

## Chicago 2020

*The following document is not intended to replace conventional tour guide information you probably already have. This is a supplement provided as a local city guide would want you to discover and enjoy locally, by neighborhoods, the city of Chicago. – Luc de B.*

Popular culture paints Chicago as a politically fraught tale of two cities — one growing, cosmopolitan and chic, the other crass, dangerous and in decline. Beyond that Dickensian cliché, however, lives one singular complex metropolis that is rapidly changing yet anchored in history.

Chicago is a diverse cultural mecca along Lake Michigan with award-winning chefs and entertainment, arts and architecture, and views of the lakefront and skyline that will have you swooning upon arrival. If you stick to the central business district as a lot of visitors do, you won't reap the full benefits of the city. Remember, Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, with 77 official community areas and a penchant for reinvention.

### Stay:



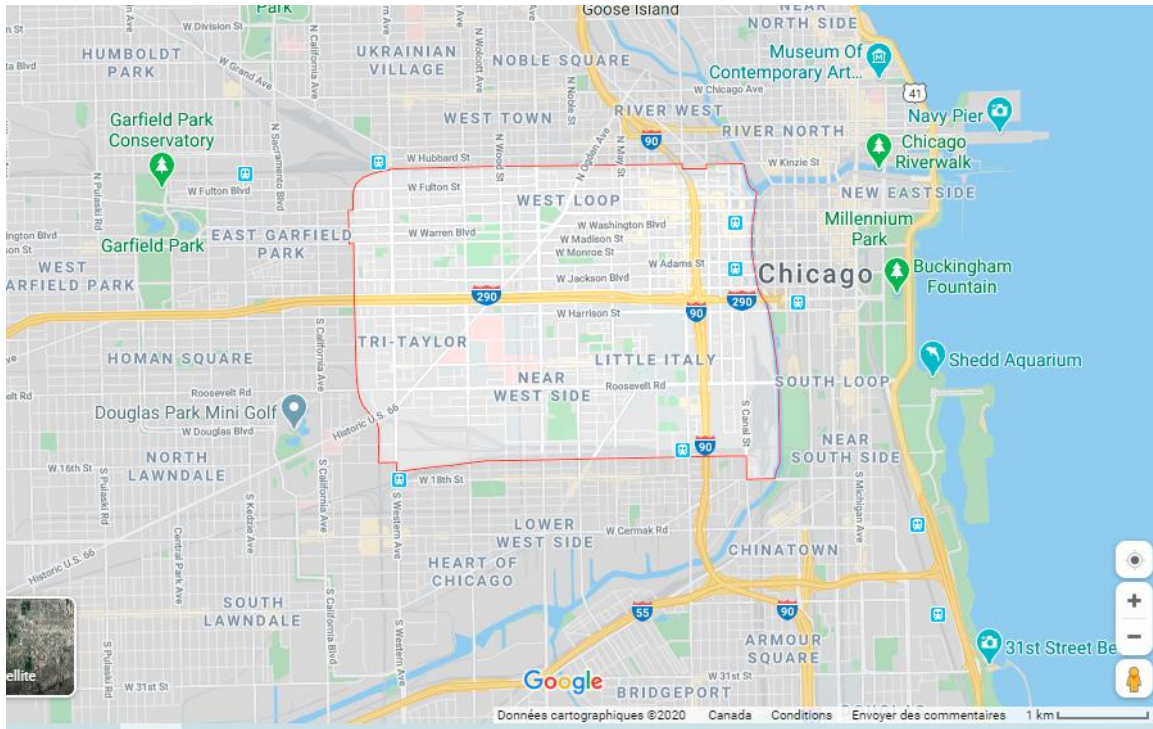
### IN THE ACTION

#### Near West Side

The Near West Side, where the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 began, is one of the city's fastest-changing communities. A lot goes on within its diverse six square miles. The neighborhood features the United Center, a concert venue and sports arena where the Chicago Blackhawks and Bulls play. You'll find college-town vibes around the University of Illinois at Chicago's



