

It's the Windy Apple!

Hello, and welcome to another edition of “Waiting in the Wings”, the nation’s premier in-flight magazine, courtesy of Broadway Air. If it’s standing room only, it’s Broadway Air.

This month we take a look at a place many have heard of, but few consider as a vacation travel destination – the **Windy Apple**. Although highly regarded as a seat of commerce and politics, the understated charms of this grand old city are often overlooked by all but the most seasoned travelers. Let’s take a look at the core of this “City By the Lake That Never Sleeps” and see what it has to offer the savvy vacationer.

History

A question commonly asked is, “Where does the city get its nickname?” Indeed, Windy Apple is so frequently used that most residents no longer refer to the city by its proper name. But why such an odd sobriquet? Unfortunately the real truth is lost in the mists of time, but there are a number of entertaining theories. Some say that the name is a corruption of the original Sioux word “Wandia-peh”, which translates roughly as “City of Several Cities”. Others point to the colonial custom of harvesting the year’s apple crop by affixing huge sails made of canvas to the apple trees and letting the strong local winds shake the crop down. We may never know the true origins of this catchy title.

If you’re journeying to the Windy Apple, you’ve picked a great time of year. Astronomy buffs will be out of luck, though – if you were in the Windy Apple a few weeks ago, you might have witnessed a completely unprecedented, unexpected **total eclipse of the sun!** Scientists are still puzzled over this freak natural occurrence. For the rest of us, though, the weather this year has been seasonably clement, so you’ll have little trouble getting around town on foot. For such a thriving metropolis, all of the sights are surprisingly accessible to someone willing to spend a little of the old shoe leather.

Speaking of shoes, you might want to be careful where you step! It’s been twenty years since **The Stink Years**, but memories of that period in the Windy City’s history are still fresh. It’s true that the drought of that time drove many to perform their – ahem – less savory functions out in the public streets. But those days are long behind us, and thanks to the **Urine Good Company** (research lab tours available upon request), public amenities are readily and cheaply available to all residents and visitors of this fair city. Still, in some of the rougher parts of town people have been known to disobey local ordinances and continue the practice of soiling the public commons. So while you’re looking around the town, spare an occasional look down!

Places to Go

So once you’re in the Windy City, what is there to do? Well, shopping, of course! Until the **Washington Senators** started winning games, shopping was practically the local sport of choice. There’s no end to the variety of shops that you’ll find in the Windy City, ready and eager to serve you with a memento of your visit. Head on over to **Mr. Mushnik’s Flower Shop** and pick yourself a bouquet of the finest flowers this side of the Mississippi. Or if you’d prefer a bloom of the squirting variety, drop by the **Hardy Har Hut** and put a novelty rose in that buttonhole. Did you know that the Windy City is a

popular wedding destination? It's true, and there's no better place to get your wedding dress than **The Bridal Shop**. And when you're exhausted and hungry from your shopping endeavors, there's no finer place to sample the local cuisine than **Mrs. Lovitt's Pie Shop**. They're an acquired taste, but it's well worth the effort on your part, or so we're told.

Once night falls, the Windy City really comes alive, with some of the finest nightlife and entertainment you'll find anywhere in the world. Head downtown to the **Windy City Entertainment Complex**, a multifaceted jewel where you're sure to find something to your tastes. Take in some culture at the world-famous **Opera House**, or lower your brow a bit and visit the **Moulin Rouge** for beautiful music of a different sort. But if you choose to stop by the **Kit Kat Club**, be aware that it's strictly a look-but-don't-touch policy (although – shh! – we hear that the **Chicken Ranch**, in the same complex, might not have *exactly* the same restrictions...)

If you get lost in all of this commotion, simply wave down a friendly teenager and they'll be sure to help you along. **Rydell High School** is known for some of the most polite and well-mannered young men and women in the country. Go Rydell Rangers!

Not all parts of the Windy Apple are as accommodating to tourists, though, and we'd be remiss if we didn't mention a few of the rougher parts of town – at the very least, to make sure you keep your distance! The area around the **Cook County Jail** is surprisingly crime-free, although not much to look at. And there hasn't been a breakout in months!

