

# Things to Know About ChicAGO

## Getting to the Convention Hotel

### The Convention Hotel

Chicago Marriott Downtown  
540 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611

1-312-836-0100  
1-800-228-9290

The hotel is located on Michigan Avenue between Grand Avenue and Ohio Street; cars and taxis drop off at the Rush Street entrance. Rush Street is one block west of Michigan Avenue.)

### From O'Hare International Airport (773-686-2200; [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com))

O'Hare is about 17 miles northwest of downtown Chicago.

**By car:** Follow the signs to I-90 East (The Kennedy Expressway). Exit at Ohio Street (exit 50B). Ohio Street is a one-way street eastbound. Continue straight (east) on Ohio for ¼ mile to Rush Street. Turn right (south) on Rush Street. The Marriott Hotel will be on your left. See "Parking your car at the hotel" below.

If you are not driving, you have several options:

1. If you want to spend less than \$4.00 and don't mind climbing stairs and a bit of walking, take the Blue Line subway, or the subway and bus.
2. If money is no object and you want door-to-door service, take a taxi. The cost will be \$35-\$50.
3. If you want door-to-door service but want to spend less than \$25.00, take an "Airport Express" van.

Details concerning these options follow:

**1. Rapid Transit Train (operated by the Chicago Authority, CTA Transit):** From baggage claim, follow the overhead "Trains to City" signs. There are pedestrian tunnels in terminals 1, 2, and 3. From the international terminal #5, take the Airport Transit System train (no cost) to terminal 3. Purchase a Transit Card (see the "Public Transportation" section below for more details). Only the Blue Line subway operates from O'Hare and downtown is its only direction from the airport.

You now have three options to complete your trip to the hotel:

**Option #1 (includes a bus trip):** Ride the train to the 15<sup>th</sup> stop, Grand Avenue. (Chicago Avenue is the stop just before the Grand stop). Exit the train and either walk or take the escalator up one level. Pass through the turnstile and take the right-hand exit, and walk up the stairs to the street. Follow the signs "To Navy Pier" which direct you across Grand Avenue to a bus stop. Take the eastbound "#65 Grand Avenue" bus. Use your Transit Card and pay a \$0.25 transfer fee or pay \$2.00 with cash. The bus will proceed east on Grand Avenue until Wells Street where it turns right and then makes a quick left onto Illinois Street. Exit the bus at Rush Street (just past the State Street stop). Walk across Rush Street, turn left on Rush and walk beneath the "Nordstrom's" store, and cross Grand Avenue. The hotel is on your right at the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and Rush Street.

**Option #2 (includes a taxi):** Follow the directions for option #1, but do not take the bus. Instead, flag down a taxi when you exit the subway station and take it to the hotel which is about a mile away.

**Option #3 (includes a transfer to the Red Line subway):** Ride the train for 17 stops to the Washington Street stop. Exit the train and walk downstairs, go through the tunnel and up the stairs to the Red Line subway. This is a free transfer. Board a northbound Red Line train (look for the "Howard" signs) and ride it two stops to Grand Avenue. Exit the train at Grand Avenue and walk up to street level using any exit. You will be at one of the four corners of the State Street/ Grand Avenue intersection. Walk east on Grand Avenue for two blocks to Rush Street. To orient yourself on Grand Avenue, look down the street and notice the glass-walled building that spans Grand. The Marriott Hotel is left of, and connected to, that building. Also, make sure the "Rock Bottom Brewery" (south-west corner) is behind you and on your right as your walk east on Grand Avenue. Cross Rush Street; the Marriott is on the northeast corner of Rush Street and Grand Avenue.

**2. Taxi:** You will find taxi cabs located outside baggage claim. The one-way fare to the hotel will be about \$40-\$50. Pay the amount indicated on the meter. Tipping is optional but expected.

**3. Continental Airport Express** (888-284-3826; [www.airportexpress.com](http://www.airportexpress.com)): From the baggage claim area, follow the signs to Ground Transportation. Airport Express is located in terminal 1 (door 1E), terminal 2 (door 2D), and terminal 3 (door 3E). If you arrive at the international terminal 5, look for a kiosk after you have passed through U.S. Customs just outside door 1E. The cost is \$25 but is lower if you are traveling with another person(s). The last van leaves the airport at 11:30p.

