

CHICAGO LOOP

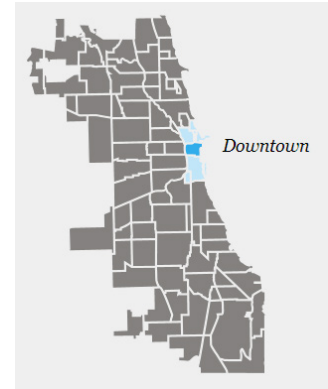
Walking Tour Guide

As Chicago's official downtown area, The Loop is one of the most important central business districts on the globe. In addition to its dynamic architecture and buzzing atmosphere, the area has an incredible concentration of cultural institutions, Michelin-rated restaurants and a shopper's paradise on State Street.

Famous for its striking architecture, the Loop vaunts signature buildings by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Louis Henri Sullivan, as well as Aqua by modern day prodigy Jeanne Gang. The area hangout, Millennium Park, complements its surrounding with stunning architectural marvels of its own. The Park's crown jewels include a Frank Gehry designed amphitheater and Cloud Gate, a bean-shaped landmark that's become an iconic symbol of Chicago.

In addition to architectural marvels, Chicago's cultural attractions also have a prevailing presence in The Loop neighborhood. The city's celebrated Theater District buzzes with Tony Award-winning shows and glittering marquees. The Chicago Cultural Center provides an incredible range of performance and visual arts, while The Art Institute of Chicago is widely considered to be one of the finest institutions of its kind in the world.

Source: <http://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods-and-communities/loop/>

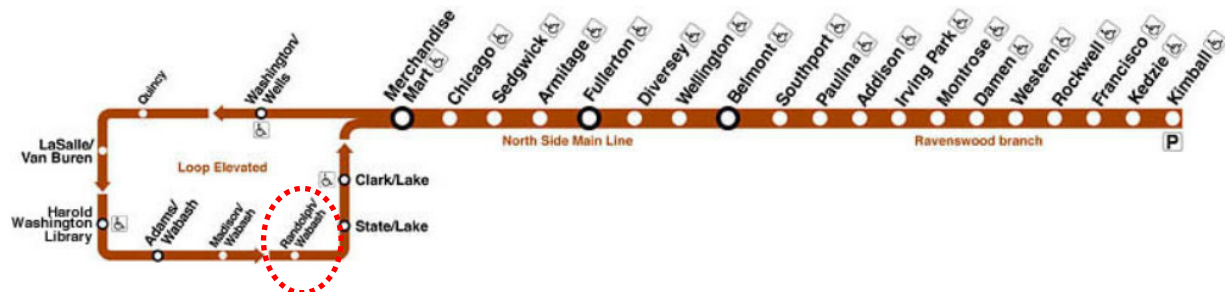


Hints:

- Wear comfortable shoes
- Go inside!
- Stop for beverages and snacks frequently
- Bring a camera!

Getting There: RTA Brown Line

- Take Brown Line elevated train ([Ventra Card](#) Fare: \$2.50 each way.)
- Exit at Randolph/Wabash stop.
- Walk 1 block EAST to your first stop, the Chicago Cultural Center, at the corner of Randolph and Michigan Avenue.

