



Culture and Traditions
Across the Pond

CHICAGO

TRANSCRIPT

Chicago is located in the state of Illinois, on Lake Michigan, which is one of the five Great Lakes of North America.

Chicago became a city in 1837. It's the third largest city in the United States with a population of about 2.7 million after New York City (8.5 million) and Los Angeles (3.9 million).

Chicago has often been considered one of the most important cities for finance, commerce, industry, technology, telecommunications, transportation and architecture.

The name "Chicago" comes from a Native American word which means "wild onions", in reference to the onions that grew near the Chicago river.

Chicago has many nicknames including the City of Big Shoulders, the Second City, and the City that Works, but the most important nickname is THE WINDY CITY.

Downtown Chicago is known as The Loop, where the central business district is.

There are two rivers in Chicago: The Chicago River is a system of rivers and canals that runs through the city of Chicago, including its center. In the south of the city we can find the Calumet River.

Summers in Chicago are hot and often humid, with temperatures exceeding 32°C. Winters are cold and snowy with few sunny days.

In 1871 The Great Chicago Fire destroyed several square miles and left more than 100,000 homeless. Over the next 20 years almost the entire city of Chicago was reconstructed.

The first skyscraper ever constructed was the 13-story Tacoma Building of Chicago, built in 1889.

The world's first elevated railway was installed in Chicago in 1892. The popular transit is often known as the "L," which is short for "elevated".

In 1919, the prohibition of the sale and consumption of alcohol began.

Al Capone, one of Chicago's most famous gangsters, sold over US\$60 million of illegal alcohol in 1927 alone during prohibition.

In 1955, the first ever McDonald's restaurant was opened in Chicago.

In 2008, the Illinois senator from Chicago, Barack Obama, was elected the 44th President of the United States of America.

In Chicago there are a lot of important landmarks to visit like Millennium Park, the Magnificent Mile, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Willis (Sears) Tower, Wrigley Field and Lincoln Park Zoo.

The Sears Tower is the twelfth-tallest building in the world with 110 stories. From the top of the tower you can see the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

In Chicago, you can also visit a very famous sculpture at Millennium Park, Cloud Gate, also known as The Bean.

Chicago has a strong influence on popular and modern music, particularly in jazz, blues, soul, hip-hop and gospel. The electronic music known as House Music was created by DJs in clubs in Chicago.

Chicago is home to many professional teams: Chicago Bulls in basketball, the Chicago Cubs in baseball, The Chicago Bears in American football and the Chicago Blackhawks in hockey.

MORE CHICAGO FACTS

Some of the many inventions that came from the city of Chicago include roller skates, skyscrapers and the remote control.

Over 48 million people visit Chicago each year.

Some of the many famous people who were born in the city of Chicago include Robin Williams, Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, Harrison Ford and Walt Disney.

The famous US highway Route 66 begins in Chicago in front of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is the second-busiest airport in the world.