



MORNING TO EVENING ITINERARIES WITH A FOCUS ON DOING, EATING & DRINKING, WHICH LEADS TO SEEING.

Coffee to Cork is here to inspire taking trips without the burden of the complete unknown. From your morning coffee to your evening glass of wine, I've got you covered! Whether you are a planner or spontaneous traveler, you can find peace in having recommendations available to you in an organized fashion. By organized, I'm referring to how I order events by location, in a manner that is travel efficient, with realistic expectations for how long activities, sightseeing and meals last. I pride myself on the extensive thought that goes into each itinerary to help make trips more effective and enjoyable!

As you may have gathered, I have a desire to plan anything and everything. Whether it is in my home city of Chicago or an International trip, you better bet I am researching, experiencing and recording. Although I am not a travel agent, for years, my itineraries have been distributed to friends and families to enhance their trips. Why not share something I love with other eager travelers?

My itineraries are made with a focus on doing, eating & drinking, which leads to seeing! Make plans easier — the editable excel templates allow you to add in your own personality, interests and adventures. Or simply download the PDF for a ready to go version. Enjoy! I am eager to hear from you!

XO Jamie | Coffee to Cork

The Girls Weekend (Winter) - River North, Chicago

Date	Location	Time	Activity	Location	Price Range	Notes
Thursday (Dec-Feb)	Chicago, IL	3:00PM	Fly into Chicago	O'Hare or Midway Airports	\$\$\$	O'Hare flies into the Northwest Suburbs and Midway flies into the Southwest Suburbs. Both are relatively equidistant from downtown Chicago. O'Hare is a large airport, and Midway is smaller. I usually choose my flights based on airline points. I am a Southwest girl at heart so usually I am in and out of Midway.
		3:30PM	Transportation to the city	O'Hare or Midway Airports	\$-\$	You can either take the Blue Line L from O'Hare or the Orange Line L from Midway to the city (\$2.50). If you want to grab an uber or cab that works too (~40-60)! You can decide based on pricing and traffic situations. I do not recommend renting a car -- parking is expensive in the city and getting around is difficult.
		4:30PM	Check into lodging	River North, Chicago, IL	\$\$\$	Since I live in Chicago, I am not well versed on Airbnb's but I can provide hotel recommendations. In River North, check out: The Gwen, Courtyard by Marriott Chicago Downtown/River North, Loews Chicago, ACME Hotel, The Freehand, and more. Plenty of options, so I suggest using whichever hotel rewards program you belong to in order to get points or use points.
		7:00PM	Dinner at Quartino	626 N State St, Chicago, IL 60654	\$\$	It is your first night of many in town, so take it a bit easy and enjoy a fun wine night! This is one of my favorite restaurants in River North for groups. It has Italian tapas, with a large selection to share as a table -- pastas, meats, breads, cheeses, flatbreads. It is popular to split carafs of wine, which lowers the price dramatically. First floor is buzzing with tables and loud conversation. If you want something more intimate, you could request a table on the top floor. There is also a private room that could fit ~8-12. Make reservations.
		9:00PM	Red Headed Piano Bar	16 W Ontario St, Chicago, IL 60654	\$\$	Underground, cocktail, piano bar. Grab a cozy booth and enjoy some live music. It is right around the corner from Quartino, so even if you just want to stop in for a night cap, its an easy and fun option!
Friday (Dec-Feb)	Chicago, IL	9:30AM	Breakfast at Beatrix	671 N St Clair St, Chicago, IL 60611	\$\$	Beatrix is a modern coffeehouse and restaurant offering comfort food dishes, vegetarian choices and healthy/delicious specials. The coffee bar showcases two iconic Chicago roasters, Intelligentsia and Metric. My favorite coffees are the Honey & Cinnamon Latte and the Vanilla Latte. The speciality juices are amazing too! Make a reservation.
		10:30AM	Shop North along Michigan Avenue	Grand & Michigan, Chicago IL 60611	\$\$\$	Get started at the Magnificent Mile stores early before they are crowded. Some of my favorites on Michigan Avenue are Zara, Nordstrom, Nordstrom Rack, Nike and Water Tower Place. Along the way you may see famous landmarks, like the Wrigley Building, Tribune Tower and John Hancock Center.
		12:00PM	The Signature Room on the 95th	875 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611	\$\$	Time for a break! Grab a drink, tea or coffee and an appetizer at this upscale spot high atop 875 North Michigan Avenue with wide views, American fare & a separate lounge. It is very expensive so I recommend only getting a drink and some snacks to hold you over while shopping.
		1:00PM	Shop South along Michigan Avenue	Chestnut & Michigan, Chicago IL 60611	\$\$\$	Head south now and hit some of the stores on the other side of the street! There are plenty to pop in and out of on your walk back towards your place of lodging.
		3:00PM	Rest, snack, shower at lodging	River North, Chicago, IL		Regroup and recharge!
		5:00PM	Dinner at Sushi-san	63 W Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60654	\$\$	Stylish sushi bar and restaurant specializing in sashimi. The vibe is right and the cocktails are great. Chic sushi dining reminds me of Sex and the City, so start your fun night out right in this big city! Make reservations.
		7:00PM	See at show on Broadway	Chicago, IL	\$\$\$	Check out the shows playing and maybe coordinate your trip dates around one! Broadway in the winter is so magical and entertaining! It breaks up the eating, drinking and hibernating. Buy tickets here > https://www.broadwayinchicago.com/
Saturday (Dec-Feb)	Chicago, IL	8:00AM	Group workout	West Loop, Chicago, IL	\$	There's already been plenty of eating and drinking, so let's switch up the pace this morning: group workout style! Pick your preference, as there are plenty of studios in River North: Orangetheory Fitness, Cyclebar, Pure Barre, Studio Three, Corepower Yoga, FlyWheel, SoulCycle LOOP and more. You will need to sign up and pay for the class ahead of time, so just make sure you go to their website to check out their availability and times.
		10:00AM	Boozy brunch at Fremont	15 W Illinois St, Chicago, IL 60654	\$\$\$	High end, boozy brunch, day club with DJ. Reserve a booth or table on the top floor in advance; I believe a credit card is needed to put on file, and a minimum needs to be hit. For the brunch it is \$45+ tip wristbands for the all you can eat, plus bottomless mimosas from 10am-2pm. Bloody Mary package available. Great food & very fun atmosphere!
		3:00PM	Lunch at Portillos	100 W Ontario St, Chicago, IL 60654	\$	Hop over to Portillo's to sober you up! It is a Chicago staple. Hot dogs, italian beef, milkshakes, cheese fries, salads, sandwiches, soup, pasta, etc. Perfect for a quick bite, or eating at the hotel! But if you are a little too boozed up, order a pizza to your hotel room! Lou Malnatis, Pizzanos, Giordanos.
		4:00PM	Rest, snack, shower at lodging	River North, Chicago, IL		Regroup and recharge!
		7:30PM	Frontera Grill	445 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60654	\$\$	Chef Rick Bayless' restaurant offering Mexican dishes in a festive space. The margaritas are FAB and the food is what you would think influenced by a famous chef. Make reservations.
		10:00PM	Drinks Untitled Supper Club	111 W Hubbard St, Chicago, IL 60654	\$\$\$	Large restaurant/lounge featuring creative American food & craft cocktails in space with a speakeasy vibe, but many rooms to explore. Check out their performance calendar to see what live show or music is happening: https://www.untitledsupperclub.com/calendar/
		10:00AM	Corey's NYC Bagel Deli	515 N Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60654	\$	Casual spot for a New York-style bagel. Amazing bagel sandwiches to build that energy back up. This shop was on The Profit, and has a new improved look! But the food was and always has been good.

