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 SOHO HOUSE CITY GUIDES

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# CHICAGO

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 A guide by members, for members to all the best places to eat, drink, shop, party and meet. Discover the Soho House side of the city.

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# ANTLER



ANTLER.COM

Welcome to Chicago, we're so happy to have you here. Now that you've arrived at **Soho House Chicago** – your home away from home in the Windy City – why not head up to our rooftop pool, take in the views of the West Loop and make a plan for your visit.

**Soho House Chicago** first opened its doors 10 years ago in 2014. Since then, it has become the beating heart of the city's dynamic creative scene – a place for our global members to come together

and belong. Situated in the 1908 Allis Building, a former belt factory in the Fulton Market District, the House is one of the largest in the world.

With a rooftop overlooking the city, the building features industrial-inspired interiors, 40 bedrooms, an 80 ft rooftop pool, a screening room, a gym and spa, and daily music and events programming. There's also an art collection with works by artists such as Theaster Gates, Damien Hirst and Kerry James Marshall.

WELCOME

ALLIS BUILDING

SOHO HOUSE

113-125

SC

Soho House Chicago





So, whether you've been inspired by *The Bear* and you're in town to sample some local food, or you're here to discover some art (don't miss The Art Institute of Chicago, which has one of the finest collections in the world), consider this – our first-ever printed guide to the city, produced in partnership with Antler and featuring all the best tips from our

members in the know – your pocket-sized companion during your stay.

Kalan Sebert Dondanville,  
Head of Membership  
and Communications,  
Soho House Chicago

**Head to the member  
benefits section of the  
Soho House app to enjoy  
20% off Antler suitcases**

### Hyde Park

The site of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, this is a dose of calm in the middle of the metropolis. Hyde Park is home to The University of Chicago and the Barack Obama Presidential Center (set to open in 2026), as well as the landmark Griffin Museum of Science and Industry. The sprawling Jackson Park features

more than 500 acres of green space and gardens, as well as art like 'Sky Landing' – a sculpture by Yoko Ono and her first installation in the US. You can also explore old landmarks, including the Robie House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright – an iconic example of Prairie School architecture. Or, if you're in the mood to shop, head to 53rd Street for a mix of independent stores.

## NEIGHBOURHOODS

Hyde Park



## All about Chicago's coolest areas

## NEIGHBOURHOODS

### Fulton Market/ West Loop

Fulton Market is now a bustling mixed-use neighborhood packed with restaurants, bars and retail. Likewise, formerly a warehouse district serving the Windy City's commercial links, today the West Loop area is a blend of energy and old-school charm. Little Italy sits next door to the campus of the University of Illinois Chicago, and both are packed with gems, including Mario's Italian Lemonade, a famed beverage spot established in 1954 and still run by the family. And there's also Union Station, as seen in *The Untouchables*, where you can hop in and out of the city via Amtrak.

### Pilsen

Located on Chicago's Lower West Side, Pilsen was named by its Czech immigrant residents, but is now home to the city's largest Latino population. Brimming with a range of food and drink options, the area offers plenty of nightlife venues as well as culture, from colorful street murals and contemporary galleries, to the National Museum of Mexican Art. On sunny days, you can get a dose of nature in Harrison Park, which is also the home of the neighborhood's Día de los Muertos celebrations.

A photograph of a CTA train on an elevated track. The train is silver and blue, with the number 5101 on its side. It is moving along a track supported by a large, rusted steel structure. In the background is a multi-story brick building with many windows. A red stop sign is visible on the right side of the frame. The text "NEIGHBOURHOODS" is overlaid in a red box in the top right corner.

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Fulton Market

## The art to discover in Soho House Chicago

ART

Curated by Francesca Gavin, the **Soho House Chicago** art collection reflects the city's role as a global creative hub. Featuring both homegrown talent and international names, the House has more than 250 artworks by a global lineup of artists.

Key artists who work or were born in Chicago include Theaster Gates, Kerry James Marshall, Rashid Johnson, and Sheree Hovsepian.

Established international figures include Adam Pendleton, Laurie Simmons, Wolfgang Tillmans, Paul P., Damien Hirst, Mickalene Thomas, Hilary Lloyd, David Salle, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Dawoud Bey, Scott Treleaven, and Paul Mpagi Sepuya. Some of the key pieces featured in the House are a large-scale, site-specific work by Angel Otero and Hirst's 'Chicago' butterfly work in the ground-floor lobby.

