

City guide: discover the good addresses of Chicago

BY MARTINE TARTOUR



Virgil Abloh was born there, the West Kardashian settled there. With its breathtaking architecture and new neighborhoods of West Loop and Wicker Park, Chicago is the town to be.

What to do in Chicago?

- **Take the air subway**

It is one of the most filmed in the cinema: "Ocean's Eleven", "Matrix", "The Fugitive"... In "The Visitors 3", Jean Reno runs away there... on horseback. In 2005, it was elected fifth wonder of the city by its inhabitants. Take the brown line, and browse it all along for two dollars: we go around the Loop, the city center, and it's worth all the **Imperial buses** that claim 30 dollars per person.

- **Passing under the Cloud Gate**

The **Cloud Gate** signed Anish Kapoor has been the city's symbol since its installation at Millennium Park in 2006. Because of its form, it was nicknamed The Bean, "the bean". To keep its mirror appearance, the sculpture is dusted twice a day. We reflect yourself, we play with its distorted image and we take a picture: The Bean is Chicago's most instagramable monument.

- **Walking around the nose**

Walking is the only way to appropriate the city. The centre is not huge and includes the Loop and Magnificent Mile district. At the end of the time, the Chicago School developed the use of steel in the **construction of skyscrapers**, and Art Deco then did wonders on the facades. We do not hesitate to push the door of buildings, like the Rookery (209 South LaSalle St), whose hall Frank Lloyd Wright redesigned the hall and the beautiful canopy in 1905.

- **Tribute to Frank Lloyd Wright**

To continue in the footsteps of the father of the Prairie School - a Chicago-born movement that integrates nature into the home - you can visit his home and studio in Oak Park, suburbs (951 Chicago Ave). Closer to the city centre, the Robie House (5757 S Woodlawn Ave), one of its most important buildings. If Wright is recognized as a master, he has not always had the honors he deserves. Marriage, abandonment, mistress... it's a little too much for the Puritan America of the 1920s.

- **Going green**

There are more than 570 parks where shows are often free. Concerts at the Pritzker Pavilion designed by Frank Gehry at Millennium Park, readings of young poets from the Louder Than a B movement at Lincoln Park... or Barack Obama who spends eating an ice cream. Find the big Victorian house in the 5046 S Greenwood Ave, it is home, he has to cogitate on his library campus project in the south of the city, scheduled for 2021.

- **Going to meet Virgil Abloh**

In Wicker Park, train Polish immigrant quarters, old age rubs shoulders with criminals, vegan cooking steaks bars, and vintage shopping, including Virgil Abloh's RSVP Gallery. The new fashion star and artistic director of the Vuitton house founded this ultra-connected concept store in the cellar of a building. There is its Off-White brand, Yeezy (that of Kanye West), or Kaikai Kiki (Takashi Murakami)...

1753 N Damen Ave.

- **Search for rare vinyl**

At Wicker Park, one address, and arguably the most awesome in the world for **vinyl** lovers: Dusty Groove. Rare pieces, such as this English edition of the Beatles' album "Help" which sells for 200 dollars. But also a collection of jazz, soul, incredible blues, and small prizes.

1120 N Ashland Ave.

- **Reviving as at the time of prohibition**

From 1919 to 1933, the Twin Anchors was a speakeasy: one of those bars where, behind a backdoor, alcohol was served. Today, even a bit dark atmosphere, country music in the background sound, and metric kilometre bar where we sit to order ribs, the best in the country since 1932. In the 1970s, Frank Sinatra, visiting Chicago, moved to the Twin Anchors to **taste ribs** and make discreet phone calls. The standing phone is still there.

1655 N Sedgwick St.

- **Going to heaven**

Two skyscrapers for two experiments:

- Dominate the void at the Skydeck of the Willis Tower: if you dare to move forward in the **glass cage suspended** 412 m high. 233 S Wacker Dr.

- Admire the John Hancock Tower sunset: OK, it's full of cracks because the view is magical, but it's nice to sit on bleachers, and you can dine there with what you've taken away.

875 N Michigan Ave.

- **Discover the most beautiful skyline in the United States by boat**

Sitting on the bridge, one feels the **power of the skyscrapers** that enclose the river. We remember: the Tower Tribune (1925), pure Gothic with total gargoyles, the glass facade of the Trump Tower (2009), the Carbide and Carbon (1929), black granite and gold leaf finishes, and our favorite, the Aqua Tower (2010), signed Jeanne Gang, with its wave-shaped balconies that line up on 82 floors.

Chicago architecture Foundation Center, River cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady, 112 E. Wacker Dr., 40.

- **Enjoy street art**

- Wabash Arts Corridor (start at 635 S Wabash Ave): located in the **banking district** and like a nose to the power of money. Here, the murals are often signed by student artists at Columbia College, including the famous Moose Bubblegum Bubble. 33 E Congress.

- The Hispanic Quarter of Pilsen: The Mecca of the Mexican muralist movement. Here artists combine their identity and culture to **express injustices**. Don't miss El Abrazo, a city-sponsored project, and completed in 2017.

944 W 21th St. John's

- **Understanding gentrification**

This phenomenon pushes the underprivileged out of the city centres to see the settle bobos. In Chicago, West Loop turned its factories and slaughterhouses into star-studded restaurants, or private **clubs** like Soho House, an ex-stretch factory.

That said, West Loop is still accessible: the Soho House in Chicago, unlike the ultra-closed New York House, allows everyone to enjoy it, with three restaurants: Chicken and Farm Shop, The Allis, and our crush, the very nice Fox Bar.

113-125 N Green St.

Where to stay in Chicago?

The Chicago Athletic Association, opposite the Bean, is a former men's **sports club** that has become a hotel, with a good value for money for rooms (from 110 dollars double). Instead of the Turkish baths on the ground floor, a Shake Shack where you can enjoy a good burger. And on the top floor, Cindy's restaurant with a terrace where you glance with a glance at the huge lake, the Millennium Park and the skyline. Water, green, steel. Chicago, what?

12 S Michigan Ave.

Or at the JW Marriott Chicago Hotel. In a historic building, in the heart of the Loop, therefore ideally located for visiting. About 150 dollars in the double room.

151 W Adams St.

Where to eat in Chicago?

- **Fashveclng dinner at a little guy from Le Touquet**

Emmanuel Nony has been an unconditional Frenchman from Chicago for eighteen years, where there are 12,000 Frenchies. "People are welcoming, not boastful, they're working. In a former West Loop printing house, he opened a gigantic restaurant two years ago that doesn't depress: Proxi. Superb **Japanese-Inspired seafood and dishes**. Gwyneth Paltrow loves it.

565 W Randolph St.

- **Testing the best burger in the world**

The city's legendary slaughterhouses would explain to some historians that the crime has been more so than elsewhere. For restaurateurs, that is simply why, in this city, we love meat. At the Horse, a retro-like "dinner" boasts the **top of the world burger**. We tasted it, it's true.

800 W Randolph St.

Go with United Airlines: daily flight from Paris from 730 A-R.