HYDE PARK

MAKING A HOME IN THE CITY
Transitioning. Kinetic. And home to lifelong residents.
This is Hyde Park, where different people, perceptions, and pursuits coexist and thrive in a unique Chicago neighborhood on the southwest shore of Lake Michigan.

THIS IS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Downtown Chicago: Just 7 miles from Hyde Park and easily reached by bus, train, scenic bike ride, or a quick cruise down Lake Shore Drive.
In a city known for its architecture, Hyde Park features an eclectic mixture of styles, from vintage greystones and brownstones to buildings designed by such world-class architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, and Eero Saarinen.

Hyde Park is surrounded by communities experiencing unprecedented levels of growth and redevelopment—Woodlawn, North Kenwood/Oakland, and beyond—leading to an ever-broadening community of communities and a blurring of the boundaries that once isolated Hyde Park from its neighbors. The result is an ever richer cultural life and a shared appreciation for life on the Mid–South Side.
“People in Hyde Park are intellectually ambitious—they want to be among others who are creative, doing productive work, and are into ideas.”

DAVID BASHWINER
PhD student in music; the University of Chicago
Hyde Park resident: 6 years; lives in a 3-story walk-up apartment

Off campus: Heads the band Immortal: Worth, composed the score for the independent film “Crime Fiction.”

For fun: Hang out with friends at Chicago neighborhood bars: Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap in Hyde Park; Sullivan’s Lincoln Square; where he sings; Enmore Ranch Club in Uwamian Village; or Skylar in Pilsen. “I have a lot of friends in Pilsen. It’s a good bike ride from Hyde Park. It’s a Mexican neighborhood, a somewhat industrialized neighborhood that’s being gentrified. The people are really nice.”

If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: “Go to the lake.” David swims daily in the warm-weather months.

If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Go to Jimmy’s or visit the Pub on the University of Chicago campus. “It has pool tables and hundreds of beers.” Check out some of the shows on campus: Undergrads are doing stuff all the time. They even have their own circus.” Another recommendation: University of Chicago Presents. “Those concerts are really fantastic.” Attend a lecture. Go to the Smart Museum of Art. Visit the University’s Regenstein Library, where “you can see intelligence happening.”
Heavenly career moments: Worked with VisionTV’s “Divine Restoration” series to perform a 48-hour makeover for First Church of Deliverance, a Chicago landmark; interior designer for Apostolic Church of God’s banquet hall and new Youth and Family Center (pictured).

Walking around the world: “Since walking the lakefront bike path to work downtown every day for the past 11 years, I have covered the distance from Chicago to my hometown of Madrid, Spain, and back.”

For fun: Catching up with performances at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre, Court Theatre, Chicago Opera Theater, Oriental Institute Museum, Seminary Co-op Bookstore “to complete the immersion in the humanities.”

If you have 2 days in Hyde Park:
Day 1: Swim in Lake Michigan, have lunch at Dixie Kitchen, work it off with a walk around Kenwood, and then visit the Smart Museum, 57th Street Books, and attend Court Theatre.

Day 2: Take an early bike ride on the lakefront and visit Osaka Garden, visit O’Gara’s bookstore, have lunch on the rooftop patio of the Medici, stop in 57th Street Books, and attend Court Theatre.

“An ideal free day is to see what’s new at the Hyde Park Art Center, Smart Museum, and Renaissance Society, and then find a table outdoors at Starbucks and watch the people walk by on 53rd Street.”

“The best part of living in Woodlawn is seeing the community change and being a part of it.”

“If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Visit the Magnificent Mile downtown. Attend a sporting event at one of the major stadiums: Soldier Field for a Bears game, United Center for a Bulls game, U.S. Cellular Field for a Sox game. Go to a production at Steppenwolf Theatre or ETA Creative Arts Foundation, where Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson got her start. Golf 18 holes at Jackson Park golf course, cooking for huge holiday gatherings. If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Zip downtown to check out Millennium Park and have dinner at Park Grill there. Or visit the DuSable Museum of African American History in Hyde Park and have dinner in Greektown or Old Town. You can really enjoy a lot of different communities and cultures in Chicago.”

