

SUMMER 2010

Cheap Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students
Spending a Summer Working in the Public Interest

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Chicago

Chicago Table of Contents

Housing	2
Transportation	6
Food	8
Entertainment	16
Online Resource	23

Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings.

In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be

helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal. *Cheap Living* remains a work in progress. Restaurants and attractions continuously open and close. A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Program Coordinator

**The Chicago Guide was updated by 1L section representatives Lauren Almquist, Briana Sprick and Eliza Presson.*

Housing

Here are some neighborhoods that are relatively close to the Loop (the affectionate name for Chicago's business center) and are largely populated by students and young people. Cheap housing can also be found in some of the suburbs, such as Evanston, but expect a commute of 30-45 minutes or more.

Neighborhoods

Lincoln Park. A favorite spot for Harvard Law grads (entering private practice) who settle in the city, Lincoln Park offers great access to trendy clubs, bars, and the arts. This neighborhood is pretty young with a good number of students and a large number of yuppies (for better or for worse). Lincoln Park is attractive due to its proximity to the El trains as well as its bustling nightlife and assortment of eateries. Here you'll find mostly updated walkups with a few high-rises along the lake, but you'll rarely find parking (many of the residents call it "Lincoln No Park"). Lincoln Park is one of the priciest neighborhoods in Chicago, but some reasonable rents can be found (if rarely). You might have luck finding sublets in northern Lincoln Park near DePaul University. Lincoln Park is bounded by North Avenue on the south, Ashland on the west, Diversey to the north, and Lake Michigan on the east.

Lakeview. This is a large, diverse area which encompasses several regions. Like Lincoln Park, it contains a wealth of clubs, coffee shops, and boutiques, but the rents are somewhat cheaper here. However, it is still one of the more expensive neighborhoods on this list. Lakeview is also a hotbed of young professionals. Together with Lincoln Park, this is where many Harvard students first look to rent or sublet apartments. Lakeview is bounded by Diversey on the south, Ashland to the west, up to Irving Park Road, and the lake on the east. Boystown, the area encompassed by Halsted and Broadway from about Belmont to Irving Park Road, is home to much of Chicago's gay nightlife and community activities. Lakeview is located near the red line, providing convenient transportation all along lakeshore from north to south.

Wrigleyville. Wrigleyville is the northern part of Lakeview that surrounds Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs. Good deals can be found in this popular and bustling area, though rents tend to increase the closer to Wrigley Field you get. To live in Wrigleyville you must have a certain tolerance for noise and traffic on game nights, and patience is sometimes required to deal with the hordes of drunken Cubs fans that descend on your neighborhood throughout the summer. And, as in Lakeview and Lincoln Park, forget about on-street parking. Unless it's at some odd time, on-street parking is virtually impossible to find, and requires permits (issued to residents) that go almost block by block. Roscoe Village, located just west of Wrigleyville is quieter and has more affordable housing. Roscoe Village also has an interesting collection of small shops and neighborhood pubs, but is less convenient for frequent users of public transportation. Wrigleyville, like Lakeview, is located near the red line.

Wicker Park. A formerly bohemian neighborhood centered around the intersection of North, Damen, and Milwaukee avenues, Wicker Park struggles to maintain its hipness in the face of continuing gentrification. Once home to a large community of young artists and musicians, the neighborhood still features many interesting and unique bars, cafes, and restaurants and is still generally thought of as a neighborhood for young people who think that Lincoln Park and

Lakeview have too many yuppies. It is also usually cheaper than its cousins to the East. However, it is located near the Blue Line which does not provide easy access to the Lake, and is relatively removed from the Wrigleyville/Lakeview/Lincoln Park triad if you are using public transportation (there are buses, but they are slow). But the commute downtown is still quick and easy.

Logan Square. Just Northwest of Wicker Park, Logan Square is much less expensive (it's really cheap!), but arguably much more "hip." In many ways Logan Square is what Wicker Park once was – filled with recent college graduates (or dropouts) that are artists and musicians. It is also a largely Mexican/Puerto Rican neighborhood, though the process of gentrification is gradually driving the immigrant population south to Humboldt Park. Though there are not many bars and few non-Mexican restaurants, Logan Square has much to offer a young person on a budget. The rents are very cheap, and your neighbors will probably be people your age that are having a party this weekend. It is about 15-20 minutes from the Loop via the Blue Line. Logan Square is pretty big, so be sure to ask your potential lessor how close the Blue Line is.

Ukrainian Village. An up & coming neighborhood that has nearly arrived, Ukrainian Village is just south of Wicker Park. A lot of young people are moving here because rents tend to be slightly lower than in Wicker Park. Construction was just completed on Chicago Ave., the main drag, and the area west of Ashland on Chicago now has many great bars and restaurants that no longer require the (albeit short) walk up to Wicker Park. The only real downside is that the El will still require that walk.

Bucktown. Bucktown is directly north of Wicker Park (the Blue Line runs northwest, so it there is a slightly longer walk to get to the train). Formerly "up-and-coming," it has mostly arrived, much like Wicker Park. Unlike Wicker Park, however, it has less of a nightlife, and most residents patronize the Wicker Park establishments. It's a popular area among young couples because it usually has cheaper housing than nearby Wicker Park, and it has more of a quiet, residential feel.

Ravenswood. Northwest of Lakeview along the Brown Line train, this collection of family neighborhoods is known for spacious apartments with reasonable rents. Ravenswood is about 35 minutes from downtown on the El, but the Metra also has a line that runs right into the area, which can provide a quicker (if more strict schedule-wise) commute. Ravenswood does not have much of a nightlife itself, but it is located in between Lincoln Square (not to be confused with Lincoln Park) and Andersonville, both of which provide plenty of great restaurants, bars, clubs, and shopping.

Andersonville. The upside: cheap, big, beautiful apartments, all located near a bustling neighborhood with great food, fun bars, and unique shopping. Also, this is Chicago's "2nd" gay neighborhood. It has several gay bars (including the only lesbian bar in the city), and many gay residents who do not wish to pay the high rents or deal with the crowds in Lakeview have instead settled here. Previously known as "girlstown," it is home to much of Chicago's lesbian community. It is also home to many young families, hip young people, and people of diverse backgrounds. The downside: if you're working downtown, it's about a 40-minute commute via the El. Andersonville runs along Clark Street from South of Foster to Hollywood. It is located near the red line.

Lincoln Square. Lincoln Square has great restaurants and fun places to go out at night, as well as interesting shops, a movie theater, the Old Town School of Folk Music, and Chicago's biggest library on the North Side. It is a hot area for young families in particular, as well as singles looking for a more laid back vibe; It is on the quieter side (compared to Lakeview, Lincoln Park, and Wrigleyville) but has more going on than Ravenswood. It will be important to be close to the Brown line if you are working downtown and want to live here—make sure you are walking distance from the Damen, Western, or Rockwell stop. Commute from Lincoln Square to downtown is probably about 40-45 minutes.