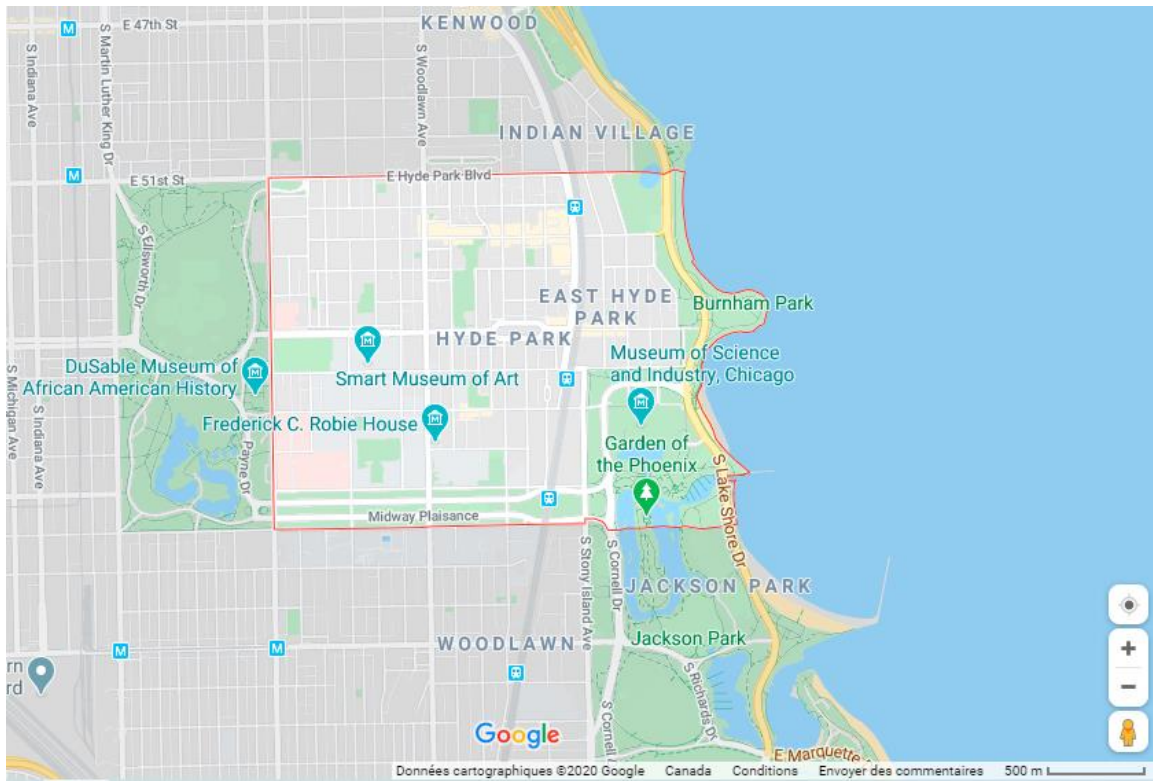
campus and a bustling nightlife scene in Greektown. It also boasts the hip West Loop — arguably Chicago’s hottest neighborhood — home to the city’s Restaurant Row and countless boutique hotels and chic shops.



LOW-KEY

## Hyde Park

Hyde Park, a diverse and historic lakefront community on the South Side, is about seven miles from Chicago's bustling Loop. It's home to the University of Chicago, and its Gothic imprint is hard to miss. The neighborhood is full of grassy boulevards, lakefront paths and prolific architecture that makes the neighborhood great for a leisurely walk or self-directed sightseeing. There's also an array of independent bookstores, museums and an underrated restaurant scene to peruse.





# EAT



## BREAKFAST

### 5 Loaves Eatery

This family-owned South Side staple provides down-home Southern-style cooking in a cozy, unpretentious space. The restaurant, in Chicago's Greater Grand Crossing community, serves breakfast and lunch at a reasonable price, offering an array of sandwiches, omelets and scrambles, griddle items and salads. But the real showstopper here is the fried chicken — golden brown, thick, crunchy and juicy inside.

**BTW:** Try a two-piece mixed chicken breakfast with cheesy grits, and substitute the regular pancakes for the lemon zest stack, which comes topped with homemade buttermilk syrup.

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5 Loaves Eatery, 405 E. 75th St., Chicago, Ill. 60619

- [773-891-2889](tel:773-891-2889)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)



## BREAKFAST

### Over Easy Cafe

Over Easy Cafe could be the best brunch spot in Chicago — and it's not in the hip West Loop or booming Logan Square neighborhoods where you might expect such a claim. This Ravenswood haunt offers a creative and expansive menu of inventive egg dishes and griddled sweets. On the weekends, the line extends out the door — but the staff will serve you hot coffee while you wait.

**BTW:** Order the *Sassy Eggs* — a spicy chorizo potato hash topped with a pair of eggs, cheddar cheese, sour cream, poblano pepper ketchup (ancho) and guacamole.

