



# The Niri-Chicago Insider's Guide to Chicago

*April 2015*

Welcome to Chicago for the Niri Annual Conference. In our opinion, there's no better place to spend a few summer days.

Our chapter has compiled suggestions to help you make the most of your time before/after the conference and after the day's events conclude. This is very much an idiosyncratic view – our personal opinions rather than a comprehensive guide – so we've included links to online resources for additional information. We're biased toward nearby locations, so distances (from Google Maps) are mostly based on walking versus driving.

In addition, feel free to ask advice of our chapter members during the conference . . . we'll be wearing Niri-Chicago buttons. Or, take the traditional route and talk to the helpful Hyatt Regency Chicago concierge.

Enjoy!

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# Chicago by Day

## LANDMARKS

- **Millennium Park**, 201 E. Randolph St. (between Michigan Avenue and Columbus Avenue, 0.5 mile from the Hyatt Regency Chicago). Open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sights include Crown Fountain, Cloud Gate (otherwise known as “the Bean”), BP Bridge and Lurie Garden. [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org)
- **Grant Park**, 337 E. Randolph St. (bordered on the north by Randolph Street, on the south by Roosevelt Road, on the west by Michigan Avenue and on the east by Lake Michigan). Open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Notable features include Millennium Park, [Buckingham Fountain](#), the Art Institute of Chicago and Museum Campus (Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, Soldier Field). [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/grant-park](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/grant-park)
- **Michigan Avenue** or the “Magnificent Mile,” downtown’s premier shopping district, runs from Oak Street south to the Chicago River (which is just steps away from the Hyatt Regency). [www.themagnificentmile.com](http://www.themagnificentmile.com)
- **Site of Fort Dearborn**. Look for a bronze marker in the pavement at Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive (0.1 mile from the Hyatt Regency). This marks the approximate site of the first [Fort Dearborn](#) (built by about 1808 and near the site of a “massacre” of American soldiers and settlers by Native Americans in 1812) and the second Fort Dearborn (built about 1816 and demolished in 1857).
- **Tribune Tower**, 435 N Michigan Ave (0.3 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Built between 1922 and 1925, the neo-Gothic [Tribune Tower](#) was the result of a \$50,000 international design competition funded by Chicago Tribune publisher Colonel Robert R. McCormick. The building’s base contains 120 stones from global landmarks, including the Parthenon, Taj Mahal, Great Wall of China and Alamo.
- **Tiffany Dome** at the **Chicago Cultural Center**, 77 E. Randolph St. (0.4 mile from the Hyatt Regency). The building was completed in 1897 as the city’s first central public library. The [Tiffany dome](#) is the world’s largest – 38 feet in diameter and containing 30,000+ pieces of glass. Another dome on the north side of the building, designed by Healy & Millet, is 40 feet in diameter and contains 50,000 pieces of glass in a Renaissance pattern.
- **The Chicago Water Tower**, 806 N. Michigan Ave. (0.7 mile from the Hyatt Regency). This was one of the few buildings to survive the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. It was constructed between 1867 and 1869. Today, the [City Gallery](#) in the Historic Water Tower features photography and art exhibits and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **The John Hancock Building**, near the north end of the Magnificent Mile at 875 N. Michigan Ave. (0.8 mile from the Hyatt Regency), used to be Chicago’s tallest building and still has a great view. The observation deck is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. [www.360chicago.com](http://www.360chicago.com)
- **The Rookery**, 209 S. LaSalle St. (1.1 miles from the Hyatt Regency), is the oldest standing high-rise in Chicago. Completed in 1888, this 11-story building was one of the earliest examples of large-scale use of metal framing with masonry walls. [History](#)
- **Willis Tower**, formerly the Sears Tower, 233 S. Wacker Drive (1.3 miles from the Hyatt). North America’s tallest building has a skydeck on the 103rd floor that is open to visitors from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. in June. Skydeck admission can be combined with various tours and tickets to other Chicago attractions. <http://theskydeck.com/plan-a-visit/>

- **Navy Pier**, 600 E. Grand Ave. (0.9 mile from Hyatt Regency). You'll find a magnificent view, cruise ship docking, restaurants, shops, an IMAX theater, the Chicago Children's Museum, lots of tourists, and a gigantic Ferris wheel that recalls the one featured at Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The pier was built in 1916 as a cargo facility for lake freighters and has had many uses over the years, including as University of Illinois classroom space. Starting June 1, Navy Pier is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday. [www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com)

