



Welcome Aboard Chicago's Top Cruise Attractions, Celebrating 80 years of Showcasing Chicago to the World

Architecture, 3D Fireworks, American Girl Dolls, Photography, Science and Cruising Canines are all part of the 2015 Season aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises (CFL) and Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline (Mercury) beginning April 4 (CFL) and May 2 (Mercury).

As you plan your 2015 travel coverage, we invite you to consider our exciting 2015 cruise line-up aboard **Chicago's First Lady Cruises** (www.cruisechicago.com) and **Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline** (www.mercurycruises.com) owned and operated by the Agra family and showcasing Chicago to the world with a variety of fun and exciting river and lake cruises. Here are some of the highlights:

- ***Popular Twilight Cruise Expanded to Five Evenings:*** CAF **Twilight River Cruise** aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises now departing on five evenings – Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- ***Sky-High Sightseeing Doubles the Family Fun!*** **Urban Adventure Package: Mercury and 360 CHICAGO** offering two panoramic views – from water and land – for one great price
- ***Canine Cruising All Weekend:*** **Mercury's Canine Cruise** now departing Saturdays and Sundays
- ***Science on the High Seas!*** Student groups experience hands-on experiments about Chicago's waterways and architecture from Professor Mercury aboard **Mercury's Science is Fun Cruise**

All cruises depart from Riverside Gardens, our beautifully landscaped dock on Chicago's Riverwalk at Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive, **the gateway to Chicago's Magnificent Mile and just three blocks north of Millennium Park.**

Following are brief cruise details. You can also access the schedule and download pictures of our beautiful boats by visiting our websites: www.cruisechicago.com and www.mercurycruises.com. Please contact me at apedersen@cruisechicago.com or 630-803-7593 with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

Anita Pedersen
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Breathtaking Sky-High Vistas and Spectacular Lakefront Views Aboard Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline

Canine Cruises, Night Cruises, 3D Fireworks Cruises and more awaits

Urban Adventure Package – Double Your Family Fun! Experience two views of Chicago's world-famous lakefront and skyscrapers - panoramic lakefront views aboard Mercury and sky-high vistas from 360 CHICAGO.

One of the best values for families visiting Chicago: for one low price, enjoy a 90-minute lake and river cruise combined with a birds-eye view 1,000-feet up from 360 CHICAGO (formerly John Hancock Observatory), Chicago's favorite sky-high attraction featuring Tilt*. Panoramic 360-degree views, lively cruise commentary and lots of opportunities for family pictures are part of both open-air experiences.

Entertaining cruise tour guides combine fun facts with colorful commentary for passengers of all ages. The cruise takes passengers under a total of 17 of Chicago's world record 37 moveable bridges and by 82 significant skyscrapers and landmarks including: Merchandise Mart, Marina City, Trump Tower, John Hancock Center, Merchandise Mart and NBC Tower.

Passengers can move about during the cruise to maximize photo and video opportunities as they are treated to a moving, panoramic view of Chicago's skyline, Buckingham Fountain, Chicago's Museum Campus with the Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium and The Field Museum, plus passage through the Chicago River Lock System, the world-renown engineering feat that reversed the river's flow. Families can also bring aboard snacks and beverages to enjoy as they unwind while taking in a variety of famous Chicago sights.

Urban Adventure Package: Mercury Cruise + 360 CHICAGO (May 2 – October 12, 2015) Tickets: \$41/adults; \$17/children under 12; children under three are free. Daily cruise departures: 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. 360 CHICAGO open daily 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Buy tickets online at MercuryCruises.com or in-person at the Mercury Cruises dock ticket window or 360 CHICAGO box office. *Admission to Tilt not included in package price

Urban Adventure Cruise: Mercury Cruise Only (May 2 – October 12, 2015) Tickets: \$31/adults; \$11/children under 12; children under three ride free. Daily cruise departures: 10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:15 p.m. Buy tickets online at MercuryCruises.com or at the dock ticket window.

