Chicago is the most important transportation center in the country. Located on an ancient continental divide between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes watersheds, the city and outer suburbs spread across a low ridge that separates the two watersheds. Over the years, goods and people flow through this connection between the east coast and the heartland, making it the nation’s crossroads.

Chicago is not known for its picturesque landscape, but there is value in experiencing this unique topography firsthand. The Chicago Divide is a trail between the two watersheds running along ancient shorelines and over the ridge that creates the divide.

A small museum demonstrates how the glaciers carved the land and includes an outdoor interactive fountain as a hydrological model showing the results of those geological forces. The trailheads, one at the Chicago River and one at the Des Plaines River, feature gazebos offering information on the geography and history of each watershed.

Just as Chicago's downtown is a museum of its architectural history in real time, the Chicago Divide is a living, breathing museum of its landscape.
Over 2,000 years ago, the Romans were driven out of the area now known as Germany by a loose band of local tribes at the Battle of Teutoburg forest. The exact location of the conflict was a mystery, until recently, when archaeological evidence surfaced at the small town of Kalkreise in northern Germany. The Archaeological Museum and Park Kalkreise reconstructs the events of the battle and provides historical context. The clash of two cultures and the humbling of a superpower are brought to life through the theatrical performances and interpretive displays in the main museum. Small pavilions throughout the park are an opportunity for visitors to consider how an ancient conflict still has relevance in the modern world. Pathways are laid in steel for the Romans and wood chips for the tribes mark the troop movements. These interventions make a key event in European history more immediate and discernible. The museum displays archaeological artifacts from the conflict and has a lookout tower to view the battlefield. The “Seeing” pavilion uses a camera obscura to project an image of the surroundings in a darkened room.