

53rd Street



55th Street



It's easy to understand why Hyde Parkers fiercely love their little piece of the city on Chicago's lakefront. Streets shaded by towering trees; a textbook of architectural styles; independent businesses, both new and established; an involved, diverse community of residents; and a proud history of creative expression – all combining to form a passionate pull on the people who call it home. It's unlike any other Chicago neighborhood – this is your guide from the inside.



Listings

Shopping

- 53rd Street Mini Mart - 1379 E. 53rd Street
- 57th Street Books - 1301 E. 57th Street
The underground (literally), perhaps less scholarly version of its sister store (Seminary Co-op Bookstore), 57th Street Books has been a neighborhood treasure for over 30 years – and the rooms with cookbooks, travel guides, mysteries, and science fiction just keep unspooling, with five in all, including a cheerful children's section. The staff recommendations, some of them hand-written, are spot-on, and there's a full calendar of author events. If they don't have the book you want, they're happy to order it.
- Akira - 1539 E. 53rd Street
Chicago-based chain of boutiques with on-trend, date-night worthy women's clothing, as well as shoes and accessories. What makes it even more fun are the expert stylists who'll help you pull a look together, of course picking out the clothes you would never have tried on and now adore. It's like going on a shopping trip with your much hipper best friend.
- American Mattress - 1408 E. 53rd Street
- Amy's Candy Bar - 1546 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center) Unique candy & treats
- Ancien Bicycles & Café - 1558 E. 53rd Street
"Ancien" is a title given to those who finish the grueling, 750-mile Paris-Brest-Paris in less than 90 hours. It's the oldest cycling event in the world, and notably, Chicagoan Charly Miller was the first North American finisher in 1902. Ancien, the shop, was created as a combination bicycle studio/café, and here you'll find commuter, semi-custom, and Ancien-branded bicycles; expert repair service; and a café with healthy options as well as grab and go snacks.
- Belle U Boutique - 1504 E. 53rd Street Women's clothing/accessories & maternity clothing
- Bimby's Express - 1531 E. 53rd Street Liquor
- Bonne Santa Health Foods - 1512 E. 53rd Street
You'll feel virtuous just standing inside Bonne Sante – with healthier versions of everything you need and didn't know you needed – from snacks, groceries, prepared foods, teas, energy bars, homeopathic medicines – even cleaning supplies. Somehow, buying a Rainforest Alliance-Certified chocolate bar here isn't so guilt inducing. Family-owned for over 40 years, everyone who works here is a delight. Try the Juice & Elixir Bar – with juices, smoothies, and shakes; and their toasty paninis – big enough to share in their seating area.
- Comfort Me - 1508 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center)
Owner Bethany Thomas has created an expertly curated boutique, offering items of comfort for both mind and body. Offerings include women's apparel in luxurious, soft fabrics and flattering fits; unique, handmade jewelry; a sprinkling of home furnishings, accessories, and flea market finds – evoking the essence of comfort; gifts; and even fine teas. Stop by for a gift for a friend, and it's almost guaranteed you'll be buying something fabulous for yourself, too.
- DJ's Bike Doctor - 1500 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center) Bike repair
- First Aid Comics - 1512 E. 55th Street
From comic veterans to newcomers, all are welcome at Hyde Park's very own comic shop. Owner James Nurss and his staff take their calling seriously – even wearing lab coats. The store has two levels and stocks Marvel, DC, independent, and graphic novel comics – as well as local artists' artwork and comics. First Aid carries back issues; pop paraphernalia such as t-shirts, masks, action figures, and statues; and gaming products – they also hold weekly gaming events.
- The Freehling Pot & Pan Co. - 1365 E. 53rd Street
When you're in the middle of a recipe and realize you don't have a fine-mesh sieve (or any other cooking-related tool), this independent cooking and housewares store will save the day. Owner Sue Freehling carries much more than pots and pans – you'll find bulk coffee and tea, cookbooks, tableware, aprons, candles, Nielsen Massey vanilla beans and extracts, and every imaginable utensil. The knowledgeable, helpful staff will even grind coffee and wrap your gifts like rock stars.
- Frontline Distribution International - 5206 S. Harper Avenue Bookstore
- Futons-n-More - 1370 E. 53rd Street Furniture
