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Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline Kicks Off 2024 Season with New Tour Offering

Creepy Cruise to feature stories of mysterious sightings, haunted places, Chicago lore

CHICAGO — In a sure sign of summer approaching, [Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline](#) returns to Chicago waterways on May 24 to launch its 89th season.

The new season brings a brand-new offering: the Creepy Cruise. Departing after dark on weekend evenings, the cruise features stories narrated by lively local tour guides of mysterious sightings, creepy haunts, mobsters and more. The nighttime tour will give guests the chance to cruise the Chicago River amidst twilight tales of the city.

Additional popular Mercury offerings include family-friendly daytime and evening cruises on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, including Urban Adventure, 3D Fireworks, Chicago By Night! and Canine cruises. The cruises feature 360-degree, selfie-worthy views of the city's famous skyline and unparalleled views of iconic landmarks and skyscrapers, old and new—from the Willis Tower and Marina City to the St. Regis Chicago.

To further enhance accessibility for guests, Mercury Cruises will continue its offering of complimentary language translation services. Guests will have the opportunity to listen to a pre-recorded tour narration on their smartphone in four different languages, including Spanish, French, Japanese and Korean. The translation service is accessible by downloading a free app that connects directly to a special wi-fi network onboard. The narration is triggered based on the location of the vessel at that time in the tour's route, which will help ensure those who use the technology have a similar experience as others listening to live narration.

Mercury Cruises, a fourth-generation family-owned and operated cruise line, has long been an important fixture in the city's cultural landscape, serving as a lakefront respite for locals and tourists. The original Mercury company, a single speedboat operation founded by Portuguese immigrant Arthur Agra in the 1930s, was a fast success and became Chicago's first sightseeing boat company. Mercury Cruises is a cornerstone of Chicago's Riverwalk, offering city, regional and cross-country visitors front-row seats to the city's breathtaking skyline.

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2024 Schedule

Mercury Cruises offers the following daytime and evening tours, departing from 112 E. Wacker on Chicago's Riverwalk, near the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive. **Priority boarding tickets are also available.**

Guests may purchase tickets online at MercuryCruises.com or the Mercury Cruiseline ticket window, located at 112 E. Wacker Dr., Riverwalk level. For groups, please call 312-332-1368 or email grouptours@mercurycruises.com for special group rates and additional information.

--Urban Adventure Cruise

Mercury Cruises' signature 90-minute narrated tour dazzles guests of all ages with stunning views of Chicago's legendary skyscrapers and bridges while gliding along the main branch of the Chicago River, through the Chicago Harbor Lock and into the downtown harbor of Lake Michigan.

- **May 24 – July 12**

Departing Monday - Thursday at 10:15am, 12:15pm, 2:15pm, 4:15pm & 6:15pm

Departing Friday - Sunday at 11:15am, 1:30pm, 3:45pm & 6:00pm

Departing select weekends at 10:15am, 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm & 7:00pm

- **July 13 – October 14**

Departing Friday at 11:15am, 1:30pm, 3:45pm, & 6:00pm

Departing Saturday - Sunday at 1:30pm, 3:45pm & 6:00pm

Departing select weekends at 10:15am, 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:45pm & 7:00 pm

--CHICAGO BY NIGHT! Cruise

Guests will be captivated by the sparkling skyline and Buckingham Fountain's dazzling light display on this 90-minute river and lakefront evening cruise featuring live narration.

- **May 24 – October 14**

Departing Monday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday at 8:15pm

--3D Fireworks Cruise

This 2-hour cruise provides a relaxing experience along the city's unforgettable nighttime skyline after a busy day at work, at home or out sightseeing capped off with a spectacular firework display every Wednesday and Saturday. Complimentary 3D glasses add to the viewing fun.

- **May 25 – August 31**

Departing Wednesdays at 8:00pm

Departing Saturdays at 8:30pm

(cruises the lake only)

--Creepy Cruise

From mysterious sightings, creepy haunts, mobsters and more, you'll hear stories of Chicago's darker side on our newest nighttime tour. Cruise the Chicago River amidst twilight tales of the city you never knew existed... and might wish you could forget.

- **May 24 – October 13**
Departing Friday at 9:00 p.m.
Departing Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

--Canine Cruise

Mercury's Canine Cruise is Chicago's only weekend cruise where pooches and their people embark on a 90-minute getaway with plenty of spacious outdoor seating and water bowls. The canine-centric cruise includes a narrated tour of the city's famous skyline and dog-friendly sites such as dog parks, fire hydrants and dining hotspots. Leashes are required on this cruise.

- **Beginning July 13 – October 13 (Annual Howl-O-Ween Cruise Dates TBA)**
 - Departs Saturdays and Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

--Science Is Fun! Cruise

School, summer camp and scout groups can reserve this 90-minute science-themed cruise that gives children a memorable, educational experience through hands-on, interactive science experiments and sweeping skyline views. The cruise turns kids into scientists for the day and educates them about the Chicago River, Lake Michigan, how a skyscraper is built and the invasive species that threaten city waters. Cool experiments, slimy creatures and skyline views make for an engaging and educational outing that students will never forget.

- Tour is available for groups only and scheduled on select weekdays by request. For group reservations and additional information, contact 312-332-1368 or group tours@mercurycruises.com.

Visuals

High-resolution photos and video of Mercury Cruises' tours can be found here:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vgl20tse62j2kz2/AADlorDcqChTEiuKbbZoMeoOa?dl=0>

About Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline

Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline, brings Chicago's stunning views and vibrant culture to life through a variety of fun, narrated family-friendly cruises and special tours for both visitors and Chicagoland residents. A cornerstone of the city's Riverwalk for nearly 90 years, Mercury Cruises is a fourth generation owned and operated cruise line. It is also the sister company of Chicago's First Lady Cruises, an authentic tourism experience that explores the city's rich architectural history through the official Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise. Both cruise lines are committed to fueling their vessels with only clean energy sources. All vessels are operated by a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain and crew. For more information on Mercury Cruises, visit MercuryCruises.com or call 312-332-1353.