ART



Artwork by Theaster Gates

## The member picks:

### art spots to visit

Selected by Madeline Gallucci,  
artist and director of  
marketing & communications,  
EXPO CHICAGO

#### 1 Bodenrader

This new gallery space in West Town hosts exhibitions of established and emerging artists, such as London-based Judith Dean and Chicago painter Ella Rose Flood.  
**bodenrader.com**

#### 2 M. LeBlanc

Located in Logan Square, M. LeBlanc showcases new talent from Chicago and abroad. With touches of historical architectural details, don't miss a visit to the bathroom where you can pick up a pack of limited-edition matches.  
**mleblancchicago.com**

#### 3 The Renaissance Society

Set in the gothic architecture of the University of Chicago, this kunsthalle-style space

showcases contemporary work and hosts a diverse talk and performance program.  
**renaissancesociety.org**

#### 4 Soccer Club Club

Off the beaten path in Cicero, Soccer Club Club shows an array of exhibitions in a former Polish soccer club. The venue is run by Chicago record label, Drag City, and hosts music performances during its late-night opening receptions.  
**soccerclub.club**

#### 5 Goldfinch

Head to East Garfield Park for Goldfinch, one of my favorite places to discover paintings and ceramics. Pop next door to Slow Dance, a small but mighty project space specializing in solo artist presentations.  
**goldfinch-gallery.com**





ART

The Renaissance Society

**Eat your way around  
Soho House Chicago**

**FOOD & DRINK**

Food is at the heart of **Soho House Chicago**, with something for everyone. Available in the members' space on the fifth floor, the House menu is a great option for all-day dining. You'll find a mix of familiar favorites found in our Houses around the world, plus Chicago-inspired specialties and seasonal dishes from our chefs.

A relaxed and welcoming social space, The Allis Bar is named after the family that commissioned the historic building in 1907. Located within the ground-floor lobby, it offers a European brasserie menu and classic cocktails. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm to 4.30pm, the Allis serves afternoon tea with Champagne, pastries and savory bites.

FOOD & DRINK

The Allis Bar



**The member picks:****where to eat and drink**

Selected by Paul Octavious,  
artist and founder,  
Eye Eaters Society

**1 Esmé**

Esmé has a focus on locally sourced ingredients. Curiosity guides its tasting menu, resulting in a dining experience that consistently blows me away. Bar Esmé also serves staple dishes and the viral giant Cheetos that can't be missed.  
**esmechicago.com**

**2 Chef's Special**

This vibrant bar is a love letter to Americanized Chinese food. My go-to takeout order is Dan Dan Noodles, egg roll, smashed cucumber and extra rice. The atmosphere is lively, making it ideal for a casual night out or a special occasion.  
**chefsspecialbar.com**

**3 Au Cheval**

Au Cheval is a cozy diner-style spot known for having one of the best burgers in the city. Don't be

fooled, the regular burger has two patties and the double has three. The bologna sandwich and bone marrow are also knockouts.  
**auchevaldiner.com**

**4 Downstate Donuts**

Downstate's unique potato-based donuts come in flavors like sweet potato, Vietnamese coffee, and miso drizzle. I knew this was the right place when they served me Cafe Du Monde coffee. It's the perfect spot for anyone looking to satisfy their sweet tooth with a twist.  
**downstatedonuts.com**

**5 Giant**

One of the many locations to feature in *The Bear*, Giant offers an elevated twist on classic flavors. Think crab salad with waffle fries or bucatini with bacon, jalapeno, and anchovy.  
**giantrestaurant.com**

FOOD & DRINK



Esmé

**The member picks:****cool places to shop**

Selected by Brandon  
Frein, stylist

**1 Robin Richman**

No shopping trip in Chicago would be complete without a visit to Robin Richman, for fashion, textiles and trinkets from Richman's trips around the world. At the back of the store, you'll find Misanthrope – a men's concept space curated by Ayrin Dismuke.  
**robinrichman.com**

**2 Merz Apothecary**

From body oils, candles and diffusers to the best in beard care, anything you need to pamper yourself with can be found here. And don't overlook the Chimes ginger chews while you're waiting to check out.  
**merzapothecary.com**

**3 Luxury Eyesight**

This West Loop store has the best in optics and sunglasses. The range includes little-known and highly sought-after brands,

like Mykita, Kuboraum, Jacques Marie Mage, Theo, and more. It's by appointment only, but don't let that intimidate you – this is a unique shopping experience.  
**luxuryeyesite.com**