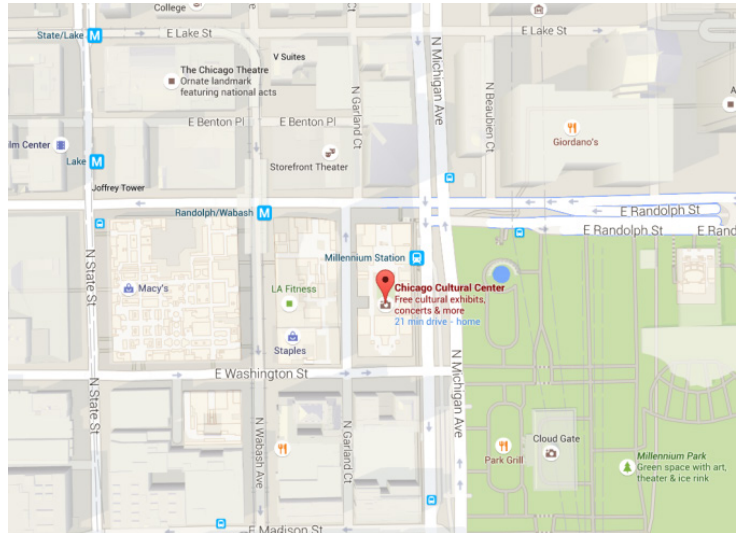


Chicago Cultural Center

78 E Washington St. (on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Washington Streets)

Drawn by its beauty and free public events, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to the Chicago Cultural Center every year, making it one of the most visited attractions in Chicago. The stunning landmark building is home to two magnificent stained-glass domes, as well as free music, dance and theater events, films, lectures, art exhibitions and family events.

- Be sure to go upstairs to see the Grand Army of the Republic rotunda and hall plus the world's largest Tiffany stained-glass dome in Preston Bradley Hall. The staircases alone are a work of art.
- Come back again for free Chamber Music Mondays and Dame Myra Hess Concerts (every Wednesday) also broadcast live on Chicago's classical WFMT radio.
- The center anchors the North end of [Chicago's Cultural Mile](#). Check out the mile's "[2nd Fridays](#)" which offer event discounts all along the mile.



Source: http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_culturalcenter.html



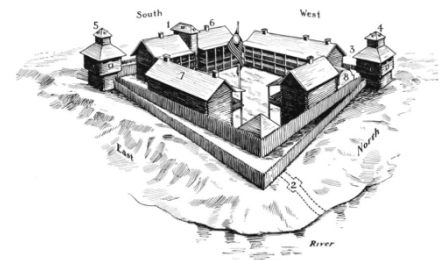
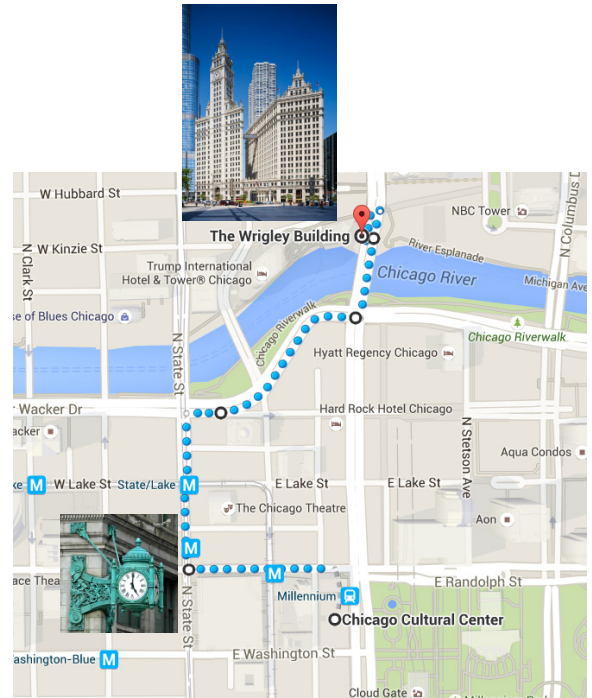
Photo Source: http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_culturalcenter.html (Left)
<http://www.chicagoculturalmile.org/event/chicago-cultural-center-building-tours/2015-07-24/> (Right)

Wrigley Building & the Chicago River

400-410 N. Michigan Ave. (at the Chicago River)

Scenic Route from the Cultural Center (0.7 mile)