- The Great Frame Up - 1418-B E. 53rd Street Framing
- Hyde Park Cigar Lounge - 5220 S. Harper Avenue
- Hyde Park Produce Market - 1226 E. 53rd Street
Family owned and operated for nearly 20 years, Hyde Park Produce is known for their "neighborhood famous" produce and fresh herbs as well as ethnic import and specialty items, artisanal breads, organic foods, gluten-free options, imported cheeses, and more. Their delicatessen is recognized as a "Boar's Head Deli of Distinction" and offers party trays and catering. Staff is helpful and friendly – they'll even deliver your groceries!
- Hyde Park Records - 1377 E. 53rd Street
Chicago magazine writes "You could spend days digging through bins (with) everything from South Side funk to old-school blues... (it's) a destination for intrepid shoppers who pride themselves on bargain buys." Owner Alex Bouteville handpicks an eclectic selection of soul, house, hip-hop, R&B, rap, blues, jazz, classical, and classic and indie rock. Look for hard-to-find vinyl, bargain DVDs and CDs, and box sets. Staff is friendly and knowledgeable – they just might have that rare album you've never been able to track down.
- Jeffery Dollar - 1443 E. 53rd Street
- Kilimanjaro International - 1305 E. 53rd Street African art & unique gifts
- Kimbark Beverage Shoppe - 1214 E. 53rd Street Liquor
- Kimberly Lee & Co. - 1529 E. 53rd Street Costume jewelry & accessories
- Lively Athletics - 1457 E. 53rd Street Women's athletic apparel & accessories
- Modern Cooperative - 1500 E 53rd Street
The new Hyde Park location for this award-winning shopping destination from Pilsen – "Where vintage modern meets handmade" – features hand-picked mid-century modern furniture, home décor accessories, and art pieces from more than 75 local artists; as well as unique gifts, cards, and jewelry. Owners Tiffany Paige and Mike Biersma "...mix the old and new, the high and low, the fun and the serious" – a promising combination for shoppers looking to decorate a dorm room, apartment, or house.
- Nancy Krause Floral Design - 5229 S. Harper Court
Owner and former fashion photographer Nancy Krause "...is truly an artist and the best at what she does," according to one Yelp reviewer, creating artful arrangements with the freshest flowers to express her customers' personalities. She'll even come to your home or office to understand your style and how you like to entertain. Nancy handles everything from simple bouquets to weekly floral design and delivery; holiday decorating; and all events including private parties, corporate functions, and weddings.
- New Balance - 5500 S. Lake Park Avenue Athletic shoes & clothing
- Powell's Books - 1501 E. 57th Street
What other neighborhood, besides Hyde Park, can sustain three serious bookstores? Powell's embodies Hyde Park, and is one of the very best used bookstores in the country. You can find books covering every subset of every imaginable subject, along with beautiful and rare first editions kept in glass cabinets. If you can't find a good book at Powell's, you may not find a good book anywhere. Breathe deep; it even smells the way a bookstore should smell.
- Seminary Co-Op Bookstore - 5751 S. Woodlawn Avenue
People are passionate about the Seminary Co-op, making special trips to browse its extensive collection of academic titles – widely regarded as one of the finest in the world – reflecting the academic strengths of the University of Chicago. You'll find more intellectually-minded books than you can carry in a lovely, light-filled location with plenty of seating. Independent and cooperatively-owned for over 50 years, members have included Barack and Michelle Obama, Susan Sontag, Saul Bellow, and more.
- The Silver Room - 1506 E. 53rd Street
The Silver Room is more than a store; it is a home for community, art, and culture. It features handcrafted jewelry from local designers at affordable prices along with an exceptional offering of records, t-shirts, backpacks, hats, and sunglasses – you'll be sure to find something you love. There's an art gallery and community space located at the rear of the store – and an action-packed chalkboard calendar with weekly events of spoken word, salsa dancing, French classes, DJs, and more.
- The Silver Umbrella - 5305 S. Hyde Park Boulevard
Thrifting can be thrilling, especially when you uncover a hidden gem. Owners Zakyyiah and Shaakira handpick the best when it comes to upscale resale vintage clothing, shoes, accessories, housewares, art, and books. You might be walking out with gold Cynthia Rowley pumps, a snappy fedora, or a mod tunic dress – you never know what you'll find, and that's the beauty of The Silver Umbrella. On Mondays they take appointments to sell your new and gently used items.

