



## Participant information 2025

Welcome and thank you for signing up for the 2025 Bank of Chicago Marathon through 2:09 Events.



In this participant information pack, you will find general information relating to your stay in Chicago including:

- Travel Information
- Hotel Details
- Bib Number Pick Up Info
- The Expo
- Itinerary Outline
- Tourist information

Please read through the booklet carefully and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Email: [info@209events.com](mailto:info@209events.com) Tel: 01252 373797

The Bank of America produces an excellent participant guide, if you haven't discovered it yet, here is a link to access it [Participant guide](#)

### **Your 2:09 Events Representative**



Steven Seaton will be staying with you at the Drake for the duration of your trip. Steven is the Managing Director of 2:09 Events, a former editor of Runner's World Magazine, he is also an experienced marathon runner and traveller. He has been taking trips to many of the Abbott World Marathon Majors for the last ten years.

To contact Steven directly send an e-mail to [steven@209events.com](mailto:steven@209events.com) or through the WhatsApp group set up by 2:09 Events prior to the trip – which will carry any last-minute information. Alternatively, his mobile number is +44 (0) 7834 431000

Steven will arriving in Chicago on Wednesday October 8, however, he will be in the hotel lobby at the following times if you have any questions:

#### **Thursday Oct 9**

**4.30pm-6pm** - Meet & Greet

#### **Friday Oct 10**

**7.30am** - Meet Steven in reception for a gentle shake out run to nearby Lincoln Park along the lake side from the hotel. We'll run a loop within the park then back to the hotel.

**9am** - Meet Steven to take transport to the Marathon Expo/number pick up at McCormack Center.

**4.30-5pm** - Meet & Greet time for any questions you may have for Steven

#### **Saturday Oct 11**

**6.30am** - Steven will be leaving the hotel to walk to the start of the Abbott Chicago 5K, which like the Marathon starts in Grant Park. Unfortunately, entries have now closed for the 5K.

**10am** - Meet Steven if you would like to be escorted to the Marathon Expo/number pick up at McCormack Center.

#### **Sunday Oct 12**

**6am** - Steven will be in reception if you want to walk down to the start of the marathon in Grant Park. It is about a 30-minute walk so you can expect to be at the start just after 6.30am, which is great for the first wave but may not be for later waves.

### **General Travel Information**

#### **ESTA Visa waiver**

The US requires all those travelling under the Visa Waiver Programme, any visitors from the UK, to provide details online at least 72 hours prior to travel. This is known as an ESTA. If you are a non-UK national it is your responsibility to obtain the appropriate entry visas for the USA.

If you haven't already done so, apply online at:

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> the cost is \$21 but is increasing to \$40 from September 30, paid by credit card on the ESTA website.

You will not be allowed on board the flight unless you have completed this procedure.

#### **Flights and hotel transfers**

Your booking is on a hotel and entry basis; you should have arranged your own flights to and from Chicago. You will need to make your own arrangements to and from the hotel.

#### **Your Hotel**

#### **THE DRAKE HOTEL**



#### **The Drake Hotel**

**140 East Walton Place Chicago**

**IL 60611**

**Tel: 00 312 787 2200**

Featuring stunning views of Lake Michigan, the historic Chicago Drake, which is a Hilton hotel, is three minutes' walk from Oak Street Beach and 1 mile from Navy Pier. Lincoln Park Zoo is 2.4 miles from the hotel in Chicago. Built in 1920, the hotel has a number of in house dining options, including the Palm Court, which is known for its afternoon teas, the bar Coq d'Or, great for drinks and the Cape Cod Room which features an oyster bar and serves seafood dishes. The hotel also has an excellent fitness centre.



**Travel:** The nearest train station to the Drake is 'Chicago Station' which is on the L system's red line. From O'Hare you can take the L system's blue line to Washington transit to Lake and take the red line up to Chicago Station.

**Check In:** Hotel check in time is usually 3:00pm, if you arrive before this you may not be able to check-in, although often (but not guaranteed) if your room is ready, you will be permitted to check in a little earlier. It is not necessary to show an accommodation voucher, just give your name and show your passport. Your room is pre-paid. You may be asked to provide a credit card for any additional charges while staying at the hotel.

**Facilities:** Each spacious room at The Drake comes with ensuite marble bathrooms. Guest rooms offer a flat-screen HD TV with HBO and an iPod docking station. All rooms have a refrigerated minibar and coffee facilities. Wi-fi is available in the rooms and the public areas of the hotel.

**Breakfast:** Breakfast is **not** included as part of the tour but is available at the hotel in their restaurant or in your room at a cost. On marathon day, breakfast times are still to be confirmed, however, there are plenty of coffee shops and food shops nearby so it may be best to be self-sufficient for the early start on marathon day.

