

Lake View & Wrigleyville

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Wrigley Field** (p111) Spending an afternoon in the bleachers, hot dog and beer in hand, hoping for a win at the ivy-clad home of the Cubs.
- 2 Lincoln Square** (p116) Making a beer-and-bratwurst detour to this German enclave.
- 3 Metro** (p120) Hearing a soon-to-be-famous band at Chicago's premier loud-rock venue, a tastemaker for more than three decades.
- 4 Boystown** (p113) Joining the thumping nightlife amid the rainbow flags in the city's main gay neighborhood.
- 5 Sluggers** (p120) Practicing your home-run swing in the batting cages at this bar and grill a stone's throw from Wrigley Field.



For more detail of this area see Maps p300 and p316 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If there's a Cubs game at Wrigley Field, plan on around 30,000 extra people joining you for a visit to the neighborhood. The trains and buses will be stuffed to capacity, traffic will be snarled, and bars and restaurants will be jam-packed. It can be fun...if that's your scene. If not, you might want to visit on a non-game day for a bit more elbow room.



Best Places to Eat

- Home Bistro (p116)
- Crisp (p113)
- mfk (p118)
- Andy's Thai Kitchen (p113)

For reviews, see p113 ➡



Best Places to Drink

- Half Acre Tap Room (p118)
- Smart Bar (p119)
- Hungry Brain (p119)
- Begyle Brewing (p119)
- Bar Pastoral (p119)

For reviews, see p118 ➡



Best Live Music

- Metro (p120)
- Schubas (p121)
- Martyrs' (p121)
- Constellation (p121)
- Vic Theatre (p122)

For reviews, see p120 ➡

Explore Lake View & Wrigleyville

Lake View is the overarching name of this good-time neighborhood, inhabited mostly by 20- and 30-somethings. Wrigleyville is the pocket that surrounds star attraction Wrigley Field. It's usually well-mannered by day, with an impish dose of carousing in the bars along Clark St by night.

Either the rainbow flags or the abundance of bars and dance clubs will let you know you've arrived in Boystown, just east of the ballpark. The well-heeled hub of Chicago's gay community, Boystown bustles on Broadway St during the day and gets hedonistic on Halsted St at night. Head west and you'll run into a funky shopping district centered on Belmont Ave and Clark St. The stores here cater to the lifestyle whims of local goths, rockers and kitschy hipsters. Whether you need a bong, Fender Telecaster or vintage Morrissey T-shirt, you can count on the area's shops to come through for you. The Southport Corridor, along Southport Ave between Belmont Ave and Irving Park Rd, is another rich shopping and entertainment district, but one for those who outgrew their goth lifestyle and now seek designer wares.

For all its copious energy, Lake View has little in the way of historic sights or cultural attractions beyond the ballpark. Just bring your credit cards, your walking shoes and a festive attitude, and you'll be set for an afternoon or evening of fun.

Those wishing to explore further can travel northwest to Lincoln Square, the historic heart of Chicago's German community, rich in cafes and beer gardens.

Local Life

➤ **Hometown bands** Beat Kitchen (p122) is a popular venue for local bands to play.

➤ **Hangouts** In a tourist-heavy neighborhood, the Hungry Brain (p119) and Ten Cat Tavern (p119) stand out as off-the-beaten-path bars where locals go for a relaxing beverage.

➤ **Good beer** Neighborhood types kick back at Begyle Brewing (p119) for ales and board games.

➤ **Brunch time** Even carnivores line up for the French toast and other vegetarian dishes at Victory's Banner (p113), a 'hood hot spot on weekend mornings.

Getting There & Away

➤ **El** Red Line to Addison for Wrigleyville and around; Red, Brown, Purple Line to Belmont for much of Boystown. Brown Line to Western for Lincoln Square.

➤ **Bus** Number 77 plies Belmont Ave.

➤ **Car** Parking is a nightmare, especially in Wrigleyville, where side streets are resident-only. Take the El!