

# Near North & Navy Pier

## Neighborhood Top Five

- ❶ Walking on boat-decked **Navy Pier** (p69) and taking in the views – especially from the stomach-churning 150ft Ferris wheel.
- ❷ Hefting a gooey slice of deep-dish pizza at **Giordano's** (p75).
- ❸ Shopping with the frenzied masses on the **Magnificent Mile** (p72).
- ❹ Gawping at glassy Michael Jordan in the **Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows** (p74).
- ❺ Submerging beneath Michigan Ave to knock back burgers and Schlitz beer at the **Billy Goat Tavern** (p74).



For more detail of this area see Map p292 and p295 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Navy Pier is about a mile from the El station and the pier itself is a half-mile long. Prepare for lots of walking. The free trolley can help in summer. It picks up at the Red Line Grand station, then makes several stops along Illinois St heading east toward the pier. It then runs the length of the pier, before looping back along Grand Ave to the El station.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Xoco (p75)
- ➔ Giordano's (p75)
- ➔ Graham Elliot (p77)
- ➔ Billy Goat Tavern (p74)
- ➔ Mr Beef (p75)

For reviews, see p74 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Clark Street Ale House (p78)
- ➔ Harry Caray's Tavern (p78)
- ➔ Brehon Pub (p78)
- ➔ Watershed (p78)
- ➔ Dollop (p78)

For reviews, see p78 ➔



### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Jazz Record Mart (p79)
- ➔ Abraham Lincoln Book Shop (p79)
- ➔ Garrett Popcorn (p79)
- ➔ Nike Chicago (p80)
- ➔ AllSaints (p80)

For reviews, see p79 ➔

## Explore Near North & Navy Pier

The Loop may be where Chicago fortunes are made, but the Near North is where those fortunes are spent. Shops, restaurants and amusements abound. This is also where the majority of hotels roll out their welcome mats.

The epicenter is the upscale shopping haven of N Michigan Ave, aka the Magnificent Mile (Mag Mile). Stretching north from the Chicago River to Oak St, the road is silly with multistory malls, high-end department stores and outlets of big-name national chains. More than 450 shops ka-ching in the tidy span.

In the River North area, west of State St, art is the big business. What was formerly a grimy, noisy assortment of warehouses and factories has become Chicago's most prestigious gallery district.

Utting off Near North's eastern end is Navy Pier, which attracts more visitors than any other sight in Chicago. It's a cavalcade of kid-oriented shops, rides, attractions and a big freakin' Ferris wheel, though adults will appreciate the criminally overlooked Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows and the many opportunities for romantic, windswept strolling.

The Mag Mile and Navy Pier are busy day and night. Most visitors spend quite a bit of time in the neighborhood eating, if nothing else. A multitude of pizza parlors, Italian beef shacks and eclectic bistros ensures no one goes hungry during their visit.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Art Crawl** Brave New Art World (p72) brings local artists and art appreciators together the first Thursday of the month to scope out River North's galleries.
- ➔ **Happy Hour** Clark Street Ale House (p78) is a neighborhood favorite for kicking back after work with a Midwest microbrew.
- ➔ **Big Swim** The city's triathletes dive in for swim practice in the shallow water at Ohio St Beach (p81).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **El** Red Line to Grand for the Magnificent Mile's south end; Red Line to Chicago for the Mag Mile's north end; Brown, Purple Line to Chicago for River North.
- ➔ **Trolley** A free trolley runs from the Red Line Grand stop to Navy Pier from late May to early September.
- ➔ **Bus** Number 151 runs along N Michigan Ave; 65 heads to Navy Pier.
- ➔ **Car** The further you get away from the Mag Mile, the more common the metered parking (\$4 per hour). Parking at Navy Pier's garage costs around \$25 per day.