OUT!
CHICAGO & ILLINOIS LGBTQ VISITOR’S GUIDE
2018

a publication of WINDY CITY TIMES
Summer Events:

Belmont Sheffield Music Festival  
> May 26 – 27

Chicago Gay Pride Parade  
> June 24

Wine & Sweets Stroll  
> July 15

Festival of the Arts  
> September 8 – 9
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Whether you prefer to sit in a theater or relax in Millennium Park, there's a home for everyone here. choosechicago.com/welcomehome
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Main photo: Chicago’s Millennium Park, as seen from the north, by Tracy Baim.
Left inset: Children looking into the Beluga whale tank at Shedd Aquarium, by Adam Alexander, courtesy of the IL Office of Tourism. Right inset: From the 2017 Chicago Pride Parade, by Tracy Baim.

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Now in its 125th year, the Field Museum remains committed to understanding, protecting and celebrating nature and culture.

#OnItTogether
“Chicago divided your heart. Leaving you loving the joint for keeps. Yet knowing it can never love you.”

— Author Nelson Algren, Chicago: City on the Make

Chicago, what actress Sarah Bernhardt called “the pulse of America,” is also one of the world’s most welcoming for LGBTQ people. The city, Cook County and the state of Illinois all have legal protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodation. The state achieved marriage equality prior to the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling making it the law of the land.

We have been publishing Windy City Times, Chicago’s weekly LGBTQ newspaper, since 1985. And this region sure has come a long way in terms of embracing our community.

This third edition of the OUT! LGBTQ Visitor’s Guide gives you a sense of just how much our great state of Illinois, and our diverse city of Big Shoulders, have to offer you on your visit to America’s Midwest.

The first known gay-rights organization in the U.S. was launched in Illinois: Bavarian-born gay postal worker Henry Gerber, African-American clergyman John T. Graves and a few others created the Society for Human Rights in 1924. The Society was shut down by authorities, but it was an inspiration for homosexual rights groups in the 1950s. The Henry Gerber House, 1701 N. Crilly Ct., Chicago, contains the apartment in which Gerber lived when he founded the homosexual group. It was designated a Chicago Landmark in 2001 and in June 2015 it was named a National Historic Landmark. The Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N. Clark St., www.gerberhart.org, is named in honor of Gerber and civil-rights attorney Pearl M. Hart.

There were other early gay pioneers in Chicago, most of them closeted, but out to a few people in their inner circles. That includes architect Louis Sullivan, whose buildings are still critical to Chicago’s architectural heritage; social-justice worker Jane Addams (visit Hull House in Chicago); dancer Mark Turbyfill; novelist Willard Motley; author Henry Blake Fuller; composer Ned Rorem; writer Nella Larsen; publisher Margaret C. Anderson of The Little Review, published out of the Fine Arts Building on Michigan Avenue; musician Tony Jackson; writer Samuel Steward; businessman Robert Allerton; author Valerie Taylor; musician Tiny Davis; author Jeannette Howard Foster; and playwright Lorraine Hansberry (A Raisin in the Sun). Hansberry’s family home, 6140 S. Rhodes Ave., is a Chicago landmark because of both her work and its association with the Chicago Black Renaissance. Hansberry’s father Carl moved his family into the building in 1937 and waged a three-year-long battle culminating in a U.S. Supreme Court decision that was an important victory in the effort to outlaw racially restrictive housing covenants. President Abraham Lincoln is also a key part of Illinois history, and his sexuality, and affinity for sleeping with men, has been subject of ever-increasing debate.

A few decades after Henry Gerber tried to start a movement, one really got stronger in Chicago by the 1960s, prior to New York’s Stonewall Rebellion that sparked the modern LGBTQ movement. Chicagoans joined forces with the
SUMMER/FALL 2018 EVENTS

FARMERS MARKET
Wednesdays
MAY 9 - OCTOBER 17
Berwyn between Clark & Ashland

WINE WALK
May 20

MIDSOMMARFEST
June 8-10

SUMMER SIDEWALK SALE
July 27-29

TASTE OF ANDERSONVILLE
August 15

ARTS WEEK
September 12-16

MORE EVENT INFO AT:
andersonville.org
national movement in the 1970s, growing bigger, something that turned out to be critically important as HIV and AIDS started to devastate the community in the 1980s.

These and other stories of Chicago and its pioneers are detailed in my book Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City’s Gay Community. You can also see posthumous tributes to LGBTQs around the world on The Legacy Walk, the world’s only outdoor LGBTQ museum.

The city is full of LGBTQ-owned businesses, non-profits, arts groups, activists, volunteers and more. This guide is aimed at visitors to the city, but if you are thinking of moving here, there is even more the LGBTQ community has to offer.

Groups that work for statewide LGBTQs include Lambda Legal, the ACLU and Equality Illinois. In the Chicago area, there are more than 100 organizations working on LGBTQ or AIDS issues, including political, action-oriented (such as the new Pride Action Tank, BYP 100 or Black Lives Matter), social service, sports, culture and some purely social. Dozens of bars and special events cater to various parts of the community. There are also specialized groups such as Affinity for African-American LGBTQ women, ALMA: The Association of Latinx Motivating Action, Asians and Friends/Chicago, Invisible to Invincible Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago, Trikone and Chicago Gender Society, Brave Space Alliance, among many, many more.

The Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, is the city’s LGBTQ community hub. Though Center on Halsted’s building opened in 2007, its history goes back to its founding in 1973 as Gay Horizons and subsequently Horizons Community Services. Center on Halsted is the Midwest’s most comprehensive community center.

There are also dozens of neighborhoods within the city that are welcoming and where LGBTQs thrive, from Boystown in Lakeview to Andersonville, Uptown, Rogers Park, Humboldt Park, Pilsen, Hyde Park, South Shore, Beverly, Oak Park, Evanston, Berwyn and beyond. We also have a lot of pride opportunities in Chicago, with street fairs including in Andersonville (Midsommarfest) and Boystown (Market Days), plus Pride Fest, the Pride Parade (always the last Sunday of June), Black Pride, Latino/a Pride, Pride North and Back Lot Bash.

This guide presents some of the top tourist treats in the state, both mainstream and LGBTQ. We hope you enjoy the guide, and are able to take advantage of the tremendous variety of activities Chicago and Illinois provide.

— Tracy Baim, Publisher, Windy City Times and the OUT! Guide
When our culture is as vibrant as our people.

Discover a micro-urban oasis just two hours south of Chicago with fresh, local ingredients, art on every corner, and plenty of events to keep you entertained.

Check out the only Pride Parade south of Chicago on September 16, 2017!

visitchampaigncounty.org
800.369.6151
911: For emergencies
311: For basic non-emergency Chicago needs

LGBTQ Violence Resource line: 1-773-871-2273
Howard Brown Health: LGBTQ, 773-388-1600, howardbrown.org
State of Illinois AIDS/HIV & STD Hotline: 1-800-AID-AIDS, 800-243-2437; TTY 800-782-0423

Transit
Chicago is a transit hub for the U.S., central to so much infrastructure, you can find your way in and out by car, bus, train, airplane, bikes and even by walking.

Online Booking: Orbitz: orbitz.com/GayTravel — very LGBT friendly
Airports: Midway Airport: www.flychicago.com/midway
O’Hare Airport: www.flychicago.com/ohare
Note: CTA trains come into downtown Chicago from airports.
Transit: Amtrak: www.amtrak.com
CTA (Chicago Transit Authority): www.transitchicago.com
Greyhound: www.greyhound.com
Megabus: www.megabus.com
Metra: metrarail.com
Ogilvie Transportation Center: metrarail.com/metra/en/home/maps_schedules/downtown_chicagostations/ogilvie-transportation-center.html
Pace: www.pacebus.com
RTA (Regional Transportation Authority): rideonrtachicago.com
Uber: www.uber.com
Union Station: www.chicagounionstation.com

Accommodations
Chicago has hundreds of hotels, B&Bs and Airbnbs. Here are a few.
Bridgeport B & B: 3322 S. Morgan, part of Polo Inn, 773-927-1122, bridgeportbedandbreakfast.com
Godfrey Hotel: 127 W. Huron, beautiful roof deck, 312-649-2000, godfreyhotelchicago.com
Hyatt: www.hyatt.com/hypride
Keith House Chicago: South Loop, 1870s property, www.airbnb.com/rooms/20192910?s=51
Lang House B&B on Sheridan Road: Beautiful B&B on North Lakefront, www.langhousechicago.com
Other properties operated by the same company:
Emil Bach House, a Frank Lloyd Wright, Chicago, www.emilbachhouse.com

Chambers and Tourism Connections:
Blackhawk Waterways, NW Illinois: www.visitnorthwestillinois.com
Champaign County, Illinois: Visit Champaign County, www.visitchampaigncounty.org
Chicago: Choose Chicago, www.choosechicago.com
Lakeview East, Chicago: Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, www.lakevieweast.com
LGBT Chamber Chamber of Commerce of Illinois: www.lgbtcc.com
Moultrie County: Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development, www.visitmoultrieil.com
Northalsted Business Alliance: https://northalsted.com
Roscoe Village Chamber, Chicago: https://rvcc.biz

The State of Wisconsin:
Mineral Point, Wisconsin: Including Longbranch Gallery: www.longbranchgallery.com

The State of Michigan:
The state of Illinois offers up amazing views and attractions. What follows are highlights, but you can see many more at the Illinois Office of Tourism website: www.enjoyillinois.com. For special events during the year, see www.enjoyillinois.com/en-us/events. Some attractions and events of the towns closer to Chicago are listed elsewhere in this guide.

Abraham Lincoln looms large over the entire state, but especially in the Springfield area in Central Illinois. The 16th President of the United States, who served from 1861 until his assassination in 1865, was born in Kentucky but practiced law in Illinois, where he also was elected to the state House of Representatives. Carl Sandburg wrote of Lincoln and Joshua Speed, one of Lincoln’s many close male friends, that they had “a streak of lavender, and spots soft as May violets.” There were rumors about Lincoln’s life both before and during his presidency. C.A. Tripp’s book, The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln, best documents this.

You can experience the many public contributions of Lincoln at various tributes to the man in Illinois. Each year from May through October, you can take the Lincoln’s Ghost Walks in Springfield, and from early December to early January you can spend Christmas with the Lincolns. In the summer, re-enactors bring the 1800s to life to Springfield. The best place to learn about the president is the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, where priceless artifacts and immersive exhibits reveal the complexities of Lincoln’s life. At 212 N. Sixth St., www.illinois.gov/alplm/Pages/default.aspx., the New Salem State Historic Site is a reconstructed 1830s village where Lincoln lived as a young adult and began his career. See www.lincolnsnewsalem.com/. Other options include visiting Lincoln’s home, the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, the Old State Capitol where he worked, and Lincoln’s Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

There is certainly a lot more to see in Springfield than just Lincoln, including the State Capitol Building, the State Archives, the State Library, and the city’s LGBT community center, The Phoenix Center. They host special events including a PrideFest each May. See www.phoenixcenterspringfield.org.

About one hour east of Springfield is Sullivan (www.sullivaniil.us). There are historic spots to visit, including The Little Theatre on the Square, which, since 1957, has been bringing Broadway-quality entertainment to the heart of Central Illinois. Each year the theatre plays to nearly 50,000 patrons from across Illinois and the Midwest (www.thelittletheatre.org).

Get your kicks on Route 66, one of the most famous roads in the U.S. The Mother Road was one of the original highways in the U.S. Highway System, and was launched in 1926. The road originally ran 2,448 miles from Chicago to California. There is a 300-mile stretch of Route 66 in Illinois. The kitsch, the nostalgia, the people—it’s got all the makings of a great road trip, including the Polk-a-Dot Drive In, the World’s Largest Covered Wagon, Henry’s Ra66it Ranch, the World’s Largest Catsup Bottle, the Paul Bunyon Hotdog Statue, the Pink Elephant Antique Mall, the Smiling Water Tower and the Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum in Pontiac. See www.illinoisroute66.org for special events.
Travel with pride.

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galena@visitgalena.org / Tel: 815.776.9200
Galena in Jo Daviess County, in Northwest Illinois, offers amazing opportunities for visitors. Every June is the Great Galena Balloon Race. This is a spectacular three-day event with more than 20 hot air balloons, and in 2018 it is June 15-17. Fodor’s calls Galena one of the 10 best antiquing towns in the U.S., and many Chicagoans travel to Galena for a quick weekend getaway to explore the Historic Main Street. Just outside of Galena is the home of Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa, Illinois’ largest golf resort. See www.galena.org.

The Quad Cities area of Illinois and Iowa provides for great views and things to do. The gorgeous Hotel Blackhawk in Davenport is a beautiful starting point. The Mississippi River Visitor Center on Arsenal Island, between Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island, Illinois, offers free bald eagle watches and Historic Clock Tower tours—bring a proper government-issued ID (passports recommended, this is operated by federal government). Up to 2,500 bald eagles winter along the Mississippi near the lock and dams. Bald Eagle Watches occur January and February, but eagles can be seen from mid-December through early March. Reservations are requested: 309-794-5338.

Joliet, 40 miles southwest of Chicago, is a big gambling town, but it is also ranked the third most LGBTQ-friendly city in Illinois (behind Chicago and Aurora), according to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and the Equality Federation Institute. One of the state’s oldest gay bars is in Joliet, Maneuvers. See www.facebook.com/maneuversonline. Joliet is also known for the Chicagoland Speedway, the Rialto Square Theatre and the Route 66 Raceway.

Speaking of Aurora, citizens there won the right to have the city’s first Pride Parade, which will be June 17, 2018 at 1 p.m.

Starved Rock State Park in Utica, 90 miles Southwest of Chicago, offers an incredible forest and scenic waterfalls, plus rugged canyons. Outdoor activities include hiking, canoeing, paddle boat cruises, cross-country skiing, trolley rides, fishing and picnicking. Visitors can stay at the historic Starved Rock Lodge or in one of its cozy cabins.

As the Illinois tourism folks note: “Somewhere between the scenic vineyards, tasting rooms and wine trails, it hits you: Illinois really does have a wine country. Throughout the state, you’ll find more than 100 wineries and vineyards.” See www.enjoyillinois.com/en-us/tripideas/illinoiswinecountry. The Shawnee Hills Wine Trail is in Southern Illinois, home to a dozen wineries. Blue Sky Vineyard is in Makanda, touting that they offer the “romance of Italy.” Also in that region, Alto Vineyards Winery nestles into the woods near...
Little Grand Canyon in Murphysboro, a 3.6-mile loop trail. It offers spectacular views of the Big Muddy River, Turkey Bayou and the Missouri bluffs across the Mississippi River. In 1982 the Renzaglia family started Alto Vineyards, introducing the industry of winemaking to Southern Illinois. Since then, Illinois has experienced substantial growth and popularity in the winemaking business. Alto Vineyards boasts some of the finest wines made in the U.S. and has won more than 500 awards. Visitors to the vineyard can enjoy the spectacular views along the scenic Shawnee Hills Wine Trail while they take in a band, enjoy wine and food pairings, or celebrate their weddings. Alto Vineyards has locations in Alto Pass and in Champaign, Illinois. See altovineyards.net.

The Shawnee Hills Wine Trail’s—Food & Wine Pairing Weekends are Aug. 4-5 and Nov. 3-4.

You can also visit the beauty and history of Alton, Elsah and Grafton in the Mississippi River Country (drive the Great River Road with scenic byways), shopping, wineries, tours and haunted houses. Alton has the National Great Rivers Museum. Also look for: Craft Beer Week, Grafton Winery Blues Fest, All-Wheels Drive-In Car Show, Peach Fest, plus Alton Audubon Eagle fest. Meanwhile, in Quincy, look for Q-Fest (Q being for Quincy), celebrating art, music and fashion, and the Great River Grape Escape in September, where the Illinois wine industry showcases their beverages.

Beautiful Nauvoo is located on a bend in the Mississippi River, on the Great River Road near the borders of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri and is a National Historic Landmark District with more than 40 restored sites and two working museums. Nauvoo’s restored sites will take you back in time to the 1840s, a time when Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, settled the area with over 12,000 of his followers. The working museums showcase additional heritage groups such as the Native American tribes of the Sac and Fox along with the French Icarians and various German groups. Nauvoo is also home to eclectic businesses—including the famous Hotel Nauvoo, an inn and restaurant renowned for its high quality food; Baxter’s Vineyards and Winery, the oldest winery in the state of Illinois; The Nauvoo Fudge Factory, making fresh, homemade fudge; and the Nauvoo Mill & Bakery, milling flours and making delectable treats. See www.beautifulnauvoo.com. They also have the Nauvoo Grape Fest.

Champaign-Urbana (www.visitchampaigncounty.org), early pioneers in gay rights, offer a variety of tourism options in Central Illinois. Highlights
include the Krannert Art Museum, the William M. Staerkel Planetarium, Japan House, Prairie Fire Glass (in Monticello), Pollinatarium (U of Illinois Pollinatarium, the first free-standing science center in the nation devoted to flowering plants and their pollinators, located in an Arboretum), the Wandell Sculpture Garden, and the Bl...
landscape features hills, lakes, creeks and bluffs. If you’re into climbing, a must-see is Jackson Falls. The Pomona Natural Bridge is a natural geologic formation that spans 90 feet across a ravine. Near Shawnee is Cave-in-Rock State Park. Wander along the Ohio River and step into the large cavern, steeped in history of river pirates. Enjoy the spectacular river views from the lodge atop the bluffs.

The Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is Illinois’ only United Nations World Heritage Site. This 2,200-acre site in Collinsville preserves the central section of the largest prehistoric Indian city north of Mexico. An Interpretive Center presents a coherent account of this sophisticated prehistoric culture. Climb Monk’s Mound, see the film and life-size village.

The Kincaid Mounds Archaeological Site is four miles south of Unionville Road on New Cut Road, Brookport, Illinois. Kincaid is a nationally significant Native-American archaeological treasure. From about 800 AD to 1500 AD it was the “capital” of a chiefdom that stretched from Brookport to Hamletsburg along the Ohio River. Large flat-topped mounds were erected on which the houses and temples of civil and religious elite stood.

Underground Railroad Shuttle Tours happen from February to October each year in Alton. The system included the Old Rock House and Rocky Fork Church. Alton’s riverfront location along the Mighty Mississippi played a vital role in helping slaves make connections to the freedom of the Northern states.

