

Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- The James (p219)
- Hotel Monaco (p216)
- Hotel Burnham (p217)
- Affinia Chicago (p221)
- Hotel Indigo (p224)
- Peninsula (p218)
- Hostelling International-Chicago (p218)
- Gold Coast Guest House (p226)
- Wicker Park Inn (p229)
- Essex Inn (p230)

SLEEPING

Look out from a wall of windows onto a stunning panorama of Lake Michigan and Navy Pier, submerge yourself in a bubble bath surrounded by rose petals, borrow a goldfish to keep as a pet during your stay... You'll have no problem finding over-the-top-end experiences at Chicago hotels. What's a bit harder to track down is a reasonable rate. This city is convention central, so demand is high year-round. Even 'cheap' motels aren't really. If you're willing to be flexible with your dates, reservation staff can help you work around convention times. Consolidators and online room bookers are another way to go if cost-cutting is your primary objective (for more, see [Saving Strategies p216](#)). Because of conventions, there is no easily definable 'high season,' though nonconvention-related rates climb in summer (June to August), especially on weekends.

Though there are a handful of hostels in town, the vast majority of the city's 30,000 rooms are in high-rise hotels. Many of the buildings date from the early 1900s, which can mean some pretty miniscule rooms by today's US standards. If you want space, you'll need to upgrade to a higher class (deluxe, grand deluxe...) in older properties. Boutique hotels abound, mixed in among the newer-construction million-room marvels. Most hotels are affiliated with one chain or other. Of the 3000 or so rooms expected to be built by 2010, it's those in the **Trump Tower** (www.trumphicago.com; 401 N Wabash), that really have people talking. The 92-story riverfront building is under construction at the time of writing. Hotel condominiums (with full kitchens) will occupy the 17th to 27th floors only.

With so many choices, picking a place can be daunting. Choosing your neighborhood first helps. Shopping-bag-toting tourists crowd the streets and pack into the high-priced Gold Coast hotels. Just to the south, the ever so slightly more moderate Near North lodgings are close to nightlife and shopping, but at least a step or two removed from the throngs. You feel the shift from pleasure to business as you cross the river south into the Loop. Hotels here are right in the gritty city heart. With an El station every couple of blocks, you can get most anywhere in town easily. Generally speaking, the further south you go, the lower the hotel prices. There are a few good deals in the South Loop and beyond, some overlooking the lakefront.

Less central, but more personal, are area bed-and-breakfasts. A few old town homes – in Wicker Park, Lake View and Andersonville – have been turned into great places to stay. (There are even a couple north in the Gold Coast.) Eat at local haunts, drink at neighborhood bars – sightseeing closer to town is just a train ride away. Pluses like free internet, comfy surroundings and some free parking give B&Bs more bang for the midrange buck. Unless otherwise noted, breakfast is continental (rolls, pastries, fruit, juice, coffee) here and at other places that offer free morning munchies. Most have minimum-stay requirements, and the older buildings do generally let in some street noise. In addition to the B&Bs listed below, you can also check out [Bed & Breakfast Chicago](#) (www.chicago-bed-breakfast.com).

LONGER-TERM RENTALS

Staying a week or more? Condos, apartments and corporate rentals often have prime locations. But besides being able to cook your own meals, there's not always a cost advantage. Parking is extra, but internet access is sometimes included. Extended stay hotels, which generally have two rooms and at least a microwave and minifridge, are listed in the appropriate neighborhood section. For more on all types of long-term accommodation check out www.biz-stay.com.

You can occasionally find a bargain online at Sublet.com (www.sublet.com), where apartment owners sublease their place by the week or the month. Only premium listings are free to con-

tact. Otherwise you have to pay \$25 to join. Rates run from \$450-1500 a week for a one bedroom rental. You can find a bedroom in a shared apartment (\$85 night to \$700 a month) or whole studio or one-bedroom apartment to sublet (from \$575 per month) at Craigslislist (www.chicago.craigslislist.org).

Some services that usually offer longer term rentals are also available by the night (from

PRICE GUIDE

\$\$\$	over \$250 a night
\$\$	\$125-249 a night
\$	under \$125 a night