

## CHICAGO STEM TOUR

The Windy City is home to innovative architecture and world-famous institutions. Explore ecology and wildlife at the Lincoln Park Zoo, math and engineering at the Museum of Science and Industry, marine biology at the Shedd Aquarium, and more.

### *Why Brightspark?*

#### **Safety And Security**

We regularly conduct strict audits of our vendors, ensuring they act in accordance with safety, security, and quality standards.

#### **Our Tour Directors**

You deserve the best, so we only use experienced and enthusiastic Tour Directors who are experts on their destinations.

#### **Quality, Custom Tours**

Our programs are designed for you, by you. From STEM-based DC tours to performance trips to some of our country's top music cities, we have a destination for every budget and every passion.

#### **Industry Experience**

With over 50 years of experience providing custom tours, Brightspark is a leader in student travel.

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# CHICAGO: STEM TOUR

### Day 1:

- Meet your Tour Director and board your private motor coach.
- Visit **Navy Pier**, one of the city's most popular attractions. The site includes shops and restaurants, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and stunning views of Lake Michigan. Its **Centennial Wheel** is open year round and has become an integral part of the Chicago skyline.
- Hop aboard an **architecture cruise** on the Chicago River. Learn about famed buildings like the Tribune Tower and Marina City, discover hidden gems in the Chicago skyline, and explore the ties between the city and its architecture. [Engineering](#)
- After you return to shore, learn about the very bridges you passed under at the **McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum**. The five-story bridgehouse illustrates the significance of the river in Chicago's history. In spring and fall, visitors can even get a behind-the-scenes look in the gear room on bridge lift days. [Engineering](#)
- Watch a multi-media performance by the **Blue Man Group**. [Technology](#)

### Day 2:

- Explore the mysteries of space at the **Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum**. The first planetarium in the western hemisphere (dating back to 1930), this engaging museum features interactive exhibits that inspire curiosity. [Astronomy & Physics](#)
- Go under the sea with a visit to the **John G. Shedd Aquarium**. Featuring over 1000 species of fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, your visit takes you from the Amazon to the Caribbean to the Great Lakes – with many other stops along the way! [Marine Biology](#)
- After lunch at the **Museum Campus**, continue to the **Field Museum**. The site is home to a 5,000-year-old mummy tomb, Sue (the famous 42-foot-long T. Rex), and the newest addition: a 112-foot-long model of Máximo the Titanosaur (the world's biggest dinosaur). [Natural History & Biology](#)
- Visit **Millennium Park** and **Grant Park**. Be sure to stop for photos at **Cloud Gate** (known by locals as "The Bean") and at **Buckingham Fountain**.
- Take a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan.

### Day 3:

- Get to know your hosts with a visit to the **Chicago History Museum**, which explores the city's rise as an urban hub. Climb aboard the first "L" car, learn about Chicagoans during the First World War, visit a jazz club, and discover "Lincoln's Chicago." Use your five senses to experience the city's rich and diverse culture, from bicycles to hot dogs. [Anthropology](#)
- Explore the wildlife at the **Lincoln Park Zoo**. One of the oldest zoos in North America (founded in 1868), the 35-acre site is an urban oasis. It features 1,100 animals from over 200 species – from apes to lions to zebras. [Ecology & Zoology](#)
- Step into beauty at the **Lincoln Park Conservatory and the Great Garden**, featuring tropical flowers, ancient ferns, and towering palms. Built in the 1890s, the Conservatory's four houses display exotic flora from around the world. [Botany](#)
- Take a closer look at the world around us at the **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**, founded in 1857 as the Chicago Academy of Sciences. The hands-on museum connects the city to the wonders of nature. [Environmental Science](#)
- Enjoy the views from the **Willis Tower Skydeck**. Originally built as the Sears Tower, the 110-story building was the tallest in the world for 25 years. It is currently the second-tallest in the U.S. and 16<sup>th</sup>-tallest in the world, and it offers magnificent views of the city from the 103<sup>rd</sup> floor observation deck. [Engineering](#)

### Day 4:

- Head to Hyde Park and visit the **Museum of Science and Industry**, the largest science museum in the Americas. The museum features interactive exhibits that connect science, math, and technology to our everyday lives. [Mathematics](#), [Technology](#), [Engineering](#), [Climatology](#)
- Continue to the **DuSable Museum of African American History**, showcasing achievements in the fields of art and culture through a variety of exhibits. [Anthropology](#)
- After lunch, enjoy free time for shopping and sightseeing on **Michigan Avenue**.
- Depart for home.

Ask a Tour Consultant about interactive workshops and other experiential and project-based learning opportunities.