## **From Midway International Airport (774-838-0600; [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com))**

Midway Airport is about 10 miles south west of downtown Chicago.

**By car:** Take Cicero Avenue north to I-55 (the Stevenson Expressway) northbound to I-90/94 west (you will actually be heading north). Exit at Ohio Street (exit 50B). Ohio Street is a one-way street eastbound. Continue straight (east) on Ohio for ¼ mile to Rush Street. Turn right (south) on Rush Street. The Marriott Hotel will be on your left. See the “parking your car” section below.

If you are not driving, you have several options:

1. If you want to spend only \$2.00 and don't mind climbing stairs and a bit of walking, take the Orange Line subway.
2. If money is no object and you want door-to-door service, take a taxi. The cost will be about \$30.00
3. If you want door-to-door service but want to spend about \$20.00, take an “Airport Express” van.

Details concerning these options follow:

**1. Rapid Transit Train (operated by the Chicago Transit Authority, the CTA):** From baggage claim, follow the “Rapid Transit” signs to the Orange Line station. The Orange Line is the only CTA train line serving Midway Airport and it only goes north into downtown. Purchase a Transit Card (see the “Public Transportation” section below for more details). Ride the train until the seventh stop, Roosevelt Road. (Note: Halsted Street is the stop just before Roosevelt). Transfer, at no cost, to the northbound Red Line subway (make sure the train destination sign reads “Howard”). Exit the train at the sixth stop, Grand Avenue. (Note: Lake Street is the stop just before Grand Avenue). Exit the train at Grand Avenue and walk up to street level using any exit. You will be at one of the four corners of the State Street/ Grand Avenue intersection. Walk east on Grand Avenue for two blocks to Rush Street. To orient yourself on Grand Avenue, look down the street and notice the glass-walled building that spans Grand. The Marriott Hotel is just to the left of, and is connected to, that building. Also, make sure the “Rock Bottom Brewery” (southwest corner) is behind you and on your right as you walk east on Grand Avenue. Cross Rush Street; the Marriott is on the northeast corner of Rush Street and Grand Avenue.

**2. Taxi:** You will find taxi cabs located outside baggage claim. The one-way fare to the hotel will be about \$30.

**3. Continental Airport Express (888-284-3826; [www.airportexpress.com](http://www.airportexpress.com)):** In the baggage claim area, follow the signs to Ground Transportation. Airport Express is located across from baggage claim (lower level) by door #3. The cost is \$20 but is less if you are traveling with another person(s). The last shuttle van from Midway is at 10:30p.

## **Driving to Chicago (the hotel is located at the corner of Ohio Street and Rush Street)**

**From the north/northwest:** Take I-94 (the Edens Expressway) to I-90 (the Kennedy Expressway). Exit at Ohio Street (exit 50B). Ohio is a one-way street. Continue straight ahead on Ohio Street for ¼ mile to Rush Street. Turn right. The hotel is on your left.

**From the west:** Take I-290 East (the Eisenhower Expressway) to I-90/94 West. Follow I-90/94 to the Ohio Street exit (exit 50B). Ohio is a one-way street. Continue straight ahead on Ohio Street for ¼ mile to Rush Street. Turn right. The hotel is on your left.

**From the south:** Take I-57 North to I-90/94 West (the Dan Ryan Expressway, which becomes the Kennedy Expressway after crossing over I-290 downtown). Follow I-90/94 to the Ohio Street exit (exit 50B). Ohio is a one way street. Continue straight ahead on Ohio Street for ¼ mile to Rush Street. Turn right. The hotel is on your left.

**From the southwest:** Take I-55 North (Stevenson Expressway) to I-90/94 West. Follow I-90/94 to the Ohio Street exit (exit 50B). Ohio is a one-way street. Continue straight ahead on Ohio Street for ¼ mile to Rush Street. Turn right. The hotel is on your left.

**From the southeast:** Take I-80/94 West (tollway) to I-94 (the Bishop Ford Freeway). Follow I-90/94 to the Ohio Street exit (exit 50B). Ohio is a one-way street. Continue straight ahead on Ohio Street for ¼ mile to Rush Street. Turn right. The hotel is on your left.

