points of interest

These points of interest are among the University of Chicago’s most photoworthy sites, ranging from skyward towers to underground robotic retrieval systems. Some of these sites may be closed to the public due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please follow appropriate social distancing measures, even while outside, and follow Chicago and Illinois state guidelines for safe conduct during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

JOE AND RIKA MANSUETO LIBRARY
1100 E. 57th St. (at S. Ellis Ave.)
mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu

Mansueto is a glass dome (or an igloo, depending on the season) with a study space above ground and room for 3.5 million volumes of books below, all retrievable by giant robotic cranes—no, seriously. The dome is made of 671 rectangular glass panels, none of which are the same size.

TIP: It’s hard to miss artist Henry Moore’s 12-foot bronze sculpture called Nuclear Energy just outside Mansueto. It commemorates the creation of the 1942 first controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction, achieved by UChicago scientist Enrico Fermi and his team, as part of the Manhattan Project.

HARPER READING ROOM
Harper Memorial Library, 3rd Floor
1116 E. 59th St.

The Harry Potter-esque reading room of Harper Memorial Library is home to the incredible Gothic architecture characteristic of UChicago’s campus. This popular site doubles as a cozy study spot and refueling zone for many. While it has recently been renamed the Arley D. Cathey Learning Center, fear not. It is still the stately Gothic space it always was.

FURTHER SIGHTSEEING

THE MIDWAY
South of campus between E. 59th St. and E. 60th St.

The Midway Plaisance was a central part of the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893. A one-mile-long park stretching between Washington and Jackson Parks, the Midway is a Frisbee field, a Quidditch pitch, an ice rink, a sunning spot, and a grassy piece of Chicago history.

ROCKEFELLER MEMORIAL CHAPEL
5850 S. Woodlawn Ave. (at E. 59th St.)
rockefeller.uchicago.edu

Named for John D. Rockefeller, UChicago’s founder, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel is lauded for its magnificently beautiful stained glass and its 72-bell carillon—the second largest in the world. Be sure to catch a tour—don’t worry: climbing the 271 steps of the carillon tower is optional.

JOSEPH BOND CHAPEL
1025 E. 58th St. (near S. Ellis Ave.)
divinity.uchicago.edu/students/bond.shtml

Much smaller than its Rockefeller Chapel counterpart, Bond Chapel serves as an intimate place of worship for many as well as a venue for special events, like weddings and funerals, for University of Chicago students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

STUDENT CENTERS

REVA AND DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
915 E. 60th St. (at S. Drexel Ave.)
logan.uchicago.edu

The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts is a catalyst for creativity at the University of Chicago. The visually stunning glass and stone building designed by award-winning architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien seamlessly bridges the space between art and architecture.

CHICAGO BOOTH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
HARPER CENTER
5807 S. Woodlawn Ave. (at E. 58th St.)

With the use of limestone, Gothic arches, and an internal quadrangle, Rafael Viñoly designed Harper Center, nestled comfortably between the neighboring Frank Lloyd Wright designed Robie House and the soaring tower of Rockefeller Chapel across the street. Make sure to check out the winter garden. This open, naturally-lit community space is a sight to see!