- **Walk WEST on Randolph 2 blocks to State Street**
 - “State Street that great street.” Hear Frank Sinatra sing “[Chicago](#).”
- **At corner of Randolph and State Street**
 - Old **Marshall Field** store (Now Macy’s)
 - Look up at [world’s great clocks](#) by architects Graham, Anderson Probst & White
 - Generations of Chicagoan’s tell friends, “Let’s meet under the clock.”
- **Turn NORTH on State Street and walk 1 block**
 - Marvel at the landmark [Chicago Theater](#) by architects Rapp and Rapp on EAST side of street just SOUTH of Lake Street. Come back and take in a show or sign up for a “behind the scenes” Marquee Tour.
 - **ABC7 Chicago Studios**. [WLS-TV](#) is just across the street. If the most-watched television station in Chicago is broadcasting you might just get yourself on TV (without having to be the center of a news story).
- **Continue NORTH on State Street 1 more block to Wacker Drive**
- **Turn EAST on Wacker Drive and walk along the Chicago River 2 blocks to Michigan Ave.**
 - *Chicago Factoid:* Wacker Drive travels both east-west (where you’re now walking) and also north-south (later in the tour).
 - As you stroll, more of Chicago’s architecture is in view:
 - **Marina City**. The sculptural, twin 65 story towers by architect [Bertrand Goldberg](#) are instantly memorable. Completed in 1964, the complex includes 900 pie-shaped residential apartments (converted to condos in 1977) as well as restaurants, entertainment and office space, parking, even a boat marina. Truly a place you can live, work and play.
 - **Trump International Hotel and Tower** by architect Adrian Smith, then with the firm Skidmore Owings and Merrill ([SOM](#)). Sits on the site of the old *Chicago Sun-Times* newspaper building. Rising 1,361 feet, Trump is Chicago’s second tallest building (Chicago’s Willis Tower is #1. Take that, Trump!). Fascinating that it uses Chicago River water for cooling.
 - **One IBM Plaza** by architect [Mies van der Rohe](#) sits in between. The dark, formal-looking building helped define the second Chicago School of Architecture. Its [iconic](#) exterior is a deceptively simple rectilinear box with minimal detailing. “Less is More.” But “God is in the details.”
 - **Seventeenth Church of Christ Scientist** by architect [Harry Weese Associates](#) is at the corner of Wacker and Wabash. Peek inside at this sunken, circular house of worship with a skylight at the oculus (circular top).
- **Corner of Wacker and Michigan**
 - **Fort Dearborn**. The fort, part of Chicago’s earliest [history](#), was destroyed in 1858 so you’ll have to



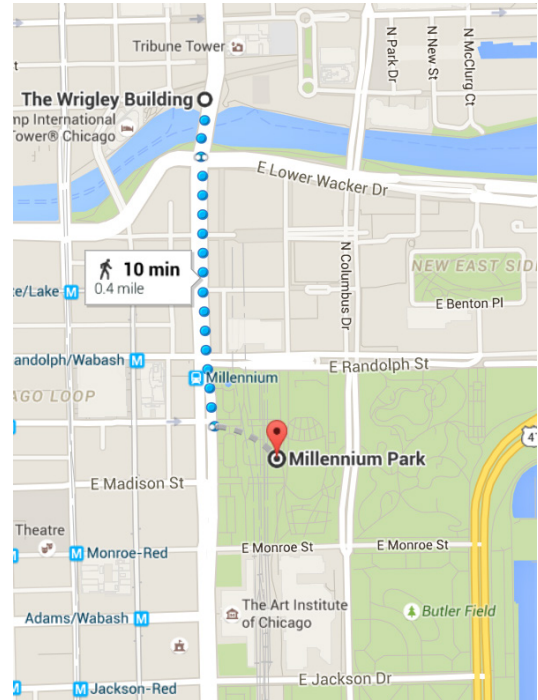
look down at the sidewalk to find this one! Bronze markers in the pavement and a wall plaque at Michigan and Wacker mark the approximate site of the first and second [Fort Dearborns](#). The historically-minded will want to read about the “[Deadly Encounter](#)” on August 15, 1812.