But just a stone's throw away is the notorious **Alphabet City**. Named for its alphabetical streets (all the way from A to R), Alphabet city is also home to **The Heights**, where much of the city's Hispanic population has chosen to live. And just at the end of **Christopher Street**, itself no walk in the park, is the infamous **Skid Row**. Ladies especially should use caution if their travels bring them down here at night – the local police are vigilant, but there's only so much that they can do.

People to Meet

While touring the Windy Apple, you may run into any number of our famous, quasi-famous, and downright infamous denizens. Be sure to say hello and to get your picture taken for the folks back home.

While uptown, you might see such leaders of industry as **Farley Flavors**, the mysterious tycoon who runs *Farley Flavors Fabulous Fast Foods*. Or maybe you'll run into **Mister Caldwell B. Cladwell** whose pay toilets have been collecting the gold for nearly twenty years. Or perhaps you will come across the famous anarchist **Emma Goldman** as she rails against said leaders of industry in one of her famous speeches.

And, of course, there are no limits to the number of famous people one might see at the fabulous Entertainment Complex. Famed Diva, **Lola Banana** is said to perform at the Opera House every night. Rumor has it that the mysterious **Phantom of the Opera** comes to hear her sing, but he isn't exactly the sort of fellow you'd want to meet in a dark opera box.

Unfortunately, those of you wishing to see **Sally Bowles** perform at the Kit Kat Club may be disappointed as she has been recently arrested and is only performing at the Cook

County Jail at the moment. **Harry Zidler** had promised us that her arrest will not impede her performances, but time will tell, won't it?

There are any number of famous television personalities wandering the streets of The Windy Apple as well. You might see well-known consumer advocate **Melvin P. Thorpe** as he inspects local businesses. Make sure to take time to check out his show; it's always worth it. Also, keep your eyes peeled for the best disk jockey on television **Corny Collins** who spins platters every afternoon while **The Nicest Kids in Town** show you their latest dance moves. And the last Thursday of every month is Negro Day hosted by the Windy Apple's very own **Motormouth Maybell Stubbs**. Finally, rumor has it that famous former child star, **Gary Coleman** has a job down in Alphabet City. Go find him and make sure to ask him to say his famous tagline. He loves that!

Looking for sports personalities? **Joe Hardy** is a baseball wunderkind who seems to have sprung up out of nowhere to save the Washington Senators. Can he do it? Only time will tell. Also, this weekend is the first International Chess Championships in over a dozen years. Chess is the sport of kings, and the kings of this sport are **Freddy Trumper** and **Anatoly Sergievsky**.

So enjoy your time wandering around the Windy Apple. Who knows, who you might run into, from the people who think they're **John Wilkes Booth** or **Che Guevara**, to the next President of the United States, the sidewalks of the Windy Apple are crammed full of people you want to meet.

Things to See

There must be as many reasons to come to the Windy Apple as there are reasons to leave. But this weekend is even busier than most.

Music fans are in for two special treats. The **Corny Collins Battle of the Bands** this year promises to be a real nail-biter, with local talent competing to win a slot at the opening of the brand new Windy City Amusement Park. Come out and support your favorite band. Meanwhile some lucky local girl will end up with the **Miss Teen Hairspray** crown on Sunday, based on the votes of her adoring public.

For those with blood a little bluer, head down to the Lake and catch this year's **Regatta**. The country's premier yachting race takes place right here in the Windy City. Rumor has it that some of the side bets in this "gentleman's competition" are rich enough to make your head spin.

For a competition that's more mental than maritime, look no further than the **International Chess Championships**. What was once considered a pretty staid sport become a battleground of rival ideologies, as the Russians come to town to try to beat us on our own turf. Here's hoping that chess legend Freddy Trumper can send those Reds packing!

A Word of Warning

So by now you should be chomping at the bit for a chance to come visit the Windy City. But when you're packing, be sure to bring along a little bit of caution. The Windy City is an exciting place, but like any big city it has its fair share of gang fights, reefer, burglary, prison breakouts, prostitution, heroin, monsters, backstabbing, frontstabbing, cocaine,

dirty politics, racism, public urination, drunken driving, murder, public riots, insane stalkers, filth, greed, vermin, spite, questionable edibles and health code violations. But if you overlook all of that, you can have a really memorable weekend! So come visit the Windy City, and thanks again for flying Broadway Air.