Rogers Park. The northernmost neighborhood along the shore, Rogers Park is a racially and ethnically diverse community that is known for both its local activism and its popularity among progressive middle-aged people. This area is home to many students, academics, and young professionals. Rents tend to be very reasonable in buildings that do not border the lakefront community park. There may be a number of summer sublets available near Loyola University, which is in southern Rogers Park and about a 45 minute El ride from the Loop. However, Rogers Park has pockets of high-crime areas that sometimes make it unattractive to students, especially females or those choosing to live alone. It is recommended that you ask a potential lessor about the specific block the housing is located on.

Uptown. Just north of Lakeview, uptown is a gentrifying neighborhood that can be hit-or-miss, depending on what block you live on. Some blocks have large public housing projects for the mentally ill, giving it a bit of “flavor” that may or may not be your personal style. But it also provides easy access to both the Lakeview/Wrigleyville scene and the “new north,” like Edgewater, Andersonville, and Roger's Park (not to mention the beautiful lakefront). Uptown is a historically, culturally, and socially fascinating place to live. Along Argyle Street, from Sheridan to Broadway, are several popular Chinese, Vietnamese, and Cambodian restaurants. It is located on the red line.

Hyde Park. The ritzy neighborhood on the Southside. It's also home to the University of Chicago, which gives you the extra protection of the University of Chicago police, and emergency phone boxes. As you can imagine, this area is home to many students, academics, and young professionals. But it is far removed from any semblance of nightlife, and is a considerable ways away from the neighborhoods that provide what most young people are looking for in the city. This neighborhood is also extremely difficult to access via public transportation; if you don't have a car, don't live here.

Gold Coast & The Loop. Some of the hotels that are listed below are in the Gold Coast and Loop areas. These areas are at the heart of the city and they are expensive. The Gold Coast features Chicago's “Magnificent Mile” of upscale restaurants and shopping. It's close to Northwestern University's Law School and it's within walking distance of many firms in the Loop.

Streeterville. Trivia bit: Streeterville is named for a man who declared the area an independent nation. Those who long for Manhattan may enjoy its high-rises. Less pricey than the Gold Coast (but still expensive), Streeterville is situated between the Magnificent Mile and Navy Pier. It is the home of Northwestern's downtown campus. Streeterville is bounded by Lake Michigan on north and east, Michigan Avenue on the west, and the Chicago River to the south.

Near West Side. This area, which includes Greektown and Little Italy, is a more affordable option for people who want to live very close to downtown. However, sublets will probably be difficult to find, and it is only “more affordable” than the very expensive Gold Coast and Streeterville areas.

Dorms and Apartments

Unfortunately, almost all of the city’s colleges and universities do not provide summer housing to non-students. However, you may want to try posting a request for a sublet near Northwestern, Loyola, University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and Northeastern.

The Chicago Reader

An excellent and popular resource for finding reasonably priced apartments, and particularly summer sublets, is *The Chicago Reader* newspaper. *The Reader’s* listings can be searched for free by neighborhood, type of apartment, and price range through the Reader Spacefinder on the web at <http://spacefinder.chicagoreader.com/cgi-bin/spacefind.cgi>. The listings are updated online each Tuesday at 7:00 PM. There’s no option specifically for sublets, though they’re sometimes listed on the “housing to share” option: www.chicagoreader.com/class/housing-to-share.html

Apartment People

Apartment People is Chicago’s biggest free apartment finding service. Because their rental agents will drive you to apartments, making an appointment can be a good way to get to see neighborhoods that interest you. Although they have a large inventory of apartments, better deals can often be found in the *Reader* listings. They have offices in Lakeview (3121 N. Broadway), River North (51 W. Huron), and Evanston (1718 Sherman). For more information visit <http://apartmentpeople.com> or call 773-248-8800.

NOTE: This service has a questionable reputation in Chicago. Probably shouldn’t be your first or only stop in your apartment search. Can be used for comparisons, etc., but Chicago Reader and CraigsList are probably better bets in a lot of ways.

Craigslist

You should also check the postings at <http://chicago.craigslist.org>. In addition to being a great place to search for free furniture (under the for sale heading), community groups, and almost anything else, they have a housing section with thousands of postings advertising apartments for rent and sublet with features that allow you to search for locations by keyword, the number of bedrooms you want, and the minimum and maximum rent you are willing to pay. Postings change daily so be sure to keep checking for new posts.

Delaware Towers.....312-944-4245
25 East Delaware Place
Studios start at \$1150/month plus phone call charges

Rooms are fully furnished and include a queen-sized bed, kitchenette, maid service 5 days a week, laundry on site, free coffee every day, and 24-hour security.

Regents Park.....773-288-5050

5020-5050 South Lake Shore Drive

www.regentsparkchicago.com

Studios run from \$969-1132/month

One bedrooms run from \$1137-1269

Two Bedrooms \$1400-1706

Three bedrooms \$1729-2150

Located in Hyde Park, the Regents Park buildings include a garage, fitness center with a pool and a supermarket.

Seneca Hotels.....312-787-8900

200 East Chestnut

www.senecahotel.com

Studios run from \$1020 - \$1390/month (unfurnished).

One-bedrooms run from \$1340 - 2240/month (unfurnished).

Two-bedrooms run from \$3300/month (unfurnished).

Furnished rooms are also available. Cable television, wireless internet and all utilities are included in the rent.

People who want to get out of the city can find suburban apartments advertised in *The Chicago Tribune* (<http://www.chicagotribune.com/classified/realestate/renting>). Always consider how far it is from the apartment to the nearest commuter train station since driving downtown is not the way to start a work day. For more housing info on Chicago, as well as information about the city (entertainment, music, art, etc.), visit the city's home page at <http://egov.cityofchicago.org>

TRANSPORTATION

The Chicago Transit Authority provides transportation to all parts of the city of Chicago and several surrounding suburbs. The CTA/ Chicago Transit Authority's website, www.transitchicago.com, has maps and schedules for trains and buses. The site also features a tool to help you plan out the best way to take your trip: www.transitchicago.com/travel_information/trip_planner.aspx. Additional transportation tips can be found at <http://egov.cityofchicago.org>

You can get a CTA rail and bus system map at all El stations, or call 1-888-YOUR-CTA.

***The El* (as in "Elevated Trains")**

Fares for the El, as the trains are called, are \$2.25. Transfers to buses or between buses (up to two rides within two hours) are \$0.25. The same transit card works for the El and buses. Any amount can be loaded onto the card. Transit Cards also automatically keep track of transfers and multiple riders.

If you ride *more than twice a day* at full fare, you might want to buy a full-fare pass (7-day and 30-day versions available). Thirty-day passes cost \$86 and 7-day passes cost \$23. You can also buy unlimited ride visitor passes (1, 2, 3, or 5-day versions available). Passes can be purchased at Dominick's and Jewel/Osco food stores, Currency Exchanges, and the O'Hare and Midway CTA stations. Note that passes DO EXPIRE and are non-refundable. You can also purchase a ChicagoCard or ChicagoCardPlus, which are cards that allow you to enter public transport faster by using electronic touchpads (cards are \$5.00 but the fee is waived for first time users). With the ChicagoCardPlus, you can reload it online; however, it requires registration. With the ChicagoCard, you get bonuses for adding on more money. Either is recommended for frequent CTA users.

