Welcome to Chicago!

With over 70 distinct communities representing a wide variety of cultures, people, and experiences, the city has so much to offer. Whether you’re looking for a specific cuisine, or want to explore the nearly 100 museums, or explore the city’s diverse history, no matter where you go, there’s something new to see and do around every corner.

We’ve selected 11 different, distinct neighborhoods to feature, including dining recommendations, things to do and see, and ways to engage with our host city.

These neighborhoods are organized by distance/travel time to the center of each community from our hotel, so that you may plan accordingly for your time.

Helpful Links

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Neighborhoods to Know

LAKESHORE EAST

Often also referred to as New Eastside, Lakeshore East boasts one of the most walkable neighborhoods in the sprawling metropolis of Chicago. Originally home to the Illinois Central Railroad yards, the area was made into a golf course after World War II. Then, in the early 2000s, the ground was broken to develop the area as a residential center featuring high rise buildings, pedestrian-friendly walkability, and copious green space. Bounded between the Chicago River and Millennium Park, the neighborhood is a serene escape from the center of the city.

DINING

- Tre Dita 401 E. Wacker Drive
- Avli on the Park 180 N. Field Blvd.
- The Palm 323 E. Wacker Drive
- FireLake Grill House 221 N Columbus Drive
- MingHin Cuisine 333 E Benton Place #300

TO SEE & DO

- Lakeshore East Park
- Chicago Riverwalk
- Aqua Tower
Neighborhoods to Know

THE LOOP

As Chicago’s official downtown area, the Loop is celebrated for its dynamic architecture and big city buzz. Dozens of iconic Chicago attractions can be found here including Millennium Park and Cloud Gate, historical architecture, the Chicago Riverwalk, river cruises, and more. The vast majority of the area was destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 but rebuilt quickly. It also now home to a lively theatre district, dining and shopping. Home to Chicago's commercial core, it is the second-largest commercial business district in North America.

DINING

- The Gage 24 S. Michigan Ave.
- Italian Village 71 W. Monroe Street
- Land & Lake Kitchen 81 E. Wacker Drive
- Emerald Loop Bar & Grill 216 N. Wabash Ave.
- Elephant & Castle 185 N Wabash Avenue

TO SEE & DO

- Willis Tower & Skydeck
- Grant Park
- Buckingham Fountain
- Chicago Cultural Center

Click for more recommendations!
Neighborhoods to Know

Streeterville

Streeterville boasts as the home to Chicago’s famed Navy Pier, including the 200-foot Centennial Wheel. Bounded by the Chicago River to the south, Magnificent Mile to the west, and Lake Michigan to the east, the majority of this neighborhood actually sits on reclaimed sandbar. Named after George Street, a notable eccentric real estate investor, the neighborhood is home to a combination of hotels, restaurants, professional office centers, residential high rises, universities, medical facilities, and cultural venues.

Dining

- Pinstripes 435 E. Illinois St.
- Chef Art Smith’s Reunion 700 E Grand Avenue
- Palm Restaurant 323 E. Wacker Drive
- Roberts Pizza and Dough Company 465 N. McClurg Ct.
- Ron of Japan 230 E. Ontario
- Crushed by Giants 600 N. Michigan Ave., 2nd Floor

To See & Do

- Navy Pier
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Chicago Shakespeare Theatre
- Lakefront Trail
- Chicago Harbor Lighthouse

Click for more recommendations!
Once an old manufacturing and warehouse area, River North is now Chicago’s most fashionable and trendsetting neighborhood. Historic architecture is beautifully melded with modern design and amenities, and it’s only steps away to the city’s premiere shopping along Michigan Avenue. Also once the hub of Chicago’s art gallery district, River North is now home to some of the city’s best restaurants, famous architecture and nightlife.

**DINING**

- Indienne  
  217 W. Huron Street
- Mr. Beef on Orleans  
  666 N. Orleans Street
- Frontera Grill  
  445 N. Clark Street
- River Roast  
  315 N. LaSalle Street
- Jaleo  
  500 N. Clark Street
- River Roast  
  315 N. LaSalle St.

