

# CHICAGO

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play  
in Chicago this fall and winter

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planning a snap for the 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.





# INTRODUCTION

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TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com).



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



## TRAVEL TIPS

1. "**Layers** are just the thing here in Chicago. You never know what that wacky weather will be like." — TripAdvisor Member, Chicago
2. "Bring lots of **film (or digital memory)**: Chicago is unbelievably beautiful!" — TripAdvisor Member
3. "Bring your **appetite**." — TripAdvisor Member
4. "Make sure you pack comfy, and I do mean **comfy shoes**. To get the real sense of Chicago requires mucho walking. It is amazing the things you just happen to come across." — TripAdvisor Member, Florida

## Inside CHICAGO

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One of the world's most appetizing restaurant cities, the birthplace of Cracker Jacks and Twinkies has a lot more cooking than just delicious deep-dish pizza. Visitors will find a scintillating selection of activities in the Windy City.

Catch a show in the theater district. Take in a late night performance at a blues club or jazz bar. Delight in the multitude of museums, including the prestigious Art Institute and the Chicago Historical Society. Spend all day shopping along the Magnificent Mile. Discover vibrant ethnic neighborhoods such as Lincoln Square and Wicker Park. Admire the impressive skyline, comprised of several architectural landmarks. Families have plenty to explore at the Field Museum and the Lincoln Park Zoo. Millennium Park's video fountains will help cool you down during the hot, humid summers, but the bitter cold of winter will have you ducking into one of the city's many indoor attractions.

From the top of the Willis Tower to the shores of Lake Michigan, this thrilling city has an abundance of delights for visitors. Once you've had a taste of Chicago, you'll surely want seconds.

# Top VIEWS



## CHICAGO'S BEST VIEWS

Feast your eyes on **South Lake Shore Drive** from Hyde Park to downtown. "The sight of those high-rise buildings on one side was breathtaking, particularly after dark with all those windows lit up for mile after mile after mile. What a beautiful and memorable sight!"—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

**South Lake Shore Drive**

The **John Hancock Observatory**, 94 stories up in Chicago's third-tallest building, offers a 360-degree, 80-mile view. "Best view in the city—especially at night."—TripAdvisor Member, Illinois

**John Hancock Observatory, 875 N. Michigan Ave., 888 875 8439**

"The **Skydeck Ledge** is practically worth the price of admission. It is definitely a unique experience—though not for the faint of heart. As a bonus, the views from regular windows are fantastic as well!"—TripAdvisor Member, Columbus, Ohio

**Willis Tower Skydeck, 233 S. Wacker Dr., 312 875 9696**

## Where to PLAY

### TOP 10 Attractions

1. Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph St., 312 742 1168
2. Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave., 312 595 5600
3. Lake Michigan
4. Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison St., 773 404 2827
5. Oriental Institute Museum, 1155 E. 58th St., 773 702 9514
6. Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., 312 443 3600
7. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., 312 744 6630
8. Lookingglass Theatre Company, 821 N. Michigan Ave., 312 337 0665
9. Chicago Children's Museum, 700 E. Grand Ave., 312 527 1000
10. Museum of Science and Industry, 57th St. and Lake Shore Dr., 773 684 1414



## FAMILIES

Billed as the Western Hemisphere's largest science museum located in a single building, the **Museum of Science and Industry** is a "great family museum with plenty to keep you busy. When we left, our feet were getting tired."—TripAdvisor Member, Freeburg, Ill.

**Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, 773 684 1414**

With 50 acres of parks, gardens (beer and botanical), shops, restaurants, attractions and a 150-foot Ferris wheel, **Navy Pier** "is a great place to be on a warm day. Make sure you check out the stage indoors for some quality street entertainers."—TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

**Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., 312 595 PIER (7437)**

"We spent several hours at the **Children's Museum** with an 8, 6 and 2-year-old. They were all engaged and enjoyed themselves. A great location on the Navy Pier and with all the other choices nearby you could spend a full day at one location."—TripAdvisor Member, Michigan

**Chicago Children's Museum, 700 E. Grand Ave., 312 527 1000**



## ROMANCE

"**Andersonville** is wonderfully eclectic, filled with Swedish specialty shops, Middle Eastern restaurants, coffee houses, gay bars and upscale stores. While in the area, you might want to walk through Edgewater Glen, a small enclave between Foster and Broadway filled with stately mansions."—Toronto, Ontario

