



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Mike

# Chicago's Best Late Night Eats

## Chicago, 1 Day

### Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Chicago Snapshot 8

# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** You've been out late enjoying the plethora of Chicago bars and have worked up quite the appetite. Chicago being the drinking city it is, certainly has the late night eat locales to satisfy your cravings in the wee hours of the morning. Whether you are craving Mexican, diner food, Chicago pizza, or hot dogs, there is a restaurant ready and waiting to serve you nearby, and these won't all just be greasy gut bombs - Chicago does take pride in its food even through the late hours. Take this guide out with you for when the hunger pains set in!

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Chicago



### **Pasadita Restaurant (La)**

Tasty and fast Mexican cuisine



### **Clark Street Dog**

Philly steak, beer and a dank atmosphere



### **Chicago's Pizza**

Great pizza until 5am



### **Wiener Circle (The)**

Hot dogs with a side of sass



### **Nookies Tree**

Restaurant, bakery and more



### **Pick Me Up Café**

A cafe that lives up to its name



### **San Soo Gap San**



### **The Famous Taco Burrito King #1**



### **Hollywood Grill**

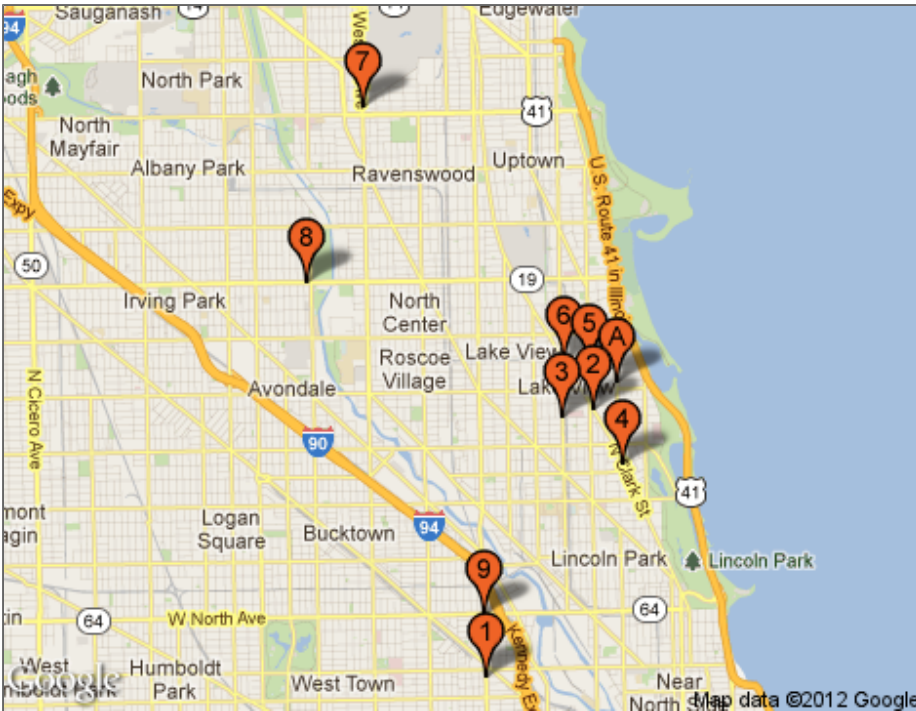
Hangover reliever



### **Melrose Restaurant**

Popular 24-hour diner

# Day 1 - Chicago



## QUICK NOTE

**contact:**  
tel: 1 773 384 6537  
<http://www.pasadita.com>

**location:**  
1132 North Ashland Avenue  
Chicago IL 60622

**hours:**  
9:30a-3a

## 1 Pasadita Restaurant (La)

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a neighborhood favorite, as demonstrated by the constant flow of people. The burritos are succulent, and the soft tacos, bought in pairs, are just as good. Some other of the homemade favorites include parilladas and chiles rellenos. The place is absolutely no-nonsense, which is nice if you are in a hurry and on a budget. There is plenty of booth seating or stake out a counter seat to wait for your order. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Pasadita Restaurant (La)