**TO SEE & DO**

- Ward A. Montgomery Park
- Carl Hammer Gallery
- Chicago Riverwalk
- The Driehaus Museum

[Click for more recommendations!](#)
While West Loop today serves as a cutting-edge gastronomic center, the West Loop of the mid-1800s sat at the opposite end of the food production scale. Chicago was a major hub for agricultural processing and distribution, and West Loop was the hub for both the produce and meatpacking industries. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 affected the southeast portion of the area, and in turn, the industrial revolution took hold of Chicago. Immigrants turned to the West Loop to seek work, labor unions grew to fight for better conditions, and the Great Depression eventually took its toll, bringing industry to a standstill. Development eventually revived the area, starting off with none other than Oprah Winfrey herself, and the original location of Harpo Studios.

**Dining**

- Au Cheval  
  800 W. Randolph Street
- The Publican  
  837 W. Fulton Market
- The Little Goat Diner  
  820 W. Randolph Street
- Wishbone  
  161 N. Jefferson Street

**To See & Do**

- United Center
- Randolph Street Market
- National Hellenic Museum
- Epiphany Center for the Arts
- Union Station

Click for more recommendations!
Chinese immigrants first started settling in Chicago in the 1870s and began moving to the South side in the 1910s. During this era, Chinatown provided support and economic opportunity for its residents and visitors from nearby neighborhoods and far away places. Expansion continued in the 1990s, creating Ping Tom Memorial Park and Chinatown Square; the park is the site of an abandoned railyard and is a waterfront destination for walking, picnicking and kayaking.

**Dining**
- Phoenix  2131 S. Archer Ave.
- Hing Kee Restaurant  2140 S. Archer Ave.
- Evergreen Restaurant  2411 S. Wentworth Ave.
- Shoo Loong Kan Hot Pot  2201 S. Wentworth Ave.
- MCCB  2138 S. Archer Ave.

**To See & Do**
- Pui Tak Center
- Ping Tom Memorial Park
- Chinatown Square
- Nine Dragon Wall
- The ART Gallery

_Click for more recommendations!_
Over the past century, West Town has seen waves of immigrants from all over the world, shaping this neighborhood into the funky, creative enclave it is. By 1900, Polish immigrants staked a major claim in this area of Chicago. Polonia (Polish) Triangle sits here, reflective of the city’s oldest and most prominent Polish settlement. Ukrainian Village also sits in West Town. Since then, Russian Jews, Italians, Puerto Ricans, and Mexicans have all made West Town home, adding to the neighborhood with restaurants, museums, and churches reflecting their cultures.

**DINING**

- Kasia’s Deli  
  \(2101\ W.\ Chicago\ Ave.\)
- Oggi Trattoria  
  \(1461\ W.\ Chicago\ Ave.\)
- Porto  
  \(1600\ W.\ Chicago\ Ave.\)
- Kasama  
  \(1001\ N.\ Winchester\ Ave.\)
- Opart Thai House  
  \(1546\ W.\ Chicago\ Ave.\)
- Forbidden Root Restaurant & Brewhouse  
  \(1746\ W.\ Chicago\ Ave.\)

**TO SEE & DO**

- AIRE Ancient Baths
- The 606
- Subterranean
- The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art
- Saints Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church

**Click for more recommendations!**
Located on the south side of Chicago, Bronzeville became an established neighborhood around the turn of the twentieth century. A surge in the population of Black Americans in Chicago came as a result of the Great Migration from the southern regions of the United States. The Great Migration began in 1916, and by 1920, the number of Black residents in Chicago had surpassed 100,000. During the Great Migration, the Bronzeville neighborhood became densely populated. The density of the population led to a flourishing cultural scene that rivaled that of Harlem. Bronzeville was home to many influential Black figures, such as Gwendolyn Brooks, Richard Wright, Louis Armstrong, Bessie Coleman, Ida B. Wells, Andrew Foster, and many more.