## TOURS

- **Chicago Architectural Foundation**, 224 S. Michigan Ave. (at Jackson St., 0.8 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Learn the stories of our buildings. Choose from more than 85 walking and boat tours that last an hour to 3.5 hours. [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org)
- **Shoreline Sightseeing** boat tours depart from the dock at 401 N. Michigan Ave. (0.2 mile from the Hyatt Regency) or Navy Pier. See Chicago in style from the vantage point of Lake Michigan and/or the Chicago River. [www.shorelinesightseeing.com](http://www.shorelinesightseeing.com)
- **Chicago Trolley & Double Decker Co.** offers one- and three-day tickets that allow you to get on and off the bus to explore Chicago. You can purchase tickets [online](#) or at a number of [trolley stops](#). [www.coachusa.com/chicagotrolley](http://www.coachusa.com/chicagotrolley)
- **Segway Tours**, Lake Point Tower, 505 N. Lake Shore Drive across from Navy Pier (0.7 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Learn how to safely ride a Segway so you can see more, faster on your trip to Chicago. [www.chicagosegwaytour.com](http://www.chicagosegwaytour.com)
- **Movie tours:** We can personally vouch for the excellence of the [Chicago Film Tour](#). Alternatively, Viator's [Chicago Movie Tour](#) will bus you to 75+ movie locations over two hours, and was self-nominated in the [Huffington Post](#). Or, take a "virtual tour" thanks to these online lists of [15 famous Chicago movie locations](#), [films made in Chicago](#), [top Chicago chase scenes](#) and [John Hughes' Chicago](#).
- **Free Tours by Foot:** After it's over, pay what you consider the tour to have been worth.
- Self-guided walking tours include the [Chicago Loop Sculpture Walk](#), [MetroWalkz](#) and [GPSMyCity](#).

## Save Money

- **Chicago CityPASS** is a booklet of admission tickets to five tourist attractions. You'll save 51% compared to combined regular box office prices. CityPASS booklets are valid for nine consecutive days beginning on the day of first use. Visit the attractions in any order you wish. Learn more and purchase online at [www.citypass.com/chicago](http://www.citypass.com/chicago)
- **Go Chicago® Card** allows you to visit up to 26 attractions and save up to 55% versus paying for each upon admission. Learn more and purchase [online](#).
- **Chicago's Visitor Information Centers** also sell these passes. The closest location is 0.4 mile away from the Hyatt Regency at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St., and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

## MUSEUMS

- **The Art Institute of Chicago**, 111 S. Michigan Ave. (0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency). You simply have to pace yourself. Should you focus on the modern art wing, starting with Picasso's [Old Guitarist](#)? Or dive into the impressive Impressionist collection of Monets, Manets, Gauguins, Van Goghs, Renoirs and a perennial favorite, Georges Seurat's [A Sunday on La Grande Jatte](#)? Or view Roman, Greek, Asian, African, Native American art and artifacts? Arms and armor? Photography? The choice is all yours. [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu)
- **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago**, 220 E Chicago Ave. (0.8 mile from the Hyatt Regency), offers exhibitions of the most thought-provoking art created since 1945 – painting, sculpture, photography, video and film, and performance. [www2.mcachicago.org](http://www2.mcachicago.org)
- **Shedd Aquarium**, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive (1.8 miles from the Hyatt Regency). This is the largest indoor aquarium in the world, with more than 8,000 aquatic animals. The sharks (Wild Reef exhibit), beluga whales and dolphins (Abbott Oceanarium) are particular crowd-pleasers. [www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org)
- **Adler Planetarium**, 1300 South Lake Shore Drive (2.2 miles from the Hyatt Regency). The exhibits are great, but the shows are what really make you feel as though you're flying in space (and are much more comfortable than the real thing would be). Plus, bring your camera to capture a fantastic view of the city from this area of the Museum Campus and nearby Northerly Island. [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)
- **Field Museum**, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive (1.8 miles from the Hyatt Regency). See Sue, the largest, best-preserved and most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossil found to date. Marvel at the Midwest's largest mummy collection and two authentic rooms from a 5,000-year-old Egyptian tomb. Learn about cultures around the world, evolution, conservation, jade, jewels and more. [www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org)
- **The Chicago History Museum** is north instead of south of our conference hotel – two miles away from the Hyatt Regency at 1601 N. Clark St. In comparison to the previously mentioned museums, this one is compact and easy to tour in a relatively short time. If you have time for nothing else, check out [Chicago: Crossroads of America](#) so you can wow your NIRI colleagues with facts about our city's evolution. [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)
- **Museum of Science and Industry**, 5700 S Lake Shore Drive (7.8 miles south of the Hyatt Regency). This is the largest science museum in the Western Hemisphere – in part, because the building was constructed for the aforementioned 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (it was the Palace of Fine Arts). Generations of Chicago schoolchildren have toured the U-505 submarine (the only German sub in the United States) and the coal mine. Fun newer exhibits include [Science Storms](#). [www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org)

