

# C O N T E N T S

## **INTRODUCTION** **1**

### **Maps**

*Map 1 Chicago & Neighborhoods* 4

## **YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW** **5**

*Why do they call Chicago the Second City? (5) • Why do they call it the Windy City? (5) • What is the Loop? (6) • So why does the Loop seem so empty in the winter? (6) • What's so magnificent about the Magnificent Mile? (6) • Chicago on the Big Screen, Part 1 (7) • Does size really matter? (7) • Does Chicago really have more Polish people than anywhere save Warsaw? (8) • How can I sound like a real Chicagoan? (8) • Is Michael Jordan still a Chicago icon? (8) • Well, I brought my car—now where am I going to park it? (8) • Where can I hear music for free? (9) • Can I go to the opera and the symphony when I'm in town? (9) • What if I gotta go? (9)*

## **1 ACCOMMODATIONS** **10**

### **Basic Stuff** **12**

*Winning the Reservations Game* 12

*Is There a Right Address?* 13

### **The Lowdown** **14**

*Big bucks de luxe (14) • Chicago classics (15) • A home away from home (15) • Best views (16) • New kids on the block (16) • If everyone else stays on Michigan Avenue, I don't want to (17) • Style and substance (18) • Family values (18) • For lovers and those who*

want to be (19) • Suite deals (19) • Megahotels for conventioners (20) • *Crowded to Capacity* (20) • Cheap sleeps (20) • Oh so near O'Hare (21)

## Maps

Map 2 *Chicago Accommodations* 22

Map 3 *Magnificent Mile & River North Accommodations* 24

Map 4 *The Loop Accommodations* 25

**The Index** 26

*An A to Z list of places to stay, with vital statistics*

## 2 DINING 38

**Basic Stuff** 40

*Getting the Right Table* 40

**The Lowdown** 41

*Institutions* (41) • *See-and-be-scenes* (42) • *Deals on meals (under \$25)* (42) • *Steak your life on it* (43) • *Tracking New Dining Hot Spots* (44) • *Ethnic eating* (44) • *If al fresco's your style* (45) • *We never close—well, almost never* (46) • *Pizza classics* (46) • *The Italian battalion* (47) • *French toast* (47) • *Isn't it romantic?* (48) • *Eating solo* (49) • *Noshing among North River's galleries* (49) • *Near Mag Mile shopping* (49) • *Hot Dogs* (50) • *Morning glories* (50) • *Absolutely fabulous* (51) • *Neighborhood favorites* (52) • *Off the eaten track* (52) • *Children's hour* (52) • *Near the theaters* (53)

## Maps

Map 5 *Chicago Dining* 54

Map 6 *Magnificent Mile & River North Dining* 56

Map 7 *The Loop Dining* 57

**The Index** 58

*An A to Z list of places to dine, with vital statistics*

## 3 DIVERSIONS 76

**Basic Stuff** 78

*Getting Your Bearings* 78

**The Lowdown** 79

*Must-sees* (79) • *Special moments* (80) • *Only in Chicago* (81) • *Saving Money on Museums* (81) • *Prowling the Gold Coast* (81) • *Museumscapes* (82) • *Museum Free Days* (83) • *Ethnic museums* (84) • *The City's Architecture* (85) • *The wonders of science* (85) • *Talk is cheap* (87) • *Kid-pleasers* (87) • *Art al fresco* (88) • *Cruising the zoos* (88) • *Strolling around Old Town* (88) • *Gallery hopping* (89) • *TGIF in River North* (90) • *Mayhem on the trading floors* (90) • *One good read deserves another* (91) • *Cool views* (92) • *Photo Op* (93) • *Tried-and-true views* (93) • *Architectural masterpieces* (93) • *Six buildings that scream "Chicago"*

(94) • *Master Builders: Sullivan, Wright & Mies* (95) • *Architecturally significant and they scream “Chicago”* (95) • *The Wright stuff* (96) • *Home sweet historic home* (97) • *Blasts from the past* (97) • *Lincoln Parking* (98) • *It’s a small world* (98) • *Up-and-comers* (100) • *You bowl me over* (101) • *School daze* (101) • *The best views in Lake View* (102) • *Overhyped experiences* (103) • *Rock around the World* (104) • *Tour time* (104) • *Rumor Mill* (105)