**Dining**
- Pearl's Place  3901 S. Michigan Ave.
- Norman's Bistro    1001 E. 43rd Street
- Bronzeville Winery  4420 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
- Turner Haus Brewery  78 E. 47th Street
- Truth    56 E. Pershing Road
- Yassa African Restaurant   3511 S King Drive

**To See & Do**
- Bronzeville Art District Tour
- The Forum
- Robert W. Roloson Houses
- Bronzeville Walk of Fame
- Monument to the Great Migration

[Click for more recommendations!](#)
Northalsted is a vibrant and culturally diverse neighborhood located on the north side of Chicago. Sprawling over six city blocks from Belmont Avenue to Addison Street and comprised of a bustling LGBTQIA+ community, the neighborhood is ranked among the most popular and liveliest gay-friendly neighborhoods in the world, in addition to being one of the most vibrant and ethnically diverse neighborhoods in Chicago. Northalsted is also known for its impressive outdoor spaces. Halsted Street boasts a bustling and colorful shopping district that offers urbanites an array of options to dine, shop, and explore. In addition, the extended neighborhood boasts other impressive spaces such as the Belmont Harbor, a scenic backdrop to runners, bikers, and other various activities.

**DINING**

- Wood  
  3335 N. Halsted Street
- Chicago Diner  
  3411 N. Halsted Street
- Angelina Ristorante  
  3561 N. Broadway
- Drew’s on Halsted  
  3201 N. Halsted Street
- Carnitas Uruapan  
  1725 W 18th Street

**TO SEE & DO**

- Legacy Walk
- Briar Street Theatre
- #WalkWithPride Art Tour
- Annoyance Theatre
- Unabridged Bookstore

**Click for more recommendations!**
Neighborhoods to Know

PILSEN

Rich in Latino culture, Pilsen is a neighborhood that overflows with music, art, culinary tradition, and nightlife. Founded in the 19th century by Czech immigrants (Pilsen is the fourth largest city in Czechia), Latinos did not become the majority population in the neighborhood until the 1970s. Today, it’s home to award-winning restaurants, iconic music venues, and sensational murals as far as the eye can see. Maybe that’s why it was named one of the coolest neighborhoods around the world by Forbes.

DINING

- La Vaca 1160 W 18th Street
- Panaderia Nuevo Leon 1634 W 18th Street
- 5 Rabanitos 1758 W 18th Street
- Dusek’s Tarven & Dining Room 1227 W 18th Street
- Carnitas Uruapan 1725 W 18th Street

TO SEE & DO

- 16th Street Murals
- Chicago Arts District
- National Museum of Mexican Art
- Thalia Hall
- Pilsen Arts and Community House

Click for more recommendations!
In a city known for its cultural and ethnic diversity, Humboldt Park stands out as the center of Puerto Rican culture in both Chicago and the American Midwest. The first waves of immigration to Humboldt Park saw an influx of Germans, Scandinavians, Poles, Ukrainians, Italians, and European Jews. Humboldt Park served as a neighborhood that preserved and pushed forward the cultures of its residents. The community’s status as a cultural hub continued as the demographics shifted. Between 1950-1965, Puerto Ricans began migrating to Humboldt Park in large numbers, both in from other areas of Chicago due to gentrification but also directly from the island itself. Due to the systemic oppression that the Puerto Rican community faced (and continues to face), Humboldt Park became and remains a neighborhood that strives to address and combat social justice issues.

**Dining**

- La Bruquena  
  2726 W Division Street
- Papa’s Cache Sabroso  
  2517 W Division Street
- San Juan Bakery  
  3335 W North Ave
- Roeser’s Bakery  
  3216 W North Ave
  ✭ Oldest continuously operated bakery in Chicago!

**To See & Do**

- L. Frank Baum Yellow Brick Road
- National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture
- Humboldt Park Boathouse
- Paseo Boricua Tour Company
- Explore Division Street/Paseo Boricua

[Click for more recommendations!]