

The USASP welcomes you to Chicago and the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, an architecturally important and award-winning building, the product of Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects (<https://studiogang.com/projects/aqua-tower/>).

The hotel is located on a short stretch of north Columbus Drive, a north-south running street with easy access to Maggie Daley Park to the south and the Chicago River to the north.¹ Lakeshore East Park is located behind (east) the hotel and several levels below the street. Consider extending your stay – there's lots to see and do in Chicago. The information below includes activities, attractions, and restaurants near the hotel. There is so much more to see farther afield in Chicago if you have the time!

- Walk/Jog/Run/Bike – Exit the hotel and walk north to Wacker Drive and the Chicago River. Cross Wacker Drive and take the stairs down to the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk extends ~1 mile west (left) to the confluence of the Main, North and South branches of the Chicago River with dining and drinking opportunities along the way. Eastbound, the Riverwalk brings you to Lake Michigan and a paved 18-mile-long lakefront trail. Bikes can be rented for a ride along the lakefront.
 - Nearby dining options (less than 10 min from the hotel):
 - Gordo's Tiny Taco Bar - 333 E Benton Place (located at the southwest corner of Lakeshore East Park). It's an unpretentious, welcoming Mexican restaurant with good food and reasonable prices. <https://www.gordostinytaco.com/>
 - A couple of doors east of Gordo's on Benton Place is Eggy's Diner, a good place for breakfast, brunch, or lunch. <https://www.eggysdiner.com/>
 - Further east on Benton Place is a *Subway* and, at the corner of Field Blvd, is Avli on The Park, a contemporary Greek restaurant. <https://www.avli.us/avli-on-the-park>
 - Stetson's Modern Steak and Sushi - 151 E Wacker Dr in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. <https://www.stetsonschicago.com/>
 - Wildberry Pancakes & Café - 130 E Randolph St (Prudential Building Plaza). Open 7 am – 2 pm for breakfast, brunch, or lunch. <https://wildberrycafe.com/locations/chicago-prudential-plaza>
 - Miru - 401 E Wacker Dr. An upscale Japanese restaurant on the 11th floor of the St. Regis Hotel (the curvy blue, 101 story building east of the hotel, another product of Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects, and the 3rd tallest building in Chicago). <https://www.mirurestaurant.com/>
- ... and there's a nearby grocery store and Chinese restaurant.
- The entrance to Mariano's Grocery is located between Gordo's and Eggy's and occupies the top two floors of the building. Hours are from 6 am to 8 pm. At the top

¹ Good to know #1 – there is a CVS pharmacy at the southeast corner of the property.

of the escalators and to the right is MingHin Cuisine (名軒 芝加哥), a Dim sum restaurant. <https://www.minghincuisine.com/>

- There are many additional dining options, from inexpensive to pricey, a bit further from the hotel:
 - Acanto (Italian) - 18 S Michigan Ave² across from Millennium Park - ~20 min walk. (<https://www.acantochicago.com/>).
 - Remington's (traditional steakhouse) – 20 N Michigan Ave across from the Cloud Gate sculpture (aka The Bean) in Millennium Park - ~15 min walk. (<https://www.remingtonschicago.com/>).
 - Venteux Brasserie (French) and Chateau Carbide Lounge and Bar – 224 N Michigan Ave in the landmark Art Deco Carbide and Carbon Building built in 1929 - <10 min walk. (<https://www.venteuxchicago.com/>).
 - Ocean Prime (steak and seafood) is located on the 2nd floor of the London House at the SW corner of Wacker Drive and Michigan Ave (87 E Wacker Dr) ~5 min walk. (<https://ocean-prime.com/locations-menus/chicago/>).
 - Evie Grill (burgers and more) - 537 N Michigan Ave (2nd floor) ~15 min walk. (<https://eviechicago.com/>).
- Dining options a bit farther from the hotel, but walkable:
 - Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse – 33 W Kinzie St. Steaks and pasta in a landmark Dutch Renaissance Revival-style building (with past ties to Al Capone and Frank Nitti). <https://www.harrycarays.com/harry-carays-italian-steakhouse-river-north.html>
 - Joe's Seafood - 60 E Grand Ave. <https://www.joes.net/>
 - Shaw's Crab House – 21 E Hubbard St. <https://www.shawscrabhouse.com/chicago-illinois/>
 - Tortoise Supper Club – 350 N State St. Traditional American with live jazz Fridays and Saturdays. <https://tortoisepupperclub.com/>
- And then there's always **PIZZAS** – Chicagoans can be passionate, opinionated, and argumentative about their pizzas – deep dish vs thin crust, Chicago vs NY, tavern style cut vs pie cut. In the final analysis, it's all good.

Deep dish pizza is synonymous with Chicago. It was invented in 1943 by Ike Sewell (or Ric Riccardo or Rudy Malnati Sr ??) and offered first at Pizzeria Uno in 1943 (see³ for

² Good to know #2 - The starting point of Chicago addresses is the intersection of Madison Ave (0 N&S) and State St (0 E&W). All addresses are ordered from that starting point and radiate outward N, S, E, and W from that intersection.

³ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/story-behind-chicago-deep-dish-pizza>.

the story). Virtually every pizzeria in Chicago offers both thin crust and deep dish pizzas and each claims its deep dish pizza has been voted by somebody or some organization as offering the “best” deep dish pizza in the city. Walkable pizza options near the Radisson Blu include:

- Uno's or Due's Pizzerias⁴ – Uno's (SW corner of Wabash & Ohio, 29 E Ohio St) and Due's (a block north on the SE corner of Wabash & Ontario, 619 N Wabash) are both linked with deep dish originator Ike Sewell (<https://www.pizzeriaunodue.com/>). Neither offers much in the way of décor, are as original as it gets, and still the “go to” deep dish pizza for many (~20 min walk).
 - Lou Malnati's – a franchise pizzeria also associated with the originator of deep dish pizza (410 N Michigan Ave set back off the avenue) ~15 min walk. <https://www.loumalnatis.com/chicago-michigan-avenue>
 - Labriola Restaurant – an Italian restaurant with good pizzas (535 N Michigan Ave set back off the avenue) ~20 min walk. <https://www.labriolacafe.com/>
 - Gino's East is another favorite pizzeria but located farther from the hotel than those above (162 E Superior St) ~30 min walk. <https://www.ginoseast.com/>
- Nearby attractions:
 - Millennium Park (bounded by Randolph St, Michigan Ave, Monroe St, & Columbus Drive) is conveniently accessed via Maggie Daley Park (south from the hotel) and the BP Bridge over lower Columbus Drive. The park is anchored at the north end by the Pritzker Bandshell (Frank Gehry-designed) and by Lurie Gardens (featuring native perennials, bulbs, prairie grasses and shrubs) at its south end. In between the bandshell and gardens is Cloud Gate (aka The Bean) and Crown Fountain, an interactive work of public art and video sculpture. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Park
 - Art Institute of Chicago (AIC) – 111 S Michigan Ave (~20 min walk). The AIC, founded in 1879, is housed in a building constructed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and 'guarded' by two large bronze lions as well known to Chicagoans as the most famous works of art inside the AIC. The AIC houses one of the largest and best collections of French Impressionism outside of France in addition to Edward Hopper's *Nighthawks* and Grant Wood's *American Gothic* among its permanent collection of ~300,000 works of art. The Renzo Piano-designed Modern Wing was added in 2009, including an entrance on Monroe St across from Lurie Gardens in Millennium Park. The AIC is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; admission for students and seniors is \$26, for adults \$32. <https://www.artic.edu/>

⁴ Good to know #3 – a small deep dish pizza (4 slices) feeds two, a medium pizza for two is a killer.

- Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) - 220 E Chicago Ave (~30 min walk). The MCA opened in 1967 and today, housed in a modern building designed by Josef Paul Kleihues, is one of the world's largest contemporary art venues. The MCA is closed on Mondays; admission ranges from \$10 – 22. <https://mcachicago.org/>
- Chicago Cultural Center – 78 E Washington St, with entrances on both Randolph and Washington Streets (~10 min walk). This neoclassical style building opened in 1897 as the main library of the Chicago Public Library system and became the home of the cultural center in 1978. It was extensively renovated in 2022 and houses the Grand Army of the Republic rotunda and hall (Civil War Union Veteran's memorial) and the world's largest Louis Comfort Tiffany stained-glass dome – a must-see, and the price is right. Use the Washington St entrance (the one with the bronze cow out front) to most directly access the grand staircase, Preston Bradley Hall and its exceptional mosaics, and the glass dome. Open daily 10 am – 5 pm, no admission fee. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Cultural_Center ⁵
- Chicago Architectural Center (CAC) - 111 E Wacker Dr, just south of Michigan Ave (~5 min walk). Chicago is considered home to the first skyscraper, the 10-story Home Insurance Building (1885), which used an innovative structural steel frame to bear the weight of the floors of the building and also support the weight of the external walls (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_skyscrapers). The CAC provides walking tours, exhibits and programs throughout the year dedicated to sharing the city's architectural history and gems, including popular Chicago River Boat tours of the city's architecture.
- Navy Pier – 600 E Grand Ave. A tourist attraction with an interesting history. <https://chicagonavymemorial.org/>. Completed in 1916, intended for recreational and commercial shipping purposes, Navy Pier, which projects 3300 feet into Lake Michigan, served as a site for military and aviator training during World Wars I and II and, later, the home of the University of Illinois at Chicago before construction of the UI at Chicago Circle Campus in 1965. Today, Navy Pier is a popular attraction, featuring a large Ferris Wheel, a hotel, The Shakespeare Theater, etc.

⁵ Tiffany was busy in Chicago. Another beautiful Tiffany dome is located in Macy's (formerly the iconic Marshall Field & Co store) on State St. Enter on Washington just south of State St, go to the cosmetic counters, and look up. Take the elevator to the 5th floor for a closer look.