- **Turn NORTH and cross the Chicago River.** Take pictures!
 - Chicago’s **Bascule Bridges**. You’re walking on the landmark Michigan Ave. [DuSable Bridge](#), one of [downtown Chicago’s 18 drawbridges](#). This double-deck bridge over the Main Stem of the Chicago River is 400’ long and was opened in 1920. Look for the [McCormick Bridgehouse and Chicago River Museum](#) (376 N. Michigan).
 - Views to the West offers breathtaking cityscapes.
 - To the East, is Lake Michigan. And if you’ve got sharp eyes, you’ll see the locks.
 - *Chicago Factoid*. The Chicago River flows backwards! In 1900, the Chicago Sanitary District reversed the flow of the Main Stem and South branch of the river using a series of canal locks. Why? To prevent Industrial Age sewage from polluting Lake Michigan, the source of Chicago’s drinking water.
- **Finish your crossing at The [Wrigley Building](#).**
 - Constructed in 1921-24, the two towers (27 and 18 stories) by Graham, Anderson, Probst & White were Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company (the “gum” folks) corporate headquarters until 2012. A Chicago landmark and listed on the National Register of History Places. Come back at twilight and see one of Chicago’s greatest views.
 - *Chicago Factoid*: The Wrigleys owned the Chicago Cubs until the Ricketts family took over ownership in 2009.
 - **Chicago Architecture Foundation [Architectural Boat Tour](#)**. Take the grand circular stair down from the Wrigley Building and enjoy one of Chicago’s greatest boat tours. Make time, if not today, then soon. Tickets available on Ticketmaster. Water Taxis will take you to Metra and Union Station.
 - **Billy Goat Tavern**.
 - [Billy Goat](#) was famous with Chicagoans long before [John Bellushi](#) made “[Cheezborger. Cheezborger. Cheezborger.](#)” popular on NBC’s [Saturday Night Live](#).
 - Take the dark-looking Michigan Ave. stairway down to the lower level. You may have to really push to open the red steel door.
 - Chicago newspaper columnists like [Mike Royko](#) grabbed lunch and a light libation or two at the bar. Order the double cheese (pronounced dooble-ah-cheez). Forget fries, they ain’t got ‘em. Ask for chips. And, “No Pepsi...Coke.”
 - *Chicago Factoid*: When the Wrigleys wouldn’t let owner, Sam “Billy Goat” Sianis, bring a goat into Wrigley Field for good luck in the 1945 World Series, he curse the team. “[The Cubs ain’t gonna win no more!](#)” Nearly 70 years of history shows Sam’s curse still holds regardless of who owns them.
 - **Tribune Tower** and **NBC Tower** are across the big plaza from Wrigley and worthy of exploration if your mood fits.
 - Tribune Tower (435 N. Michigan) is a neo-Gothic building at designed by New York architects John Mead Howells and Raymond Hood. Home to the *Chicago Tribune* newspaper, Tribune Media and Tribune Publishing. See if you can find all 149 rocks stuck into the base of the building. Among them you’ll find a rock from the Pyramids, the nativity in Bethlehem, the Colosseum in Rome, the Berlin Wall, the Moon (yes, the Moon) and Chicago’s Union Stockyards.

- NBC Tower (455 N. Citifront Plaza Drive), tucked behind the Equitable Building, is another of architect Adrian Smith's works. Take a tour of the NBC studios if you get a chance.
- Across the river West of Michigan Ave is the triangular **Swissotel**, by Harry Weese—a world-class hotel and a real delight. Think Weese has a thing against boxy structures?
- **Chicago Riverwalk.** (Along the river between X and Y) Curving stairs bring you to an open pedestrian riverfront sometimes called Chicago's "[Second Lakefront](#)." The last phases are under construction, but feel free to walk portions of this beautiful [riverside](#). Ultimately you'll be able to stroll from Lake Shore Drive to the EAST all the way to Franklin Street on the WEST. A Vietnam Veterans Memorial is right near Michigan Avenue.
- *What's further north? A lot. But **not for today's tour**.*
 - **North Michigan Avenue shopping.** All the world's greatest retailers are at your disposal on Chicago's [Magnificent Mile](#).
 - **Chicago Water Tower.** (806 N. Michigan). This landmark [stone tower](#) constructed in 1869 by architect William Boyington is one of the few structures to survive the great Chicago fire of 1871.
 - **John Hancock Center.** (875 N. Michigan) Completed in 1971 this Skidmore Owings and Merrill building is Chicago's third tallest and its [360° Chicago](#) observatory has magnificent city views.
 - **Drake Hotel.** (150 E. Walton Place) Part of the [Hilton](#) chain, this elegant hotel in Chicago's prestigious Gold Coast neighborhood opened on New Year's Eve 1920 and features over 535 guest rooms including the Princess Diana Suite.