St. Charles is a beautiful town on the Fox River with many special events. You can browse the wares of hundreds of dealers at the Kane County Flea Market, the first weekend of each month at the Kane County Fairgrounds. They also have the Beith House Museum, the Creek Bend Nature Center, the autos on site at the Baltria collection, the Durant House Museum, Garfield Farm and Inn Museum, St. Charles Paddlewheel Riverboats and more.

Some other areas and events you might want to put on your list:

— **Peoria**, where you can paddle down the Illinois River on a steamboat, plus explore their riverfront. From late November to the end of December, light up your night at the East Peoria Festival of Lights, a holiday spectacular with more than 2 million lights.

— **Rockford**, which has attractions including a Japanese Garden, Burpee Museum of Natural History with dinosaurs, Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum and Gardens, kayaking, the Coronado Theatre and more.

— **Moline**: John Deere’s legacy thrives in Moline at a reimagined hands-on pavilion along the Mississippi.

— **Quincy** highlights include Villa Kathrine, the Dollhouses Then & Now Museum with more than 70 vintage furnished doll houses from the 1920s to now, bald eagles at the Lock & Dam 21, and the World Aero Space Museum with aircraft from the Cold War era—the only museum in the world preserving these types of aircraft in one location.

— **Bishop Hill** has Sweet Annie Primitives, the Prairie Arts Center, the Henry County Historical Museum, and many inns and gift stores.

— **Collinsville** has other offerings in addition to the Cahokia Mounds, including Gateway Geyser Fountain, the world’s tallest fountain, reaching 627 feet in a pond that holds 5 million gallons of water; the Gateway Fun Park; Casino Queen; Old Six Mile Museum in the Emmert-Zippel House (158-year-old home has displays of historic items including Civil War artifacts, a Native American collection, and 1830s furnishings); and the Old Fire Engine Museum.

— Galesburg has the Discovery Depot Children's Museum, Galesburg Railroad Museum, Illinois Citizen Soldier Museum, Orpheum Theatre, and the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site (author-poet Sandburg was born in the three-room cottage at 331 E. Third Street in Galesburg Jan. 6, 1878).
— Gurnee just north of Chicago has theme parks and endless shopping. Family-friendly attractions include KeyLime Cove Indoor Waterpark Resort and Six Flags Great America and Hurricane Harbor.
— HoverPark, the world’s first hoverboard amusement park, is now open in West Dundee, www.hoverpark.com.
— Naperville is a large town outside of Chicago, with 150,000 people and a wide variety of things to do. Naper Settlement is a family-friendly outdoor history museum featuring 12 acres of learning and interactive opportunities, from pioneer times to today. See www.visitnaperville.com.
— Bloomington-Normal are college towns with historic gems. Among the offerings are Ewing Cultural Center, Grady’s Family Fun Center, McLean County Museum of History, Genevieve Green Gardens, Children’s Discovery Museum, Sweet Corn Blues Festival, Constitution Trail, the Funk Prairie Home Gem and Mineral Museum, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and the nearby Mackinaw River State Fish and Wildlife Area in Mackinaw.
— The Hegeler Carus Mansion, built in the early 1870s, is in LaSalle, 100 miles Southwest of Chicago and is a National Historic Landmark. Virtually unaltered since its completion, the home is an excellent example of artistic achievement in architecture and in interior design. See www.hegelercarus.org.
— Lincoln, Illinois includes the Lincoln Heritage Museum, Samuel Park’s Office, and the Postville Courthouse State Historic Site, a reproduction of the original courthouse where Abraham Lincoln practiced law.
— Every August in Cobdon, Far Southern Illinois, there is a Peach Fest, Aug. 3-4, 2018.
— In October, catch the annual Scarecrow Daze Festival. The entire city
of Shelbyville is decorated with scarecrows. With a different theme every year, entrants decorate their homes and businesses to the theme. There is also a large parade on Saturday, kids’ games, a beer tent, music, a quilt show, and plenty of food and crafts, in downtown Shelbyville.

— The Jane Addams Trail in Freeport is a multi-use 17-mile recreational trail with beautiful scenery and 21 decked bridges, including a covered bridge in Orangeville, passing wetlands, creeks, woods, prairies, geologic formations and farmland. The trail is part of the Grand Illinois Trail which traverses northern Illinois from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River.

— There are several State Fairs in Illinois. The most well known takes place in Springfield, and it is full of politicians. The 2018 State Fair is Aug. 9-19. The Twilight Parade kicks off the event. The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances, or CORAL, is a Central Illinois LGBT coalition, and its float have won the best entrant in the parade for many years.

— The Cache River Wetlands in Cypress offer opportunities for eagle watching, as well as spotting other birds, especially December through March.

— The Amish County Cheese Festival in Arthur is Labor Day Weekend.

— DeKalb County, 60 miles west of Chicago, is rich in history, nature and cultural diversity. They host the Make America Rock Again Festival in September.

— Dixon, 100 miles west of Chicago, hosts festivals including in 2018: Dixon Petunia Fest, Whiteside County Historic Barn Tour and the Gardenstock Art & Music Fest.

— Mt. Carmel in Southeast Illinois hosts their Ribberfest every April, ribberfest.com.

— Belleville, in Southwest Illinois, hosts Art on the Square with more 100 artists from across the U.S. and around the world.

— The Annual Fort de Chartres Rendezvous is at the Fort de Chartres State Historic Site in Southwest Illinois. Features shooting competitions, military drills, dancing, music, food and traders of 18th-century-style goods.

The above is far from an exhaustive list of what the state of Illinois has to offer. We hope you can’t wait to travel the roadways and trails.
Illinois boasts a diverse system of state parks and recreation areas, showcasing natural features from towering cliffs to lush valleys, plant life from deep-forest pines to arid cactus, and wildlife of every shape and size. Here are 10 highlights from my quest over the last few years to “hike the state.”


2. Castle Rock State Park, Oregon, Illinois: One can spend quite some time at this North Central Illinois natural playground. The north system of trails can be more challenging, but offers breathtaking views along ridges through the forest. Try the south trails for a more meandering, open landscape covered in lush grasses.

3. Lowden-Miller State Forest, Oregon, Illinois: Get gleefully lost among the trees on this eight-mile loop trail, snaking through towering hardwood and pine trees, and giving way to aquatic views along the Rock River. You’ll definitely want to bring a compass—or make sure that your phone has a reliable compass app.

4. Apple River Canyon State Park, Apple River, Illinois: History and nature collide at this park in the Northwest corner of the state, a location originally noted as a booming mining town along the banks of the Apple River. The ridge trail down to the lake is particularly challenging … and rewarding.

5. Wolf Creek State Park, Windsor, Illinois: A gorgeous, slow, sandy walk around the shores of Lake Shelbyville, Illinois’ largest body of water contained entirely within its borders.
GO TAKE A HIKE InRealLife

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6. **Fox Ridge State Park, Charleston, Illinois:** Explore all the splendor that Central Illinois has to offer along the escalating switchbacks and rolling hill vistas of this system of trails. A peaceful escape.

7. **Trail of Tears State Forest, Jonesboro, Illinois:** Located at the south tip of the state, Trail of Tears is not for the faint of foot. This intricate system of country trails follows sharp ridges through the forest, overlooking verdant valleys and an almost mythical variety of wildlife; deer abound.

8. **Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside, Illinois:** This marshy gem supports an unexpected array of bird and bug life. Quietly scope out the waterfowl, sunning on the bog and wind through the muddy grasses. You’ll definitely want to invest in waterproof hiking shoes for this one.

9. **Mississippi Palisades State Park, Savanna, Illinois:** This is a challenge for the experienced, alert hiker. The Sunset trail is aptly named, as one false step, and it could be sunset for you. Worth it for the cliffside views of the Mississippi River.

10. **Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area, Yorkville, Illinois:** After miles of shade under the canopy of the forest, spill into the sunlight in a grassy field teeming with botanical diversity and hulking metal electrical towers that scrape the sky. The architectural beauty of these structures provides a stark contrast to the unmanicured, unbound greenness underfoot.

   For more information on these parks and many more, see [https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks](https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks).

   — *Kirk Williamson, Art Director, Windy City Times, OUT! Guide*
Located less than 200 miles from downtown Chicago, the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel features 55,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, and spacious modern rooms for your attendees. There are also two restaurants on-site and plenty of free parking, making it the perfect choice for your next event. We look forward to seeing you in Decatur!

Decatur Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau of Illinois
decaturcvb.com

Give us a call to discuss how we can assist with your event!
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Chicago is a city of festivals, from major downtown venues to local street fairs, block parties, and other special events through the city and suburbs, and across the state of Illinois each year.

For LGBTQs, some of the biggest 2018 events are the International Mr. Leather weekend over Memorial Day, with Bear Pride that same time period, United Latinx Pride (June, unitedlatinopride.org), followed by the Andersonville Midsommarfest (June 8-10) and Pride Fest (June 16-17), the Backlot Bash in June, Dyke March June 23, the Pride Parade the last Sunday of June (June 24), Pride North on June 24, and lots of related Pride events, Black Pride Weekend in early July (www.windycityblackpride.info), the Northalsted Market Days weekend in August—this year Aug. 11-12, and the Miss and Mr. Continental pageants Labor Day Weekend in Chicago, hosted by Baton Show Lounge.

Throughout the year there are many LGBTQ events, benefits, sports tournaments and more. Some events are planned just weeks or days in advance, thus they can’t be listed in an annual guide. So check the Windy City Times calendar.

Throughout the summer, usually from end of May thru early September, enjoy Navy Pier Summer Fireworks, synchronized to music, weather dependent, Saturdays at 10:15 p.m., Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m.

The Garfield Park Conservatory is beautiful all year round, with special spring flower and other events. The Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, Brookfield Zoo and Lincoln Park Zoo have great things to do and see year-round.

What follows is a list of more highlights for 2018 in Chicago. See www.choosechicago.com for updated lists, and for 2019 events. Plus check out the www.windyctymediagroup.com calendar page for LGBT-related events.

May 2018
— Dragon Lights is an International touring exhibit that has thrilled millions of guests around the world, at Soldier Field through May 6 dragonlightschicago.com/
— Chicago Kids and Kites Festival, Cricket Hill at Montrose and the Lake, May 6
— James Beard Foundation Awards May 7
— Frank Lloyd Wright Trust presents Wright Plus Housewalk May 1-19
— Springfield PrideFest May 19, www.springfieldpride.org
— Randolph Street Market Festival May 26-27
— Mole de Mayo May 25-27
— Mafest Chicago May 31-June 3
— Chicago Memorial Day Parade, May 26
— Belmont-Sheffield Music Festival, May 26-27
— Bike the Drive, www.bikethedrive.org May 27
— International Mr. Leather, held every Memorial Weekend, and Bear Pride that week as well. See imrl.com and bearpride.org.
June 2018
— Fireworks at Navy Pier, through Labor Day
— Chicago Gospel Music Festival June 1-2
— Do Division June 1-3
— Lincoln Park Greek Fest June 1-3
— 57th Street Art Fair June 2-3
— Andersonville Midsommarfest June 8-10
— Ribfest Chicago June 8-10
— Chicago Blues Festival June 8-10
— Spring Awakening Music Festival June 8-10
— Pilsen Food Truck Social June 6-7
— Wells Street Art Festival June 9-10
— Brew to Be Wild June 15-16
— Chicago Pride Fest June 16-17
— Gold Coast Art Fair June 16-17
— Millennium Park Summer Film Series June 12 thru summer
— Back Lot Bash lesbian parties, June (www.backlotbashchicago.com)
— Country LakeShake Music Festival June 22-24
— Ruido Fest in Pilsen June 22-24
— Craft Beer Festival at The Morton Arboretum June 23
— Ravenswood on Tap June 23-24
— Proud to Run Chicago June 23 (www.proudtorun.org)
— Dyke March June 23
— Chicago Pride Parade June 24
— Pride North June 24
— Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce will host the 17th Annual Dragon Boat Race for Literacy June 27 at Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown, www.chicagochinatown.org/dragon-boat
— Windy City Ribfest in Uptown June 29-July 1
— Windy City Black Pride June 29-July 2 (www.windycityblackpride.info)

July 2018
— Chicago Black Pride ends July 2
— Chosen Few Picnic: House Music Festival July 7, chosenfewdjs.com
— African/Caribbean International Festival of Life July 6-8
— Fourth of July Fireworks at Navy Pier July 4
— Millennium Art Festival July 6-8
— West Fest in West Town July 6-8
— Irish American Heritage Festival July 6-8
— Taste of Chicago July 11-15
— Windy City Smokeout July 13-15
— 5K RUN! To End Homelessness July 14
— Roscoe Village Burger Fest July 14-15
— Southport Art & Music Fest July
— Chinatown Summer Fair July 15
— Dearborn Garden Walk July 15
— Wine & Sweets Stroll, Lakeview, July 15
— Pitchfork Music Festival July 20-22
— Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac July 21
— artfest Michigan Avenue July 20-22
— Taste of River North July 20-22
— Sheffield Music Festival & Garden Walk July 21-22
— Chicago Craft Beer Festival July 21-22
— Fiesta del Sol July 26-29
— Chicago Margarita Festival July 28-29
— Taste of Lincoln Avenue July 28-29 — Wicker Park Fest July 27-29
— Randolph Street Market Festival July 28-29

August 2018
— Wrigleyville SummerFest August
— Lollapalooza August 2-5
— Jeff Fest www.jeffersonpark.net
— Edge Fest in Edgewater Aug. 4-5
— Chicago Hot Dog Fest Aug. 10-12
— Ginza Festival Chicago Aug. 10-12
— Retro on Roscoe Aug. 10-12
— Bud Billiken Parade Aug. 11
— Northalsted Market Days Aug. 11-12
— Clark After Dark Aug. 16
— Festa Italiana, Taylor Street August
— Edison Park Fest Aug. 17-19
— Glenwood Avenue Arts Fest Aug. 17-19
— Windy City Carnival Aug. 18
— Oak Park Microbrew Review Aug. 18
— Chicago Air & Water Show Aug. 18-19
— Taste of Greektown Aug. 24-26
— Randolph Street Market Festival Aug. 25-26
— Transamerica Chicago Triathlon Aug. 26 (Team to End AIDS competes, www.t2ea.com)
— Chicago Fringe Festival Aug. 30-Sept. 3
— Chicago Jazz Festival Aug. 30-Sept. 2
— African Festival of the Arts Aug. 31-Sept. 3
— Great American Lobster Fest Aug. 31-Sept. 2
— North Coast Music Festival Aug. 31-Sept. 2
— Taste of Polonia Aug. 31-Sept. 3

September 2018
See above for fests starting in August, ending in September
— Miss Continental and Mr. Continental pageants weekend, Sept. 1-3, hosted by Baton Show Lounge (www.thebatonshowlounge.com)
— Reeling Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival September (reelingfilmfestival.org)
— West Loop Art Fair September
— Ride for AIDS Chicago Sept. 8-9 (www.rideforaids.org)
— Windy City Wine Festival Sept. 7-8
— Throwback Music Festival Sept. 7-9—
Festival de La Villita (aka Little Village Fest) Sept. 7-9
— World Music Festival Chicago Sept.
7-23
— Out in the Park at Six Flags Great
America Sept. 8 (gaysixflagschicago.com)
— Lakeview East Festival of the Arts
Sept. 8-9
— Race Judicata Sept. 13
— Riot Fest & Carnival in Douglas Park
Sept. 14-16
— Fulton Market Harvest Fest Sept. 14-16
— Ravenswood ArtWalk Sept. 15-16
— Sam Adams’ Lakeview Taco Fest Sept.
15-16
— Chicago Architecture Biennial Returns
in 2019
— West Loop Art Fest Sept. 16-17
— AAH! Fest by Common Sept. 15
— EXPO Chicago Art Week Sept. 27-30,
Navy Pier, www.expochicago.com
— Chicago Gourmet Sept. 28-30
— Oktoberfest Chicago at St. Alphonsus
Sept. 28-Sept. 30
— Randolph Street Market Festival Sept.
29-30

October 2018
— AIDS Run & Walk Chicago Fall (events.aidschicago.org)
— West Town Food Truck Social Oct. 5-6
— Rocktober Beerfest
— Chicago Marathon Oct. 7 (Team to
End AIDS runs, www.t2ea.com)
— Columbus Day Parade Oct. 8
— Chicago International Film Festival
Oct. 11-25
— Open House Chicago presented by
Chicago Architecture Foundation Oct.
13-14
— Chicago Ideas Week Oct. 15-21
— Chicago’s Halloween Gathering Festi-
vale & Parade Oct. 20
— Lakeview East Halloween Hoopla
Oct. 28
— Randolph Street Market Festival Oct.
27-28
— Northalsted Halloween Parade Oct. 31

November 2018
— SOFA Art + Design Fair at Navy Pier
Nov. 2-4
— Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in
Millennium Park Nov. 17
— McCormick Tribune Ice Rink at Millen-
nium Park Nov. 17-March 11
— Christkindlmarket Chicago Nov. 17-
Dec. 24, Daley Plaza and at the Park
Wrigley Field
— Randolph Street Holiday Market Nov.
17-18
— The Magnificent Mile Lights Festival
Nov. 16-17
— Transgender Day of Remembrance, an
observance Nov. 20
— Thanksgiving Day Parade Nov. 22
— ZooLights at Lincoln Park Zoo Nov.
23-Jan. 1

December 2018
— World of Chocolate is an annual
fundraiser for the AIDS Foundation of
Chicago, held each December. See
events.aidschicago.org.
— McCormick Tribune Ice Skating Rink in
Millennium Park thru March
— Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo December
— Christkindlmarket Chicago thru Dec. 24, Daley Plaza and at the Park Wrigley Field
— ZooLights at Lincoln Park Zoo thru Jan. 1, 2018
— Winter WonderFest at Navy Pier Dec. 1-Jan. 7, 2018
— One of A Kind Show and Sale at The Mart Dec. 6-9
— Randolph Street Holiday Market Dec. 15-16
— New Year’s Eve Fireworks at Navy Pier Dec. 31

If you’re coming to Chicago in 2019, check back closer to the end of 2018 for exact dates for these annual events:

January: Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival, Rhinoceros Theater Festival, Tomorrow Never Knows Festival, Chicago Boat/Sports/RV Show, Chicago Cubs Convention, Fillet of Solo Festival, SoxFest, Chicago Restaurant Week, IKC Dog Show, Randolph Street Market Festival.

February: Snow Days Chicago at Navy Pier, Chicago Theatre Week, University of Chicago Folk Festival, Chicago Auto Show, Chicago Chinese New Year Celebration, Lunar New Year Parade.