Welcome to



A guide from the inside

Landmarks

- Arts Incubator, Washington Park - 301 E. Garfield Boulevard
- Court Theater - 5535 S. Ellis Avenue
- DuSable Museum of African American History - 740 E. 56th Place
- Frederick C. Robie House - 5757 S. Woodlawn Avenue
- Logan Center for the Arts - 915 E. 60th Street
- Museum of Science and Industry - 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive
- The Oriental Institute - 1155 E. 58th Street
- Osaka Garden - 6401 S. Stony Island Avenue
- Promontory Point Park - 5491 S. Lake Shore Drive
- The Renaissance Society - 5811 S. Ellis Avenue
- Rockefeller Memorial Chapel - 5850 S. Woodlawn Avenue
- Smart Museum of Art - 5550 S. Greenwood Avenue

Festivals and Events

University of Chicago Folk Festival - FEBRUARY

Hyde Park Jazz Festival Benefit - JUNE

Hyde Park Farmers' Market - Harper Court - JUNE-OCTOBER

57th Street Art Fair - JUNE

Brew Fest - JUNE

Summer Concert Series - Nichols Park - JULY-SEPTEMBER

4th of July Parade and Picnic - JULY

57th Street Children's Book Fair - SEPTEMBER

Hyde Park Jazz Festival - SEPTEMBER

Oktoberfest - OCTOBER

Entertainment

- Harper Theater - 5238 S. Harper Avenue
Recently named by the Chicagoist as one of the seven best movie theaters in Chicago, this historic theater first opened in 1915, featuring vaudeville and silent films. After a complete, award-winning restoration, it's now a first-run movie theater with four screens equipped for digital projection, 3-D, and Dolby surround sound; comfortable seats; reserved seating options; weekend valet parking; a café serving food, desserts, and coffee drinks; and even a full-service bar.
- The Promontory - 5311 S. Lake Park Avenue West Music venue - see #45.
- The Revival Theater - 1160 E. 55th Street
The Revival is the South Side's newest improvisational theater. From sketch to improv, stand-up to jazz, nightly performances are smart, funny, and totally original. Inspired by the legacy of the late 1950s Compass Players, a precursor to The Second City, The Revival returns improvisational theater to its ancestral home within Hyde Park's burgeoning arts community.
- Seven Ten Lanes - 1055 E. 55th Street
Vintage style, score-yourself bowling and billiards hall with full bar and menu including classic starters, salads, entrees, pizza, sandwiches, burgers, and desserts.

Health and Beauty

- Accelerated Rehabilitation Services - 5230 S. Blackstone Avenue
- Blues Barber Shop - 1376 E. 53rd Street
- CVS Pharmacy - 1228 E. 53rd Street
- Cleopatra Hair Design - 1316 E. 53rd Street
- Fairy Nail - 5222 S. Harper Avenue
- GNC - 1519 E. 53rd Street
- Japanese Spa Zen - 1380 E. 53rd Street
- Katsaros Pharmacy - 1521 E. 53rd Street
- Kiddie Cuts - 5229 S. Woodlawn Avenue
- Pearle Vision Center - 1200 E. 53rd Street
- Professional Eye Center - 1517 E. 53rd Street
- Rosin Eyecare - 1548 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center)
- ULTA - 5228 S. Lake Park Avenue
- Walgreens - 1554 E. 55th Street (Hyde Park Shopping Center)
- Yehia & Co. Hair Design - 1455 E. 53rd Street

Sports and Leisure

- Core Power Yoga - 1539 E. 53rd Street, 2nd Floor
- LA Fitness - 5224 S. Lake Park Avenue

Hospitality

- Hyatt Place Chicago-South / iversity Medical Center - 5225 S. Harper Avenue
Guests love the premium amenities of this new hotel almost as much as they love the personal attention from the friendly staff. Close to the University of Chicago and Medical Center as well as McCormick Place, it's the perfect home base for business or personal travel. There's a complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi, indoor pool and 24-hour gym, free local shuttle, "Coffee to Cocktails" bar, as well as meeting space – with all the shops and restaurants on 53rd Street right on your doorstep.