Millennium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago

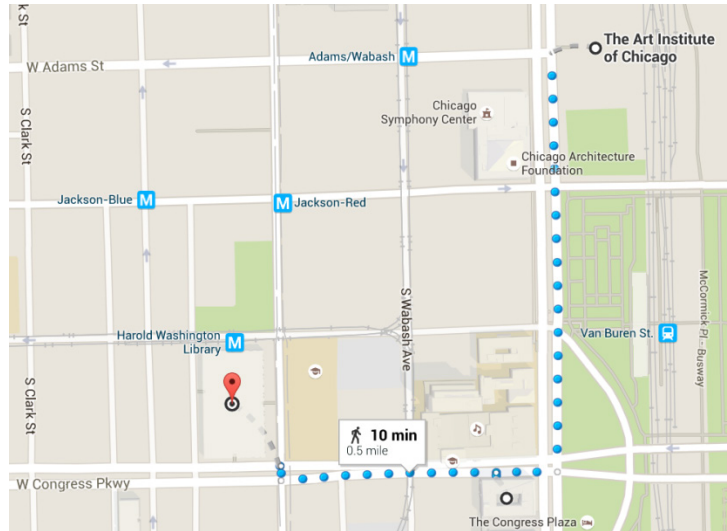
- **Depart the Wrigley Building area heading SOUTH on Michigan Avenue back across the Chicago River**
- **Continue SOUTH 3 blocks to Randolph**
- As you stroll, note:
 - **Illinois Center Complex** to your EAST on Michigan Ave., between Wacker Drive and Lake Street
 - Mixed-use urban development features 5 office buildings (205, 225 and 233 N. Michigan plus 111 and 303 E. Wacker by architect Mies van der Rohe in 1969 and 1972), 2 hotels (Hyatt Regency and Swissotel) and a residential building (Columbus Plaza). The development was built atop land formerly used as a freight terminal by the Illinois Central Railroad.
 - **Hard Rock Hotel Chicago** (230 N. Michigan) is across the street in the landmark, art deco Carbon and Carbide Building built in 1929 by [Burnham Brothers](#) architects. 37 floors top out at 503'. Popular myth has it that the building was built to resemble a dark green champagne bottle with gold foil at the top.
 - *Chicago Factoid:* Burnham is responsible for the [1909 Plan of Chicago](#) which created our beautiful lakefront.
- **[Millennium Park must sees!](#)** (201 E. Randolph)
 - **Cloud Gate.** Giant chrome [sculpture](#) by British artist Anish Kapoor is affectionately known as the bean. Enjoy reflections of Chicago skyline. Explore in, around and beneath!
 - **Jay Pritzker Pavilion.** Renowned architect Frank Gehry designed this state-of-the-art outdoor [amphitheater](#) completed in 1999. Curving stainless steel reflects the light and is especially dramatic at twilight. The steel trellis that spans the audience is not just ornamental, it uses a technological innovation to address reflected and reverberant energy to delivers amazing indoor performance-quality sound. Come back for the frequent free summer shows. The Chicago Symphony often rehearses here at lunch prior to their evening performances. The skyline behind the stage features the Prudential Building, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Building and residential condos including the award-winning 82-story [Aqua](#), designed by Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang.
 - **Crown Fountain.** Just off Michigan Ave. this interactive work of public [art](#) and video completed in 2004 by artist Jaume Plensa of Barcelona, Spain and installed by Chicago architects Krueck+Sexton is entertaining and fun. Be a kid and cool off as the projected images of people appear to spout water from their mouths into the shallow pools.
 - **BP Pedestrian Bridge.** [Spans](#) Columbus Drive to make a curvy connection between Millennium Park and Maggie Daley Park to the EAST. It's Frank Gehry's first bridge.