## **Arriving via Greyhound Bus or Amtrak**

**Amtrak ([www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com); 1-800-872-7245 (I-800-USA-RAIL))**

Amtrak trains arrive and depart from Union Station, 225 South Canal Street, Chicago IL. 60606. Take a taxi to the Marriott Hotel.

**Greyhound Bus Line ([www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com); 312-408-5800)**

The downtown station is located at 630 West Harrison Street, Chicago IL. 60607. Take a taxi to the hotel or ride the Blue Line train to either Jackson Street or Washington Street. Transfer to the Red Line (no cost) and exit at Grand Avenue. Walk two blocks east on Grand to the Marriott Hotel.

# Upon Arriving at the Marriott Hotel Downtown

## Checking in at the hotel

Check-in is located on the first floor just off the lobby.

## Convention Registration

Registration is located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. Even if you have pre-registered you will need to pick up your registration materials there.

## Parking your car at the hotel

Hotel parking is about a half block away at “Self-Park” at 50 E. Ohio Street (at Rush Street). Entrances to the garage are located on Ohio (one-way east) and Rush Street (two way traffic). Note: Ignore the “Marriott Parking →” sign affixed to the left side of the hotel building as seen from Rush Street. It points in the wrong direction.

For 24 hour parking, the AGO has secured a special convention rate of \$18.00. This **does not** include in-and-out privileges. You must receive a courtesy parking ticket from the Concierge Desk. You can also use the valet parking which costs \$37.00 for 24 hours and includes in-and-out privileges. You can expect to pay, on average, \$30 per 24 hour period at all other parking garages in the area.

# Getting Around Chicago

## ChicAGO’s Street System

Chicago’s streets are laid out in a very convenient and (relatively) easy to understand grid system with most major streets running in straight east-west and north-south directions. The east-west dividing line is State Street (“That Great Street”), which is just two blocks west of the Marriott Hotel. The north-south dividing line is Madison Street, which is about nine cross streets south of the hotel. The Chicago address-numbering system for both north/south and east/west streets begins at the intersection of State Street and Madison Street in the heart of Chicago’s Loop. The Loop refers to the city center defined by the elevated train tracks. A “standard” city block has 100 address numbers; each block is about 1/8 mile so there are approximately 800 numbers per mile. The Marriott Hotel is at 540 North Michigan Avenue, which means it is about six city blocks north of Madison Street, (a little less than ¼ mile). The Carson Pirie Scott department store, a Louis Sullivan landmark, is located at 1 South State Street at the southeast corner of State and Madison. Another example is Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, the venue for Sunday evening’s opening program. Its address is 220 South Michigan Avenue, so it is two blocks south of Madison Street. You can estimate the walking distance from the hotel: add the hotel’s 540 “north” address to Orchestra Hall’s 220 “south” address and you get 760 address numbers which is almost 800 numbers – about one mile in distance. The same holds true for east-west streets: Michigan Avenue is between “100 East” and “200 East” or about two blocks east of State Street. An address of 400 W. Madison Street would be four blocks (1/4 mile) west of State Street and about five or six blocks west of Michigan Avenue.

Some streets in the downtown area are “double decked”. For example, there is lower Illinois Street and an upper Illinois Street though for only a couple of blocks. Michigan Avenue has a short lower version which heads southbound starting just south of the Marriott Hotel. You’ll find the original Billy Goat Tavern on Lower Michigan Avenue.

## Convention Transportation

If you purchased the transportation package, your badge will indicate this. Please wear your badge at all times as you will need it to board the bus. Guest tickets only include bus transportation for the Navy Pier dinner Monday July 3, and for the pre-and post-convention programs. Transportation on the convention bus for guests is available for \$25 per day. Taxis and public transportation is a convenient option.

## Taxis

Taxis are available just about everywhere downtown. Simply look for one and flag it down. You will pay the cost indicated on the meter. The meter starts at \$2.25 as soon as you enter the cab and \$1.90 for each mile and \$2.00 for every six minutes of waiting time. The meter is running while you are stuck in traffic or at a traffic signal! There is a \$1.00 charge for one additional passenger and a \$0.50 charge for each other additional passenger. Finally, there is a \$1.00 “extra charge” (tax) added by the city. Tipping is optional, but expected. Note that not all taxi companies accept credit cards. For wheelchair accessible cabs, call 1-800-281-4466.