## Maps

*Map 8 Chicago Diversions* 106

*Map 9 Magnificent Mile & River North Diversions* 108

*Map 10 The Loop Diversions* 109

*Map 11 Hyde Park Diversions* 110

## The Index

111

*An A to Z list of diversions, with vital statistics*

## 4 GETTING OUTSIDE 120

### The Lowdown 122

*Parks* (122) • *A Few Good Men in Lincoln Park* (124) • *Mittless softball* (124) • *Playing pickup* (124) • *Hitting the beaches* (125) • *Aboy there* (126) • *Can you canoe?* (126) • *Sightseeing afloat* (127) • *Pedal pushers* (127) • *Out on a swim* (128) • *Par for the course* (128) • *The tennis racket* (129) • *Rollerblade runner* (129) • *What’s nice on ice* (130) • *Run for your life* (130) • *The wind’s beneath my wings* (130) • *If you’re here with a car* (131) • *Read all about it* (131)

## 5 SHOPPING 132

### Basic Stuff 134

*Target Zones* 134

*Vertical Malls* 135

*Money Matters* 136

*Lunch on the Mag Mile* 137

*Hours of Business* 137

*Sales Tax* 137

### The Lowdown 137

*Landmarks* (137) • *For pampered service* (138) • *Accessorize* (138) • *Shopping scenes* (139) • *Hipster Conventional Wisdom (HCW)* (139) • *For foot fetishists* (139) • *For men with Cary Grant complexes* (140) • *For men who would rather resemble Lou Reed* (140) • *Shopping bags to show off* (140) • *Fashion forward* (140) • *Key notes* (141) • *Kid stuff, part one* (141) • *Kid stuff, part two* (141) • *Book nooks* (142) • *Used but not abused books* (142) • *For decorating divas* (142) • *Furnishing touches* (143) • *The sporting life* (143) • *The vintage vantage point* (144) • *Damen Avenue—the other Michigan Avenue* (144) • *Why go to New York?* (144) • *Labels for less* (145) • *When you need a sugar fix* (145) • *Help for wanderlust* (145)

## Maps

*Map 12 Chicago Shopping 146*  
*Map 13 Magnificent Mile & River North Shopping 148*  
*Map 14 The Loop Shopping 149*

**The Index 150**

*An A to Z list of places to shop, with vital statistics*

## **6 NIGHTLIFE 162**

**Basic Stuff 164**

*Sources 164*

*Liquor Laws & Drinking Hours 165*

**The Lowdown 165**

*Where grown-ups can be grown-ups (165) • Calling all slackers (165) • Dance fever (166) • *Where Not to Hear the Blues (167)* • Places to hear the next big rock star (167) • Places to hear live blues (168) • Places to hear live jazz (168) • Sports and suds (169) • Where the boys (and girls) are (169) • *Hipster Conventional Wisdom (HCW) (170)* • Hotel hot spots in the Loop (170) • Neighborhood spots downtown and near North Side (171) • Neighborhood spots in Lincoln Park/Old Town (171) • Neighborhood spots in Lake View/Wrigleyville (172) • Neighborhood spots on the South Side (172) • For something a bit different (172) • For people who wouldn't be caught dead drinking a Bud (173)*

### **Maps**

*Map 15 Chicago Nightlife 174*

*Map 16 Magnificent Mile & River North Nightlife 176*

*Map 17 The Loop Nightlife 177*

**The Index 178**

*An A to Z list of nightspots, with vital statistics*

## **7 ENTERTAINMENT 186**

**Basic Stuff 188**

*Sources 188*

*Getting Tickets 189*

**The Lowdown 190**

*The theater establishment (190) • The new generation (191) • On the fringes (192) • Classical sounds (193) • *Chicago on the Big Screen, Part 2 (194)* • What's opera, doc? (194) • Men in tights (194) • In concert (195) • Comedy tonight (197) • The spoken word (197) • Da sports (198)*

### **Maps**

*Map 18 Chicago Entertainment 200*

**HOTLINES & OTHER BASICS 212**

*Airports (213) • Airport transport to downtown (213) • Babysitters (214) • Buses (214) • Business hours (215) • Car rental (215) • Chicago Office of Tourism (215) • Chicago Online Toolbox (216) • Chicago Park District (216) • Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) (216) • Children's emergency services (216) • Convention centers (216) • Dentists (217) • Doctors (217) • El (217) • Emergencies (217) • Events hotlines (217) • Festivals and special events (217) • Finding an address (220) • Gay guys and lesbians (221) • Hearing-impaired services (221) • Hospitals (221) • Internet access (221) • Laundry (221) • Liquor laws and drinking hours (222) • Newspapers and magazines (222) • Parking (223) • Pharmacies (223) • Post office (223) • Pro sports (223) • Radio stations (224) • Restrooms (224) • Safety (224) • Subways (225) • Taxes (225) • Ticket to Ride (225) • Taxis (226) • Time zone (226) • Trains (226) • Travelers with disabilities (226) • TV stations (227) • Visitor information (227) • Weather (227) • Chicago's Average Temperatures & Precipitation (227)*

**GENERAL INDEX 228**

*Accommodations Index 228*

*Restaurant Index 233*

