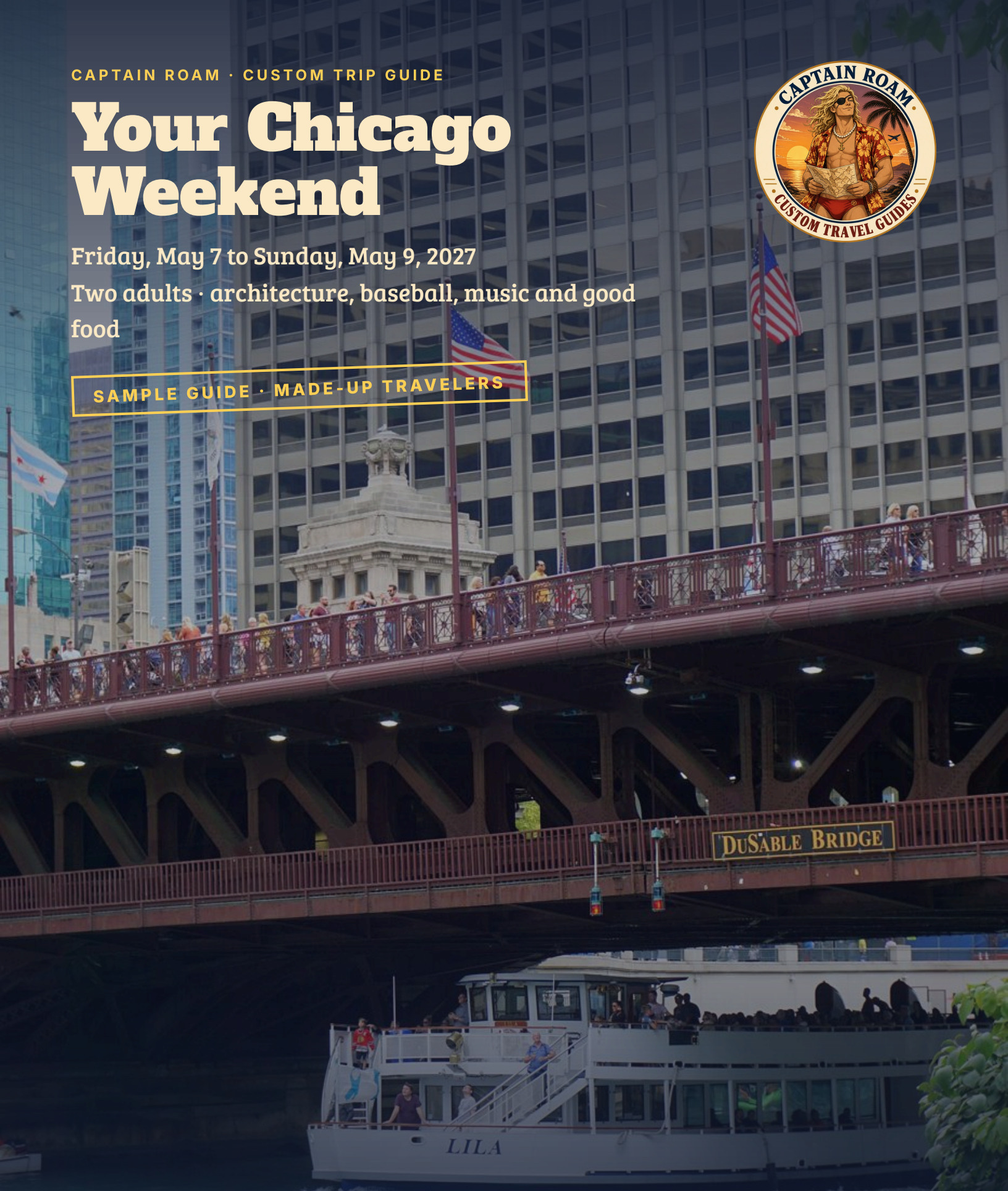
CAPTAIN ROAM · CUSTOM TRIP GUIDE

Your Chicago Weekend

Friday, May 7 to Sunday, May 9, 2027

Two adults · architecture, baseball, music and good food

SAMPLE GUIDE · MADE-UP TRAVELERS



This is a showcase sample. The travelers, their flight and their hotel are made up. Every venue, event, price and date was checked on November 14, 2026 (ET), with sources on the last page. Times marked TBA were not yet published.