March: St. Patrick’s Day Downtown Parade and River Dyeing, Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier, Southside Irish Parade, Northwest Side Irish Parade, C2E2: Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo, Good Food Festival, Macy’s Flower Show.

April: Chicago Dance Month, River North Beer Fest, CHIRP Record Fair, CIMMfest: The Chicago International Movies & Music Festival, Chicago Zine Fest, Baconfest Chicago.
YOU WANT IT, WE GOT IT, IT’S ALL HERE...

ROSEMONT.COM
Chicago’s award-winning “Legacy Walk” in Boystown is the world’s only outdoor LGBT History Museum. This half-mile span of the Northalsted Streetscape, which starts at Belmont and moves north, features 38 bronze memorial markers affixed to steel “Rainbow Pylons”—lighted spires that define the area as the cultural, business and entertainment center of LGBTQ Chicago. It is the only permanent, architecturally defined “LGBT Village” on earth.

The Legacy Walk’s biographical tributes celebrate the contributions of LGBT people to world history and culture. This international and multicultural installation features Chicago-based social justice pioneer Jane Addams; civil-rights icon Bayard Rustin; Mexican artist Frida Kahlo; British code-breaker Alan Turing; U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan; Puerto Rican education advocate Doctor Antonia Pantoja; dramatist Oscar Wilde; astronaut Sally Ride; author James Baldwin; transgender icon Sylvia Rivera; Maestro Leonard Bernstein; the “Story of the Pink Triangle”; a tribute to the Harlem Renaissance; playwright Lorraine Hansberry; and more than two dozen other LGBT heroes who have made indelible contributions to the world.

The Legacy Walk is digitally linked to a cloud-based system accessed by smartphone that delivers video and education resources to the user in real-time. The installation serves as the centerpiece of education efforts for bullied LGBTQ youth who come to Boystown on field trips to learn about an aspect of history they have been denied.

Visitors can arrange for privately guided tours that can be coupled with dinner, shopping and drinks to round out a day filled with both LGBT cultural history and entertainment—an ideal way to spend time with your friends or co-workers in your company’s employee resource group. The perfect outing.

For more information, visit wwwlegacyprojectchicago.org, 312-608-1198.
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OF LGBT CONTRIBUTIONS TO
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.LEGACYPROJECTCHICAGO.ORG
OR CALL 312-608-1198
Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, presenting visitors with opportunities to experience vibrant areas of ethnic and cultural diversity.

If you visit the city, we suggest you don’t just stay downtown, but venture out north, west, south … and to the parts that are east. This city operates on a grid structure, so it’s very easy to navigate, with great public transit, Uber, taxis, bike and walking trails, and more.

Let’s take a look at the 77 “official” areas of the city, knowing that there are many, like “Boystown” in Lakeview, that are not on the list. The following list is from The Chicago 77: www.thechicago77.com/chicago-neighborhoods/. You can see a full city map here: www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/doit/general/GIS/Chicago_Maps/Citywide_Maps/Community_Areas_W_Numbers.pdf.

Note that sometimes the boundaries of an area can be a bit amorphous.

### Far North Side:
- Rogers Park (Loyola, Rogers Park)
- West Ridge (Nortown, Peterson Park, Rosehill, West Ridge, West Rogers Park)
- Uptown (Clarendon Park, Buena Park, New Chinatown, Sheridan Park, Uptown)
- Lincoln Square (Bowmanville, Budlong Woods, Lincoln Square, Ravenswood, Ravenswood Gardens)
- Edison Park (Edison Park)
- Norwood Park (Big Oaks, Norwood Park, Old Norwood, Oriole Park, Union Ridge)
- Jefferson Park (Gladstone Park, Jefferson Park)
- Forest Glen (Edgebrook, Forest Glen, Middle Edgebrook, Sauganash, Wildwood)
- North Park (Hollywood Park, North Park, Pulaski Park)
- Albany Park (Albany Park, Mayfair, North Mayfair, Ravenswood Manor)
- O’Hare (O’Hare, Schorsch Forest View)
- Edgewater (Andersonville, Edgewater, Edgewater Glen, Epic, Lakewood/Balmoral)

### North Side:
- North Center (Northcenter, Roscoe Village, Saint Ben’s)
- Lakeview (Lake View East, North Halsted, West Lakeview, Wrigleyville)
- Lincoln Park (DePaul, Old Town Triangle, Park West, Lincoln Park, Ranch Triangle, Sheffield Neighbors, Wrightwood Neighbors)
- Avondale (Avondale, Jackowo, Wacawowo)
- Logan Square (Logan Square, Bucktown, Palmer Square)

### Northwest Side:
- Portage Park (Portage Park, Six Corners)
- Irving Park (Irving Park, Kilbourn Park, Old Irving Park, The Villa)
- Dunning (Belmont Heights, Belmont Terrace, Dunning, Irving Woods, Schorsch Village)
- Montclare (Montclare)
- Belmont Cragin (Brickyard, Cragin, Hanson Park)
- Hermosa (Belmont Gardens, Hermosa, Kelvyn Park)

### Central, Near North, and Near South Side:
- Near North Side (Cabrini-Green, Dearborn Parkway, The Gold Coast, Goose Island, Magnificent Mile, Near North Side, Old Town, River North, River West, State Parkway, Streeterville)
- Loop (The Loop, New Eastside, Printer’s Row, South Loop)
- Near South Side (Dearborn Park, Near South Side, Museum Park, Central Station, Prairie Avenue Historic District)

### West and Near West Side:
- Humboldt Park (Humboldt Park)
- West Town (East Village, Noble Square, Ukrainian Village, Smith Park, West Town, Wicker Park)
- Austin (Austin, Galewood, The Island)
West Garfield Park (West Garfield Park)
East Garfield Park (East Garfield Park, Fifth City)
Near West Side (Columbus Circle, Greektown, Little Italy, Medical Center,
Near West Side, Tri-Taylor, Fulton River District, University Village)
North Lawndale (North Lawndale)
South Lawndale (Little Village, South Lawndale, Marshall Square)
Lower West Side (Heart of Chicago, Lower West Side, Pilsen)

Southwest Side:
Garfield Ridge (Garfield Ridge, Le Claire Courts, Sleepy Hollow, Vittum Park)
Archer Heights (Archer Heights)
Brighton Park (Brighton Park)
McKinley Park (McKinley Park)
New City (Back of the Yards, Canaryville, New City)
West Elsdon (West Elsdon)
Gage Park (Gage Park)
Clearing (Chrysler Village, Clearing)
West Lawn (Ford City, West Lawn)
Chicago Lawn (Chicago Lawn, Lithuanian Plaza, Marquette Park)
West Englewood (West Englewood)
Englewood (Englewood, Hamilton Park)

South Side:
Armour Square (Armour Square, Chinatown, Wentworth Gardens)
Douglas (Bronzeville, Douglas, Groveland Park, Lake Meadows,
Prairie Shores, South Commons)
Oakland (Oakland)
Fuller Park (Fuller Park)
Grand Boulevard (Grand Boulevard)
Kenwood (Kenwood)
Washington Park (Washington Park)
Hyde Park (Hyde Park)
Woodlawn (Woodlawn)
South Shore (Jackson Park Highlands, South Shore)
Bridgeport (Bridgeport)
Greater Grand Crossing (Grand Crossing, Greater Grand Crossing, Park Manor)

Far Southwest Side:
Ashburn (Ashburn, Ashburn Estates, Beverly View, Crestline, Parkview,
Scottsdale, Wrightwood)
Auburn Gresham (Auburn Gresham, Gresham)
Beverly (Beverly, West Beverly)
Washington Heights (Brainerd, Longwood Manor, Washington Heights)
Mount Greenwood (Mount Greenwood, Talley’s Corner)
Morgan Park (Beverly Woods, Kennedy Park, Morgan Park, West Morgan Park)

Far South Side:
Chatham (Chatham, West Chesterfield)
Avalon Park (Avalon Park, Marynook, Stony Island Park)
South Chicago (South Chicago)
Burnside (Burnside)
Calumet Heights (Calumet Heights, Pill Hill)
Roseland (Fernwood, Princeton Park, Roseland)
Pullman (Cottage Grove Heights, Pullman)
South Deering (Jeffrey Manor, South Deering)
East Side (East Side)
West Pullman (West Pullman)
Riverdale (Altgeld Gardens, Eden Green, Golden Gate, Riverdale)
Hegewisch (Hegewisch)

Following are some details on a few neighborhoods, and nearby suburbs, that you
may want to check out.

Andersonville: Andersonville is one of the most concentrated areas of Swedish
heritage in Chicago and also represents a wide array of cultures including a large
The LGBTQ population. Formerly affectionately called “Girls Town,” the area is very mixed now and is more “LGBTQ Town.” Women & Children First Bookstore was one of the earliest LGBT business pioneers of the area, which now has dozens of LGBT-owned small and large businesses and nonprofits. The area hosts many special events and festivals. Contact the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce at 773-728-2995, www.andersonville.org.

**Beverly:** The Beverly Arts Center anchors this Far South Side neighborhood. The 40,000-square-foot space houses a 400-seat theater, art gallery, exhibition spaces, music and dance studios, art classrooms and event rental spaces including a courtyard and light-filled atrium. See www.beverlyartcenter.org. Also see www.bapa.org.

**Bronzeville:** Between 1910 and 1920, tens of thousands of African American workers journeyed to Bronzeville to escape oppression in the U.S. South. As one of the most significant landmarks of the “Great Migration,” this South Side neighborhood in an African American cultural allure. Bronzeville’s 20th Century resurgence is responsible for tremendous cultural and social advances. Pulitzer Prize-winner Gwendolyn Brooks, civil-rights activist Ida B. Wells and legendary musician Louis Armstrong were profoundly responsible for the area’s development and cultural crusade, which included advances in civil rights, jazz, blues and gospel music. Of note is a sculpture-adorned stretch of Martin Luther King Drive with Alison Saar’s “Monument to the Great Northern Migration,” The Bronzeville Walk of Fame and The Victory Monument. www.bronzevillechamber.com.

**Boystown:** Boystown, in Lakeview, is one of the most well-known LGBTQ communities in the U.S., and it was the first to have public recognition through street markers—rainbow-colored pylons along the street from Belmont to Waveland. Those markers also are home to The Legacy Walk (by The Legacy Project), the world’s first outdoor LGBTQ museum. The city’s LGBTQ community center, the Center on Halsted, and its neighboring LGBTQ senior facility, are on the street, as are dozens of bars and businesses. The annual Pride Parade marches down Halsted. Sidetrack, one of the biggest gay bars in the world, is on the strip. The Northalsted Business Alliance hosts numerous events on the street each year, including Pride Fest, the Halloween Parade, and the always-popular Northalsted Market Days. See www.northalsted.com.

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The entrance to Little Village on the Southwest Side.
Photo by Tracy Baim
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Bridgeport: This area on the Southwest Side has a complicated past as home to controversial white ethnic political dynasties such as the Daleys, but it is now a burgeoning arts, culture and dining area, including the Bridgeport Art Center. Don’t miss Polo Cafe & Catering for dining, and they also have a beautiful B&B. See www.polocafe.com or www.southloopchamberofcommerce.com.

Chinatown: Chinatown on the Near South Side is the neighborhood of Chicago that houses many Chinese immigrant families and businesses. See chicago-chinatown.org for info on events including the Chinese New Year festivities, the Dragon Boat Race and more.

Edgewater: On the Far North Lakefront, Edgewater is famous for its expansive beaches and sprawling park space, with an eclectic mix of shopping and dining, including restaurants by African and East European immigrants. Between its lantern lights and vintage lamp posts, the neighborhood’s Bryn Mawr Historic District is a charming reminder of the city’s 1920s era. Bryn Mawr Avenue is lined with notably significant buildings, including the historic Belle Shore Apartment Hotel and Edgewater Presbyterian Church. See www.edgewater.org.

Grand Crossing: This South Side area includes the Cyrill Historic District and Woodhull Park, among others. Perhaps most exciting is the newly renovated Stony Island Trust & Savings Bank, transformed by artist Theaster Gates and his Rebuild Foundation team into the Stony Island Arts Bank, at East 68th Street and Stony Island. The record collection of the late gay DJ Frankie Knuckles, called the godfather of House music, is located here, plus the Johnson Publishing Archive and much more. See rebuild-foundation.org.

Greektown: On the Near West Side is Greektown, an area featuring some of the best in Greek dining, plus the National Hellenic Museum. See greektownchicago.org.

Humboldt Park: Affixed with two enormous, metal Puerto Rican flags that measure almost 60 feet in height, Humboldt Park is rooted in a proud Latino tradition. With streets that are decorated in vibrant murals and air that smells of carne guisada, Humboldt Park is a Caribbean escape shrouded in urban charm. One-quarter of Humboldt Park’s residents are of Puerto Rican descent and the area’s cultural epicenter, known as the Paseo Boricua, bursts with national pride and Spanish Colonial architecture. The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture is at 3015 W. Division. The neighborhood’s Puerto Rican People’s Parade each June is one of the highest-attended Latino celebrations in the country. And keeping with the festive theme, the area hosts Fiesta Boricua. See www.nmprac.org.

From Andersonville’s Midsommarfest. Photo by Vernon Hester.
CHICAGO PRIDE FEST
JUNE 16-17

NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS
AUGUST 11-12

BOYSTOWN 2018

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NORTHALSTED
NORTHALSTED.COM
Hyde Park: Hyde Park on the South Side is rated one of the 10 most beautiful neighborhoods in America. It has been home to a number of notable figures, including Clarence Darrow, Enrico Fermi, Muhammad Ali, Mahalia Jackson, Sara Paretsky and Barack Obama. The Lake Michigan shoreline, Washington Park, Midway Plaisance and the community of Kenwood in Chicago bound Hyde Park. Visit www.hydeparkchamberchicago.org.

Lakeview East: The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce on the city’s North Side hosts many special events throughout the year, including the Lakeview East Festival of the Arts, neighborhood nights, and a fashion show. It is a community-based organization designed to represent and help merchants and other business people in the community. See www.lakevieweast.com.

Lincoln Square/Ravenswood: Founded in 1948, the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce is an association of 250 local businesses, institutions, and professionals. See www.lincolnsquare.org.

Little Italy: The Little Italy neighborhood is a living legacy of Chicago’s immigrant past. Here food is culture and history remains engrained in stone—from the humble halls of the original settlement homes at Jane Addams Hull-House Museum to the vaulted ceilings of The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii. On Taylor Street, from Morgan Street west to Ashland Avenue, you will find restaurants that span generations. See www.wcachicago.org.

Little Village: This two-mile-long commercial district on 26th Street anchors the Little Village neighborhood (known as La Villita in Spanish but also more formally as South Lawndale) is second only to the Michigan Avenue district in terms of shopping power. It’s an authentic slice of home for the Mexican-American community that resides here and is a port of entry for many incoming Latinos. For those who pass under the terra cotta Bienvenidos a Little Village archway looking for a true taste of the “Mexico of the Midwest,” you won’t be disappointed. See littlevillagechamber.org.

Logan Square: “Cheap eats and bike-friendly streets,” writes Choose Chicago. “Gourmet coffee, scruffy dive bars and artisanal cocktail lounges. Some may say it’s a recipe for a hipster haven but there’s a proud, working-class sensibility that keeps this Northwest Side neighborhood grounded.” There is even an LGBTQ-friendly housing development being proposed. See loganchamber.org.

Marquette Park: This area on Chicago’s Southwest Side has a complicated history for the city. It’s where race riots broke out when Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. visited in 1965 to fight against housing segregation, yet now the area recognizes King with a beautiful Living Memorial at 6700 S. Kedzie Ave. Over the course of 10 years, the Inner-City Muslim Network (IMAN) led the community-driven creation of the very first permanent memorial to Dr. King and the Chicago Freedom Movement in the state of Illinois.

Michigan Avenue: Chicago’s “Magnificent Mile” is the city’s most popular shopping district, dotted with brand-name stores and large hotels. There are many special events throughout the year, and the new Chicago Riverwalk has only added to the choices of things to do and see. Visit www.themagnificentmile-association.com.

Pilsen: This heavily Latino area near downtown includes many restaurants and special events, and is known for its celebration of arts and for the Chicago Arts District, which has gallery nights monthly, see www.chicagoartsdistrict.org. Also see www.greaterpilsen.org.

Pullman: Located on the Far South Side of the city, Pullman is a unique area coming back from years of neglect. The development was built by the Pullman Company, and there are walking tours available. Pullman has many historic and architecturally significant buildings, including the Hotel Florence, the Arcade Building (destroyed in the 1920s), the Clock Tower and Factory, Market Square
and Greenstone Church. Kensington in the nearby Roseland area is home of one of the many beautiful churches in Chicago, built in Polish Cathedral style, the former church of St. Salomea, now used by Salem Baptist Church. The National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, open seasonally April 1-Dec. 1, was founded in 1995 by Dr. Lyn Hughes. The facility, 10406 S. Maryland Ave., is located in the Historic Pullman District in Chicago. See www.pullmanportermuseum.org or www.pullmanchamber.com.

**Rogers Park/West Rogers Park:** There are a lot of LGBT bars and other businesses and attractions in this Far North area of the city. The Leather Archives & Museum, Touché and Jackhammer bars and the Leather 64TEN retailer are among them. See www.westridgechamber.org and rogersparkchamberofcommerce.blogspot.com.

**South Loop:** This area has been targeted for major expansion by the city, to complement the existing Museum Campus (the Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum of Natural History and the Adler Planetarium). Soldier Field is also in the South Loop, as is the ever-growing McCormick Place convention center. Also here is Chicago Women’s Park and Gardens, a beautifully landscaped small park with a field house. In the park are the Clarke House and the Jane Addams hands sculpture, and bordering the park is the Glessner House Museum, which gives tours of this restored 18th Century home. One of Chicago’s many beautiful, massive churches is also in the South Loop. Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago, one of the oldest congregations in the city (founded in 1842), with stained-glass windows and Arts & Crafts interior. The Blues Heaven Museum is open by appointment at 2120 S. Michigan Ave., 312-808-1286. This is part of the historic area of famous record companies, and just outside of the museum is a historic marker for the offices of Chess Records. Printer’s Row is also just south of downtown. See www.pdnachicago.com, www.2ndpresbyterian.org and glessnerhouse.org.
Uptown: This has been a gateway community for immigrants for many generations, and LGBTQs have been part of the mix for decades. Gentrification is threatening its mix of peoples. But there are many friendly dive bars and LGBTQ places to visit, plus large concert venues. See www.exploreuptown.org and www.uptownchicagocommission.org.

