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Plan your visit to the Windy City. Image: Lisa Mowry
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48 Hours in Chicago: A Weekend in Our New Favorite Place

Plan your visit to the Windy City. From where to stay to what to eat, here's the best way to spend a weekend in Chicago!

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48 Hours in Chicago: A Weekend in Our New Favorite Place

Lisa Mowry

With all due respect to New York City, [Chicago](#) is the big city getting all the buzz. As a vacation destination, it's easy to get to, with a lot going on downtown: revitalized buildings and stunning new architecture, the Chicago river as a focal point, outdoor art that's oh-so Instagram-worthy, more restaurants than you'll ever have time or money to explore, and guess what ... you know all that to-do about *Hamilton* being so hard to see in New York? Well, skip that scene by catching it in Chicago through early 2018. (Bonus: No creepy Elmos in Chicago's theater district like in Times Square.)

Summer and fall are ideal times to go, so plan now. Here's an itinerary to cover the hot spots:

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Arrive late morning and stash your bags at the hotel before check-in. (Make sure to have your walking shoes handy to grab out of the suitcase; Chicago is a walking town.) Two downtown hotels offer convenient locations — both just a few blocks from Millennium Park and the theater district. Right across from the iconic Marshall Field's store (now a Macy's, but the architectural glamour is still there), [The Alise Chicago](#) radiates historic charm from its turn-of-the-century building, most recently known as the Hotel Burnham. Rooms are modern, but the lobby and elevator banks recall eras gone by with ironwork and old-fashioned telephones. As a swanky contemporary choice, the [Radisson Blu Aqua](#) places you in a high-rise building so cool you'll even learn about it on any architecture tour. The wavy balconies that define the Aqua building will also give you a great view of the city — either the park or river.

