

CHICAGO

A NATIVE'S GUIDE TO VISITING THE WINDY CITY

Venture off the beaten path with a few of my favorite stops.
Click on each location to learn more!

PLACES TO VISIT IN THE WINDY CITY

FREE Options

1. Maggie Daley Park: This is the big kahuna of ALL outdoor parks. There is no admission fee and it's all inclusive!

2. Oz Park: Located in Lincoln Park, this stop includes a large play area for kids, a garden, and even a yellow brick road. The park is designed with a Wizard of Oz theme which includes statues of all of the film's characters.

3. Lincoln Park Zoo: This popular zoo right off of Lake Shore Drive houses several mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians. It is the PERFECT size for your younger children and also includes a variety of fun exhibits.

4. Millenium Park: There is SO much to see in this popular area that is centered around art, architecture, music, and culture. Take a selfie at Cloud Gate (aka the Bean) while enjoying a Chicago style hot dog at one of the popular Vienna beef vendors. Play in the water at the Crown Fountain while making faces at the screens displaying diverse images. Then end with a picnic in the Lurie Gardens.

5. Garfield Park Conservatory: This destination is a great place for adults and children with its variety of 9 different gardens both inside and outside. Due to the inside gardens, the park features exhibits year round so that you don't have to wait for warmer weather to venture through this destination.

PIZZA FAVORITES IN THE CITY

If there's one thing that Chicago is known for, it's their pizza! Everyone has their favorites but the Windy City is known for their deep dish Chicago Style. Here are a few of my favorites along with your popular tourist destinations.

My #1 pick - The Other Side Bar

This bar was right around the corner from my apartment and I frequented it often. Although it's a bar, there is a restaurant area that is kid friendly.

Bacci Pizza - Known for their jumbo slice which is great for a quick lunch or bite to eat.

Chicago Pizza and Oven

Grinder Co. - located off of Clark Street in a small basement of an old 3 story brick building. Best known for their pizza pot pie which was featured as a favorite on the Food Network. It is SO fabulously delicious!

A list of your MUST try tourist hot spots:

Lou Malnati's
Giardano's
Gino's East
Pizzeria Uno

W Chicago Av

2400 West

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

1. Go Cubbies!: Sorry Sox fans but this mama is all about her Cubbies. Located in Wrigleyville, a very lively area of Chicago, you can find an assortment of bars, restaurants, and entertainment during any Cubs game. Take in the scene at one of these local venues OR (better yet) head to a game!

2. Randolph Street Market: A year round market that houses fashion, jewelry, art, antiques, vintage treasures, food, and music.

3. Visit Superdawg: In addition to pizza, Chicago is also known for their delicious Chicago style hot dogs. Enjoy one of these while taking in the 50's theme at this fun drive in.

4. The Morton Arboretum - Take a quick drive outside of the city to Lisle, Illinois and spend the day Troll Hunting. This Arboretum houses gigantic wooden trolls created by Danish artist Thomas Danbo that range from 15-30 feet tall. Make sure you stop at the children's garden that features miles of outdoor activities and play areas.

5. Relax at North Avenue Beach: Relax along Lake Michigan and get in some rays while the kids swim in the lake and build sand castles. Pack a picnic or eat lunch at the nearby Castaways Bar and Grill. Make a day of it and rent wakeboards, paddleboards, kayaks, and even jet skis.

6. The Peninsula: Looking for something to do on a Friday or Saturday night at 7:00 pm? This location is a little pricey at \$40 a head (\$20 for kids) but a MUST stop with their all you can eat CHOCOLATE buffet.

7. A unique shopping experience:

Get away from the magnificent mile and visit some of these one of a kind shops throughout the city.

*Woolly Mammoth Antiques & Oddities

*Dusty Groove

*Dylan's Candy Bar

*Eataly

*Open Books

*Hollywood Mirror

Adults Only

8. A night out at Second City:

If you've never heard of this venue it is ALL about comedy and features many popular faces from the famous TV show SNL.

9. Big Joe's:

Two words....turtle racing. Located in Lincoln Square, this bar offers a rare glimpse of turtle racing on Friday evenings. Be sure to get there early because it gets PACKED.