**contact:**  
tel: 773 281 6690  
<http://www.clarkstdog.com/>

**location:**  
3040 North Clark Street  
Chicago IL 60657

**hours:**  
9a-3a Su-Th, 9a-4a F-Sa

## 2 Clark Street Dog

**DESCRIPTION:** Where else can you buy a hot dog, walk over to an adjacent bar and get a cold beer to wash it down? This is a dank, dingy hot dog and burger joint with an attached bar that is right out of a Bukowski story. Somehow, Clark Street Dog has escaped the gentrification of the neighborhood and remains a testament to the area's seedier past. And you know what? People love it. It also happens that the hot dogs, and especially the signature Philly steaks, are really good. It may look scary from the outside, but do not be afraid. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: 1 773 755 4030  
<http://www.chicagos-pizza.com/>

**location:**

3006 North Sheffield Avenue  
Chicago IL 60657

**hours:**

11a-5a M-Su, (Dinner:  
11a-11p Su-Th, 11a-1a F-Sa)

3

### Chicago's Pizza

**DESCRIPTION:** If you are looking for atmosphere, forget it. This eatery is about as bare bones as they come, a far contrast to the nearby ultra elegant Pops for Champagne. However, Chicago's makes an excellent version of Chicago-style pizza with exceptionally fresh ingredients, and makes it until 5a. So if you're leaving the Vic Theater up the street, or perhaps Berlin, and you are craving one of Chicago's best-loved treats, head on over and gorge. © wcities.com

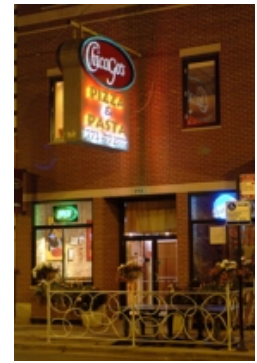


Photo courtesy of Chicago's Pizza

**contact:**

tel: 1 773 477 7444  
<http://www.wienercircle.net/>

**location:**

2622 North Clark Street  
Chicago IL 60614

**hours:**

11a-4a Su-Th, 11a-5a F & Sa

4

### Wiener Circle (The)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Wiener's Circle serves up what many locals agree to be the City's best hot dogs at all hours of the day and night. For the uninitiated, a Chicago style hot dog is made up of the following: char dog, onions, tomatoes, mustard, celery salt, and neon-green relish. Warning: this establishment is not family-friendly after 10 pm on weekends; that's when the bar crowd starts to come through, and insults unsuitable for children's ears are traded between the cooks and patrons. It's actually the main reason people flock here and love it so much. © NileGuide



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: 1 773 248 9888  
fax: +1 773 248 7028  
<http://www.nookiesrestaurant.net/>

**location:**

3334 North Halsted Street  
Chicago IL 60657

**hours:**

7a-midnight Su-Th, 24 hrs F & Sa (closes midnight on Su)

5

### Nookies Tree

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

There are two other locations in Old Town and Edgewater.

**DESCRIPTION:** This long-time neighborhood fixture is a cross between a typical American diner and a more upscale cafe. People flock here for this reason, and the place hops seven-days-a-week. It is especially crowded on the weekends when the restaurant bulges with people clamoring for standards like burgers or more elegant crepes. All the food is made fresh, and it is all very good, making this a great, inexpensive place to cap an evening out in Lakeview. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Nookies Tree

**contact:**

tel: 773 248 6613  
fax: +1 773 248 6722  
[http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/3734942/chicago\\_il/pick\\_me\\_up\\_cafe.html](http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/3734942/chicago_il/pick_me_up_cafe.html)

**location:**

3408 North Clark Street  
Chicago IL 60657

**hours:**

5p-5a M-Th

**6 Pick Me Up Café**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is not your normal coffeehouse. This gem in busy Wrigleyville is lively, delicious, and will serve you all night long on the weekends. The decor is colorful and vibrant, supposedly giving the feel of being on the porch of a house, with plenty of booths and tables to accommodate groups late at night. The menu is full of munchie snacks, sandwiches, pizzas, salads, and fantastic desserts including, cakes, pies, and giant sundaes. Plus, don't think the late night drinking stops here, the menu also offers several choice beers to continue the fun. Sometimes live music is performed on the weekends.  
© NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**

tel: (773) 334-1589  
[http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/3698391/chicago\\_il/san\\_soo\\_ka\\_san.html](http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/3698391/chicago_il/san_soo_ka_san.html)