## SPORTS

- **Chicago Cubs** at Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison St. (4.7 miles from the Hyatt Regency). The [Cubs](#) play home games on June 11-14 (versus the Reds) and June 15-16 (versus the Indians). Wrigley Field is [under construction](#) but still is a not-to-be-missed summertime experience.
- **Chicago White Sox** at U.S. Cellular Field, 333 West 35th St. (4.4 miles from the Hyatt Regency). The [Sox](#) are out of town for most of the NIRI conference, but return on [June 17](#) to play the Pirates at 7:10 p.m. Post-game fireworks occur only on the weekends.

Other ideas:

- [Choose Chicago: tours and attractions](#)
- [Chicago Traveler - most popular attractions](#)
- [Chicago Sun-Times sports section](#) (where our sports fans go first for local team news)
- [Fun events in June 2015](#)
- [What to do in Chicago](#)

# Chicago at Night

## BLUES CLUBS

The “Chicago blues” are known around the world. Here are what we consider to be our city’s most classic blues clubs . . . but click through the links at the end of this section for other ideas. You can’t go wrong in visiting any of these clubs. Arrive early to make sure you can get in, especially on the weekend. Club hours, showtimes and cover charges vary.

- **Kingston Mines**, 2548 N Halsted St. (3.5 miles from the Hyatt Regency). Calling itself the oldest and largest late-night blues club, Kingston Mines offers two live blues bands on two stages playing music continually until 4 a.m. (5 a.m. on Saturdays). [www.kingstonmines.com](http://www.kingstonmines.com)
- **B.L.U.E.S.**, 2519 N Halsted St., is just down the street from Kingston Mines. It’s nothing fancy – just good music and nice people. [www.chicagobluesbar.com](http://www.chicagobluesbar.com)
- **Buddy Guy’s Legends**, 700 S. Wabash (in the south Loop, 1.2 miles from the Hyatt Regency). At age 78, Buddy Guy is a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, a living link to Chicago’s blues history, and a major influence on rock and blues musicians alike. Plus, he books great bands. Legends offers “acoustic lunches” and dinners but no one under 21 is admitted after 8 p.m. [www.buddyguy.com](http://www.buddyguy.com)

Other ideas:

- [The nine best blues clubs in Chicago](#)
- [The five best blues clubs in Chicago](#)
- [The history of the blues in Chicago](#)

## THEATER

Whether you want to see a nationally touring play or enjoy theater that was born in Chicago, you have a multitude of choices. The following are top-of-mind big names when someone says “theater in Chicago,” but we’ve included links to information about these and other great theater companies too numerous to list here.

- **Goodman Theater**, 170 N. Dearborn St. (0.5 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Established in 1922, the Goodman has received a Special Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Not to name-drop or anything, but numerous nationally [renowned actors](#) who’ve performed here include Brian Dennehy, William Hurt, James Earl Jones, Harvey Keitel, Linda Lavin, Lynn Redgrave and Christopher Walken. [www.goodmantheatre.org](http://www.goodmantheatre.org)
- **Steppenwolf Theater**, three theaters at 1650 N. Halsted St. (2.6 miles from the Hyatt Regency). Steppenwolf co-founders Jeff Perry, Terry Kinney and Gary Sinise began producing plays in 1974 and have earned national and international recognition ever since, including 12 Tony Awards and the National Medal of Arts. John Malkovich is among the Steppenwolf’s award-winning actors. [www.steppenwolf.org](http://www.steppenwolf.org)

