A Practical Guide to Hyde Park and Beyond

Elizabeth Csima, revised/expanded by Travis Schedler and Rachel Epstein

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Getting Around Hyde Park

- 170-4, Evening Buses: http://www.rh.uchicago.edu/bus/maps/ for usual schedule+routes; http://www.rh.uchicago.edu/bus/news/ for summer+interim schedules and other changes.

  All of these buses are FREE for you except the 173 and 174, which cost like a normal CTA bus. On a 170, 171, or 172, you must show your U of C ID to board free; the evening buses usually don't check ID. Essentially, if you want to take a free bus to and from school in Hyde Park, check out 170-2 for the morning and an evening A-E bus for the evening (note that the F was just cancelled).

- Late Night "Drunk" Van, 702-2022

  This van will get you home if you need it. Call and they will pick you up (anywhere in Hyde Park), but you might have to wait a half an hour before they finally get there. Once you're on, you will have to stay on until the driver gets to your place (there will be others going other places on board), no stops for bodily functions. Not the most pleasant option, but good if you're alone at night.

Getting to/from Hyde Park

- CTA buses 55, 6, 15, 173, 174
- CTA red line L/subway (Garfield or 47th)
- tripsweb.rtachicago.com, yourcta.com for trip planning with these and/or other CTA buses and trains
- Metra Electric Line, www.metrarail.com

  If you are leaving Hyde Park, you will almost certainly take one of five routes: (1) #55 from 55th street west to the Garfield Red Line L/subway; (2) #6 north [from 57th and Stony Island, 55th or 53rd and Hyde Park Blvd, or 51st and Lake Park] to downtown along Michigan Avenue from Balbo (700 S) north to Wacker (300 N); (3) #15 west along 51st street to the 47th Street Red Line L/Subway; (4) #174 This is a similar route as the 55, but goes only at certain times, and comes a couple blocks closer to campus;

  or (5) the Metra north from 57th, 53rd, or 51st and Lake Park north to Randolph/Michigan or Van Buren/Michigan. The option (5) requires checking the Metra schedule since at non-peak times there are few trains; it is however especially good if there is traffic, as it will be much faster than taking a bus downtown. On the other hand the Metra is slightly more expensive and you can't transfer from it to the CTA or vice-versa without paying full fare for both.

  Getting back to Hyde Park is exactly the same, **except that the #6 goes along State Street going south**. Just make sure there is a "Southbound" sign listing the #6 at your chosen corner along the west side of State Street.

- How to get to/from Midway Airport

  This is easy: the #55 bus usually goes all the way to Midway Airport and will come all the way back to Hyde Park. When getting on the bus westbound, just make sure it says "Midway" on it so it is not one of the few terminating before that.

- How to get to/from O'Hare Airport

  You will need to take the Blue Line to O'Hare: to get to the Blue Line, either take the #6 north to Jackson and walk west to Dearborn, or take the #55 (or #15) west to the Red Line, which you take north to Jackson; finally, walk under the tunnel at Jackson to transfer to the Blue Line.

- How to get to/from Union Station

  If you are going during peak hours (about 6-9:45 am, or 2-7 pm M-F at the time of this writing) you can take the X28 bus directly from the same stop as the #6, all the way to Union Station. **Not the regular #28, only the X28 !**

  Otherwise, just follow the downtown instructions, and either walk west from Adams and Michigan (or Adams and State) to Union Station, which is on the right side of Adams just across the bridge over the river; or else you can try to catch a bus west on Adams, such as the #151, in lieu of walking.

- Paying for the bus

  The best and cheapest way to pay for the bus is to get a Chicago Card Plus from www.chicago-card.com and then to reload it online whenever it gets low (you can reload automatically). If you reload in increments of $20, you will get $2 extra for free. It will take a week or so for your card to come in the mail, so in the meantime, you might have to use cash or a temporary card. Cash is the most expensive way to pay. It costs 2 dollars per ride, with no free transfers. So at your earliest convenience, you should get a fare card from a vending machine at a subway station.

Buying Food and Drink (Supermarkets, Liquor stores)

- Hyde Park Produce [On 53rd Street just east of Kimbark]

  Hours: M-Sa 8AM-8PM, Sun 8AM-5PM.
  This place is wonderful. The produce here is cheaper and better than anywhere else in Hyde Park. You can also buy nice, fresh herbs here. They have a small deli at the back and sell things like homemade salsa, guacamole, and pesto. They also sell yogurt, milk, good cheeses (in front and in back), big cans of olive oil, some pasta products. They also sell baked goods from other bakeries around town. Almost everything is **much** cheaper than anywhere else nearby, and the place has a nice small-store, neighborhood atmosphere.