Chicago by Night – Twinkling lights reveal unique view of Chicago. Complimentary light wands for each guest!

This 90-minute lake and river cruise offers a one-of-a kind view of Chicago, from sensational summer sunsets to viewing Chicago at night with tens of millions of lights bathing the city in a sparkling glow. Each passenger receives a complimentary neon light wand to add his or her own "night lights" to a remarkable skyline panorama. One of the cruise highlights is a brief stop near the Buckingham Foundation for passengers to see the nightly light show.

2015 Departures: Nightly and weekend nights at 8:15 p.m., May 30 – September 6, 2015 (excludes Wednesday and Saturday evenings). Weekend nights, September. Tickets: \$32/adults; \$12/children under 12; children under three ride free.

Chicago's First Lady Cruises | cruisechicago.com | 847-358-1330
Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline | mercurycruises.com | 312-332-1366
Michigan Ave & Wacker Dr | 112 E. Wacker Dr | Chicago

3D Fireworks Cruises – Chicago’s only 3D fireworks experience!

Complimentary 3D glasses for each passenger aboard Mercury’s 3D Fireworks Cruise add a unique perspective to the lakefront fireworks display. The popular 90-minute lakefront fireworks cruise is offered Wednesdays and Saturdays in the summer and offers unobstructed views of the lakefront pyrotechnics. Passengers can also bring aboard snacks and non-alcoholic beverages to enjoy during the cruise.

2015 Departures: Summer Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 8:45 p.m. Tickets: \$32/adults; \$12/children under 12; children under three ride free. Advance reservations are not necessary.

Mercury’s Canine Cruise – Chicago’s original Canine Cruise now departing Saturdays and Sundays.

Canines and their human companions can now cruise both Saturdays and Sundays as one of Chicago’s most popular canine activities expands its weekend departures. Mercury’s Canine Cruise, Chicago’s original canine cruise, takes well-behaved dogs and their owners for a 90-minute lake and river tour with lively commentary about dog-friendly Chicago. On-board amenities include large bowls of fresh water and a newspaper-lined restroom.

Departures: Saturdays and Sundays, 10:15 a.m., July 11 – October 4, 2015. Tickets can be purchased in advance online or daily at dockside ticket office. Tickets: \$31/adults; \$11/children under 12; \$8/dogs; children under three ride free.

“Science is Fun” Cruise – Student groups have hands-on fun with science!

Buckets of water, balloons, test tubes, pennies and slimy creatures are all part of this 90-minute cruise specially developed for student and camp groups following Illinois Learning and NextGen Science Standards. The cruise offers young Einsteins 90-minutes of non-stop fun as they participate in hands-on experiments to test lake and river waters; learn how a boat floats; how skyscrapers stand up to gravity; what it takes to lift and lower one of Chicago’s famous bridges; and a look at some migrating slimy creatures with Chicago on their radar. Following the scientific method, each question is followed by students offering up their hypotheses and then performing the experiment. Recommended for grade school and middle school students.

Available to groups of 20 or more. April 27 – October 12, 2015. Please call 312-332-1368 for departure dates and times. Tickets: \$12/student; \$12/adult.



The critically acclaimed Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises opens its 22nd season, Saturday, April 4, 2015

Capture Chicago Photography Cruise returns and CAF Twilight Cruise expands evening departures

The two 90-minute themed river cruises are targeted to appeal to after-work guests and avid photographers while providing the well-known commentary by Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) certified docents.

The **CAF Twilight Cruise at 7:30 p.m., beginning Friday, May 29**, expands its schedule to include five evening departures – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday – and invites passengers to enjoy a relaxing end-of-the-day cruise with friends while sipping their favorite cocktails from the onboard, full-service bar.

