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Chicago's First Lady Cruises 2019 Fact Sheet

About Chicago's First Lady Cruises

- This year marks the 26th anniversary of Chicago's First Lady Cruises and the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC)'s – formerly known as the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) – partnership connecting Chicago locals and visitors to the city's rich architectural history through the official Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady.
- The CAFC River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady is the #1 ranked tour in Chicago based on TripAdvisor user reviews.
- Guests often praise the cruise as the best way to see Chicago's world-famous skyscrapers in their entirety and at angles that cannot be seen by foot.
- The 90-minute boat cruise is the most authentic and in-depth architecture river tour available. They include interpretations by passionate CAC-certified volunteer docents of more than 50 buildings along the Chicago River, representing a wide variety of architectural styles that showcase the city's architectural significance.
- CAC-certified docents undergo nearly 100 hours of rigorous training on Chicago architecture through the CAC.
- Guests can continue learning about the city's rich architectural history by choosing the Combination ticket and adding an additional \$5 to their cruise admission to visit the renowned Chicago Architecture Center and get the most complete architecture experience.
- The Twilight River Cruise, which occurs at sunset, offers guests the same stunning views of Chicago as the daytime cruise experience but in a dim-lit, serene atmosphere.
- The Capture Chicago Photography Cruise is a docent-led tour designed for photographers by including three pauses throughout the cruise for optimal opportunity to capture some of the city's finest architectural marvels.
- Chicago's First Lady Cruises' Sunrise Stretch Yoga Cruise welcomes skilled and novice yogis alike aboard for a rejuvenating yoga session under the morning sun. Cruises include a 45-minute session led by a certified instructor followed by a 15-minute boat ride to soak up the picturesque views.
- Tours include views of iconic buildings including: Tribune Tower, Wrigley Building, Marina City, Merchandise Mart, Civic Opera House and more.
- Each vessel offers comfortable open-air seating with 360-degree skyline views and climate controlled interior salons with large oblong windows, upscale restrooms and full-service bars.



Pricing and location

- Tours depart from Michigan Avenue on the Chicago Riverwalk at the dock with the blue awning (112 E. Wacker Dr.), just three blocks north of Millennium Park.
- The dock is located conveniently near the Chicago Architecture Center (111 E. Wacker Dr.), a brand-new world-class gateway connecting visitors and locals with all things Chicago architecture.
- Discount parking available across the street at 111 E. Wacker Dr.
- Advance tickets are recommended due to tour popularity.
- Tickets may be purchased at [Ticketmaster.com/rivercruise](https://www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise) or at the dockside ticket office at 112 E. Wacker Dr. Prices are \$44.48 plus applicable taxes for the daytime river cruise and Capture Chicago Photography Cruise, and \$49.21 plus applicable taxes for the Twilight River Cruise.
- A portion of each cruise ticket supports architecture education and exhibits provided by the CAC.
- Guests can continue their architectural journey by building an additional \$5 into their cruise admission for access to the renowned Chicago Architecture Center.

Company history and commitment

- Chicago's First Lady Cruises is a fourth-generation family-owned passenger vessel company and its sister company, Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline, has been in operation for more than 80 years.
- Both companies are committed to protecting Chicago's waterways by using environmentally friendly practices for continued sustainability.
- Both companies celebrate local businesses by selling Chicago-based food and beverages like Mama's Nuts and Revolution Brewing craft beverages aboard its tours.
- Both companies share a fleet of eight custom-built passenger vessels that are inspected annually by the U.S. Coast Guard and undergo required stability testing to ensure all of their passengers and crew are safe during their waterway experience.
- The safety of Chicago's First Lady Cruises' passengers and crew is a number one priority.
- The licensed captains and crew members go through a weekly drilling program that goes above and behind the standards set by the USCG.

About charter events

- Chicago's First Lady Cruises offers its fleet of yachts for private event rentals, including weddings, corporate events and more, and partners exclusively with celebrated Chicago-based caterers for a variety of customized food and beverage menus.
- Guests are able to host private events for groups of two to 250 passengers aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises' fleet of six passenger yachts and may choose to cruise along the Chicago River, Lake Michigan or both.
- Yachts range in size and features, including options for open-air upper decks, full-service bars, climate-controlled salons, upscale marble and granite restrooms, and a private boat.