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Over Easy Cafe, 4943 N. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60625

- [773-506-2605](tel:773-506-2605)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)



## LUNCH

### Birrieria Zaragoza

At this special Archer Heights taqueria, you always get the goat. The restaurant's staple offering is chopped goat meat topped with its own broth, served with warm homemade tortillas on the side, along with onions, cilantro and lime. You can order a large or small plate, or purchase individual tacos. Order at the counter and take your goat to go, or sit down inside the cozy and colorful eatery.

**BTW:** *Order a side of the hearty and spicy salsa de molcajete for an extra flavor kick.*

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Birrieria Zaragoza, 4852 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, Ill. 60632

- [773-523-3700](tel:773-523-3700)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)





## LUNCH

### Publican Quality Meats

Cheaper and in a smaller space than nearby Publican, this casual coffee bar and sandwich shop still offers a lot of what people love about its West Loop sibling: quality cuts and ingredients, an inventive menu and expert curation from the staff. It's one of the more affordable brunch options in an area that doesn't exactly specialize in the affordable.

**BTW:** *If meat isn't for you, don't fret. Try the BGS — a falafel sandwich with red curry soubise, pickled cauliflower, urfa yogurt, fennel and gem lettuce on a potato bun — or the Broccoli Crue — a charred-broccoli sandwich with sun-dried tomato, chile aioli, almond aillade, piperade and Gouda served on naan.*

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Publican Quality Meats, 825 W. Fulton Market, Chicago, Ill. 60607

- [312-445-8977](tel:312-445-8977)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)



## DINNER

### Yassa African Restaurant

Yassa, a Senegalese restaurant in the heart of Chicago's historic Bronzeville neighborhood (a.k.a. the Black Metropolis), cooks some of the best West African food in the city. The fare includes huge portions of traditional stews and rices, whole fish, chicken and lamb dishes — but it's also veggie friendly.

**BTW:** *If you're unfamiliar with the cuisine, ask the staff for advice when you order.*

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Yassa African Restaurant, 3511 S. King Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60653

- [773-488-5599](tel:773-488-5599)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)





## DINNER

### The Warbler

Here we have great New American cuisine at a relatively affordable price. The vibrant, sun-filled space that looks like a posh diner and has a strong roster of veggie options, elevated comfort food and well-crafted bird-themed cocktails. This is one of the best Chicago restaurants to open in the past couple of years, but somehow the farm-to-table haunt still seems to fly under the radar.

**BTW:** *This is an ideal and well-positioned date spot — near a movie theater and a large park.*

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The Warbler, 4535 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60625

- [773-681-0950](tel:773-681-0950)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)



LATE-NIGHT

## Long Room Chicago

The laid-back comfort of a favorite dive bar meets fantastic drinks and food at the Long Room. Locals flock to this favorite neighborhood haunt for biscuits from in-house partner the Biscuit Man, cocktails and an impressive selection of craft beer.

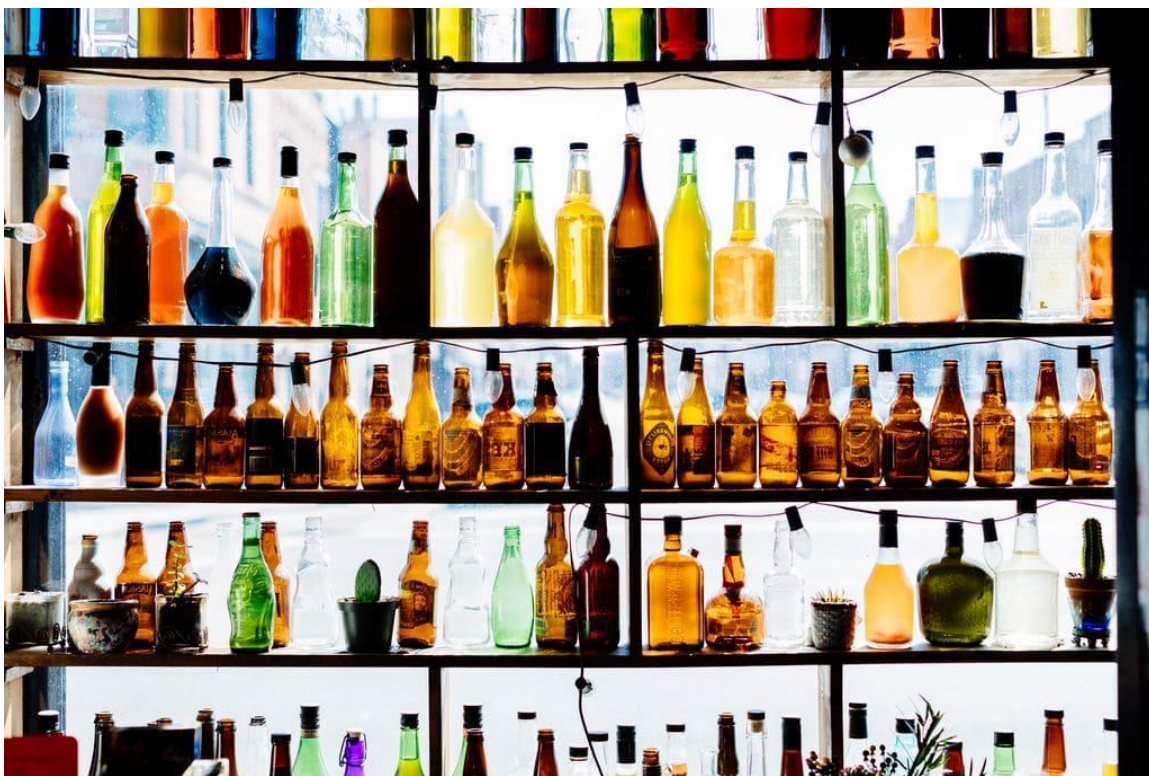
**BTW:** *The space functions as a coffee shop during the morning hours — perfect if you're in need of a caffeine pick-me-up.*

