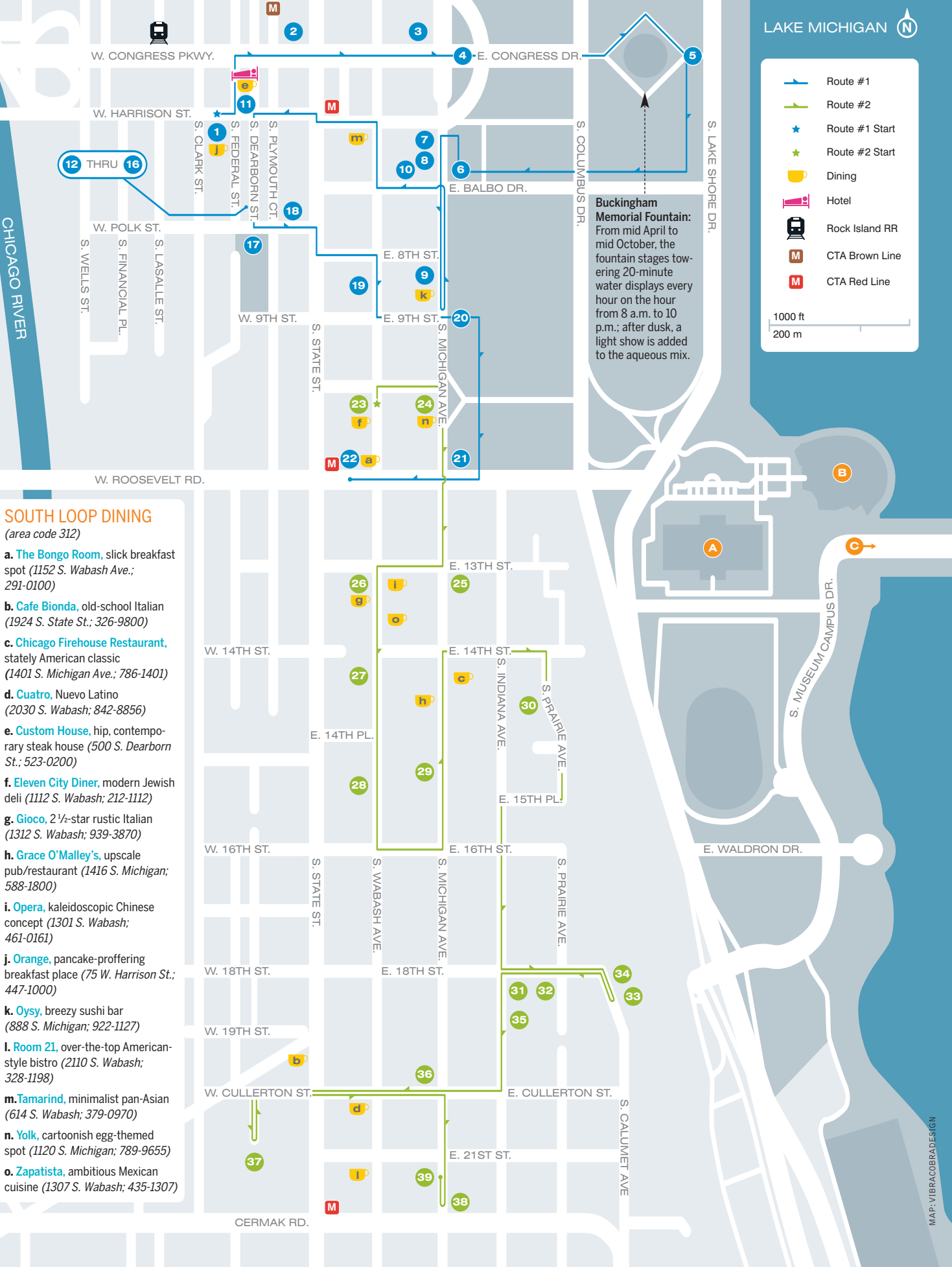


Buckingham Memorial Fountain: From mid April to mid October, the fountain stages towering 20-minute water displays every hour on the hour from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; after dusk, a light show is added to the aqueous mix.

SOUTH LOOP DINING
(area code 312)

- a. The Bongo Room**, slick breakfast spot (1152 S. Wabash Ave.; 291-0100)
- b. Cafe Bionda**, old-school Italian (1924 S. State St.; 326-9800)
- c. Chicago Firehouse Restaurant**, stately American classic (1401 S. Michigan Ave.; 786-1401)
- d. Cuatro**, Nuevo Latino (2030 S. Wabash; 842-8856)
- e. Custom House**, hip, contemporary steak house (500 S. Dearborn St.; 523-0200)
- f. Eleven City Diner**, modern Jewish deli (1112 S. Wabash; 212-1112)
- g. Gioco**, 2½-star rustic Italian (1312 S. Wabash; 939-3870)
- h. Grace O'Malley's**, upscale pub/restaurant (1416 S. Michigan; 588-1800)
- i. Opera**, kaleidoscopic Chinese concept (1301 S. Wabash; 461-0161)
- j. Orange**, pancake-proffering breakfast place (75 W. Harrison St.; 447-1000)
- k. Oysy**, breezy sushi bar (888 S. Michigan; 922-1127)
- l. Room 21**, over-the-top American-style bistro (2110 S. Wabash; 328-1198)
- m. Tamarind**, minimalist pan-Asian (614 S. Wabash; 379-0970)
- n. Yolk**, cartoonish egg-themed spot (1120 S. Michigan; 789-9655)
- o. Zapatista**, ambitious Mexican cuisine (1307 S. Wabash; 435-1307)



