

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises Embarks on 24th
Season Beginning Saturday, April 1, 2017**

World-renowned docent-led Chicago River cruise announces 2017 schedule departing from Michigan Avenue on the Chicago Riverwalk

Chicago – The [Chicago Architecture Foundation \(CAF\)](#) and long-time partner [Chicago's First Lady Cruises](#) have announced the 2017 river cruise schedule for the award-winning [Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises](#) with the season kicking off on Saturday, April 1.

Named one of the top 10 tours in the United States by TripAdvisor reviewers, Chicago's First Lady Cruises and the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) offer locals and visitors breathtaking panoramic views of Chicago's riverfront architecture with unmatched cruise commentary led by CAF-certified volunteer docents.

Departing from Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive set in the beautiful Riverside Gardens along the vibrant Chicago Riverwalk, guests enjoy open-air seating on the luxurious vessels complete with a state-of-the-art sound system, a temperature controlled interior salon deck, full service bar and marble and granite restrooms. The 90-minute tour is brought to life by CAF-certified volunteer docents who share their passion for and knowledge of more than 50 significant buildings along the cruise route. The cruise travels along all three branches of the Chicago River offering unparalleled photo opportunities.

CAF-certified volunteer docents undergo a minimum of 100-hours of rigorous training on the city's architecture and history before leading the cruise commentary. Docents share their passion for architecture and stories of the men and women who envisioned Chicago's iconic buildings such as the Tribune Tower, Wrigley Building, Marina City, Merchandise Mart, Civic Opera House, Aqua Tower and new buildings such as 150 N. Riverside tower completed in 2016.

Cruise times vary throughout the season:

- Spring cruises are offered daily April 1 - May 18 at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.
- Summer Cruises run daily May 19 - Oct. 8 and depart every half hour from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m.
- Additional summer cruises include the Capture Chicago Photography Cruise on Saturday and Sundays only at 9:00 a.m. and the Twilight Cruise at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday only.
- Fall cruises run daily Oct. 9 - Nov. 19, departing at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

For exact days and times please visit architecture.org.

Boarding Location and Details

The Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises departs from the southeast corner of the Michigan Avenue Bridge at Wacker Drive just 3-blocks north of Millennium Park. A blue awning marks the entrance to the stairway leading to the Riverside Gardens docking area. Discounted self-park is located at 111 E. Wacker Drive, just across the street. Guests with limited mobility may find an ADA ramp located at State Street and Wacker Drive and limited mobility drop-off directions can be found at architecture.org/cruise.

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$46 for the daytime cruise and Capture Chicago Photography Cruise and \$49 for the Twilight Cruise and can be obtained the following ways:

- bypassing the box office with e-ticket purchases at ticketmaster.com/rivercruise (highly recommended option due to tour popularity)
- by phone at 1-800-982-2787 (within the U.S.) or 011-949-333-4001 (outside the U.S.)
- in-person at Chicago's First Lady dockside box office, 112 E. Wacker Dr., Riverwalk level
- in-person at the CAF Shop and Tour Center, 224 S. Michigan Avenue

Groups of 10 or more may reserve in advance by contacting the Group Sales Department at groupstours@architecture.org or by calling 312-322-1131. Each vessel in the Chicago's First Lady fleet is also available for private charter excursions complete with food and beverage including private docent-led tours.

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About the Chicago Architecture Foundation

The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. As an education leader in architecture and design, CAF offers tours, programs, exhibitions, field trips, curricula and online tools that are part of a dynamic learning journey for all ages. Proceeds from CAF's tours and store, as well as grants, sponsorships and donations, support this educational mission. For more information, visit architecture.org.

About Chicago's First Lady Cruises

Docked on Chicago's vibrant Riverwalk, Chicago's First Lady Cruises is an authentic Chicago experience that connects Chicago locals and visitors alike to the city's rich history and breathtaking beauty through the official Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise and as a first-class venue for private events. For more than 80 years, Chicago's First Lady Cruises and its parent company, Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline, have been a cornerstone of Chicago's vibrant Riverwalk. Both cruise lines are fourth-generation family-owned and operated, and committed to fueling their vessels with only clean energy sources. All six of Chicago's First Lady Cruises luxury vessels are available for private charter cruising and special events, complete with food and beverage for groups of two to 250 people. For more information and for cruise schedules, visit CruiseChicago.com or call 847-358-1330.