



COUPLES + FAMILY

Can't Take the Kids on a Trip Around the World? Try These Chicago 'Hoods

by ROSALIND CUMMINGS-YEATES



One of the best Chicago neighborhoods to visit for cultural exploration with the kids is Pilsen, home of the National Museum of Mexican Art. See [Nuestras Historias, Stories of Mexican Identity](#) from the Permanent Collection. (Photo: Michael Tropea)



Brimming with distinct neighborhoods and ethnic enclaves, Chicago is a true melting pot of languages, food, music and art just waiting to be discovered. So many of these 'hoods offer family-friendly activities that allow cultural exploration while soaking up the eclectic spirit of Chi-Town. Stroll around these neighborhoods for kid-friendly cultural excursions and highlights.

Pilsen

An artist's mecca that boasts vivid murals at every turn, this bustling neighborhood just two miles southwest of The Loop is the heart of the city's Latino community. Wander into *panaderias* to sample Mexican baked goods like sugar-topped *conchas* (a Mexican pastry), or browse [Dulceria Lupitas](#) candy store to check out the menagerie of pinatas and Mexican candies. A visit to the [National Museum of Mexican Art](#) is essential, with its array of exhibits, workshops and a colorful gift shop that serves as a work of art all by itself. For kids over 10, the [Pilsen Neighborhood Walking Tour](#) examines the murals, architecture and immigrant history that helped the neighborhood become a National Historic Landmark District.

Chinatown

Hop a [Chicago Watertaxi](#) downtown and you can float over to the culinary and shopping delights of Chinatown. Head to Chinatown Square, a mall bursting with shops and eateries. Don't miss taking pics with your Chinese zodiac animal; the sculptures are scattered all over the square. The little ones will love [Giftland](#), with its cute selection of Hello Kitty and anime toys. Take in the [Chinese American Museum of](#)

Chicago to discover traditions like dragon boat racing and dumpling demonstrations. Wind down with authentic Hong Kong bubble tea at **Saint's Alp Tea House**; this chain originated the popular tea filled with tapioca balls. Try the almond or coconut milk teas with condensed milk toast and a few of the savory snacks, like jumbo tea eggs and glazed chicken wings.

Andersonville

The bright blue of the Swedish flag waves from the top of many shops in this North Side neighborhood that once claimed the second biggest Swedish population outside of Sweden. Stop by the **Swedish Bakery** to taste a bit of this heritage with sweet treats like almond-flavored *marzariners*, which will please big and little kids alike. For larger appetites, check out **Svea Restaurant** for traditional Swedish meatballs or the popular Viking breakfast. The **Swedish American Museum** hosts a selection of interactive exhibits detailing Swedish immigration as well as Swedish events like **Midsommarfest**, an Abba Salute and **Breakfast with Tomten** (Santa). If you're lucky, you'll catch the local fave, **Puppet Bike** perched on a corner, delighting residents with a mobile puppet show.

Where to Stay:

Courtyard Chicago Downtown

JW Marriott Chicago

Chicago Marriott Magnificent Mile

Hotel Chicago Downtown, Autograph Collection

Residence Inn Chicago Downtown

Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel

The Ritz-Carlton Chicago



SEE
ALSO:

9 Fun, Kid-Friendly Things to Do in Chicago

ADVERTISEMENT



Article Tags:

kid-friendly

AROUND THE WEB





World's First Naked Rooftop Bar Opens in London

Foxnews.com



Must-Visit Fall Destinations

Domino.com





14 Overlooked Countries Not Enough Americans Visit

Thrillist.com

Related:



COUPLES + FAMILY

9 Fun, Kid-Friendly Things to Do in Chicago



COUPLES + FAMILY

Raising a Family of Sports Fanatics? 4 Chicago Attractions You Shouldn't Miss



COUPLES + FAMILY

5 Places to See Chicago's Legendary Blues ... Without a Babysitter

F I N D Y O U R M A

I'm interested in traveling to

City, state or airport code

on

Check-in

through

Check-out

TAKE ME THERE

Marriott TRAVELER brings the world's greatest destinations to life through compelling storytelling, enlisting locals to share what makes their cities special, from culinary to culture, while introducing unique personalities and experiences that give a place its voice and reasons worth a visit.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT US »](#)

Follow Us:    