Services

- Americash Loan - 1513 E. 53rd Street
- AT&T - 5222 S. Lake Park Avenue
- Bank of America - 1439 E. 53rd Street
- Chase Bank - 1204 E. 53rd Street
- Chicago Innovation Exchange - Doerr Building - 1454 E. 53rd Street
- Chicago Innovation Exchange - Harper Theater Building - 1463 E. 53rd Street
- Computer Training Institute - 5228 S. Blackstone Avenue
- Cornell Shoe Service - 1613 E. 53rd Street
- Fifth Third Bank - 1420 E. 53rd Street
- Golden Hangers - 1314 E. 53rd Street
- H&R Block - 1412 E. 53rd Street
- Hyde Park Animal Clinic - 1363 E. 53rd Street
- Hyde Park Bank - 1525 E. 53rd Street
- Hyde Park Computer Center - 1441 E. 53rd Street
- Kimbark Coin Laundry - 1218 E. 53rd Street
- Launderkoin - 5230 S. Harper Avenue
- MAC Property Management - 1364 E. 53rd Street Apartment rentals
- Nichols Park Field House - 1355 E. 53rd Street Chicago Park District building
- Rainbow Cleaners - 1648 E. 53rd Street
- Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie - 1303 E. 53rd Street Government office
- Sprint - 1406 E. 53rd Street
- T-Mobile - 1451 E. 53rd Street
- UChicago Police Field Office - 1411 E. 53rd Street
- United Church of Hyde Park - 1448 E. 53rd Street
- United States Post Office - 1510 E. 55th Street
- University Travel - 1523 E. 53rd Street
- UPS Store - 1507 E. 53rd Street
- Vue 53 Marketing Office - 1453 E. 53rd Street



- Sir & Madame - 5225 S. Harper Court
Brian and Autumn Merritt, a local husband and wife design partnership, have created a supreme collection of items from their namesake clothing label, Sir & Madame. Their "classic with a twist" clothing, shoes, and accessories are rooted in fashion and function – ideal for the "urban sophisticate."
- Stamp'Lays Executive Boutique & Salon - 1371 E. 53rd Street
- Supreme Jewelers - 1515 E. 53rd Street Fine jewelry/repair
- Toys et Otera - 1502 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center)
Owner Nancy Stanek has created a captivating, kid-friendly toy store that will thrill any child (from infants to ages 10+), and even the adults. Every toy is carefully selected to be safe, developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, creative, and most importantly – fun. The well-stocked and organized store carries classic toys as well as new favorites, and the friendly staff provides free gift-wrapping for your purchase – perfect when you're on the way to a birthday party!
- Treasure Island - 1526 E. 55th Street (Hyde Park Shopping Center) Gourmet market
- VILLA - 5230 S. Lake Park Avenue Athletic shoes & clothing
- Wesley's Shoe Corral - 1506 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center)
When was the last time you were personally fitted for a pair of shoes? This second-generation, family-owned shoe store professionally fits each customer – from the Obama daughters to Eric Clapton – and their loyal following wouldn't have it any other way. In addition to the wide selection of quality, style-conscious shoes for infants, kids, women, and men – Wesley's also conveniently carries footwear accessories, socks, and hosiery, as well as dance shoes and leotards for little ballerinas.