GOIN' SOUTH — WALKING THE SOUTH LOOP

THE BEST WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE SOUTH LOOP IS ON FOOT. HERE ARE TWO TOURS, EACH OF WHICH TAKES ABOUT HALF A DAY—OR THEY CAN BE COMBINED FOR A DAYLONG ADVENTURE. NOTE THAT ALL PHONE NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 312.

→ TOUR #1 → → →

Begin your morning with a flight of silver-dollar pancakes and a cup of orange-infused coffee at **(1) Orange** (75 W. Harrison St.; 447-1000). After breakfast, walk one block north to Congress Parkway and head east to the **(2) Harold Washington Library Center** (400 S. State; 747-4396). Duck inside to explore the collection of artwork as you ride the escalator to the glass-roofed ninth-floor Winter Garden.

Back outside, continue east to the northwest corner of Congress and Michigan, where you will find Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan's splendid **(3) Auditorium Building** (call 431-2389, ext. 0, to arrange

breaking *Raisin in the Sun* première in 1959. Jog north to Harrison and west to Dearborn Street. Just to the north sits the **(11) Pontiac Building** (542 S. Dearborn), Holabird & Roche's oldest surviving Chicago building (1891). To the south lies the historic **Printers' Row** district. Check out the **(12) Donohue Building** (711 S. Dearborn), the first large printing factory in the district (1883) and the first converted to lofts (1978). Another notable structure is the 95-year-old **(13) Second Franklin Building** (720 S. Dearborn), where elaborate tile murals depict the history of printing. The 23rd annual **Printers Row Book Fair** will be held this year on June 9th and

Street), salute **(20)** the equestrian statue of the flag-waving Civil War general **John Logan**, and then finish up this portion of the tour at **(21) Agora**, an outdoor collection of 106 headless metal figures created by the Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz (at the northeast corner of Michigan and Roosevelt Road). After this long walk, reward yourself with a good lunch at **(22) Eleven City Diner** (1112 S. Wabash; 212-1112), a lively Jewish deli with an irresistible soda fountain.

→ TOUR #2 → → →

Begin the second half of the South Loop tour at an architectural landmark: the 116-year-old **(23) Ludington Building**

SOUTH LOOP

GETTING THERE: The South Loop is readily accessible via public transportation. Take the CTA Red Line to the **(M)** Harrison stop or the Brown Line to the **(M)** Library stop; ride a Rock Island train to its northern terminus at 414 South LaSalle Street; or board one of the many CTA buses that make their way up and down State Street and Michigan Avenue. Go to metrairail.com for further information.



a tour). Cross Michigan to the Congress Plaza, flanked by **(4) Ivan Meštrović's Bowman and Spearman**; **(5) Buckingham Memorial Fountain**, with its hourly water shows, is just to the east across Columbus Drive. Walk south through **Grant Park**, the perfect vantage point from which to observe the collection of buildings along the west side of the street. (Along the way you will encounter **(6) The Spirit of Music**, a statue that honors Theodore Thomas, the founder and first conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.) While most of the structures—such as the old **(7) Harvester Building** (600 S. Michigan) and the **(9) Crane Company Building** (836 S. Michigan)—represent the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the new **(8) Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies**, with its faceted glass façade (now taking shape at 610 S. Michigan), introduces a stunning 21st-century design—by Krueck & Sexton—to this stretch of the avenue.

At Balbo Drive, walk west past the **(10) Merle Reskin Theatre** (formerly the *Blackstone*; 60 E. Balbo), where Lorraine Hansberry's ground-

10th (for more information go to printersrowbookfair.org). Linger in Printers' Row to explore two delightful bookstores—the 25-year-old **(14) Sandmeyer's** (714 S. Dearborn; 922-2104) and **(15) Printers Row Fine and Rare Books** (715 S. Dearborn; 583-1800)—and the newish **(16) Printers Row Wine Shop** (719 S. Dearborn; 663-9314), where you can occasionally sample some of the wares before making a purchase. **(17) Dearborn Station** (47 W. Polk), the city's oldest surviving train depot—it was built in 1885—is today a Galleria housing a spa, a bank, a bar, and several small offices.

