



## Visitor Information Guide Division of Invertebrate Zoology

The Field Museum  
1400 South DuSable Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60605-2496 U.S.A.  
(Updated 01 September 2023)



### Visiting the Invertebrate Zoology Collection

The [Invertebrate Zoology \(IZ\) Collection](#) serves as a repository for basic and applied research of mollusks and all other extant invertebrates (including urochordates) exclusive of insects, arachnids, and myriapods. The collection and library housed within Invertebrate Zoology is used by scientists, students, and stakeholders from around the world. However, we cannot accommodate unannounced visitors. All visitors including Research Associates are requested to arrange visits at least two weeks in advance by contacting the collection of interest:

**Marine Bivalvia & Gastropoda:** [Rüdiger Bieler - Curator, Invertebrate Zoology](#)  
**Cephalopoda & Deep-Sea taxa:** [Janet Voight - Curator, Invertebrate Zoology](#)  
**Freshwater taxa & all other groups not listed:** [Sean Keogh - Collections Manager, Invertebrate Zoology](#)

Please note that the Museum's fossil invertebrates are housed in a separately managed collection (for information and access, contact [Paul Mayer](#) - Collections Manager).

The Invertebrate Zoology Collection is open 8:30AM–4:30PM Monday through Friday. The collection is not staffed and thus not open on weekends and federal holidays. Long term visitors can discuss the possibility for after-hour and weekend access with their host. We ask that you confirm your visit date(s) and time with IZ Staff before your arrival.

### Collection Guidelines

- All visitors must sign the guest book.
- Visitors staying for more than three days must obtain a Visitor ID Badge from Access Control to gain access to the non-public areas of the building, and to enter and exit the building each day during the length of their visit. A refundable deposit of \$10.00 is required.
- The IZ holdings are divided into two subcollections: Molluscan and Non-Molluscan.
- These subcollections are further subdivided by preservation. Dry gastropods are housed on the third floor, dry bivalves and non-mollusks are on the mezzanine, and all fluid-preserved specimens are in the Collections Resource Center. Inform your IZ host what taxa and their preservation method you would like to access.
- Materials such as forceps, pencils, pigma pens, label paper, gloves, specimen boxes, dissecting microscope, and vials may be available for visitor use. Coordinate with your IZ host if you need these items.

- Use care when moving and handling specimens. Please use unit trays or drawers to transport specimens to your work area. Drawers and alcohol trays do not have stops and can fall out of the cabinets if pulled more than two thirds of the way out.
- Wet preserved material should not be allowed to dry. Waste alcohol should not be put down the sink; for proper disposal we will provide a jar.
- Specimens are not to be destructively sampled, or otherwise altered without pre-approval. If dissections are pre-approved, do not discard body parts.
- Specimens may be removed from the collection for on-site study, but a removal slip must be prepared and placed appropriately in the collection. Notify IZ Staff when specimens need to be reshelfed. Close cases (cabinet doors) and turn off lights immediately when not in use.
- Existing labels are not to be altered. Revision, identification and other notes are to be written in pencil or pigma black ink on archival-quality label paper.
- No smoking or vaping is allowed in the museum. Smoking is allowed outside the West Door only. Per City of Chicago ordinance, smokers must be at least 15 feet from the West Door. Both terraces are at least 15 feet away from the entrance and are acceptable places to smoke.
- No food or eating is permitted in the research collections. Designated eating areas include the IZ Room 4105, The Field Bistro, Explorer Café, and the Sea Mammals exhibit area.
- Please turn off lights when not needed.
- Requests for hand-carried loans must be made at least one day before departure for domestic destinations.
- For publication purposes, the correct museum acronym for the Field Museum of Natural History is "FMNH", regardless of the label heading. We request a reprint or PDF file for all publications resulting from the use of our specimens.
- Do not leave cameras, purses, or wallets unattended in a work area, even for a short time. Conceal them in a nearby cabinet or case. Ask a collections staff member for assistance.
- At the end of your visit, please leave your work area as you found it; put away all vials, boxes, etc. Dispose of broken glass in the waste glass container and give waste ethanol to collection staff for disposal. Do not change the location of specimens in the collection without consulting our staff.
- As a courtesy, visitors are asked to identify or verify the identification and the vitality of specimens (e.g. collected alive, dead, unknown). Please bring misidentifications, vitality data, and damaged specimens and labels to our attention.
- Visitors working in the wet collection are asked to point out lots or jars with low levels of alcohol.
- If you plan to bring personal property into the museum (e.g., suitcase, backpack, camera gear, computers, specimens, etc.) please notify the Division at least a full business day prior to your visit as an exit door pass will need to be issued for each day that such property is taken out of the building.
- If you are hand-carrying a loan of FMNH specimens, you will receive an extra copy of the loan form to give to the guard at the exit.

