



FOR YOUR INFORMATION
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CHICAGO'S FIRST LADY CRUISES BEGINS 16TH SEASON AS OFFICIAL FLEET FOR THE CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION RIVER CRUISE

[CFL embraces green initiatives reflecting Chicago's green campaign; mirroring CAF 2008 Lecture Series](#)

CHICAGO – Chicago's First Lady Cruises and The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) announce the opening of the 2008 season of official Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruises, one of Chicago's most popular tourist attractions, Saturday, May 3, 2008, departing from Riverside Gardens at the lower level and southeast corner of the Michigan Avenue Bridge and Wacker Drive, just three blocks north of Millennium Park. The season continues through Sunday, November 23, 2008 with an expanded fall departure schedule.

More than 100 CAF-certified river docents guide 1,600 CAF river cruises each season, aboard the official vessels *Chicago's First Lady*, *Chicago's Little Lady* and *Chicago's Fair Lady*, 1920s-style cruising yachts featuring open-air upper deck viewing as well as air-conditioned main deck salons with comfortable seating.

Receiving hundreds of hours of training, the CAF-certified volunteer docents provide lively fact-filled and anecdotal commentary. A portion of the individual ticket fee goes toward the support of many free educational programs and exhibits produced and sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

The ninety-minute tour that highlights 53 historic and architecturally significant sites including: 333 W. Wacker, the Wrigley Building, the Tribune Tower, the Sears Tower, River City, Marina City and Trump Tower. The CAF river cruise is also one of the only architecture cruises to include significant buildings, sites and developments along the North Branch of the Chicago River including: Goose Island; Kinzie Park development; and the clustered glass River Cottages by architect Harry Weese.

The cruise also includes a look at the Merchandise Mart, the world's largest LEED-EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - Existing Building) certified building and a reflection of Chicago's green building and land campaign.

Chicago's First Lady Cruises joins Chicago's green campaign, and also mirrors the sustainability focus of the CAF 2008 Lecture Series with its own environmental initiatives. From the lush, landscaped Riverside Gardens dock with its annual Monarch Butterfly Garden, Chicago's First Lady Cruises' expands its long-time stewardship of Chicago's waterways by using 11% biodiesel fuel; recycling used oil, engine batteries, beverage containers, cardboard and paper; using low-flush toilets and environmentally safe cleaning solutions; printing brochures on recycled paper; and promoting the use of public transportation by staff and crew. CFL also recycles the CAF river cruise maps following each tour.

CAF RIVER CRUISE ABOARD CHICAGO'S FIRST LADY CRUISES

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The 2008 Tour Schedule is:

Spring: (May 3- May 30) Mon-Fri: 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2 pm, 3pm; Sat/Sun/Holidays: Hourly from 10am to 3pm + 5pm

Summer: (May 31-Sept 28) Mon-Fri: 9:30 am, 10 am, 11 am, 11:30 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 1:30 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 3:30pm; Sat/Sun/Holidays: 9 am, 9:30 am, 10 am, 11am, 11:30 am, 12 pm, 1pm, 1:30 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm, 5:30 pm.

Early Fall: (Sept 29-Nov 2) Mon-Fri: from 11 am, 12 pm, 1pm, 1:30 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 3:30 pm
Sat/Sun/Holidays: 10 am, 11 am, 11:30 pm, 12 pm, 1 pm, 1:30 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm and 3:30 pm, 5pm

Late Fall: (Nov 3-Nov 23) Mon-Sun: 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm.

Tickets: Mon-Fri: \$28.00 per person, Sat/Sun/Holidays: \$30.00 per person.

E-tickets: www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise or purchase by phone at 312-902-1500. Groups 20 or more, advance reservations are required: 312-922-3432 X226.

Tickets may also be purchased at CAF Archicenter, 224 S Michigan Avenue, and at the Chicago Water Works Visitors Center, Michigan Avenue and Pearson Street, or on a "space-available" basis at the Chicago's First Lady ticket window, dockside.

For additional information please visit: www.cruisechicago.com, or www.architecture.org

About the Chicago Architecture Foundation: The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture and design. The Chicago Architecture Foundation pursues this mission through a comprehensive program of architecture tours, exhibitions, special events, lectures and youth education. Home to a new permanent exhibition: CHICAGO YOU ARE HERE, the Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue at Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. For further information visit www.architecture.org or call 312.922.3432.

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*Chicago's First Lady Cruises, Michigan Ave. and Wacker Dr., Chicago, USA
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