Sunday (Dec-Feb)	Chicago, IL	10:30AM	Pack up and check out of lodging		Ask your hotel or home stay owner to leave your bags for the day while you continue to explore. You can pick them up before you leave for the airport.	
		11:00AM	Eataly Chicago	43 E Ohio St, Chicago, IL 60611	\$\$\$	Bustling modern trattoria and Italian marketplace. A fun and different experience offering an opportunity to try cheese, meats, Neapolitan pizza & homemade, al dente pasta. It is a tourist trap, but a cool one.
		12:30PM	Go ice skating in Millennium Park	1 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60602	\$	Ice skating at the McCormick Tribune Rink at Millennium Park is a Chicago winter staple. You may need to remove this from the agenda if you get a freezing cold day. A great activity to get some fresh air and get some exercise. Skating is FREE and open to the public. To rent skates, it is between \$10-15/person. McCormick Tribune Ice Rink is open mid November to early March (weather permitting).
		1:30PM	Check out the Cloud Gate sculpture	201 E Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60602		AKA The Bean! AKA that big, mirrored object in Millennium Park. This is a classic picture opportunity.
		2:00PM	Cindy's Rooftop	12 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603	\$\$\$	Hip, stylish rooftop bar and restaurant at the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel. The views are what draw most people here, scanning all of Millenium Park. There are fire pits on the patio, fun cocktails available and unique food options. However, you are paying for the experience... It is pricey and, at times, crowded. If you can't get in, sweetgreen is on the corner of Michigan and Randolph.
		4:00PM	Grab bags and head to airport	River North, Chicago, IL		You can either take the Blue Line L to O'Hare or the Orange Line L to Midway (\$2.50). If you want to grab an uber or cab that works too (~\$40-60)! You can decide based on pricing and traffic situations. I suggest leaving a bit early for the airport so you have time to grab a bite to eat for dinner there.
		7:00PM	Fly home	O'Hare or Midway Airports	\$\$\$	Bye, bye! Til next time.