

30 Ways to Save in Chicago

SIGHTSEEING

1 Museum Free Days and Times



How to Save? Check museum schedules for free days and times.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$18-\$20**

The Art Institute of Chicago offers free admission to Illinois residents after 5 PM every Thursday versus \$20 for Illinois residents and \$18 for Chicago residents during normal hours.

2 Enjoy Lincoln Park Zoo



How to Save? Walk to the Lincoln Park Zoo for a free look at wildlife in a picturesque park in the city.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$26**

The Brookfield Zoo charges \$16.95 for adults + \$10 for parking.

3 Chicago Cultural Center



How to Save? Formerly the site of the Chicago Public Library's main branch, offering exhibits, talks, concerts and more.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Free**

Most events are free, and easily accessed via public transportation.

4 Go Chicago Card®



How to Save? Purchase a \$79.99-\$125.99 pass to gain access to 25 of the most popular Chicago attractions with 1,2,3, or 5-Day cards available, for use on consecutive days since first use activation.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ 55%**

Save 55% off the combined cost of individual attraction admission prices.

5 Deals from Chicago-based Groupon or LivingSocial



How to Save? Deals help you save on popular restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ 50%**

6 Broadway in Chicago Special Offers



How to Save? Sign up to receive emails from Hot Tix and Goldstar to get big discounts on concerts, theater and special events.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ >50%**

Some offers provide more than 50% savings off balcony seating.

7 CityPass



How to Save? Purchase an adult city pass, a \$94 ticket booklet allowing quick VIP access to 5 of the city's most popular attractions over a 9 day period.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$45.95**

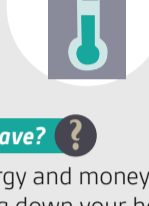
An adult city pass costs \$94, compared to the combined cost of the featured attractions, **\$139.95**.

Including:

- **\$39.95** for Total Experience Pass for the Shedd Aquarium
- **\$19.00** for Chicago Skydeck
- **\$31.00** for the Field Museum All-Access Pass
- **\$27** for Museum of Science and Industry Explorer 1 entry
- **\$23** for the Art Institute of Chicago

SEASONAL

8 Lower your thermostat by 3-4 Degrees




How to Save? Save energy and money on your bill by turning down your heat.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ 12%**

12% off heating costs if lowered 4 degrees permanently.

9 Move in January, and pack your own boxes



How to Save? Movers have less work in the winter and may provide significant discounts and be more available. Pack yourself to reduce moving costs.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ 10-20%**

10-20% off moving services cost, 90% off a packing service cost.

10 Take advantage of winter events



How to Save? Winter impacts tourism, so locals and tourists can take advantage of offers from attractions, hotels, and restaurants.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$45.95**

30% off the standard room rate per night at the historic Raffaello Hotel in the winter, for example.

DIY

11 Make your favorite specialty coffee at home



How to Save? Chicago's best specialty coffee can be made at home to save the per-cup cost of going to the shops every day.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$5-7/cup**

Intelligentsia coffee costs \$15-18 per pound; which can make nearly 40 12 oz. cups per bag compared to as much as \$5 for a single cup of drip coffee in a retail location, for example.

12 Volunteer at music festivals



How to Save? Volunteer at music festivals or events to do things like unload trucks and set up stages and get compensated with tickets. Save more by bringing your own food at water, if allowed.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$100**

\$100, the cost of a Lollapalooza 1-day pass, not including food or drink.

13 Walk or bike instead



How to Save? Walk to grocery stores, laundromats, college campuses or work to cut down on the cost of driving and public transit.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

Eliminating small trip travel costs can really add up, such as visits to the grocery store, or every day trips to work and campus.

Food, Drink, Entertainment

14 Second City Dinner & Show



How to Save? Receive discounted prices for set menus at restaurants near Second City theater before or after the show.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

Fixed prices at restaurants are typically \$10-\$20 less per person than without the combined theatre / restaurant package.

15 Lettuce Entertain You Frequent Diner Club



How to Save? For \$25, join the Chicago-based restaurant group's membership club to receive rewards points at area restaurants when you dine.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

Dependent on frequency and money spent when you dine at 90 participating restaurants.

16 Go BYOB at designated restaurants



How to Save? Some restaurants will allow customers to bring their own alcohol and may or may not charge a corkage fee.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

Savings vary depending on what you bring, and whether or not you pay a corkage fee, but you avoid the average 2-3 times price markup found in many restaurants.

17 Blues Alley Sundays




How to Save? Get admission to 2 blues venues across from the street each other and 3 bands for the price of one admission.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$10-\$12/ticket**

Buy entry ranging from \$12-\$15 on Sundays, get into B.L.U.E.S. on Halsted across the alley free of charge.

Sports

18 Buy tickets for sporting events on game day




How to Save? In an effort to sellout their seats, sporting events will often drop prices on game day.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ 33%**

Savings of as much as 33% have been reported at various Chicago sporting events for those with good timing.

19 Go to a Chicago Wolves Hockey Game




How to Save? Chicago is hockey crazy. Show your local hockey team spirit and purchase more affordable tickets for Chicago's AHL team.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$25-\$400**

Wolves tickets range from \$12-\$53, compared to \$37-\$500 for Blackhawks tickets.

20 Minor league baseball




How to Save? Minor league baseball is popular in the Chicago area, and offers the full baseball experience, for drastically reduced prices.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

The Family Schauberg Bومomers offer include four tickets, drinks, hot dogs, chips, and entry into a playground for \$56, compared to a minimum \$20 non-discounted Cubs ticket, not including the cost of food and drink.