Wicker Park and Bucktown: The Wicker Park District has been part of Chicago since its incorporation as a city in 1837. The major influx of residential and commercial structures occurred in this part of the city as a result of Chicago’s Great Conflagration (Fire) in 1871. Now restaurants and entertainment co-mingle with classy shops that offer everything from couturier garments to contemporary and antique home furnishings. The Flatiron Artist’s Association is a private, not-for-profit company dedicated to the promotion of the arts in the Wicker Park/Bucktown area. See www.flatironchicago.com and www.wickerparkbucktown.com.

Nearby Chicago:  
Oak Park/Berwyn: The Near West suburbs of Oak Park, Berwyn, Cicero, River Forest and more offer an incredible selection of restaurants, tourist attractions, art, shopping and more. Highlights include Frank Lloyd Wright’s Unity Temple, the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio and Ernest Hemingway’s Birthplace. The Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association and the Berwyn United Gay and Lesbian Organization have been integral parts of their communities. See www.visitoakpark.com.

Evanston: This area just north of Chicago was also among the earliest communities welcoming of LGBTQ people, as well as pushing for a racially diverse mix of people. Wide sandy beaches of Lake Michigan, historic mansions on landscaped boulevards, tree-lined bicycle paths, beautiful parks, the Grosse Point Lighthouse, the Merrick Rose Garden, the world-renowned Northwestern University, and thriving business districts are part of this town. See www.evchamber.com.

Rosemont: Located Northwest of Chicago, this ever-growing town has a lot to offer tourists, and it has many hotels to make it even easier to stay and experience the region. The Allstate Arena is a hub of activity year-round. There’s also a ballpark in Rosemont, and The Dome at the ballpark. See rosemontchamber.com.

Whiting, Indiana: Northwest Indiana, a Southern Shores city, is a short drive from downtown Chicago, and has numerous treats for all ages. There are historic buildings including the Andrew Carnegie library, and Whiting hosts summer concerts, festivals and parades. See www.whitingindiana.com.

Please see other sections of this guide for numerous suburban and downstate events and attractions, from the Botanic Gardens to Morten Arboretum, to Six Flags Great America and the beauty of the Fox and Mississippi rivers.
There’s something magical about this place.
Oak Park, the tree-lined and charming village bordering Chicago to the west, is unlike many of the communities across Chicagoland. As one of the first villages to roll out a domestic-partnership registry for same-sex couples and enact non-discrimination housing and employment ordinances based on sexual orientation, Oak Park has a proud history of being a diverse and inclusive community; one that welcomes visitors of all shapes and sizes to discover its world-class architecture, buzzing craft beer scene, boutique shops and lively arts community.

Architecture & History

Understand a crucial pillar of Chicago architecture with a visit to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio. This landmark structure, where the famed architect spent the first 20 and most prolific years of his career, showcases the seeds of Wright’s signature design philosophy with its colorful stained glass, original drawings, and stunning-in-its-simplicity woodwork.

Hailed as one of the most innovative structures of the 20th Century, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Unity Temple is fresh off a long-awaited $25 million restoration project. The renewed grandeur of its skylights, geometric details and decorative elements is sure to dazzle both first-time and repeat visitors.

The storied Ernest Hemingway Birthplace, a beautifully preserved Victorian home where the award-winning writer was born and spent his first six years, is teeming with rare photographs and antiques. Take a guided tour for insight into Hemingway’s earliest influences.

Pleasant Home, one of the nation’s most distinguished examples of Prairie-style architecture, was designed by famed architect George W. Maher in 1897. The opulent 30-room mansion represents 19th Century craftsmanship with its ornate woodwork, vibrant art glass windows, and colorful tile-work.

Revisit the bloody roots of the Oak Park Area’s major hoodlums. The There Goes The Neighbor Hood Gangster Tour explores 15 homes once owned by prolific gangsters like Tony Accardo and Paul Ricca. Guide and mob historian John Binder also offers amusing tidbits about the criminals’ time spent in these historic homes.

Discover the beginnings of Oak Park’s rich culture at the Oak Park River Forest Museum. This new museum, housed in a rehabbed 1898 firehouse, features rotating exhibits on the area’s history including a new showcase of Oak Park’s legacy of racial diversity.

Events

The Wright Plus Housewalk is an internationally renowned annual housewalk featuring rare interior tours of private homes and public buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright Plus debuts this year include the Roberts Stable, a secluded Tudor Revival cottage; and the Stennett House, a grand Victorian with period ornamentation.

Taste more than 150 of Illinois’ finest wines from 15+ wineries, en-

46
joy live jazz, sample artisanal bites, and peruse the charming boutiques in Downtown Oak Park at the acclaimed Uncork Illinois wine festival.

Produced by Seven Generations Ahead, Oak Park’s Micro Brew Review is the Midwest’s largest zero-waste craft beer festival. More than 70 Midwestern breweries offer 200+ craft beers on tap, allowing attendees to sample a wide assortment of Illinois’ finest brews.

Literature, performance, and visual arts are highlighted alongside an assortment of hors d’oeuvres and libations during Friday@Hemingway’s, a monthly social event at Ernest Hemingway’s birthplace home.

Riverside’s historic downtown transforms into a vibrant artistic wonderland for the annual Riverside Arts Weekend. This free, family-friendly fair features live music, hands-on crafts, local bites, drinks and more than 70 local artists displaying one-of-a-kind creation in the picturesque Guthrie Park.

The Oak Park Festival Theatre, the Midwest’s oldest professional outdoor theater group, is launching its 2018 season with the hilarious You Can’t Take It With You. The show, in which an oddball family meets their stuffy future in-laws, is set to run June 14 through July 22 in Downtown Oak Park’s scenic, 3.6-acre Austin Gardens.

Dining Hot List

Located steps from the CTA Green Line in Oak Park’s Hemingway District, Altiro Latin Fusion offers a tapas-style menu with Mexican, Peruvian and Spanish influences. With exotic cocktails and locally sourced ingredients, it’s no surprise this polished and energetic new eatery has quickly become a can’t-miss dining hotspot in Oak Park.

Offering a fabulous array of rolls and traditionally inspired Japanese dishes updated for modern tastes, Sushi House Oak Park makes for a tasty and budget-friendly dining experience. Diners will enjoy its serene yet
urban atmosphere and Asian-inspired cocktail list, while the on-site Dragon Lounge regularly hosts local musicians and special events.

Creative pizza pies, homemade pastas and other signature Italian entrees headline the impressive menu at LaBarra, the creation of renowned artisan baker Rich Labriola. Nestled in the heart of Riverside’s historic downtown, the rustic-chic eatery also entices with a sprawling patio and eclectic bar selection.

The Heritage brings approachable, chef-driven New American fare to Forest Park’s Madison Street. Named one of the top 50 restaurants in Chicago by the Chicago Tribune in 2017, this polished hangout excels with a compact menu of distinctive small and large plates alongside handcrafted house cocktails.

As stylish and warm as the jazz clubs it aims to emulate, The Little Gem Cafe serves up regional New American spins on French bistro classics. The elegant setting, regular live jazz performances, and inventive cocktails contribute to its enduring appeal among both locals and out-of-towners.

Everyone is family at Papaspiros Restaurant, a family-owned and operated staple in Oak Park for nearly 20 years. Enjoy an assortment of well-known Greek dishes, from flavorful Mezedes appetizers to the exquisite moussaka, and weekly live entertainment in a warm, cozy space.

Bottoms Up!

Local favorite Oak Park Brewing Company, the area’s first brewpub, boasts a relaxing ambiance and exercises sustainable brew practices. The adjacent Hamburger Mary’s Show Lounge hosts an eclectic mix of live entertainment including the weekly Diva brunch and Mary-Oke nights.

Indulge in award-winning wines and made-from-scratch bites at Cooper’s Hawk Restaurant and Winery. This sleek new eatery in Downtown Oak Park features a Napa-style tasting room, artisan market, and a variety of private rooms available for rental.
Is the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois right for you?

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Join us Aug 21 for our annual Boat Cruise
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http://lgbtcc.com/
Riverside’s **Quincy Street Distillery** stands out among Chicagoland’s crowded slate of distilleries with historically inspired, small-batch artisanal spirits. Tour the area where these unique spirits are bottled and bonded, then cap your visit with a handcrafted cocktail in the on-site speakeasy bar.

**Two Brothers Social Tap**, Oak Park’s newest haunt for craft beers, offers an impressive selection of artisanal coffees and well-balanced beers in a bustling space just steps from the CTA Green Line.

An evolving lineup of year-round ales and popular seasonal brews await drinkers at **Wild Onion Tied House**. The brew pub menu is also a highlight, presenting a range of flavor combinations and recipes that ignite the palate by incorporating house ales.

Named one of the nation’s best local breweries by Travel + Leisure, **Kinslahger Brewing Company** focuses on lagered beers. From the creamy Baltic Porter to the earthy Chicago Common, Kinslahger brews something for drinkers of all palates and personalities.

**Shopping**

Shopping with a conscience is easy at **Ten Thousand Villages**. Featuring handmade gifts from artisans in more than 35 countries around the world, shoppers will find quirky home décor, one-of-a-kind jewelry, vibrant tableware, and more—while ensuring makers earn their fair share of profits.

Few stores offer a new experience with every visit, but Oak Park’s **Needful Things** consistently surprises shoppers with its rotating array of home goods and seasonal gifts. The selection of well-priced decorations, cards, books, toys, and so much more includes something special for all ages.
Adler Planetarium: Seeks to inspire exploration and understanding of the universe. America’s First Planetarium is more than a museum; it is a laboratory, a classroom, and a community exploring the universe together. The Chicago City-PASS is $98 for adults and $82 for children and allows access to the skydeck, the Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium OR Art Institute of Chicago, and the John Hancock / 360 Chicago OR Museum of Science and Industry. At 1300 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, www.adlerplanetarium.org.

American Writers Museum: Chicago’s newest museum is the first of its kind, with a mission to celebrate American writers, with exhibits and special programs. At 180 N. Michigan Ave., americanwritersmuseum.org.

Art Institute of Chicago: Comprises approximately 300,000 works of art—ranging from ancient art through to work being created by today’s foremost artists. At 111 S. Michigan Ave., visit www.artic.edu.

Aurora Regional Fire Museum: aauroraregionalfiremuseum.org.


Chicago History Museum: Special LGBT events, including an annual Out at CHM series, 1601 N. Clark St., www.chicagohistory.org.


Clarke House Museum: Chicago’s oldest house, shows what life was like for a family in Chicago during the city’s formative years before the Civil War. cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/clarke_house_museum.html.


The Field Museum: Hopes to inspire curiosity about life on earth, how we came to be and what we can do to make it better. SUE T. rex dinosaur, the Ancient Americans, Evolving Planet, Tsavo Lions, the Hall of Birds, Traveling the Pacific, Africa, Galapagos and more, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., www.fieldmuseum.org.

Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio: Focusing on Frank Lloyd Wright’s design legacy and preservation of his original sites for future generations. At 951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park, Illinois, 312-994-4000, www.flwright.org/visit/homeandstudio.
Gerber/Hart Library and Archives: Gerber / Hart is an LGBTQ library, archives and cultural center as well as a safe atmosphere for research, exploration, and discovery. At 6500 N. Clark St., Chicago, www.gerberhart.org.


International Museum of Surgical Science: www.imss.org.


Jane Addams Hull–House at University of Illinois Chicago: A memorial to Jane Addams, a prominent, Nobel Prize-winning social justice and peace advocate, who was also a lesbian; 800 S. Halsted, www.hullhousemuseum.org.


Leather Archives & Museum: Devoted to the compilation, preservation and maintenance of the leather lifestyle and related lifestyles, including the LGBTQ lifestyle, 6418 N. Greenview Ave., www.leatherarchives.org.


Loyola University Museum of Art: www.luc.edulauma.


Museum of Broadcast Communications: Collects, preserves and presents historic and contemporary and television content. Fabulous artifacts from TV history at MBC, www.museum.tv.

From the Facing Freedom in America exhibit at Chicago History Museum. Photo by Tracy Baim
Museum of Contemporary Art: A space where the public can directly experience the work and ideas of living artists and understand the historical, social, and cultural context of the artwork of our time, www.mcachicago.org.


Museum of Science and Industry: One of the largest science museums in the world, home to more than 400,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits designed to spark scientific inquiry and creativity. The museum is also home to the U-505, a German submarine from WWII, Robot Revolution, plus a coal mine, LEGO-built structures, a baby chick hatchery, a mirror maze, great train story, a fairy castle, the Henry Crown Space Center (with an Apollo 8 module) and more. At 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, www.msichicago.org.


National A. Phillip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum: The museum is dedicated to the legacy of A. Philip Randolph, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porter and contributions made by African-Americans to America’s labor movement. At 10406 S. Maryland Ave., www.aprpullmanportermuseum.org.


The Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago: oi.uchicago.edu.
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum: Aims to create a positive relationship between people and nature. Their butterfly exhibit is a don’t-miss treat; 2340 N. Cannon Dr., Chicago, www.naturemuseum.org.


Shedd Aquarium: Dedicated to the appreciation and understanding of aquatic life. Pacific white-sided dolphins are among their many exhibits. 1200 S. Lake Shore Dr., www.sheddaquarium.org.

Smart Museum of Art: More than 15,000 objects; www.smartmuseum.uchicago.edu.

Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership: www.spertus.edu.

Stained Glass: The Richard H. Driehaus Gallery of Stand Glass located near the tip of Navy Pier immerses visitors in darkened rooms bathed in the glow of 11 of Tiffany Studios’ stained-glass windows. See www.driehausmuseum.org/about/view/navy_pier.


**Lined seahorse at Shedd Aquarium.**

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Chicago is among the most architecturally diverse cities in the world, with a mix of old, new and futuristic among its ever-changing skyline views and neighborhoods. Here are some highlights to chart during your visit to the Windy City. Also see the listings for art, museums and attractions.


Chicago’s Finest Tours: chicagosfinesttours.com.


Driehaus Museum: Richard H. Driehaus created the museum to promote the architecture and design of the past, www.driehausmuseum.org.


The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust is a leading national Frank Lloyd Wright nonprofit organization based in Chicago, where the largest number of original Wright sites is located. Dedicated to preservation and interpretation of Wright’s design legacy, the Trust operates public tours at five Chicago area sites and offers both in-school and on-site programs for youth, families and adults. Owner, operator and preservation steward of Wright’s Oak Park Home and Studio (1889/1898) where Wright established his career and created the Prairie-style of architecture, the Trust also operates the iconic Frederick C. Robie House (1908-10) in Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood, and offers public tours and programs at Unity Temple (1905-08) in Oak Park, The Rookery Light Court (1905) in the Chicago Loop and Emil Bach House (1915) in Chicago’s Rogers Park neighborhood. For more information, visit www.flwright.org.

Glessner House Museum: A home designed by American architect Henry Hobson Richardson and completed in 1887. It was an inspiration to Louis Sullivan, Mies van der Rohe, and Frank Lloyd Wright and helped define domestic architecture. www.glessnerhouse.org.


Magnificent Mile: Home to many iconic landmarks including the Drake Hotel, the John Hancock, the Tribune Tower, the Water Tower, DuSable Bridge and the Wrigley Building. www.themagnificentmile.com.

Metrowalkz Self-Guided Walking Tour: www.evisitorguide.comchicago/metrowalkz/.

Pullman: Pullman is a unique community on Chicago’s Far South Side www.pullmanil.org/tours.htm.


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Frank Lloyd Wright experimented with a new American architecture at his first Home and Studio. Discover Chicago’s most famous Wright sites, including the Home and Studio, Robie House, and Unity Temple.

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An interior photo of the landmark Marquette Building in Chicago’s downtown, an example of the hundreds of amazing architecture treats in Chicago. Completed in 1985, it is one of the early steel frame skyscrapers that is part of the Chicago School of architecture. The mosaics, sculptures and bronze in the entry and interior honors Jacques Marquette’s expedition launched in 1674. Photo by Tracy Baim


See it All Mini Bus Tours: [seeitallchicagotours.com](http://seeitallchicagotours.com).

Shoreline Sightseeing: The Architecture River Tour explores more than 40 landmarks all while on a cruise line. [www.shorelinesightseeing.com](http://www.shorelinesightseeing.com).

Signature Segway Tours: [www.signaturesegwaytours.com](http://www.signaturesegwaytours.com).

Tall Ship Adventures: [www.tallshipwindy.com](http://www.tallshipwindy.com).

Walk Chicago Tours: [www.walkchicagotours.com](http://www.walkchicagotours.com).

Wendella Sightseeing Boats: A cruise that will navigate through the heart of the city in all three branches of the Chicago River. [www.wendellaboats.com](http://www.wendellaboats.com).

The inglenook as it appeared shortly after the Frederick C. Robie House was completed in 1910. The structure was removed during a time when the building was used as a dormitory and administrative offices.

Photo Credit: Henry Fuermann, Courtesy of the Art, Architecture & Engineering Library Special Collections, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
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In Chicago unless noted.


606 trail: A series of parks, arts, history, design, trails for bikers, runners, and walkers, www.the606.org.

Absolutely Chicago Segway Tours: chicagosegway.com.

Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool Gardens: A lily pool with gardens, landscaping and pavilion, April-October, 2391 N. Stockton Dr., Chicago.


Chagall’s Four Seasons: Composed of thousands of inlaid chips in more than 250 colors, Marc Chagall’s mosaic artwork The Four Seasons portrays six scenes of Chicago. At 10 S. Dearborn St., Chicago.


The Morton Arboretum, West of Chicago, features year-round hiking and nature treats.

Photo by Jean Albright


Chicago Trolley and Double Decker Co: www.coachusa.com/chicagotrolley.


City Segway Tours Chicago: chicago.citysegwaytours.com.

Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain: With water shooting up in front of the gorgeous skyline, a well-known Chicago landmark, 301 E. Columbus Dr., www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/Clarence-F-Buckingham-Memorial-Fountain.

Ferris Wheel: At Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

Fox in a Box: Escape room, foxinaboxchicago.com.

Fountain of Time: Sculpture in Washington Park created by artist Lorado Taft, a lover of men. Unveiled at the west end of Chicago’s Midway Plaisance in 1922, at Cottage Grove and 59th Street.


Graceland Cemetery: Resting place to many prominent Chicagoans, home to Eternal Silence, known as the Statue of Death, designed by gay sculptor Lorado Taft in 1909. At 4001 N. Clark St., www.gracelandcemetery.org.