The **Capture Chicago Photography Cruise at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, beginning May 30**, provides avid photographers the choice of either weekend morning to capture unparalleled views of Chicago's iconic architecture in the morning light. This cruise has three select stopping points to enable photographers to frame and capture their own shots of Chicago's iconic buildings.

Named one of the "Top Ten Things to Do in Chicago" by *U.S. News and World Report*, the official Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises provides 90 Minutes of Amazing™ with panoramic city views as it highlights more than 50 historic and architecturally significant buildings.

CAF-certified docents share lively, anecdotal commentary on Chicago, the birthplace of the skyscraper and world-famous for the vast number of impressive buildings representing more than a century of visionary design by leading architects. Among the many significant buildings seen on the cruise are: the 108-story Willis Tower, Trump International Hotel and Tower, Wrigley Building, Tribune Tower, Marina City, Merchandise Mart, Civic Opera Building and Aqua.

Guests can cruise atop open-air top decks or inside the enclosed, climate-controlled main deck salons aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises, which has been the official cruise partner for the CAF River Cruise since 1993. Full-service bars are available on each vessel offering summer fruit juices, water, soda and adult beverages. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise

The 2015 season runs April 4 to November 22, 2015, with hourly departures starting at 10 a.m. and additional departures on weekends. For a complete schedule, visit www.cruisechicago.com. Tickets are \$42 per person for daytime tours and \$45 per person for the 7:30 p.m. Twilight Cruise. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise; by phone, 800-982-2787; at the Chicago's First Lady dockside box office; or at the CAF Shop & Tour Center (224 S. Michigan Ave.). For groups of 10 or more, please contact the Group Tour Sales Department at 312-322-1131 or via email: groupstours@architecture.org.



3D Fireworks added to 2015 schedule for American Girl® dinner and Chicago's First Lady Cruise

2015 American Girl Cruise offers two different cruising experiences

American Girl fans and families will create special memories during the summer American Girl Dinner & Chicago's First Lady Cruise with a choice to view 3D fireworks on Chicago's world-famous lakefront or enjoy an up-close river view and story about the city's iconic architecture. These enchanted dinner and cruise evenings are developed to provide a one-of-a-kind experience especially for families, girls and their favorite American Girl doll.

American Girl Dinner & Chicago's First Lady River Cruise – Sundays, July 12 and August 16

The returning American Girl Dinner & Chicago's First Lady River Cruise will start with a 5:30 pm dinner at American Girl Place Cafe, followed by a 75-minute River Cruise. The cruise will feature commentary specially developed by the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) and delivered by a CAF-certified volunteer docent, describing the design of some of the world's most famous buildings along the riverfront, while weaving in fascinating details about their history as it relates to the American Girl's popular historical characters. The 75-minute cruise departs at 7:30pm from the Chicago's First Lady Cruises dock.

American Girl Dinner & 3D Fireworks Cruise – Wednesdays, June 24 and July 29

NEW! The American Girl Dinner & 3D Fireworks Cruise will start with a 5:30pm dinner at American Girl Place Cafe, followed by an exhilarating 3D Fireworks Cruise along Chicago's lakefront. Each guest will receive complimentary 3D glasses to add a unique perspective to the 9:30pm fireworks display. The 90-minute cruise departs at 8:30pm from the Chicago's First Lady Cruises dock.

Round-trip transportation provided via Chicago Gray Line motor coach. Dinners are at American Girl Place Cafe at Water Tower Place, 835 N. Michigan Avenue, and cruises depart from Chicago's First Lady Cruises' Riverside Gardens dock at Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive. All cruises will be aboard a Chicago's First Lady Cruises vessel, an fleet of elegant ships offering open-air upper deck seating with unobstructed views and lower, climate-controlled salons with seating and viewing through large oblong windows.

The cost of the Chicago's First Lady River Cruise experience is \$70 per person. The cost of the 3D Fireworks Cruise is \$55 per person. Advance reservations are required by contacting American Girl Place at 1-877-247-5223.