Logan Square & Humboldt Park

Neighborhood Top Five

❶ **Parachute** (p160) Scoring a coveted seat at this Michelin-starred eatery and forking into the Korean-meets-American fare that has made this one of America's best restaurants.

❷ **Logan Hardware** (p162) Flicking through sweet vinyl, then playing Donkey Kong, Ms Pac-Man and other vintage arcade games in the back room.

❸ **Humboldt Park** (p154) Strolling around the lagoon, lounging on the beach, checking out the free arts center and munching Puerto Rican snacks in the sprawling green space.

❹ **Rosa's Lounge** (p162) Hearing a fret-bending set by local blues musicians in unvarnished environs.

❺ **Busy Beaver Button Museum** (p154) Perusing thousands of oddball badges at this historical museum.

Explore Logan Square & Humboldt Park

Sights are few and far between in Logan Square and Humboldt Park. No matter. You're here to eat, drink and see a show. Many of Chicago's best restaurants are tucked in along the neighborhood's tree-shaded boulevards. These aren't high-falutin' places, but rather boisterous taverns and small storefronts dishing out inventive fare (Michelin-starred, in some cases) at reasonable prices. Add in retro dive bars, sudsy brewpubs and thrifty gin lounges for sipping, plus stellar music clubs for entertainment, and you've got a stellar Chicago night out.

Logan Square is the hipster haven, home to artists and stylish types who've moved in among the Latino families. Gentrification continues its relentless push here, as all the scaffolding and emerging condo developments attest. But wild murals still splash across the area and give it an outsider's edge. Longman & Eagle, Fat Rice, Lula Cafe and several other must-eats serve during the day, but nighttime is when the action peaks.

Humboldt Park, to the south, is rougher around the edges. It's still heavily Puerto Rican, as the giant flag sculptures and island-food cafes along Division St attest. The eponymous park is the area's focal point. Morning or afternoon is the best time to visit.

Great restaurants and clubs have also popped up in Avondale. It sits next door to Logan Square, and it was only a matter of time before cool-cat spots spilled over. Kuma's and Late Bar have been here for a while, but newcomers such as Parachute and Honey Butter Fried Chicken are bringing more attention to the area.

Local Life

➡ **Free stuff** Just north of Lula Cafe (p160), there are a couple of newspaper boxes that front W Logan Blvd. Inside are free books and DVDs. Go ahead: take one or leave one.

➡ **Heavy drinking** The neighborhood hot spot is the 2300 block of N Milwaukee Ave. Joining Revolution Brewing (p161) and Cole's (p161) are a coffee roaster, a distillery, a German beer hall and several bars and cafes.

➡ **Patio party** When the weather is warm, everyone hangs out on the patio at Parson's Chicken and Fish (p156). When the weather is cold, they ice-skate on the makeshift rink.

Getting There & Away

➡ **El** Blue Line to Logan Square or California for Logan Square; Blue Line to Belmont for Avondale.

➡ **Bus** For Humboldt Park destinations, you'll need a bus. Number 70 travels along Division St, number 72 along North Ave and number 73 along Armitage Ave.

➡ **Car** Street parking isn't bad, although it can get tight around Logan Square near Lula Cafe.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Pack your patience for Logan Square's rich restaurant scene. Many places do not take reservations, so you'll have to wait an hour or more to fork into that goji berry pheasant sausage. Try to arrive right at opening time. Otherwise, hit the bar. At Kuma's Corner (p155) and Longman & Eagle (p160), you can order meals at the bar if you snag a seat.

LOGAN SQUARE & HUMBOLDT PARK