Grant Park: Performance venues, gardens, artwork, sporting and harbor facilities; 319 acres including Millennium Park, Buckingham Fountain, Art Institute and Museum Campus; 337 E. Randolph St., www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/grant-park/

Hershey’s Chocolate Tour: www.hersheys.com/chocolateworld/locations/chicago.


Lincoln Park Conservancy: Chicago’s largest park, from Hollywood Avenue to Ohio Street along the lakefront, includes Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool Gardens, North Pond Nature Sanctuary and Lincoln Monument and Gardens. It also holds the Lincoln Park Gardens and Conservatory with four display houses: Palm House, Fern Room, Orchid House and Show House, www.lincolnparkconservancy.org.


Maggie Daley Park / Cancer Survivor’s Garden: The garden in downtown Chicago was designed to be a celebration of life and give hope, named for the late wife of former Mayor Richard M. Daley. At 337 E. Randolph St., www.maggiedaleypark.com.


Maxwell Street Market: A tradition of merchandise from tools and tires to fresh produce to clothing to rare finds, www.maxwellstreet@cityofchicago.org.


Merchandise Mart: An icon in Chicago’s history since the 1930s. It is the world’s largest commercial building, largest wholesale design center and one of Chicago’s premier international business locations, www.themart.com.

Metrowalkz Self-Guided Walking Tour: www.evisitorguide.comchicago/metrowalkz/.

Millennium Park: Home to architecture, landscape design and art as well a number of events and event venues such as the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Indian-born British artist Anish Kapoor’s Cloud Gate, known as “The Bean,” Crown Fountain, Wrigley Square and Lurie Garden. At 201 E. Randolph St., 3www.cityofchicago.org_city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park.html.


Murals of Chicago: There are thousands of murals across the city—some approved, some not. See murallocator.org/tag/chicago.


Chicago's Millennium Park as seen from the north, including the famous Bean sculpture (Cloud Gate, designed by Sir Anish Kapoor) and the Frank Gehry-designed Pritzker music Pavilion.

Photo by Tracy Baim
Northerly Island Park: A peninsula that juts out into Lake Michigan, 1521 S. Linn White Dr., 312-745-2910, www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/northerly-island-park/.

Oak Street Beach: www.oakstreetbeach.com.

Obama Kissing Rock: The site of the first kiss of President Barack Obama and his future wife Michelle Obama, a plaque with a description of the date and kiss is at 53rd and South Dorchester.

Picasso Sculpture: See Richard J. Daley Center.


Richard J. Daley Civic Center/Chicago Civic Center: Home to the largest circuit court in Illinois and the law library, one of the largest collections of law books in the nation. The City of Chicago commissioned Pablo Picasso to create a steel sculpture for the building’s plaza. “The Picasso” was the first monumental modern sculpture to be placed in Chicago’s loop. Visit www.thedaleycenter.com.

Route 66: Historic Route 66 is a national highway that starts in Chicago. A local stretch starts at Adams Street and Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago and ends at Jackson Boulevard and Lake Shore Drive; www.historic66.com.

**Seadog Chicago:** Speedboats, www.seadogcruises.com/chicago.

**Shoreline Sightseeing:** Cruises, shorelinesightseeing.com.

**Sidewalk Food Tours of Chicago:** www.foodtourofchicago.com.

**Signature Segway Tours:** www.signaturesegwaytours.com.

**Signs for Peace:** www.peacemuseum.org.

**Six Flags Great America:** Gurnee, Northwest of Chicago, www.sixflags.com/greatamerica.

**SkyDeck Chicago:** The Ledge, a transparent glass platform in the Willis Tower, 103rd floor of 233 S. Wacker Dr., 312-875-9447, www.theskydeck.com.

**South Shore Cultural Center:** A solarium, dining hall, theater and restaurant, plus a nature sanctuary, butterfly garden, golf course, beach and open spaces for walks and picnics. www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

**Spice of Life Tours:** Food and cultural tours of www.spiceofflifetours.com.

**Spirit of Chicago:** Lunch and dinner cruise, www.spiritcruises.com/chicago.

**Statue Stories Chicago:** Chicago has incredible outdoor art, and Statue Stories can help you navigate these wonderful creations, www.statuestorieschicago.com.

**Steve’s Segway Tours:** www.stevessegwaytours.com.


**Tastebud Tours Chicago:** tastebudtours.com.

**Tempel Lipizzans:** A dressage show by the famous Lipizzaner horses, 1 Old Mill Creek, Illinois, an hour north of Chicago, www.tempelfarms.com.

**Union Station:** A train station as well as home to a wide variety of restaurants, convenience stores and specialty shops. The magnificent Great Hall used for many elegant special events. Originally designed by famed architect Daniel Burnham (“make no small plans, they have no magic to stir men's blood”) and completed in 1925, it is considered to be one of the greatest indoor spaces in the U.S. At 500 W. Jackson Blvd., www.chicagounionstation.com.


**Water Tower:** The Historic Water Tower, 806 N. Michigan, is the city's most familiar landmark. Constructed between 1867 and 1869, it was created for Chicago's municipal water system. It was one of the few buildings to survive the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. There is a City Gallery and Lookingglass Theatre operates in part of the old Water Tower property.

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Also see museums and attractions. In Chicago unless noted.

4ArtInc: www.4artinc.com.

33 Contemporary Gallery / Art NXT Level Projects: www.33contemporary.com.


Angela Komperda Studio: akomperda@gmail.com.


Bridgeport Art Center: www.bridgeportart.com.

Byran Sperry Studio: www.sperryart@gmail.com.


Chicago Cultural Center: Music, dance, and theater events, films, lectures, art exhibitions and family events. Built to impress, its interior features rare imported marbles, brass, fine hardwoods and mosaics; 78 E. Washington St., Chicago. Gay

**Chicago Public Art Group:** www.chicagopublicartgroup.org.

**Chicago Printmakers Collaborative:** www.chicagoprintmakers.com.


**Corbett vs. Dempsey:** Contemporary, www.corbettvsdempsey.com.

**Crude Creatures Contemporary Art Gallery:** www.crudecreatures.com.


**Dreambox Gallery:** www.2014.dreamboxgallery.com.

**EC Gallery:** www.ec-gallery.com.


**ETA Creative Arts Foundation:** Aims to be a major cultural resource for the promotion of the African American aesthetic, www.etacreativearts.org.

**Evanston Art Center:** www.evanstonartcenter.org.

**Firecat Projects:** www.firecatprojects.org.

**Flat Iron Arts:** www.flatironartsbuilding.com.


**Galerie F:** www.galerief.com.


**Gallery 400:** Contemporary art, architecture and design, www.gallery400.uic.edu.


**Gallery Guichard:** Bronzeville’s preeminent gallery of art, artists from around the world but specializes in art of the African Diaspora; www.galleryguichard.com.

**Gruen Galleries:** www.gruengalleries.com.


**Heritage Museum of Asian Art:** www.heritagesianart.org.


**Hilton/Asmus Contemporary:** Modern and contemporary paintings, works on paper, fiber art, glass, sculpture and photography, www.hilton-asmus.com.

**Hyde Park Art Center:** Artistic risk-taking, www.hydeparkart.org.


**Intuit The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art:** www.art.org.


kasia kay art projects gallery: Contemporary art, kasiakaygallery.wordpress.com/about.


Lilstreet Art Center/ArtReach: www.artreachchicago.org.


Little Black Pearl: www.blackpearl.org.

Loyola University Museum of Art: www.luc.edu/luma.


A Keith Haring exhibit is up through Sept. 23, 2018 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Pictured is a small segment of the massive mural on display. Photo by Tracy Baim

Museum of Contemporary Art: Aims to be a space where the public can experience the work and ideas of living artists and understand the historical, social and cultural context of the artwork; www.mcachicago.org.


The Puerto Rican Cultural Center: Community-based, grassroots, educational, health and cultural services organization. www.prcc-chgo.org/about/.


Urban Art Retreat Center and Women’s Residence: www.urbanartretreat.com


2018 EVENTS

THURSDAY NIGHT OUT, MAY 24–AUG 30

UNCORK ILLINOIS, JUNE 16

ART DANS LA RUE, AUG 7

MICROBREW REVIEW, AUG 18

OAKTOBERFEST, SEP 14 & 15

WINTERFEST, DEC 1

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, DEC 15

www.downtownoakpark.net

Events are subject to change.
The Chicago area has a vast array of theater, dance and other forms of performance—world premieres, revivals, one-of-a-kind neighborhood gems and so much more. Here’s a taste of these treats, including the queer talents of About Face Theatre, Pride Films & Plays and many more.


About Face Theatre: The theater creates plays to advance the national dialog on gender and sexual identity and to challenge and entertain audiences. www.aboutfacetheatre.com.


Adapt Theatre: Aims to disorient its audience so it can be reoriented to a new world view, www.facebook.com/adapttheatreproductions.

Adventure Stage Chicago: Shows for middle-school-aged audienceswww.adventurestage.org.


Apollo Chorus of Chicago: www.apollocchorus.org.


Auditorium Theater of Roosevelt University: International, cultural, community and educational programming and committed to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre, www.auditoriumtheatre.org.


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Twenty tickets are available for $20 on the day of the performance at 11am (Tues-Sat) and 1pm (Sun), by phone only at 312-335-1650. Limit 2 per person.


Broadway In Chicago: Performances in five theaters. World premieres, high-profile touring shows, and many more. www.broadwayinchicago.com/shows.


Chicago Sinfonietta, a professional orchestra dedicated to modeling and promoting diversity, inclusion and both racial and cultural equity in the arts through the universal language of symphonic music, www.chicagosinfonietta.org.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra: An orchestra that hopes to entertain artists with quality music. Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. www.cso.org.

Chicago Theatre: Features a wide range of music, comedy and other performances throughout the year. The elegant lobby, majestic staircase and beautiful auditorium complete with murals above are components of an amazing building called “the Wonder Theatre of the World” when it opened in 1921. www.thechicagotheatre.com.


City Lit Theatre: Concert readings and full-stage productions of adaptations of literary material, www.citylit.org.


Collaboraction: Creates original experiences that push artistic boundaries in order to explore critical social issues, www.collaboraction.org.


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Coronado Performing Arts: Coronado, based in Rockford in Northwest Illinois, opened in 1927 as an atmospheric style theater and movie palace—complete with Spanish castles, Italian villas, oriental dragons, starlit skies and a Grande Barton Pipe Organ. www.coronadopac.org.

Court Theatre: The professional theater of the University of Chicago, dedicated to innovation, inquiry, intellectual engagement and community service, www.courttheatre.org.

Dance for Life: Dance for Life is an annual benefit event at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University. Mobilizes Chicago’s dance community to support organizations and dance community professionals dealing with critical health issues, including, but not limited to HIV/AIDS, through the art of dance. www.chicagodancersunited.org.

Den Theatre: http://thedentheatre.com


Goodman Theatre: Chicago’s oldest and largest not-for-profit theater has won international renown for the quality of productions, www.goodmantheatre.org.


Halcyon Theatre: A theater committed to making the stage as diverse as the city of Chicago, www.halcyontheatre.org.


Hell in a Handbag Productions: Exploration and celebration of the art of camp and parody onstage, in the most ridiculous manner possible, www.handbagproductions.org.

Her Story Theater Company creates all its original plays based on Chicago lives, www.herstorytheater.org.


Joel Hall Dancers: Joel Hall, an openly gay man, hopes to enrich the lives of its community through dance performance and education. The signature dance style of JHD incorporates ballet, jazz, modern, funk and “street dance” using contemporary jazz and house music to create an innovative and continuously evolving dance style, www.joelhall.org.

Joffrey Ballet: A world-class, Chicago-based ballet company and dance education organization committed to artistic excellence and innovation, presenting a unique repertoire encompassing masterpieces of the past and cutting-edge works. The Joffrey Ballet has been hailed as “America’s Company of Firsts.” See www.joffrey.org.
Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts: www.kalapriya.org.


Late Nite Catechism: Longest-running religious comedy in Chicago. And Bible Bingo, where you laugh, learn and win goofy prizes! See www.nuns4fun.com.


Logan Center for the Arts: University of Chicago, arts.uchicago.edu/explore/reva-and-david-logan-center-arts.


Neo-Futurists: Draws upon Dada, Surrealism, the work of the original Italian Futurists, and an array of other artistic and performance disciplines, www.neofuturists.org.

NightBlue Performing Arts: Embraces difficult topics and tells stories that examine who we are as human beings, www.nightbluetheater.com.

Northlight Theatre: Aspires to promote change of perspective and encourage compassion “by exploring the depth of our humanity across a bold spectrum of theatrical experiences.” In Skokie, www.northlight.org.
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts: Part of Skokie’s plan to provide cultural, literary and educational programs, www.northshorecenter.org.


Nothing Without a Company: Innovative, thought-provoking art. Supports LGBTQIA artists by providing a safe and creative space to explore their voices and talents, www.nothingwithoutacompny.org.


Rivendell Theatre Ensemble: An award-winning, critically acclaimed professional theater company committed to recognizing and cultivating the talents of women in theater—from playwrights and actors to designers and managers, www.rivendelltheatre.org.
RH School of Performing Arts: www.rhsca.com.
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel: The soaring Rockefeller Chapel—modeled after the cathedrals and historic college chapels of the British Isles—is a major center for the performing arts as well as serving as the ceremonial and spiritual center of the University of Chicago, rockefeller.uchicago.edu.
Rosemont Theatre in Rosemont, Illinois, a Northwest suburb of Chicago, has a wide range of concerts, theater, music and more, www.rosemont.com/theatre/.
Royal George Theater/Liberty Theatres: www.theroyalgeorgetheatre.com.
Ruth Page Center for Arts: A platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community, www.ruthpage.org.
The Second City: An unconventional and non-conformist theater. At the corner of North Avenue and Wells Street in Chicago, 312-337-3992, visit www.secondcity.com.

The Side Project: An intimate black-box theater with collaborations between established and new artists, www.thesideproject.net.


Silk Road Rising: Creates live theater and online videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses. The founders are a gay couple, Jamil Khoury and Malik Gillani, www.silkroadrising.org.


Strawdog Theatre: Committed to ensemble acting and an immersive design approach, www.strawdog.org.


Teatro Luna: Founded in June 2000 by Coya Paz and Tanya Saracho, they came together because they realized that the stories and experiences of Latina/Hispana women were undervalued and underrepresented not only on the Chicago stage, but beyond, www.teatroluna.org.

Teatro Vista: Teatro Vista, Theatre with a View, was founded in 1990 by Edward Torres and Henry Godinez to address the lack of opportunities for Latino artists and other artists of color, www.teatrovista.org.


Theater Wit: Hopes to provide intelligent, humorous and challenging works, www.theaterwit.org.


TUTA Theatre: Theater that is both relevant and challenging in both form and/or content, www.tutato.com.


Up Comedy Club: A venue for stand-up, sketch, improv, podcasts and other entertainment that hopes to be smart, funny and provocative, www.upcomedyclub.com.

Victory Gardens: Dedicated to artistic excellence while creating a vital, contemporary American theater that is accessible and relevant to all people through quality productions of challenging new plays and musicals, www.victorygardens.org.

Windy City Playhouse: A theater that hopes to be inspired and moved by its audiences, 3014 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, 773-891-8985, windycityplayhouse.com.


The Writers Theatre: Inventive interpretations of classic work, a bold approach to contemporary theater and a dedication to creating the most intimate theatrical experience possible. New theater center in downtown Glencoe was designed by the award-winning, internationally renowned Studio Gang Architects, led by Founder and Design Principal Jeanne Gang, FAIA, www.writerstheatre.org.


YOU’LL NEVER GUESS WHAT’S UNDER OUR HAT.

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Chicago’s funny bone is as long as the lakefront trails from Evanston to Hyde Park and beyond. Stand-up comics and improvisers from across the country flock to this area to be a part of the city’s celebrated comedy scene.

The Second City, arguably the most iconic and prolific comedy theater in the county, has introduced some of the most influential comedic voices in American comedy including Joan Rivers, Jerry Stiller, Alan Arkin, Anne Meara, John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, John Candy, Betty Thomas, Dan Aykroyd, Tom Kazurinsky, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Andy Dick, Jane Lynch, Aaron Freeman, Tim Meadows, Chris Farley, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Amy Poehler, Rachel Dratch, Tina Fey and so many more. Thanks to their dedication to diverse voices, LGBT performers are frequently featured in the casts of their Main Stage and ETC casts. Housed in what is basically a comedy mall, you can find something to make you laugh seven days a week. Second City Chicago is located at the corner of North Avenue and Wells Street in Chicago, 312-337-3992 or visit www.secondcity.com.

iO (formerly Improv Olympic), also in Lincoln Park, features theaters and a variety of shows ranging from improvised Shakespeare and sketch revues to storytelling and improvised musicals. See www.ioimprov.com.

Chicago is also home to a thriving LGBT comedy scene. The queer improv group Baby Wine performs regularly at The Annoyance Theater, and GayCo (www.gayco.com) is celebrating over 20 years of fabulous comedy. If you are looking for stand up, The KIKI: Queer Comedy with Variety is Laugh Factory Chicago’s evening of LGBT comedy featuring stand-up, storytellers, monologues, and music. (@TheKIKIComedy).

The Kates is an all-female comedy showcase that provides an intimate night of comedy different from anything you’ll see at a typical Chicago club or late night bar. See www.thekates.org.

Women in Comedy, www.womenincomedy.org, is a national group, based
Center on Halsted is the largest, most comprehensive community center in the Midwest dedicated to advancing community & securing the health & well being of the LGBTQ community of Chicagoland.

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in Chicago, promoting the work of women in the industry, including through shows.

**Strip Joker** is Chicago’s only body-positive standup showcase. See [https://www.uptownunderground.net/strip-joker](https://www.uptownunderground.net/strip-joker).

**The Annoyance Theatre** has created some of Chicago’s finest comedy for 25 years, [www.theannoyance.com](http://www.theannoyance.com).

**The Revival**, in Hyde Park, is where improvisational comedy was invented in 1955, when the Compass Players opened a makeshift theater at the northeast corner of 55th Street and University Avenue. See [www.the-revival.com](http://www.the-revival.com).

**Zanie’s Comedy Club** is a standup comedy club in the city and suburbs, [www.chicago.zanies.com](http://www.chicago.zanies.com).

