

24 hours.



[24 HOURS IN]

chicago

Alison Pickel heads to the Windy City and finds hot dogs, tacos and churros have become part of old-fashioned Midwest hospitality.

10am

BRUNCH TIME

Americans don't really 'do' breakfast, so head out for brunch instead. At night, **Longman & Eagle** (2657 N. Kedzie Ave) is known for nose-to-tail dining and an extensive whisky list, but in the morning, order a market omelette with caramelised onion, spinach and fromage blanc or the buttermilk-fried chicken drumsticks on a waffle with kumara and pork belly hash.

11am

EXPLORE THE CITY

See *American Gothic* and *Nighthawks* at the **Art Institute of Chicago** (111 S. Michigan Ave), check out the skyline reflected in

Anish Kapoor's *Cloud Gate* sculpture (pictured) at **Millennium Park** (201 E. Randolph St), experience the view from 103 storeys up at **Willis Tower** (233 S. Wacker Dr) or hop on a boat tour to learn about the city's iconic architecture.

1.30pm

\$10 LUNCH

Chicago may be famous for its deep-dish pizzas, but locals will tell you that a hot dog from **Hot Doug's** (3324 N. California Ave) offers a true taste of the city. Go for a classic Chicago-style dog with all the trimmings, or try the fancy \$10 duck and Sauternes sausage with foie gras mousse, truffle aioli and fleur de sel salt.

4pm

CHURROS FIX

Chicago's large Latino population has resulted in a thriving Mexican food scene. Pop into celebrity chef Rick Bayless' **Xoco** (449 N. Clark St) for an afternoon pick-me-up of churros with thick hot chocolate or a slice of tres leches cake.

5pm

APERITIFS AT AVEC

Stylish wine bar **Avec** (615 W. Randolph St) specialises in European 'peasant-style' wines from small producers. Sit down with one of 30 drops by the glass or linger longer over rustic plates of chorizo-stuffed dates and woodfired squid with tomatoes.

7pm

DINNER WORTH WAITING FOR

If you can't secure a table at Grant Achatz's **Alinea** (1723 N. Halsted St), ranked seventh on the S. Pellegrino World's Best Restaurants list, head to the more casual **Girl & The Goat** (809 W. Randolph St). Bookings here can be just as difficult to score, but queue for a spot at the bar and you'll be rewarded with share plates of cauliflower and pickled peppers and huge scallops on green papaya.

9.30pm

LATE-NIGHT TACOS

Still hungry? Have a stellar taco from **Big Star** (1531 N. Damen Ave) in trendy Wicker Park. You'll also find authentic tequila and a party atmosphere.

11pm

SPEAKEASY STYLE

Al Capone put Chicago on the map during prohibition with clandestine speakeasies, and **Violet Hour** (1520 N. Damen Ave) is continuing the tradition. Hidden behind a frequently changing mural, pull back the black curtain to reveal a luxe French salon-inspired interior, with high-backed chairs and plenty of nooks. Once your eyes adjust to the low lighting, order a Juliet and Romeo – a citrusy gin-based cocktail with a hint of rosewater. **d.**