If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park:
Walking along the lakefront; golfing at Jackson Park golf course; catching up with performances at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Steppenwolf Theatre, Court Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Lyric Opera, Links Hall, Remy Bumppo Theatre, Writers’ Theatre, and Chicago Opera Theater.

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Tree-lined streets and neo-Gothic grandeur typify the University of Chicago campus.

ANCHORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
The University draws people to the neighborhood. The community is the reason they stay.

Anchored by the University of Chicago, an intellectual energy infuses the Hyde Park community, from the 18-year-old college student to the Bronzeville jazz musician, from the astrophysics researcher to the Woodlawn blogger, from the bookshop tourist to the senior playing chess in the park.

It is this energy that informs discussions and fuels activism, that cherishes history and prompts change, that binds loyal residents to the very community they sometimes criticize. Hyde Park is a place for thinkers and poets, for conservatives and liberals, for the religious and secular. It is a place where voices are heard.
“Hyde Park is a real community. In a lot of city neighborhoods, you don’t really know your neighbors. This is like a small town, it’s a very warm community.”
ASIMA AHMAD
4th-year medical student, the University of Chicago
Hyde Park resident: Since 2000, when she came to the University as an undergraduate. Lives in a modern apartment complex with amenities that include a health club and gourmet shop.

Volunteer: Donates time at a clinic near Devon Avenue, an area with a high concentration of Indian and Pakistani immigrants, where her fluency in Urdu and Punjabi helps her communicate with patients.

For fun: Shopping in the Wicker Park neighborhood, volleyball at North Avenue Beach, comedy clubs in the Old Town neighborhood, going to dinner with friends. Some favorite restaurants: Duse Whiskey North for sushi and Japanese, Maza on Lincoln Avenue for Lebanese cuisine, Indian Garden in West Rogers Park, and Feast in Bucktown.

If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park:
Hop over to Cedars Mediterranean Kitchen for some chicken shawarma, stroll through the Museum of Science and Industry, or go to the beach. “I love the area around the Point. It’s gorgeous.”

If you have 2 days in Hyde Park:
Visit Rockefeller Chapel for two hours. Do the sightseeing thing downtown: Sears Tower, Millennium Park, Navy Pier. Check out different neighborhoods in the city. “I really enjoy Wicker Park and Bucktown—there are young, vibrant crowds and lots of little shops. Great ambiance.”

“There are a lot of distinct cultural communities within the city, but Hyde Park is like a lot of different communities put together.”
Promontory Point, at the easternmost tip of Hyde Park, offers picturesque views of Lake Michigan.
Wide open describes both Hyde Park’s vistas and its attitude. From the gardens of the Midway Plaisance to the blaring sound of Lake Michigan, from the golf course in Jackson Park to the historic mansions lining Woodlawn Avenue, Hyde Park offers remarkable views.

Since the days of the World’s Columbian Exposition and the opening of the University of Chicago in 1893, such views of Hyde Park have been enjoyed by people of every race, religion, culture, and ethnicity. Today, the community is considered a model of successful urban integration.

This environment has long fostered a culture of challenge and discovery. From Nobel Prize winner Enrico Fermi to Chicago’s first black mayor, Harold Washington, Hyde Park residents have a tradition of speaking out, breaking barriers, and changing the world.

Youth soccer teams are a familiar sight along the Midway Plaisance in spring and fall.
Over the years, the Hyde Park area has been home to many famous residents.
“You see Hyde Park’s diversity at the local playgrounds. My son sees black kids and white kids in the same sandbox, and in one week he’ll hear Chinese, Arabic, and Portuguese on the jungle gym.”

DAVID HOYT
Historian and at-home dad
Hyde Park resident: A total of 6 years; came here as a student, received his PhD in history in 1999, and returned later to live here with his wife and son in a town house
Career switcher: Professionally trained historian who swapped teaching and writing to be an at-home dad to his infant son, joining the less than 10 percent of fathers nationwide who parent full time.
For fun: Salsa dancing, cycling on the lakefront (“when we can get a babysitter”).
If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Visit the University of Chicago campus and have lunch in the Ikenberry Center Graduate School of Business café; go to the neighborhood bookstores; visit the Hyde Park Art Center and get some gelato at Istria Café there.
If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Drive or take the South Shore train to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; visit the Art Institute of Chicago downtown; rent a sailboat at the 63rd Street Beach.
Gardens abound on the Mid–South Side, from backyard blooms to colorful carpets of flowers on the University of Chicago campus, which has been designated a botanic garden by the American Public Garden Association.
Chicago’s motto is “City in a Garden,” and nowhere is that better illustrated than in Hyde Park and the surrounding communities. Created by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jackson Park, Washington Park, and the Midway Plaisance, all created by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, the Mid–South Side is nestled in a sea of green space. To the east is the vast expanse of Lake Michigan, where the color palette shifts with every season and sunset.