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1612 W. Irving Park Rd. #1, Chicago, Ill. 60613

- [773-665-4500](tel:773-665-4500)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)





#### LATE-NIGHT

##### Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar

This neighborhood favorite — named in honor of the co-owners' mother, who used to run the joint and often works the front register — is the ultimate mash-up. It houses a liquor store, microbrewery, dive bar, beer hall and patio. It features Polish-fusion street food courtesy of Kimski, a restaurant attached to the establishment. The beer and cocktail list here is huge, and it rotates throughout the year.

**BTW:** *The liquor store carries a wide selection of craft beers from the popular Bridgeport-based Marz Brewing, including its flagship wheat ale Jungle Boogie, which could make for a great Chicago souvenir.*

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Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar, 960 W. 31st St., Chicago, Ill. 60608

- [773-890-0588](tel:773-890-0588)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)

# DO



## Garfield Park Conservatory

The Garfield Park Conservatory features more than 2,100 plant species growing under glass in eight indoor show houses and on 10 acres of outdoor park. Admission is free, and the conservatory holds special exhibits and educational programs throughout the year. Take a walk through the conservatory, enjoy the tropical temperatures and take in the lush sights and smells. There's also outdoor picnic space and play spaces for kids.

*BTW: The Fern Room is a highlight. Featuring a man-made waterfall and made in the likeness of prehistoric Chicago, the room is home to massive ferns and long-living plants.*

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Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60624

- [773-638-1766](tel:773-638-1766)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)





### South Shore Cultural Center Park

One of the most beautiful things about Chicago is the lakeshore, which spans more than 20 miles along Lake Michigan. Take a scenic walk, run or ride along the lakefront trail. Visit one of Chicago's numerous beaches and sprawling lakefront parks and enjoy athletic fields, courts and concessions. If weather and safety permit, go for a swim in the lake or rent a kayak. There are also various wildlife sanctuaries along the lakefront for migrating birds and butterflies. One of my favorite lakefront destinations is South Shore Cultural Center Park, a former country club and national landmark that includes a nature sanctuary, butterfly garden, nine-hole golf course, beach and restaurant.

**BTW:** *The architects of the cultural center also designed Chicago's famous Drake Hotel.*

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South Shore Cultural Center Park, 7059 S. South Shore Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60649

- [773-256-0149](tel:773-256-0149)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)



### Thalia Hall

You can find Thalia Hall, a landmark live music venue originally designed as an opera house, off the 18th Street corridor in Pilsen. It's a vibrant Mexican American community home to many artists and students. The venue is in the same building as many great food and drink options, including gastropub Dusek's Board and Beer and basement bar Punch House.