Eating and Drinking

- A10 Hyde Park - 1462 E. 53rd Street
Named for the motorway connecting northern Italy with southern France, chef/owner Matthias Merges' restaurant offers a collection of creative small and large plates with an inspired beverage program by Billy Sunda's own Alex Bachman. You'll find handmade pasta, Roman pizza, seafood, vegetables, meat/game, and a selection of re-imagined desserts. Their Sunday Brunch and Sunday Meatballs Dinner are fast becoming local traditions. Zagat recently declared their Bucatini Carbonara one of "15 new classics of the Chicago restaurant scene."
- Bar Louie - 5500 S. Shore Drive American
- Bergstein's NY Delicatessen - 1164 E. 55th Street
- Bonjour Café Bakery - 1550 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center)
- Boston Market - 1424 E. 53rd Street American
- Café 53 - 1369-A E. 53rd Street
Walking past this storefront café, you'd never know there's a lovely patio shaded by enormous trees in the backyard – perfect for spending a sunny afternoon. With free Wi-Fi and a full menu of traditional and oven-baked sandwiches, salads, gelato, pastries, tea, and coffee drinks, you may never want to leave. The owner, Marwan, could not be more welcoming, and treats everyone like an old friend. All menu items are halal, and vegans have 10+ sandwich options.
- Café Corea - 1603 E. 55th Street Korean
- Cedar's Mediterranean Kitchen - 1206 E. 53rd Street
- Chant - 1509 E. 53rd Street
Chant restaurant features a creative reinterpretation of contemporary and traditional Asian menu items by chef Steven Rife, with small and large plates, soups, salads, sides, and sweets – and a full service bar. Many of the items are vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free. They have live music every Friday and Saturday night, starting at 9 p.m.
- Chipotle Mexican Grill - 1522 E. 53rd Street
- Cholie's Pizza - 1601 E. 53rd Street
- Clarke's Pizza - 1447 E. 53rd Street 24-hour diner
- The Cove Lounge - 1750 E. 55th Street
The Chicagoist named The Cove Lounge as a top "old man" bar, but with its dog-friendliness, pitchers of beer, picnic tables, darts, foosball, trivia nights, and well-stocked jukebox, that sounds just fine to us. The mounted fish and harpoon over the bar gives it a slightly nautical theme. On Thanksgiving weekend, native Hyde Parkers home for the holidays meet at the Cove to reconnect and reminisce.
- Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins - 1418-C E. 53rd Street
- Einstein Bros. Bagels - 5230 S. Harper Court
- Five Guys - 1456 E. 53rd Street Burgers
- Giordano's Famous Stuffed Pizza - 5311 S. Blackstone Avenue
- Harold's Chicken Shack - 1208 E. 53rd Street
Harold's Chicken Shack has sustained generations of Hyde Parkers and students with its superlative fried chicken – served with French fries, two slices of white bread, and cole slaw. The secret is the sauce – will you choose the hot or the mild? Dark meat or white meat? Or compromise and get the famous Half Dark special? Hyde Parkers understand the complexity of these choices. For newcomers – be forewarned – Harold's will change your life.
- Ja Grill - 1510 E. Harper Court
Recently recognized by Time Out Chicago, Ja Grill features authentic Jamaican jerk, curry, and stew chicken dishes along with curry goat, ox tail, and Escovitch red snapper. There's a full bar with signature cocktails, martinis, and a list of 50+ rums – the Ja' Rum Punch and Dark & Stormy are especially popular. They also serve wine, craft beer, and non-alcoholic Jamaican sodas. DJs spin reggae, rocksteady, lover's rock, ska, roots rock, and dance hall riddims, with a little hip-hop thrown in.
- Jimmy John's - 1519 E. 55th Street Sandwiches
- Kikuya Japanese Restaurant - 1601 E. 55th Street
- Kilwins - 5226 S. Harper Avenue
When you're craving sweets, Kilwins will not disappoint – the 10+ flavors of fudge (you can watch them make it); caramel apples; nut britches; caramel corn; and hand-dipped chocolate-covered strawberries, pretzels, and cookies will make it almost impossible to pick just one. If ice cream is more your vice, you'll find cones, specially sundaes, milkshakes, and custom ice cream cakes. Kilwins serves coffee and hot chocolate drinks – the old-fashioned dining area even has free Wi-Fi.
- La petite folie - 1504 E. 55th Street (The Courtyard Shops at Hyde Park Shopping Center)
Michael and Mary Mastricola's Zagat- and Michelin-rated la petite folie offers carefully plated traditional French food in a semi-formal setting for lunch and dinner. You'll find classics like rabbit paté, pan-seared foie gras, whole trout Grenobloise, herb-crusted rack of lamb, and many more for pairing with the all-French wine list. A prix fixe, three-course menu is available between 6-6:30 p.m.
- Leona's Restaurant - 1236 E. 53rd Street Italian
- Litehouse Whole Food Grill - 1373 E. 53rd Street
- Maravillas Restaurant - 5506 S. Lake Park Avenue Mexican
- Medici on 57th - 1327 E. 57th Street and Medici Bakery & Deli - 1331 E. 57th Street
Five decades of customers have left their mark on the wood tables and brick walls of the Medici – a local institution for students, professors, and generations of families. The BYOB "Med" serves breakfast, brunch, lunch, and diner and is known for their pizza, burgers, and milk shakes. The bread and desserts are made fresh in their bakery next door, where people snap up \$1 pastries before it closes at midnight – and the deli is great when you're in a rush.
- Mellow Yellow - 1508 E. 53rd Street American
- Morry's Deli - 5500 S. Cornell Avenue
- Nathan's and Taste of Jamaica - 1372 E. 53rd Street
- Native Foods - 1518 E. Harper Court
The staff here is nice – really nice. Native Foods is a national chain, but it doesn't feel like that when you're talking about poetry with the woman who takes your order. Their 100% plant-based menu features appetizers, salads, wraps, burgers, and Earth Bowls – using tempeh; seitan; organic tofu; cashew cheese; and "chicken" made from free-range soy, wheat, and pea protein. They have healthy kids' meals, and even manage to sneak in French fries, nachos, and dessert.
- Nicky's Chinese Food - 5231 S. Woodlawn Avenue
- The Nile Restaurant - 1162 E. 55th Street Middle Eastern