Cover: Sightseeing boat at DuSable Bridge, Chicago River. Photo: Matt Kieffer, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

BEFORE YOU START

About This Guide

This is a practical field guide for one trip: yours. It gives you clear facts, real times and the bookings that matter, with no fluff. Every event in it is on your dates, every restaurant was open when we checked, and anything not confirmed yet is marked **TBA** so you know to look again.

Read the "Book first" page now. It lists what sells out or has no refunds, in the order to book it. Then keep the day pages on your phone for the weekend.

SAMPLE NOTICE. Jordan and Sam are made-up travelers. Their flight and hotel are placeholders. Captain review: this sample was prepared for the Captain's review and has not been signed off yet. A real guide carries the Captain's sign-off on this page.

Your trip at a glance

Item	What you told us	How the guide uses it
Destination	Chicago, Illinois	Loop, River North, West Loop and Wrigleyville
Dates	Fri May 7 to Sun May 9, 2027 (3 days)	Only events on these dates; May 9 is Mother's Day in the US
Travelers	2 adults	Tables for two; no kids' notes
Arriving / leaving	O'Hare (ORD), land Fri about noon; fly out Sun evening (sample)	Train timing on Day 1 and Day 3
Staying	Hotel already booked in the Loop (sample)	Every plan starts and ends in the Loop
Interests	Architecture, baseball, classical music, food	River cruise, Cubs game, Chicago Symphony
Budget	Comfortable, not luxury	Mid-priced restaurants; ticket prices listed
Pace	Balanced	Two to three anchors a day, time to wander
Special needs	One vegetarian	Meat-free options noted at each meal

HOW THIS GUIDE IS LAID OUT

Part 1 What's on · Part 2 Book first · Parts 3 to 5 Day by day · Part 6 Where to eat · Part 7 Getting around · Part 8 Weather and daylight · Part 9 Packing and costs · Part 10 Sources and photo credits.

PART 1

What's On During Your Dates

Three days, three Cubs home games and two Symphony Center concerts you can actually attend. The Cubs host the Seattle Mariners all weekend, and Sunday is the Cubs' Mother's Day home game.[1] The Cubs have not set 2027 game times yet, so the plan below works with an afternoon or an evening game.

At Symphony Center, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra plays Bruckner's Ninth Symphony and Mahler songs under Manfred Honeck on Saturday night.[3] On Sunday afternoon, pianist Piotr Anderszewski plays Brahms and Schubert.[4]



Wrigley Field, 1060 W Addison St, home of the Cubs. Photo: Arturo Pardavila III, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Date	Event	Where	Time	Status
Fri May 7	Cubs vs. Seattle Mariners	Wrigley Field	**TBA**	**Date confirmed**[1]
Fri May 7	CSO: Honeck Conducts Mahler & Bruckner 9 (matinee)	Symphony Center, 220 S Michigan Ave	1:30 PM	**Confirmed**[5] Clashes with your arrival
Sat May 8	Cubs vs. Seattle Mariners	Wrigley Field	**TBA**	**Date confirmed**[1]
Sat May 8	CSO: Honeck Conducts Mahler & Bruckner 9. Free preconcert talk 75 min before	Symphony Center	7:30 PM, about 2 hours	**Confirmed**[3] From $39 incl. fees
Sun May 9	Mother's Day. Cubs vs. Mariners, Mother's Day game	Wrigley Field	**TBA**	**Date confirmed**[1]
Sun May 9	Piotr Anderszewski, piano: Brahms, Schubert	Symphony Center	3:00 PM, about 2 hours	**Confirmed**[4] From $39 incl. fees
All weekend	CAC River Cruise aboard First Lady, 90 minutes	Dock at 112 E Wacker Dr	2027 departures not posted	**Typical**: runs daily in season[6]
All weekend	Crown Fountain water feature, Millennium Park	Millennium Park	Opens "in May"	**Typical**, exact 2027 date not posted[8]

GAME TIME RULE

When the Cubs post times, check Saturday first. If Saturday's game starts after about 4 PM, it runs into the 7:30 PM concert. Then switch your ballgame to Friday (if it is an evening game) or Sunday, and keep Saturday for the Symphony.

