

CHICAGO

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Chicago seems to have inspired creative types of all stripes forever wanting to pay homage to the Windy City in songs, musicals, movies and even poems. With all its character, grace and charm, you can easily catch “the fever” and find yourself singing some bars of “Chicago, it’s my kind of town” and really mean it.

1 MINUTE

Buckingham Fountain
Grant Park
Columbus Dr. & Congress Pkwy.

Spend a relaxing moment by one of the largest fountains in the world, which was also the official starting point for the legendary Route 66. Every hour on the hour for 20 minutes, you’ll be treated to a water display accompanied by light and music—come back after dark and watch the fountain glow. Runs mid-April to mid-October.

Sears Tower Skydeck
233 S. Wacker Dr.
312-875-9696 • the-skydeck.com

Stand a staggering 1,353 feet high at the top of the nation’s tallest building, and you’ll see up to 50 miles away and into 3 other states (behind thick, reinforced glass, in case you’re worried). Visit between 4 and 8 p.m. to beat the crowds.

1 HOUR

Millennium Park
Chicago Waterfront • 312-742-1168

There are so many ways to spend a spare hour in this modern public park, a true reflection of the city’s love for arts, architecture and community. Here you can take a stroll through the 2.5-acre Lurie Garden or over the winding, stainless steel BP Bridge, catch an outdoor concert at the visually striking Jay Pritzker Pavilion or stare into Cloud Gate, a 110-ton reflective sculpture known affectionately among locals as “The Bean.”

Adler Planetarium
1300 S. Lake Shore Dr. • 312-922-STAR (7827)

That great dome you see on the Lake Michigan waterfront is your ticket to the starry expanse above you. Adler is our country’s first planetarium—and still one of the most popular. Catch a glimpse of a simulated starscape inside the Sky Theater, or get a close look at the real thing in the city’s largest public telescope. Feel like a walk on the moon? Give the Lunar Leap gravity simulation a try.

1 HOUR (CON’T)

Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio
951 Chicago Ave. • Oak Park
708-848-1976 • wrightplus.org

Chicago is world-renowned for its architecture—so it’s only fitting that one of the greatest architects of the 20th century began his career a few minutes away. Many know Wright for works like the Guggenheim Museum in New York or the iconic “Fallingwater” house in Pennsylvania. But here’s a chance to see what he designed for his own needs—from the children’s playroom to the design studio.

Uncle Fun
1338 W. Belmont
773-477-8223 • unclefunchicago.com

Calling Uncle Fun a toy store would be a vast understatement. Owner Ted Frankel searches the world over to keep his shop stacked to the rafters with eccentric under-\$10 novelties—from JFK tribute tapestries to wrestler masks to tiny harmonicas. And you’re never too old for Fun—there are often more adults than children rummaging to find the right gag gifts or getting their fills of pop culture nostalgia.

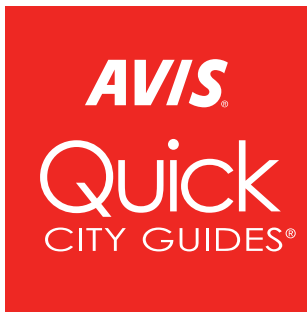
1 DAY

Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Rd. • Glencoe
847-835-5440

Take a quick drive 20 miles north of Chicago and you’ll find a botanical paradise spanning 385 acres. Twenty-three display gardens and three native habitats cover these lush grounds, each with its own distinct style and purpose. After a full day, spend a moment relaxing and reflecting by the 45-foot waterfall or take in the Old World charm of the English Walled Garden. CBG has you covered in the winter, too—there are three greenhouses to keep you warm.

Magnificent Mile Shopping
themagnificentmile.com

We hope you saved some extra space in your luggage—visit Chicago’s premier shopping district and you’ll probably fill it. Conveniently collected along a segment of Michigan Ave. (north of the river and south of Lake Shore Blvd.), the Mile’s more-than-460 stores have something for everyone, from Louis Vuitton to The Lego Store.



CHICAGO

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

Spiaggia

Give your special occasion extra special treatment at the city's premier Italian restaurant overlooking Lake Michigan. In a romantic-yet-contemporary tiered dining room, choose from a seven-course chef's tasting menu or from specialties like seared scallops and wood-roasted Colorado lamb chops. When it's in season, foodies flock here for the celebrated eight-course tasting menu of white truffles. Reservations are recommended.

One Magnificent Mile
980 N. Michigan Ave., Level 2 • 312-280-2750

Le Colonial

Romance is always on the menu in Chicago's elegant Gold Coast, thanks to this upscale French-Vietnamese restaurant. With potted palms, rattan chairs and louvered shutters, the dining room—along with the menu—harkens back to 1920s French colonial Indochina.

937 N. Rush St. • 312-255-0088

Signature Room at the 95th

Fine contemporary American cuisine fills the menu here. But no matter how favorable, it's not exactly the food that gives the Room its "signature" appeal—it's the view, from the 95th floor of the John Hancock Center.

875 N. Michigan Ave. • 312-787-9596

Fogo de Chao

Fifteen different cuts of meat are all-you-can-eat at this cozy, upscale Brazilian steakhouse. Before you can say "I'm full," skewers of everything from parmesan pork to bacon-wrapped filet mignon are brought to the table and sliced onto your plate.

661 N. La Salle Dr. • 312-932-9330

Tru

It's pricey, but you probably won't soon forget the indulgence of one of Tru's legendary three- to eight-course prix-fixe menus—the presentation is as extravagant as the food. Where else can you eat caviar from a tiny set of glass stairs, or a trio of tartares hovering over a live Japanese fighting fish?

676 N. St. Clair St. • 312-202-0001

LOCAL FAVORITES

Anne Sather

Diner lovers of all ages come to this Chicago institution in search of authentic Swedish favorites, like pancakes with lingonberries, potato sausage and Swedish meatballs. Expect everything to be homemade, from Anne's renowned cinnamon rolls to the inviting atmosphere. There are four locations; each café has a different lunch menu.

Lakeview:
929 W. Belmont • 773-348-2378

Southport Café:
3416 N. Southport • 773-404-4475

Broadway Café:
3411 N. Broadway • 773-305-0024

Andersonville:
5207 N. Clark • 773-271-6677

Half Shell, Inc.

Pardon the pun, but this popular, hidden seafood spot is truly a dive—although that's part of the charm. Enjoy king crab legs, fried shrimp, grilled veggies and a wide variety of burgers served in no-frills plastic baskets under year-round Christmas lights in what feels like your neighbor's cozy basement. Be sure to hit an ATM beforehand—Half Shell is cash-only.

676 W. Diversey Pkwy. • 773-549-1773

1492 Tapas Bar

A four-story Victorian mansion in the Gold Coast district is the setting for this tasty trip to Spain. Dark wood and stained glass windows accent your meal of specialties like Arroz Negro—unique black rice colored with a touch of squid ink—and the Paella 1942, which is so full of ingredients that you need to allow the chef 40 minutes to prepare it.

42 East Superior • 312-867-1492

Adobo Grill

From the fresh guacamole prepared at the table to the house specialty chocolate tamale, this lively Mexican restaurant is a neighborhood favorite. Enjoy the creative menu in the busy downstairs, or request the quieter, smoke-free 2nd floor.

1610 N. Wells St. • 312-266-7999

Weiner's Circle

Chicago-style hot dogs are a piece of work—raw onions, tomato slices, pickles and relish. Open very late, this stand serves the best dogs in the country, some say. But, be quick with your order—the folks behind the counter are a piece of work, too.

2622 N. Clark St. • 773-477-7444