**Laugh Factory** is a comedy venue in Lakeview, [www.laughfactory.com](http://www.laughfactory.com).

**Up Comedy Club** is a venue for standup, sketch comedy, improv, podcasts, and other entertainment that hopes to be smart, funny and provocative, [www.upcomedyclub.com](http://www.upcomedyclub.com).

**Playground Theater** is an artist-led comedy theater, providing a home for comedians to grow as performers, writers, directors and producers. See [www.theplaygroundtheater.com](http://www.theplaygroundtheater.com).

**ComedySportz Chicago** is at CSZ Theater in Lakeview, [www.cszchicago.com](http://www.cszchicago.com).

There are also festivals year-round featuring comedians and improvisers from across the globe. **The Chicago Improv Festival** ([www.chicagoimprovfestival.org](http://www.chicagoimprovfestival.org)) sprawls across the city each spring, and Stage 773...
(www.stage773.com), located in the heart of the Belmont Theatre District, has a diverse programming of comedy festivals year round: Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival, Chicago Women's Funny Fest, Chicago Nerd Comedy Fest and the Youth Comedy Fest.

With clubs, theaters, and bar shows across the city and suburbs, Chicago is absolutely the home of comedy. Come laugh with us.

The KIKI.
Photo courtesy of Scott Duff

Come visit our quaint little village within the city!

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From blues and jazz to symphonic and rock, Chicago has a vibrant and varied music scene that continues to evolve and grow each year. Read below for a current overview on things to check out in the Windy City to suit almost any musical taste.

Overall Chicago’s concert season is controlled by the weather and time of year. The slow times happen around the cold holiday season while things start amping up around March. When planning to visit Chicago for a music festival keep in mind that hotels book up quickly.

Warm up with neighborhood street festivals, where streets are blocked and stages built. Those with a special LGBT focus include Andersonville’s Midsommarfest June 8-10 in 2018, and two fests on Halsted: Pride Fest June 16-17, 2018, and Northalsted Market Days in August (Aug. 11-12).

Also on Pride Weekend, there is the Dyke March, with a music and networking festival after the march. The 21st anniversary Dyke March is Saturday, June 23, 2017. See www.facebook.com/DykeMarchChicago.

Plus, the Far North Side Glenwood Arts District hosts Pride North on Pride Parade Sunday, this year June 24, with lots of music and socializing. See www.facebook.com/GlenwoodAvenuePrideNorth.

Here is a guide to the 2017 street fests in Chicago: www.choosechicago.com/articles/view/CHICAGO-FESTIVALS/1446.

Depending on the time of year for your visit, Chicago has a vibrant LGBT choral community.

The Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus schedule is available at www.cgmc.org, Windy City Performing Arts is www.windycitysings.org and Artemis Singers, a lesbian-feminist chorus, is at www.artemissingers.org. CGMC also hosts an annual Love Fest. Many of the city’s LGBT bars have music nights, or karaoke nights with some amazing talent. And of course the city has great openly LGBT professional singers of all backgrounds.

The Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles offer a wide range of music for LGBTQ and allied audiences. Their three major ensembles are the Freedom Marching Band, Jazz Orchestra and Symphonic Band. They reflect a musical legacy that began in 1979 with the original Chicago Gay Pride Band. Today, Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles—more than 18 years strong and counting—serves as the umbrella organization for their current ensembles that celebrate this heritage. See www.lakesidepride.org.

Back Lot Bash is an annual women’s party, mostly lesbian, held during Pride Month in Chicago, in the LGBT area known as Andersonville. See www.backlotbashchicago.com.


At Millennium Park, you can listen and see the concerts in the beautiful Frank Gehry-designed Pritzker Pavilion. Highlights in 2018 include the House Music Festival May 26, Chicago Gospel Festival June 1-2, Blues Fest June 8-10, Grant Park Music Festival summer long, Chicago Jazz Festival Aug.
30-Sept. 2, and **World Music Festival** Chicago Sept. 7-23.

**Taste of Chicago** turns 38 in 2018, running July 11-15, and while it can be a bit overwhelming, the music acts have been stellar in the past.

**Fitzgerald’s** at 6615 W. Roosevelt Rd. in Berwyn speaks to that jazz and blues audience even holding open mics at the side bar. For the oldest-running jazz club in the U.S., head up north to the **Green Mill**, 4802 N. Broadway, founded in 1907 and featuring traditional, contemporary and improvisational jazz.

**Ravinia Festival** in Highland Park runs June 1-Sept. 16. North America’s oldest music festival presents more than 140 events each summer. See www.ravinia.org.

**Mamby on the Beach** on Lake Michigan will return again for more EDM mixed with indie bands June 23-24. **Spring Awakening** dances again on June 8-10 with more electronic music at Addams-Medill Park.

Country music is sometimes lacking in the city but the new three-day country music festival **Windy City LakeShake** changed all of that, returning June 22-24 at Northerly Island.

**Pitchfork Music Festival** in Union Park is a little more artsy running July 20-22.

The uber queer/safe space event **FED UP Fest** is usually end of July.

After that, **Lollapalooza** celebrates its 27th anniversary Aug. 2-4. Historic Grant Park will be turned upside down with food, merchandise, eight stages and more than 170 bands and musicians.

Electronic music-themed **North Coast Music Festival**, often described as “summer’s last stand” runs Aug. 31-Sept. 2 and rocking **Riot Fest** brings up the rear Sept. 14-16.
The atmosphere of a venue can change the sound and feel of an artist playing live. City Winery is an intimate spot to see concerts on Randolph Street and has a new location along the River Walk seasonally. Close to the West Loop location is also the Bottom Lounge full of industrial and indie band music.

The Riviera Theatre and the Aragon Ballroom in Uptown can sometimes clash being almost across the street from each other, so shows are not usually planned at the same time.

The historic Metro is just down the road from The Vic Theater and both have carved out a place in music history.

Park West in Lincoln Park doesn’t have a bad view in the house but seating can be challenging as that is usually sold separately, leaving concert-goers standing-room-only.

House of Blues and Chicago Theatre are just across the bridge from each other downtown but have completely different feels of space and décor, both iconic in their own way.

Historic landmark Thalia Hall is a newly rehabbed concert venue in Pilsen. The two owners have teamed up to make this venue truly majestic thanks to past experience with Evanston’s Space, Empty Bottle and Beauty Bar.

For sound the Civic Opera House has most places beat but only holds concerts sporadically throughout the year. Also beautiful venues for concerts are the Auditorium Theatre and the Harris Theater, with many classical music artists stopping in. Chicago Sinfonietta is a professional orchestra dedicated to modeling and promoting diversity, inclusion, and both racial and cultural equity in the arts through the universal language of symphonic music. The Chicago Chorale also offers great concerts with music from the 16th Century to the present. Mandel Hall at the University of Chicago features a great classic Victorian interior. There are also many Chicago churches which hosts concerts, both downtown and in the city's neighborhoods.

The Chicago Philharmonic Society is a collaboration of more than 200 of the highest-level classical musicians performing in the Chicago metropolitan area. See www.chicagophilharmonic.org.

Picosa is a mixed chamber ensemble known for its signature symphonic sound and virtuosity. The ensemble’s unique approach to programming presents celebrated masterworks from across the centuries and around the globe.

Arie Crown Theater in the Near South Loop and The Promontory in Hyde Park usually host R&B and other musical artists while look for reggae music.
at the Wild Hare. Look for rock music at Reggies, transformed from an auto repair shop on South State Street.

New hot spots include Chop Shop/1st Ward and Concord Music Hall and Lincoln Hall, where both keep up with the young times.

Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway, is a 7,000-square-foot speakeasy-style venue featuring the Moonlight Mainstage, 150-seat performance hall and the Starlight Lounge, 50-seat private party room with small stage and cozy atmosphere, an antique bar stocked with hand-crafted and local spirits, VIP seating and a full range of “retrotainment”; burlesque, magic, variety, circus arts, drag and more. See www.uptownlounge.net.

Some of the city’s best clubs for blues include Kingston Mines in Lincoln Park, Rosa’s Lounge on the West Side, Buddy Guy’s Legends in the South Loop, Blue Chicago in River North, B.L.U.E.S. on the North Side, the House of Blues special Back Porch Stage downtown, Lee’s Unleaded Blues on the South Side, and The Smoke Daddy in Wicker Park. Honky Tonk BBQ in Pilsen features jazz, blues and more.

You can also see more jazz at Buddy Guy’s, or nearby Jazz Showcase, and Andy’s Jazz Club in River North.

Some smaller but long-lasting spaces include Schuba’s Tavern, Martyrs’, Beat Kitchen, Empty Bottle and Subterranean. This is a chance to see a solo
artist or band grow into something big early on in their career. Fabitat queer night is at Beauty Bar.

The Old School Town of Folk Music is a Chicago treasure, with live music for varied tastes. It is a theater committed to teaching and presenting music that reflects the cultural traditions of Chicago’s diverse communities.

Larger venues include United Center, Wrigley Field where the Chicago Cubs play, and Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears, with Allstate Arena and the Rosemont Horizon/Allstate Arena just outside of the city and near O’Hare. Meanwhile, Navy Pier is quickly growing as a place to go for large electronic music concerts.

To find out when many acts are heading to Chicago, try individual venue websites as well as www.Livenation.com, jamusa.com and the old standby www.ticketmaster.com for information. The trick is to set up alerts for upcoming shows such as chicago.eventful.com/events where there is even an app to keep informed.

With a thriving music scene, most artists make their way to the Windy City, so don’t miss out on the music.
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BARS (In Chicago unless noted)

@mosphere 2.0: Eclectic Andersonville neighborhood bar. Frequent drag shows and male dancers Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. 5355 N. Clark St., 773-784-1100, www.atmospherebar.com

Angel's Palace: Nightclub/restaurant featuring pop, Latin and dance tunes. 6319 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn, IL, 708-317-5214

The Anvil: Edgewater's premiere gay dive. Cheap drinks, juke box, back patio, no attitude. 1137 W. Granville Ave., 773-973-0006


Berlin: Goths, punks, club kids, queens and everyone in between. Legendary dance club for over 30 years. Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturday). 954 W. Belmont Ave., 773-348-4975, www.berlinchicago.com

Big Chicks/Tweet: A chill, welcoming Uptown watering hole, catering to all crowds. Special nights for bears (The Bear Den), all-genders (Formerly Known As) and more. Late night kitchen open every night. 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., 773-728-5511, www.bigchicks.com

Big Jim's: Boystown's newest addition. Little brother of Little Jim's around the corner, with a more modern, open feel. 3503 N. Halsted St.

Bobby Love's: Boystown's go-to karaoke joint, featuring Karaoke by Creaoke every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. 3729 N. Halsted St., 773-525-1200, rclsixty1.wix.com/welcome

The Call: Andersonville's home for drag and entertainment, with frequent mixed-entertainment shows and occasional country/western line dancing. 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., 773-334-2525, www.thecallbarchicago.com


Charlie's: Boystown's classic country/western hotspot, transforming into a high-energy dance club after-hours. Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturdays). 3726 N. Broadway, 773-871-8887, www.charlieschicago.com

The Closet: Cozy mixed-crowd bar (leaning more towards women) for over 40 years. Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturdays). 3325 N. Broadway, 773-477-8533, www.theclosetchicago.com

Club Escape: South Side's energetic dance club with regular DJs, live performances and drink specials. 1530 E. 75th St., 773-599-9372


D.S.Tequila Co.: A fun Mexican-inspired eatery with colorful Margaritas and a full menu. 3352 N. Halsted St., 773-697-9127, www.dstequila.com

Elixir Lounge: Boystown’s classy cocktail spot. Window/people-watching seating available. 3452 N. Halsted St., www.elixirchicago.com


Fantasy Nightclub: Dancing, drag and shows for Chicago’s Latinx queer community. 3641 N. Halsted St., www.facebook.com/fantasychicago/


The Glenwood: A true neighborhood bar in Rogers Park which attracts a mixed crowd, but decidedly LGBT. Karaoke, trivia, darts, pool and tall drinks. 6962 N. Glenwood Ave., 773-764-7363, www.facebook.com/glenwood626/

Hamburger Mary’s/Mary’s Attic: The flagship shop of the national chain of sassy burger joints. Have a meal at Hamburger Mary’s, knock back a few pints at Andersonville Brewing Co., and take in a show or dance up in “the attic.” 5400 N. Clark St., 773-784-6969, www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago/

Hamburger Mary’s Oak Park: Newest addition to the chain. Dining With the Divas drag show followed by Mary-oke each Friday and Saturday. 155 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, Illinois, 708-445-0272, oakparkbeer.com/hamburgermarys

Hydrate: Boystown’s anchor high-energy dance club. Special drag shows Monday and Wednesday. Comedy nights every Thursday. Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturdays). 3458 N. Halsted St., 773-975-9244, www.hydratechicago.com

InnExile: Karaoke and strippers every weekend in the Midway airport area. 5758 W. 65th St., 773-582-3510

From the Santa Speedo Run at Sidetrack.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

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The Jackhammer Complex: Catering to the fetish crowd. Mostly men gather for deep drinks, raucous drag Mondays and Thursdays, dancing and fun down in “The Hole.” Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturdays). 6406 N. Clark St., 773-743-5772, www.facebook.com/chijackhammer

Jeffery Pub: A popular South Side gathering spot, with dancing, poetry readings, performances. 7041 S. Jeffery Blvd., 773-363-8555


Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club: Popular spot for an extensive Martini menu and drag performances from a regular cast. 3700 N. Halsted St., 773-525-1111, www.kitkatchicago.com

La Cueva: Drag and drinks, popular in the Latinx community. 4153 W. 26th St., 773-475-6544

Lark: Boystown’s rustic pizza place with full bar. 3441 N. Halsted St., 773-799-8968, www.larkchicago.com

Little Jim’s: Chicago’s longest-running gay bar in the heart of Boystown. Classic “beer and a shot” spot. Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturdays). 3501 N. Halsted St., 773-871-6116

Lucky Horseshoe: Boystown’s favorite spot for male dancers and ... well, more male dancers. 3169 N. Halsted St., 773-404-3169

Maneuvres: Suburban hotspot for over 20 years. Regular drag shows and friendly faces southwest of the city. 118 E. Jefferson St., Joliet, Illinois, 815-727-7069

Manhandler: Blast-from-the-past bar with a leathery feel, a cozy fireplace and a cruisy back patio area. 1948 N. Halsted St., 773-871-3339

minibar: A mixed-orientation cocktail-crowd magnet with hot bartenders and crafty drinks. 3341 N. Halsted St., 773-871-6227, www.minibarchicago.com

North End: Chicago’s classic LGBT sports bar with multiple pool tables and a sporty staff. 3733 N. Halsted St., 773-477-7999, www.northendchicago.com


Progress Bar: Marvel at the stunning overhead light installation as you enjoy drink specials and a trendy crowd in the heart of Boystown. 3359 N. Halsted St., 773-697-9268, www.progressbarchicago.com


Replay Lakeview: Classic arcade games and a wide whiskey selection exemplify this Boystown playground. Ink up at Tat Tuesdays. 3439 N. Halsted St., 773-661-9632, www.replaylakeview.com

Replay Andersonville: More arcade fun, with a full menu for lunch or dinner. 5358 N. Clark St., 773-654-1369, www.replayandersonville.com

Rogers Park Social: Swanky seasonal cocktails and a jazzy vibe. Enjoy a board game in the retro lounge or yuk it up at their monthly “Laughs in the Lounge” comedy showcase. 6920 N. Glenwood Ave., 773-791-1419, www.rogersparksocial.com
Roscoe’s: A hub of Chicago’s LGBTQ nightlife, offering national drag names, dancing and frequent performances from club superstars. Five bars to serve you. 3356 N. Halsted St., 773-281-3355, www.roscoes.com

Scarlet: A young, hip crowd throngs the dancefloor nightly, with popular DJs and wall-to-wall Fireball. 3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053, www.scarletbarchicago.com

Scot’s: A quaint neighborhood watering hole where friends gather for a good beer and a good chat. 1829 W. Montrose Ave., 773-528-3253, www.chicagoscotsbar.com

Second Story Bar: Downtown’s no-nonsense after-work meeting spot. 157 E. Ohio St., 312-923-9536, www.secondstorybar.com

Shakers on Clark: A chill, neighborhood bar just south of the Boystown strip. Friendly bartenders, karaoke and fun, interactive game shows. 3160 N. Clark St., 773-327-5969, www.shakersonclark.com

Sidetrack: The center of gay nightlife in Chicago. The original video bar. A sunny upper deck bar, world-famous Slushies, and a must-have showtunes night every Sunday and Monday. A complex of bars, catering to every need in Boystown. 3349 N. Halsted St., 773-477-9189, www.sidetrackchicago.com

The Sofo Tap: A corner pub with a stunning back patio, perfect for summer cocktails. Revolving live game shows every Wednesday, Karaoke Sundays and home of the monthly DILF and OTTER parties. 4923 N. Clark St., 773-784-7636, www.thesofotap.com

Spyner’s: An off-the-beaten-path lesbian karaoke joint. 4623 N. Western Ave., 773-784-8719, www.spyner.com

Touché: Home of many of Chicago’s leather and fetish groups. An old-school leather bar with demos and more in The Club Room. Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturdays). 6412 N. Clark St., 773-465-7400, www.touchechicago.com


Gay musician Steve Grand (right) at Touché for Mr. Chicago Leather victory party.

Photo by Kirk Williamson
**Wang's:** Great gay raunch against a quirky Chinese-inspired decor. 3317 N. Broadway, 773-296-6800, www.wangslive.com

**PARTIES**

**Burly @ The Burlington:** A night for burly bearded boys and their allies. DJs spin punk, disco and new wave. Every third Wednesday night. 3425 W. Fullerton Ave., www.facebook.com/burlychicago

**CRUSH Chicago:** Upscale events for women, by women. Held over Pride Weekend (June 22-25). www.crushchicago.com

**Doll House Chicago:** A night for hot young lesbians and the hot young lesbians who love them. DJs and go-go dancers. A variety of locations. Instagram: dollhousechicago

**Fabitat @ Beauty Bar:** Gathering spot for fabulous queer misfits, featuring DJs, dancing, stiff ones and performances from a regular cast of queens. Every other Wednesday night. 1444 W. Chicago Ave., www.facebook.com/doorno3fabitat/

**Glitter Creeps @ The Empty Bottle:** A rock/punk/new wave queer night. See website for events and dates. 1035 N. Western Ave., www.facebook.com/glittercreeps/

**Men's Room:** A down and dirty roving party with cruising men and resident DJs Harry+Jpeg. At a variety of locations. www.facebook.com/harryjpeg/

**NEO Thursdays @ Debonair Social Club:** A queer (and everything else) new wave party with two DJs on two floors. 1575 N. Milwaukee Ave.