MOTHER'S DAY

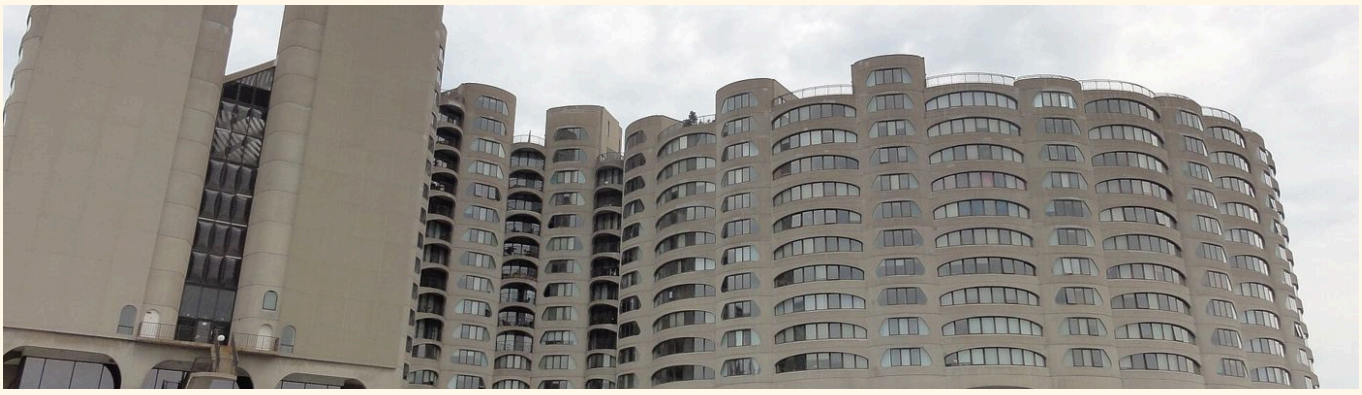
Sunday, May 9 is Mother's Day. Brunch tables go early and the ballpark will be busy. Book Sunday brunch the day reservations open.

PART 2

Book First

Book in this order. The first rows have no refunds or sell out first. Restaurants on OpenTable do not publish a fixed release date, so set a reminder and check the calendar for your date each week.

#	What	How to book	When	Refunds and rules
1	Flights and hotel	You (already booked in this sample)	Now	Everything else depends on these
2	CSO concert, Sat May 8, 7:30 PM	cso.org or 312-294-3000	Now: listed with prices from $39	Check seat and exchange terms at checkout
3	Cubs tickets (one game)	mlb.com/cubs	As soon as game times post	Choose your game with the time rule on Part 1
4	CAC River Cruise	architecture.org (Ticketmaster) or 312-922-3432	Once your flight is firm	**No refunds or exchanges**, including if you miss the boat. Arrive 30 min early. StubHub tickets are not valid[6]
5	Girl & the Goat, Fri dinner	OpenTable	The day your date appears	The bar takes walk-ins if the dining room is full[10]
6	The Gage, Sun (Mother's Day) brunch	OpenTable	The day your date appears	Opens 10 AM Sundays[11]
7	Optional: Anderszewski recital, Sun 3 PM	cso.org	Any time	From $39 incl. fees[4]
8	Rain plan: Garfield Park Conservatory	garfieldconservatory.org	Day before, if rain is forecast	Advance reservations strongly recommended; walk-ins if space allows[9]
9	CTA 3-Day Pass, $15 each	Ventra app or O'Hare machines	Before you fly	72 hours from first ride; covers the O'Hare train[13]



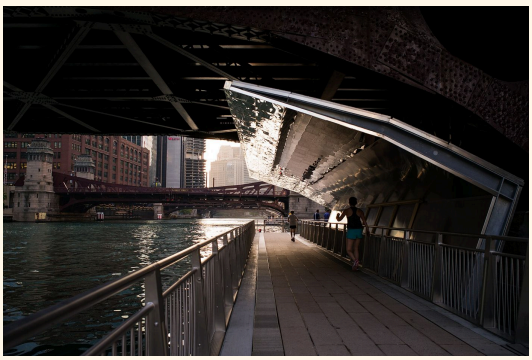
On the CAC River Cruise, volunteer docents tell the stories behind the buildings. Photo: Kent Wang, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

PART 3

Day 1 Friday, May 7

Theme: the river and the West Loop. Land, drop your bags, see the city from the water, then eat on Randolph Street's restaurant row.

