

UPTOWN



CHRISTINE KANDARAS

I was born in Detroit and came to Chicago for college. I immediately fell in love with the city. I saw opportunities not only for a career but also to contribute to the betterment of the city.

My husband grew up in Uptown and in 2010 when we moved back into the city Uptown was where we wanted to be.

We love it’s great diversity, it’s proximity to the lake and its excellent public transportation. I like to talk about the history of Uptown and the waves of migration that make up its population today.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY



Start outside of the magnificent **Uptown Theatre, 4816 N Broadway**, the largest free standing theater in the country.

1 4816 N BROADWAY

My tour starts outside of the magnificent **Uptown Theatre**, the largest free standing theater in the country.

If you are lucky, Dave, the retired Chicago police officer and theater caretaker will be there and let you peek inside. When he was an active police officer, Dave guarded the Uptown on his own time. When he retired, Dave was hired to continue his loving protection of the building.

2 4802 N BROADWAY

On the same block you’ll find the **Green Mill**. The Green Mill has been a road house and bar since the late 1800s. Al Capone had his own booth there, which you can sit yourself if you arrive early enough to a show.

There are tunnels underneath leading to what is now the Bridgeview Bank across the street and to the Aragon Ballroom on Lawrence Avenue. During prohibition these tunnels were used to store alcohol and escape raids from the police.

3 4746 N RACINE

After the Green Mill, go to the **Riviera Theatre**. The Rapp brothers designed both this theater and the Uptown Theatre.

The construction was held up because of World War I, but finished shortly thereafter. A drill Sargent used to march people to their seats in its early days.



ARAGON BALLROOM AND RIVIERA THEATER



ASIA ON ARGYLE

4 4753 N BROADWAY

Now its time to go inside the **Bridgeview Bank**. It's the second largest terra cotta building in the city. The ceiling was imported in pie shaped wedges from Italy.

Johnny Depp stood in the vault in one of the scenes of the movie Public Enemy.

5 CERMAK RD AND WENTWORTH

Return to Wentworth Avenue, walking back towards Cermak Road. At the intersection, cross Cermak Road to the other side of Wentworth Avenue where you'll find the **Chinatown Fire Department Engine 8 Station** on your left which was featured in the popular 1991 film Backdraft.

6 1106 W LAWRENCE AVE

Cross Lawrence Avenue and head over to the **Aragon Ballroom**. Built in 1926, the Aragon Ballroom was designed in the Moorish architectural style, with the interior resembling a Spanish village.

This is where generations of people learned to dance. The top names of the big band era all performed here and the venue continues to be a top concert hall in the city.

7 ARGYLE AND BROADWAY

Next, head to Argyle Street and Broadway Avenue to experience **Asia on Argyle** via a taste of the variety of Asian food found there.

8 1345 W ARGYLE ST

Finish up at the former **Essanay Studios**. Many people do not know that the earliest films were made in Chicago and Charlie Chaplin made one of his first films on this spot.