The El runs directly to both O'Hare and Midway airports. O'Hare to downtown is about 45 minutes to an hour on the Blue Line train. Midway to downtown is about 35 minutes by the Orange line. Note that these travel times are often less than the drive time at rush hour. Outside of rush hour, a cab to the airport will take about 35 minutes from downtown and cost about \$30.

Trains run every 3 to 12 minutes in weekday rush hours, and every 6 to 20 minutes at most other times.

Buses

Buses can be slow and frustrating, but they're easy to understand and will take you anywhere in the city. For the most part (especially on the Northside), they run up and down the major streets. And, they're often faster than taking the El, since you almost always have to go through downtown on the El. Most buses run every 5 to 10 minutes during weekday rush and every 8 to 20 minutes during midday and evening.

The bus costs \$2.25 with exact change and \$2.00 with a transit card. Transfers to the El are \$0.25. If you use a transit card, it will automatically give you a transfer fare. If you use exact change, the driver will print you out a transfer card.

Fares and schedules for "Pace," the suburban bus system, as well as all the other transit systems, can be obtained from the Regional Transit Authorities' hotline, 312-836-7000. They can also mail you "The Map," which covers all modes of transit in Northeast Illinois, including the Pace bus lines.

Commuter Trains (Metra)

Commuter trains (Metra) run into downtown Union Station and serve most suburbs with frequent service from 5am to 12:30am. There are several stops for the Metra within the city before these trains reach downtown, (including stops in the Ravenswood and Rogers Park neighborhoods). Metra fares vary depending on distance. Metra also offers a \$7 weekend pass for unlimited rides anywhere. This can make for some weekend fun: farmers market in Crystal Lake on Saturday morning, followed by the Brookfield zoo, and ending the day at Ravinia Festival (summer home of the Symphony Orchestra). Start at www.metrarail.com for routes, schedules, and fares.

Taxis

Taxis aren't cheap, but they are convenient and safe. Keep these numbers handy: Yellow Cab (312-829-4222 or 312-TAXICAB), American United Cab (773-248-7600), and Flash Cab (773-561-1444). The fare is based on both distance and time. The base charge is \$2.25. The first additional passenger is \$1.00 and each additional passenger is 50¢. Every 1/9 of a mile costs .20¢ and every 36 seconds of waiting time costs .20¢.

FOOD

Grocery Stores

The large grocery chains are the cheapest options for food. **Jewel** is generally the least expensive, although **Dominick's** is only a little pricier. **Treasure Island** carries more organic options but is also more expensive. There are several Jewels and Dominick's accessible by the El on the North Side. There is a Jewel at 3531 Broadway, four blocks south of the Addison El stop on the red line, one at 1341 N. Paulina, a block north of the Division stop on the blue line, and another Jewel at 3630 N. Southport, a few blocks north of the Southport stop of the brown line (www.jewelosco.com, www.dominicks.com). There are also several **Whole Foods** stores. The two closest to the El are at 30 W. Huron downtown and at 3300 N. Ashland near the Paulina stop of the brown line. There are three **Trader Joe's**, one at 3745 N. Lincoln Ave., one at 44 E. Ontario St., and another at 1840 N. Clybourn Ave. One great find for cheap, quality produce is **Stanley's Fruits and Vegetables** at 1558 N. Elston Ave. No El stop is nearby, but you can catch the North Avenue bus to take you to the area. You can also purchase groceries online from www.peapod.com.

Really Cheap Eats!

Some cheap restaurants include **Clarke's Diner**, a great late-night diner (2441 N. Lincoln Ave.), **Jimmy John's**, an chain of sandwich shops (2231 N. Lincoln Ave., 1557 N. Milwaukee, and several locations in the Loop), and **Penny's Noodle Shop**, which serves huge bowls of noodles for only \$5 to \$8 (three locations: 950 W. Diversey, 3400 N. Sheffield, and 1542 N. Damen Ave.). The newly-remodeled **Sultan's Market** in Wicker Park (2057 W. North Ave.) has a fun Middle Eastern feel while serving delicious falafel pitas and lentil soup for around five bucks. (Note: they have a location in Lincoln Park as well, but prices are \$1-\$2 more expensive throughout the menu.) If you like the bike messenger type, check out the **Twisted Spoke**, decorated with wrecked bikes and serving up good pub food (501 N. Ogden). The Spoke is also open late night! **Royal Thai** (2209 W. Montrose) has fresh, cheap Thai food with good veggie options. Try the Tom Ka soup & Royal Thai Tofu. **Nha Trang** (1007 W. Argyle) is a no-frills family run Vietnamese restaurant, one of many on Argyle with cheap good Vietnamese food. **Taco Burrito Palace #2** (2441 N. Halsted) is a must for after-bar food (cheap, greasy Mexican), and **Wiener Circle** (2622 N. Clark St.) has AMAZING cheese fries and is a great place to try a Chicago-style hot dog! Be forewarned that **Wiener Circle's** atmosphere changes when the sun goes down, becoming crazier the later it gets. Maxim once named it one of the hottest late-night eateries in the United States.

A note on dining out in Chicago: many restaurants are BYOB and charge only a small corking fee (usually \$2-\$5). Grabbing your own beverages before you go out can save a lot of money!

Affordable Food No Matter What You Are Craving!

All restaurants on this list are cheap (most entrees \$10 or less) except where noted. They are also exceptionally delicious!!! For ethnic food, Chinatown and Greektown are recommended for good, cheap meals. Devon Avenue between Ravenswood Ave. and California Ave. is known for dozens of cheap and authentic Indian and Pakistani restaurants. Numerous restaurants can be found at www.yelp.com, chicago.citysearch.com, www.metromix.chicagotribune.com, or at the Chicago Reader's restaurant guide at www.chireader.com. Check out the "Best of Citysearch" categories to get the scoop on everything from the best burger to the best vegetarian food. The Reader tries out new restaurants with a theme each week – make sure to look at their "Grapevine" section.

