

Where to Stay in Chicago If You Like to Eat

Discover our staff's favorite home bases for exploring the Windy City's vibrant food scene.



BY KATE KASSIN

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The Drawing Room inside the Chicago Athletic Association. Courtesy Chicago Athletic Association

Chicago has always been considered one of America's greatest food cities—one where fully loaded hot dogs, deep-dish pizza, and ultra-luxe 18-course tasting menus are revered in the same dining scene. You could practically fill a travel itinerary with places to get Italian beef sandwiches (à la *The Bear*) alone. The city's restaurants, cafés, and bars reflect the diversity of Chicago's neighborhoods, and knowing where to stay is the key to having convenient access to the best spots.

Here we break down some of the most commonly trafficked neighborhoods in the Windy City and highlight where to stay so you can hit the must-visit eateries on your list.

Chicago Athletic Association



Courtesy Of The Chicago Athletic Association

The Chicago Athletic Association offers an elevated members club experience without the steely pretension. It's also one of the most gorgeous properties in town. The common spaces in this Venetian Gothic building include a game room and a historic basketball court (a holdover from the property's previous life as an actual athletic club). As for dining, Cindy's Rooftop offers cocktails with unbeatable views of Millennium Park on a year-round terrace that's enclosed by a photo-worthy glass atrium, and the cozy Drawing Room in the 19th-century-inspired lobby has all-day fare in a space you wish were your living room. The hotel also just debuted Midosuji, an eight-seat omakase counter with two seatings a night.

The nods to history continue in the guestrooms, where vintage leather pommel horses serve as benches and wrought iron and rich wood accents evoke a fin-de-siècle opulence. The larger Holy Cow Suites, including a bi-level option complete with two bedrooms and a separate living area, are great for families, while solo travelers or couples can opt for single or double bed quarters. If there weren't already enough reasons to stay here, the hotel couldn't sit in a better location with access to the Art Institute, Lake Michigan, and a multitude of museums. It's undoubtedly the city's best place for design and history lovers to stay.

Visited by Joseph Hernandez