



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Mike

Best breakfast spots in Chicago

Chicago, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Chicago is a city filled with eateries, and these 10 spots deliver morning meals that do not disappoint. From coffee served with hipster sass to beignets prepared by friendly southerners, the food at these places is truly an experience. Whether you're in the mood for outdoor seating, family seating, live music, or a quiet place to read the paper over pancakes, Chicago's breakfast joints provide just the right amount of deliciousness to kick start your day. Photo: Or Hiltch

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Chicago



Lula Café
Hipster hangout



Taste of Heaven
Angelic desserts tempt your taste buds



Ann Sather
Favorite Swedish Breakfast



Cafe Selmarie
Pastries and tortes galore



Chicago Diner
A veggie lovers heaven



Uncommon Ground
Organic dishes with a side of live music



Pauline's
Brunch on a budget



Dixie Kitchen and Bait Shop
Catfish and corn fritters

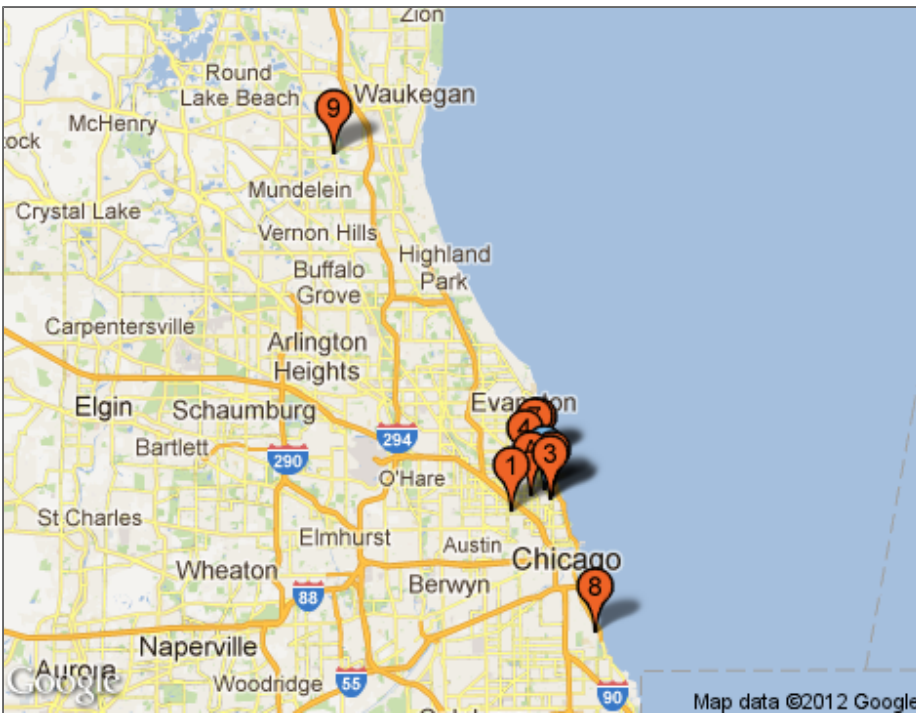


Earwax Café
For the moody hipster



Bretts Cafe Americain
Perfect for Saturday brunch

Day 1 - Chicago



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 773 489 9554
<http://www.lulacafe.com/>

location:
2537 N. Kedzie
Chicago IL 60647

hours:
Su-Th 9a-10p, F & Sa 9a-11p

1 Lula Café

DESCRIPTION: Situated in the center of Logan Square, this haven of "hipsterdom" is ideal for a weekend brunch or a full meal before a concert at the adjacent Logan Square Auditorium. The menu is ideal for vegetarians, but with items ranging from a tofu scramble with ginger miso sauce to grilled pork loin, the diversity and freshness (almost all of the food at Lula is local) of the menu is sure to offer something for everyone. Prices are a tad on the expensive side, but the cost is well worth it. © wcities.com



Lula Cafe

contact:
tel: 773 989 0151
http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/3717389/chicago_il/a_taste_of_heaven.html

location:
5401 North Clark Street
Andersonville IL 60640

hours:
Mo to Th from 07:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 07:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Su from 08:00 AM to 10:00 PM