**4 Richard's Fabulous Finds**

If vintage is your thing, head to Richard's which has the market cornered when it comes to men's vintage, and Richard himself has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to all things men's style.  
**richardsfabulousfinds.com**

**5 Martha Mae Outpost  
at The Center for Order  
and Experimentation**

The brainchild of artist Jean Cate, Martha Mae is an inspiring space filled with carefully curated artists' tools, as well as thoughtfully designed objects for the home and office.  
**marthamae.info**

The image shows a vintage clothing boutique. On the left, a black metal rack is filled with numerous light-colored suits. To the right, a single tan jacket is displayed on a stand, featuring a red leather messenger bag. The background wall is a warm yellow and is decorated with several framed portraits of men in suits. A shelf above the suit rack holds a red lamp, a small plant, and various decorative items. The floor is dark wood, and a pair of tan loafers sits in the foreground.

SHOPPING

**Richard's Fabulous Finds**



The must-buys to take home  
in your Antler suitcase

SHOPPING



**1 The bag**  
Tagliovi Large  
Doctor Bag, \$1,242  
[robinrichman.com](http://robinrichman.com)

**2 The bath oil**  
Olverum Medium  
Bath Oil, \$62  
[merzapotheary.com](http://merzapotheary.com)


**3 The sunglasses**  
Jacques Marie Mage Casius  
Sun Hickory Fade, \$820  
[luxuryeyesite.com](http://luxuryeyesite.com)

**4 The cocktail set**  
Ceramic Cocktail  
Jigger Set, \$153  
[marthamae.info](http://marthamae.info)

**5 The towel**  
Soho House Chicago  
Pool Towel, \$83  
[sohohome.com](http://sohohome.com)



SHOPPING

A green, hard-shell suitcase with a textured, ribbed design is shown from a top-down perspective. The suitcase is positioned diagonally on a light-colored wooden floor with a prominent grain. It features a small, square logo on the top lid, which depicts a stylized antler. The suitcase has four black wheels visible at the bottom corners. The lighting creates strong shadows, highlighting the texture of the suitcase and the floor.

Antler suitcase

## Own the night at Soho House Chicago

NIGHTLIFE

From intimate cocktails to afterparties, the nightlife at **Soho House Chicago** runs with all the energy you'd expect in the Windy City. Post work, the Music Room is home to daily member event programs and clubs, while the main bar hosts live music.

When Lollapalooza hits Grant Park in August, the city's most

famous music festival doesn't stop when the stage lights go off; it only truly gets started with a series of afterparties and performances at the House, such as Tinashe.

Every summer outside, it's Night Swim season, with the rooftop pool coming to life after dusk with DJ sets, live music and movies under the stars.



NIGHTLIFE

Tinashe at Soho House Chicago

## The member picks: where to dance the night away

Selected by Rob Wilce,  
owner, Blind Barber

### 1 The Charleston

Located in Bucktown, The Charleston is one of Chicago's most unsuspecting spots for DJs and selectors. The atmosphere is laid-back with great tunes from a reel-to-reel tape player, but as the night unfolds, the room gets darker and the music gets louder.

**@thecharleston**

### 2 Blind Barber

A sort of speakeasy, the amber-lit backroom is consistently packed, radiating vibrant energy with an emphasis on fostering community connections. Great for a big night out in an intimate setting.

**@blindbarber**

### 3 Podlasie Club

Podlasie Club in the Avondale neighborhood is a revival of an almost defunct location that was one of the most popular Polish nightclubs in Chicago

during the 1980s and 1990s. It's now home to Gen Z DJs playing high-energy cuts over Klipsch loudspeakers.

**@podlasieclub**

### 4 Smartbar

Head to Wrigleyville for a 'no holds barred' dance-a-thon. This club has a 40-year legacy of hosting techno lineups from around the world and internationally known residents. Regulars include DJ Seinfeld and The Blessed Madonna.

**@smartbarchicago**

### 5 Serum

Typically held on Fridays at PRYSM in Lincoln Park, Serum delivers a heavy dose of techno and electronic music. Iconic headliners like Todd Terry and visitors from across the pond, such as Nightmares on Wax, command nights like this.

**@serumwav**

NIGHTLIFE

Blind Barber



**The member picks:  
discover the outdoorsy  
side of Chicago**

Selected by Lucy Angel  
Camarena, entrepreneur

EXPLORE

**1 Run with GRC  
Run Club at KIUBO**

My run club meets at KIUBO, a space I co-founded that's part flower shop, part coffee shop, part retail shop to run a 5K the first Friday of every month. We go through Douglass Park, and it's a fun way to meet new people.

