

Spouse / Companion Outings

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (October 26-28)

Monday, October 26: Chicago Highlights Tour

Travel through some of Chicago's finest sites and highlights, enjoying a professionally guided tour of all that Chicago has to offer. From Soldier Field to the Magnificent Mile, you will explore the many facets of the Windy City. The Loop, **Buckingham Fountain** and **Museum Campus** are just a few marvelous points to mention. Another famous stop at the Adler Planetarium will be made for a breathtaking view of Lake Michigan and the skyline. Several stops will allow you to step off the coach to take it all in and take advantage of a fantastic photo opportunity.



This Grand Tour of Chicago, full of interest, history and beauty, will take you through pristine parks, along the beaches that line Lake Michigan's shore, and all the beautiful and magnificent highlights along the way.



The tour will end at the amazing **Millennium Park**. Weather permitting; you will de-board for a short, guided walk through this new Chicago masterpiece. After the brief tour, you will board the motor coach and drive to one of the city's hottest new lunch spots, **Blueprint** at the famed Chicago Merchandise Mart. Enter a uniquely designed private dining room featuring tables of different heights and dine on a fabulous 3-course lunch.

This wonderful dining experience is followed by a mini-tour of the **Merchandise Mart**, so you can view some of the exhibitors housed in The Mart. Should time allow, you will have the opportunity to shop in the gallery district on Wells Street before boarding the coach to return to Lombard.



Museum Campus



Tuesday, October 27: Chicago Museums and/or Downtown Shopping District

This day will allow you to experience a closer, more leisurely look at the sites you saw on Monday. A motor coach will provide you round-trip transportation from the Westin Lombard to downtown Chicago. You can choose to depart the coach at one of two locations. The first stop will be at the Museum Campus (Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, and Field Museum of Natural History). You can choose to get off the coach at this location or remain on the coach for the second stop, which will be the shopping mecca of Chicago: Michigan Avenue. The coach will pick-you up again at the same locations later in the day (see Itinerary).

Built in 1930, the **Adler Planetarium** was the first planetarium built in the Western Hemisphere and is the oldest in existence today.

The John G. **Shedd Aquarium** was opened in 1930 and at one time was the largest indoor aquarium in the world. There are several permanent exhibits including:

- The Amazon Rising exhibit is a walkthrough flooded forest recreation of the Amazon river and the surrounding jungle. This exhibit contains 250 different species.
- The Caribbean Reef exhibit includes a 90,000 US-gallon (340,000 liter) circular tank that allows for maximum walk-around viewing. A feature of this exhibit is a diver that interacts with the animals while talking with the people.
- The Oceanarium is split into two levels, above and below the waterline. Above the waterline, you can watch the dolphins perform. While below the waterline, you can see the beluga whales and dolphins up close.

Some prized exhibits in the **Field Museum** include:

- Sue, the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus currently known.
- A comprehensive set of human cultural anthropology exhibits, including artifacts from ancient Egypt, the Pacific Northwest and Tibet.
- A diverse taxidermy collection, featuring many large animals, including two prized African elephants and the infamous Lions of Tsavo, featured in the 1996 movie "The Ghost and the Darkness".
- A large collection of dinosaurs in the Evolving Planet exhibit (formerly "Life Over Time").
- A large collection of Native American artifacts.

Wednesday, October 28: Shopping at Oakbrook Center (with optional lunch)

Oakbrook Center is one of the most prestigious and striking outdoor shopping destinations in the Chicago area. In fact, it's the largest open-air premier shopping center in the country! Always on the cutting edge of fashion, Oakbrook Center was voted the #1 shopping destination by Illinois shoppers. And no wonder. With six major department stores and over 160 upscale shops and restaurants – set amidst lush gardens and flowing fountains – it's a spectacular outdoor shopping experience.



Wednesday Lunch Menu

Appetizers: Sausage & Peppers and Crispy Zucchini Fritté

Salads: Choice of chopped or spinach

Pastas: Choice of Baked Ziti & Sausage or Mushroom Ravioli al Forno

Dessert: Vera's Lemon Cookies

You can schedule transportation at your own leisure via Westin's courtesy shuttle, but advance reservations with the Committee's meeting registration system is recommended. Reservations for an optional "family style" lunch have been made at 12:30 pm at **Maggiano's Little Italy** (on the east side of the mall next to Bloomingdales).

www.oakbrookcenter.com