- If you have any questions about the use of the specimens or the collections, please feel free to ask the collections staff.

## Library Use

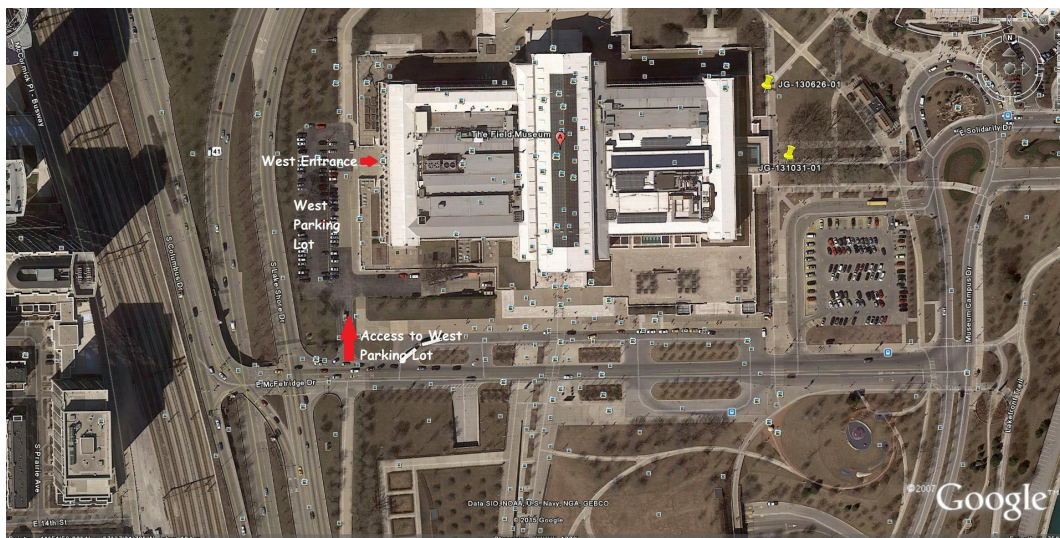
The [Field Museum's library](#) encompasses a general library and several specialized libraries. The Invertebrate Zoology Collection library contains literature specializing in mollusks and other extant invertebrate taxa except insects, myriapods and arachnids. Publications dealing with other groups will be found in the main library or other divisional libraries. If you would like assistance with library resources, please let us know in advance, as library staff are only available on a limited schedule (generally 1-4pm Tuesdays-Friday).

## Evacuation Procedure and Safety

In the event of a museum emergency, listen for and follow the instructions broadcast over the security loudspeakers. In case of an evacuation during business hours, the designated meeting point is in front of the Shedd Aquarium; after 5:00 pm go to the ramp at Soldier Field located directly across the South Entrance. Look for others from Invertebrate Zoology when you arrive at the designated safe area so a head count can take place. In case of an emergency call 7999 Security will call the police, medics, fire department, etc.