**Andersonville, North Chicago**

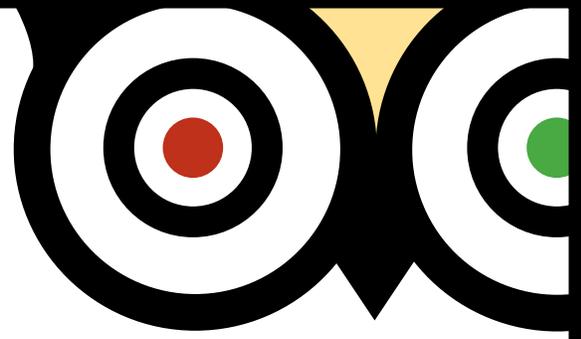
From live performances and an outdoor skating rink to stunning skyline reflections in the Cloud Gate's mercurial surface, **Millennium Park** "has something to make your Chicago visit memorable."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

**Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph St., 312 742 1168**

Treat your honey to a show at this theater on the water. "Incredible actors, directors, and designers really create magic in the beautiful and intimate theater. Shakespeare's words really become exciting and alive in the hands of the **Chicago Shakespeare Theater**."—TripAdvisor Member, Ypsilanti, Mich.

**Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand Ave., 312 595 5600**

# Where to **PLAY**



## BUDGET

“On Wednesday nights, **ImprovOlympic** offers free shows. These shows have three different groups performing, and you get a good mix. If you don’t like one group, there are two more to try!”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**ImprovOlympic, 3541 N. Clark St., 773 880 0199**

“Our **Chicago Greeter** showed us around the Loop, explaining the history and architecture of all the buildings. He was a great guide and the fact that he did it all in French for us, fantastic! It’s hard to believe that this is a free service.”—TripAdvisor Member, Montreal, Quebec

**Chicago Greeter, 312 744 8000 (advance reservation required)**

“**Lincoln Park**’s highlights include the (free) Lincoln Park Zoo, the Lincoln Park Conservatory, a Nature Museum and Café Brauer, where you can rent swan and other paddle-boats.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**Lincoln Park, 2001 N. Clark St., 312 742 2000**

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!



## ADVENTURE

**Bobby’s Bike Hike** “is a fantastic way to see the city—we cycled up to Lincoln Park along the waterfront, to the Old Town, past the original Playboy mansion, plus many other places. If not for the bike tour, it’s unlikely we would’ve seen a quarter of the sights.”—TripAdvisor Member, Burnley, U.K.

**Bobby’s Bike Hike, 465 N. McClurg Court, 312 915 0995**

Grab a bucket of beer and try to outlast the musicians at **Kingston Mines**, “an authentic two-stage blues joint,” where the shows regularly last until 4AM.—TripAdvisor Member, Virginia

**Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted Ave., 773 477 4646**

So, how brave are you? **Supernatural Chicago** is “a combination of ghost stories and magic. You will leave with a true sense of the word ‘eerie.’”—TripAdvisor Member, Forest Park, Ill.

**Supernatural Chicago, Excalibur Nightclub, 632 N. Dearborn Ave., 312 266 1944**

“...looks like something out of the the Italian Renaissance.”



## EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

Visit the **Field Museum**, one of America’s premier natural history museums. “Great for both kids and adults,” the Field presents “thousands of artifacts to be seen, in a really cool setting,” including “dozens of mummies!”—TripAdvisor Member, Orlando, Fla.

**Field Museum, 1400 S. Lakeshore Dr., 312 922 9410**

Enjoy exhibits and performances, admire the landmark building or simply enjoy the **Chicago Cultural Center**’s “calm and placid atmosphere. It’s nice to be able to pop into a place that isn’t a frenzy of noise and motion. The interior of the building, especially the upper floors, looks like something out of the the Italian Renaissance.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

**Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., 312 744 6630**

“Art buffs will be able to spend all day at the **Art Institute!** Their regular collection is fabulous—one of my personal favorites is ‘Sunday in the Park.’ Even if you’re not a big art fan, you should stop by to see a few of the famous pieces.”—TripAdvisor Member, Doha, Qatar

**Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., 312 443 3600**

“I wouldn’t have missed it for anything!”



