



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Navy Pier to Host Speed Dating on the *Centennial Wheel*  
as Part of Valentine's Day Festivities**

*The Pier partners with Chicagoland Singles to provide unique dating experience for local singles;  
Couples and singles, alike, welcome to attend pier-wide Valentine's Day celebrations*

**CHICAGO** – Love is in the air – quite literally – at Navy Pier as the Midwest's top cultural destination invites local singles for **Speed Dating on the *Centennial Wheel*** on Thursday, February 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Pier teamed up with local dating platform, Chicagoland Singles, to help forge love connections in a truly unique fashion – nearly 200 feet above ground, just in time for Valentine's Day.

From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., participants will gather for a special cocktail reception at Navy Pier's new craft cocktail bar, Tiny Tavern. The reception will consist of Valentine's Day-themed drink specials and appetizers – all included in the price of admission. At 8 p.m., participants will make their way to Pier Park to begin speed dating on the *Centennial Wheel*, which provides a unique and romantic setting with unparalleled views of the city and lake. Each gondola will hold one to two couples, who will "date" for one full rotation before moving on to the subsequent gondola.

Participants will receive a special Navy Pier date package at the end of the event that can be redeemed in the month of February. The package includes a complimentary cruise aboard the *Odyssey*, courtesy of Entertainment Cruises, and exclusive offers to dine at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. (prix fixe menu available for \$50 per couple) and Riva Crab House (half-priced appetizers). Participants will also receive a complimentary ticket to the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, held at Navy Pier from March 18 through 26.

Tickets to the speed dating event are \$40 and include drinks and appetizers at Tiny Tavern, a unique ride experience on the iconic *Centennial Wheel*, and of course, the opportunity to potentially meet your match! Interested individuals can register [online](#). Space is limited and registration will be closed upon reaching capacity.

Please note that in the event that the *Centennial Wheel* cannot operate due to weather-related conditions, the cocktail reception and speed dating will be held at Riva Crab House.

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In addition to speed dating, Navy Pier is set to host several other Valentine's Day events and activities. On Tuesday, February 14, which also happens to be National Ferris Wheel Day, **the Pier will transform its Centennial Wheel into a giant spinning photo booth**, with Valentine's Day-themed props in each gondola to encourage photo taking and sharing. In addition, couples waiting in line will be randomly selected throughout the day for a special upgrade to the VIP gondola, offering a private experience with four plush seats and a glass bottom for a unique view below.

Also on Valentine's Day, Navy Pier will feature **My Sweaty Valentine, a special edition of its free Resolution Revolution fitness program** offered every Tuesday and Thursday from February 2 through March 30. Grab your sweaty Valentine and head to this high-energy exercise session, powered by Fitness Formula Club. The class runs from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will take place in the southwest corner of the New Food Experience, across from Ben & Jerry's.

**Chicago Shakespeare Theater** is set to kick off its production of the playful romantic comedy [Love's Labor's Lost](#), staged by acclaimed director Marti Maraden as part of the Theater's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. Showing from February 7 through March 26, *Love's Labor's Lost* highlights Shakespeare's witty wordplay in a joyful celebration of love. Four gentlemen forswear love and worldly pleasures for scholarly pursuits, only to be put to the test by the arrival of four beautiful ladies from the French Court—and the ensuing hysterical misadventures. Featuring a stellar comedic cast, the production is set in the decadent courts of the eighteenth century and the Age of Reason. Tickets are on sale now starting at \$48 (subject to change) and available for purchase at [www.chicagoshakes.com](http://www.chicagoshakes.com).

**Entertainment Cruises** is extending Valentine's Day-themed cruises for those looking for a little love on the lake! Book your seat by Friday, February 3 and receive 20% off any of the special cruises listed below:

### Odyssey Cruises

Valentine's Day Dinner Cruise

Saturday, February 11

Boarding 6 p.m. | Sailing 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

[Tickets](#) start at \$101.90 per person

Valentine's Day Brunch Cruise

Sunday, February 12

Boarding 12:15 p.m. | Sailing 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

[Tickets](#) start at \$69.90 per person

Valentine's Day Dinner Cruise

Tuesday, February 14

Boarding 6 p.m. | Sailing 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

[Tickets](#) start at \$109.90 per person

### Spirit of Chicago

Valentine's Day Dinner Cruise

Saturday, February 11

Boarding 6 p.m. | Sailing 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

[Tickets](#) start at \$89.90 per person

Valentine's Day Dinner Cruise

Tuesday, February 14

Boarding 6 p.m. | Sailing 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

[Tickets](#) start at \$89.90 per person

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**Harry Caray's Tavern at Navy Pier** is also spreading the love this Valentine's Day. From Monday, February 6 through Tuesday, February 14, kids will have the opportunity to decorate heart-shaped cookies with colored frosting and candy for \$3 each. Throughout the week, Harry Caray's is also featuring Build-Your-Own Heart Shaped Pizza for \$13. Select up to three toppings and your pizza will be oven-fired to heart-shaped perfection. Adults can indulge with Harry Caray's popular dark chocolate martini. Regular menu will be available. Reservations are recommended.

For a romantic dinner with a view, head to **Riva Crab House at Navy Pier** and enjoy select bottles of wine for \$2.14 with the purchase of two entrees from a select menu on February 9 and 10. The restaurant is also featuring a three-course prix fixe menu for \$130 per couple, with a complimentary glass of champagne, from February 11 through Valentine's Day. Regular menu will be available. Reservations are recommended.

Guests are also welcome to celebrate Valentine's Day at other Pier establishments, which now consist of new dining options and experiences, such as Ben & Jerry's, Big Bowl Chinese Express, Big City Chicken, Brown Sugar Bakery, DMK Burger Bar and Fish Bar, Frankie's Pizza by the Slice, Freshii, Giordano's, Goddess and the Baker, Lalo's, Porkchop BBQ, Tiny Tavern, Navy Pier IMAX® at AMC and more. A full list of restaurants and attractions is available on Navy Pier's website.

For more information regarding Navy Pier's Valentine's Day events and promotions, please visit [www.navy pier.com](http://www.navy pier.com).

#### **About Navy Pier**

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top attended leisure destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than nine million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. Navy Pier, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, maintains and oversees Navy Pier and its redevelopment into a bolder, greener and more contemporary urban space. For more information, visit [www.navy pier.com](http://www.navy pier.com).

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