**Neverland:** High-energy series of themed dance parties with top-notch DJs and production value. Most parties coincide with big community events (IML, Pride, Market Days), with additional events throughout the year. At a variety of locations. www.facebook.com/neverlandparties/

**Off Chances @ Danny's:** A queer collective dance party celebrating inclusion and expression, taking place every second Tuesday of the month. 1959 W. Dickens Ave., www.chancedances.org

**Queen! @ Smart Bar:** Chicago’s hottest weekly club night with world-class house DJs and club-kid luminary hosts. Every Sunday night. 3730 N. Clark St., www.facebook.com/queensundays/

**Queer Contra Chicago:** An LGBTQ twist on an ancient folk-dance tradition. Admission on a sliding scale: 0-$10. Last Saturday of each month. www.facebook.com/ContraChicago/

**Rails Marketing Group:** Hosting a variety of events for the African-American gay community on the South Side and beyond. www.facebook.com/groups/295298523845072/

**Slo ‘Mo @ The Whistler:** Polysexual slow jam dance party in Logan Square. 2421 N. Milwaukee Ave., www.slomoparty.com

**Thirsty Thursdays @ Watra:** Live drag shows weekly on the South Side with resident DJs and host Shadiamond. 4758 S. Pulaski Rd., www.facebook.com/thirstythursdayschicago/

**BATHS**

**Steamworks:** Men’s club in the heart of Boystown with full gym, steamrooms and all the rest. 3246 N. Halsted St., www.steamworksbaths.com/chicago/
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Tens of millions of people visit Chicago and Illinois each year, coming from nearby states and across the U.S., plus from all parts of the world. That’s a lot of people going through the more than 7,000 restaurants in the Windy City. Regarding where to go in a few neighborhoods, Windy City Times is providing a mix of hideaways and more well-known spots for travelers to visit.

Most tourists tend to visit certain areas, such as The Loop, Boystown/Wrigleyville/Lakeview, Andersonville and the River North area. However, keep in mind that Chicago is a huge city with 77 official neighborhoods—Roscoe Village, Bronzeville, Chinatown, Pilsen, Little Village, Hyde Park, Bridgeport, Beverly and so many more—and that the more adventurous could be rewarded with some incredible finds. And don’t forget Chicago’s suburbs, near and far, including Oak Park and Evanston, plus locations throughout the state, promoted in this guide from a wide range of chambers of commerce.

On a weekly basis, the dining section of Windy City Times contains information about everything from menu offerings to restaurant openings/closings.

The Loop
Chicago’s main business district, as one might expect, is packed with restaurants that cater to every type of craving.

Lawry’s (100 E. Ontario, http://www.lawrysonline.com/lawrys-primerib/chicago/general-info) is part of the Lawry’s Restaurants legacy chain, family owned and operated and across the U.S. If you’re looking for prime rib or beef, and an elegant night out, this is a great stop in downtown Chicago.

Some of the best eateries are in the Loop’s hotels. A prime example is the Jamaican hot spot Mr. Brown’s Lounge (81 E. Wacker Pl.; MrBrownsLounge.com). The Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel is home to the Italian eatery Filini (221 N. Columbus Dr.; FiliniChicagocom), the Palmer House Hotel has Lockwood (17 E. Monroe St.; LockwoodRestaurant.com), and The Godfrey Hotel has a gorgeous rooftop lounge with beautiful views (127 W. Huron, www.godfreyhotelchicago.com/rooftop-lounge.html).

Other hot spots in the Loop include the Italian place 312 Chicago (136 N. LaSalle St.; 312Chicago.com) and the Atwood (1 W. Washington St.; AtwoodRestaurant.com), which now offers everything from salmon blintzes to duck fat-fried chicken thighs to a popcorn concoction with white cheddar, bacon and chives. Also, lesbian chef Laura Piper heads Stock and Ledger (70 W. Madison St.; StockAndLedger.com), which has some intriguing lunch and dinner options.

The Dearborn is part lesbian-owned and a special night out, especially if you’re going to the theater (145 N. Dearborn, www.thedearbornrestaurant.com)—an “eclectic twist on sophisticated classics.”

River North/Gold Coast
Possibly the city’s most tourist-dense part, River North and the Gold Coast have enough top-notch restaurants to handle them all.

There are several reasons Spiaggia (980 N. Michigan Ave.; SpiaggiaRes-
taurant.com) is considered one of the best restaurants in Chicago—Italian at its best, with a great view of Lake Michigan. (Also, Spiaggia’s executive chef, Joe Flamm, won the 15th season of Bravo’s cooking show Top Chef.) Chef Tony Priolo and Ciro Longobardo have made Nonnina (340 N. Clark St.; NonninaChicago.com) one of the most enticing Italian spots in the area—but they also have the newer Maillard Tavern (494 N. Milwaukee Ave.; www.maillardtavern.com/), which has some amazing burgers, and the longstanding Piccolo Sogno (464 N. Halsted St., www.piccolosognorestaurant.com/), which happens to be across the street from Maillard.

Enolo Wine Cafe (450 N. Clark St.; EnoloWineCafe.com) is deceptively named, as it offers large and small plates in addition to its amazing selection of wines. Beatrix (519 N. Clark St. and 671 N. St. Clair St.; BeatrixChicago.com) has gained a reputation as a breakfast spot (complete with the famed Bulletproof coffee) although it serves all meals. Bistronomic (840 N. Wabash St.; Bistronomic.net) is one of the premier French spots in the city, along with Bistrot Zinc (1131 N. State St.; BistrotZinc.com).

Well-known gay philanthropist and chef Art Smith has taken not just Chicago by storm, but the entire nation. His Chicago restaurant Table Fifty-two has been transformed into Blue Door Kitchen and Garden, 52 W. Elm St., bluedoorkitchenchicago.com. Blue Door Kitchen & Garden is a proud supporter of Stewards of the Land Farms. Stewards of the Land is a coalition of 24 fundamentally sustainable farms located within a 50 mile radius of Fairbury, Illinois. Also there is the Blue Door Farm Stand, 2010 N. Halsted, www.bluedoorfarmstand.com.

Images from Blue Door Kitchen and Garden.
PR photos

While you are in the city, why not take a cooking course from one of the top cooking-class businesses in the country, The Chopping Block, owned by openly lesbian chef Shelley Young. See www.thechoppingblock.com. Bernie’s Lunch & Supper opened in Chicago’s historic River North neighborhood in the summer of 2015, at 660 N. Orleans St. This is Chef Zack Sklar’s first venture in the city, in collaboration with his partner and Executive Chef Ryan Sand, who is openly gay. Located on the corner of Erie and Orleans streets, Bernie’s is set in an inviting and casual yet refined space that includes family-style seating with rich turquoise banquets, coffered ceilings and an eclectic collection of textiles. See bernieslunchandsupper.com.

If you have a hankering for barbecue, head on over to Chicago Q (1160 N. Dearborn St.; ChicagoQRestaurant.com) for some prime brisket. The restaurant features Chef Smith’s creations as well as novel items like a flight of eggs Benedict on cornbread.

And in yet another Art Smith connection, the amazing entrepreneur is part owner of the multiple locations of Lyfe Kitchen, with excellent healthy, vegetarian and vegan selections, in addition to meat. See LyfeKitchen.com for their locations in downtown Chicago and the suburbs.
Boystown, Andersonville, Uptown

Chicago’s gayborhoods (about two miles apart from each other) offer plenty of intriguing dining options.

In Boystown, Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club (3700 N. Halsted St.; KitKatChicago.com) offers camp along with cuisine, thanks to a rotating line-up of drag divas. Wood (3335 N. Halsted St.; WoodChicago.com) is renowned for its dinner, drinks and brunch. And speaking of brunch, Nookies Tree Restaurant (3334 N. Halsted St.; NookiesChicago.com) and Ann Sather (AnnSather.com) is renowned far and wide for its all-day breakfast and lunch options. Ann Sather is owned by openly gay Chicago Ald. Tom Tunney. Also, be sure to check out Revolucion Mexican Steakhouse (3443 N. Broadway; RevolucionSteakhouse.com) for some amazing Mexican food at affordable prices. The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce will provide you with endless food options in the area: www.lakevieweast.com.

As for Andersonville (www.andersonville.org), it’s loaded with eateries that draw locals and tourists. Vincent (1475 W. Balmoral; vincentchicago.com) was created by Mike Bransford. The lesbians love Joie De Vine (1744 W. Balmoral) for the wine, mixed drinks and company—everyone is of course welcome. Appellation (5212 N. Clark St.; PastoralArtisan.com/appellation) is a bistro that’s an extension of Pastoral Artisan Cheese, Bread & Wine (see www.pastoralartisan.com for all of their locations). La Fonda Latino Grill (5350 N. Broadway; LaFondaLatinoGrill.com) offers some mind-boggling Colombian dishes. And don’t make the mistake of underestimating Calo (5343 N. Clark St.; CaloRestaurant.com), which advertises itself as Italian but serves so much more.

Don’t miss Hamburger Mary’s in Andersonville during your visit—for the food, and their Mary’s Attic bar and entertainment space, plus the LGBT camp. As they state: “It’s true what they say honey, you are what you eat! That’s why we serve only the freshest and most delicious items. And it’s why we use meats that are humanely raised, with no growth hormones!” The location is 5400 N. Clark St.; call 773-784-6969 or visit HamburgerMarys.com/chicago. Mary’s is also in west suburban Oak Park, where the fun continues.

Plus, you must not miss Big Chicks bar at 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., an LGBT spot for everyone, with its excellent Tweet restaurant next door at 5020 N. Sheridan Rd. Born in 2003 as the sister restaurant to Big Chicks and nestled within a vintage art deco building, Tweet serves a wide range of both classic and non-traditional dishes made from fresh, organic-when-possible ingredients. See tweet.biz or bigchicks.com

Other spots

Obviously, it’s impossible to point out all of the Chicago area’s restaurants—but this piece points out some spots to check out in some of the more heavily visited areas.

However, beyond those areas are some amazing restaurants. Among them are the spots located in the famed West Loop line of eateries, including the Italian spot Forno Rosso (1048 W. Randolph St.; FornoRossoPizzeria.com); Au Cheval (800 W. Randolph St.; AuChevalChicago.com), with its famed burger; bellyQ (1400 W. Randolph St.; BellyQChicago.com), with Asian-inspired BBQ; and the iconic Blackbird (619 W. Randolph St.; BlackbirdRestaurant.com).

Gay couple Dan Smith and Steve McDonagh are the duo behind The Hearty Boys (3523 W. Grand Ave., heartyboys.com), which offers catering that’s centered on Southern-inspired comfort food.

Logan Square is also a spot to dine (and drink), thanks to places such as Boiler Room (2210 N. California Ave.; BoilerRoomLoganSquare.com) and the contemporary Italian spot Animale (1904 N. Western Ave.; AnimaleChicago.com). If you find yourself in Lincoln Square, you must try Luella’s Southern...
Kitchen (4609 N. Lincoln Ave.; LuellasSouthernKitchen.com), which has items such as shrimp and grits, fried chicken and collard greens, crawfish etoufee and buttermilk pie.

Bridgeport, once a staunch white ethnic area of the city, is really morphing into a diverse place for food, shopping and socializing. Owned by gay businessman Dave Samber, Polo Cafe, 3322 S. Morgan St., offers both cuisine and a B&B upstairs. See polocafe.com.

Gay-owned Angel’s Restaurant (230 S. Ashland Ave.; 312-666-7253), on the city’s Near West Side, offers some savory Mexican fare.

On the Far North Side of the city is Red Rover Cafe (1535 W. Devon, connscatering.com), offering a wide variety of services.

As for the suburbs, they certainly have some impressive restaurants (see the Oak Park section in this guide for more). Evanston has The Barn (Rear 1016 Church St.; TheBarnEvanston.com), which has a supper-club feel; the wonderful Thai spot NaKorn (1622 Orrington Ave.; NaKornKitchen.com); and a favorite has returned, LuLu’s Asian fare (1026 Davis; www.lulusevanston.com).

Other suburban spots to check out include Berwyn’s Autre Monde (6727 Roosevelt Rd.; AutreMondeCafe.net), Glenview’s Mesa Urbana (3566 Milwaukee Ave.; MesaUrbana.com), and Flavor (5091 Sauk Trail Dr., Richton Park, 708-748-3000, flavorrestaurant.net), which often includes jazz with their cuisine, from breakfast to entrees and delicious desserts.

Chicago is also a very friendly town for farmer’s markets and food trucks. You can find the Farmer’s Market schedule here: cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/farmersmarkets0.html. With more than 60 food trucks making their loop around the Windy City, there’s never a shortage of unique food served curbside. See chicagofoodtruckfinder.com.

Don’t miss the great ethnic flair of Chicago’s many diverse neighborhoods, from Asian cuisine in Chinatown to Latino food in Pilsen and Little Village and Greek food in, where else, Greek Town, to Middle Eastern food in West Ridge, African foods on the Far North Side, Italian food in Little Italy, and so much more.

We are a melting pot, and we do know how to mix that pot here in Chicago. Choose Chicago offers advice on the myriad ethnic food choices at www.choosechicago.com/articles/view/ETHNIC-FOOD-IN-CHICAGO/979/.

Bon appétit!
Some amazing and award-winning authors have called Chicago home, from mainstream to the LGBTQ community. There is a world-class Chicago Public Library system based downtown and branching out into the neighborhoods (they also host the annual One Book, One Chicago events), plus the new American Writers Museum, festivals, new and used bookstores, and and thriving scene of performance spaces where poets, performance artists and spoken-word artists can share their stories. Here are a few literary selections for you to enjoy.


American Writers Museum: [americanwritersmuseum.org](http://www.amERICANwritersmuseum.org).

Bookends & Beginnings: Evanston, [www.bookendsandbeginnings.com](http://www.bookendsandbeginnings.com)

The Book Cellar: 4736-38 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, [bookcellarinc.com](http://www.bookcellarinc.com).

Book Expo America: [www.bookexpoamerica.com](http://www.bookexpoamerica.com).

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives: Founded in 1981, this institution has become the Midwest’s largest LGBTQ circulating library with more than 14,000 volumes, 800 periodical titles, and 100 archival collections; 6500 N. Clark St., Chicago, 773-381-8030, [www.gerberhart.org](http://www.gerberhart.org).


Harold Washington Library Center: Named for the late Chicago mayor, the main branch of the Chicago Public Library. 400 S. State St., Chicago, [www.chipublib.org](http://www.chipublib.org).

Owners Sarah Hollenbeck and Lynn Mooney of Women & Children First bookstore.

Photo by Tracy Baim
Newberry Library: Extensive non-circulating collection of rare books, maps, music, manuscripts and other printed material spanning six centuries. 60 W. Walton St., www.newberry.org.


Printers Row Lit Fest: www.printersrowlitfest.org.


Norman L. Sandfield with items he donated to the Gerber/Hart Library, as part of his donation to create the Sandfield Exhibition Gallery.

Photo by Tracy Baim

Vives Q: An independent cultural arts project committed to creating an LGBTQ movement-building experience through art, music, spoken word, dance and oral history that enables intergenerational dialogue across multiple identities and communities. See vivesq.org.


Activism meet-ups, personal book recommendations, weekly events, Kids Storytime, and more! There are so many reasons to support Chicago’s only feminist bookstore.
Chicago celebrates June Pride Month every year with dozens of events throughout the month.

The Chicago Annual Pride Parade, the largest event of the month is scheduled each year for the last Sunday in June.

For more information: www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org
Chicago has a rich tradition of filmmaking, both mainstream and LGBTQ. But it's equally known for its film viewers—who get treated to an amazing array of film festivals, special event screenings, and beautiful film venues each year. Below are some of the special venues and film festivals in the Windy City. In Chicago unless noted.


Black Alphabet Film Festival: Promotes, nurtures and celebrates stories of Black LGBTQ-identified people, 872-256-BAFF, visit blackalphabet.org.

Chicago Comedy Film Festival: www.chicagocomedyfilmfestival.com.

Chicago Critics Film Festival: chicagocriticsfilmfestival.com.

Chicago Film Archives: www.chicagofilmarchives.org.

Chicago Filmmakers: Screenings and classes in their new home, a beautiful-ly renovated fire house on the Far North Side, 5720 N. Ridge, they also produce the annual reeling LGBTQ film fest, www.chicagofilmmakers.org.

Chicago Food Film Festival: thefoodfilmfestival.com.

Chicago Horror Film Fest: chicagohorrorfest.com.


Chicago International Social Change Film Festival: www.chicagosocialchange.org.

Chicago Jewish Film Festival: www.jccfilmfest.org.

Chicago Latino Film Festival: www.chicagolatinofilmfestival.org.

Chicago South Asian Film Festival: www.csaff.org.

Chicago Underground Film Fest: www.cuff.org.
Community Film Workshop of Chicago: www.cfwchicago.org.
Gene Siskel Film Center: www.siskelfilmcenter.org.
Greek Film Fest Chicago: www.greekfilmfestchicago.org.
Millennium Park Summer Film Series: An outdoor film series at 201 E. Randolph.
Music Box Theatre: Opened 1929, the Music Box Theatre retains its original architecture and design. www.musicboxtheatre.com.
The Queer Film Society: www.QueerFilmSociety.org.
ReelAbilities Chicago Film Festival: www.chicago.reelabilities.org.
Reeling Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival: Contact the organizers at 773-293-1447, www.reelingfilmfestival.org.
Silent Film Society of Chicago: www.silentfilmchicago.com.

Chicago Filmmakers' new home is in a renovated fire house on the Far North Side. Photos by Eric Rogers
Professional sports offer a wide range of quality athletic events, from the women’s sports of pro tackle football (Chicago Force), soccer (Red Stars), softball (Bandits) and basketball (Chicago Sky) to the men’s sports of baseball (Cubs and White Sox), football (Chicago Bears), ice hockey (Blackhawks and Wolves), soccer (Fire) and basketball (Bulls). There are also great college dynasties in Illinois, from the city and suburbs to downstate.

The LGBT sports world is also diverse, from individual teams in certain sports playing in mainstream leagues, to organizations for a specific athletic activity such as running, to large-scale associations with multiple sports. Chicago’s LGBT sports scene is possibly the largest in the world, given the city’s size and decades-long sports history. And that infrastructure made it possible for the city to host Gay Games VII in 2006, with almost 12,000 athletes from nearly 70 countries participating in more than 30 sports and culture activities. Opening Ceremony was at Soldier Field and Closing Ceremony at Wrigley Field.

