

## Travel Information for the Cubs' Game

Ron Kaminecki (yes, I live in Chicago)

**Wrigley Field**, at 3600 North Clark Street, (at the intersection of Clark Street and Addison Avenue) is the home of the Chicago Cubs, and is a quaint, old-style baseball park with many fans, many of whom you will meet if you go to a game there. It is a historic stadium with the Cubs winning three World Series in 1907, 1908 and 2016, so they're about due. There are many bars and restaurants just outside the park and people usually get there early or party late around games, so you will not be alone. There are several fast-food chains that you can find on your own outside, but you might want to pass them by and simply eat inside the park. There are some interesting higher end (with higher prices) places nearby.

### **To get to Wrigley Field:**

**Taxi** or ride share will take you there, but it may be difficult to find a taxi back due to the large crowds outside the stadium after a game. Beers are about ten dollars inside the park and about half that outside, so people tend to party outside before and after a game, meaning you will be in a large crowd.

### **Bus**

**Bus Fare:** \$2.50 cash can be used on buses, exact change only (dollars and change okay, but no half dollar coins); \$2.25 if you use a Ventra fare card purchased ahead of time, available at train stations, stores (see below), but Ventra cards cannot be purchased on buses.

### **Ventra Fare cards can be purchased at:**

Walgreens' at 933 N. State St.; 757 N. Michigan Ave.; Any L-train station, nearest is at 800 N. State Street at Chicago Avenue; also, Ventra Fare cards can be purchased at either airport.

Fare details at <https://www.transitchicago.com/fares/>

### **To take the bus to Wrigley Field:**

Exit the main entrance of the Drake on Walton Street, walk towards Michigan Avenue and take a left to head south on Michigan Avenue;

Walk one block south to the bus stop on Michigan at Delaware and get on the northbound Number 146 Bus;

Take the northbound 146 Bus eight stops to the Lakeshore & Waveland Stop, and exit the bus;

Walk west (away from the lake) on Waveland about 10 minutes to the backside of Wrigley Field and walk to the southwest corner of the field at Addison Street for the entrance. You will probably see crowds of people heading to the Field. Reverse to return to the Drake hotel.

### **To take the L-Train to Wrigley Field:**

Walk south on Michigan Avenue from the Drake hotel to Chicago Avenue, about four blocks, and turn right, then head west past Loyola University about three blocks to the underground Red Line stop at Chicago Avenue. Purchase a Ventra Fare Card at the station; fares are \$2.25 each. Take the Red Line north towards Howard Street, but get off at Addison, about thirteen minutes away. The station at Addison Avenue is above ground and adjacent to Wrigley Field, so you will be able to see the park on your left. Exit the Addison L-Station and walk westbound to the opposite end of the field on Addison to the entrance on Clark Street. Basically, follow the crowds which will start on the train. Reverse to return to the Drake.

### **Places to eat around and inside Wrigley Field**

Inside the park is more than the usual ballpark fare, including **Hot Doug's** hot dogs, amongst several other hot dog vendors (a Chicago style hot dog is a boiled (can also be grilled) Vienna All Beef hot dog in a poppy seed bun, covered in white onions, tomato slices, bright green pickle relish, a dill pickle spear, yellow mustard (never catchup), celery salt (there really is such a thing, and you can ask for no added salt) and optional sport peppers); **Home Run Inn Pizza** (thin crust and not named after Wrigley but a pizzeria several miles away that had its window smashed by a lucky hit at the local public ballpark); **Vienna Beef** sandwich (very thinly sliced roast beef with Italian spices on a bread roll dipped in thin gravy, served with either roasted sweet or hot peppers); **Maxwell Street Polish** sausage sandwich (grilled or charcoal-grilled Polish sausage on a roll with caramelized onions and yellow mustard, optional sport peppers and named after the old flea market on its namesake street); **Cracker Jacks** and **Garrett's Popcorn** (try the Garrett blend which has a 50/50 mixture of caramel covered and powdered cheese covered popcorn; eat one of both at the same time), both Chicago creations, are available throughout the park. Local beer offerings include those from **Revolution Brewing**, **Goose Island**, **Three Floyd's** or an ancient Chicago favorite, **Old Style**.

**Nearby eateries:**

**Mordecai Gastropub** (3632 N. Clark; <https://www.mordecaichicago.com/>) – A bit higher end sports-related restaurant thus a bit pricier, with mushroom pappardelle, a half chicken entrée, and several Italian dishes available.

**Big Star** (3640 N. Clark; <https://www.bigstarchicago.com/location/wrigleyville/>) – Good Mexican food, including several interesting offerings , like a Brussels Sprouts tostada, pork, beef, fish or potato tacos, a salad and favorites like nachos or Queso Fundido; reasonably priced.

**Smoke Daddy** (3636 N. Clark; <https://www.thesmokedaddy.com/home/>) – Barbecue, reasonably priced.

There are probably two dozen more food service places/bars within a block or two of the park, with most north or south along Clark Street.