*BTW: Explore Pilsen beyond 18th Street — it's an amazing neighborhood lush with art, history and some of the best Mexican restaurants in town.*

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Thalia Hall, 1807 S. Allport St., Chicago, IL 60608

- [\(312\) 526-3851](tel:(312)526-3851)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)





### Music Box Theatre

A favorite of local cinephiles, Music Box Theatre is a historic movie theater seating about 700 people in the Lakeview neighborhood. It specializes in independent, foreign, classic and cult films, so you won't see many new blockbusters here, if any. The venue shows matinees on Saturdays and Sundays and late-night cult films on Fridays and Saturdays. There's a showing of Christmas films with singalongs in the winter and a 24-hour horror festival in October.

**BTW:** *Luella's Southern Kitchen* is nearby at 4609 N. Lincoln Ave., providing a strong dinner option if you have some time to kill before your feature or are hungry after the show.

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Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60613

- [773-871-6604](tel:773-871-6604)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)



### Stony Island Arts Bank

A former bank in South Shore that looks like a temple, the building was saved from the wrecking ball by artist Theaster Gates. It reopened in 2015 as an arts and cultural hub and media archive that features parties, performances, screenings, panels discussions and more. It hosts several exhibitions a year and houses the entire collection of the legendary DJ Frankie Knuckles (the “godfather of house music”) on vinyl, along with more than 60,000 glass lantern slides of art and architecture donated by the University of Chicago and the Art Institute of Chicago.

**BTW:** *The Black Cinema House also lives here and holds regular screenings and discussions. Check its calendar for events when you’re in town.*

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Stony Island Arts Bank, 6760 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60649

- [312-857-5561](tel:312-857-5561)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)





## Chinatown

Chicago's Chinatown is one of the largest in the country, and it has managed to evade the gentrification that has turned other cities' Chinatowns into shells of themselves. The close-knit community showcases Chinese-inspired architecture, murals and art throughout the neighborhoods. The commercial heart of the area is Chinatown Square — a two-story outdoor mall with restaurants and shops. Other attractions include the Chinese American Museum of Chicago, Ping Tom Memorial Park and Pop KTV, a popular karaoke bar.

**BTW:** *Chiu Quon Bakery and Dim Sum is a great lunch spot for a sweet or savory bun and tea.*

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Chinatown, 2133 S. China Pl., Chicago, Ill. 60616

- [Location](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)

# Explore 3 neighborhoods in Chicago

## 1- A guide to local favorites in Bronzeville, Chicago

Bronzeville earned its nickname, “the Black Metropolis,” early in the 20th century as African Americans flocked here from the South during the Great Migration and helped forge a thriving black hub of culture, business and political organizing. Bronzeville was also the birthplace of the Chicago Black Renaissance arts movement in the mid-20th century. The neighborhood offers visitors solid food and drink options, several artistic and historic assets to explore, ample lakefront space, and the pride and resilience of its residents — many who are working against narratives of their displacement in this famous black enclave.



### Ain't She Sweet Cafe

This buzzing local cafe features a deli-style setup and many sweet and savory options, including its popular jerk wrap.

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Ain't She Sweet Cafe, 526 E. 43rd St., Chicago, Ill. 60653

- [773-373-3530](tel:773-373-3530)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)



- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)



Oakwood Beach

Oakwood Beach features stunning views of the skyline from the southern lakefront, along with ample green space for lounging.

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Oakwood Beach, 4100 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60653

- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)



### South Side Community Arts Center

The rich cultural legacy of this art museum and community space has been integral to the development of local black artists. The center hosts monthly exhibits and events, and it features art for sale.

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South Side Community Arts Center, 3831 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60653

- [773-373-1026](tel:773-373-1026)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)





Victory Monument

This monument, sculpted by Leonard Crunelle, honors the 8th Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, a black unit that served in France during World War I.

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Victory Monument, 3500 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60653

- [Location](#)



Margaret T. Burroughs Beach

A the spot commonly referred to by locals as 31st Street Beach, you can find beautiful views of the skyline, along with a boating harbor. It's named after the black artist, educator and organizer who founded the DuSable Museum of African American History in Washington Park and helped establish Bronzeville's South Side Community Arts Center.

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Margaret T. Burroughs Beach, 3100 S. Lake Shore Dr. Chicago, Ill. 60616

- [312-74-BEACH](#)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)





Ida B. Wells-Barnett House

This is where investigative journalist and civil rights leader Ida B. Wells lived with her husband, Ferdinand Lee Barnett, from 1919 to 1930. It's not open to the public, but it's a local and national historic landmark.

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Ida B. Wells-Barnett House, 3624 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60616

- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)



Yassa African Restaurant

Yassa, a Senegalese restaurant in the heart of Bronzeville, cooks some of the best West African food in the entire city.

