

TRAVEL

Luxurious landmarks make for spectacular weekend getaways

I'm getting really tired of the term "stay-cation," especially when it comes to such a fabulous metropolis as Chicago. Instead, think of a weekend getaway in the city as an



Mira Temkin

"explore-cation" and you'll see Chicago through the eyes of the millions of tourists who visit from all over the world. If you've walked down Michigan Ave. lately, you'll know what I mean — an

amazing blend of languages fills the air. So make your own weekend out of it. Go see a few plays. Visit the museums. Dine in world-class restaurants. And, oh yeah, shop the Mag Mile. Check out, then check in, to two of Chicago's finest.

Four Seasons Hotel Chicago: still the Grand Dame. This famous landmark has been a part of Chicago's landscape since 1989 and is renowned for its fabulous location, luxurious accommodations, award-winning dining, deluxe spa, and fitness center.

You don't just walk into the Four Seasons; you ascend to the 7th floor and enter it. Here you'll be welcomed into an opulent lobby where all of Chicago meets and greets. The hotel boasts 345 elegant guest rooms and suites, offering spacious accommodations with classic marble bathrooms, LCD flat-screen televisions, and wireless Internet.

My Deluxe Executive Suite, high on the 43rd floor, was surrounded by open windows with exquisite views looking down Michigan Ave. Facing west, the way the street lights lined up, I felt like I was landing a 757 at O'Hare. Located adjacent to the 900 Shops on North Michigan Ave. (also known as the Bloomingdale's building), the Four Seasons has a direct entrance to the mall. How great is that, you don't even have to go outside! Upon check-in at Four Seasons, you'll receive a special 900 Shops savings booklet good at the many fine shops and restaurants.

The sumptuous Seasons restaurant is a recent recipient of a Michelin star and the coveted Forbes Four Star and AAA Five Diamond awards. Seasons offers contemporary American cuisine in an



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

Deluxe Executive Suites at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago provide top-of-the-line amenities, along with fantastic views of the city.

elegant setting with glorious lakeside views. Sunday brunch is classic and refined with the tinkling of the ivories playing softly in the background. You'll smile when you see the small buffet trolley that holds pancakes and French toast for the little ones.

The Spa at Four Seasons Hotel Chicago is recognized for its menu of unique therapies. Their newest service now features chocolate massages: the perfect way to relieve your chocolate cravings without the guilt. Indulge in a decadent chocolate treatment, then savor a chocolate martini in the Spa's tranquil lounge. Try a Red velvet manicure or pedicure, as well.

Kids Welcome! Four Seasons really caters to the young folk. How about a visit from the ice cream man? Or the bedtime butler who will read stories to your children? Young guests can wheel around town in Radio Flyer wagons, complimentary to families for trips to the nearby park or beach.

"Girlfriend getaways are one of our most popular packages," says Terri Hickey, Public Relations Director. "We can arrange to have the 'Martini Man' come to your room and whip up your favorites or special in

spa treatments for your guests. And a good percentage of our guests come from the Chicago suburbs. The best part is you really do feel like you're getting away."

Take advantage of their "Stay Longer" package. Book two nights and the third night is free. Now that's an even better reason to get away from it all at Four Seasons! 120 East Delaware Place, Chicago; 312-280-8800; fourseasons.com/chicagofs.

Trump International Hotel and Tower Chicago trumps all. When you arrive at Trump Tower, you know that you've arrived.

This magnificent hotel, soaring 92 stories, now joins the ranks as the newest landmark in the city skyline. Featuring contemporary architecture and luxury throughout, you'll feel enveloped in a warm, distinctly residential ambience.

Set in the seventh tallest building in the world, Trump Tower offers 339 lavish guestrooms and suites with award-winning amenities. Sixteen, their fine dining restaurant, features modern American cuisine with views as outstanding as the gastronomy.

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TRUMP INTERNATIONAL HOTEL AND TOWER

The Trump International Hotel and Tower is the newest addition to Chicago's skyline.

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