Time	Plan	Details
12:00 PM	Land at O'Hare. Follow signs to "CTA Trains" and take the Blue Line toward Forest Park.	40 to 45 min to downtown.[14] Walk from baggage claim under 10 min
1:30 PM	Get off in the Loop (Washington or Clark/Lake, by your hotel), check in or drop bags.	Use your 3-Day Pass; no extra O'Hare fare[13]
3:00 PM	Walk the Chicago Riverwalk east toward Michigan Avenue.	Free. Ends at the cruise dock
4:00 PM	**CAC River Cruise** aboard First Lady, 90 minutes. Pick a 4 to 5:30 PM departure.	From $57. Board 15 min before; arrive 30 min before.[6] Rain or shine; heated cabin
6:30 PM	Back to the hotel to change. Green or Pink Line to Morgan.	About 15 min
7:30 PM	**Dinner: Girl & the Goat**, 809 W Randolph St.	Fri 4:30 to 11 PM. Small plates to share.[10]
9:30 PM	Walk Randolph Street, then train back to the Loop.	Green/Pink from Morgan



The Chicago Riverwalk runs along the main branch, below street level. Photo: Roman Boed, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Why this order

The cruise is the best first look at Chicago because it explains what you will see all weekend. Later departures avoid any delay on your flight. If you land late, take an evening cruise instead: the CAC runs evening departures after 5 PM with softer light on the towers.[6]

VEGETARIAN NOTE

Girl & the Goat has a full "Veggies" section, from chickpea fritters to wood-fired broccoli, on the menu dated October 29, 2026. A 4% surcharge is added to checks; you can ask to have it removed.[10]

IF THIS CLOSES OR CHANGES

Missed the boat? Tickets are not refunded, so leave the Riverwalk 45 minutes before departure. If Girl & the Goat has no table, try the walk-in bar first, then the other Randolph Street restaurants on the same block.

PART 4

Day 2 Saturday, May 8

Theme: Wrigley and the Symphony. This page assumes an afternoon game. If the game is in the evening, use the time rule on Part 1 and swap in Day 3's art morning.

Time	Plan	Details
8:30 AM	Coffee at Momentum Coffee under Cloud Gate, then walk Millennium Park.	Park open 6 AM to 11 PM daily.[8]
Gates open	Red Line north to **Addison**. Wrigley Field is beside the station.	Saturday gates open 2 hours before first pitch.[2]
Game	**Cubs vs. Seattle Mariners**, Wrigley Field.	Time TBA.[1] Small bag only (rules below)
5:00 PM	**Early dinner: Lou Malnati's River North**, 439 N Wells St.	Sat 11 AM to midnight.[12] Deep dish bakes slowly: allow 90 min
6:15 PM	Free preconcert talk with Steven Rings in Orchestra Hall, about 30 min.	No extra ticket needed[3]
7:30 PM	**CSO: Honeck Conducts Mahler & Bruckner 9**, Symphony Center.	About 2 hours. From $39 incl. fees[3]
9:45 PM	Nightcap at The Gage, 24 S Michigan Ave, a few blocks north.	Bar open to midnight Fri and Sat[11]

Wrigley Field rules that trip people up

- No backpacks, including clear ones, and no hard coolers.
- Other bags must be smaller than 16 × 16 × 8 inches.
- Gates usually open 90 minutes before first pitch, and 2 hours before on Saturdays.[2]

So leave the day bag at the hotel and carry a small sling or jacket pockets.

VEGETARIAN NOTE
A cheese or vegetable deep dish is the meat-free pick at Lou Malnati's; check toppings on the menu when you order.



Symphony Center, 220 S Michigan Ave, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Photo: ajay_suresh, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

PART 5

Day 3 Sunday, May 9

Theme: brunch, art and a choice. It is Mother's Day, so the morning is booked ahead. In the afternoon, pick one: a piano recital, the Mother's Day ballgame, or the conservatory if it rains.

Time	Plan	Details
10:00 AM	**Brunch: The Gage**, 24 S Michigan Ave, across from Millennium Park.	Opens 10 AM Sun; weekend brunch; smart casual[11]
11:00 AM	**Art Institute of Chicago**, 111 S Michigan Ave, one block south.	Sun 11 AM to 5 PM; nonresident adults $32[7]
2:00 PM	Pick one afternoon option below.	
Option A	**Piotr Anderszewski**, piano, Symphony Center, 3:00 PM.	About 2 hours; from $39[4]
Option B	**Cubs vs. Mariners**, Mother's Day game, Wrigley Field.	Time TBA[1]
Option C (rain)	**Garfield Park Conservatory**, 300 N Central Park Ave. Green Line to Conservatory.	Sun 10 AM to 5 PM, last entry 4:15 PM; nonresident adults $10[9]
Evening	Collect bags, Blue Line to O'Hare.	Allow 45 min on the train plus airport time[14]



The Art Institute of Chicago on Michigan Avenue, with one of its bronze lions. Photo: Raed Mansour, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Art Institute in two hours

Two hours is enough if you pick one or two collections from the museum map instead of trying to see it all. When you are done, cross the Nichols Bridgeway to Millennium Park when you are done; the bridge is open during museum hours.[8] Check artic.edu the week before for any timed-ticket exhibitions.

