

## **BCD Travel Recommends: Vienna**

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### **Something for everyone in the city by the lake**



The Windy City, the City of Big Shoulders, the Second City, My Kind of Town – the list of traditional nicknames for Chicago is picturesque, but any attempt to capture this city's size, swagger, pride and depth in just a few words is bound to come up short. From sports fans to gastronomes, children to art lovers, Chicago has something for everyone, and even its infamously hot summers and frigid winters aren't enough to keep people away.

### **The Sights and Sounds of the City**

#### ***Art Institute***

111 S. Michigan Ave.

The museum, just east of the Loop, and its collection of impressionist and post-impressionist works are widely regarded as America's finest. Nothing matches seeing American Gothic by Grant Wood, Nighthawks by Edward Hopper, 33 paintings by Claude Monet and Georges Seurat's A Sunday on La Grande Jatte.

#### ***Music Box Theatre***

3733 N. Southport Ave.

Touting itself as "Chicago's Year-Round Film Festival," the Music Box Theatre is the oldest operating cinema in the city. Built near Wrigley Field in 1929, it teems with ornamental detail, most famously the twinkling celestial mural on the domed ceiling. It screens current indie and art house releases. On special occasions, a refurbished Wurlitzer ascends to the stage and the house organist lets loose with riotous nostalgic melodies before the red satin curtains go up.

#### ***Navy Pier***

Chicago's most-visited tourist attraction, Navy Pier concentrates diversions galore from its 15-story Ferris wheel to the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Chicago Children's Museum, stained-glass museum, IMAX Theater, beer garden and miniature golf course. This half-mile man-made peninsula has 40,000 square feet of retail space that includes tourist-oriented shopping and plenty of casual restaurants. In fair weather, a fleet of seagoing vessels offers a variety of lake cruises, and Bike Chicago rents bicycles for lakeshore touring. Located just off Gateway Park.



#### ***Millennium Park***

A 24-acre addendum to the northwest corner of Grant Park, the site is architect Frank Gehry's Chicago debut. Gehry created loopy designs of steel, framing an outdoor stage and wrapping a serpentine pedestrian bridge in ribbons of titanium. Gehry shares the spotlight with a fountain that includes perpetually changing video images, and a reflective, elliptical-shaped sculpture that Chicagoans affectionately term "The Bean."

### **Chowing Down in Chi-Town**

BCD Travel Australia, contact us at: <http://express.bcdtravel.com.au>

**SYD - P** (+612) 9262 5511 **F** (+612) 9262 3166

**MEL - P** (+613)9595 6900 **F** (+613) 9595 6969

**QLD - P** (+617)3229 3511 **F** (+617) 3221 6604

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**Adobo Grill**

1610 N. Wells St  
+1 312 266 7999

Rick Bayless is the admitted master of Mexican dining in Chicago – but just try getting a seat at either Topolobampo or Frontera Grill before 10pm. If you're looking for a place that's a bit less buzzy, where regional Mexican dishes are prepared with care (if not quite the "wow" that Bayless brings) and where top-notch guacamole is made to order, tableside, you can't go wrong with Adobo Grill.

**Avec**

615 W. Randolph St.  
+1 312 377 2002

Chef Paul Kahan, who runs the acclaimed Blackbird next door and won the 2004 James Beard award for best chef in the Midwest, set out to create a European-style hangout, with a menu of small, shareable plates and an extensive by-the-glass wine selection. Kahan's staff cures their own dried meats (including salami, soppressata and more), making the charcuterie plate a must-try. Most of the menu — which includes duck confit, fish soup, bacon-wrapped dates and many cheese selections — is French-based.

**Mr. Beef**

666 N. Orleans St.  
+1 312 337 8500

Somewhere between the Philadelphia cheesesteak and the French dip lies Chicago's signature Italian beef sandwich: shaved beef cooked in an aromatic broth piled into a juice-sopping Italian roll topped with red peppers and optional provolone cheese. Mr. Beef serves lunch to a citywide swath of fans at picnic tables and a window-side dining rail.

**Alinea**

1723 N. Halsted  
+1 312 867 0110

Chef Grant Achatz's crafty mind deconstructs dishes and reconstructs them in sci-fi manner, and he's arguably the best in the country at the high-tech cookery launched by Spain's Ferran Adria. This is performance art, a virtuoso succession of dishes that either tickle and delight in their experimentation, or, frankly, annoy.

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**Did You Know?*****Art of Play Chicago***

June 1 – September 30

Jump for joy at over 150 events celebrating toys, games and the spirit of play. “Niki in the Garden”, an exhibition featuring over 30 of Niki de Saint Phalle’s colorful and whimsical outdoor sculptures in the Garfield Park Conservatory (300 North Central Park Avenue), is the centerpiece of this city-wide celebration offering an array of playful performances, demonstrations, tours, exhibitions, hands-on crafts and play and more. For more information, visit [www.artofplaychicago.com](http://www.artofplaychicago.com).

***Loop Train Tour***

With or without a guide, Chicago’s Brown Line el train is the best \$1.75 tour in town. Get it free and with narration aboard the seasonal Loop Train Tour (312-744-2400). On Saturdays at 10 and 10:40 a.m. from May 5 through Sept. 29, the 40-minute rides loop the Loop, while Chicago Architecture Foundation docents narrate. Tickets are first come, first served beginning at 9 a.m. at the Visitor Information Center in the Chicago Cultural Center (77 E. Randolph St.)

***Second City***

1616 N. Wells St.

+1 312 337 3992

Many comedic legends got their starts at Second City, including Alan Alda, Bill Murray, Harold Ramis, Joan Rivers, Dan Aykroyd, Bonnie Hunt, Gilda Radner and Martin Short. Every night except Friday, Second City opens its doors to anyone for free improv sets after the last show (usually around 10 p.m., 12:30 a.m. on Saturdays).

***Rosa’s Lounge***

3420 W Armitage Ave

+1 773 342 0452

There’s no shortage of blues clubs in Chicago, of course, including mammoths like House of Blues and Buddy Guy’s. But for something a little more intimate, try Rosa’s Lounge. Tables and chairs fill most of the space, but there’s a pool table in the back. A host of regulars—including blue-collar folks, college kids and those willing to drive a bit to hear good blues—are dedicated to the bar and its recurring acts, such as energetic guitarist Melvin Taylor.