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A Winter Weekend in the Windy City



★★★★★ 0 RATINGS //

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Chicago is the perfect destination for a quick getaway, no matter the season. Here's how to make the most of a winter weekend in the Windy City.



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Headed to Chicago for a quick end-of-winter getaway? Here are some of the top sites to see, things to eat and places to stay in the Windy City.

What to Pack

At some point, you will want to visit the rest of Chicago but, if it is mid-winter, be sure to dress warmly. A hat, gloves, scarf, warm coat and boots are all de rigueur in this city where the wind of Lake Michigan will cut right through any light layer of clothing.

Where to Stay

The only problem with staying at the quite fabulous Villa D'Citta B&B, located in the trendy Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, is that you may never want to leave. Stay in the Grand Tuscan Suite—1,000 square feet comprised of a large bedroom with a fireplace, an extra small bedroom perfect for children or extra friends, and a bathroom with a marble jetted tub so large you can practically swim in it—and you will feel you are in paradise. Slip on the provided robes to head for a dip in the outdoor hot tub, enjoy a gourmet breakfast or help yourself to the fixings for a panini sandwich or pizza in the kitchen.

If a luxury hotel is more your style, plan a stay at the new Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, located within walking distance of Millennium Park and Lake Michigan. Rooms with a contemporary design and awesome views make this a fabulous place to stay.

T+E TOP 5



ESCAPES

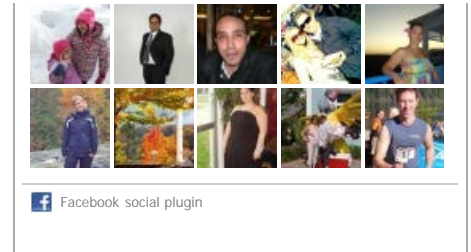
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How to Get Around

The best way to see the city is with the Chicago Trolley and Double Decker Company. For about \$30, you can get a three-day pass to hop on and off the trolleys that run all over town. It's much easier than driving around the city and trying to find a place to park for every venue. When you buy your tickets, they will give you a schedule so you know what time you can catch the trolley at each stop—and the trolleys are very prompt.

What to See

For the best view of city, head to the Skydeck of the Willis Tower. Formerly the Sears Tower, this skyscraper boasts an incredible view 1,353 feet in the air on the 103rd floor. Instead of just windows or an open ledge, three glass-bottom "skyboxes" jut out of the building and invite those not faint of heart to step out onto the thick plastic floor that hovers over the city.

Make time for a stroll along the lakefront because you may very well see part of the lake frozen over if the temperature has plummeted enough. When you're ready to warm up, head to the museum campus, a 57-acre park where you can park on one location and see the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum of Natural History and the Adler Planetarium.



Plan your visit to the Shedd Aquarium so that it includes the dolphin show and one of the 4-D movie experiences. The Field Museum will take up the better part of a day, especially if you are a dinosaur lover who wants to see their world-famous T-Rex skeleton and dinosaur exhibit, as well as the many other incredible displays.

What to Eat

When it's time to eat, Chicago has plenty of offerings. For a truly wonderful gourmet experience, stop in Filini's at the Radisson Blu Aqua for dinner. Their spinach ravioli is handmade and will melt in your mouth. And don't forget to try those Chicago specialties—deep-dish pizza, Italian beef sandwiches and Chicago hot dogs. But no ketchup on the hot dog if you plan to eat a true Chicago dog!

JAN ROSS



After a lifetime of travel, Jan Ross can pack a bag and hit the road with very little notice, although she will always have a little black dress and some snazzy shoes in there. She loves to travel with her husband of more than 35 years as he is a great photographer and she is often way too busy having fun to think about taking pictures. Active travel or relaxing, she is up for it all!

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