The following restaurants are definitely worth a try:

THAI

Spoon Thai (Lincoln Square) 4608 N. Western Ave. (773) 769-1173 (ask for the special Thai menu if you're feeling up for an adventure)

Sticky Rice Thai (Irving Park) 4018 N. Western Ave. (773) 588-0120

Star of Siam (Near North Side + delivery) 11 E. Illinois St. (312) 670-0100

Tac Quick (Uptown) 3930 N. Sheridan Rd. (773) 327-5253

SUSHI

On the cheap:

House of Sushi and Noodles (Lakeview) 1610 W. Belmont Ave. 773-935-9110 (all-you-can-eat sushi for \$13; sushi is actually pretty good, but expect to wait if you arrive after 5:30pm)

Shiroi Hana (Lakeview) 3242 N. Clark Ave. 773-477-1652

Tank (Lincoln Square) 4514 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-769-2600 (exceptionally good sushi but only cheap on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30-6pm, when maki are ½ price)

Pricey but worth it:

Usagi Ya (West Town, close to Wicker Park) 1178 N. Milwaukee Ave. (773) 292-5885

Mirai (Ukrainian Village) 2020 W. Division Ave. 773-862-8500

Kamehachi (Old Town) 1400 N. Wells 312- 664-3663

VIETNAMESE

Hai Yen (Uptown and Lincoln Park locations) Uptown: 1055 W. Argyle Ave., 773-561-4077. Lincoln Park: 2723 N. Clark Ave., 773-868-4888

Pho 777 (Uptown) 1065 W. Argyle St., 773-561-9909

Pho Tang/Tank Noodle (Uptown) 4953 N. Broadway Ave., 773-878-2253

MEXICAN

Nuevo Leon (Pilsen) 1515 W. 18th St., 312-421-1517. Reliable cheap Mexican food at a Pilsen institution.

Taco and Burrito Express (Lincoln Park) 2540 N. Halsted St., 773-929-8867

La Pasadita (Ukrainian Village) 1140 N. Ashland Ave., 773-278-0384

Lalo's (several locations) *Lincoln Park:* 1960 N. Clybourn Ave., 773-880-5256

El Charro (Logan Square) 2410 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-278-2514. Open 24 hours.

Mi Tierra (Pilsen) 2528 S. Kedzie, 773-254-7722

Mas (Wicker Park) 1670 W. Division, 773-276-8700. Nuevo Latino cuisine. Entrees \$15-\$25.

Ixcapuzalco (Logan Square) 2919 N. Milwaukee, 773-486-7340. Off the beaten path upscale Mexican, but still not too pricy. Entrees around \$12-\$15. One of Chicago Magazine's best new restaurants in 2000.

Tamale Guy (bars throughout Wicker Park and Ukrainian Village) if you're out, be on the lookout for this Chicago institution, an entrepreneur who enters bars to sell his homemade tamales for \$5 per Ziploc bag (of 3 or 4) from a cooler. Don't be too creeped out to try these excellent creations.

ITALIAN

Pompei (Lakeview) 2955 N. Sheffield Ave, 773-325-1900 order at the counter and they bring it to your table; delicious pizzas, salads, and pastas.

Rose Angelis (Lincoln Park) (slightly pricier) 1314 W. Wrightwood Ave., 773-296-0081 Quaint, cheap, and excellent Italian that specializes in vegetarian but is good enough to please even the biggest carnivores! Average entrée around \$9-\$13.

Caro Mio (Ravenswood) (slightly pricier) 1825 W. Wilson Ave, 773-275-5000

Mia Francesca (Lakeview) 3311 N. Clark St., 773-281-3310 Often a long wait, but well worth it. One of the best Italian restaurants in the city with huge dishes of pasta for \$8-\$15.

VEGETARIAN/HEALTHY/VEGAN/RAW

Heartland Café (Rogers Park), 7000 N. Glenwood Ave., 773-465-8005. Vegan foods available. Specializes in healthy eating and vegetarian but has something for the meat lovers too (yummy buffalo burgers and sweet potato fries). Best of all, this place has a great patio and serves breakfast until 3pm every day. They also have live music and a good beer selection. Plus, they deliver.

Soul Vegetarian East (Chatham/Avalon Park) 205 E. 75th St., 773-224-0104. Tasty vegan soul food that's worth the trip. Entrées rarely over \$10. Try the Prince salad dressing & protein tidbits.

Cousin's Incredible Vitality (Irving Park) 3038 W. Irving Park Rd., 773-478-6868; vegan and raw foods available

Karyn's Raw (Lincoln Park) (slightly pricier and fancier), 1901 N. Halsted; 312-255-1590, vegan and raw foods available

Chicago Diner (Wrigleyville) 3411 N. Halsted, 773-935-6696. Delicious vegetarian entrees from potstickers to gyros, and almost everything can be vegan as well.

Lula Café (Logan Square), 2537 N. Kedzie Ave., 773-489-9554, not strictly vegetarian but many good vegetarian options. Worth going out of the way for.

Letizia's Natural Bakery (Ukrainian Village), 2144 W. Division, 773-342-1011

ETHIOPIAN

Ethiopian Diamond (Edgewater) 6120 N. Broadway, 773-338-6100

Ras Dashen (Edgewater) 5846 N. Broadway, 773-506-9601

INDIAN

Hema's Kitchen (several locations) *Lincoln Park:* 2411 N. Clark, 773-529-1705 *Roger's Park:* 2439 W. Devon St., 773-338-1627

Sher-A-Punjab (Rogers Park) 2510 W. Devon Ave, 773-973-4000

Viceroy of India (Rogers Park) (slightly pricier) 2520 W. Devon Ave, 773-743-4100

Arya Bhavan (Rogers Park) VEGETARIAN ONLY, 2508 W. Devon, 773-274-5800

DINERS

Golden Apple (Lakeview) 2971 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-528-1413 (24 hours—awesome!)

Clarke's (Lincoln Park) 2441 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-472-3505

Cozy Corner Diner and Pancake House (Logan Square) 2294 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-276-2215

BURGERS/HOT DOGS/ITALIAN BEEF

Billy Goat Tavern (Mag Mile) 430 N. Michigan Ave., 312-222-1525. A Chicago tradition!

Hackney's (South Loop) 733 S. Dearborn Ave., 312-461-1116

Moody's (Edgewater) 5910 N. Broadway, 773-275-2696, excellent beer garden

Hot Doug's (Irving Park) 3324 N. California Ave, 773-279-9550 go on Fridays and Saturdays for French fries cooked in rendered duck fat, or just go to try one of the many interesting homemade sausages—this is not your average hot dog joint!

Al's No. 1 Italian Beef (River North) 169 W. Ontario St., 312-943-3222

GOOD "BAR FOOD"

Cooper's (Lakeview), 1232 W. Belmont, 773-929-2667 try the pork sandwich—the meat is smoked onsite for three days to get so delicious!

Rail (Ravenswood), 4709 N. Damen Ave, 773-878-9400

The 50/Fifty (Ukrainian Village) 2047 W. Division St., 773-489-5050

Goose Island Brew Pub (Depaul) 1800 N. Clybourn, 312-915-0071

Chicago Brauhaus (Lincoln Square) 4732 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-784-4444 traditional German fare, including live music and people in Lederhosen, NOT for vegetarians

Resi's Bierstube (North Center) 2034 W. Irving Park, 773-472-1749 40 year-old German bar with beer garden. Amazing beer, potato pancakes & sausages.

MEDITERANNEAN

Reza's (River North) 432 W. Ontario St., 312-664-4500 and 5255 N. Clark, 773-561-1898. Persian food. Lots of hummus, falafel, and lamb. Huge portions and low prices.

