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Chicago

We've ridden the rattling L train around the Windy City in search of our favourite hotels, restaurants, shops, museums and more. Chicago is a welcoming city that brings together the best of many metropolises in the US – from the sandy beaches of Los Angeles and the neighbourhood feel of San Francisco to the vibrant culture of New York – with a dash of that famous Midwestern hospitality. We're pulling into the station; hop on board.

Need to know

Get to grips with the basics

- 01 **Lake Michigan:** In summer, residents flock to the 26 city beaches dotted along the fresh-water Lake Michigan's shore, each of which has its own particular pull – from bars to volleyball.
- 02 **Baseball:** There are two Major League Baseball teams in Chicago: the Cubs (who won the World Series in 2016) and the White Sox (who won in 2005).
- 03 **Transport:** Chicago's public transport revolves around the L train, which has eight lines and goes to just about every neighbourhood in the city.
- 04 **Etiquette:** Chicago-style hot dogs, topped with yellow mustard, fried onions, relish, a couple of tomato slices, a pickle and a sprinkling of celery salt, are famous the world over. But don't even think about asking for ketchup when you order.
- 05 **The Loop:** Google "Chicago landmarks" and your search will throw up an array of skyscrapers mainly in and north of the Loop – the hub of big business and luxury shopping.

Hotels

Get a room

- 1 Publishing House B&B, West Loop
Fully booked

Every detail in this beautiful city bolthole has been considered, from the fresh pastries in the butler's pantry to the Malin+Goetz products in each en-suite bathroom.

108 North May Street, 60607
+1 312 554 5857
publishinghousebnb.com

- 2 The Robey, Wicker Park
Top drawer

A celebration of Chicago's architectural history, housed in a soaring wedge of a tower block from 1929 and the adjoining brick warehouse.
2018 West North Avenue, 60647
+1 872 315 3050
therobey.com

- 3 Chicago Athletic Association Hotel, The Loop
Be a sport

This Venetian gothic marvel overlooks Millennium Park and was built in 1893 as a men's club for the Chicago Athletic Association.
12 South Michigan Avenue, 60603
+1 844 312 2221
chicagoathletichotel.com

Food and drink

Taste of Chicago

- 1 Metric Coffee, Near West Side
Serious about beans

Swing by this mini Fulton Market café for a cup of coffee, a cold-pressed juice or simply to pick up a pack of ground beans to go.
2021 West Fulton Street, Suite K-101B, 60612
+1 312 982 2196
metriccoffee.com

- 2 Baker Miller, Lincoln Square
Morning munchies

Baked goods are the name of the game at Baker Miller, where Dave and Megan Miller offer their delicious takes on morning favourites. The "famous" oatmeal earns that often overstated moniker: it comes with cultured cream, cinnamon-sugar pecans and a dollop of jam.
4655 North Lincoln Avenue, 60625
+1 773 654 3610
bakermillerchicago.com

- 3 Lost Larson, Andersonville
Swede success

This light-filled bakery-cum-café is devoted to Swedish-inflected dishes such as open-faced sandwiches stacked with pickled herring and lingonberry jam.
5318 North Clark Street, 60640
+1 773 944 0587
lostlarson.com

- 4 Daisies, Logan Square
Fresh from the farm

The succinct menu at Daisies comprises handmade pastas (think beetroot agnolotti with dill), daily-changing starters and crowd-pleasers such as crispy fried mushrooms and cheese curds with butter-milk-tarragon dipping sauce.
2523 North Milwaukee Avenue, 60647
+1 773 661 1671
daisieschicago.com

- 5 The Loyalist, West Loop
Classy cocktails

Tucked underneath John and Karen Shields' fine-dining restaurant Smyth is The Loyalist, known for its well-made cocktails and killer burger. The bar's Old Fashioned is an elegant variation on the classic, with maple and a dash of amaro for a hint of bitterness.

177 North Ada Street, 60607
+1 773 913 3774
smythandtheloyalist.com

Retail

Shop talk

- 1 Martha Mae, Andersonville
Form and function

Jean Cate set up her shop for art supplies and everyday tools in 2016. She makes the artwork lining the walls, as well as some of the ceramics. The maple and granite shelves are stocked with pieces by local makers such as Christie Chapin, plus Cate's favourite international brands.
5407 North Clark Street, 60640
+1 872 806 0988
marthamae.info

- 2 The Dial Bookshop, The Loop
Literary legacy

Books sit on shelves made from 100-year-old bleacher wood sourced from a nearby basketball gym. The focus is on contemporary titles but you'll also find vintage and rare tomes, plus small-press publications.
410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 210, 60605
dialbookshop.com

- 3 Field & Florist, Wicker Park
Garden variety

Field & Florist operated as a flower farm and design studio for five years before opening this petite bricks-and-mortar outpost in 2017. Tucked away on the lower floor of an Italianate-style building erected in 1891, the shop is a slice of calm on busy Division Street.
1908 West Division Street, 60622
+1 773 698 7491
fieldandflorist.com

- 4 Gemini, Wicker Park
Twice as nice

French workwear by Vetra and traditional shirts by Portuguese Flannel brush shoulders with playful womenswear by Barcelona-based Paloma Wool and Swedish menswear by Our Legacy. Plus wall hangings, leather bags and many more "Made in Chicago" wares.
1911 West Division Street, 60622
+1 773 394 1034
geminishop.com

Vocabulary

Talking the talk

- 01 **The Bean:** Nickname for Anish Kapoor's "Cloud Gate"
- 02 **Dip:** Word for "leaving"
- 03 **The L:** The elevated train
- 04 **The Hawk:** Cool breeze off Lake Michigan
- 05 **LSD:** Lake Shore Drive



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