

TRAVEL

36 Hours in Chicago

By FRED A MOON JAN. 1, 2014

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Chicago is a city that changes noticeably with the seasons. It is endlessly beautiful in the warm months, when the sidewalks transform into cafes, the Lakefront Trail becomes a [Divvy Bike](#) highway and the beaches along Lake Michigan might be mistaken for Miami. As the temperatures fall, the city changes from a playground to a cultural promised land — a place of fine and varied food, inventive theater and one of the country's great live music scenes. From the historic high-rises of the Gold Coast to regal Hyde Park, from Bronzeville to Boystown, from the Indian and Puerto Rican enclaves of Devon Avenue and Humboldt Park, respectively, to the bohemian barrios of Logan Square and Pilsen, Chicago demands hard choices. It rarely disappoints.

SUNDAY

1 p.m.

12. Go Analog

While other cities are seeing the disappearance of their independent music shops, Chicago's thrive. Stop into Reckless Records in Wicker Park or Dusty Groove in Ukrainian Village, or head up to Logan Hardware, which has a Vintage Arcade Museum in back of its Logan Square shop, where customers play free. Milwaukee Avenue in Wicker Park is dotted with stylish boutiques, and Pilsen's 18th Street has several vintage shops, including Modern Cooperative, with its gorgeous selection of midcentury modern furniture and home décor, and the works of local artists.

12. Reckless Records, [reckless.com](#). **Logan Hardware**, [logan-hardware.com](#). **Dusty Groove**, [dustygroove.com](#). **Modern Cooperative**, [moderncooperative.com](#).



Clockwise from left: grilled octopus at Ruxbin; a performance at Constellation; sampling beers at Revolution Brewing; and the video-portrait Crown Fountain at Millennium Park.

John Gress for The New York Times