#### **Abbott Health and Fitness Expo – Number Pick-Up**



On Friday and Saturday mornings Steven will escort anyone to the Expo who would like to go – if you want to join him meet him at in the hotel lobby at 10am. If you want to go to registration independently the location and opening hours are as follows:

**McCormick Place, Lakeside Centre**  
**2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60616**

**Thursday Oct 9**                      11am to 6pm

**Friday Oct 10**                      9am - 6pm

**Saturday Oct 11**                    9am – 6pm

#### **Travelling to the Expo**

Please refer to the Chicago Marathon participants guide for public rail and bus transport options to the Expo; however, Chicago has an excellent integrated mass transit system of buses and trains. The bus is often the best way to travel to the Expo from the hotel.

## **Abbott Chicago 5km**

If you have entered the Abbott Chicago 5km on Saturday it starts at Grant Park at 7.30 am. Numbers must be collected at the Marathon Expo in person on the Friday before – if you are arriving in Chicago on Friday and running the 5K you will need to make your way to the Expo before it closes at 6pm. The race starts in Grant Park and follows an out and back section through downtown Chicago before finishing on Wacker Drive and Adams Street. The first wave of the race starts at 7.30am with the third and final wave going off at 8.35am.

### **Marathon Bib Number and Participant Packet Pick-up**

You should receive your Participant Packet Pick-up document directly from Chicago Marathon. It will be sent to the email address you registered with. You need this document to collect your race pack from the Expo. Pick-up cards are usually sent out at the beginning of October. If you don't receive it within the first few days of October, please let us know and we can look into this for you.

Packet pick-up includes:

- \* Bib number and safety pins
- \* Gear check tag
- \* Timing device
- \* Nike participant running shirt
- \* Participant bag

Packet pick-up is located at the Abbott Health & Fitness Expo, McCormick Place. All race packs must be picked up in person at the Health & Fitness Expo during regular Expo hours. Packets are not available for pick up the day of the event and packets will not be mailed to participants. Runners must present their packet pick-up ticket, or email, along with a photo ID in order to receive their participant packet and participant bag.

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR NUMBER PICK UP CARD AND PASSPORT**

For the latest information about the lead up to and marathon day, visit their website

[www.chicagomarathon.com](http://www.chicagomarathon.com)

Download the Participant Guide



## Race Day Sunday, October 12



### Race day timetable

**5:30am** - Gear check opens: Start corrals open

**7:20am** - Wheelchair start

**7:21am** - Handcycle start

**7:23am** - Athletes with disabilities start

**7:30am** - Wave 1 Start

**8:00am** - Wave 2 Start

**8:35am** - Wave 3 Start

**9:30am** - Spectator access to Grant Park opens

**4:00pm** - Gear check closes

(7:20am - Wave 1 Start corral closes; 7:45am - Wave 2 Start corral closes; 8:10am - Wave 3 Start corral closes. If you are not in your start corral before they close, you will have to start at the back of your assigned wave.)

### In the Start Area - Getting to the start line

Before entering Grant Park, all runners will be subjected to a security and bag screening check. You must have your bib number visible to enter the park. The only bag runners can use to check any baggage into the area is the clear plastic bags issued at registration. There will be Gatorade and water available in the start area.



For details of the recommended arrival times with maps for the access points see the participant guide, which was sent out at the beginning of this week.

### Refreshments on the route

There are 20 aid stations with water and Gatorade Endurance Lemon-Lime flavour sports fluid replacement drink. Aid station 9, 12 and 14 will offer Maurten Gels, and aid stations 16, 17 and 18 will distribute bananas.

At the finish you do not need to give your chip back as it is embedded in your race number. Before being reunited with your kit bag, there will be water and other refreshments for runners. If you are meeting friends or relatives, there is a designated reunion area at the 'Bank of America Chicago Marathon 27th Mile Post-Race Party'. The runner reunite area is organized by alphabetical signs (A-Z) to facilitate meeting locations by name.



If you are completing your Six Stars at this year's Chicago Marathon, you need to contact [stars@wmmajors.com](mailto:stars@wmmajors.com) to notify Abbott, which administers the Six Star programme. They will verify your results from your previous five events and let you know how you collect your six-star finisher's medal after completing the Chicago Marathon. It is your responsibility to make contact with Abbott.

### Departures

Check out time at the hotel is 12-noon. Luggage can be left with the concierge during the day if you want to go out shopping or sightseeing.

We hope you have a great trip and good luck

Website: [www.209events.com](http://www.209events.com) Email: [info@209events.com](mailto:info@209events.com) Tel: 01252 373797