Andie's (Andersonville) 5253 N. Clark St., 773-784-8616

Pars Cove (Lakeview) 435 W. Diversey, 773-549-1515

Sultan's Market (Wicker Park) 2057 W. North Ave, 773-235-3072

BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

Traditional Diner Fare:

Pauline's (Andersonville), 1754 W. Balmoral Ave., 773-561-8573

Lou Mitchell's (West Loop) 565 W. Jackson Ave, 312-939-3111

Nookies (Lincoln Park) 1746 N. Wells St., 312-337-2454 Best breakfast in town at terrific prices! Open 24 hours on weekends. Be sure to keep an eye out as well for **Nookies Too** (2112 N. Halsted) and **Nookies Tree** (3334 N. Halsted).

More Upscale

Café Selmarie (Lincoln Square) 4729 N. Lincoln Ave, 773-989-5955

Victory's Banner (Roscoe Village) 2100 W. Roscoe Ave, 773-665-0227

Orange (Lakeview) 3231 N. Clark St, 773-549-4400

Sweet Maple Café (Little Italy) 1339 W. Taylor St, 312-243-8908

Wishbone (Lakeview) 1001 W. Washington, 312-850-2663, and 3300 N. Lincoln Ave, 773-549-2663 Upscale Southern comfort food. Amazing breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Dinner entrees range from \$6-\$15. Large portions.

Feast (Bucktown/Wicker Park) 1616 N. Damen Ave., 773-772-7100. Also a great place to go for a nicer dinner.

Bongo Room (Bucktown/Wicker Park) 1470 N. Milwaukee, 773-489-0690. Get there early, the line starts to form by 9:30 or so on the weekends. It's definitely worth it though.

Breakfast Club (West Town) 1381 W. Hubbard Ave, 773-666-2372

Lula Café (Logan Square) 2537 N. Kedzie, 773-489-9554 Small multi-ethnic menu that changes daily. Known for their organic choices and great brunch. Outdoor seating on Logan Square. Dinner Entrees \$10-25. Great Brunch under \$10.

Swedish Breakfast

Ann Sather (Lakeview) 909 W. Belmont Ave, 348-2378 try the cinnamon rolls...seriously. Also a location in Andersonville, at 5207 N. Clark St.

Tre Kronor (North Park) 3258 W. Foster Ave, 267-9888

GOOD LOCAL SANDWICH SHOPS

Bourgeois Pig Café (Lincoln Park) 738 W. Fullerton Ave., 773-883-5282

Costello's (multiple locations) *Roscoe Village:* 2015 W. Roscoe Ave, 773-929-2323 *Lincoln Square:* 4647 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-989-7788

Manny's Deli (Little Italy) 1141 S. Jefferson St, 312-939-2855

MORE FAVORITES

Artemio Bakery (Wicker Park) 1443 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-342-0757. Tiny Mexican bakery with super-cheap pastries and breads. It's too small to have any seating, but it's just a couple blocks from the beautiful Wicker Park.

Noon O Kebab (Albany Park) 4661 N. Kedzie Ave., 773-279-8899. Authentic Persian restaurant with delicious sumac fries.

Heaven on Seven 600 N. Michigan, 312-280-7774, and 111 N. Wabash, 312-263-6443 Cajun/Creole. Spicy and fun.

Janes (Bucktown) 1655 W. Cortland St., 773-862-5263, Quaint American neighborhood restaurant. Not cheap, but great. Average entrée \$15-\$20. Small outdoor café section.

Tre Kronor (North Park) 3258 W. Foster, 773-267-9888, Swedish restaurant that puts Ann Sather's to shame. Try the home-made pastries for brunch & the Swedish meatballs for dinner.

Chicago Kalbi (Albany Park) 3752 W. Lawrence, 773-604-8183, Grill-it-yourself Korean BBQ with lots of sides. Order the spicy pork & bulgogi (marinated beef).

Café Ba-Ba-Reeba! (Lincoln Park) 2024 N. Halsted St., 773-935-5000, Best tapas (Spanish appetizers) in Chicago. Share a pitcher of Sangria while you wait. Make reservations or be prepared to wait for hours.

Twist (Wrigleyville) 3412 N. Sheffield Ave., 773-388-2727, More great tapas!

PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA!!!

Don't miss out on the Chicago pizza experience—if you haven't had it before, it is deep dish and requires a fork and knife!

Edwardo's Natural Pizza (1212 N. Dearborn St., 312-337-4490) Consistently been rated one of the best places for deep-dish in Chicago.

Carmen's 1012 Church St. (847-328-0031) The best of Evanston.

Ranallis (1512 W. Berwyn, 773-334-1300) Boasts some of the best pizza in Chicago

Lou Malnati's Pizzeria at 439 N. Wells St. is slightly cheaper (312-828-9800) and if you get there before 2pm, you can get a personal pizza and a house salad for \$5-\$6 (depending on the ingredients)!

Pizzeria Uno (the original is much better than the Cambridge version) at 29 E. Ohio just west of the Magnificent Mile.

Giordano's (730 N. Rush downtown, with many other locations throughout the city) is the Chicago classic.

Gino's East 633 N. Wells St., 312-943-1124

COFFEE AND DESSERT

Eli's Cheesecake Company (Dunning) 6701 W. Forest Preserve, 773-205-3800. The northwest-side headquarters of the country's largest cheesecake factory!

Intelligentsia Coffee Roasters (Lakeview) 3123 N. Broadway St., 773-348-8058. Hip and cozy at the same time—and the tea is a winner.

Noble Tree Coffee (Lincoln Park) 2444 N. Clark St., 773-248-1500. Three cozy levels of eclectic furniture and pie.

A Taste of Heaven (Andersonville) 5401 N. Clark St., 773-989-0151. Wonderful home-made pastries and cakes. Ice cream in the summer. Also outdoor seating.

Margie's (Bucktown) 1960 N. Western Ave., 773-384-1035. Kitschy ice cream parlor that opened in 1921. Every celebrity to pass through Chicago stops here, and Margie's has the pictures to prove it. Homemade hot fudge that is NOT to be missed! Lines in the summer, but you can get it to go.

Bittersweet (Lakeview) 1114 W. Belmont, 773-929-1100. Delightful desserts and pastries.

Café Selmarie (Lincoln Square) 4729 N. Lincoln, 773-989-5595. Amazing dessert and coffee in the heart of Lincoln Square. Outdoor seating on the square in the summer. They also have great brunch and dinner!

Miko's Italian Ice (Wicker Park) 1846 N. Damen, 773-645-9664. The best Italian ice ever – not too sugary and all made with fresh fruit.

Uncommon Ground (Lakeview) 3800 N. Clark St., 773-929-3680. Good music nearly every night of the week, and great dinner and dessert. They also have beer and wine. A few blocks north of Wrigley Field just off of Clark St.

