

Out & About

MORE GREAT TRAVEL IDEAS IN THE MIDWEST



SLICES OF THE CITY

We know you've seen the big stops in Chicago; the next time you're in the Midwest's biggest city, treat yourself to a day in **three neighborhoods** rich with culture, personality and amazing restaurants.

PHOTOGRAPHER *Kevin J. Miyazaki/Redux*

RAISE YOUR GLASS

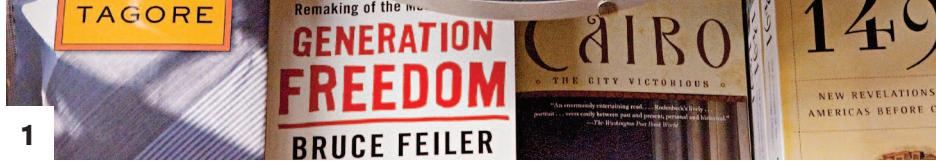
Tastings and super-busy tours draw fans to Half-Acre Beer Company in Chicago's Northcenter.

“ Hyde Park balances its brains with its beauty.

NOT MANY PEOPLE outside of Chicago had heard of Hyde Park/Kenwood until President Obama rose to power. But he’s hardly the first famous person to have lived here. Since the 1880s, Chicago’s elite have filled these mansions 7 miles south of the Loop: Max Adler, founder of the Adler Planetarium; meatpacking mogul Gustavus Swift; Sears and Roebuck CEO Julius Rosenwald; and, more recently, Louis Farrakhan and Muhammad Ali.

At the heart of Hyde Park, the University of Chicago breeds culture like it pumps out Nobel Prizes (87 so far). Architecture buffs tour the restored Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Frederick C. Robie House. Coffeehouses and bookshops thrive here, from the labyrinthine basement at 57th Street Books to the musty O’Gara and Wilson.

Still, Hyde Park balances its brains with natural beauty, thanks to landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and city planner Daniel Burnham. They converted this marshy area into the iconic White City for the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. The fair’s Palace of Fine Arts became Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry, which backs to Jackson Park’s woody paths and tranquil lagoons. The grassy Midway Plaisance, once the exposition’s carnival area, ends at the DuSable Museum of African-American History, whose slogan—“DuSomething Great Today”—seems fitting. Hyde Park definitely isn’t a neighborhood that rests on old accomplishments. *Kit Bernardi*





Roscoe Village/ Northcenter

Walk under the El tracks at Roscoe Street and Lincoln Avenue on Chicago's North Side, and you can't miss the sign on the bridge: Welcome to Roscoe Village. Someone painted it years ago, and the flowery script captures a quaint rarity. A hand-painted welcome sign to a village tucked into a city of millions?

That neighborly touch stands out next to trendier neighbors of Bucktown, Wrigleyville and Lincoln Park. Still, most people haven't heard about Roscoe Village and Northcenter (and even some people who live there aren't sure where one starts and the other begins). Between the two, you'll find quirky antiques shops, hole-in-the-wall cafes,

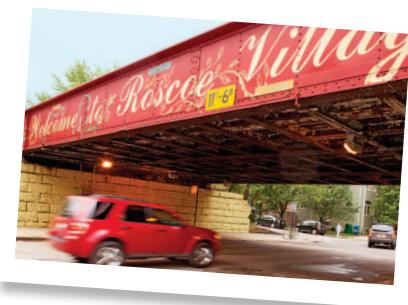
a retro breakfast spot, wine bars, a formal restaurant with a rooftop garden, and a craft brewery where people line up for hours just to take a tour.

The neighborhood began to flourish in the early 1900s, when an amusement park opened and dozens of watering holes sprang up to serve the crowds. Its fortunes rose and fell, but today, despite beautiful gardens surrounding pricey limestone homes, residents still tend to say "Roscoe Village" in hushed tones, as if it's a secret. And actually, that welcome sign isn't over the main thoroughfare. It's there for people who have made the effort to see a part of the city that feels undiscovered. Once you're in the know, you can't help but want to keep that delicious secret to yourself. *Kate Silver*



RIPE FOR EXPLORING

- 1 57th Street Books in Hyde Park.
- 2 Memorabilia from Mayor Harold Washington's campaign on display at the DuSable Museum of African-American History.
- 3 Margherita pizza at Medici.
- 4 The Museum of Science and Industry's South Pavilion overlooks Jackson Park and the Osaka Garden.
- 5 Waveland Bowl in Roscoe Village.
- 6 Near Northcenter, Hazel is one of many quirky shops.





HISTORY, MEET HIP

1 You can get brunch every day but Tuesday at Lula Cafe in Logan Square. **2** Handmade earrings are some of the finds at Wolfbait and B-girls. **3** The Illinois Centennial Monument anchors Logan Square.



Logan Square

A 70-foot monument, grassy parks and 2.5 miles of leafy boulevards belie Logan Square’s artistic, passionate personality. Adjacent to hip Bucktown on Chicago’s North Side, edgy Logan Square’s mash-up identity blends rich Chicago history with ethnic and economic diversity—and really cool shopping. Churches reflect the neighborhood’s Norwegian heritage. Restored gray stone mansions coexist with taco stands, corner grocers, and graffiti alley art that could hold its own in a contemporary gallery.