## Public Transportation

Chicago has a very good rapid transit rail and bus system run by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The train line includes subways and elevated trains and is commonly known as the “L”. Colors are used to designate the various routes. The bus system routes are indicated with a number and street name(s). For example, the “#65 Grand Avenue” travels back and forth primarily on Grand Avenue. Transit routes and schedules can be obtained by consulting a CTA map or by calling 312-836-7000 or by logging onto [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com). You can also obtain maps from the Concierge desk in the hotel or by visiting Chicago’s Visitor Centers (see the “Sightseeing” section below). One-way fares are \$2.00. When riding any CTA bus, you must have exact change or use a pre-purchased Transit Card. When you use a Transit card for the bus, you will pay \$1.75. If you don’t have exact change, you will receive back a Transit Card “loaded” with the amount of your change. If you

ride the “L”, you **must** purchase a Transit Card at a vending machine located at all rail stations. A card can be loaded up to \$100, but no change is given by the vending machines. For example, if you insert a twenty dollar bill, you will receive a Transit Card loaded with \$20. If you plan to use the bus/rail system frequently during your visit to Chicago, you may want to purchase a **Visitor Pass** which allows unlimited use of the transit system. Call 312-836-7000 for more information about the Visitor Pass or go to [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com).

## Sightseeing

Visit one of the Chicago Office of Tourism “Visitor Information Centers” for information about the city and all it has to offer:

Chicago Water Works Visitor Center- 163 East Pearson (at Michigan Ave, across the street from the old water tower). 312-742-8811. Open every day 7:30a – 7:00p.

Chicago Cultural Center Visitor Center- 78 E. Washington (on Michigan Avenue). A wheelchair accessible entrance is at 77 E. Randolph Street. [www.chicagoculturalcenter.org](http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org) ; 312-744-6630. Open every day except 7/4. Weekdays, 10:00a – 6:00p; Saturday, 10:00a – 5:00p; Sunday, 11:00a – 5:00p

Millennium Park Welcome Center- 201 East Randolph in the Northwest Exelon Pavilion. [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org) ; 312-742-2963. Open every day 9:00a – 7:00p

We will also have a limited supply of visitor guides at the Hospitality Desk located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.

## Taste of Chicago ([www.tasteofchicago.us](http://www.tasteofchicago.us) , [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com))

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of Chicago food and music festival runs through July 9 at Grant Park. Admission is free but food and beverage are by ticket only, sold in strips of 11 for \$7.00 (includes a \$1.50 tax).

For country music fans, the Chicago Country Music Festival takes place July 1 & 2. If you are not attending the AGO’s Navy Pier dinner and fireworks, or you are not going to the NCOI finals, join the million or so other people at Grant Park July 3 for the 7:30p concert by the Grant Park Orchestra followed by the 9:30p fireworks display.

For those with disabilities, please call 312-744-7050 for information about accessibility.

## Useful Web-Sites

<a href="http://www.flychicago.com">www.flychicago.com</a>	information about the airports
<a href="http://www.transitchicago.com">www.transitchicago.com</a>	information about using public transportation
<a href="http://egov.cityofchicago.org">http://egov.cityofchicago.org</a>	information about the city of Chicago
<a href="http://www.millenniumpark.org">www.millenniumpark.org</a>	information about Millennium Park
<a href="http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org">www.chicagoculturalcenter.org</a>	information about the Chicago Cultural Center
<a href="http://www.amtrak.com">www.amtrak.com</a>	information about Amtrak
<a href="http://www.greyhound.com">www.greyhound.com</a>	information about the Greyhound Bus Company
<a href="http://www.airportexpress.com">www.airportexpress.com</a>	information about Continental Airport Express shuttle vans
<a href="http://www.navy Pier.com">www.navy Pier.com</a>	information about Navy Pier
<a href="http://www.tasteofchicago.us">www.tasteofchicago.us</a>	information about the Taste of Chicago
<a href="http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com">www.chicagoparkdistrict.com</a>	information about Chicago’s parks including Grant Park

## For More Information:

Contact Doug Zimmer at [agobus2006@aol.com](mailto:agobus2006@aol.com) or write him at 383 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 60137.