



THE UNOFFICIAL
GO FEST
CHICAGO
2026 VISITOR'S GUIDE

10TH
ANNIVERSARY

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Welcome back to Chicago!

Hello again—We've missed you! Chicagoland trainers have been watching, waiting, and anticipating when GO Fest would have a fourth year in the Second City and we can't think of a more fitting place to host Pokémon GO's 10th Anniversary than where the original GO Fest happened! We're incredibly excited that Chicago was selected once again and proud to have you back.

In our unofficial locals' Guide for 2026, Illinois Community Ambassadors have accumulated helpful suggestions and information about the city for visiting trainers from around the world while also taking extra care to select captivating AR Photos from our inspired midwest trainers. From traveling throughout our grid street system, to on-the-ground know-how about Grant Park, and recommendations for all the food, drinks, and views that the Windy City has to offer, we hope you find something to be excited about (outside of your shundo background dreams).



A FEW WORDS

About safety

Chicago's reputation precedes it. While violence here gets a lot of media coverage, the majority occurs within a few neighborhoods/pockets of the city (as is the case with many other major metropolitan cities like it). Neither GO Fest nor this guide will take you to these areas of the city most affected by normalized crime and, as such, we hope your GO Fest experience will not be hindered by the place or its people.

Be that as it may, no neighborhood or city is 100% free of risks. As your game recommends each time you open it, please be aware of your surroundings. With so many tourists in town, the potential for theft, harassment, or other malicious incidents may be increased. Look out for each other, trainers, and look up from your phones every once in a while!

A FEW MORE WORDS

At the time of writing, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been conducting operations in the Chicagoland area.

If you need assistance due to ICE detention or to report any suspected ICE sightings, call the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights at 1-855-435-7693 or visit [their website](#) for additional resources.



TRAVEL

Getting to GO Fest


GO Fest returns to Chicago's Grant Park in 2026 for the 10th anniversary of Pokémon GO and 30th anniversary of the Pokémon brand. Navigating a large city and its suburbs can feel daunting but we believe the details below will help get you ready.

Airports

There are two major airports in Chicago. Know which you're flying in to and out of, planning accordingly. Consult your Maps app often, too!


Midway

Chicago Midway Int'l Airport (MDW)

 Distance to Grant Park: 10.3 miles

O'Hare

O'Hare Int'l Airport (ORD)

 Distance to Grant Park: 17.3 miles

Taxis



NORTH Entrance Drop-off Point

The intersection of South Columbus Drive and East Jackson Drive



SOUTH Entrance Drop-off Point

The intersection of South Columbus Drive and East Balbo Drive


PRO-TIP


Because these two entrances are fairly close to one another, take a moment to make sure you're in the right area!

Public Transportation


Trips can be planned through the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) trip planner at www.rtachicago.org

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) provides train and routes to Grant Park, through the city and to both major airports. Additional information and route planning can be found at www.transitchicago.com


 **Closest NORTH entrance stops**




**Brown/Purple/Orange
Green/Pink**
Adams & Wabash

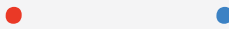


Red/Blue
Jackson

 **Closest SOUTH entrance stop**



**Brown/Purple/Orange
Pink**
State & Van Buren



Red **Blue**
Harrison LaSalle

Metra's commuter rail system can be used for traveling to and from the Chicago suburbs. Details on riding Metra and a map of nearby Metra stations can be found at metrarail.com



PRO-TIP



When in doubt, lean on the Transit app ([iOS](#) / [Android](#)) as it tracks CTA buses and trains, Metra, and Uber/Lyft prices.

Parking

Convenient and wheelchair accessible 24-hour parking is available near Grant Park at the following locations:

Millennium Park Garage

5 S Columbus Dr.
Chicago, IL 60601

Grant Park North Garage

25 Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60602

Grant Park South Garage

325 S Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60604



For the best rates, reserve your parking in advance by using SpotHero or ParkChicago. Reasonably-priced meter parking is available to the west and south of the GO Fest grounds, though you'll need an app to stay on top of refills. Although free parking may exist in the Grant Park area, we don't recommend searching for it.