## RELAXATION

Chicago has a smorgasbord of shops, spas and speakeasies. “Renowned for its world-class shopping, upscale designers and myriad boutiques, the **Magnificent Mile** is the premier shopper’s destination in Chicago.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

**Magnificent Mile, N. Michigan Avenue**

For a “great night out,” **Buddy Guy’s Legends** showcases an amazing array of local and national blues performers. “The highlight of the evening was a jam session of about 20 blues musicians, of whom five or six played two songs at a time. It was simply brilliant.”—TripAdvisor Member, Scotland

**Buddy Guy’s Legends, 700 S. Wabash Ave., 312 427 1190**

“The **Chicago Architecture Foundation**’s tour was great! There are so many fantastic buildings that the docent hardly had time to breathe during the 90-minutes. The views and the history were amazing—I wouldn’t have missed it for anything!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, UK

**Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 S. Michigan Ave., 312 922 3432**



# WHERE to eat



## FAMILIES

“My family and I have been going to **Superdawg** for years. Food is cooked to order, and the carhops are exceptional. Everything is fantastic, especially the shakes and fries. You’ll find people who could eat anywhere in the world eating here because it is SO good.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**Superdawg Drive-In, 6363 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773 763 0660**

**Toast** serves up classic American breakfasts and lunches and its perfect-for-doodling tables are covered with butcher-block paper (crayons provided for artists of all ages). “Everything is fantastic. Make sure you have your entire party ready to go when you are up.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**Toast, 746 W. Webster Ave., 773 935 5600**

“After wandering around the Lincoln Zoo, we walked up Clark to **Molly’s Cupcakes**. It was so worth the trip! I had a mixed berry cupcake that was lovely and the cappuccino was the best we had during our holiday.”—TripAdvisor Member

**Molly’s Cupcakes, 2536 N. Clark St., 773 883 7220**

## TOP 10 Restaurants

1. Girl & The Goat, 809 W. Randolph St., 312 492 6262
2. Smoque BBQ, 3800 N. Pulaski Road, 773 545 7427
3. Joe’s Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab, 60 E. Grand Ave., 312 379 5637
4. YolK, 747 N. Wells St., 312 789 9655
5. Hot Doug’s Inc., 3324 N. California Ave., 773 279 9550
6. Eleven City Diner, 1112 S. Wabash, 312 212 1112
7. Polo Cafe & Catering Bridgeport U.S.A., 3322 S. Morgan St., 773 927 7656
8. M. Henry, 5707 N. Clark St., 773 561 1600
9. Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse, 1028 N. Rush St., 312 266 8999
10. Portillo’s Hot Dogs, 100 W. Ontario St., 312 587 8910

## ROMANCE

“My wife and I had a fabulous meal at **Prosecco!** The food was eclectic Italian—well prepared and quite delicious. The wait staff was friendly and attentive without being intrusive. We had a wonderful time and look forward to returning!”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

**Prosecco, 710 N. Wells St., 312 951 9500**

For a “great French meal,” try **Les Nomades**. “Everything was delicious. My favorites: crab cake topped with a soft shell crab, apple tart with green apple sorbet drizzled with caramel and the most tender lamb chops I have ever had—the best I’ve ever had”—TripAdvisor Member, Versoix, Switzerland

**Les Nomades, 222 E. Ontario St., 312 649 9010**

At **Le Colonial**, “we loved the French décor and Vietnamese food and got the kind of service I expect in a high-end establishment. But for a romantic atmosphere, definitely ask to be seated on the first floor rather than the second.”—TripAdvisor Member, Indianapolis, Ind.

**Le Colonial, 937 N. Rush St., 312 255 0088**

## BUDGET

“Yes, **Nuevo Leon** will probably be very crowded. But it’s most definitely worth it! True, authentic Mexican food, great service, huge servings, cheap as chips and tastes fantastic. Food arrives at your table pronto, and they give you appetizers for free. Now this is authentic!”—TripAdvisor Member, Brisbane, Australia

**Nuevo Leon, 1515 W. 18th St., 312 421 1517**

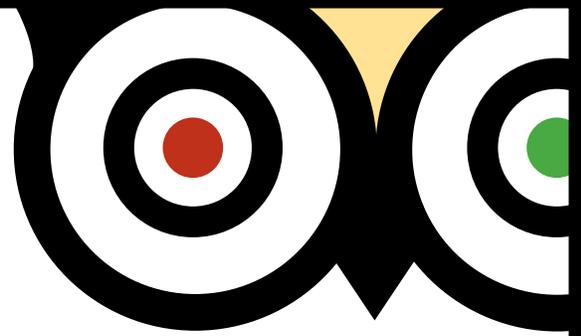
“**Duke of Perth** is delightful. Authentic Scottish pub grub, cozy ambiance and enough whiskeys on the menu to make your head spin (in a good way). Try the All-you-can-eat Fish ‘N’ Chips on Fridays.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**Duke of Perth, 2913 N. Clark St., 773 477 1741**

