

Grant Park Tour, Chicago



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

Table of Contents

[Cover](#)

[Tour Summary](#)

[Glorious Grant Park](#)

[Tips](#)

[Chapter 1 - Millennium Park](#)

[Chapter 2 - Art Institute of Chicago](#)

[Chapter 3 - Field Museum](#)

[Chapter 4 - Shedd Aquarium](#)

[Chapter 5 - Adler Planetarium](#)

[Chapter 6 - What About Grant Park?](#)

[Maps](#)

[Author Biography](#)

[Publisher](#)

Tour Summary

Grant Park is a large urban park in the downtown “Loop” area of Chicago, Illinois. The park has been host to large urban gatherings such as the Taste of Chicago, sport championship celebrations, and President Obama’s presidential acceptance speech. Grant Park’s most notable features are Millennium Park, Buckingham Fountain, and four world-class museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium, and the John G. Shedd Aquarium. Other hidden gems reside in little-known areas throughout Grant Park. We’ll reveal all the new additions and some old favorites that even lifetime Chicagoans may not know exist!

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Glorious Grant Park





This tour will begin in the northwestern corner of Grant Park known as Millennium Park, one of the most popular “parks within a park” to be found in any U.S. city. Just completed a few years ago, it is already a big hit with tourists and locals alike.



The original Chicago development plan was to leave the area east of Michigan Avenue vacant. New land purchasers of Michigan Avenue lots in 1839 were promised that the land between them and Lake Michigan

would remain unoccupied and declared
“Public ground. Forever to remain vacant of
buildings.”



When the land was deeded in the mid-19th century it was originally named Lake Park, only to be renamed Grant Park in 1901 after the famous Civil War general, president, and Illinois resident. The land

bordering the park is highly desirable, with new buildings going up all the time.



Being so close to downtown, Grant Park has become the major location for cultural institutions in the city. The first of four impressive museums we will visit in Grant

Park is the world-famous Art Institute of Chicago.



Next will be a complete tour of the Museum Campus, site of three of the city's most notable museums, all dedicated to the natural sciences. The Field Museum of Natural History is enormous, containing over 21 million specimens, but of course only a small fraction of those are on display.



The John G. Shedd Aquarium was the first aquarium away from an ocean coast with a permanent saltwater fish collection. It has been open to the public since 1930.



The Shedd Aquarium contains over 25,000 fish, and for some time hosted the largest indoor aquarium in the world. Today, the white beluga whale show is a very popular attraction.



Our last stop on the Museum Campus tour is the Adler Planetarium, the first one built in the western hemisphere. It remains the oldest in existence today.



Located on Northerly Island, the Adler Planetarium juts far out into Lake Michigan for some fantastic all-around views, from inside the museum as well as outside.



As we make our way back into Grant Park, it is hard to miss the centrally-located Buckingham Fountain, an icon of the park.



Grant Park holds many surprises, among them a wide variety of architectural gems such as this twisting “BP Bridge” designed by architect Frank Gehry.



Finally, Grant Park is one of the most accessible and open city parks in the world. All of the outdoor attractions, including Millennium Park, are always free. Please join us on this comprehensive tour into and around Chicago's crown jewel of public parks.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)