

nightlife

Chicagoo



recreation



housing

dining



tips



alumni

Ready to enjoy Chicago?

**In-the-know Stanford young alums
have shared the best tips, tricks and
fabulous destinations to help you get
the most out of this vibrant city.**



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Dining

Young alums love to dine at these delicious destinations.



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Nightlife

According to young alums, these are the best spots to kick up your heels and enjoy an evening with friends.



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Recreation

These are the places to go to have fun and hang out (you'll probably spot a young alum or two!).



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Housing

Be sure to check out the best young alumni 'hoods in all of Chicago.



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Tips

Young alums give their general advice on things to keep in mind as you explore Chicago.



Dining



Don't miss these young alumni-approved places for the tastiest meals in town.

Al's Beef

Where I go for a late-night Italian Beef (get it dipped with hot and sweet peppers). - **CHRIS B., '09**

Au Cheval

Best burger in the city but prepare for a wait. The burgers. OMG the burgers... - **CHRIS B., '09, TESS H., '12, LUIS C., '07**

Bavette's Bar & Boeuf

Best steak in the city. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

bopNgrill

Rogers Park. An awesome Korean/burger fusion restaurant and was featured on Guy Fieri's TV show. Try the kimchi fries and the umami burger. - **ANONYMOUS**

Bub City

Western/Country theme and phenomenal BBQ with tacky yet tasteful decor. For fun nights and live country music. - **TESS H., '12, EUNICE B., '11**

Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba

Paella and sangria! - **TESS H., '12**

Chicago Cut Steakhouse

By far, the best steakhouse in Chicago, in my opinion. - **AYO J., '07**

Chicago Q

Fancy, but not too fancy BBQ. - **AYO J., '07, MARGARET P., MA '12**

Citizen Bar

Delicious bar food, rotating wing selection, and upstairs and downstairs outdoor patios with TVs for sports in all seasons. - **TESS H., '12**

Crisp

Amazing Korean BBQ fusion in the fun Lakeview neighborhood. - **AYO J., '07, MARGARET P., MA '12**

Dove's Luncheonette

Best brunch. - **KRISTEN J., '05**

Dining

Dusek's

For a chill dinner and good drinks. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Eataly

Best Italian food around! You can shop the store for authentic Italian goods and have a delicious meal or meat/cheese platter.
- **LUIS C., '07**

Ethiopian Diamond

Amazing Ethiopian food at a great price. - **KRISTEN J., '05**

Fig & Olive

Trendy atmosphere and delicious food. - **EUNICE B., '11**

Filini

A surprisingly and criminally underhyped restaurant, but does great Italian food. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Girl and the Goat

Hard to get a reservation. Delicious everything. Famous and popular. - **CHRIS B., '09, LUIS C., '07, EUNICE B., '11**

Green Street Smoked Meats

Texas-style BBQ. Not the same, but still really good. Cool vibe. BBQ restaurant in an up-and-coming neighborhood. - **CHRIS B., '09**

GT Oyster

Great seafood. - **KRISTEN J., '05**

Le Cafe

Cute cafe in the German part of town. Free Wi-Fi. - **STEPHANIE C., '10**

Little Goat

Great food at a reasonable price, a more casual atmosphere. If you can't get into Girl and the Goat, similar food but diner style. Everything this restaurant touches, from oatmeal to goat chili, is excellent. Chef Stephanie Izard was the first woman to win Top Chef. - **CHRIS B., '09, TESS H., '12**



Dining

Lou Malnati's

Who doesn't love deep-dish pizza!? Classic deep dish, so delicious! - **STEPHANIE C., '10**

Mercadito

Excellent tacos. - **TESS H., '12, TAYLOR H., '14**

North Pond

For a fantastic date night. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Roka Akor

Great food and even better location. - **EUNICE B., '11**

Sapori Trattoria

Delicious Italian at a great price. In the heart of Lincoln Park.
- **AYO J., '07**

The Dawson

Great food/craft cocktails with an outdoor patio for the summer.
- **TESS H., '12**

The Publican

If you like meat, this is your place. One of the best brunches/dinner. All of the Publican's dishes—pork, chicken, mussels, and even vegetables are delicious. - **TESS H., '12**

Three Dots and a Dash

Tiki! - **TESS H., '12, ANNA S., '14**

Wishbone

Southern-style cooking in Chicago and among the best at it.
- **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**





These are the hot spots young alums love to hit up to have a good time and make great memories.

