

## Chicago Trip 2003

### Sightseeing

Since this was our first visit to that city, in addition to internet sites, we consulted the "Rough Guide to Chicago" and re-watched "Ferris Beulah's Day Off" to plan our five-day visit.

We found city passes very convenient for site seeing, which we picked up on our first day. They were available at the Hancock Observatory which was walking distance from our hotel. That day we visited the Chicago Art Institute. Their Impressionists section was stunning.

Having had our art fix, we went to two other museums. The Field Museum had an exhibition devoted to Albert Einstein which was very illuminating. One of the vignettes about him that was interesting to me was that he hosted African-American singer Marian Anderson to stay at his home when the singer was refused a room at the Nassau Inn. I later learned this was not an isolated event and that he spoke out against segregation and lynching.

We also went to the Museum of Science and Industry where we took in an IMAX feature on Jane Goodall's "Wild Chimpanzees". We also visited the Shedd Aquarium. I was entranced by the lungfish – considered to be the link between fish and amphibians.

The city was so architecturally rich that we spent our last afternoon walking around taking photos of imposing buildings, including the theatre featured in the movie "Chicago".

### Plays

We went to two plays while we were there. "Anna in the Tropics" was set in Florida in the 1920s and focused on a Cuban cigar factory in which a "lector" arrives, whose job is to read stories to the workers. He read "Anna Karenina" to them and as the play unfolds, we see the effect that both the lector and the story has on the workers.

The second play we saw was called "Secret in the Wings" and it was a collection of fairy tales with dark and bizarre twists. It was performed in the Looking Glass Theatre in the Water Tower which looked like a tiny castle - a fitting setting for this play.

### Food

We enjoyed all the meals we had there, whether they were in diners or restaurants. We went to the "Bistro 110" twice and the second time we turned up, they recognized us and told us dessert was on them.

We were struck by how friendly and emotional people were in this city. While we were there the Chicago Cubs lost a game and people was so upset. That passion endeared them to us.