**location:**

5247 N Western Ave  
Chicago IL 60625-2447

**hours:**

Daily 24hrs

**7 San Soo Gap San**

**DESCRIPTION: The Scene**  
Discreet, partitioned booths create a sense of privacy perfect for lovers' rendezvous, but the crowd at this Ravenswood staple is equal parts family and couples on dates. Smoke floats over charcoal grills at each table, with the smell of kalbi permeating the air, despite the numerous, powerful vents. Or grab a seat at the sushi bar and avoid the smoke entirely.  
**The Food**  
Barbecue lovers be forewarned: Get ready for a parade of food. A stunning dozen or more sides--romaine lettuce, green onions, glass noodles, kimchee, beets, fish, bean sprouts, baby bok choy, rice and more--accompany marinated meats such as beef short rib, ribeye, pork, chicken and adventurous options like broiled octopus or squid. A sweet soy, ginger marinade flavors the meat, sizzling and tender right off the grill. Fried dumplings are standout appetizers, but with this much food plus miso soup, you might not need them. (Photo by Peter Behle)



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: (773) 583-1517  
[http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/36212446/chicago\\_il/famous\\_taco\\_burrito\\_king.html](http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/36212446/chicago_il/famous_taco_burrito_king.html)

**location:**

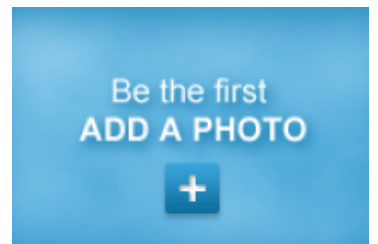
2817 W Irving Park Rd  
Chicago IL 60618-3613

**hours:**

Daily 9am-2am

**8 The Famous Taco Burrito King #1**

**DESCRIPTION: In Short**  
Located in the back corner of a tiny mini-mall on busy Irving Park Road, this joint has a few booths for dining in, but most customers go for takeout. Tacos and burritos are the stars here; popular choices include carne asada (steak) and al pastor (pork), both grilled fresh for each order. Reasonably priced dinners feature enchiladas, chili rellenos and fajitas.



**contact:**

tel: 1 773 395 1818  
<http://www.hollywood-grill.com/>

**location:**

1601 West North Avenue  
Chicago IL 60622

**hours:**

24 hrs

**9 Hollywood Grill**

**DESCRIPTION:** During the day, this place is busy with lots of locals. But, at night, being caught in the cross-hairs of Wicker Park nightlife, it becomes a haven for party animals on their way home. The service is phenomenal. You will never experience so short a wait between ordering and receiving. The "2222" breakfast is one of the most popular, offering two eggs, two pieces of bacon, two sausage links and two buttermilk pancakes. However, do not let the cheap prices fool you. This is good, honest, stick-to-your-ribs food served up in a bright, friendly environment, which might hurt your eyes if you have had one too many at the nearby bars. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: 1 773 327 2060  
[http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/3734967/chicago\\_il/melrose\\_restaurant.html](http://chicago.citysearch.com/profile/3734967/chicago_il/melrose_restaurant.html)

**location:**

3233 North Broadway Street  
Chicago IL 60657

**hours:**

24 hrs

**A Melrose Restaurant**

**DESCRIPTION:** We all crave diner food from time to time, and at Melrose you certainly get the full diner experience. Large portions, breakfast served 24 hrs. a day, and a wait staff of lovely, but odd characters makes this diner a pleasant and real neighborhood diner. However, do not just expect greasy food, Melrose offers plenty of fresh and healthy options as well. Expect to find plenty of neighborhood folks here throughout the day, certainly in the wee hours of the morning after a night of drinking, and especially during the summer to take advantage of the outdoor patio. © NileGuide



citysearch

# 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.

©