

Near North & Navy Pier

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Navy Pier (p69) Walking on this boat-bedecked wharf and taking in the views – especially from the stomach-churning 196ft Ferris wheel.

2 Giordano's (p75) Hefting a gooey slice of pizza that's even mightier than deep-dish.

3 Magnificent Mile (p70) Shopping with the frenzied masses along this busy stretch of road jam-packed with retailers from Burberry to Nike to Uniqlo.

4 Tribune Tower (p70) Examining the neo-Gothic building for its inlaid stones from the Taj Mahal, Parthe-

non, Great Wall of China and other global structures.

5 Billy Goat Tavern (p74) Submerging beneath Michigan Ave to eat burgers and knock back Schlitz beer with local journalists while getting the lowdown on famed local stories.



For more detail of this area see Maps p290 and p293 ➔

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

- ➔ Topolobampo/Frontera Grill (p77)
- ➔ Giordano's (p75)
- ➔ Purple Pig (p75)
- ➔ Billy Goat Tavern (p74)
- ➔ Kitchen Chicago (p75)
- ➔ Xoco (p74)

For reviews, see p74 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Watershed (p78)
- ➔ Clark Street Ale House (p78)
- ➔ Henry's (p78)
- ➔ Brehon Pub (p78)
- ➔ Dollop (p78)

For reviews, see p78 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Garrett Popcorn (p79)
- ➔ Nike Chicago (p79)
- ➔ Burberry (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 griny, noisy assortment of warehouses and factories is now Chicago's high-end gallery district.

Cutting 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, carnival rides and a freakin' big Ferris wheel, though adults will appreciate the opportunity for romantic, windswept strolling. Several boat tours depart from here, and renovations are adding an ice rink and more amusements to the mix.

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

➔ **Speakeasy entertainment** After munching a burger alongside locals at Green Door Tavern (p75), head down to the basement bar for jugglers, tarot card readings and burlesque shows.

➔ **Happy hour** Clark Street Ale House (p78) and Brehon Pub (p78) are neighborhood favorites 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 (p80).

Getting There & Away

➔ **El** Red Line to Grand for the Magnificent Mile's southern end; Red Line to Chicago for the Mag Mile's northern 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). Navy Pier's garage costs around \$28 per day.