2 Taste of Heaven

DESCRIPTION: Taste of Heaven is an ideal place to stop for coffee and dessert in Andersonville. Just one look at the cakes, brownies, scones, and other treats on offer in the glass bakery case will have you hooked. A few dessert standouts include a (rather generous) slice of one of their many house-made cakes (Jeanine's and the 1000-chocolate chip cake are both delicious). Another mouth-watering option is to try one of their apple pastries served a la mode with vanilla ice cream. (Taste of Heaven dishes up a variety of rich and creamy Petersen's ice cream flavors.) For those with more of an appetite, Taste of Heaven also has on offer a number of hearty breakfast, lunch, and dinner entrées. Just be sure that you have plenty of time to enjoy a leisurely meal, as during busy times the kitchen can



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become overwhelmed, leaving you with a long wait for your food. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 773/348-2378
<http://www.annsather.com>

location:
929 W. Belmont Ave
Chicago IL 60657

hours:
Mon-Fri 7am-3pm; Sat-Sun
7am-4pm

3 Ann Sather

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Ann Sather is extremely busy on the weekends. Arrive before 11am to avoid long waits.

DESCRIPTION: Ann Sather offers four locations in Chicago with two in the Lakeview neighborhood, meaning you have many chances to eat some of the best cinnamon rolls in the city! The Belmont location has been an institution in the neighborhood, serving delicious Swedish food for over 30 years. Scandinavian favorites can be found here at very reasonable prices, including meatballs, dumplings, and sauerkraut. However, the real draw here is the breakfast menu, featuring fantastic, buttery, sticky cinnamon rolls, which come with virtually every menu item. Or, you may just love them so much, you have to take several to go! Ann Sather is great for families, and groups of all ages.

© NileGuide



Lakeview Restaurant

contact:
tel: 1 773 989 5595
<http://www.cafeselmari.com>

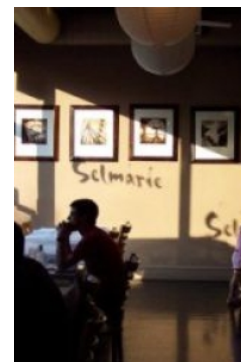
location:
4729 North Lincoln Avenue
Chicago IL 60625

hours:
11a-3p M 8a-10p Tu-F, 8a-11p
Sa, 10a-10p Su

4 Cafe Selmarie

DESCRIPTION: Nestled into charming Lincoln Square, looking out onto the square's fountain, Cafe Selmarie is a delightful eatery to enjoy a treat, lunch, or a cup of coffee in the morning. It is hard to bypass the beautiful pastries in the bakery, where your mouth will water at beautiful cakes, cookies, and tortes. The menu offers homemade soups, salads, quiche, sandwiches, and plenty of fresh and creative entrees. Patrons can also choose to dine on the outdoor patio during the summer months, right on the square.

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wcities

contact:
tel: 1 773 395 6696
fax: 1 773 935 8149
<http://www.veggiediner.com/>

location:
3411 North Halsted Street
Chicago IL 60657

hours:
11a-10p M-F, 10a-10p Sa &
Su

5 Chicago Diner

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Seating can be tight on weekends - not the best for large groups.

DESCRIPTION: If you think it is hard to find restaurants that cater to your vegetarian/vegan needs, the looking is over. Not only does the Chicago Diner keep your needs in mind, the entire menu is completely vegetarian and can be made vegan upon request. Plus, there is even a gluten-free menu that has more than just a few choices. This local favorite has an all-American diner feel, and includes a full brunch menu, plus a liquor menu featuring gluten-free beers, and local and



Sweet One

sustainable wines and liquors. The restaurant offers free parking.
© NileGuide

contact:
tel: 773 9293680
<http://www.uncommonground.com>

location:
3800 N Clark St
Chicago IL 60513

hours:
M-Th, Su 9a-11p; F-Sa 9a-Mid

6 Uncommon Ground

DESCRIPTION: Hearty meals made with fresh and organic ingredients dominate the menu at Uncommon Ground. Whether a vegetarian or an uncompromising carnivore, you'll find an entrée to tempt your palate at this cozy coffeehouse and café. A full-bar complements the menu; in fact, you may just want to stop by for one of their signature martinis, which you can enjoy at the bar or while sitting on one of the comfy chairs in the front room. Uncommon Ground also makes an excellent stop for coffee and dessert. Foam-topped lattes and other coffee creations are literal works of art; the baristas clearly know what they're doing. Live music is available just about every night of the week in the back room of the café; if you want to listen to music as you eat, you may want to make reservations in advance to ensure you'll be seated in the back. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Uncommon Ground

