

Michigan Avenue Bridge Lifts

What to know

- Arrive at the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. for Saturday lifts and between 11:30 and 11:45 for Wednesday lifts.
 - The Michigan Avenue Bridge typically lifts between 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays and 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- Please note that the times are approximate, and it is possible that lifts start a little earlier or a little later, but in general it is no more than 20 minutes either way.
- The sailboats start moving north, then east on the river starting at S. Ashland Ave. at 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.
- The Franklin/Orleans Bridge, visible from the Bridgehouse Museum, lifts at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, allowing the boats to pass.
- How long each bridge stays up depends upon how many boats are making the trek to Lake Michigan.
- Because we cannot know in advance how many boats will be coming in on each day, the amount of time it takes can vary. From the time the Franklin/Orleans Bridge goes up to the time the Michigan Avenue Bridge lifting, you can plan on about one hour. You may also watch the bridges to the east of Michigan Avenue lift, which can take up to 45 additional minutes.
- While waiting for the lift to begin you are invited to enjoy the Bridgehouse Museum. You can even watch from the windows as the other bridges lift before heading down to the gear room to see the gears in action.
- Transit and/or parking information is available on our website at bridgehousemuseum.org.

Cancellation Policy

- If you cancel your registration three business days before the bridge lift, you will be entitled to a full refund. No refunds will be given after that time.
- Friends is not responsible for last minute cancellations made by the Chicago Department of Transportation. In that case, Friends can apply the fee to another date, but no refunds will be given.
- If Friends cancels the event we offer three options:
 1. The fee can be applied to another date.
 2. The fee can be applied as a general tax-deductible donation to Friends of the Chicago River.
 3. The fee can be refunded.

We look forward to seeing you at the Bridgehouse Museum!

Friends of the Chicago River



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