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# Scavenger Guides Chicago: An Interactive Travel Guide For Kids



## Synopsis

The only interactive travel guides made just for kids! Kids love an adventure, and there's no better place to have one than Chicago! Scavenger Guides Chicago will immerse your child in a fun, fact-filled scavenger hunt around the Windy City. It is designed to engage your child in their travels and enhance their observational skills. Your child will discover Chicago while having fun following clues, completing tasks, and collecting awards - certificates included! Each guide also includes a daily travel journal and tips for taking great photos to help your child preserve their vacation memories. Follow the clues to discover historical and cultural sites around the city. Take a ride on the fastest elevators in North America. Find a plaque on a bridge honoring the first white men to pass through the Chicago River. Stand in a glass box at the top of Willis Tower and look through the floor to the street 1,353 feet below. These are only a few of the many challenges awaiting you on your scavenger hunt around Chicago! Collect points as you follow the clues and complete tasks scattered around the city. Can you become a Scavenger Guides World Explorer? Your interactive travel guide includes: Over 90 clues to locations, items, and experiences to discover around Chicago. Interesting facts about famous Chicago locations and landmarks. Award certificates for completing the adventure. A daily travel journal for recording your thoughts and observations. Tips for taking great vacation photos. At Scavenger Guides we have one goal - to instill the love of discovery and learning in your child through travel. Make your next family vacation an adventure, with Scavenger Guides!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"These guides help turn family vacations into fun, fact-finding missions. The series encourages

exploration with clues that point kids to specific locales and experiences." » M. Sanati, Travel Gear: Guides and maps to help kids explore, The Globe & Mail - Canada's largest national newspaper" When travelling, kids don't want to see things, they want to do things. Scavenger Guides Chicago addresses that need by offering a guidebook designed and written for kids." » PeterH, reviewer

Daniel Ireland is an author, designer, and compulsive traveler. Originally hailing from Wisconsin, Daniel grew up in west Michigan and is a graduate of both the University of Michigan (B.A.) and Grand Valley State University (M.Ed.). He worked for 19 years in public education as a classroom teacher, administrator, and consultant before turning his attention to design and publishing.

When travelling, kids don't want to see things, they want to do things. Scavenger Guides Chicago addresses that need by offering a guidebook designed and written for kids. This guidebook is meant to be used more than consulted and, ideally, become a lasting memento of a trip to the windy city. A travel guide, game, journal, photography course, and souvenir all in one. Kids score points for each question they answer correctly or activity / experience they complete--ten points for finishing a slice of deep dish pizza for instance--and they try to earn as many as possible for the trip. At the end, their accumulated score rewards them one of three rankings--Travel Guide, Travel Adventurer, or World Explorer--for which certificates have been included in the book to be authenticated with adult signatures. The narrative and site descriptions are informative but concise and, more importantly, written for children. The chapter on taking photographs is more involved but well-constructed; many adults would benefit from its well-articulated basic hints. The accompanying black-and-white photographs--I suspect color would have made the cost of the book prohibitive--are set at an angle, an intentional quirkiness suitable for its intended audience. The overall layout of the pages is nice to look at and the amount of white space makes them inviting even to those adverse to reading. Wide margins encourage spontaneous note taking. The chapters are arranged by topic, such as Buildings and Landmarks and Parks and Outdoor Search, rather than geographic itinerary. The guide recommends reading the book prior to the trip for planning purposes. I would go further and say that the simplicity of this guide might make it a better tool for sketching out an itinerary than conventional guidebooks. Better yet, the kids can get involved. One chapter I'm sure would be popular is, Chicago Animal Safari, which nicely combines the two zoos and the Shedd Aquarium.\*\*\*\*\* An animal safari in Chicago? You bet! Chicago is a great place to see animals! Take in a dolphin show at Shedd Aquarium's Oceanarium, one of the city's most popular attractions. Then get a diver's eye

view of sharks in Wild Reef. Lincoln Park Zoo is one of the oldest in the United States. Stare into the eyes of a lowland gorilla, try your hand at milking a dairy cow, then ride the Endangered Species Carousel. Lincoln Park Zoo is open 365 days a year and admission is free! Brookfield Zoo, in the Chicago suburb of Brookfield, is one of the largest zoos in the United States. It was the first zoo in America to exhibit giant pandas!\*\*\*\*\*A one-paragraph description on each destination follows, along with several fill-in-the-blank questions. These are relatively easy things to complete, depending on the child's age, but pose enough challenge to demand some effort.Scavenger Guide Chicago is one of a planned series on American cities--a Washington, D.C. version is available--and so there will be generic elements. In fact, these make up about one-third of the book and include: blank pages for notes after each chapter; lined pages for journal entries for fourteen days, along with a sample; pages for parents to create their own clues and scores and a page to accumulate the scores; the certificates; the aforementioned photography guide; and of course introductory pages on the guidebook itself and recommendations on how to use it. This is a first edition, implying, as with other guidebook series, updated versions will be published in the future to reflect destination changes as well as, presumably, improvements based on feedback.A website supports the book and its users / readers. It contains a blog and a feature to create a Digital Story, along with basic site information. For the type of book it is, it would be nice to have distinct web pages for kids. Perhaps this will happen once the Scavenger Guide builds up some steam.It's unfortunate the author did not insist on providing a hardcopy because I cannot comment on ergonomic aspects, such as the type of paper and what writing implements would work best, ease of carrying around in daypack, weight, etc. Clearly, such a book would get tossed around and would have to survive page-tearing winds, puddles, and other elements. The effect of the occasional widow and orphan is hard to assess with the electronic version; I noticed them but might not have with the physical book. I don't know if the certificate pages are perforated or not (but I doubt it).Scavenger Guides Chicago is targeted to parents and children but to me a natural and possibly larger audience would be schools and clubs that arrange trips to major cities. True, the guide seems geared for longer stays, but there may be a larger market there. I could see value in a customizable version too, something that's more feasible with self-publishing.While the contents fulfill the intent, the ultimate proof of concept will be to look at a copy at the conclusion of a trip. If still in new condition, then perhaps it hasn't been used properly, the trip was bad, or the concept is off. A tattered, marked up, saved copy, on the other hand, would be a clear indicator of success.

What a fun book! So many travel books I've found have information for adults to read and choose

from for their children. This is the first one I've found that actually involved my children in the travel experience. They learned so many interesting things about Chicago and had fun doing it. Loved the format! I would definitely recommend this book to friends. My 9-year-old especially loved the scavenger hunt format.

Really enjoyed this book. The kids had a lot of fun with it. It made the drive time much more interesting on the way to Chicago. The photo tips in the back are a nice touch as well!

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