Start exploring at the Illinois Centennial Monument, designed by Henry Bacon, who crafted the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Logan Boulevard and Kedzie and Milwaukee avenues radiate like wheel spokes from the memorial. Artists, musicians and young families lunch at Lula Cafe,

known for its farm-to-table dishes. Nearby is whimsical toy store Play; around the bend, independent, eclectic shops tuck between coffeehouses and ethnic bakeries.

Along Milwaukee Avenue, the main commercial strip, the neighborhood’s artsy vibe thrives at the new Arts Center Logan Square/Avondale. Foodies flock to wine bar Telegraph, Revolution Brewing Company and Latin-fusion restaurant D’Noche. Each summer, more than 300 artists, musicians and performers showcase their work during the Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival.

Even with all that’s new, neighborhood treasures survive. Margie’s Candies, opened in 1921, still dishes hot fudge sundaes in svelte silver gravy boats. That’s a part of Logan Square that no one wants to change. *Kit Bernardi*

For trip guide, turn the page.

TRY THE TROLLEY

Want to explore Chicago neighborhoods without driving or taking the El? Chicago Trolley leaves from Millennium Park and from North Michigan Avenue, just north of the Chicago River. You can hop on, hop off, learn all about some of the city’s most impressive sites—and eat your way through eclectic neighborhoods.

The 90-minute West Neighborhood Tour takes you through a buffet of stops, with drivers narrating the history of each. Riders can stop to try dim sum at Three Happiness in Chinatown, grab a cantaloupe lemonade at seasonal Mario’s Italian Lemonade in Little Italy and dig into a gyro at Athena Greek Restaurant in Greektown. At each stop, your driver will tell you when the next trolley will be by to pick you up. With a \$35 three-day pass and dozens of options, you can make each trip completely different (888/881-3284; chicagotours.us).

Trip guide

For more information, neighborhood maps and guided tours, contact Chicago's Office of Tourism (877/244-2246; explorechicago.org).

Hyde Park/Kenwood

What to do

57th Street Books (773/684-1300; semcoop.com).

DuSable Museum of African-American History Artwork and artifacts preserve history and culture (773/947-0600; dusablemuseum.org).

Frederick C. Robie House Frank Lloyd Wright's design flourishes in this 1910 landmark (708/848-1976; gowright.org).

Hyde Park Art Center In a former barracks, you'll find a coffee shop and galleries; free area tours depart from here seasonally (773/324-5520; hydeparkart.org).

Hyde Park Hair Salon Visitors see Obama's autographed chair and get the \$21 commander in chief's cut (773/493-6028; hydeparkhairsalon.net).

Museum of Science and Industry

Mythbusters: The Explosive Exhibition opens March 15 and will use science to answer wacky questions a la the Discovery Channel show with the same name (773/684-1414; msichicago.org).

O'Gara and Wilson (773/363-0993; ogaraandwilson.com).

Where to eat

Bonjour Bakery and Cafe The French owner serves croissants, quiche and goat-cheese sandwiches (773/241-5300).

Medici on 57th Shakespearean lines deck the walls; the burgers and pizzas are delish (773/667-7394; medicis57.com).

Valois Restaurant This cafeteria whips up breakfast, plus platters of baked chicken (773/667-0647; valoisrestaurant.com).

Roscoe Village/Northcenter

What to do

Half-Acre Beer Company (773/248-4038; halfacrebeer.com).

Lazy Dog Antiques Taxidermied animals, wood furnishings, chandeliers and

jewelry await (773/281-3644).

Night and Day Vintage High-quality clothing and furnishings and an uncluttered layout draw shoppers (773/327-4045; nightanddayvintage.com).

Waveland Bowl Old pros, hipsters and families all feel comfortable in this midcentury wonder (773/472-5900; wavelandbowl.com).

Where to eat

Browntrout The menu changes daily; we loved the morels served with Illinois corn fritters and the crispy walleye (773/472-4111; browntroutchicago.com).

El Tinajon Mexican favorites and Guatemalan stews rule (773/525-8455).

Fountainhead A huge beer and whiskey list complements this pub's fare (773/697-8204; fountainheadchicago.com).

Kitsch'n on Roscoe While *The Jeffersons* plays on TVs, Kitsch'n delivers quality comfort food, including great breakfast burritos (773/248-7372; kitschn.com).

Mario and Gino's This tiny spot has amazing gelato and sorbet (773/529-8664; marioandginosburgershop.com).

Volo Restaurant and Wine Bar Try the steamed black mussels with a white wine-butter sauce (773/348-4600; volorestaurant.com).

Logan Square

Where to shop

A Touch of Vintage Find antiques with vintage flair, including jewelry, martini sets, typewriters and furniture (773/384-8427; atouchofvintage.com).

Fleur It's part florist, part home decor store (773/395-2770; fleurchicago.com).

Play In this children's store, whimsical murals complement books and toys (773/227-6504; playlogansquare.com).

Provenance Imported foods, gourmet snacks and wine from boutique vineyards fill the shelves (773/384-0699; provenancefoodandwine.com).

Wolfbait and B-girls Seamstress-designer girlfriends sell apparel, accessories and artworks by 170 Chicago artisans (312/698-8685; wolfbaitchicago.com).

Where to eat

La Boulangerie Owned by a Parisian, the corner shop sells breads, flaky pastries, and sweet and savory crepes (773/358-2569; laboulangeriechicago.com).

Lula Cafe Urban grit meets gourmet; try the roasted organic chicken and carrot cake (773/489-9554; lulacafe.com).

Margie's Candies (773/384-1035). **MAL**