ENTERTAINMENT

A summer in Chicago offers hundreds of opportunities for entertainment, from celebration in one of the city's nightlife districts to outdoor summer festivals and world-renowned museums. Several free publications provide guides to what's going on during any given week in the city; among the best are the *Chicago Reader* (www.chicagoreader.com) and *New City* (www.newcitychicago.com), which are available on street corners and in coffee shops throughout downtown and North Side neighborhoods. In addition, *Time Out* (www.timeoutchicago.com) began publishing a weekly guide to Chicago in 2005, and is available in most newsstands for \$3.95.

Live Music

Chicago's music scene is very active, and offers a variety of venues and experiences, from smoky bars showcasing indie rock bands to famous blues clubs. Some popular small venues include:

- 1 **Beat Kitchen**, Lakeview (773-281-4444, 2100 W. Belmont),
- 2 **Elbo Room**, Lincoln Park (773-549-5549, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave.)
- 3 **Empty Bottle**, Wicker Park (773-276-3600, 1035 N. Western)
- 4 **The Heartland Cafe**, Rogers Park (773-465-8005, 7000 N. Glenwood)
- 5 **Morseland**, Rogers Park (773-764-8900, 1218 W. Morse)
- 6 **Cubby Bear Lounge**, Wrigleyville (773-327-1662, 1059 W. Addison)

- 7 **Double Door**, Wicker Park (773-489-3160, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.)
- 8 **Schuba's**, Lakeview (773-525-2508, 3159 N. Southport Ave.)
- 9 **Hideout**, between Lincoln Park & Wicker Park (773-227-4433, 1354 W. Wabansia)
- 10 **Uncommon Ground**, Wrigleyville (773-929-3680, 3800 N. Clark St.)
- 11 **Martyr's** Ravenswood (773-404-9494, 3855 N. Lincoln Ave.)
- 12 **Old Town School of Folk Music** (773-728-6000, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave.)

Chicago is also famous for its blues and jazz offerings. Among the most famous is **The Green Mill**, Uptown (773-878-5552, 4802 N. Broadway), a jazz club that claims to be a former Al Capone hangout. Cover prices vary, but there's no cover after 1:30 a.m. The club also hosts a well-regarded Sunday evening poetry slam. **Green Dolphin Street**, between Lincoln Park and Wicker Park (773-395-0066, 2200 N. Ashland Ave.) is an upscale restaurant and jazz club with a great riverside location; Tuesday and Thursday nights there is usually no cover, though other nights can be pricey. **The Velvet Lounge** (312-791-9050, 67 E. Cermak Rd) is another popular option for cutting-edge jazz in an unpretentious atmosphere. Other popular (and perhaps more touristy) blues venues include:

- 1 **Buddy Guy's Legends**, South Loop (312-427-0333, 754 S. Wabash)
- 2 **Kingston Mines**, Lincoln Park (773-477-4646, 2548 N. Halsted).
- 3 **Artis**, Chatham (1249 E. 87th St., 773-734-0491)
- 4 **Blue Chicago**, River North (312-642-6261, 736 N. Clark St.)
- 5 **Chicago House of Blues**, Marina City (312-923-2000, 329 N. Dearborn St.)

Venues that bring in bigger names include the **Metro** (773-549-0203, 3730 N. Clark St.), the **Vic** (773-472-0449, 3145 N. Sheffield, Belmont El stop on the red and brown lines); the **Riviera** (773-275-6800, 4746 N. Racine, Lawrence at Broadway in Uptown, Lawrence El stop on the red line), and **Park West** (773-929-1322, 322 W. Armitage in Old Town). Each offers bargain shows from time to time. The Vic is also popular as a cinema that plays mostly second-run or cult classics while serving drinks; on such nights, it is known as **The Brew & View** (773-929-6713).

Clubs and Bars

Chicago bars and clubs operate under a two-level licensing system. Most bars are open until 2:00am, except for Saturday nights, when they stay open until 3:00am. In addition, many clubs have licenses which allow them to stay open until 4:00am Sunday-Friday and until 5:00am on

Saturdays. Metromix (www.metromix.com) offers current information on bar hours and locations.

Chicago's neighborhoods offer several nightlife districts, whose sidewalks throb on Friday and Saturday nights with bar-hopping twenty- and thirty-somethings. If you can't decide what to do, or simply are in the mood for some people-watching, the following areas are worth a visit:

- 1 **Rush & Division** (Rush Street between Oak and Division; Division between State and Clark). This area is very lively on weekends, and offers a variety of nightlife experiences, from frat bars like **Mother's Too** (312-266-7444, 14 W. Division St.) to exclusive clubs like **Le Passage** (312-255-0022, 937 N. Rush St.). **Elm Street Liquors** (312-337-3200, 12 W. Elm St.) is also a popular hangout; despite the name, it is actually a trendy and stylish lounge.
- 2 **Lincoln Park** (primarily along Lincoln Avenue, between Webster and Fullerton) is also a popular nightlife destination, especially for local college students. The area contains many sports bars and pubs, like **John Barleycorn** (773-348-8899, 658 W. Belden Ave.). Try **Lion Head Pub** (773-348-5100, 2251 N. Lincoln Ave.) to relax with a pint and then head upstairs to the more fashionable **Apartment**, a club atmosphere with all the trappings of your own pad: beds, sofas, and a fireplace.
- 3 **Lakeview** (Halsted Street, between Belmont and Broadway), also affectionately referred to as "Boystown," is the center of the city's gay nightlife. **Sidetrack** (773-477-9189, 3349 N. Halsted St.) is a popular venue, with its rooftop garden and indoor "glass bar." **Spin** (773-327-7711, 800 W. Belmont Ave.) hosts dollar-drink Wednesday nights. **The North End** (773-477-7999, 3733 N. Halsted) is laidback sports bar with darts and pool. For dancing, **Charlie's** (773-871-8887, 3726 N. Broadway) is noteworthy for its country-western music, while **Berlin** (773-348-4975, 954 W. Belmont Ave.) is less exclusively gay, and is popular among members of the city's alternative scene.
- 4 **Wrigleyville** (Clark Street, between Roscoe and Grace) consists primarily of sports bars, as one would expect adjacent to Wrigley Field. **Cubby Bear Lounge** (773-327-1662, 1059 W. Addison St.) and **John Barleycorn** (773-549-6000, 3524 N. Clark St.) are among the most popular. If the line at Barleycorn is too long, head across the street to **Goose Island** (773-832-9040) for homemade brews and sliders. There are other options as well, including **The Wild Hare** (773-327-4273, 3530 N. Clark St.), one of the city's best-known reggae clubs.
- 5 **Wicker Park** (Milwaukee Avenue, between North and Wood; Division, near Damen). Many Chicago hipsters lament the gentrification of Wicker Park, once considered an edgy outpost of artists and their inexpensive, dive hangouts. Remnants of this persevere, however, in venues such as the **Rainbo Club** (773-489-5999, 1150 N. Damen Ave.).
- 6 **River North** (various streets, between Chicago Avenue, Franklin Street, State Street and the Chicago River). While this neighborhood is home to many of the city's worst tourist traps, it is also home to some of its most upscale nightlife. **Y Bar** (312-274-1880, 224 W. Ontario St.) and the adjacent, two-level **Soundbar** (312-787-4480, 226 W. Ontario St.)

are popular clubs. **Rockit Bar & Grille** (312-645-6000, 22 W. Hubbard St.) is also well known as a hangout for celebrities visiting the city.