- **Maggie Daley Park.** This [lakefront recreation center](#) features everything from swings for kids to mini golf to a skating ribbon (roller skates in summer, ice skates in winter) to tennis to a climbing wall. Lots of free experiences.
 - **Lurie Garden.** Take time to reflect on life in this 5 acre [urban oasis](#). Designed by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel. By demonstrating cutting-edge design and responsible gardening practices it celebrates Chicago's motto, "Urbs in Horto" (City in a Garden) and honors the city's transformation from flat marshland to innovative green city. Notice the "Shoulder Hedge" (Poet Carl Sandburg called Chicago the "[City of the Big Shoulders](#)") a living wall that protects perennial flowers from heavy pedestrian traffic
 - **Depart Millennium Park for the Art Institute of Chicago to the SOUTH and cross Monroe Street via the Nichols Bridgeway**
 - At the SOUTH end of Millennium Park's Lurie Garden is a 625' long, 15' wide [pedestrian bridge](#) designed by architect Renzo Piano opened in 2009. The structure arches 60' over Monroe Street. An anti-slip stainless steel walkway takes you from the garden to the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago. An escalator will return you back to the ground level museum entrance.
- Museum Admission:** Plan to spend at least ½-day at the Art Institute and Modern Wing. General admission is \$25 and students are \$19—less if you're a Chicago or Illinois resident with a valid photo ID. On a budget? The museum is free Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Museum gift shops are also free and open to the public.
- **Modern Wing of the Art Institute.**
 - Designed by architect [Renzo Piano](#), this new wing was opened in 2009 to house the Art Institute's collection of 20th and 21st century art. The building provides a feeling of lightness and air. "Architecture must fly." The double-paned glass conserves energy and maintains ideal gallery conditions.
 - Follow interior signage to get to the Art Institute Building without going outside.
 - **The Art Institute of Chicago** (111 S. Michigan Ave., at Adams Street)
 - Named "The #1 museum in the world" by Tripadvisor.
 - The original classical Beaux-Arts building, designed by architects Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge of Boston, was constructed in 1893 as part of the [World's Columbian Exposition](#) held in Chicago that year. Multiple additions have been added including the Morton Wing (1962) and Modern Wing (2009).
 - 273 galleries house over 250,000 works of art including African, American, ancient art, European painting and sculpture, Photography, Textiles, are inside—and in the gardens for you to stimulate your senses. Check out the Chicago Stock Exchange Trading Room reconstructed on the south-side of the building.

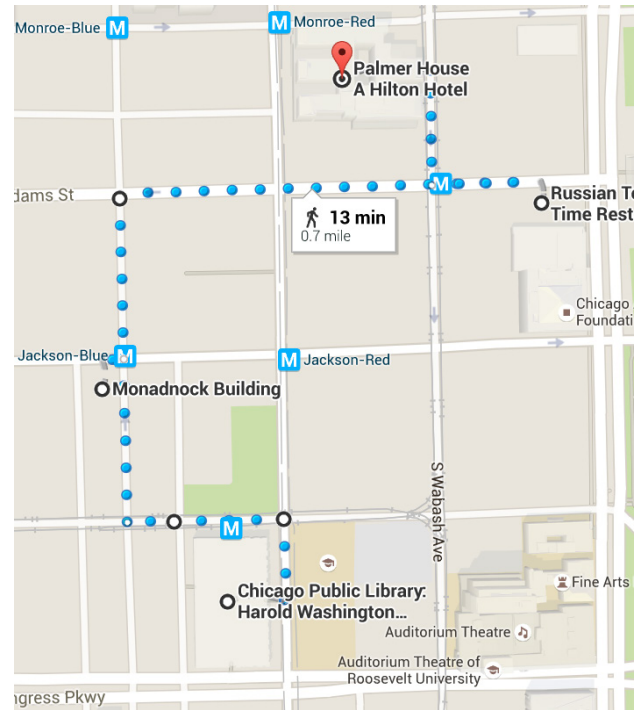
Congress Plaza Hotel and the Harold Washington Library Center