PRO-TIP

Chicago parking signs are famously vague. If you don't know whether or not it is legal to park somewhere, don't take any chances.



ParkChicago: ([iOS](#) / [Android](#)) As most parking spots in Chicago are either permit-only or metered, your best bet is to find reasonably-priced meter parking.



SpotHero: ([iOS](#) / [Android](#)) A parking reservation service that is great for surveying parking prices in hard-to-park areas.



TRAVEL

Getting around Chicago

While visiting Chicago, you'll have a number of transportation options that can get you from point A to point B. Some are trickier to navigate than others. However, as long as you have your phone, a good sense of direction, and you don't mind making a wrong turn here and there, you'll be a pro in no time.



If you'd rather not carry cash to pay for public transit, we recommend purchasing a Ventra card or pass, available at train stations, most drug stores, and www.ventrachicago.com

Single-Ride tickets are available for \$3* and are great if you don't know how often you'll be using public transit. (*These cost \$5 if your single ride starts at O'Hare.)

Ventra also sells a **1-Day pass** for \$5. These work for 24 hours upon activation (the first time you swipe/tap it at a terminal) and are good for unlimited rides within that time. If you only plan on using public transit the day of GO Fest, this may be your best bet.

For those trainers that plan on exploring the city, there is the \$15 **3-Day pass**. Just like the 1-Day pass, the 3-Day pass works for 72 hours upon activation and is good for unlimited rides within that time.

PRO-TIP

If you have Apple Pay, Android Pay, or Samsung Pay accounts set up, you can use those to board CTA trains and buses. Please note that each transaction will place a \$5 hold on your account that will be adjusted once charges are posted/finalized.

CTA Trains, a.k.a., The “L”

If you’re a tourist visiting the city, there is no more efficient way to travel than by CTA train. Colloquially known as the “L” because of the prominent elevated tracks, Chicago’s train system will get you close to 99% of the places you’ll want to see during your visit. [Plan your trips here](#) or by using Google or Apple Maps!



CTA Buses

Buses are the best if you’re looking to travel long distances north, south, east, or west, make your way downtown, or travel where trains don’t! As long as you stay aware of where you are in relation to your final stop, you’ll be fine. Please note: Buses do not stop unless requested. Pull on the stop-request cord on the window when you’re approaching your destination.



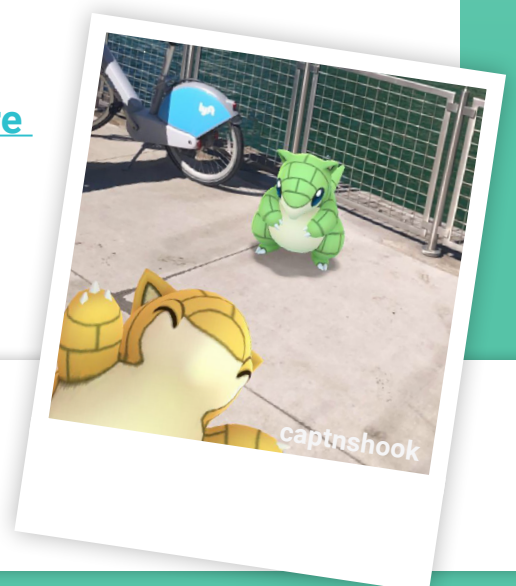
Divvy Bikes

Chicago can be an intimidating city to bike in. For that reason, we do not recommend renting a Divvy bike if this is your first visit to the city, you are unfamiliar with biking in major metropolitan areas, you don’t have a helmet, or you plan on exploring the downtown area. However, if you’re feeling adventurous, you can [learn more about the Divvy program here](#).



PRO-TIP

Don’t ever take a Divvy bike onto Lake Shore Drive.



