

CHICAGO CHRISTMAS CITY TOUR

Chicago, Illinois
December 3 – 5, 2010

Tentative

Palmer House Hilton
17 E. Monroe Street
Chicago, IL

Day 1

Palmer House Hilton

7:00 AM Depart Circle Drive

9:00 AM Rest stop Lafayette McDonalds

10:45 AM Lunch at Rhapsody

Rhapsody, located in the heart of Chicago's bustling Loop, is a contemporary American restaurant with Mediterranean influences. Emphasizing seasonal and local products, award-winning wines and hand-crafted cocktails, Rhapsody boasts ideal service at approachable prices.

Rhapsody offers a refined yet casual environment in Chicago's cultural and shopping districts. The restaurant is walking distance to some of the city's top destinations such as Millennium Park, The Art Institute of Chicago, Michigan Avenue and State Street, as well as adjacent to Chicago's Symphony Center. In the warmer months, Rhapsody's 50-seat patio provides patrons a perfect alfresco dining experience, creating an urban oasis amongst a lush floral garden.

11:45 AM Depart for Chicago Architecture Foundation

12:00 PM Architectural Bus Tour

Discover the exciting diversity of Chicago architecture on this wide-ranging odyssey, which traces the city's development from its founding through the very present. This bus tour covers 30 miles of Chicago design, with sites in the Loop, Hyde Park, the Gold Coast, the Lakefront, two university campuses, and several parks and residential neighborhoods. Stops include the Rookery in downtown Chicago, Mies van der Rohe's IIT campus and the Robie House in Hyde Park. (Interior tour provided by the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust.)

2:00 PM Tour the Robie House

The Robie House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for his client Frederick C. Robie, is considered one of the most important buildings in the history of American architecture. Designed in Wright's Oak Park studio in 1908 and completed in 1910, the building is both a masterpiece of the Prairie style and renowned as a forerunner of modernism in architecture. Tours of the site offer both a first-hand experience of its amazingly contemporary spaces and the current restoration work that is returning the

house to its original appearance. Discover how the city changed with each crisis—from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 to the riots of 1968. Celebrate the city's love affair with its sports teams.

3:30 PM Chicago History Museum

Discover Chicago's transformation from a smelly swamp to a thriving metropolis touring highlights of our permanent exhibition, *Chicago: Crossroads of America*. Experience the city's greatest triumphs and trials. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the past as you climb aboard 'L' Car No. 1. Feel history come alive as you explore innovations in fashion, entertainment, and architecture.

4:45 PM Check into hotel

As the longest continuously operating hotel in North America, The Palmer House Hilton in Chicago has been the destination of choice for every U.S. president since Ulysses S. Grant, world leaders and dignitaries, celebrities, and Chicago's movers-and-shakers. Catering to on-the-go visitors who expect the finest in dining, entertainment and services, the Palmer House is a luxury Chicago hotel that transcends generations with a modern twist on its rich traditions.

5:15 PM Dinner – Sixteen

Sixteen, the signature restaurant located on the 16th floor of the Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago is the ultimate in fine dining. The superbly crafted menu features eclectic cuisine and seasonal ingredients. With renowned Executive Chef Frank Brunacci at the helm, Sixteen promises an exceptional fine dining experience matched by equally exceptional city views from the Trump Chicago hotel's 30-foot floor-to-ceiling windows that frame spectacular vistas of Lake Michigan, the Chicago River and the Wrigley Clock Tower.

7:30 PM Depart for Broadway Show

Elton John's new musical, *BILLY ELLIOT*, is "THE BEST SHOW YOU WILL EVER SEE" (New York Post). Thrilling audiences worldwide and winning ten 2009 Tony Awards® including BEST MUSICAL, the "BEST MUSICAL OF THE DECADE" (Time Magazine) is now playing in Chicago!

BILLY ELLIOT the Musical is the heartwarming celebration of one young boy's triumph against the odds. Set in a small mining town, the story follows Billy's journey as he stumbles out of a boxing ring and into a ballet class and discovers his dream to dance.

Day 2

Palmer House Hilton

7:00-9:30 AM Breakfast at Beef & Brandy.

Exit State Street door, turn left. Restaurant is next door to Palmer House. Kathy will give you a charge-back slip for breakfast on your own or in small groups. Show your slip to hostess and write down everything your order. Kathy will pay entire tab at the end. Requested limit of \$12 per person (pre tax & gratuity).