Other ideas:

- [League of Chicago Theaters](#)

- [ChicagoTheater.com](http://ChicagoTheater.com)
- [Broadway in Chicago](#)
- [Chicago Traveler - theater directory and links](#)
- [Theater Mania](#)
- [Theater in Chicago](#)

### **Save Money**

- HotTix: Half-price theater tickets offered by the League of Chicago Theaters. Order online at [www.hottix.org](http://www.hottix.org) or visit the closest HotTix retail outlet at 72 E. Randolph St., across the street from the Chicago Cultural Center and 0.4 mile away from the Hyatt Regency.

### **OTHER NIGHTLIFE IDEAS**

- **Comedy clubs:** Homegrown favorites include two famous comedy clubs near each other in Chicago's Old Town (2.4 miles away from the Hyatt Regency). [The Second City](#), 1616 N. Wells St. and other locations, has been making people laugh for [50 years](#). Alternatively, [Zanies](#), 1548 N. Wells St. and other locations, is a 35+-year veteran.
- **Craft beers/breweries:** [Goose Island](#) may be the best-known of Chicago's breweries, but they range in size all the way down to tiny two-room [Lake Effect Brewing Company](#), which was named for the Lake Michigan water in its beer.
- **Most romantic bar:** Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. (at Ohio, 0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Enjoy your choice of nearly 200 champagnes and sparkling wines while listening to a jazz trio. [www.popsforchampagne.com](http://www.popsforchampagne.com)

Other ideas:

- [Chicago beer destinations: breweries](#)
- [The 13 best craft beer bars in Chicago](#)
- [Chicago nightlife](#)
- [Top 10 dance clubs](#) and [top 10 dance clubs](#)
- [Not for tourists](#)

## Our Favorite Nearby Restaurants

This was undoubtedly the most challenging section to write. There are hundreds (thousands?) of wonderful restaurants in Chicago and the suburbs, and such a wide range of cuisines and price points from which to choose. So, we focused on restaurants that were relatively close to the Hyatt Regency, restaurants that are truly Chicago-specific, and/or the places where we take our out-of-town guests. Hours (dinner, lunch and/or brunch) and reservation policies vary. Estimated price ranges are from Open Table and/or from the restaurant's website.

### DEEP DISH CHICAGO PIZZA

Yes, we have thin crust pizza (although *our* crust makes a nice “crunch” sound, unlike New York pizza). We have Neapolitan pizzas baked in wood-burning ovens. We even have upside-down pizza – specifically, a “pizza pot pie” invented in 1972 at [Chicago Pizza and Oven Grinder](#), 2121 N. Clark St., almost directly across the street from the site of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929. But Chicago is best-known for deep dish pizza, baked in a round 1½” deep pan and a sure-fire guarantee that you will not leave the table hungry.

- **Uno's**, 29 E. Ohio at Wabash (0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency), is generally accepted as the birthplace of deep dish pizza in 1943. The founders, former University of Texas football star Ike Sewell and Ric Riccardo, also opened nearby Due's (more pizza) and Su Casa (Mexican). Uno's has franchised locations around the country – but this is the original. 312-321-1000 or [www.unos.com](http://www.unos.com). \$30 and under.
- **Malnati's**, multiple locations including 439 N. Wells St. (0.6 mile away from the Hyatt Regency), also claims that its founder Rudy Malnati invented deep dish while working at Uno's. The more, the merrier from our perspective. 312-828-9800 or [www.loumalnatis.com](http://www.loumalnatis.com). \$30 and under.
- **The Original Gino's East** is another Chicago classic, albeit dating back “only” to 1966. The original location is gone, but the nearest of its multiple locations is 521 S. Dearborn St. (0.6 mile away from the Hyatt Regency). This is one restaurant where you won't be scolded for writing your name to the walls – literally. 312-939-1818 or [www.ginoseast.com](http://www.ginoseast.com). \$30 and under.

### SETTING THE TREND / FAMOUS CHEFS AND SOMMELIERS

At the other extreme from plain old pizza, Chicago has dozens of innovative chefs showcasing new techniques and truly innovative yet delicious food. (Not just our opinion: Read Open Table's [2015 Top 100 Hot Spot Restaurants in America](#), April 2015.) Reservations are highly recommended when the restaurant offers them – and *don't* wait till you arrive in our city to call, or you may miss your opportunity. Sometimes you can get a table if you are willing to dine very early or late.