<u>Bull and Bear</u>	Varies by day. - TESS H., '12
<u>Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba</u>	Great happy hour deals. - TESS H., '12, ANNA S., '14
<u>Ceres Bar</u>	Great patio in the summer. - ANNA S., '14
<u>Devon Seafood Grill</u>	Great happy hour deals that go all the way to 10 pm. - ANNA S., '14
<u>Fountainhead</u>	Just a wonderful and easygoing spot. - CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12
<u>Prost</u>	German beer tavern/bar. Excellent for large groups and delicious beer at a great price. Go for the boot! - ANNA S., '14
<u>Sable Kitchen & Bar</u>	Most accomplished drink list in town. - CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12
<u>Scofflaw</u>	Come at happy hour, but you'll want to stay until midnight anyway (which is when they pass out fresh-baked cookies). - CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12
<u>Three Dots and a Dash</u>	Underground, back alley, trendy tiki bar on a popular strip (Hubbard) with excellent/generous drinks! Perfect escape on a cold Chicago day. - ANNA S., '14, EUNICE B., '11
<u>Union BBQ and Sushi</u>	Deals on drinks and rolls. - TESS H., '12

Recreation



Whether it's hiking, live music or a new adventure, young alums recommend these interesting events and locales.

Architecture tour. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12, LUIS C., '07**

Become a member of WBEZ and get 2 for 1 at restaurants, theatres, and other great locations/ services around the city. - **AYO J., '07**

Bleachers at the Cubs games. Cheap and extremely fun! - **TESS H., '12**

Book Cellar. Bookstore and cafe with comfy chairs. Great chai latte and a perfect spot for a snowy afternoon. - **STEPHANIE C., '10**

Bulls tickets in the early games for as little as \$40 a ticket. - **TESS H., '12**

Chicago Summer Street Fairs. Most of them are free or recommend donations and have live music and full neighborhood participation. - **TESS H., '12**

Chicago Restaurant/Chef Weeks. Great deals on restaurants throughout the city. - **TESS H., '12**

Fleet Feet running groups are free. One at a different location almost every night of the week, including "chick's night" for women. - **STEPHANIE C., '10**

Free concerts every week at Millennium Park in the summer. - **TAYLOR H., '14**

French Market in the West Loop is a great lunch spot with some good and cheap options. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Howl at the Moon. Dueling Piano bar with great group deals. - **TESS H., '12**

In the summer there are outdoor markets and festivals almost every weekend. Many parks also have outdoor movie nights. Free concert series in Pritzker Pavilion/Millennium Park. - **CHRIS B., '09**

Join a sports league! I joined a kickball league and met great people in addition to having tons of fun. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Kaiser Tiger. Curling in the winter and bocce in the summer. - **TESS H., '12**

Lake Shore trail. - **STEPHANIE C., '10**

Recreation

Lincoln Park Zoo is free and amazing for romantic strolls, as are the quiet green spaces nestled in between Navy Pier and Ohio Street Beach. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Millennium park. - **LUIS C., '07**

Montrose Beach is also a phenomenal spot. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

My favorite cultural institution in Chicago is the Joffrey Ballet. You can usually find cheap tickets on Goldstar. - **ANONYMOUS**

Paris Club. - **LUIS C., '07**

Restaurant week twice a year. - **TAYLOR H., '14**

Second City. Everyone has to go once! - **STEPHANIE C., '10, ANNA S., '14**

Any professional sporting event. Trying out the MANY restaurants, attending the festivals each neighborhood has in the summer. - **ANNA S., '14**

The Goodwills in Chicago are literally the best. - **HANNAH K., '13**

Whirlyball. Worth a try and a Chicago fun activity. - **TESS H., '12**

You've wasted your time here if you never go on an Art & Architecture boat tour. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Ravinia. Outdoor theater where concerts and movies rotate throughout the summer. - **TESS H., '12**

I highly recommend the Chicago Symphony playing the music of LOTR while one of the movies plays on a big screen! - **TESS H., '12**

Get to the lake. Whether you enjoy biking, running, soccer, volleyball, sailing, boating, or just lounging, the lake is where to be! - **AYO J., '07**

Trivia is huge in Chicago, which is a fun group activity. - **TESS H., '12**

Adler Planetarium does a Thursday happy hour on the third Thursday of every month like the California Museum of Sciences called "Adler After Dark". - **ANNA S., '14**

Kickball, Beach Volleyball, Soccer, Football, and Hockey (both ice and field) group leagues are prevalent and very fun—join a team or sign your office up for one. - **TESS H., '12**

Downtown Sound is a free concert series at the Pritzker Pavilion. People bring picnics and listen to music for free every Monday evening in the summer. - **HANNAH K., '13**

Housing



**Moving to Chicago?
These neighborhoods are young
alumni favorites.**

Bucktown/Wicker Park. Fun. Neighborhood feel. - **KRISTEN J., '05, TESS H., '12**