## Parking

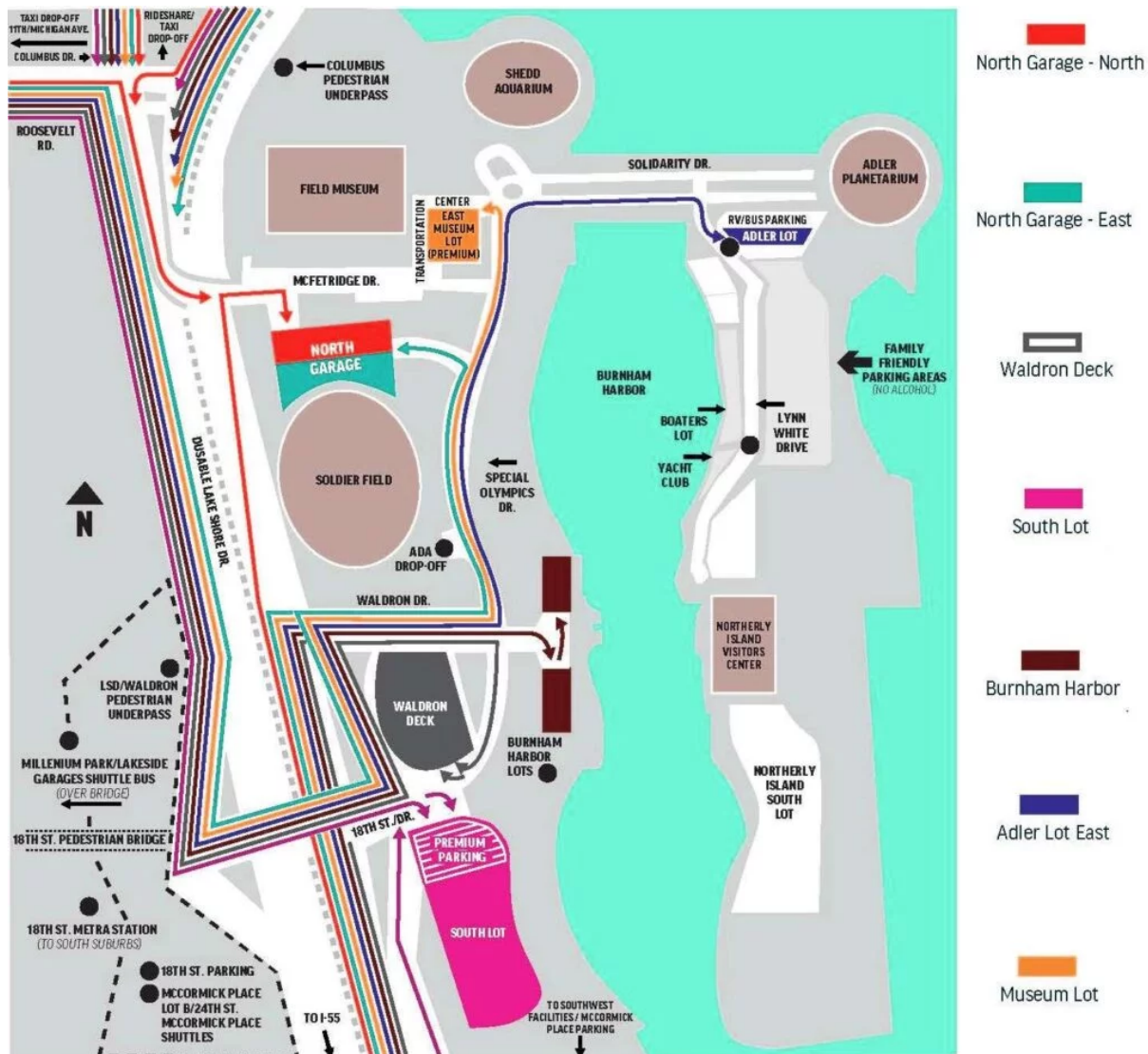
If you plan to drive, let us know with a week's notice; we can usually reserve a parking space in the West Lot (see map below). If we are unable to secure West Lot parking, passes for the Soldier Field garage can be purchased from the Collections Center Main Office for \$9 (cash only) or at the Guest Services office on the ground floor with a credit card. Tickets will be validated upon exit from the parking garage. The alternatives are the East Museum Lot or North Garage (see 2nd map), \$25 for up to 4 hours or \$30 for 4-12 hours.



## Entering the Museum - West Lot and West Entrance

When you enter the West Lot, stop at the little booth at the entrance. If that's not staffed, there's a button-operated intercom to call the Protection Services switchboard. In either case, give the

officer your name and say you're here to visit [the name of your host in Invertebrate Zoology], and they should let you in with no problem. Proceed from your car to the ground level door facing the parking lot. Press the intercom button next to the doors to contact a guard to let you inside. Once inside, tell the guard again that you are here to visit [host name] and if at all possible tell them your host's phone extension. They will call that person's office number and your host will come down to pick you up.



## Public Transportation

### Getting here by bus

#146 – Inner Drive/ Michigan Express / Museum Campus #130 – Museum Campus (mid-May through Labor Day) For up to the minute arrival times, use the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) Bus Tracker or by text messaging from your cellular phone (look for the code on the bus stop sign).