- *Feeling the need for a spot of tea? Pop straight up WEST on Adams ½-block and stop into Russian Tea Time (See description in the next tour segment). Otherwise...*
- **Depart Art Institute heading SOUTH on Michigan Avenue 3 blocks to Congress Parkway.**
- As you stroll, note:
 - **Chicago Symphony Center** (220 S. Michigan). Home of the acclaimed [Chicago Symphony](#). This National Historic Landmark building was built in 1904 by architect Daniel Burnham with a much-needed update in 1998 by Skidmore Owings and Merrill. The hall's acoustics are exceptional.
 - **Fine Arts Building.** (410 S. Michigan). A national landmark constructed in 1886 by architect Solon Spencer Beman, the funky complex bills itself as the nation's oldest [artist colony](#). It's motto, "All passes – Art alone endures." tells all.
 - **Auditorium Theater at Roosevelt University** (50 E. Congress Parkway, entrance on Michigan Ave.) The theater, built in 1889 by architects Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler, is the southern anchor of the [Chicago Cultural Mile](#) (which started at the Chicago Cultural Center). Come back to see a show or take a backstage tour.
- **Walk across Congress Parkway and arrive at the Congress Hotel**
- **Congress Plaza Hotel** (520 S. Michigan)
 - Built in 1893 by architects Clinton Warren along with Sullivan and Adler, the Congress bills itself as a "Landmark of Chicago Hospitality." 871 guest rooms, including 36 suites, dining, retail and entertainment abound. Many find it the perfect base of operations when partaking in Chicago's many [Grant Park](#) festivals including Taste of Chicago, Blues Fest and Jazz Fest. Walk through the hotel lobby and explore.
- **Exit the hotel on Michigan Ave and backtrack to Congress Parkway**
- **Turn WEST on Congress Parkway and walk 2 blocks to State Street. The Harold Washington Library Center is on the WEST side of the street.**
- **[Harold Washington Library Center](#)** (400 S. State Street)
 - Named for [Chicago's first African-American mayor](#) who served from 1983 until his death in 1987. Washington held a design-competition for a new central library in the South Loop in 1987. Architect Thomas Beeby from Hammond, Beeby & Babka was selected and the post-modern, owl- and foliage-adorned building (they're not gargoyles!) opened in 1991. You either [love this building or you hate it](#). Be sure to go upstairs and explore the skylit 9th floor Winter Garden, it's among the "[10 Things to Do](#)" at the library.



