



HELICOPTER TOUR OVER CHICAGO / THINKSTOCK



2PM

After a morning of walking and culture, lunch should be a substantial yet relaxed affair. And if there is one thing that is substantial in Chicago, it's the city's famous deep-dish pizza. Pizzeria Uno and Lou Malnati's both claim the dish, so which one you choose is up to you. If pizza isn't your thing, Broken English Taco Pub on Lake Street (just off Michigan Ave) is a great mix of authentic Mexican food and a really fun atmosphere.



3PM

Walk off lunch by heading back up Michigan Avenue for some shopping (window or actual) towards Oak Street. You'll pass all the big designer names as well as more affordable high street staples. A few more miles away you will find some of the city's best boutiques in the Old Town, Bucktown and Wicker Park neighbourhoods. Chicago native Cynthia Rowley has a store in Wicker Park.

As for where to stay, Conrad Chicago is a luxurious property in a great location, while Kimpton Hotel Allegro is a little more fun but equally nice. Both are just off the city's Magnificent Mile, a section of Michigan Avenue that is home to upscale shopping and restaurants, and within walking distance of Millennium Park and en route back up town.



5PM

Even with only 24 hours it is more than possible to squeeze in some pampering, particularly after a day of pounding the streets and absorbing all that culture and history. The city has some fantastic spas where you can enjoy the Vintage Bourbon Massage at the Four Seasons (which finishes with a glass of their delicious proprietary bourbon blend) to the 5 Wu Xing Elements In-One at the Langham which includes an application of Chuan clove thermal balm, heated bamboo reeds, mud and essential oils among other elements.



6PM

Before dinner, get a bird's-eye view of the city as the sun sets with a helicopter tour. Chicago Helicopter Experience offers day, twilight and night tours of varying lengths from 15 minutes to all day.



8PM

Chicago offers everything you could possibly imagine when it comes to dinner, but it is also home to arguably the best restaurant in the entire US. With three Michelin stars and a host of other awards it is hard to see past Grant Achatz's Alinea, but the only other three-starred restaurant in town, Grace, may disagree. Plan on booking well in advance for both.

For something more approachable but still excellent, there is Portsmouth inside the Dana Hotel and Spa on State Street. Great food (the rumaki – scallops and pork belly with green papaya, lemongrass and carrot puree with confit ginger was delicious, as were the fried oysters) and cocktails in a lovely setting, make this a definite hit. If you want to splash out, try the chilled seafood platter. Elsewhere, Navy Pier is a good place to eat while looking out over Lake Michigan. Riva Crab House has great food and views.



10PM

If you still have the energy, this is the time when the blues clubs get going. B.L.U.E.S on North Halsted is a great option as it is a little less touristy than some of the other clubs. 🌿

Concierge Insider

- The institute is one of seven attractions included as part of CityPass Chicago which is great if you have more than 24 hours
- Kimpton Hotel Allegro's social hour from 5pm offers complimentary sparkling wine and is a nice way to get your evening going
- Not interested in shopping? Take to the Chicago River for an architecture tour of the buildings that line its banks. Wendella has been offering the city's 75-minute tour architecture tour since 1935, offering great insight into its history through buildings

OPPOSITE PAGE: Twenty-four hours is just enough time to check out the city's beautiful buildings; Chicago's famous deep-dish pizza is simply a must. THIS PAGE: Go for a stroll downtown or join an architecture tour on the Chicago River

Chicago

Writer Rob McGovern

History, culture and a unique take on pizza await in America's Second City

While 24 hours is never going to be enough to fully experience any city, in Chicago it is just enough to see a host of beautiful buildings, listen to the blues and fill your stomach.



8AM

With so much to do in Chicago and so little time, it is advisable to get up early, grab a coffee and walk towards the city's Millennium Park. Home to the Jay Pritzker Pavilion and Cloud Gate, Anish Kapoor's metallic bean-like sculpture, it adjoins Maggie Daley Park and the Art Institute of Chicago. The Institute is an absolute must-visit thanks to its who's who of famous pieces such as Edward Hopper's *Nighthawks* and Grant Wood's *American Gothic*. There are dozens of pieces by other famous names lining the walls from Vincent van Gogh to Georgia O'Keeffe.



CHICAGO STYLE DEEP DISH CHEESE PIZZA / THINKSTOCK



DOWNTOWN CHICAGO, VIEW FROM THE PARK / THINKSTOCK
CHICAGO RIVER / THINKSTOCK