The city also has miles and miles of lakefront running and walking paths, many annual running events including the triathlon and marathon, boating events, dozens of major parks, beach volleyball courts, kayaking on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, paddle boarding on the lake, rock climbing walls, and pretty much any recreational activity short of downhill skiing. And even then, there is a small hill at Montrose and the lake that folks sled down in the winter.

What follows is a listing of sports leagues, teams and venues, just a sampling of what the Chicago region has to offer for sports fans big and small.

**LGBTQ and Allies Groups and Teams:**

**AIDS Run & Walk Chicago**: Held each fall, presented by AIDS Foundation of Chicago. See events.aidschicago.org.

**Athletic Alliance of Chicago**: See sportsaac.com.

**Bikes and Mics**: Riders of all genders, ethnicities and experience. See www.bikesandmics.com.

**Center on Halsted**: Billie Jean King Recreational Hall, named for the lesbian tennis legend, hosts multiple indoor sports leagues, www.centeronhalsted.org.

**Chi-Town Squares**: LGBT square dance club, www.chitownsquares.org.

**Chicago Dragons Rugby Football Club**: www.chicagodragons.org.


**Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association**: Rec and competitive in a variety of leagues. See chicagomsa.leagueapps.com.

**Chicago Rowing Union**: Promotes rowing to the LGBT community and its allies. See www.chicagorowingunion.org.

**Chicago Smelts**: Chicago’s predominantly gay and lesbian U.S. Masters Swim Team. See chicagosmelts.org.


**Euchre Chicago**: www.euchrechicago.org.

**Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago**: www.frfwchicago.org.

Lincoln Park Lagooners: https://www.facebook.com/groups/92352972921/about/.


Ride for AIDS: Sept. 8-9, 2018, https://shar.es/1LitVD.

Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corp: https://www.facebook.com/groups/4898866184/?__mref=message.


Second City Tennis Association: www.secondcitytennis.com.


Other Chicago Sports and Recreation Options


Chicago Bandits: Women’s pro fast-pitch softball team, chicagobandits.com/home/.


Chicago Blaze Rugby Club: Men’s, chicagoblazerugby.com.


Chicago Cubs: Men’s baseball, at Wrigley Field, chicago.cubs.mlb.com.


Chicago Lake Front Trail: The lakefront is a paved path that extends from Ardmore at 5800 N. Sheridan Rd. to 7100 S. South Shore in Chicago.

Chicago Marathon: In 2018 it is on Oct. 7. Team to End AIDS runs, www.t2ea.com. Known as T2, the endurance-training program is very LGBT-inclusive.


Chicago White Sox: Men's baseball, chicago.whitesox.mlb.com.
Forest Preserves of Cook County: Thousands of acres of nature in several regional areas, fpdcc.com.
Lincoln Park: Lincoln Park is Chicago's largest park. It stretches from Hollywood Avenue to Ohio Street, 312-883-PARK, lincolnparkconservancy.org.
Maggie Daley Park: The park has an ice skating rink in the winter months. See visitmaggiedaleypark.com.
Montrose and Wilson Beach: Kayak, paddle board and volleyball rentals and distance swimming as well as food, showers and restrooms; 4400 N. Lake Shore Dr., www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/montrose-beach/ and see kayakchicago.com.
Oz Park: Oz Park is a Wizard of Oz-themed park with Dorothy's Playlot, Emerald Garden, and statues of characters as well as tennis courts, ball fields, basketball courts and soccer/football fields; 2021 N. Burling, www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/Oz-Park/.
Soldier Field: Home of the Chicago Bears, plus concerts and international sporting events. See www.soldierfield.net.

Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs.
Photo by Hal Baim
The Chicago Sky women's pro basketball team now play's in the South Loop at the new Wintrust Arena.
Photo by Tracy Baim

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ACCOMMODATIONS

Airbnb: Welcome to Chicago! While you’re here, stay local. www.airbnb.com

Emil Bach House: The Emil Bach House is a Frank Lloyd Wright Home that has been restored to its 1915 charm. It has 3 guest rooms and outdoor grounds and Japanese tea house. 7415 N. Sheridan Rd., 773-764-9851, www.emilbachhouse.com

The Godfrey Hotel Chicago: There’s no missing the stunning Godfrey Hotel Chicago—the distinctive cubist design of the 16-story building is unlike any other in the city. 127 W. Huron at LaSalle, Chicago, IL, 60654, 312-374-1842, sandi.robinson@godfreyhotelchicago.com, www.godfreyhotelchicago.com

Lang House Bed & Breakfast: The Lang House Bed and Breakfast is a beautifully restored mansion with historic charm and sophistication, two levels of outdoor patio, sauna and massage rooms, locally-sourced breakfasts and more. 7421 N. Sheridan Rd., 773-764-9851, www.langhousechicago.com

LondonHouse Chicago: Located in the heart of Downtown Chicago overlooking the Chicago River, the LondonHouse Chicago is a 452 room high-design, luxury lifestyle hotel. 85 E. Wacker Drive (at N. Michigan Ave.), 312-357-1200, http://londonhousechicago.com


BARS

Sidetrack: The center of gay nightlife in Chicago. The original video bar. A sunny upper deck bar, world-famous Slushies, and a must-have showtunes night every Sunday and Monday. A complex of bars, catering to every need in Boystown. 3349 N. Halsted St., 773-477-9189, www.sidetrackchicago.com

Touché: Home of many of Chicago’s leather and fetish groups. An old-school leather bar with demos and more in The Club Room. Open late (4 am, 5 am on Saturdays). 6412 N. Clark St., 773-465-7400, www.touchechicago.com

GALLERIES

The Leigh Gallery: The Leigh Gallery represents original artwork from over 80 local artists. We offer a diverse and innovative selection of art in most media and are dedicated to exhibiting quality art at reasonable prices. 3306 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL, 60657, 773-472-1865, www.theleighgallery.com

Longbranch Gallery: One of 27 art galleries in historic Mineral Point, Wisconsin, (pop. 2,600) a gay-friendly artist community Smithsonian Magazine says “One of the best small towns in America to visit.” 203 Commerce St., Mineral Point, WI, www.Longbranch-gallery.com, longbranchgallery@gmail.com

MENTAL HEALTH

The Juniper Center: The heart and science of meaningful change. Counseling and therapy. Trauma recovery; anxiety and depression; addictions treatment; LGBTQ, sexuality and gender; relationship therapy. Park Ridge, Oak Park, Chicago, Northfield, Barrington. 847-759-9110, www.thejunipercenter.com
MUSEUMS

American Writers Museum: In the heart of the Loop, the American Writers Museum celebrates all genres of writing through interactive exhibits and programming. From Twain to Tupac, there’s a story here for everyone. 312-374-8790, www.americanwritersmuseum.org

The Field Museum: Our world-class collections inspire discovery, share engaging learning experiences and uncover solutions for a better world. Explore Dinosaur Hall in Evolving Planet, Ancient Egypt, Grainger Hall of Gems and more. 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., 312-922-9410, fieldmuseum.org

Glessner House Museum: Step back to the Gilded Age at this National Historic Landmark on Chicago’s legendary Prairie Avenue. 1800 S. Prairie Ave., Chicago, 312-326-1480 www.GlessnerHouse.org

Illinois Holocaust Museum: Designed by Chicago architect Stanley Tigerman, Illinois Holocaust Museum remembers the Holocaust and through programming and exhibits, including the new Survivor Stories Experience Holographic Theater, inspiring everyone to #TAKEASTAND for humanity. 9603 Woods Dr., Skokie IL, 847-967-4800, www.iholocaustmuseum.org, media@ilhmec.org

The Legacy Walk: The world’s only outdoor LGBT museum, 3245-3707 N. Halsted, Chicago. Bronze memorials of LGBT contributions to world history and culture. Guided group tours and shopping packages available. 312-608-1198, www.legacyprojectchicago.org

NON-PROFITS

Center on Halsted: Chicago’s LGBTQ community center. Connect with the LGBTQ community with tours, cyber center, recreational activities, art gallery, performances, walk-in HIV testing. 3656 N. Halsted St., 773-472-6469, www.centeronhalsted.org

PRIDEChicago: The host organization for Chicago’s annual Pride parade, the last Sunday of June each year. 773-348-8243, PrideChgo@aol.com, www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

RESTAURANTS/CATERING

Latsko restaurants: Pick your cuisine while dining al fresco
• Southern style BBQ from Chicago q 312-642-1160, www.chicagoqrestaurant.com
• Old country Italian from La Storia 312-915-5950, www.lastoriachicago.com
• Fresh farm to table eats: Blue Door Kitchen & Garden 312-573-4000, www.bluedoorkitchenchicago.com & Blue Door Farm Stand 312-265-0259, www.bluedoorfarmstand.com

Lawry's The Prime Rib: A Chicago treasure since 1974, Lawry's unique menu features their famous roasted prime rib served tableside from gleaming silver carts. Expect warm hospitality and award-winning dining in this Windy City landmark. 100 E. Ontario St., 312-787-5000, www.LawrysChicago.com

Red Rover Cafe: Serving delicious sandwiches, salads and homemade soups. Our gourmet desserts include Hoosier Mama pie and Schoep's premium ice cream. Serving Intelligentsia Coffee, sodas and a wonderful selection of Filbert's Old Time Draft Root Beer. Delivery service available by Grub Hub, Uber Eats, Postmates and Door Dash. Open 7 days a week, 11am-9pm. 1535 W. Devon Ave., 773-262-0414, www.redrovercafe.com


Prize Chai: For the best chai tea in town, try Prize Chai downtown at 78 E Chicago Ave, 312-966-4444.
RESORTS
The Dunes Resort Saugatuck
Douglas, MI: One of the country’s largest LGBTQ resort and entertainment complexes, located 2.5 hours from Downtown Chicago in the gay-friendly beach towns of Saugatuck and Douglas, Michigan. Where you can be yourself! 269-857-1401, https://dunesresort.com

RETAIL
Leather 64TEN: Chicago’s best source for handmade and custom leather clothing and accessories. Underwear, boots and a full selection of fetish gear in Rogers Park. 6410 N. Clark St., www.leather64ten.com

M. Martin & Co.: One of Chicago’s oldest jewellers since 1939. Buy your diamond from Stan Perkins, a GIA-trained professional graduate gemologist. By appointment only. 312-263-4957, www.mmartinjewelry.com

Women & Children First: Books, magazines, cards, gifts, weekly story time, frequent author events, book clubs and much more at this Chicago institution. 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago, 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

SPORTS
The Chicago Bandits: The Chicago Bandits will be back at The Ballpark at Rosemont for the 2018 season. For more information about the Chicago Bandits, please visit chicagobandits.com or call the box office at 877-722-6348.

TOURISM AND BUSINESS GROUPS
Andersonville Chamber of Commerce: Called “the ‘shop local’ capital of Chicago,” Andersonville is a vibrant neighborhood on Chicago’s north side with Swedish roots, a thriving local and independent business district, and welcoming community. Events and neighborhood information at www.andersonville.org.


Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau: Decatur and Forsyth are in the Heart of Illinois and are the ideal hub from which to explore ALL of Central Illinois. Visit our great history and wealth of attractions! Email Tourism@decaturcvb.com and website www.decaturcvb.com.

Downtown Evanston: Located just north of Chicago, Downtown Evanston boasts a unique mix of restaurants, independent and national shops, entertainment venues and an exciting new Fountain Square! Follow us @ downtownervanston, 847-866-6319, downtownervanston.org

Downtown Oak Park: Located 10 miles west of Chicago’s Loop, Downtown Oak Park offers an exceptional array of shops and restaurants, as well as a classic seven-screen movie theater and exciting schedule of year-round festivals and events. 708-383-4145, www.downtownoakpark.net


LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois: The LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois serves as the voice for more than 40,000 LGBT business owners throughout Illinois and supports members through advocacy, networking, and learning and development. http://gbtcc.com/

Northalsted Business Alliance: Boystown is Chicago’s hot spot for fun in the sun and incomparable LGBTQ nightlife. For showcase events and year round fun, Boystown is the center of Chicago pride! https://northalsted.com/
Quincy Area Convention & Visitors Bureau: “One of America’s Most Artistic Towns”: On the Great River Road, Quincy features colorful year round self-guided driving tours: Off the Record Mystic, Stout Route Culinary, Mississippi Valley Wine Trail. 800-978-4748, www.seequincy.com

Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce: With small-town ambience and big-city accessibility, Roscoe Village is the destination for a memorable Chicago experience. Stroll the peaceful, tree-lined streets and visit beautiful parks, unique shops, and renowned restaurants. 773-327-5123, www.rvcc.biz

The Rosemont Convention Bureau: The Village of Rosemont has created a thriving mecca of tourism, entertainment and convention and trade-show business. Located five minutes from O’Hare Airport and twenty minutes from Chicago’s downtown. Enjoy extensive hotel and dining options, the Allstate Arena, Rosemont Theatre, the entertainment district Parkway Bank Park, the Fashion Outlets of Chicago and so much more! www.rosemont.com

Saugatuck Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau: From outdoor adventures to weekend getaways, art galleries to al fresco dining, and sunny beach days to cozy nights, it’s easy to see why this area has a special place in so many hearts. www.saugatuck.com

Visit Champaign County: Experience something Outside of Ordinary in Champaign County—Relish a thriving local art scene, taste farm-fresh flavors, and celebrate at festivals throughout the year. 800-369-6151, visitchampaigncounty.org, marketing@visitchampaigncounty.org

Visit Galena: Explore 19-century storefronts along Galena’s historic Main Street that are now home to eclectic shops, art galleries and farm-to-table dining. No wonder Midwest Living magazine named it “Best Main Street in the Midwest.” www.VisitGalena.org

Visit Moultrie County: “Buggies, Boats & Broadway”: Moultrie County is home to The Little Theatre On the Square, beautiful Lake Shelbyville, and Amish settlements. Three hours from downtown Chicago. For more info: www.visitmoultrieil.com

Visit Northwest Illinois: The Blackhawk Waterways region in Northwest Illinois offers outdoor recreation via 10 state parks, Hennepin Canal, Mississippi & Rock Rivers, biking trails, plus we have unique lodging and restaurants. 800-678-2108, www.visitnorthwestillinois.com, office@bwcvb.com

Visit Oak Park: Just 8 miles west of Chicago’s loop, Oak Park is rich with culture and buzzing with personality. Discover Frank Lloyd Wright masterpieces, historic sites, vibrant flavors, and quirky shops in this welcoming and accessible community. 1-888-OAK-PARK, www.visitoakpark.com


TOURS
Frank Lloyd Wright Trust: The Trust serves as the gateway to Frank Lloyd Wright’s original sites in Chicago and Oak Park. Tours include Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio, Oak Park Historic Neighborhood featuring the Prairie style, the Robie House, The Rookery Building, Bach House, Unity Temple, Wright Around Chicago, and more. Contact 312-994-4000, visitflwright.org.
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION

Uber: Special offer: get.uber.com/go/windycitytimes. At Uber we’re focused on expanding access to reliable, affordable transportation options for everyone, everywhere. We’re proud to serve drivers and riders across every community in Chicago. Start riding today with promo code WindyCityTimes. www.uber.com

THEATER/PERFORMANCE

About Face Theatre: About Face Theatre creates exceptional, innovative, and adventurous plays to advance the national dialogue on gender and sexual identity, and to challenge and entertain audiences in Chicago, across the country, and around the world. 5252 N. Broadway, 2nd floor, 773-784-8565, www.aboutfacetheatre.com


Bible Bingo and Late Nite Catechism: Bible Bingo by Vicki Quade is a comedy with God, games and goofy prizes. Late Nite Catechism, in 24th year, by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan. 312-988-9000, www.nuns4fun.com

Blue Man Group: Leave your expectations at the door and let three bald and blue men take you on a spectacular journey bursting with music, laughter and surprises. DARE TO LOVE IN FULL COLOR. 3133 N. Halsted St., 773-348-4000, blueman.com/love

Chicago Philharmonic: A musician-governed organization of the highest level classical performers in the area, the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra has been wowing audiences for over 27 years with a variety of symphonic concerts, chamber concerts and artistic collaborations. www.chicagophilharmonic.org

The Laugh Factory/The KIKI: Queer comedy with variety, second Sunday of each month at 5. 3175 N. Broadway, 773-327-3175, www.laughfactory.com/clubs/chicago, @thekikicomedy

Pride Films And Plays: The mission of Pride Films and Plays is to change lives through the generation of diverse new work (or work new to Chicago) with LGBTQ+ characters or themes. 4139 N. Broadway, 1-800-737-0984, www.pridefilmsandplays.com

The Second City: Shows nightly. 15-minute cab ride from The Loop. North and Wells. 1616 N. Wells St. 312-664-4032, www.secondcity.com

Steppenwolf Theatre Company: Steppenwolf Theatre Company will challenge you to think harder, laugh longer, feel more. True to its mission, Steppenwolf delivers dynamic and exciting theater that will hit you hard. Book tickets to a performance in its three spaces at 1650 and 1700 N. Halsted St. by visiting steppenwolf.org or calling the Box Office at 312-335-1650

Writers Theatre: Writers Theatre has captivated Chicagoland audiences with inventive interpretations of classic work, a bold approach to contemporary theatre and a dedication to creating the most intimate theatrical experience possible. 325 Tudor Ct., Glencoe, IL, 60022, 847-242-6000, www.writerstheatre.org

WINE

Alto Vineyards: Celebrating 30 years of award-winning winemaking with locations in Alto Pass and Champaign, Illinois. See a band, try a food pairing, book your dream wedding or just drop in! 618-893-4898 (Alto Pass), 217-356-4784 (Champaign), altovineyards.net
There is something about Saugatuck & Douglas, Michigan... that makes them two of the most gay friendly small towns in the country. LGBTQ tourists all find something difficult to define but easy to recognize, like magic, it is everywhere you look.

COME PLAY WITH US!

There's something for everyone at the Dunes Resort, one of the largest LGBTQ resort & entertainment complexes in the country. Party and play at Michigan’s only gay resort: Nightclub featuring top DJ’s, live cabaret entertainment, famous Sunday tea dances and the place to be on a sunny afternoon, the Dunes Pool.

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“BIKING BETWEEN A BEACH AND A SKYLINE WAS UNFORGETTABLE.”

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