LEAVING DAY TIMING

The Blue Line takes 40 to 45 minutes from downtown to O'Hare when trains run normally. A taxi costs about $40 and takes 25 to 90 minutes; rideshares run about $35 to $50 but can surge past $140.[14]



The Palm House at Garfield Park Conservatory: the rainy-day plan. Photo: Kristin Emery, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

PART 6

Where to Eat

Three anchors, all open on your dates and checked on November 14, 2026. Hours can change before May, so look again the week before you go.

Restaurant	Where	Hours on your days	Reservations	Good to know
Girl & the Goat Fri dinner	809 W Randolph St, West Loop. Morgan (Green/Pink)	Fri 4:30 to 11 PM	OpenTable; bar takes walk-ins	Michelin Bib Gourmand 2024 and 2025; small plates; Veggies section; 4% surcharge[10]
Lou Malnati's River North Sat early dinner	439 N Wells St. Merchandise Mart (Brown/Purple) or Grand (Red)	Sat 11 AM to midnight	Walk in	Deep dish since 1971, family-run[12]
The Gage Sat nightcap, Sun brunch	24 S Michigan Ave, Loop. Madison/Wabash	Sat bar to midnight; Sun from 10 AM	OpenTable; book Mother's Day early	Smart casual; gluten-free options; across from Millennium Park[11]

Quick bites between plans

Where	What	Why it fits
Momentum Coffee, Millennium Park	Coffee, pastries, Chicago hot dogs, smoothies	Directly under Cloud Gate; Saturday morning[8]
Symphony Center Rotunda	Preorder a preconcert meal ("Sound Bites")	If the game runs long, eat at the concert[3]
Wrigley Field concessions	Ballpark food	Lunch on game day



Chicago deep dish: a tall crust with cheese under the tomato sauce. Photo: Prayitno (Flickr), CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

PART 7

Getting Around

You do not need a car. Every stop in this guide is on a CTA train line, and a 3-Day Pass covers all of it, including the premium O'Hare fare.[13] Load it in the Ventra app before you fly, or buy a 3-Day Ventra Ticket from the machines at O'Hare.



A CTA Orange Line train on the elevated Loop tracks.
Photo: Laurence's Pictures, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Trip	Line	Time	Cost
O'Hare to downtown	Blue Line	40 to 45 min	$5 single ride, or covered by a pass[13] [14]
Midway to downtown (if you fly there)	Orange Line	20 to 25 min	$2.50[14]
Loop to Wrigley Field	Red Line to Addison	About 20 min	$2.50 or pass[15]
Loop to Girl & the Goat	Green or Pink Line to Morgan	About 10 min	$2.50 or pass[10]
Loop to Garfield Park Conservatory	Green Line to Conservatory	About 20 min	$2.50 or pass[9]
O'Hare by taxi / rideshare	Car	25 to 90 min	About $40 / $35 to $50, surges to $140+[14]

Travel times without a source number are the Captain's estimates for normal service.

Fare	Price	Notes
'L' train ride	$2.50	Up to 2 more rides within 2 hours free with the same card[13]
Train from O'Hare	$5	Free with an unlimited pass[13]
1-Day / 3-Day pass	$5 / $15	3-Day lasts 72 hours from first use: Fri noon to Mon noon[13]

MONEY SAVER
Riding from O'Hare, to Wrigley and back, to the West Loop and back, and back to O'Hare costs at least $25 per person in single fares. A $15 3-Day Pass covers all of it.

PART 8

Expected Weather and Daylight

Your trip is six months out, so this page uses 30-year averages, not a forecast. With a real order, ask for a free forecast refresh in the week before you travel.