10:00 AM Untouchables Tour

Experience Chicago as it was during the 1920s and 30s! See the old gangster hot spots and hit spots! Hear historically accurate accounts of the exploits of Capone, Moran, Dillinger and the rest a da boys! Feel the excitement of jazz-age Chicago during the era of Prohibition! Enjoy a journey into the past as we cruise the city in search of the old hoodlum haunts, brothels, gambling dens and sites of gangland shootouts!

12:00 PM Depart for Science and Industry Museum

The Museum halls are decked, holiday singers and dancers fuel the festivities, and the sparkle of dozens of decorated trees greets you at this year's *Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light*.

The Museum's 45-foot Grand Tree takes center stage in the Rotunda, while more than 50 trees beautifully decorated by members of Chicago's ethnic communities to represent global cultures adorn the Museum's Main Level. Stroll through the trees, enjoy intermittent falling "snow" and savor the performances of various dance and choral groups on the Holiday Stage.

Lunch at the Museum Cafeteria on your own

4:50 PM Return to Hotel

5:20 PM Meet in Lobby to depart for the restaurant.

5:30 PM Dinner – Pizano's (included)

They feature thin butter crust and award-winning deep-dish pizzas, along with homemade pastas and sauces from recipes that have been passed down for generations. We will have pizza, pasta, salad. Soft drinks (coffee, tea, soda) are included, or you may run your own bar tab.

7:00 PM Depart for Shopping (optional TBA)

9:00 PM Return from shopping

Day 3

Bloomington

7:00-9:00 AM Breakfast at Beef & Brandy.

Exit State Street door, turn left. Restaurant is next door to Palmer House. Kathy will give you a charge-back slip for breakfast on your own or in small groups. Show your slip to hostess and write down everything your order. Kathy will pay entire tab at the end. Requested limit of \$12 per person (pre tax & gratuity).

9:30 AM Check out/ Bags in the Lobby

10:15 AM Historic Marshal Field's Tour

The history- and architecture-focused tour of the historic State Street store highlights the breathtaking Tiffany vaulted ceiling, the iconic Great Clocks, the graceful

Burnham fountain and the world-renowned Walnut Room restaurant. Tours are offered year-round, based on availability. Advance reservations required. Blackout dates apply.

11:30 PM Lunch in the Walnut Room

The Walnut Room, located on Macy's seventh floor, is a legendary dining delight. Seating 450 dining aficionados under crystal chandeliers and imported dark Russian wood paneling, the menu at the Walnut Room trumps what most of us ingest mid-shopping spree. Offering classics like chicken potpie, served with peas and carrots hidden just below a thick puff pastry, you'll also find Peach Nest Tuna, with tuna salad and mixed fruit and bread, and coconut shrimp, skewered to a chunk of pineapple and dipped into sesame-mango and chipotle-cream sauces. New favorites include duck confit and rosemary grilled petite filet mignon, and entrees average \$8-\$15. For dessert, finish off with another Chicago classic: the Frango mint chocolate ice cream pie. Need we say more?

All through the holiday season, dine under the 45-foot-tall Christmas tree decorated with 1,000 handmade ornaments. But don't expect to get a seat straight away. It's not out of the norm to wait more than an hour for a table. Reservations are not accepted during the holiday season, so arrive early or bring a good book. And despite the black-tie service and exceptional food, the ambiance isn't stuffy or uncomfortable. Trust us when we say you won't leave disappointed. If it isn't already, the Walnut Room will soon be tradition for you, too.

1:00 PM Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute of Chicago, founded in 1879 as both a museum and school, first stood on the southwest corner of State and Monroe Streets. It opened on its present site at Michigan Avenue and Adams Street in 1893. Built on rubble from the 1871 Chicago fire, the museum housed a collection of plaster casts and had a visionary purpose: to acquire and exhibit art of all kinds and to conduct programs of education. The collection now encompasses more than 5,000 years of human expression from cultures around the world, and the school's graduate program is continually ranked as one of the best in the country.

3:30 PM Depart Chicago

5:30 PM Rest stop & fast food dinner at McDonald's in Lafayette

8:00 PM Arrive at Meadowood

Price Includes: Meadowood motor coach transportation, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, admission to 7 attractions & tours, orchestra seating at *Billy Elliot: The Musical*, escort and snacks and drinks on the bus.

Trip Price: \$659 per person double or \$859 per person single.