- **Sunda**, 110 W Illinois St. (0.7 mile from the Hyatt Regency in the River North area). Executive Chef [Jess DeGuzman](#) offers “New Asian” – contemporary interpretations of traditional dishes from Japan, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines – plus special events such as sake tastings. 312-644-0500 or [www.sundachicago.com](http://www.sundachicago.com). \$31 to \$50.



- **RPM Italian**, 52 W. Illinois St. (0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Chef partner [Doug Psaltis](#) offers a menu of sharable cold and hot antipasti, more than a dozen freshly prepared in-house pastas, salads, prime steaks, chops and slow-roasted meats. This is a Chicago-based Lettuce Entertain You restaurant (the initials RPM refer to principals Bill and Giuliana Rancic, executive chef Doug Psaltis and the Lettuce founder's kids, R.J., Jerrod and Molly Melman). 312-222-1888 or [www.rpmitalian.com](http://www.rpmitalian.com). \$30 and under.
- **RPM Steak**, 66 W. Kinzie St. (0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency). According to the [Chicago Tribune](#), "Most steakhouses offer a choice of cuts and sizes, but RPM's options are so wide-ranging as to be almost disorienting. There are dry-aged prime steaks, grass-fed steaks, filets (one of them bison) and a couple of signature cuts, along with a massive American wagyu rib-eye and A5 wagyu from Japan." See for yourself. 312-284-4990 or [www.rpmsteak.com](http://www.rpmsteak.com). \$50+
- **Girl and the Goat**, 809 W. Randolph (1.8 miles from the Hyatt Regency in the Randolph Market area). Chef [Stephanie Izard](#) offers innovative entrees and small plates, fun cocktails and a very cool vibe. This has been one of Chicago's most creative dining spots since it opened in 2010. If you can't get a table, try for the more casual [Little Goat Diner](#) next door. 312-492-6262 or [www.girlandthegoat.com](http://www.girlandthegoat.com). \$30 and under.
- **Chuck's**, 224 N. Michigan Ave. (0.2 mile from the Hyatt Regency, between Millennium Park and the Magnificent Mile). This is the first Chicago restaurant for Iron Chef [Kerry Simon](#), and features classics that can include anything from braised short ribs to bourbon glazed salmon. 312-334-6700 or [chuckschicago.com](http://chuckschicago.com). \$30 and under.
- **Seven Lions**, 130 S. Michigan Ave. (0.3 mile from the Hyatt Regency, across from the Art Institute), is the newest restaurant from Alpana Singh. She became locally famous as the host of WTTW-TV's "[Check, Please!](#)" and nationally famous as [sommelier](#) at Chicago's acclaimed Everest Restaurant – at the ripe old age of 23. 312-880-0130 or <http://sevenlionschicago.com/www/>. \$30 and under.
- **Fig and Olive**, 104 E. Oak St. (1.1 miles from the Hyatt Regency in the Gold Coast/ Magnificent Mile shopping district). Founder Laurent Halasz and Executive Chef [Pascal Lorange](#) evoke the French Riviera, from the setting to the food. They also have four locations in New York and two in California. (312) 445-0060 or [www.figandolive.com](http://www.figandolive.com). \$31 to \$50.
- **Alinea**, 1723 N. Halsted St. (2.7 miles from the Hyatt Regency in Lincoln Park). Alinea was founded in 2005 by nationally known star chef [Grant Achatz](#) and Nick Kokonas. It features a single, seasonally driven tasting menu of 18-22 courses, often featuring foam and other "food science." Tickets (called "bookings") can be purchased up to two months in advance at <http://website.alinearestaurant.com>. 312-867-0110. \$50+. If you'd like to try another Achatz restaurant, check out [Next](#) in the Randolph Market area. \$50+.
- **Les Nomades**, 222 E. Ontario St. (0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency in Streeterville). The chef is [Roland Liccioni](#), formerly of the world-famous and sadly closed Le Francais. We recommend the prix fixe (\$115 to \$130 per person) with wine pairings – and gentlemen, do not forget your jackets. 312-649-9010 or [www.lesnomades.net](http://www.lesnomades.net). \$50+.
- **Tru**, 676 N. St. Clair St. (0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Four-star chef [Anthony Martin](#) offers "progressive French" cuisine in a setting where the [art](#) (and prices) are just as impressive as the food and drink. Jacket required. The prix fixe ranges from \$125 to \$158 per person, with wine pairings at \$95 to \$125 – but it's actually worth the splurge. 312-202-0001 or [www.trurestaurant.com](http://www.trurestaurant.com). \$50+.