contact:
tel: 1 773 561-8573
fax: 1 773 561-1127
<http://www.paulinesbreakfast.com>

location:
1754 W Balmoral Ave
Chicago IL 60640

hours:
Daily 7a-3p

7 Pauline's

DESCRIPTION: Housed in a former 1950s strip mall (much quainter than it sounds), Pauline's is a great place for brunching on a lazy summer's day. Breakfast is king on the menu, and there are plenty of options to choose from. Among the entree options are five-egg omelet concoctions filled with a variety of fresh ingredients ranging from salmon to white asparagus. For those with cholesterol on the brain, egg whites or egg beaters can be substituted for a small additional charge. Another excellent (and rather-filling) option is the fruit- or chocolate-chip-filled pancakes, which come slathered with whipped cream and fresh strawberries. For those who aren't the breakfast-all-day types, the lunch menu has a number of salads and sandwiches to choose from, including several burgers and classic diner-style offerings. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Pauline's

contact:

tel: 1 773 363 4943
fax: 1 773 363 7646
<http://www.dixiekitchenchicago.com>

location:

5225 South Harper Avenue
Chicago IL 60615

hours:

11a-10p Su-Th, 11a-11p F-Sa

8 Dixie Kitchen and Bait Shop

DESCRIPTION: If it is the weekend, and you are lining up for Hyde Park dining, you are probably at this bustling, roadhouse-style Southern eatery (think rusty old ad signs as wall art). The list of the munchies that keep drawing the crowds includes fried green tomatoes, oyster po' boy sandwiches, jambalaya, country fried steak, baby catfish and pulled pork BBQ. Do not miss the buttery, melt-in-your-mouth corn pancakes. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Dixie Kitchen and Bait Shop

contact:

tel: 773 772 4019
<http://www.earwaxcafe.com/>

location:

1561 North Milwaukee
Chicago IL 60622

hours:

9a-11p M-Th, 8a-midnight F-Su

9 Earwax Café

DESCRIPTION: Formerly Earwax Records, this café is one of Wicker Park's standard places to meet and greet for the moody hipster with a book to read or music to discuss. The closest you get to eclectic is present here, right down to the lack of air conditioning in the summer, which makes the place so hot the wax will run out your ears. Decent, cheap food, strong coffee and alternative atmosphere (complete with murals of circus freaks) complement the not-so-comically rude service. The coffee shop also features a video rental store with some decent selections. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of The Earwax Cafe

contact:

tel: 1 773 248 0999
<http://brettscafe.com/>

location:

2011 West Roscoe
Chicago IL 60618

hours:

Lunch: W-F 10:30a-2p,
Dinner: W-F 5p-10p, Sa
8a-10p, Su 8a-9p, Brunch:
Sa-Su 8a-4p

A Bretts Cafe Americain

DESCRIPTION: This lovely street-side cafe is perfect for a long Saturday brunch with family or just a cuppa joe. Dishing out American fare with hints from Asia and Latin America, Bretts offers salads, sandwiches, tamales, huevos rancheros, cornmeal waffles, blueberry pancakes, and seafood delights. In addition, a complimentary bread basket arrives on your table filled with delicious coffee cake and jam. The casual air, street-side tables, and a decent wine list makes a trip to this Roscoe Village haunt memorable. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Bretts Cafe Americain

Chicago Snapshot

Local Info

Chicago is "The City that Works" and "The City of Big Shoulders." It boasts North America's tallest building and one of the world's largest office buildings. With the ubiquitous elevated trains creating a continuous clatter, the city looks, feels and, in fact is, big.

At first glance, Chicago can be overwhelming. But, like any city, it is the sum of its parts, and its parts are diverse. Also known as "The City of Neighborhoods," Chicago comprises more than 75 official neighborhoods. Each features its own distinct quality and character.

So, when trying to digest Chicago, don't try to take it all in with one big bite. Break it up into manageable portions.

The Loop

This area takes its name from the elevated train, the "El," that loops around the city's central core. While the downtown area stretches beyond these boundaries, much of the lifeblood that invigorates the rest of the city also pumps through the Loop. The Sears Tower, North America's tallest building, is here, as is the Chicago Board of Trade, one of the biggest options and futures trading floors in the world. City government offices are based here, as well as the home offices of several major corporations.