### Getting here by CTA train

Roosevelt Red Line Stop – serving Red, Orange and Green Lines and offers connections to #146 bus; located at State Street and Roosevelt Road. For schedule updates, fare rates and other CTA related travel information, please visit the CTA website (<http://www.transitchicago.com/> – a handy trip planner is available there) or call (312) 866-7000.

### Metra Info

If you are coming into the city from the Chicagoland area, you can take the Metra. For schedule information, fare rates and other related travel information, please visit the Metra website at <http://metrarail.com/metra/en/home.html> or call (312) 322-6900. For regional travel information, please call the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) at (312) 836-7000.

### Getting here from O'Hare Airport

You can take a cab, rideshare, or use the public transportation system. Rideshare fare is approximately \$45 from the airport to the museum. The CTA Blue Line runs directly from a station at O'Hare Airport to downtown. The ride is approximately 45 minutes. If you take the Blue Line, transfer to the Red Line at the Jackson stop and then take the Red Line to the Roosevelt stop – the Museum is a few blocks East of the Roosevelt train station. From the Roosevelt CTA station, you want to turn left (East) coming out on Roosevelt Ave, towards Wabash Ave. After crossing Columbus Ave, you will need to go slightly to the left and go down into the park. The path through the park will go under a bridge and curve towards the museum.

### Getting here from Midway Airport

You can take the CTA Orange line to Roosevelt CTA station, about a 20 minute ride.

## **Accommodations**

### International House - University of Chicago

<https://www.hiusa.org/hostels/illinois/chicago/chicago>

1414 E. 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

(773) 753-2270; [i-house-housing@listhost.uchicago.edu](mailto:i-house-housing@listhost.uchicago.edu)

Sleeping rooms only, shared bath. Linens supplied weekly, guest must exchange. No A/C, in summer guests will need to get a fan.

### Hostelling International Chicago

<https://www.hiusa.org/hostels/illinois/chicago/chicago>

24 East Ida B. Wells Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60605

(312) 360-0300

Maximum stay 14 days, longer with written explanation. 1.8 miles from The Field Museum, walking or public transit (bus) available.

### Chicago Getaway Hostel

<http://www.getawayhostel.com/>

616 West Arlington Place, Chicago, Illinois 60614

(773) 929-5380

Accessible by public transit, CTA train, ~ 45-minute commute from The Field Museum.

Guest (short-term) Housing at University of Illinois Chicago

[https://housing.uic.edu/affiliate/guesthousing/ 818](https://housing.uic.edu/affiliate/guesthousing/818)

South Wolcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60612

(312) 355-6300

3.0 miles from The Field Museum, walking or public transit (bus) available.

Just Passing Through

<http://www.justpassingthrough.com/>

1140 North La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605

(312) 501-3310

5 miles from The Field Museum, CTA train available.

Grant Park Best Western

<http://www.bwgrantparkhotel.com/>

1100 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605

(312) 922-2900

0.5 mile from The Field Museum.

Hilton Garden Inn Chicago Downtown South Loop

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/chidlgi-hilton-garden-inn-chicago-downtown-south-loop/>

55 E 11th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605

(312) 753-5100

0.6 mile from The Field Museum.

Congress Plaza Hotel & Convention Center

<http://www.congressplazahotel.com/>

520 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605

(312) 427-3800

1 mile from The Field Museum

Essex Le Méridien Chicago

[https://www.guestreservations.com/hotel-essex/booking?gclid=CjwKCAjww7KmBhAyEiwA5-PU Sj1X\\_8zCE6QYR1Za8CrZ0Z700KHgPlgm-SKgkor2YxTDNdj99r50YBoCYiEQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.guestreservations.com/hotel-essex/booking?gclid=CjwKCAjww7KmBhAyEiwA5-PU Sj1X_8zCE6QYR1Za8CrZ0Z700KHgPlgm-SKgkor2YxTDNdj99r50YBoCYiEQAvD_BwE)

800 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605

(312) 939-2800

0.7 mile from The Field Museum.

Fairfield Inn

<http://www.fairfieldsuiteschicago.com/>

216 East Ontario Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

(312) 787-3777

2 miles from The Field Museum, walking or public transit (bus) available.