May averages, O'Hare, 1991 to 2020	Value
Average high	70.5°F
Average low	50.6°F
Rain for the month	4.49 in, on about 12.5 days
Typical warmest day of the month	88°F
Typical coldest night of the month	36.7°F

Source: NOAA normals for O'Hare, the official Chicago station.[16]

LAKE EFFECT

Lake Michigan is still cold in May, often in the 40s°F. When the wind blows off the lake, the shore and the river can be much cooler than the airport numbers above.[17] Bring a layer for the boat and for Wrigley.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri May 7	5:39 AM	7:55 PM
Sat May 8	5:38 AM	7:56 PM
Sun May 9	5:37 AM	7:57 PM

Central Daylight Time, calculated for downtown Chicago (41.88°N, 87.63°W). A 5:30 PM cruise ends in daylight.



The skyline from the lakefront, south of downtown. Pack a layer: the shore runs cooler than the airport readings in May. Photo: DimiTalen, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

PART 9

Packing List and Costs

- ☐ Light waterproof jacket for the boat and the ballpark
- ☐ Warm layer (sweater or fleece) for evenings by the lake
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes: the plan walks several miles a day
- ☐ A small bag under 16 × 16 × 8 in, not a backpack, for Wrigley
- ☐ Sunglasses and a cap for a day game
- ☐ Compact umbrella
- ☐ One smart-casual outfit for The Gage and the Symphony
- ☐ Phone with the Ventra and OpenTable apps and your tickets
- ☐ Portable charger
- ☐ Photo ID

What the plan costs per person

Item	From
CTA 3-Day Pass	$15
CAC River Cruise	$57
CSO concert, Saturday	$39
Art Institute, nonresident adult	$32
Cubs ticket	Varies by game and seat; not yet on sale with times
Meals	Girl & the Goat plates $16 to $49 each (Oct 2026 menu); others vary
Fixed costs before the Cubs and meals	**$143**

THE WEEK BEFORE YOU FLY

Check the Cubs game time and your tickets. Look at the 7-day forecast and decide on the rain plan. Confirm your Friday and Sunday restaurant bookings in OpenTable. Load the 3-Day Pass in the Ventra app. With a real order, this is when you can ask the Captain for a free forecast and hours refresh.

PART 10

Sources and Photo Credits

All sources were read on November 14, 2026 (ET). Numbers in brackets in the guide point to this list. Event times and prices can change; check the source page before you buy.

1. Chicago Cubs 2027 schedule announcement (Cubs Media Relations, Jul 16, 2026), via CubsHQ. https://www.cubshq.com/cubs-baseball/story/chicago-cubs-announce-2027-regular-season-schedule-25302
2. Wrigley Field policies: gates, bag rules (mlb.com/cubs). https://www.mlb.com/cubs/ballpark/information/guide
3. CSO: Honeck Conducts Mahler & Bruckner 9, May 6-8, 2027. https://chicagosymphony.org/performances/26-27/cso/honeck-conducts-mahler-bruckner-9/
4. CSO: Piotr Anderszewski, May 9, 2027, 3:00 PM. https://chicagosymphony.org/performances/26-27/piano-recital/piotr-anderszewski/
5. CSO 2026/27 chronological list of events (PDF, current as of Mar 4, 2026). https://chicagosymphony.org/media/fzvdbx4w/2026-27-chron-list_final.pdf
6. Chicago Architecture Center: CAC River Cruise aboard First Lady. https://www.architecture.org/city-tours/river-cruise
7. Art Institute of Chicago: Visit (hours and admission; site blocks automated reads, details read from the search-index copy). https://www.artic.edu/visit
8. City of Chicago: Millennium Park, Plan Your Visit. https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park_visit.html
9. Garfield Park Conservatory: Visit. https://garfieldconservatory.org/visit/
10. OpenTable: Girl & the Goat. https://www.opentable.com/r/girl-and-the-goat-chicago
11. OpenTable: The Gage. https://www.opentable.com/the-gage
12. Lou Malnati's River North: hours. https://www.loumalnatis.com/chicago-river-north
13. CTA fares. https://www.transitchicago.com/fares/
14. CTA airport transit (O'Hare and Midway). https://www.transitchicago.com/airports/
15. CTA Red Line stations. https://www.transitchicago.com/redline/
16. Chicago O'Hare 1991-2020 climate normals (NOAA), via Wikipedia Template:Chicago weatherbox. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Chicago_weatherbox
17. Climate of Chicago: spring lake effect (Wikipedia). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_Chicago

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