The lakefront bike path is more than 18 miles long. It connects Hyde Park to historic South Shore in one direction and the city’s North Side in the other, with cultural stopping points at museums, stadiums, summer festivals, and tourist attractions along the way.

Serene at sunrise, the Lake Shore Drive bike path is a favorite for runners from start to finish.
KAREN SCHULZ-HARMON
Cellist with Chicago Opera Theater and the Chicago Trio
North Kenwood/Oakland resident: 6 years, along with husband, Andrew; lives in a 1920s town home
Backstage: Cello teacher on faculty at the Musical Offering and the Chicago Academy of the Arts; chamber music coach for the Chicago Youth Symphony’s Chamber Music Program.
For fun: Attends Lyric Opera as a season ticket holder; meetup with friends for dinner; works out at Bally Total Fitness on 47th Street; bikes. “We love how close we are to the bike path. Andrew bikes to work downtown every week—rain or shine.”
Hyde Park restaurant favorites: Dixie Kitchen for Southern flavor and La Petite Folie for French cuisine. Elsewhere in the city: Fitz’s in Lincoln Park for Mediterranean, Sepia in the Fulton River District for atmosphere, heartland Café in Rogers Park for wholesome menu, Ba栋栋 on North Clark for Indian, the Lucky Rabbit in Evanston for comfort food.
If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Enjoy a scenic walk to the Point on the lakefront. Visit the Smart Museum of Art. Have lunch at Dixie Kitchen.
If you have 3 days in Hyde Park: Take a quick trip downtown to the Shedd Aquarium and Field Museum and “make a day of the museums.” Go on an architecture tour. “Day or walking it depends on if you want physical activity.” Visit art galleries downtown or take a concert. “It’s always a great place to go. You can do it if you only have two hours too.”

PAULA WORTHINGTON
Lecturer, Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, the University of Chicago
Hyde Park resident: 3 years, along with husband and three boys; lives in a historic single family home
Making music: Plays French horn in the KAM Isaiah Israel klezmer band
For fun: Biking along the parkway, ice-skating on the Midway, and cross-country skiing in the parks.
If you have 2 hours in Hyde Park: Stroll through campus, being sure to see Rockefeller Chapel, the Oriental Institute Museum, and Robie House.
If you have 2 days in Hyde Park: Visit at least two of the local museums, such as the Museum of Science and Industry and DuSable Museum of African American History. Do a walking tour of the Kenwood mansions; have lunch at the Thai restaurant or other ethnic place on 55th Street; have dinner at someplace high-end, like Park 52.
“Biking to Navy Pier and back along the bike path also would be high on my list—you can see beautiful views of the downtown, and you can easily reach any of the museums on the Museum Campus.”

“We moved here from the North Side. Our neighborhood is now much less busy and frantic. We see more grass and trees out our window. There’s a sense of calmness that I appreciate.”
“Walking down these streets, I feel like I can touch history.”
The arts thrive in and around Hyde Park, many of the myriad music, dance, drama, art, and film events are sponsored by the University of Chicago.
Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center in Kenwood is just one of many visual arts showcases in the neighborhood.

A rich cultural life is thriving around Hyde Park. From the exciting new season of plays at Court Theatre and groundbreaking art exhibitions at the Renaissance Society on the University of Chicago campus to the jazz and blues greats at the Hyde Park Jazz Festival and the Checkerboard Lounge, the Mid–South Side has a treasure trove of choices.

The Mid–South Side is brimming with opportunities for arts, recreation, and entertainment.
LEARN MORE

The Hyde Park area has it all: Top health care facilities, outstanding schools, abundant housing choices, and diverse places to worship. It’s a great place to make a home in Chicago.