- 7 **North & Clybourn** (Weed Street, between Halsted and Sheffield). This area is home to several popular bars and clubs, including **Hogs and Honey's** (312-397-1277, 1551 N. Sheffield Ave.), a motorcycle-themed bar with a mechanical bull, **Zentra** (312-787-0400, 923 W. Weed St.), an upscale hip-hop venue, and **Crobar** (312-266-1900, 1543 N. Kingsbury St.) one of the city's oldest clubs.
- 8 **Gold Coast** (various streets north of Division St., between N. Lake Shore Dr. and La Salle Blvd.). Although this remains one of Chicago's most exclusive neighborhoods, some of the best deals can be found here. Try **McFadden's** (312-475-9450, 1206 N. State Pkwy.) for happy hour, where \$10 will buy you all you can drink for two hours. Or check out **Blue Agave** (312-335-8900, 1 W Maple St.) for the best margaritas in the area.

In addition, some of the city's best bars and clubs are a bit more removed, but are worth the extra effort. **Funky Buddha Lounge**, (312-666-1695, 728 W. Grand Ave.) offers hip-hop music and one of the city's most ethnically diverse (and fashionable) clienteles. **The Darkroom** (773-276-1411, 2210 W. Chicago Ave.), a photography-themed bar and club, and also hosts a diverse clientele. **The Prop House** (773-486-2086, 1675 N. Elston Ave.) is a popular hip-hop club, located in an industrial stretch between Wicker Park and Lincoln Park. **Boom Boom Room** is hosted Monday nights at Green Dolphin Street (see above), and is the city's longest-running house music night. **Handlebar** (773-384-9546, 2311 W. North Ave.) is an unpretentious hangout, which serves vegetarian fare to hipsters during the day and beer (also to hipsters) at night. **Hopleaf** (773-334-9851, 5148 N. Clark St.) has one of the most expansive lists of imported beers in the city, and offers a menu featuring many Belgian dishes. **T's** (773-784-6000, 5025 N. Clark St.), also in Andersonville, caters to the city's lesbian community, as do **Stargaze** (773-561-7363, 5419 N. Clark St.), **The Closet** (773-477-8533, 3325 N. Broadway) and **@mosphere** (773-784-1100 5355 N. Clark St.)

Festivals and Concerts

Chicagoans celebrate summer like no one else. Perhaps it's because winters can be so brutal; perhaps it's because the city's lakefront affords so many opportunities for fun in the sun. Whatever the reason, every summer weekend affords at least two or three outdoor festivals, ranging from art exhibitions to food festivals. Among the best known is the annual **Taste of Chicago**, <http://www.tasteofchicago.us/>, which will run from June 25-July 4, 2010, in Grant Park and boasts food from over 70 of the city's best restaurants. The event is an excellent (and tasty) opportunity to sample from Chicago's eclectic culinary scene. Admission is free, but food tickets can add up; take advantage of the free concerts and 4th of July Celebration. The Blue Angels precision flying squad is just one of the attractions at Chicago's **Air & Water Show**, to be held August 14 & 15, 2010. The city's beaches fill up for the event, particularly North Avenue beach. A fireworks display lights up sky near **Navy Pier** on Wednesday and Saturday nights during the summer. While the pier is a popular tourist attraction, it is also a fun place to stroll, sip a beer in the popular beer garden, catch an IMAX film, or ride the fifteen-story Ferris wheel.

The free annual **Blues Festival**, held in June in Grant Park, attracts the biggest names in blues music and is a must see! Chicago also annually hosts a free **Gospel Festival** in Millennium Park (early June), **Country Music Festival** (early May), and **Jazz Festival** (early September). Grant Park will host the **Chicago Summer Dance Festival**, between June 17 and August 29, 2010, with everything from salsa to house nights outdoors in one of the country's greatest urban parks. Besides the city-wide events, there are a myriad of festivals and events in each neighborhood. The **Lincoln Park Summerfest** occurs in late June and offers food, artwork, and live music. Some more local events include the Park West Antiques Fair, NorthCenter Ribfest, Wells Street Art Festival, Lakeview Arts and Music Fest, Chinatown Summer Fair, and Artworks on Walton Street. The *Chicago Reader* offers an excellent guide to these festivals and the 2010 schedule can be found on the city's official website at www.cityofchicago.org.

The world-renowned **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** plays at Symphony Hall, 220 S. Michigan Avenue, until June of each year (312-294-3000). Thereafter, they make occasional guest appearances at the **Ravinia Festival** on the North Shore. Ravinia offers daily summertime concerts and lawn seats are free for students on selected nights (bring student ID to the ticket counters; 847-266-5000 for ticket information). For more concert information, check out the schedule posted on www.ravinia.org.

Museums and Architecture

Chicago offers world-renowned museums for every interest, most of which have inexpensive student rates. Three have recently been consolidated on one pedestrian "Museum Campus": the **Field Museum of Natural History** (Roosevelt at Lake Shore Drive, just north of Soldier Field, 312-922-9410, www.fmnh.org), the **Shedd Aquarium** (1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, 312-939-2438, www.sheddnet.org, extended hours on Thursdays June-August), and the **Adler Planetarium** (1300 S. Lake Shore Drive, 312-922-7827, www.adlerplanetarium.org, extended hours on first Friday of the month). Try to visit during special days for discounted prices. The **Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)** (220 E. Chicago Ave., 312-280-2660, www.mcachicago.org, closed on Mondays, free on Tuesdays) hosts "First Fridays" on the first Friday of each month from 6-10pm. Access to the gallery, live entertainment, and Wolfgang Puck hors d'oeuvres are all yours for a bargain. The **Art Institute of Chicago** (111 S. Michigan Ave. at Adams St., 312-443-3600, www.artic.edu) has one of the most extensive collections of any city. Admission is \$12 for students and free on Thursday evenings. Both the MCA and the Art Institute halve your ticket price if you become a museum member.

Other notable museums include the **Museum of Science and Industry** in Hyde Park (57th and Lake Shore Drive, 773-684-1414, www.msichicago.org, not accessible by El but you can take the bus), the **Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design** (6 N. Michigan Ave., 312-251-0175, www.chi-athenaeum.org), the **Chicago Academy of Sciences Nature Museum** (Fullerton Parkway and N. Cannon Drive, 773-549-0606, www.chias.org), the **Chicago Historical Society** (Clark St. and North Ave., 312-642-4600, www.chicagohs.org), and the **Chicago Children's Museum**, on Navy Pier (700 E. Grand Ave., 312-527-1000, www.chichildrensmuseum.org, free on first Mondays). In addition, admission to the various cultural events at the **Chicago Cultural Center** (78 E. Washington, 312-346-3278) and the

animals of the **Lincoln Park Zoo** (2200 N. Cannon Drive at Lake Shore Drive and Fullerton Parkway, www.lpzoo.com) are always free.

