

## SHOPPING - SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

- Macy's – Inspiration to London's Selfridges
- The 'Magnificent Mile' – Sparkling Designer Shopping Corridor
- Tall Malls, Street-Side Shops, Open Air Atriums
- Bargains Galore – Premium Designer Discount Outlets

When it comes to shopping, Chicago is the place. The inspiration behind many top modern department stores including Selfridges, Chicago continues to build on its cutting-edge legacy as a world-class shopping destination. From exclusive boutiques to shopping malls, Chicago boasts endless opportunities to shop for every taste, size and pocket with more than 200 retailers under one roof. What's more, visitors can cover nearly all of the central shopping hotspots on foot, just as the locals do.

Downtown Chicago a.k.a. '**The Loop**' is great for wandering and friendly encounters. It's not uncommon to exchange pleasantries with a native Chicagoan whilst walking the streets on a shopping excursion. What's more, for international visitors, shopping bags are quickly filled without the need to be a big spender.

### MAGNIFICENT MILE

A shopping spree in Chicago is not complete without a visit to the famed '**Magnificent Mile**', the nickname for the 1.8 mile stretch of North Michigan Avenue that runs from Lake Michigan to the Chicago River. Rivaling the Champs-Elysees with its array of chic boutiques, this grand boulevard is a mix of art deco and contemporary designs that provide an unforgettable backdrop for a unique urban shopping experience. It's no wonder that the Mag Mile attracts the glitterati. The likes of *Gwyneth Paltrow*, *Kanye West*, *Jennifer Aniston*, *David Schwimmer*, *Justin Timberlake* and *Pete Wentz* have all been spotted on the spend in this lovely stretch of retail heaven. The cornerstones of the area are four vertical shopping malls, packed with hundreds of shops and boutiques waiting to be explored.

**Chicago Place**, at 700 North Michigan Avenue, is anchored by Saks Fifth Avenue and offers a host of prestigious stores.

**900 North Michigan**, a few blocks away, is home to the famous Bloomingdales. This six-storey emporium offers a range of leading designer goods including Gucci and Club Monaco.

**Water Tower Place** on Michigan Avenue, the pinnacle of the **Magnificent Mile**, is an eight-level atrium with over 100 shops and restaurants for high-energy, one-stop shopping. It includes the ever-popular **Abercrombie & Fitch**, **American Girl Place**, **Betsy Johnson**, **Lacoste**, **Banana Republic** and **Macy's**.



**Westfield North Bridge**, Chicago's newest shopping mecca, is anchored by the department store, Nordstrom. This elegant, European-style arcade covers four floors with a great selection of upmarket boutiques including **A/X Armani Exchange** and **Benetton**.

Other not-to-be-missed shops on Michigan Avenue include the enormous **Niketown** for the latest trainers and sportswear, the **Polo Ralph Lauren** flagship store – famed as the world's largest – and **Crate & Barrel**, where 'Oprah's favourite shop' sells a range of stylish homewares.

### **OAK STREET**

**Oak Street**, situated just west of Michigan Avenue, is perfect for big spenders seeking the ultimate cosmopolitan feel. The vibe on this lush and leafy street is 'Sex in the City' chic, with an array of speciality stores and upmarket boutiques, comprising a diverse mix of American and international designers such as **Hermès** and **Prada**.

### **STATE STREET**

**The State Street Shopping Corridor** lies in the heart of Chicago's theatre district and is home to the stunning **Macy's**, formerly Marshall Field's and the first-ever department store. The UK's own **Selfridges** was opened after *Harry Gordon Selfridge* left his job at Marshall Field's in Chicago to move across the pond and introduce the department store concept to Londoners. The original Selfridges took its inspiration from Marshall Field's, right down to the ornate window displays.

**TJ Maxx** and **Filene's Basement**, on State Street, are the best bargain houses in Chicago. These stores offer massive discounts on designer labels, be it an Armani suit or a Calvin Klein T-shirt. Also on State Street, **Old Navy** offers affordable, fashionable clothing under its own label. The chain was opened by Gap, Inc.

### **CHICAGOLAND SHOPPING**

**Chicago Premium Outlets** recently opened in Aurora, 40 miles west of Chicago. With more than 120 designer outlets, shoppers are treated to massive savings on leading brands including **Tommy Hilfiger**, **Diesel** and **Benetton**.

**Woodfield Mall**, just 40 minutes northwest of the city, is an ideal excursion to more wide open spaces. With incredible finds, this shopping mecca attracts more than 27 million visitors each year and provides the ultimate combination of luxury, pricing and products with more than 285 stores.

**Oakbrook Center** is an open-air shopping mall set amongst lush gardens and flowing fountains just a 30-minute drive from downtown Chicago. Offering a lovely day out, it has 18 restaurants and 140 shops, including **Burberry** and **Banana Republic**.



**Gurnee Mills**, just 40 minutes north of the city, is another great shopping and entertainment day out. It is the Midwest's largest value retail and entertainment mall with more than 250 outlet stores including **Abercrombie & Fitch** and **Gap**.

Whatever one is looking for, it can be found in Chicago. One small piece of advice for visitors....set aside enough money to pick up an extra suitcase, just to take it all home.

### ENDS

For more information or to obtain a brochure, call the Chicago & Illinois Tourist Office's Freephone Brochure Line on 08700 503410 or visit online [www.gochicago.com](http://www.gochicago.com)

**For further information on the city of Chicago's ongoing initiatives, please contact Jackie Cooper PR:**

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### SHOP DETAILS

#### **Magnificent Mile**

Saks Fifth Avenue  
717 North Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 312-944-6500  
[www.themagnificentmile.com](http://www.themagnificentmile.com)

Niketown  
321 North Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 312-263-0510  
[www.niketown.com](http://www.niketown.com)

Polo Ralph Lauren  
750 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-280-1655

Bloomingdale's  
900 North Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 312-440-4460

Water Tower Place  
835 North Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 312-440-3165



Crate & Barrel  
646 North Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 312-787-5900

The Shops at North Bridge  
520 North Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 312 327 2300

American Girl Place  
835 North Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 877-247-5223

**Oak Street**

Hermès  
110 East Oak Street  
Tel: +312 787 8175

Prada  
30 East Oak Street  
312.951.1113

**State Street**

Macy's  
111 North State Street  
Tel: +1 312 781-1000

Old Navy  
35 N State Street  
Tel: +1 312-551-0523

TJ Maxx  
11 North State Street,  
Tel: +1 312-553-0515

Filene's Basement  
830 N. Michigan Avenue  
Tel: +1 312-482-8918

**Chicagoland Shopping**

Chicago Premium Outlet  
1650 Premium Outlets Boulevard, Aurora  
Tel: +973 228 6111

Oak Brook Centre  
100 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook  
[www.oakbrookcenter.com](http://www.oakbrookcenter.com)



Woodfield Mall  
Golf Road at Route 53, Schaumburg  
Tel: +1 847 330-1537  
[www.gowoodfieldmall.com](http://www.gowoodfieldmall.com)

Gurnee Mills  
Grand Avenue, Gurnee  
Tel: +1 847-263-7500  
[www.gurneemillsmall.com](http://www.gurneemillsmall.com)