**CHICAGO**

**Country:** UNITED STATES  
**State:** ILLINOIS  
**Municipality:** CHICAGO  
**Area:** 237 sq mi (381 km²)  
**Elevation:** 579 ft (176 m)  
**Official Languages:** ENGLISH  
**National Languages:** ENGLISH  
**Demonym:** CHICAGOAN  
**Nickname:** THE WINDY CITY  
**Population:** 2.7 million City / Metro 9.46 million  
**Population Density:** 11,864 / sq mi (4,447 / km²)  
**Time Zone:** UTC-6 (GMT -6)  

**HUMID CONTINENTAL**  
**Summer Average:** 75°F (24°C)  
**Winter Average:** 23°F (-3°C)  

**THROUGHOUT**  
**Annual Average:** 36.2 in (914 mm)  

**COMMERCE FINANCE MANUFACTURING CONVENTIONS**  
**PORT of CHICAGO** Largest Inland Port in America  
**O’HARE INTERNATIONAL** World’s Second Busiest Airport  

Chicago is the third largest city in the United States. Situated in the Great Lakes region and lies beside the huge freshwater Lake Michigan and the Chicago and Calumet Rivers. Chicago ranks seventh in the world in the 2012 Global Cities Index. The city is an international hub for finance, commerce, industry, telecommunications and transportation. Among metropolitan areas, Chicago has the fourth-largest GDP in the world, making it one of the most important globally for commerce and trade.

Chicago offers visitors more than 200 theaters, almost 200 art galleries, over 5,500 restaurants and 77 community areas containing more than 100 neighborhoods. The physical environment has 26 miles of lakefront, 19 miles of lakefront bicycle paths and 552 parks. Chicago ushered in the skyscraper era, then followed by many other cities around the world. Today, Chicago's skyline is among the world’s tallest and most dense. The United States’ two tallest towers are both located here. Many world-famous architects have left their impression on the Chicago skyline making the city a mecca for lovers of architecture. The term "Jazz" was coined in Chicago in 1914. In 1933 the city celebrated its centennial by hosting the Century of Progress International Exposition Worlds Fair. Notable Chicagoans include President Barack Obama, Walt Disney, and Oprah Winfrey.

Chicago is famous for its food - gourmet dining, celebrity chefs, world-renowned and ethnic restaurants, and local specialties. The historic ‘Route 66’ begins in Chicago and McCormick Place, Chicago’s premier convention center, offers the largest amount of exhibition space in North America. The Harold Washington Library Center, with approximately 6.5 million books, was the world’s largest municipal library. The Lincoln Park Zoo is the country’s oldest public zoo with an estimated annual attendance of three million. Chicago has repeatedly been named the Best Sports City in the United States. The city is home to baseball teams Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox. The NFL Chicago Bears have won nine National Football League Championships, including Super Bowl XX. The Chicago Bulls are one of the most recognized basketball teams in the world. During the 1990s with Michael Jordan leading them, the Bulls took six NBA championships in eight seasons. The Chicago Blackhawks have won four NHL Stanley Cups. The Chicago Marathon is one of five World Marathon Majors.