Transportation & Parking

21 Parking finder apps like Spothero




How to Save? Use a smartphone app or website that allows for searching and booking available or discounted parking spots.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ 50%**

Apps like Chicago-based Spothero may allow for pre-planning of parking costs and claims savings of up to 50%, not to mention gas usage when searching for spots.

22 Grant Park parking garage




How to Save? A huge parking complex underneath Grant Park which offers very reasonable parking rates with good access to downtown attractions.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$36**

Day rates run about \$16 under Grant Park, compared to around \$6.50/hr, or \$52 for an 8-hour day excursion for street parking in the loop.

23 Carpool




How to Save? If public transportation, walking, or a bicycle simply can't get you where you need to go, a carpooling system can save a great deal on the cost of gas.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ 50%**

The average cost of gas is around \$4.06/gallon in Chicago; studies have shown a savings of more than 50% for people using carpools, with greater savings for higher numbers of people in the carpool system.

24 Divvy - Bike sharing in Chicago




How to Save? Rent bikes and gain access to stations around the city.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

The Average gas price in Chicago as of this research is \$4.06 per gallon. The average mid-sized car holds around 15 gallons of gas, meaning it can cost upwards of 50 dollars to fill a car one time, compared to \$75 for an annual membership or a \$7 24-hour pass with Divvy. Add in the median monthly parking cost for a Chicagoan (\$289) and it saves even more.

25 Use a car sharing service for short-term rentals

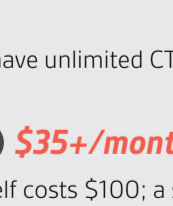


How to Save? Rent cars available on demand and gas and insurance are included. Save on car ownership costs like insurance, maintenance, parking.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

Drivers sign up for plans that offer hourly or monthly rates and gain access to cars from a variety of convenient self-service locations. For example, the average cost of vehicle ownership, per year, in the U.S. is \$9,122, while the most expensive enterprise Car Share plan involves a \$30 cost per month, or \$360 per year, plus an hourly rate of \$7.00.

26 CTA Monthly Pass & Metra Monthly Unlimited Ride Pass

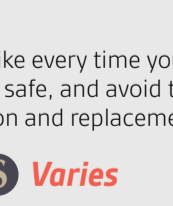


How to Save? For a flat fee, you can have unlimited CTA or Pace rides for 30 days.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$35+/month**

A CTA monthly pass itself costs \$100; a single ride is \$2.25 for the L or \$2.00 for the bus. Assuming, hypothetically, that someone only rides the L once in the morning and once in the evening, every day for 30 days, paying per-ride would cost \$135 monthly.

27 Lock up your bicycle




How to Save? Simply lock up your bike every time you stop somewhere to keep your property safe, and avoid the loss of your mode of transportation and replacement/damage costs.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

A perfectly good lock can be obtained for \$50, compared to the cost of replacing a bicycle and anything that might be taken along with it, which can easily range into the hundreds of dollars.

Special Audience Discounts

28 Military Discounts




How to Save? Military active-duty and veterans receive discounts or free admission to many businesses, venues, and events in Chicago.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies**

Save at Navy Pier, Kingston Mines Blues Music venue, Museum of Science and Industry, Shedd Aquarium, and more.


29 Free college events



How to Save? Chicago has an abundance of free events, many of them thanks to the major colleges located in and around the city, such as lectures, theater performances, and music events.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ Varies.**

30 Discount days at Wrigley Field



How to Save? Discounts for college students at Chicago's iconic Wrigley Field.

Avg. Cost Savings: **\$ \$25**

Bleacher tickets cost as low as \$10, compared to the normal bleacher cost of \$37.

Presented by:



Sources: chicagoparent.com/picks/museum-free-days; lpczo.edu; lpzoo.org; brookfieldzoo.org/CZS/Brookfield-Zoo/Plan-Your-Day; citypass.com/chicago; smartdestinations.com/chicago-attractions-and-tours/_d_chi-p1.html?pass=Chi_Prod_Go;groupon.com; broadwayinchicago.com/special-offers; cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_culturalcenter.html; chicagotribune.com/classified/realestate/chi-heat-thermostat-savings_0102jan02_0,63476.story; nbccicago.com/news/business/vatis-smart-money-saving-moving-113377319.h.html; huffingtonpost.com/lisa-dworkin/chicago-winter-travel_b_2488719.html; intelligentsiacoffee.com; money.usnews.com/money/blogs/my-money/2014/05/28/6-tricks-to-save-money-at-summer-concerts; articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-04-06/classified/sc-cons-0405-college-housing-20120406_1_rental-rates-convenience-store-college-campus-secondcity.com/performance-chicago/dinnerandshow; leye.com/frequent-diner-club/faqs; chicago.metromix.com/stories/1085-chicago-byob-restaurants; kingstonsmines.com; money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/2013/08/22/9-ways-to-save-on-sports-tickets; chicagovolves.com/tickets; chicagoparent.com/magazines/going-places/2012-summer/play/baseball; spothero.com/chicago; divvybikes.com; enterprisecarshare.com; travelinformation/fares/unlimitedridecards.aspx; chicagoonthecheap.com/keep-your-bike-safe; thelocaltourist.com/parking-chicago; dailyfinance.com/2010/10/12/savings-experiment-carpooling; militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/illinois/chicago.html; choosechicago.com/articles/view/BUDGET-FRIENDLY-CHICAGO/122; chicago.cubs.mlb.com/chc/ticketing/college_discount.jsp