- Noodles, Etc. - 1333 E. 57th Street
Serving lunch and dinner seven days a week, Noodles, Etc. features reasonably-priced Pan-Asian and Thai specialties with fresh ingredients, including appetizers, soups, salads, stir fry, rice dishes, and of course, bowls of noodles. There's options for vegetarians and vegans, and many items can be prepared gluten-free. If you're into super spicy food, be sure to ask for the off-menu 911 chicken-fried rice. It's been said that if you're feeling under the weather, the chicken and rice soup has healing powers.
- PACKED: dumplings reimaged - 1321 E. 57th Street
Chef Mike Sheerin, a Food & Wine "Best New Chef" in 2010, has partnered with Aaron DiMaria to launch a new fast-casual concept – PACKED reimagines traditional dumplings, soup dumplings, and dessert dumplings, along with sides and bao-inspired sandwiches. The menu features seasonal, locally-sourced organic ingredients, including humanely-raised meats. Look for delectable combinations like the Butternut with butternut squash, sage, apple, curry, and balsamic caramel, or the Poesle soup dumpling with braised pork shoulder, Pasilla pepper, and hominy.
- Papa John's - 1418-A E. 53rd Street Pizza
- Pepe's Mexican - 1310 E. 53rd Street
- Pho 55 - Vietnamese Noodle & Grill - 1611 E. 55th Street
- Piccolo Mondo - 1642 E. 56th Street Italian
- Pizza Capri - 1501 E. 53rd Street
Pizza Capri has been a fixture on 53rd Street since 1995, serving appetizers, salads, 10+ types of gourmet and Chicago-style pizza, pasta, sandwiches and wraps, and desserts – along with a full catering menu for parties and events. Pizza Capri is open for lunch and dinner and offers takeout and delivery service.
- Plein Air Café - 5751 S. Woodlawn Avenue
With Instagram-worthy view details and an inspired all-day café menu, Plein Air Café is a welcoming oasis within sight of the Frank Lloyd Wright Robie House. Coffee is executed with care – "whether it be drip, pour over, or a classic espresso." Morning options range from a simple continental breakfast to mascarpone stuffed brioche French toast with plum compote. Lunch and dinner choices include salads, grains, and bowls; tartines, baguettes, and sandwiches; and savory royal pies by Pleasant House Bakery.
- Pockets - 1307 E. 53rd Street Sandwiches
- Porkchop - 1516 E. Harper Court
With multiple Chicago locations as well as a roving food truck, Jovanis Bouargoub's Southern food and whiskey concept serves lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch with favorites like chicken and waffles, pulled pork sandwiches, slow smoked beef or pork ribs, steak, burgers, Southern fried chicken, gumbo, and more. Porkchop has a full bar and large selection of craft beers – including an amazing collection of 150 different whiskeys.
- Potbelly Sandwich Shop - 5428 S. Lake Park Avenue (Hyde Park Shopping Center) Sandwiches
- The Promontory - 5311 S. Lake Park Avenue West
The Promontory's restaurant, bar, and music venue are all destination-worthy on their own; and together – the best reinterpretation of drinks, dinner, and a show. Inspired by the fire pits at nearby Promontory Point, Jared Wentworth (Longman & Eagle, Dussak's creative "Hearth to Table" menu complemented by an eclectic, global wine list. Dustin Drankiewicz's inventive spirits menu offers carbonated, shaken, and blended cocktails. After dinner on the lush patio, step upstairs to the gorgeous music venue for jazz, house, hip-hop, and soul.
- Rajun Cajun - 1459 E. 53rd Street
Devotees of the cafeteria-style Rajun Cajun restaurant send postcards from around the world to owner, Trushar Patel, waxing poetic over his saag paneer, samosas, butter chicken, chicken curry, and mango lassi. You might not think of Indian food and southern comfort food as a typical fit, but then you've never experienced Rajun Cajun. Any restaurant with a 20+ year history and food so beloved it inspires legions of fans to put pen to paper, has got to be something special.