When it's time for the city that works to relax, the Loop does not disappoint. The city's magnificent Harold Washington Library, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Cultural Center are all here. While not as ritzy as the city's Magnificent Mile where State Street is a shopping mecca.

Thanks to a burgeoning theater district, the Loop is increasingly becoming a place to visit when the workday ends. The restored Ford Center for the Performing Arts-Oriental Theatre hosts lavish Broadway productions while the Chicago Theatre has several musical concerts. The landmark Auditorium Theatre, considered by some the most beautiful theater in America, hosts musicals, concerts and other performances in the South Loop area. The renowned Goodman Theatre also offers several performances throughout the year. This North Loop site includes dining and retail options.

Many restaurants, such as The Original Heaven on Seven, Italian Village and Berghoff, vie to whet every Loop-goer's appetite. Boutique Hotels such as the Hotel Allegro, Hotel Burnham Chicago and Hotel Monaco compete for guests with the more traditional Palmer House and Chicago Hilton Plaza and Towers.

While technically just outside the Loop's borders, Grant Park should not be missed. Hugging Lake Michigan, this park is often referred to as "Chicago's Front Yard." The majestic Buckingham Fountain is here, as is a plush rose garden and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's outdoor home, the Petrillo Music Shell. The park is immense, with the capacity to hold up to three million people, as is tested annually by the Taste of Chicago festival. Grant Park also plays host to many music and arts festivals during the summer, including Jazz Fest and Blues Fest.

Near North Side

Just to the north of the Loop, bordered by the Chicago River on the south, the Lake on the east and North Avenue on the north, is Chicago's Near North Side neighborhood. This area is in turn made up of several other smaller districts.

The city's "Magnificent Mile" (known as the "Mag Mile" to locals) is one of the Near North's most famous offerings. Stretching along Michigan Avenue from the Chicago River to Oak Street, this shoppers' paradise is home to high-scale chains like Neiman Marcus and Bloomingdale's at the 900 North Michigan Avenue Shops, as well as the lavish boutiques of Marilyn Miglin and Room & Board. The city's early monument to modernity, the John Hancock Center, is just a few blocks from the city's links to its past, the Water Tower and the Chicago Water Works, two of the few buildings that survived the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Water Tower Place, an upscale indoor shopping mall, houses numerous other chain stores. You can enjoy RL Restaurant or Ralph Lauren's, the designer's largest retail store and its hip adjoining restaurant. Nordstrom, Crate & Barrel and Saks Fifth Avenue can be found a few blocks south on Michigan Avenue.

If you are wondering where the people who can afford to shop at the more expensive stores on Michigan Avenue live, head east

to Streeterville, or the adjoining Gold Coast neighborhood. Theoretically, the Gold Coast is named for the African coast of the same name, but the moniker also describes the area's opulence. The neighborhood is the nation's second wealthiest, surpassed only by New York City's Central Park East.

Just north of the Chicago River and a few blocks west of the Mag Mile is River North, home to an eclectic mix of swanky galleries, trendy cafes and theme restaurants like the Hard Rock Café. While many of the city's residents pretend they have never been to these restaurants, they most likely have — so go and enjoy with a clear conscience.

South Loop

In stark contrast to the garish designs of the chain restaurants, the South Loop offers a quaint, Old World charm, neighborhood bars and smaller restaurants. Once home to one of the largest publishing centers in the Midwest, the warehouses left behind have been renovated and taken over by young, affluent professionals who wish to walk to their jobs in the Loop. The area's focal point, Dearborn Station, sets the tone for the neighborhood. The former rail transportation hub's façade has been lavishly restored.

Beyond Downtown

Lake Shore Drive, one of the city's major north-south arteries, runs along the picturesque lakefront. While the Drive will take you to many of the city's attractions, do not forget that this boulevard is an attraction in itself. The lake view, the bold skyline and even the Drive's own tree-lined medians offer some of the most breathtaking views in the city. However, Chicagoans have little patience for "Sunday drivers" gawking at the sites. So when you get on Lake Shore Drive, have a destination in mind.

Lincoln Park

Once you pass North Avenue, you will enter Lincoln Park, one of the city's more gentrified areas. Tree-lined Fullerton Avenue, with its brownstones converted into condos, gives you a feel for the neighborhood residents. Lincoln Park also surrounds the DePaul University neighborhood. A variety of bars, dance spots and inexpensive restaurants cater to the college and just-out-of-college crowd.

