

http://www.gepark.org/par_Lake_Ellyn.htm

Always Free

Willowbrook Wildlife Center

<http://www.willowbrookwildlife.org>

\$1 donation requested

Elmhurst, IL

Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art

<http://www.lizzadromuseum.org/home.html>

Free on Friday

Lisle, IL

Lisle Station

<http://www.lisleparkdistrict.org/museum.htm>

Always Free

Brookfield, IL

Brookfield Zoo

<http://www.czs.org/czs/Brookfield/Zoo-Home>

Free Tuesday & Thursday October thru February

This list is compiled from the websites listed above and Fun with the Family: Illinois by Lori Meek Schuldt Copyright 2008. Please, Please, Please double-check all info before you take any trip no matter how long or short. Parking prices are noted where known, but I'm sure there is paid parking for MOST places.

Compiled on March 12, 2009 by Ramona Towner