Grant Park: 2026's GO Fest Venue

Grant Park is one of the most well-known and festival-friendly public parks in Chicago. Named after Ulysses S. Grant, many of Chicago's tourist destinations call the park home, including Buckingham Fountain, Millennium Park, the Art Institute of Chicago, and our Museum Campus. In addition to the occasional GO Fest, Grant Park hosts the Taste of Chicago and Lollapalooza annually among other events.

ADA Accommodations

Pokémon GO Fest 2026 is ADA compliant, including accessible entrances and restrooms. For more information, patrons are directed to visit the Help/Information counters during operational hours or consult the official [GO Fest 2026 website](#).



About the Loop

With both the North and South entrances close to Michigan Avenue, there is a slew of convenient options available to you, equidistant from each part of Grant Park. Whether you're looking for something to eat before the day begins or well after it's started, you're in a great location to explore new or familiar locations! **Tap the photos to visit their website.**

Breakfast Bites & Caffeination



Wildberry Pancakes & Cafe
130 E Randolph St



Intelligentsia Coffeebar
53 E Randolph St



 **APokeDad22 Rec**

Sweet Bean
1152 S Wabash Ave



Doughnut Vault
401 N. Franklin St



Cafecito
26 E Congress Pkwy #1



Hero Coffee Bar
439 S Dearborn St

Lunch/Dinner Spots



MingHin Cuisine

333 E Benton Pl #300



Bavette's Bar & Boeuf

218 W Kinzie St



The Berghoff

17 W Adams St



Eleven City Diner

1112 S Wabash Ave



Devil Dawgs on State

767 S State St

Other Essentials/Last-Minute Needs



Walgreens

122 S Michigan Ave



GO Grocer

820 S Michigan Ave

PRO-TIP

By law, IL restaurants have to provide tap water free of charge.

Park Day Checklist

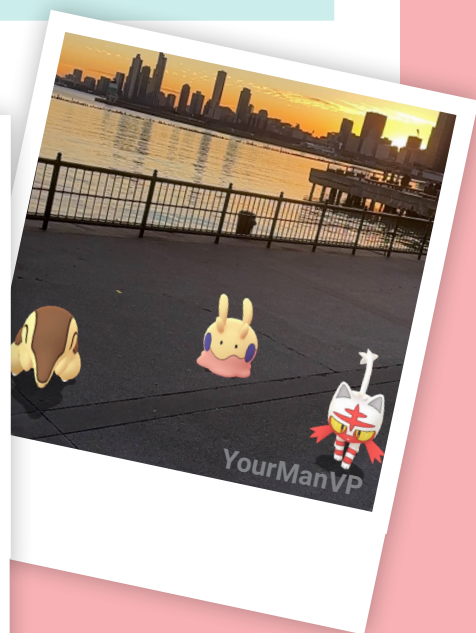
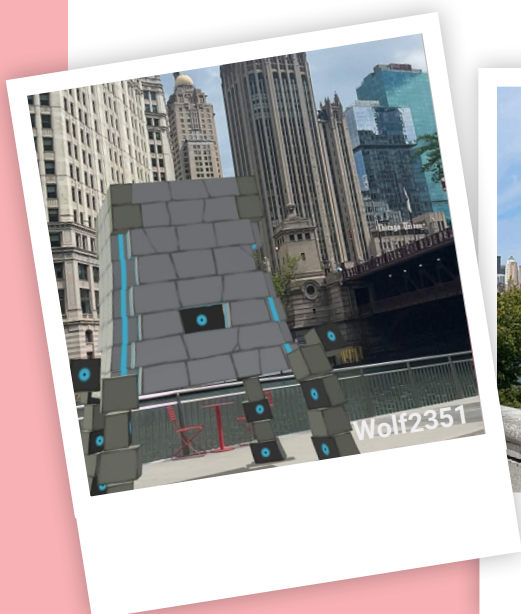
Take a few tips from GO Fest attendees. Make the most of your day at Grant Park by keeping the following in mind:

Before You Go

- 🏠 Hatch your eggs before the day begins (and don't spin)
- 🏠 Stock up on PokéBalls
- 🏠 Clear your Pokémon inventory
- 🏠 Save search strings like `4*&age0` for info at a glance ([guide](#))
- 🏠 Organize your lucky trades and label them
- 🏠 Make sure your portable battery is charged
- 🏠 If raiding, keep an eye out for the \$39 Raid box with 100 passes for the best value

While You are Playing

- 🏠 Arrive early and pick up your merch
- 🏠 Check in to and attend local events on Campfire
- 🏠 Wear sunscreen and comfortable clothing
- 🏠 Pack water and snacks for energy boosts
- 🏠 Party Play and share Star Pieces, Lucky Eggs, and Incense





Beyond Grant Park

Looking for the best places to catch 'em all in Chicago when you're not at the main event? The city is packed with hidden gems beyond the typical downtown spots! These are where we play normally and where we'll be raiding on our off days! If you'd like to plan ahead for Raid trains, you can see the Illinois Community Ambassador's plans [here!](#)

Lincoln Park

2045 N. Lincoln Park West

The site of 2018's GO Fest, Lincoln Park is home to a huge park that runs alongside Lake Shore Drive. The trees in the summer are massive and shade many of the walking paths. It also is home to Lincoln Park Zoo, an incredible place to play GO. You have beautiful views of the skyscrapers downtown while in this natural area, especially by the South Pond!



Navy Pier

600 E Grand Ave

Locals' favorite indoor place to play during inclement weather, Navy Pier can be played indoor or outdoor and is home to one of the sickest clusters at the end. With many restaurants, shops, and seating, it's a seriously solid option that is close to downtown and walkable from Grant Park where GO Fest is taking place!



McKinley (William) Park

2210 W Pershing Rd

The namesake park for the neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side is a large, historic landmark featuring a beautiful lagoon, pool, sports fields, and iconic fieldhouse. Spanning over 70 acres, the grounds offer a tranquil landscape of winding paths and plenty of natural shade.



Horner (Henry) Park

2741 W Montrose Ave

Located in the Irving Park neighborhood, Horner Park's 58-acre restored prairie and oak savanna sports trails along the Chicago River and offers a peaceful escape from the hustle of downtown. Picnic tables, convenience stores, a field house, and even a dog park make this spot an accessible area comfortable for all.



PRO-TIP

Catch the bus! Hop on the CTA's [22](#), [36](#), [62](#) or [151](#) or schedule a [bus tour](#) which all move slowly enough to allow your GO Plus+ to spin stops and catch Pokémon while also letting you see neighborhoods within Chicago. It's cheap and a great respite after the 30,000+ steps in your park day! These buses are also wheelchair accessible so anyone can join in on the efficiency here.



Special Exhibition

POKÉMON FOSSIL MUSEUM

After 15 stops across Japan, the Pokémon Fossil Museum makes its North American debut at Chicago's Field Museum. This unique exhibit compares Pokémon fossils with real-life prehistoric creatures to blend pop culture with paleontology.

Key Details



May 22, 2026 – April 11, 2027



Field Museum, Chicago, IL

Exhibit Highlights

The Pokémon Fossil Museum pairs life-sized models with their prehistoric inspirations, like Tyrannosaurus and the T. rex. Led by Excavator Pikachu, the exhibit uses the “fossil restoration” concept to teach paleontology and evolution. We are thrilled to host this interactive bridge between pop culture and natural history.

Background

Created by Tokyo's National Museum of Nature and Science and The Pokémon Company, this hit exhibit drew over a million visitors in Japan. Chicago is its first international stop and currently the only confirmed North American location.

PRO-TIP

If you are planning a visit, it is highly recommended to check the [Field Museum's official website](#) for ticket availability, as high demand is expected.

The Field Museum is hosting a few special events during GO Fest Weekend!