“One shouldn’t leave the city without having a Chicago-style dog. **Hot Doug’s** in the northwest of the city is famous for their rare sausages and duck fat French fries.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**Hot Doug’s, 3324 N. California Ave., 773 279 9550**

# WHERE to eat



## HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

The food at **The Loving Hut** is “focused on light Asian fare, gently cooked to emphasize flavors. Most main dishes are vegan variations on classic Korean and Chinese offerings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**The Loving Hut, 5812 N. Broadway, 773 275 8797**

“**Chicago Diner** is totally unique. It’s a diner, with the diner experience, but vegetarian! There were so many choices on the menu, something for everyone. Just be prepared - it is crowded!”—TripAdvisor Member, Austin, Texas

**Chicago Diner, 3411 N. Halsted St., 773 935 6696**

**Green Zebra** is an “upscale, pricey vegetarian restaurant with a hip, trendy vibe. The inventive, almost entirely vegetarian small-plate menu is among the city’s most sophisticated.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**Green Zebra, 1460 W. Chicago Ave., 312 243 7100**

## HIDDEN GEMS

“The wait at **Tweet** is long, but the reward is great! Nice mimosas and great breakfast with nice, friendly service. Don’t miss the extensive art collection on the walls of both the restaurant and the bar next door. This is a Chicago winner!”—TripAdvisor Member, Alameda, Calif.

**Tweet, 5020 N. Sheridan Road, 773 728 5576**

“**Campagne** is a lovely neighborhood bistro with seasonal menus that draw from local and organic produce and meats. All of the items epitomize the simple but delicious food you’d find in a typical French bistro or restaurant.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago

**Bistro Campagne, 4518 N. Lincoln Ave., 773 271 6100**

“There are few restaurants in America as unique a setting as **North Pond**. With its middle of the park location and view of the downtown skyline, it’s Chicago’s version of Tavern on the Green.”—TripAdvisor Member, Omaha, Neb.

**North Pond, 2610 N. Cannon Dr., 773 477 5845**

## SPECIAL EVENTS



Kids rule at the **Chicago International Children’s Film Festival**, a week-long celebration of films made for and by children. Jam-packed with hundreds of kid-friendly movies from all over the globe, the festival is the only Academy®-qualifying children’s film festival in the world and features two juries: one adult panel and one made up of children. (October 21 – 30)

**Chicago International Children’s Film Festival, Various venues, 773 281 9075, <http://www.cicff.org>**

Come see where form and function meet during **SOFA Chicago**, a three-day art fair celebrating sculpture, objects and functional art. (November 4 – 6)

**SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier Festival Hall, 600 E. Grand Ave., 773 506 8860, <http://www.sofaexpo.com>**

Help Chicago ring in the yuletide season with live choir music, marching bands, festivities and the illumination of the enormous tree at Daley Plaza during the official Chicago Christmas **Tree Lighting Ceremony**. (November 23)

**Tree Lighting Ceremony, Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., 312 744 3315**

Bundle up and join the 350,000-strong crowds to watch Santa Claus lead a procession of drummers, floats, marching bands and enormous helium balloons at the **Chicago Thanksgiving Parade**. (November 24)

**Chicago Thanksgiving Parade, State Street, from Congress to Randolph, <http://www.chicagofestivals.org>**

Beginning November 25, Lincoln Park Zoo glows on the weekends with illuminated animal figures and light displays during the **Zoolights Festival**. (Various dates during November – December)

**Zoolights Festival, Lincoln Park Zoo, 2200 N. Cannon Dr., 312 742 2000, <http://www.lpzoo.com>**

Pack something warm to wear to the New Year’s Eve Fireworks display at Navy Pier, with choreographed fireworks lighting up the sky and reflecting across Lake Michigan. (December 31)

**New Year’s Eve Fireworks, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., 312 595 PIER (7437), <http://www.navy pier.com/things2do/fireworks.html>**

# Where to STAY



## FAMILIES

“The **Affinia** is a real surprise—a beautiful property, perfectly located, with superior service. Our junior suite was enormous, well-stocked, with an excellent bathroom and flat screen TV. Affinia hits a home run!”—TripAdvisor Member, Minnesota

