

Navy Pier Information

Crystal Gardens, a 32,000-square-foot indoor botanical park, which provides a year-round center for family activity and special receptions.

Navy Pier features a number of attractions for visitors and locals alike. Reminiscent of Chicago's 1893 World Colombian Exposition, the most visible feature of Navy Pier is its 150-foot Ferris wheel. Close by is the musical carousel, painted with historical depictions of the pier. Pier Park features an 18-hole Chicago-themed miniature golf course and a cliff climbing structure. Some of the indoor attractions include a 15-minute walk through Funhouse Maze, Time Escape, which is a 3-D time travel ride taking you through the past, present and future of Chicago, and the Chicago Children's Museum. Navy Pier is home to the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, with its 500-seat courtyard theater and 200-seat flexible black box theater. There is also an IMAX theater on Navy Pier, with a 6-story flat movie screen featuring 2D and 3D films. The Smith Museum of Stained Glass windows is a permanent display of 150 stained glass windows housed in an 800-ft.-long series of galleries along the lower level terraces of Festival Hall.

Navy Pier has two performance stages. From May through October, top local bands perform free shows for the public on the Miller Lite Stage. The Skyline Stage is a 1,500-seat theater featuring a variety of musical and theatrical performances May through September – check Navy Pier's website for upcoming shows and ticket information.

Boat tours range from extravagant dinner cruises along the lakefront to choppy speed-boat rides. You may even see a wedding aboard one of the ships! See our tours section for more information on cruise choices.

There are a number of shops at Navy Pier, with a variety of unique specialty items and Chicago souvenirs. Dining choices range from concession stands to a food court to fine restaurants.

Navy Pier also serves as a convention center, accommodating medium-sized trade shows with 170,000 square feet of exhibition space in Festival Hall and 36 meeting rooms. Crystal Gardens is a one-acre tropical paradise with over 70 full-size palm trees and a variety of seasonal plants and flowers. Private parties and corporate events are held here.

The lakefront is a wonderful place to bike ride or skate - you can rent bikes or skates at Bike Chicago, located at the pier. And when you need a break from all the activity, Navy Pier is a great place to just sit and people-watch.

PARKING GARAGE

An enclosed parking garage for 1,040 autos stretches two-thirds of the Pier's length, allowing convenient visitor access to the buildings located directly above. An additional parking structure which accommodates 700 additional vehicles is also available. In addition, there are two on-Pier drop-off points for taxis and buses. The Pier also is served by double-decker tour buses and four public transit (bus) lines.