June 4th 6pm-10pm: [Collection Quest](#) (21+ only)

June 6th and June 7th 6:30am-10:30am

Early Morning: The Pokémon Fossil Museum





Things To Do

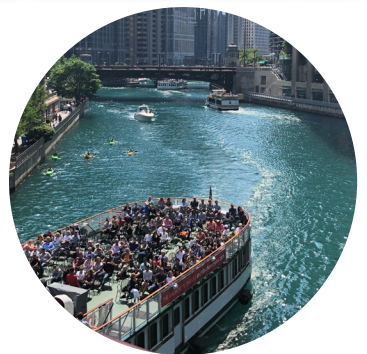
Whether you are standing 1,353 feet in the air or strolling along the vibrant riverfront, these landmarks and events capture the very best of the Windy City—from the birthplace of the skyscraper to the legendary rhythms of the blues.

Architectural Boat Tour

401 N Michigan Ave

AAAWillDeluxe Rec

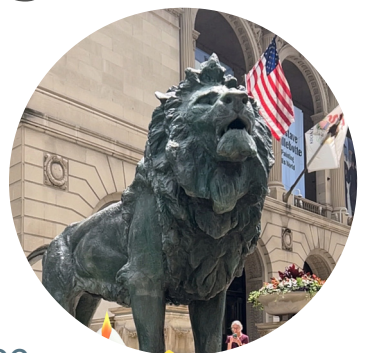
Along the riverfront are a plethora of boat tours looking to share more about Chicago's iconic architecture. An awesome way to see the city from a unique perspective and an easy way to use your Daily Adventure Incense!



The Art Institute of Chicago

111 S Michigan Ave

Guarded by its famous bronze lions, this world-class museum houses a massive collection of nearly 300,000 works, spanning centuries and including one of the finest Impressionist galleries in existence.



Museum Campus

337 E Randolph St

This scenic 57-acre lakefront park stitches together three of the city's most vital institutions: The Adler Planetarium, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Field Museum. Beyond its prestigious science and history exhibits, it offers the most famous skyline view.



The Ledge at Willis Tower (Skydeck)

233 S Wacker Dr

Experience the thrill of “The Ledge,” a series of glass-bottomed boxes extending four feet out from the 103rd floor of the Willis Tower. It offers an unparalleled, bird’s-eye view of the city streets directly beneath your feet and views spanning four different states.



Blues Festival (June 4-7)

201 E. Randolph St

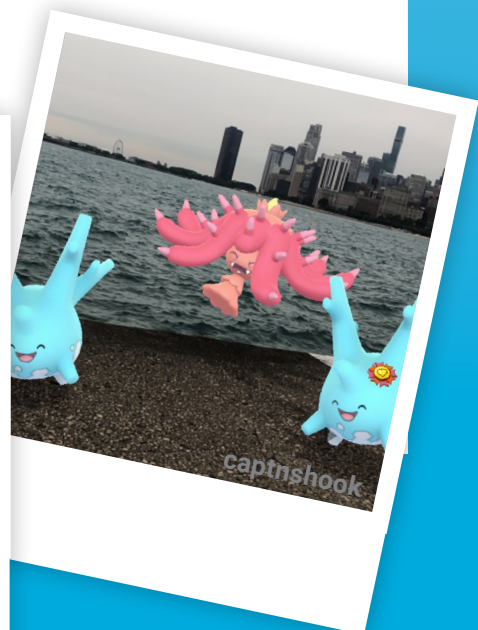
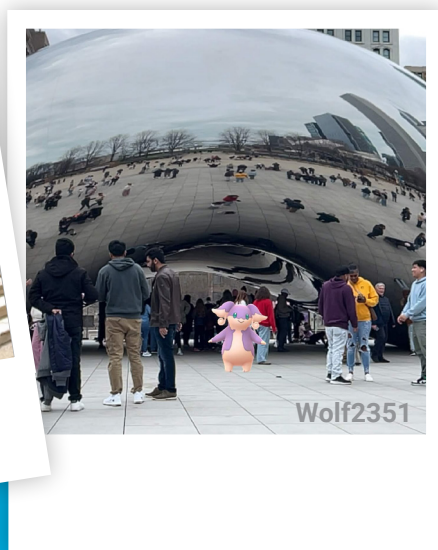
As the “Blues Capital of the World,” Chicago celebrates its musical heritage every June with the largest free blues festival on the planet. Held in Millennium Park, this four-day event features premier performances from living legends and rising stars across multiple stages, showcasing the soulful sounds that define the city’s history.