**Affinia, 166 E. Superior St., 312 787 6000**

For an “excellent deal,” try the **Homewood Suites**, a “perfect choice for visiting Chicago. The room was huge, the staff was really nice and the location was perfect. What else can we ask for?”—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona, Spain

**Homewood Suites by Hilton Chicago Downtown, 40 E. Grand Ave., 312 644 2222**

**Peninsula Chicago** offers kids packages as well as “fabulously professional service and elegant rooms. That’s why you choose the Peninsula.”—TripAdvisor Member, Geneva, Switzerland

**The Peninsula, 108 E. Superior St., 312 337 2888**

Have questions about Chicago? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



## ROMANCE

**Amalfi** “gave better service than some four star hotels. Great location and cool environment. Staff was very friendly and helpful. The bed was wonderful and so were the double shower heads.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dallas, Texas

**Amalfi, 20 W. Kinzie St., 312 395 9000**

**Hotel Burnham** “made our stay very memorable. We had a corner room that was very large and had amazing views over the city. Complimentary wine in the evening and coffee in the morning were lovely touches.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

**Hotel Burnham, 1 W. Washington St., 312 782 1111**

“...better service than some four-star hotels.”

“**Flemish House** is one of our favorite places in the U.S. for housing. No cons at all! The house in itself is a must-see in Chicago. Located in a quiet and beautiful street, Flemish House is decorated with talent. The apartment was absolutely gorgeous.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lille, France

**Flemish House of Chicago, 68 E. Cedar St., 312 664 9981**

“No cons at all.”

## BUDGET

“I stayed at the **Seneca** for four days, and what a treat it was. The room we had was the perfect size for the two of us, and the front desk staff were friendly and accommodating.”—TripAdvisor Member, Edinburgh, Scotland

**Seneca Hotel, 200 E. Chestnut, 312 787 8900**

The **Days Inn** is a “three-block walk from the nearest El and in a safe neighborhood. The staff are amazingly helpful, and the rooms are clean. What more could you want?”—TripAdvisor Member, Northampton, U.K.

**Days Inn Chicago, 644 W. Diversey Pkwy., 773 525 7010**

The **Carlton Inn Midway** is “right on the CTA, about a 15-minute ride into the Loop. For the price, the location is fantastic. You can park your car and just head straight into the city. The exterior looks like a standard motor lodge, but the rooms themselves are really nice and beautifully decorated.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

**Carlton Inn Midway, 4944 S. Archer Ave., 773 582 0900**

## LUXURY

Enjoy “a true luxury stay” at **Sofitel Water Tower**, a TripAdvisor Travelers’ Choice Award winner. “The room had a brand new flat screen TV, great Sofitel feather bed and a great view, as well. It lived up to my expectations.”—TripAdvisor Member, Strasbourg, France

**Sofitel Water Tower, 20 E. Chestnut St., 312 324 4000**

**Park Hyatt** is a striking contemporary hotel with a winning address. “If you can afford a hotel of this caliber, it would be a mistake on your part to pass it up.”—TripAdvisor Member

**Park Hyatt, 800 N. Michigan Ave., 312 335 1234**

“**The Elysian** is absolutely gorgeous and the accommodations are designed to pamper. The room had a magnificent view of downtown Chicago, was modern in a very refined way and felt very residential.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rainbow City, Ala.

**The Elysian Hotel, 11 East Walton, 312 646 1300**

# Where to STAY



## HIDDEN GEMS

The **Windy City Urban Inn** “was comfortable and quiet. Having breakfast by the front window of the common room afforded views of locals starting their day, and that eased us into a similar state of mind to do the same.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

**Windy City Urban Inn, 607 W. Deming Place, 773 248 7091**

**Gold Coast Guest House** was “picture perfect. The comfort and amenities of each room and wireless internet made my combination work/leisure trip a total success. Even the cold Chicago winter could not dampen the warm hospitality and cozy surroundings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Madrid, Spain

**Gold Coast Guest House, 113 W. Elm St., 312 337 0361**

Near the Magnificent Mile is **The Talbott Hotel**, an intimate boutique hotel. “It’s like you’ve arrived at Grandma’s—cozy, comforting, and OOOOOHHHHH the food.”—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

**The Talbott Hotel, 20 E. Delaware Place, 312 212 8276**

“...cozy, comforting, and OOOOOHHHHH the food.”

## About TRIPADVISOR

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Edited/compiled by Aefa Mulholland, Michelle Schwartz and Kris Horton

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