

Hyde Park & South Side

HYDE PARK | BRIDGEPORT | BRONZEVILLE

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Gawking at the eye-popping stained glass and horizontal design of **Robie House** (p194), Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie-style masterpiece.
- 2 Exploring the U-boat, doll house and mock tornado at the **Museum of Science & Industry** (p195).
- 3 Strolling by **Obama's house** (p197) and the other distinctive architecture in Kenwood.
- 4 Seeking out the stage where Louis Armstrong played at **Meyers Ace Hardware Store** (p200).
- 5 Losing yourself in the labyrinth at **57th Street Books** (p204).



For more detail of this area see Map p318 ➔

Explore: Hyde Park & South Side

The South Side is huge, but most of the sights are concentrated in three areas: Hyde Park, home to the gargyle-cluttered University of Chicago; Bridgeport, a traditional Irish neighborhood that has become a pocket of cool, sprinkled with artists studios and hip restaurants; and Bronzeville, the historic heart of Chicago's black arts and cultural scene.

In Hyde Park, the intersection of 57th St and S University Ave is a great place to start exploring the neighborhood. That'll put you close to the brainy bookstores, Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House and the site where the atomic age began. You could spend a day here easily. Architecture buffs and black-history enthusiasts should block out an afternoon for Bronzeville. Bridgeport's bars and White Sox baseball games make it ideal for an evening visit.

Beyond these areas, explorers will find neighborhoods that are slowly piecing things together in the shadow of some of the country's bleakest housing projects, the neglected flip side of the immaculately groomed Chicago pictured in tourist brochures. Around 74th and 75th Sts you'll find a stretch of soul food, blues and jazz, but you'll need a car to get there.

Local Life

➔ **Third Fridays** The monthly open studios night that Bridgeport Art Center (p200) and Zhou B Art Center (p200) sponsor has become one of the city's coolest soirees.

➔ **Community Bar** The name doesn't lie at Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar (p203): it really is a communal watering hole. Schaller's Pump (p204) is the old-school version down the road.

➔ **Neighborhood News** For years neighborhood folks – including a gent named Barack Obama – have gathered to gossip while forking into Southern-style biscuits, bacon and pot pies at Valois Cafeteria (p201).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Number 6 runs from State St in the Loop to Hyde Park (it's relatively quick since it goes express between 11th and 47th Sts). Bus 8 motors along Hasted St for Bridgeport.

➔ **El** Green Line to 35th-Bronzeville-IIT for Bronzeville and the Illinois Institute of Technology sights. Red Line to Sox-35th for the ballpark.

➔ **Metra** 55th-56th-57th St station for Hyde Park, 51st-53rd St station for Kenwood.

➔ **Car** Hyde Park can be tight. Free parking is available on the street and in university parking lots after 4pm weekdays and all day on weekends. Bridgeport and Bronzeville shouldn't be a problem.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Don't be put off by the distance of these southern neighborhoods from downtown. They're all easy to reach by public transportation, especially Hyde Park, and the sights, bookshops, bars and restaurants offer a true, exceptional slice of Chicago. Really, where else are you going to see President Obama's bulletproof-glass-encased barber chair?

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pleasant House Bakery (p203)
- ➔ Nana (p203)
- ➔ Valois Cafeteria (p201)
- ➔ Soul Vegetarian East (p203)
- ➔ Medici (p203)

For reviews, see p201 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar (p203)
- ➔ Jimmy's Woodlawn Tap (p203)
- ➔ Bernice's Tavern (p203)
- ➔ Schaller's Pump (p204)

For reviews, see p203 ➔

Best Museums

- ➔ Robie House (p194)
- ➔ Museum of Science & Industry (p195)
- ➔ Smart Museum of Art (p196)
- ➔ Oriental Institute (p196)
- ➔ DuSable Museum of African American History (p196)

For reviews, see p196 ➔