Chicago Riverwalk

1 W. Lower Wacker Dr

A vibrant pedestrian trail winding along the south bank of the Chicago River, this “second lakefront” is lined with outdoor cafes, public art, and stunning canyon views of the city’s famous architecture.



THINGS TO DO

Dining Destinations

We are 100% biased in saying that Chicago is one of the best cultural and dining destinations in the world. As such, it happens to be great for Pokémon GO, too! **Tap the photos to visit website.**



Burgers



★ **captnshook Rec**

Redhot Ranch

3057 N Ashland Ave

Double cheese with fries and a red pop



★ **Gjostogi Rec**

Au Cheval

800 W. Randolph St

A single is a double and a double is a triple. Don't skip the foie and toast!



SALT Burger + Fries

851 W Belmont Ave

No-frills smashburger with animal-style fries



Tap to go Back to TOC



Pizza



Pequod's Pizza

2207 N Clybourn Ave

Going very early or very late to avoid long waits



Lou Malnati's Pizzeria

805 S State St

The butter crust and a topping of your choice



☆ premierballerxo Rec

Dante's Pizzeria

3028 W Armitage Ave

Classic and experimental slices



Spacca Napoli Pizzeria

1769 W Sunnyside Ave

The burrata and the Pistachio pizza – truly unbelievable



Paulie Gee's

2451 N Milwaukee Ave

"In Ricotta Da Vegan" – as fun as it sounds
***Bonus: Great vegan menu**



Pizza Lobo

3000 W Fullerton Ave

Borgata pie & crispy cauliflower, thank us later



Tap to go Back to TOC



Hot Dogs



Portillo's

100 W Ontario St

The chocolate cake shake – it's cake in a shake!



Chicago's Dog House

816 W Fullerton Ave

Branching out – what sounds weird is usually delicious



Budacki's

4739 N Damen Ave

Don't forget a pizza puff on the side for authenticity



Vegan Fare



Chicago Diner

3411 N Halsted St

The 100% meat and dairy-free reuben



Quesadilla La Reina Del Sur

2237 N Western Ave

Quesadilla de huitlacoche y jugo para el dolor muscular



Tap to go Back to TOC

Vegan Fare, *continued*



\$\$

Handlebar

2311 W North Ave

Fried pickles, buffalo 'chicken' wrap with sesame broccoli



\$\$

Amitabul

6207 N Milwaukee Ave

Mandoo dumplings and a soup or stew, even if it's hot out

Asian



\$\$

 KnifeLaughLove Rec

Kasama

1001 N Winchester Ave

Try everything you can with the Oh, Hot Yam! latte



\$\$

Nhà Hàng Vietnam

1032 W Argyle St

Chicken pho, chicken pho, chicken pho



\$\$

Tuk Tuk Thai Isan Street Food

2852 N Clark St

Tiger cry, laab moo, Thai iced tea



\$\$

Uncle Mike's Place

1700 W Grand Ave

Longanisa and tocino breakfast

Asian, *continued*



YooYee

4925 N Broadway

Spicy braised beef brisket hand-pulled noodle soup, Xinjiang-style lamb, Chongqing popcorn chicken



Lawrence Fish Market

3920 W Lawrence Ave

Unmatched quality and quantity for a sushi platter!