**@kiubo.space**

**2 Lakefront at the  
Adler Planetarium**

When I want to see the city skyline in full effect, I go to a little nook between the Adler Planetarium and the Shedd Aquarium. There are steps for you to sit on and remind you how beautiful Chicago is.

**adlerplanetarium.org**

**3 Millennium Park**

Grab a blanket, some snacks

and wine, and pull up to one of the many free programs at Millennium Park. I love coming here to listen to music and have seen some of my favorite artists perform while the sun sets.

**4 Ping Tom Memorial Park**

I like strolling through this park and then walking over to Chinatown to grab a bubble tea and dumplings.

**chicagoparkdistrict.com**

**5 Garfield Park Conservatory**

I'm not going to lie and tell you Chicago has nice weather all year round. On a rainy, snowy or windy day, you can count on feeling like you're outdoors at the Garfield Park Conservatory. It's the perfect place to enjoy its interesting array of plants indoors.

**garfieldconservatory.org**

EXPLORE



Ping Tom Memorial Park



**Soho House Chicago** spans five floors of the 1908 Allis Building, a former belt factory in the Fulton Market District. Opened in 2014 with a rooftop overlooking West Loop, the building features 40 bedrooms, a screening room, a fully equipped gym with a timetable of classes and steam rooms, plus a Cowshed spa for signature treatments and massages.

The House's industrial-inspired interior remains lined with

concrete and worn, exposed brick, and has the same high ceilings and expansive floor plan of the early 20th-century factory that came before.

Head up to the rooftop, which features an 80 ft outdoor swimming pool surrounded by nautical-inspired blue striped daybeds, all set against the incredible view of the city's skyline, which includes the John Hancock building and Willis Tower (formerly known as the Sears Tower).





ELLIS BUILDING

Soho House Chicago

**The member picks:  
all of Chicago's hottest  
architecture spots**

Selected by Tanner Woodford,  
founder and executive director,  
Design Museum of Chicago

**1 Design Museum of Chicago**

Design surrounds us, deeply influencing our lives in large and small ways. This free museum rotates through inspiring design exhibits one at a time.

**[designchicago.org](http://designchicago.org)**

**2 The Newberry Library**

The Newberry has housed a diverse and exciting range of collections, programs and exhibitions for free in one of Chicago's most historic cultural institutions since 1887.

**[newberry.org](http://newberry.org)**

**3 Chicago Architecture Center's River Cruise**

Charter a boat down the Chicago River, and learn

from expertly trained docents as they share fascinating stories behind more than 50 iconic buildings.

**[architecture.org](http://architecture.org)**

**4 The B\_Line**

For 50 years, artists have painted an explosion of bright murals on a large cement viaduct in Fulton Market, creating an open-air museum of street art.

**5 Chicago Cultural Center**

Originally the main branch of the Chicago Public Library in 1897, this cultural space now offers free rotating exhibits and two of the best stained-glass domes you will ever see.

**[architecture.org](http://architecture.org)**

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of the interior of the Chicago Cultural Center's rotunda. The image captures the vast, ornate dome, which is covered in a complex grid of stained glass panels. At the very top is a circular oculus featuring a radial pattern of colorful stained glass. Below the dome, a wide band of the wall is inscribed with the words "GIVES TO MANKIND WHICH ARE DEERED DOWN FROM GENERATION". The lower portion of the image shows the base of the dome, characterized by intricate, dark-colored scrollwork and floral patterns. A large, multi-tiered chandelier hangs from the center of the dome, its light reflecting off the glass panels. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

DESIGN

Chicago Cultural Center

**Still on the hunt for more Chicago must-dos?**

Visit the 'Travel Tips' section of the Connect feed in the Soho House app to find other members for city-break gold.



Contributors: Lucy Angel Camarena, Kalan Sebert Dondanville, Brandon Frein, Madeline Gallucci, Paul Octavious, Madison Perdue, Rob Wilce, Tanner Woodford. Writer: Jethro Turner. Photographers: Kevin Gonzalez, Brad Torchia. Illustrators: Chiara Brazzale, Mike Lemanski.



FOR THOSE WHO TRAVEL OFTEN. SINCE 1914.

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# Explore our House in Chicago

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**Soho House Chicago**

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