East Village. - **MARGARET P., MA '12**

Edgewater. A nice neighborhood. Not too busy but still vibrant. It benefits from being on the Red Line, making a trip downtown an easy 30-minute train ride. It's also on the northern terminus of Lake Shore Drive, making driving downtown convenient as well. Nearby Loyola U contributes a youthful student population and there is also an established gay community. Andersonville is next door and has many fun shops, bars, and restaurants. - **ANONYMOUS**

Gold Coast. Near Lake Michigan, safe, centrally located. - **TESS H., '12**

Lakeview. Similar to Lincoln Park but a little further north. Things happening all the time, access to restaurants and shops right out your front door. Not as expensive as Lincoln Park. Fancy and youngish. - **AYO J., '07, HANNAH K., '13, STEPHANIE C., '10, TESS H., '12**

Lincoln Park. Inexpensive (especially compared to SF!) and full of new college grads, great inexpensive restaurants/bars. - **ANNA S., '14, LUIS C., '07, TESS H., '12**

Little Italy. - **HANNAH K., '13**

Logan Square. - **MARGARET P., MA '12, CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12, STEPHANIE C., '10**

Lower West Side. Check this out for a Hispanic vibe. - **HANNAH K., '13**

Noble Square. - **MARGARET P., MA '12**

Old Town. Easy access to any other area of the city and restrictions on how tall buildings can be which frees up great views of the city. - **AYO J., '07**

Housing

River North because it's close to work and fun. Great restaurants and bars, young, close to the Loop for finance. Safe. Great nightlife within walking distance. Up and coming. - **KRISTEN J., '05, EUNICE B., '11, HANNAH K., '13, TESS H., '12**

South Loop/Printer's Row. Close to finance jobs in the Loop. Up and coming. New restaurants and bars opening. - **TESS H., '12**

Streeterville. - **LUIS C., '07**

Ukrainian Village. - **MARGARET P., MA '12, HANNAH K., '13**

West Loop. Cheaper than River North, super close to downtown, tons of great restaurants, and a great vibe. Great if you work downtown. It's a growing spot for young professionals. Close to work and to the exploding Fulton Market/Randolph Street areas. - **TAYLOR H., '14, CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

West Town. - **MARGARET P., MA '12**

Wicker Park/Bucktown. Reputation of being more indie/hipster, great restaurants and bars. Perfect for twenty-somethings. Rent is reasonable and the nightlife is primo. Wicker Park Fest is enough! Also full of people in their 20s, very lively. Younger, great for big groups, tons of restaurants and bars. Cute, European feel. German shops, close to the Brown Line.
- **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12, ANNA S., '14, HANNAH K., '13**

Wrigleyville. Wrigley Stadium and all peripheral debauchery. - **TESS H., '12**



Tips



Keep these young alumni words of wisdom in mind as you get to know Chicago.

Chicago Metromix is a good source for learning about city social events.

- **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

The Tribune is good for local news (and its premium service is reasonably priced; just get the app).

- **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Amazon Local, Goldstar, Yelp. - **STEPHANIE C., '10**

Chicago Eater. Great for restaurant and bar openings. - **TESS H., '12**

Chicago RedEye. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Time Out Chicago. - **TESS H., '12**

Urban Daddy keeps you on top of all the new restaurants and fun events in town.

- **EUNICE B., '11**

Chicagoist is a very helpful website as well. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Be ready to be miserably cold from January to March. The rest of the time, it's bearable and sometimes even really nice weather! - **KRISTEN J., '05**

Invest in a very warm coat (maybe a Canada Goose) and you'll be fine. Don't let the cold weather prevent you from getting out of the house. - **EUNICE B., '11**

Talk to locals because they know the most and are Midwest-nice! - **HANNAH K., '13**

You don't need a car to get around but public transportation can also get frustrating at times. Plan a little more time to get places if you're taking the bus or the train. Uber is a great alternative if you're willing to pay for it. - **STEPHANIE C., '10**

Tips

Find a neighborhood with easy access to the “L”. It will make your life a lot easier. Invest in good shoes and wool socks for the winter. If you’re from California and haven’t experienced snow, get ready. A good scarf and mittens are also a must.

- **STEPHANIE C., '10**

It’ll take some time to really get a good grip on this city. But it’s a marvelous place. Just enjoy the process of learning the town. - **CHRISTOPHER W., JD '12**

Definitely buy a bike or get Divy (Chicago’s bike-share) as Chicago is a very bike-friendly city! If you don’t live walking distance to work, make sure you live near public transport. Chicago is a cold shock compared to Palo Alto! - **TESS H., '12**

Call bars before you go to make sure that they will switch a football game to Stanford—bars often have vehement allegiances to colleges! - **TESS H., '12**

If you’re not going to have a car, living close to the “L” is really important. It’s worth the extra cost because you’ll have access to people and things. You’ll feel more connected to other young people. Definitely convenient not to have a long public transit commute to work. - **DONOVAN E., '11**



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