- **Topolobampo** (fine dining, \$31-\$50) and **Frontera Grill**, 445 N. Clark St. (\$30 and under) are 0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency. [Rick Bayless](#) offers contemporary regional Mexican cuisine based on extensive research in Mexico . . . and has parlayed his expertise into cookbooks, TV shows and prepared foods at your local grocery store. 312-661-1434 or [www.rickbayless.com/restaurants](http://www.rickbayless.com/restaurants).
- **The Purple Pig**, 500 N. Michigan Ave. (0.3 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Famous Chicago chefs Scott Harris of [Mia Francesca](#), Tony Mantuano of [Spiaggia](#) and Jimmy Bannos and [Jimmy Bannos Jr.](#) of [Heaven on Seven](#) collaborate to offer “cheese, swine and wine” and other Mediterranean foods at this truly unique restaurant. No reservations are offered, but it's worth trying to get in. 312-464-1PIG (1744) or [www.thepurplepigchicago.com](http://www.thepurplepigchicago.com). \$30/under.

Other ideas:

- *Chicago Magazine's* [2015 best new restaurants](#)
- *Chicago Magazine's* [The Hot List](#)
- [Zagat's trendy Chicago restaurants](#)
- Chicago Eater's [hottest restaurants](#)

## SEAFOOD AND STEAK

- **Shaw's Crab House**, 21 E. Hubbard St. (0.4 mile away from the Hyatt Regency). When you live far, far away from any ocean, good seafood is not taken for granted. For many of us Chicagoans, Shaw's was an eye-opening experience when it opened in 1985. It's part of the hometown Lettuce Entertain You restaurants, and offers 1940s décor, live music on some nights, and a great oyster bar. 312-527-2722 or [www.shawscrabhouse.com](http://www.shawscrabhouse.com). \$31 to \$50.
- **Eddie V's Prime Seafood** (and steak), 521 N. Rush St. at Grand Avenue (in the Shops at North Bridge complex along with Nordstrom's, 0.4 mile away from the Hyatt Regency). The first and award-winning Eddie V's was opened in Austin, Texas in 2000. Its various restaurants around the country are now owned by Darden, and offer fresh seafood, aged steaks and live jazz. 312-595-1114 or [www.eddiev.com](http://www.eddiev.com). \$31 to \$50.
- **Gibson's**, 1028 N. Rush St. at Oak Street (1.1 miles from the Hyatt Regency). Opened in 1989, this has always been a see-and-be-seen restaurant for politicians, celebrities and athletes – and has some truly amazing photos on the walls to prove it. Plus, Gibson's is the only restaurant group in the country to have its own USDA prime certification, for its corn-fed “region-specific” and “breed-specific Black Angus.” (Outstanding seafood, too.) 312-266-8999 or [www.gibsonssteakhouse.com](http://www.gibsonssteakhouse.com). \$50+.
- **Lawry's The Prime Rib**, 100 E. Ontario St. (0.5 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Another favorite of the traditionalists here in Chicago, Lawry's opened in 1974 and occupies the former McCormick mansion, which was built in the 1890s. It's known for prime rib of beef served tableside from silver carts – that's quite a production – and for the Lawry's seasoned salt you find in your local grocery store. (\$31 to \$50.) If you prefer something more casual, look for the [SideDoor](#) gastro pub entrance on the Rush Street side of the building. (\$30 and under.) 312-787-5000 or [www.lawrysonline.com](http://www.lawrysonline.com).