- Red Mango - 5221 S. Harper Court Frozen yogurt
- Red Snapper - 1418 E. 53rd Street Grill
- Salonica - 1440 E. 17th Street Diner
- Shinju Sushi - 5375 E. 53rd Street
Students and budget-conscious diners love Shinju Sushi's all-you-can-eat sushi deals for lunch and dinner; and the colorful, cozy space will make you feel right at home. Shinju serves an array of appetizers, nigiri, sashimi, maki, and sushi, and the all-you-can-eat option includes a scoop of ice cream if you still have room for dessert. This BYOB local hangout is one of the best, and the most filling.
- Siam Thai Cuisine - 1639 E. 55th Street
- Sip & Savor Café - 5301 S. Hyde Park Boulevard
- The Sit Down Café & Sushi Bar - 1312 E. 53rd Street
It's not often that you're seated at a restaurant and still get to decide which ethnicity or style of food you'd like. Whether it's sushi, Italian, or American – the Sit Down Café & Sushi Bar gives you the option to have exactly what you want. Their appetizers, soups, salads, sushi, sandwiches, pizza, and gluten-free offerings are all prepared with the freshest organic ingredients available. The retro, colorful atmosphere is warm and welcoming for large groups of friends and family.
- The Snail Thai Cuisine - 1649 E. 55th Street
- Starbucks - 1530 E. 53rd Street
- Starbucks - 1174 E. 55th Street
- Subway - 1400 E. 53rd Street Sandwiches
- Subway - 1449 E. 57th Street Sandwiches
- Thai 55 Restaurant - 1607 E. 55th Street
- Valois - 1518 E. 53rd Street
There may be no better example of a business that represents the uniqueness of Hyde Park than Valois. A Hyde Park icon since the 1920s, Valois has served up great breakfasts and cafeteria-style comfort food to generations of Hyde Parkers. The long-time tradition has been for people to sit wherever there's an open seat – so you may find yourself debating existentialism or last night's game with a friendly local. Order the Obama special, and don't forget to leave a tip.
- Wingers - 1368 E. 53rd Street Grill
- Woodlawn Tap - 1172 E. 55th Street
Any Hyde Parker calls it Jimmy's, though previous owner Jimmy Wilson passed away long ago. It's the original Hyde Park bar – with a mix of locals, workers, and UChicago students and faculty. You might have professors talking about advanced physics at one table with neighborhood folk arguing over sports or any election next to them. It's been said that Saul Bellow, Margaret Mead, and Dylan Thomas have all graced the Jimmy's barstools. Cash only with bar food menu.
- Yusho Thai Park - 1301 E. 53rd Street
Chef Matthias Merges' Japanese Grill and Noodle Shop recently beat several other restaurants in the "hotly contested" Chicago Eater ramen battle championship. The menu is divided into snacks and sides, buns, noodles and rice, fish and meat, and sweets – with beer, spirits, wine, and 16 different sake options. Stop by for the \$20 Sunday Noodles, with choice of ramen, drink, and soft serve. If you're in a hurry, pull your bike up to the "Yusho To Go" window outside.
- Zberry Frozen Yogurt and Treats Bar - 1368-B E. 53rd Street
- Z&H MarketCafé - 1323 E. 57th Street
When the overhead door is rolled up on a nice day at this "mini-curated deli," and you're perched on a lab stool at the counter enjoying a coffee, all seems right with the world. Z&H serves breakfast, sandwiches, paninis, salads, soups, and full menu of coffee drinks to the students and locals who fill the communal tables. There's even a secret back patio, entered through the alley. Students rave about the Friday/Saturday BYOB taco nights.
- University of Chicago Medical Center - 5841 S. Maryland
Argo Tea (lobby)
Au Bon Pain
Café Central (2nd floor)
The Kitchen at Billings (basement)
Peet's Coffee
Qdoba Mexican Grill (1st floor east)
Red Mango
Sky Café (7th floor east)
Starbucks (1st floor east)