With the world's first skyscraper and three of the world's twenty tallest buildings (the Sears Tower, the Amoco Building, and the John Hancock Building), Chicago has long been an architectural mecca. One of the best ways to get an overview is with a walking, bus, or river tour from the **Chicago Architecture Foundation** (at either 224 S. Michigan Ave., 312-922-3432 x. 241 or in the **John Hancock building**, 875 N. Michigan Ave., www.architecture.org, 312-751-1380). The **Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation** (951 Chicago Ave., www.wrightplus.org, Oak Park, 708-848-1976) offers tours of the famous architect's Chicagoland structures, including the Robie House, on the University of Chicago campus at 5757 S. Woodlawn St.

Sports

Sports aficionados may lament the fact that “Da Bears” and “Da Bulls” lie low for the summer, but Chicago's two major league baseball teams are a must see. Chicago is a great city to catch a game, and bleacher seats are inexpensive. Wrigley Field, home of the **Cubs**, is just off the Addison El stop on the red line, right in the middle of the Wrigleyville neighborhood (1060 W. Addison St., 312-831-CUBS for ticket information). The newly renovated Comiskey Park - that's right, home of the **White Sox**—is on the South Side, at the 35th Street stop on the red line (333 W. 35th St., 312-831-1SOX for tickets).

If you're feeling sporting yourself, there are outdoor jogging paths, fields, and basketball blacktops in many of Chicago's public parks (see Outdoors below). One potential amusement for the more adventuresome is **Whirlyball**, a hybrid of lacrosse, basketball, Whiffle ball ... and bumper cars. It's got to be seen to be believed (1880 W. Fullerton, 1-800-894-4759).

Theater and Movies

The North Side has many small theater companies that put on inexpensive productions. The quality varies from show to show; the *Reader* has reliable reviews to set you straight. Stop by **HotTix** Half Price Ticket Centers, 78 W. Randolph, 163 East Pearson, or any Tower Record Location (<http://www.hottix.org/>), the day of the performance for half-price theater tickets. Chicago's most established theaters, home to big-name productions traveling from Broadway as well as home-brewed shows with renowned stars, are the **Goodman Theater** (170 N. Dearborn, 312-443-3800, www.goodman-theatre.org), **Victory Gardens Theater** (2257 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-871-3000), **Steppenwolf Theater** (1650 N. Halsted Ave., 312-335-1650, www.steppenwolf.org), the **Shubert Theater** (22 W. Monroe, 312-997-1700), and the **Chicago Theater** (175 N. State St., 312-902-1500). **Chicago's Second City**, the model and launching ground for the original Saturday Night Live show, still serves up improv and sketch comedy (1616 N. Wells St., 312-337-3992, www.secondcity.com); after the last scheduled performance every day except Friday, the cast puts on a free one-hour burst of pure improvisation. Also, Northwestern University in Evanston (on the El purple line) has inexpensive student summer productions (call 847-467-4000 for information).

In addition to the more mainstream theater venues, Chicago is also home to excellent cutting-edge theater companies. **The Redmoon Theater**, a company specializing in “spectacle theater,” does innovative shows that involve puppetry, music, and non-traditional storytelling techniques, and are often performed in interesting locations. (312-850-8440, www.redmoon.org)

If you are looking for a way to escape the heat, movies are always the best way to go. Your best cheap bet, as anywhere, is to go to matinee shows. If you’re looking for something different, **The Music Box** (3733 N. Southport Ave. in Wrigleyville, 773-871-6604, www.musicboxtheatre.com) features foreign and art films you can’t find anywhere else. **Brew & View at the Vic Theater** (3145 N. Sheffield Ave., 312-618-8439, Belmont El stop on the red and brown lines, www.brewview.com) lets you mix cinema and alcohol with cheap \$5 tickets and cheaper \$3 drafts. Call 444-FILM for general Chicagoland movie information.

Outdoors and Out of Town

In the summer, a light show bathes Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park, from dusk until early evening. The **Chicago Park District** has information on the many public parks, pools, and lakefront beaches in the greater Chicago area. The Park’s web address is www.chicagoparkdistrict.com. The **Chicago Botanic Garden** is in the North Shore suburb of Glencoe, at 1000 Lake Cook Road (847-835-5440) and online at www.chicago-botanic.org. Or visit the **Garfield Park Conservatory** on the west side of the city at (312-746-5100, 300 N. Central Park Ave., Conservatory stop on the Green Line) Heading south, a leisurely day at the nearby **Sand Dunes** on the Indiana shores of Lake Michigan, off of highway 12, is a great way to catch some summer rays (219-926-7561 for more information).

Outside Central Chicago are several other interesting attractions. Frank Lloyd Wright designed many of the buildings in the western suburb of Oak Park (see Museums and Architecture above). The **Baha’i House of Worship** in Wilmette, a northern suburb, is another architectural masterpiece (the Linden/Wilmette stop on the Evanston Metra line is 3 blocks west of the temple). The **Six Flags Great America** theme park (847-249-4636) in the suburb of Gurnee, IL, off of I-94 just before the Wisconsin border, offers rides, games, and roller coasters for the intestinally strong. Gurnee also has a great assortment of fashion outlets. For more information, you can have a free visitor information packet sent to you by calling 1-800-2-CONNECT. Or e-mail the city’s Tourism office at Tourism@ci.chi.il.us.

Also, check out the many wonderful farmer’s markets around Chicago, Evanston, and the suburbs. You can usually find a listing on the Chicago Reader website. In particular, check out the **Green City Market**, an organic and sustainable market of all local growers. www.chicagoreencitymarket.org

ONLINE RESOURCES

The web has some great sites to help get you acquainted with the Windy City; try these for starters:

City of Chicago Home Page—A government site that provides everything from news, to maps, to information about upcoming festivals. www.cityofchicago.org

Chicago's Convention and Tourism Bureau—General Chicago information, largely for meeting planners, but still useful for tourists. <http://www.choosechicago.com>

Chicago Metromix—Chicago Tribune-sponsored activity and entertainment guide. <http://metromix.chicagotribune.com>

Chicago Reader—Free “alternative” paper, with fantastic investigative reporting, exhaustive classified ads, film and music reviews, and a listing of local events. www.chicagoreader.com

Chicago Centerstage—Your guide to everything fun in Chicago, from music to golf to literature. www.centerstagechicago.com

Citysearch Chicago—A guide to events, music, movies, weather...you name it! www.chicago.citysearch.com

New City Chicago – Another free “alternative” weekly paper (similar to the Reader), with entertainment listings and local news. www.newcity.com

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR PUBLIC INTEREST JOB

AND SUMMER IN CHICAGO!