- 55th Street Co-op Market [Hyde Park Shopping Center at 55th and Lake Park]

  Hours: M-Su 7AM-11PM.
  The only good-sized grocery store in Hyde Park. Among other things it has a large full-service deli, food sold in bulk (such as beans, different types of flour, nuts and spices), and the best selction of meat and fish in Hyde Park. The produce is overpriced here, but you can usually find what you are looking for. You can also find some stuff for your kitchen here (like cheap pots and pans) and cleaning supplies. There is a flower shop on the first floor where you can buy potted plants. In the basement of the Co-op are a post office, cheap video rentals, and a liquor store.

- 53rd Street Co-op Express [Kimbark Plaza at 53rd between Woodlawn and Kimbark]

  Hours: M-Su 7AM-9PM.
  A smaller grocery store than the 55th street Co-op, run by the same people. Many of the items in the larger store are here, except there is no bulk section and fewer (but still some) organic/"elite"

items. NOTE: This store will be closing in December and will be replaced by an expanded Hyde Park Produce.

- VILLAGE FOODS [Village Center at 51st and Lake Park]

  More like a "normal" grocery store, and a bit smaller than the 55th street Co-op. Has longer hours even than the 55th street Co-op, however (I think).

- MEDICI BAKERY [57th Street between Kimbark and Kenwood]

  A bakery run by the Medici restaurant. Their breads are really good.

- BONNE SANTÉ HEALTH FOODS [53rd between Harper and Lake Park]

  Sells natural foods (but mostly foods that can be shelved, like bottled juice and dry foods), vitamins and nutritional supplements. They also sell a lot of natural skin care products. There is a student discount on all purchases made.

- KIMBARK LIQUOR [Kimbark Plaza at 53rd between Woodlawn and Kimbark]

  A liquor store that has reasonable hours, unless it is Sunday.

- BINNY'S EXPRESS [Hyde Park Bank building at 53rd and Harper]

  A smaller store that sells alcohol with terrible hours but a great wine selection.

A good idea when shopping for groceries around here is to pay attention to the sales each week. The grocery stores in Hyde Park are overpriced (except HP Produce), but the sales are quite good.

Drug Stores

- WALGREENS [Hyde Park Shopping Center at 55th and Lake Park]
- WALGREENS [51st and Cottage Grove]
- CVS [53rd and Kimbark plaza]

  Hours: WALGREENS IS 24/7; CVS 7 AM-10 PM daily. Pharmacy hours are more limited.
  Pharmacies with your usual drugs and products. If you are new to the country the variety of things sold in these stores might surprise you. You can buy some of your groceries here. They also both sell things for your kitchen like plates and small appliances (coffee makers, toasters). You can occassionally find small, cheap furniture (like little tables and stools) and seasonal items for your apartment (like fans for instance). They sell some electronic equipment (phones, cd players, etc.), and both have photo developing services.

Campus coffee shops/restaurants

- DIVINITY SCHOOL COFFEE SHOP, BASEMENT OF SWIFT HALL (DIV SCHOOL)
- UNCLE JOE'S COFFEE SHOP (NOW CALLED HALLOWED GROUNDS): UPSTAIRS IN REYNOLDS
- COBB COFFEE SHOP: BASEMENT OF COBB HALL
- CLASSICS COFFEE SHOP: CLASSICS HALL

  All these places are run by students and thus have cheap offerings, not just drinks but also take-out food from restaurants around Hyde Park with very reasonable prices. In particular, Uncle Joe's is open until at least 11 PM every night and has a lounge with TV, pool tables and foosball, the latter which you can use for free with your U of C ID. The Divinity School Coffee Shop distinguishes itself in being open all day M-F until around 4:30 PM even during summer and interim, so you can always get your lunch there when other places are closed. Additionally, the Divinity School **always** has food brought in fresh and hot and keeps it hot all day until they close (when it is thrown out), so it tastes fresher and does not have to be reheated.

- Hutchinson Commons, first floor Reynolds
- Einstein Bagels / C-Shop, first floor Reynolds
- Bartlett Commons: upstairs in Bartlett Hall

  Bartlett Commons is the main campus cafeteria-style restaurant if you want that, but it does have limited hours so make sure it is open when you plan to eat there. Hutchinson Commons is a conglomerate of places like Subway that will sell you food, also with limited hours. Einstein Bagels sells some sandwiches in addition to bagels and coffee/tea.
- Starbucks Coffee, in U of C Bookstore (58th+Ellis near Citibank) It's Starbucks!

Buying stuff for your apartment in Hyde Park

- Ace Hardware [Hyde Park Shopping Center at 55th and Lake Park]

  Great for kitchen and bathroom cleaning and supplies (including mops, brooms, vacuums, mirrors, etc.), kitchen appliances, lamps, etc., including just about anything you'd need starting out. As any hardware store, it has tools, plumbing stuff, copies keys, etc. It also has lamps and granny carts for groceries, and all other sorts of stuff you might need.
- Office Depot [Hyde Park Shopping Center at 55th and Lake Park]

  You can find everything you would need to use in an office. This includes office funiture, storage bins, filing cabinets, boxes, computers, coffee makers, printers, fancy phones, clocks, and even small refrigerators. If you need luggage for business travel, you can find it here too.
- Radio Shack [53rd between Blackstone and Harper]

  You can find most electronics here, but it is a little overpriced.