Other ideas:

- [Zagat: Chicago's top steakhouses](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

- **The Gage**, 24 S. Michigan Ave. (0.5 mile from the Hyatt Regency, across from Millennium Park). “Upscale yet casual dining” ranges from eggs to seafood, burgers and fish & chips . . . plus a nice selection of craft beers, single malts and wine. There’s something on this menu for everyone. 312-372-4243 or [www.thegagechicago.com](http://www.thegagechicago.com). \$30 and under.
- **Bistrot Zinc**, 1131 N. State St. (1.2 miles from the Hyatt Regency). A fun neighborhood restaurant with moderately-priced classic and contemporary French food. 312-337-1131 or [www.bistrotzinc.com](http://www.bistrotzinc.com). \$30 and under.
- **Greektown** runs along Halsted Street from Van Buren to Madison Street (1.8 miles from the Hyatt Regency). Excellent dining choices – all within walking distance of each other – include [Pegasus](#) (have a full meal inside or enjoy a drink and the view from the rooftop patio), [Greek Islands](#) (well-known for its lamb with artichokes and other specialties), and [Santorini](#) (our choice for seafood). It’s claimed that the tableside flaming of saganaki cheese (“Opa!”) was invented at the [Parthenon](#) restaurant. \$30 and under.
- **The Rosebud Restaurants** were named after the original [Rosebud](#) at 1500 W. Taylor St. in Chicago’s Little Italy. Think huge portions and a wide assortment of pasta, veal, chicken, salads and other Italian specialties. Or, try [Carmine’s](#), 1043 N. Rush St., for all the Italian specialties plus steak and seafood. \$31 to \$50.
- **Harry Caray’s**, 33 W. Kinzie St., (0.6 mile from the Hyatt Regency) and other locations, also combines steak and Italian dishes, plus sports memorabilia. [Harry Caray](#) was the unique voice of the Chicago Cubs ([Holy cow!](#)) from 1982 until his death in 1998 – and before that, for the Chicago White Sox, St. Louis Cardinals and Oakland A’s. 773-465-9269 (yes, that’s 773-HOLY-COW). \$31 to \$50.
- **The Fulton-Randolph Market District** (1.6 to 2.1 miles from the Hyatt Regency) was a wholesale produce and meatpacking market from the [1850s](#) on – a place where “truck farmers” brought their produce for purchase by food wholesalers to sell in turn to restaurants and grocers. Today, the wholesalers are moving out and restaurants and bars are moving into the West Loop area, including the aforementioned [Girl and the Goat](#) and [Next](#), plus [Avec](#), [Blackbird](#), [Carnivale](#), [Fulton Market Kitchen](#), [La Sardine](#), [Sepia](#), [Urbanbelly](#), [Vivo](#) and more. In other words, this section of Chicago is a foodie’s paradise.
- Worth a special mention: **Carnivale**, 702 W. Fulton Market (1.3 miles from the Hyatt Regency). The restaurant offers “Latin fusion” cuisine that you can’t find just anywhere, plus a dramatic setting. Great for brunch, lunch, dinner or just drinks. 312-850-5005 or [www.carnivalechicago.com](http://www.carnivalechicago.com). \$30 and under.
- **RL**, 115 E Chicago Ave. (0.7 mile from the Hyatt Regency on the Magnificent Mile). Yup, designer Ralph Lauren opened a restaurant. It’s a great place to enjoy both a “club atmosphere” and “American classics” (including [brunch](#)). 312-475-1100 or [www.rlrestaurant.com](http://www.rlrestaurant.com). \$31 to \$50.
- **Pelago Ristorante**, 201 E. Delaware Place (1 mile from the Hyatt Regency). “Upscale Italian dining” includes seafood and homemade pastas, such as a highly recommended pasta with truffle sauce. 312-280-0700 or [www.pelagorestaurant.com](http://www.pelagorestaurant.com). \$30 to \$50.

- [Shanghai Terrace](#), 108 E. Superior (in the Peninsula Hotel, 0.7 mile from the Hyatt Regency). Zagat rates this as Chicago's best Chinese restaurant, and it has a fabulous skyline view. The outdoor terrace is open in June. 312-573-6695. \$31 to \$50.

Other ideas:

- [CitySearch - restaurants](#)
- [Chicago Magazine restaurant guide](#)
- [Open Table online reservations](#)
- [Zagat restaurant guide - Chicago](#)
- Zagat: [Randolph Street Restaurants](#)
- [Fodor's Travel - Chicago restaurants](#)
- [Metromix/Chicago Tribune restaurant guide](#)
- [Chicago Reader restaurant guide](#)