Venture east along Polk and 8th streets toward Michigan Avenue, making a quick detour up Plymouth Court to inspect the **(18) Lakeside Press Building**, an early R. R. Donnelley establishment that is now a Columbia College dorm (731 S. Plymouth). Duck down Wabash Avenue and, while sampling a cappuccino or homemade gelato, watch them craft luscious chocolates in the open kitchen at **(19) Canady Le Chocolatier** (824 S. Wabash; 212-1270).

Back in Grant Park (at 9th

(1104 S. Wabash), now part of Columbia College; designed by William Le Baron Jenney (the father of the skyscraper), this is one of the first all-steel-frame skyscrapers—and the first clad entirely in terra cotta. If you have begun this tour in the morning, walk east one block for breakfast at **(24) Yolk** (1120 S. Michigan; 789-9655); if an afternoon picnic on the lakefront is in your plans, try the gourmet carryout at **(25) Panozzo's Italian Market** (1303 S. Michigan; 356-9966).

Several good restaurants reside in the 1300 block of South Wabash and the 1400 block of South Michigan (see *South Loop Dining* on the facing page). Be sure to peek inside **(26) Gioco** (1312 S. Wabash; 939-3870), a stylish Italian restaurant with remnants of its speakeasy past—faded drawings of birds, dancers, and faces—preserved on its walls as part of the modern-day décor.

Walking south down Wabash from 14th Street leads you to **(27) Soka Gakkai International** (1455 S. Wabash), a Buddhist cultural center; from 1889 to 1983, the **(28) Chicago Coliseum**—the site of five Republican Party presidential conventions—stood just south of here (at 1513 S. Wabash). **(29) Old St. Mary's Church** (1500 S. Michigan; 922-3444), the city's oldest Catholic parish; established in 1833 at State and Lake streets, it has been a South Loop resident since 2002. Finally, a walk from 14th Street down Prairie Avenue leads you past the gracious red-brick townhouses of **(30) Central Station**, where Mayor Richard M. Daley has lived since 1993.

At 15th Street, walk east one block to Indiana Avenue and continue south to the **(31) National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum** (1801 S. Indiana; 326-0270). After touring the museum, walk one block east and spend some time inside the 120-year-old **(32) Glessner House** (1800 S. Prairie; 326-1480), the anchor of the Prairie Avenue Historic District (go to glessnerhouse.org to learn about tours of the house and the district).

To reach the lake, continue east along 18th Street to a new **(33) pedestrian walkway**. (Some local residents want to name the **(34)** new park at 18th and Calumet Avenue after Black Partridge, the Potawatomi warrior who saved several white settlers during the **Fort Dearborn massacre**, which occurred at this site in 1812.) Or walk west on 18th to Indiana and head south to the Greek Revival **(35) Henry B. Clarke House** (1855 S. Indiana)—Chicago's second oldest structure (it dates to 1836)—and, at the northwest corner of Michigan and Cullerton Street, the **(36) Second Presbyterian Church**

WHERE TO STAY: Out-of-towners or overnighters can put up at the posh Hotel Blake (500 S. Dearborn St.; 986-1234 or hotelblake.com), where rooms start at \$169.

(1936 S. Michigan; 225-4951), home to the city's most spectacular collection of stained-glass windows (the church is open to visitors most days until 5 p.m.).

Continue west along Cullerton to Dearborn Street, where you can see the Chicago Housing Authority's **(37) Hilliard Homes**, another innovative Bertrand Goldberg design. One hundred years ago, this was the center of **the Levee**, Chicago's notorious vice district; until 1911, the **Everleigh sisters** had their brother—deemed the country's most luxurious—at 2131 South Dearborn (the building has been demolished).

Michigan Avenue between 21st Street and Cermak Road (the southern boundary of the South Loop) teems with ghosts. **Harriet Monroe**, the founder (in 1912) of *Poetry* magazine, grew up near here in the 1870s, and from 1928 to 1931 (when he headed off to prison), **Al Capone** had his headquarters in a fourth-floor suite of the **(38) Lexington Hotel** at the northeast corner of Michigan and Cermak. (The hotel, whose subterranean vault was famously—and fruitlessly—plumbed by Geraldo Rivera in 1986, came down in 1995; developers recently broke ground there for a condo tower called Lexington Park.) Finally, the old **(39) Chess Records** studio, where the blues gave birth to rock 'n' roll in the 1950s, still stands at 2120 South Michigan (the title of a song by the Rolling Stones); today it is the home of the Blues Heaven Foundation, which is run by the widow of blues legend Willie Dixon. ■

THE MUSEUMS: At the midpoint between the two tours—east of Lake Shore Drive at Roosevelt Road—lies the Museum Campus, home to three of Chicago's finest museums: the **(A) Field Museum** (922-9410 or fieldmuseum.org), the **(B) John G. Shedd Aquarium** (939-2438 or shedd.aquarium.org), and the **(C) Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum** (922-7827 or adlerplanetarium.org).

