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UPTOWN

There is plenty to see in [Uptown](#), including the lakeshore, Graceland Cemetery, and vintage architecture which includes fine [old apartment buildings](#) and some stunning examples of 1920's theatres and commercial buildings.

Let's start with the lakeshore. A good place to park is near [Montrose Harbor](#), just off Lakeshore Drive. I parked on North Simonds Drive, which is within sight of a nice sandy Lake Michigan beach. From there you can walk almost completely around Montrose Harbor, except for the gap made by the harbor entrance, which is guarded by two [lighthouses](#). In the summer the harbor provides moorings for some expensive looking boats. In the winter it is empty and is often decorated with floating polygons of ice. From the harbor a lakeshore trail goes to the north and south, buffered from Lakeshore Drive by Lincoln Park.

The first time I visited Uptown I was aiming not for the lake, but for [Graceland Cemetery](#) which is quite beautiful in autumn, with bright foliage and Greek-like temples reflected in peaceful lakes. There are some spectacular tombs there, and some famous names. One well know resident is Daniel Burnham, buried on his own island. Even if you're not into cemeteries (at least, not yet), this one is well worth a visit.

The second time I visited Uptown I was in search of the [Uptown Theater](#). This impressive ornate 1925 movie palace is on Broadway, on the side of the street that catches the early morning light. It is abandoned now, but work has been done to stabilize the structure ... the front awning is propped up on metal stilts. Incredibly, there are two other fantastic vintage theatres close by: a few doors away from the Uptown Theater is the slightly older Riviera (1918), and just around the corner on Lawrence Avenue is the [Aragon Ballroom](#) (1926), famous in its day and boasting a very ornate Spanish-style terracotta decorated facade. As if this were not enough, at the intersection of Broadway and Lawrence is the [Uptown Bank Building](#) built in the same period (1924) with a distinctive wedge-like shape. A short walk to the south along Broadway is the ornate yellow colored [Uptown Broadway Building](#) (1927). There are other vintage buildings nearby on Broadway, all-in-all making this area of Uptown a 1920's architectural treat. Before leaving the area there is another building from a completely different era which is worth a peek: the Moderne style U.S. post office from 1939 which is located on Broadway just a few buildings to the north of the Uptown Theatre.

Finally, a short drive to the south along Broadway brings you to Sheridan Road, and a little to the south on Sheridan Road is the Renaissance style [St. Mary of the Lake](#) Roman Catholic Church with its freestanding campanile.

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