

# 30 Travel Friday Times

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015



### Afternoon architecture

Make your way north on Michigan Ave, aka the Magnificent Mile, along which big-name department stores ka-ching in a glittering row. The Tribune Tower raises its Gothic head on the Mag Mile's east side soon after you cross the river. Check out chunks of the Taj Mahal, Parthenon and other famous structures embedded in the lower walls.

Across the street, the 1920 Wrigley Building gleams as white as its namesake's gum. A few paces north, stairs lead to the underground Billy Goat Tavern. Local journo have quaffed in the scruffy lair for decades. It's also the place that spawned the Curse of the Cubs. Order a burger and Schlitz, then look around at the newspapered walls, and you'll get the details.

By late afternoon it's time to get high. The John Hancock Center (875 N Michigan Ave, Gold Coast) - one of Chicago's loftiest buildings - has a few options. There's the 94th floor observatory (360chicago.com), which has informative displays and the TILT (floor-to-ceiling windows that you stand in as they tip out over the ground for a hair-raising view down; it costs extra). Not interested in such frivolities? Do what locals do, and shoot straight up to the 96th floor Signature Lounge, where the view is free if you buy a drink. The Hancock's lakeside locale makes this (arguably) the sweetest vista in the city.

### Evening Baseball

Remember the Billy Goat curse? Take the train north to Wrigley Field to see it in

action. The ivy-walled, 1914 ballpark is a charmer, despite hosting the woefully hexed Cubs, who've racked up more than 105 years of World Series futility.

No tickets? Peek in the 'knothole', a garage-door-sized opening on Sheffield Ave, to watch for free. Or practice your swing (and beer drinking) at Sluggers, one of many high-flying bars that circle Wrigley. It's 10 pitches for \$2 at the upstairs batting cages.

If the Cubs aren't playing, Plan B is to hop the Blue Line train to the Wicker Park neighborhood. Get off at the Damen stop, and spend the evening poking through hipster record stores, galleries and thrift shops along North, Milwaukee and Division streets. Quimby's shows the local spirit; the book-

store stocks 'zines and graphic novels, and is a linchpin of Chicago's underground culture. For dinner, take a seat at the counter of Dove's Luncheonette (doveschicago.com).

The retro diner serves Tex-Mex fare as soul music spins on the record player and tequila flows from the 70 bottles rattling behind the bar.

### Late-night blues

Grab a cab and finish the night at Buddy Guy's Legends. The location is a bit rough around the edges, but the acts consistently smoke the strings. Mr Guy himself plugs in his axe and sings the blues during his January residency. See? Chicago is your kind of town.

— (www.lonelyplanet.com)