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Yassa African Restaurant, 3511 S. King Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60653

- [773-488-5599](tel:773-488-5599)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)

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## 2- A guide to local favorites in Little Village

### Chicago

A thriving Mexican American enclave dubbed “the Mexico of the Midwest,” there’s nothing quite like Little Village in Chicago. The taquerias and panaderias here are top-notch, and the streets hum with energy and delicious smells — especially along 26th Street, the second-busiest shopping district in the city after the Magnificent Mile. You’ll find an array of street merchants, food vendors, Mexican gift shops and boutiques selling everything from Western wear to wedding dresses.



Little Village Arch

“Bienvenidos a Little Village” — this terra cotta gateway welcomes visitors to the area.

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26th St. and Albany St., Chicago, Ill. 60623

- [Location](#)



### Dulcelandia

Make sure to bring your sweet tooth to Dulcelandia. The warehouse store is stocked with thousands of imported Mexican treats and party supplies, including a large selection of piñatas.

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Dulcelandia, 3253 W. 26th St., Chicago, Ill. 60623

- [773-522-3816](tel:773-522-3816)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)





### Open Center for the Arts

A community art gallery and convening space, Open houses artists, entrepreneurs and community leaders in a space to hone and share their craft.

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Open Center for the Arts, 2214 S. Sacramento Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60623

- [773-993-6882](tel:773-993-6882)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)



### Taqueria El Milagro

Known primarily for its tacos, this no-frills Mexican joint serves up simple and delicious food and offers outdoor eating.

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Taqueria El Milagro, 3050 W. 26th St., Chicago, Ill. 60623

- [773-579-6120](tel:773-579-6120)
- [Location](#)





Indio Products

Browse the aisles of this spiritualist shopping center to find oils, soaps, candles, powders, herbs, scented waters and more.

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Indio Products, 3401 W. 26th St., Chicago, Ill. 60623

- [773-823-7371](tel:773-823-7371)
- [Location](#)



Los Candiles Restaurant

Locals flock to this hidden gem, which serves up Mexican food in a friendly environment. Be sure to pop by for an especially excellent breakfast.

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Los Candiles Restaurant, 2624 S. Central Park Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60623

- [773-522-8544](tel:773-522-8544)
- [Location](#)

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### 3- A guide to local favorites in Rogers Park

#### Chicago

Rogers Park, the northernmost neighborhood in Chicago, is one of the most diverse communities in the greater Chicago area. The “Desi Corridor” (also known as “Little India”) along Devon Avenue is a prominent feature in a neighborhood where residents hail from more than 80 countries. There’s a college-town feel with Loyola University in the neighborhood and Northwestern University just north in Evanston. The community, originally developed at the confluence of two prominent Native American trails, has abundant lakefront beaches and parks. Rogers Park accounts for the highest percentage of residents working in the nonprofit sector and has a strong liberal history, along with an underrated arts scene and a plethora of quirky destinations — whether you’re hungry for knowledge or a good bite with a drink.



The Armadillo's Pillow

A cavernous store for used and new books, it features a strong collection of hard-to-find tomes and sells jewelry, incense, art and some vinyl, all with a quirky vibe.

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The Armadillo's Pillow, 6753 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, Ill. 60626

- [773-761-2558](tel:773-761-2558)
- [Location](#)
- [Instagram](#)



### The Mile of Murals

This community initiative is exactly what its name sounds like — a mile of 14 beautiful murals painted on walls, viaducts and overpasses.

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Along Glenwood Avenue, from Pratt Boulevard to Estes Avenue

- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)





Glenwood Sunday Market

Led by volunteers and featuring only local farmers and food artisans, this popular outdoor market is open between June and October.

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Glenwood Sunday Market, 6962 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60626

- [773-508-5885](tel:773-508-5885)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)



### BopNgrill

You can find one of the most interesting burgers in the city, along with some awesome rice dishes, at this Korean-fusion fast-casual gem.

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BopNgrill, 6604 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, Ill. 60626

- [773-654-3224](tel:773-654-3224)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)





Lifeline Theatre

A former ComEd substation now houses an intimate community theater that's a staple of the neighborhood, with a penchant for literary adaptations and kid-friendly plays.

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Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60626

- [773-761-4477](tel:773-761-4477)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)



### Rogers Park Social

Rogers Park Social is a vibrant and cheerful bar with good vibes, craft beers and a curated selection of cocktails.

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Rogers Park Social, 6920 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60626

- [773-791-1419](tel:773-791-1419)
- [Location](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)

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