

The 9 Best Luxury Hotels in Chicago

In a city as architecturally diverse as this, the hotels aren't just leaders in luxury—they're works of art unto themselves. These are the best of the best.

By AMY TARA KOCH

Birthplace of the skyscraper and steel-frame construction. Home to modernist maestros Mies van der Rohe, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Louis Sullivan. Chicago's unique juxtaposition of ornate classical buildings with modernist less-is-more—plus the 1930s steel “seesaw” bridges connecting River North to the Loop—show why the city is widely considered America's most architecturally significant metropolis. The top hotels are, in some cases, located within the city's celebrated buildings or serve as a backdrop for viewing them. What unifies them is a Midwestern ethos of quiet luxury. There is swank, yes, but it is whispered through design, high-end amenities, and micro-attention to detail.

With some extra vetting by our expert [Travel Masters](#), and in no particular order, we introduce the nine best luxury hotels in Chicago.

Chicago Athletic Association

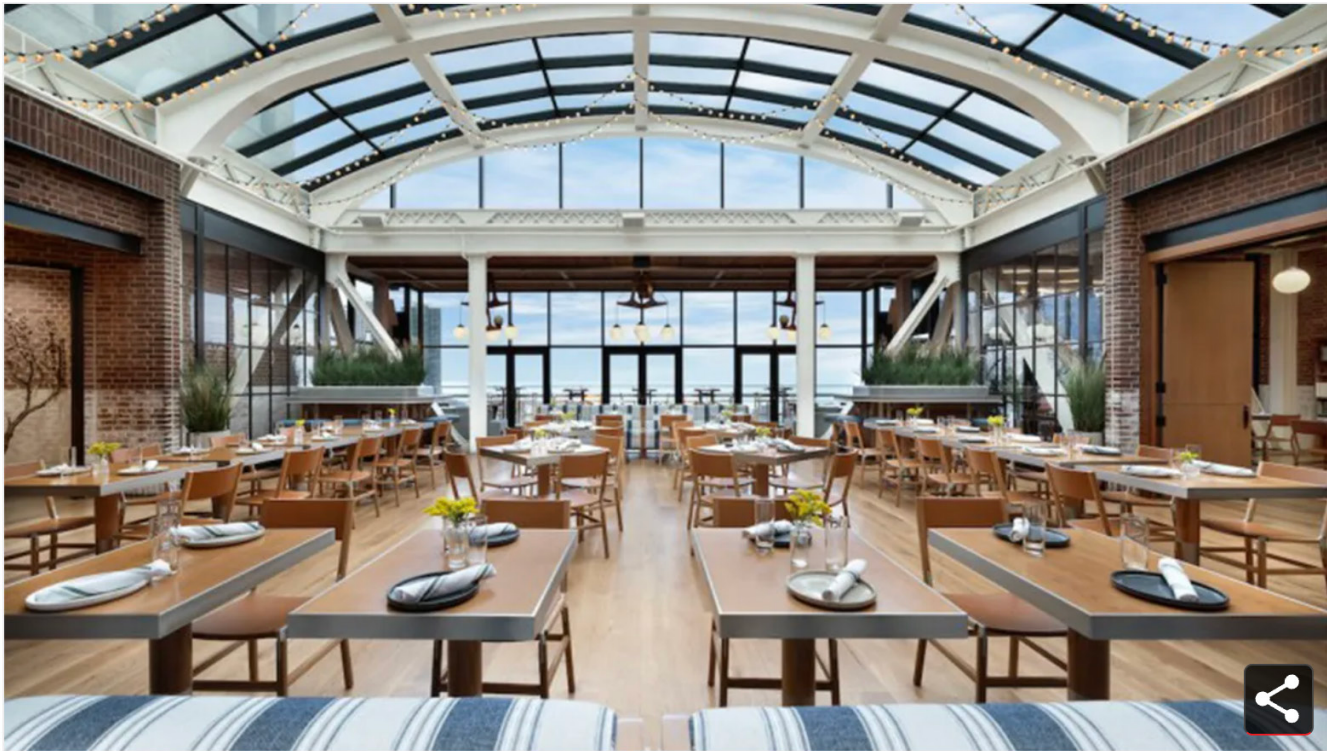


Photo : Daniel Kelleghan Photography

Award: Gilded Age Glamour

Seated in the Drawing Room by the fireplace, flanked by original quarter oak millwork and terrazzo marble floors, it's not hard to conjure the Gilded Age, even if everyone is wearing jeans. That's because the Chicago Athletic Association still oozes the Venetian Gothic glamour it did when it opened as an elite men's sporting and social club in 1893. These days, the time capsule Drawing Room is a favored hangout for locals, as is the Game Room, where foosball, billiards, and skeeball beckon beneath the turn-of-the-century coffered ceiling. Design firm Roman and Williams infused nostalgia and history into the 240 rooms, adding brass beds topped with Faribault Woolen Mill Co. custom blankets, racquet-sport wraps on table legs, and crisscross backs on desks that reference old-fashioned stretching walls. There are two standout restaurants on-site: Cindy's, a rooftop spot for seasonal dishes under a glass atrium with views of Millennium Park, and Midōsuji, a nine-seat omakase nook with original tilework and lovely cherry blossom wall coverings. Eleven Madison Park alum chef Brian Lockwood serves up dishes like caviar-flecked cauliflower chawanmushi and an umami bomb of a Jonah crab salad infused with horseradish, miso, and melon.

Best amenity: Location! Being across the street from Millennium Park means you can stroll to The Bean (Anish Kapoor's *Cloud Gate*), the Crown Fountain, and the Pritzker Music Pavilion. The Art Institute of Chicago is within walking distance.

Can't-miss experience: Roller dance classes on the vintage basketball court.

From \$250