Qing Xiang Yuan

2002 S Wentworth Ave

Just stuff yourself with dumplings until you can't walk



Kanin

5131 N Damen Ave

We dream of the ube banana pudding



Daeji Dough Co

1360 W Belmont Ave

Tteokbokki croissant and a miso honey cornbread



Oiistar

1385 N Milwaukee Ave

Spicy garlic shoyu ramen and pork belly buns

Asian, *continued*



Crisp

2940 N Broadway

Seoul sassy wings and O-rings



Blowfish Sushi & Ramen

1131 W Bryn Mawr Ave

The crispy bbq spicy tuna is choice



Hispanic



Cruz Blanca

904 W Randolph St

Langosta tacos and a crispy cerveza



taco1931

El Milagro Taqueria

1927 S Blue Island Ave

Chicago's favorite tortillas. The steak tacos and tamales rule!



Kie-Gol-Lanee

5004 N Sheridan Rd

Oaxacan tlayudas, chapulines, and enchiladas de mole



Taqueria El Asadero

2213 W Montrose Ave

Tacos al carbon since '93 near a 5 PokéStop corner



Other Favorites



\$\$

Parson's Chicken and Fish

2435 Halsted St

Fried chicken and hush puppies – Zoo wee mama!



\$\$

Demera Ethiopian

4801 N Broadway

A fun and unique experience, especially shared with friends



\$\$\$

Andros Taverna

5242 N Milwaukee

Andros salad, leg of lamb, grilled octopus, lemon garlic chicken, pea latheros



\$

Molly's Cupcakes

2536 N Clark St

Be a kid eating a Cookie Monster cupcake while on the swings inside



\$

Metric Coffee

2021 W Fulton St

Classic cold brew, Big Riff, or the Seismic blends!



\$

The Brewed Coffee

2843 N Milwaukee Ave

Firestarter or Skull Island latte, then stop by Bric-a-Brac next door!



Tap to go Back to TOC



Breweries



\$\$

Half Acre Beer Company

4257 N Lincoln Ave

Several 5 oz. pours and a California burrito



\$\$

Off Color Brewing Taproom

1450 N Kingsbury St

Bringing your own food or using their pizza phone



\$\$

Maplewood Brewery

2717 N Maplewood Ave

Visiting on Sunday morning for brunch and beermosas



\$

Marz Community Brewing Co.

3620 S Iron St

Pairing a Chocolate y Churros Stout with a board game



\$\$

Hop Butcher

4257 N Lincoln Ave

IPAs for days. Son of a Juice is so refreshing!



\$\$

Crushed by Giants

600 N Michigan Ave

Fresh in-house brews with solid food like the CBG Burger.





Bars



\$\$

Hopleaf

5148 N Clark St

Exploring their expansive craft beer menu – order fries



\$\$



Charis Listening Bar

3317 S Morgan St

Cozy and well-curated atmosphere with great vinyl music selection.



\$\$

Cindy's Rooftop

12 S Michigan Ave

Grabbing a drink and enjoying the view



\$\$

Scofflaw

3201 W Armitage Ave

Exploring Armitage Avenue after a cocktail or two



\$\$

Nobody's Darling

1744 W Balmoral Ave

Woman-owned cocktail and mocktail bar. Try the Southside Lychee Martini!





ILCA Illinois Community Ambassadors

Tap on a logo to go to their Campfire group.



Thank you!

Thank you for reading our unofficial guide (or at least skipping to the end). We truly hope this information helps you before and during your trip to our wonderful city! There are so many communities of trainers all across Chicagoland so bringing our efforts in to one place was a huge passion project for us. If you feel like we've overlooked something or you have additional recommendations, connect with us through Campfire or Discord!

Special thanks go to [@cmykchicago](#) for the original bones of this Guide and to the Pokémon GO team from Scopely for their guidance. If you're interested in learning how to become a Community Ambassador, you can visit [this page](#), the Ambassador tent at GO Fest, or ask any of us online or IRL.

And a sincere happy 10th Anniversary to Pokémon GO! We as Chicagoans are so proud to be hosting the festivities once again. Here's to the past ten and the next!