Bookstores

- Seminary Co-op Bookstore [58th and University in the Theological Seminary]

  The best place to buy math books, and apparently holds some sort of record for sales per square foot. If you buy 3 shares (which you can sell back anytime) you get 10% off of all of your purchases.
- 57th Street Books [57th and Kimbark]

  A sister store to the Seminary Co-op, has a similar selection but doesn't sell textbooks.
- Powell's Books [57th and Harper]

  A used bookstore that occasionally has useful math books.
- O'Gara Wilson Books [57th between Harper and Blackstone]

  A smaller used bookstore, with mostly older books.
- Barnes & Noble University of Chicago Bookstore [58th and Ellis]

  The official bookstore of the university, with a computer store upstairs with big student discounts on software etc. Has a Starbucks.

- Borders [53rd and Lake Park]

  Doesn't have a very good literature section but has non-academic books, DVDs and CDs, and a café.

Post Offices

- Basement of the 55th Street Co-op [Note, this is closed on weekends]
- 58th between Ellis and Drexel

Banks

- Citibank [Ellis between 58th and 59th]
- Washington Mutual [53rd and Kenwood]
- Chase [Kimbark Plaza at 53rd between Woodlawn and Kimbark]
- University National Bank [55th and Kenwood]
- Hyde Park Bank [53rd between Harper and Lake Park]

I would recommend to most people to get a Citibank student account, which has free checking, no monthly fee, and no minimum balance, which you can (so I have heard) open without a Social Security number. Also Citibank has the only ATMs on campus: one in the basement of Reynolds' club and one at the Citibank next to U of C Hospitals and Bookstore at 58th and Ellis. The Chase is another large bank which you may find interesting. The last two are small community banks, if that appeals to you.

Rachel's Opinion on banks: I would actually recommend the Washington Mutual, not Citibank. It is brand new, which is why it's not mentioned in the above paragraph. The biggest advantage, in my opinion, is that they don't charge for checks. Citibank gives you about 50 free checks, I think, which you might run out of because of paying rent and other things like that. I ran out in about a year and a half. Anyway, they charge you 19 dollars for the cheapest checks they have to replace them. WaMu gives you free checks for life. Citibank also gets extremely crowded around the time you get paid every year. I've waited in line there for an hour. I hardly ever see anyone at WaMu, although that will probably change when the school year starts. I think if you live anywhere near 53rd and Kenwood, you should get an account at WaMu. If you live closer to campus, you will probably want the convenience of the on-campus Citibank ATMs. You can always get an account at both places, like I did.

Some cheap buying outside of Hyde Park (without a car)

- Sears [Downtown at State and Madison]

  This department store (stores which try to sell everything) is easily accessible by public transit. You can usually find what you are looking for, and most items are not too expensive, even at regular prices.

- Carson Pirie Scott [Also at State and Madison]

  More expensive and nicer than Sears, but occassionally you can find things on sale for great prices. For instance I once bought a suitcase there for 80% off the original price.

- Filene's Basement and TJ Maxx [State and Madison]

  These are two discount stores that sell mostly clothes. They are extremely useful if you need to buy yourself clothing for the upcoming winter and don't have a lot of money to spend. You also might find things for your apartment.

- H&M [State and Washington (one block north of Sears)]

  This is a European store that has a lot of fashionable clothes at low prices, for both men and women. They have a lot of cute T-shirts for under $10. Their clothes tend to run small.

In general most of the stores downtown are pricey, and if you stick to the rule "South of the river go on State and North of the river go on Michigan" you will find many, many stores. The stores on State tend to be cheaper than the stores on Michigan. For example, there is a Nordstrom Rack on State, and a Nordstrom on Michigan.

Buying stuff outside of Hyde Park with a car

- Ford City Mall [7601 South Cicero Ave.]

  A ridiculously big mall, find out more at www.shopfordcity.com.

- Target [7100 S. Cicero Ave., and 1154 S Clark St]

  Another store mostly for your apartment that sells cheap things that aren't ugly. See www.target.com. The one on Clark St. is accessible by bus or Red or Green Line. You either get off the #6 and walk west along Roosevelt or you get off the Red Line or Green Line at Roosevelt and walk west. I think that is a smaller than normal Target, though.

- IKEA [Schaumburg IL, 1800 E McConnor Parkway, and Bolingbrook IL, 750 E Boughton Road]

  If you've never heard of IKEA, it is a Swedish furniture store that caters mostly to new families and young people such as ourselves. They also sell many accessories for your apartment; you might go to www.ikea-usa.com or find someone with a catalogue before driving all the way to Schaumburg or Bolingbrook. IKEA can be a really fun experience, and they have a cafe, so you can make a day of it.