Chicago Snapshot continued

Not all of Lincoln Park hustles and bustles. In fact, the park from which the neighborhood takes its name is one of the city's largest and most pastoral. Designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, who also drew up the blueprints for New York's Central Park and Lincoln Park encompasses more than 1,000 acres. It includes a Zoo, the Lincoln Park Conservatory, a driving range, dozens of ball fields and several biking and running paths connecting it to lakefront beaches. You'll find many pickup games of soccer and ultimate Frisbee here on warm summer days.

Lakeview

Heading further north brings you to Lakeview, a neighborhood that serves as a popular nightlife center for both the straight and gay communities. These groups tend to party separately, with the standout exception being Berlin, a late-night dance club where hipsters of every orientation party together.

Halsted Street between Belmont Avenue and Irving Park Road serves as the headquarters for gay nightlife. The area is not hard to find; just look for the gigantic rainbow-colored pylons that line the streets. For dancing, head to Roscoe's Tavern or Spin.

If partying is not your thing, don't despair. The area also offers its share of restaurants, from Angelina Ristorante and Yoshi's Cafe to the 24-hour Melrose Restaurant.

For the straight set, head a few blocks west to Wrigleyville, a bar area that gets its name from the nearby Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs. The numerous taverns here make for excellent bar-hopping, so stop in the Cubby Bear or The Metro, a bar that features live music and up-and-coming rock bands like the Smashing Pumpkins, who

played here before they made it big and returned for their final two shows.

Diners can satisfy a variety of tastes in Wrigleyville, including Asian, Cajun, Italian and Mexican. Those who prefer to stick with the bar scene can eat well at Bar Louie, John Barleycorn Memorial Pub or Sluggers.

Uptown

For more live music, head farther north, where you'll find the Aragon Ballroom, the Riviera and the prohibition-era jazz bar, Green Mill. When you're strolling through this area, a word of caution is in order. As the once grand, now deteriorating buildings that house the Aragon and the Riviera suggest, this formerly posh neighborhood has changed drastically over the years. Still, some of the best music in the city (be it jazz, rock, or something in between) can be found here.

Wicker Park/Bucktown

A hot spot for artisans and heavy drinkers alike is the Wicker Park/Bucktown area. Hang out at bars like the Blue Note and Holiday Club or restaurants like Northside Bar & Grill and Beat Kitchen and it won't be long before some hipster starts talking to you about gentrification.

The South Side

If you are visiting the city, do not make the mistake many North Siders do by forgetting that Lake Shore Drive also runs south of downtown.

As you cruise south on Lake Shore Drive, admire the Museum Campus where the Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium and the Field Museum converge. If you have the time, you could easily spend a day in each museum, but it's also well worth a stop just to enjoy the lake views and watch sailboats go by.

Just south, you will pass Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears. Immediately

after gazing at Soldier Field you will need to guard against whiplash as you turn to stare at the sprawling McCormick Place, one of the largest convention centers in North America and home to numerous annual trade shows, like the Boat & RV Show and Auto Show. The space includes more than 2.2 million square feet of exhibition space, Chicago's largest ballroom and the Arie Crown Theater.

Comiskey Park, home of the Chicago White Sox, lies on the west side of Lake Shore Drive. The modern stadium features an exploding scoreboard that sets off fireworks along with a Sony Jumbo Screen.

Further south, the charming Hyde Park neighborhood has a quaint, old-world look to it. Home to the world-famous University of Chicago, the area boasts interesting restaurants like the Dixie Kitchen and Medici, great used book stores like O'Gara & Wilson's (the oldest used bookstore in the country), and the quaint 57th Street Art Fair. Hyde Park is also home to the gigantic 350,000 square-foot Museum of Science and Industry. This monument to 20th century technology houses a replica coal mine, a German U-Boat and a Zephyr train all under one roof.

After visiting the museum, push away thoughts of industriousness long enough to take a leisurely stroll through Jackson Park. Like its sister to the north, Lincoln Park, Jackson Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. It features a Japanese garden, a bird sanctuary, a reflecting pond and a golf course.

All in all, do not be overwhelmed by Chicago's size or grit. Just find a corner of this city that suits you and celebrate its diversity.

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