Monadnock Building, Russian Tea Time and the Palmer House Hotel

- **Exit the Harold Washington Library on State Street and proceed NORTH ½-block to Van Buren Street**
- **Turn WEST on Van Buren Street and walk 1 block to Dearborn Street.**
- **Monadnock Building** (53 W. Jackson Blvd.)
 - The SOUTH entrance to the [Monadnock](#) is just WEST of the corner of Dearborn and Van Buren. Step inside and stroll the interior corridor. Be sure to look into the Metropolitan Barber Shop, Optimo Hats, The Shoe Hospital and A New Leaf florists.
 - Constructed 1891-93, the skyscraper was once the world's largest office building. Designed in two parts. The less-ornamented North half by architects Burnham and Root features 6' thick brick walls at the base to support the weight of the building. The more ornate South half by Holabird and Roche features modern "curtain wall" construction in which a steel frame supports the building and the walls act as a "curtain" to keep out the elements. It was the tallest commercial iron frame building with a load-bearing exterior masonry wall. Now part of the [Printing House Row District](#). When you return outside, the divide between North and South halves is obvious.
- **Exit the Monadnock on the Jackson Street Side and walk 1 block NORTH to Adams Street**
- As you stroll, note:
 - **Chicago Federal Center Plaza** (Dearborn street between Jackson and Adams). This 1974-era [urban square](#) brings together 3 Mies van der Rohe [buildings](#), the 42-story Kluczynski Federal Building, 30-story Dirksen Building and single-story U.S. Post Office. A 53' scarlet red Alexander Calder stabile called "Flamingo" brightens the granite plaza. The entire complex is based on a 28' (8.5m) grid pattern. Seams of the granite pavers extend into the building lobbies and up the sides to create unity. Check out the columns at the base of the building and notice that they do not appear to touch the ground, giving the building a sense of lightness. Vertical I-beams and bronze curtain glass are key expressive elements. A weekly farmers market brings people out in spring and summer.
 - **Marquette Building** (56 W. Adams) Completed in 1895 this reddish terra cotta Chicago Landmark was designed by Holabird and Roche. Named after Father Jacques Marquette, the first European settler in Chicago, who explored the region in 1674. Go inside and view the exquisite Tiffany mosaics.
 - **BONUS:**
 - **Rookery Building** (209 S. LaSalle Street) This Chicago Landmark and National Register building is a BONUS extra. Walk WEST on Adams 2 blocks to LaSalle Street. Designed by Burnham and Root in 1888, Frank Lloyd Wright created the two-story, [skylit lobby](#) in 1905.



- **Bank of America Building** (135 S. LaSalle Street) Across the street, the 45-story Chicago landmark (formerly known as the Field Building—Yes, those Marshall Fields.) by Graham, Anderson, Probst & White is a gem of art deco design. This building brought high-speed elevators and air conditioning. To rejoin the tour, walk 2 blocks back on Adams.
- **Continue EAST on Adams Street and walk 2½ blocks to Russian Tea Time**
 - As you stroll, note:
 - **Berghoff Restaurant.** (17 W. Adams) You'll pass this casual eatery on your way. Enjoyed by travelers since 1898 who enjoy a little bit of Oktoberfest any day of the year. "Prost!"
- **Russian Tea Time** (77 E. Adams)
 - As they're not afraid to boast, "[Everyone feels at home here.](#)" Enjoy afternoon tea from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. It can get crowded. Some make reservations at 312.360.0000.
- **Now refreshed, retreat WEST ½-block to Wabash Avenue.**
- **Turn NORTH on Wabash and walk ½-block to the Palmer House Hotel.**
- **Palmer House Hotel** (17 E. Monroe Street)
 - Enter this [national historic register](#) hotel on Wabash and enter the long lower-level corridor. Near the middle an escalator takes you up to the opulent frescoed lobby. The 25-story Beaux Arts design is the longest continually operating hotel in the U.S.
 - *Chicago Factoid:* The brownie was invented here when Bertha Palmer requested a dessert for ladies attending the 1893 World's Fair.

known to be bitterly cold in winters—especially in its early years. It opened in 1985 and renamed in 1993 to honor former Illinoisi governor James R. Thompson. The black and white sculpture by Jean Dubuffet is called *Monument With Standing Beast*. Some say the white with black outlines look like “Snoopy in a Blender” after the Charles Schultz cartoon strip.

- ***Do-Rite Donuts & Coffee*** (50 W. Randolph Street)
 - Do-Rite makes donuts in small batches every hour. Guaranteed fresh! They even have Gluten-free and Vegan varieties.
 - Go ahead. You know you need a donut. How about a dozen?
- ***Refreshed again, continue EAST on Randolph Street 2½ blocks to the RTA Brown Line Elevated stop at Randolph and Wabash.***

Happy travels.