



A Landmark Hotel in a Landmark City

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**HOTEL BURNHAM: A LANDMARK HOTEL IN A LANDMARK CITY**

**CHICAGO** - Located at 1 W. Washington St. in the heart of Chicago's Loop is Kimpton's Hotel Burnham, a 122-room boutique hotel offering travelers a unique opportunity to experience first-hand a piece of Chicago history. Housed inside the Reliance Building, a national historic landmark built in 1895 and one of Chicago's great architectural jewels, the Hotel Burnham honors this distinction with first-class service, thoughtful amenities and Midwestern hospitality.

***A historic renovation***

Guests of the Hotel Burnham can witness the vision of yesteryear's forward-thinking urban planners. Designed by legendary Chicago architects Daniel Burnham, John Root and Charles Atwood, the Reliance Building is the predecessor to the modern skyscraper and a landmark "Chicago School" architecture icon. Its delicate, airy glass and steel frame was the first of its kind and at the time of its completion, it was one of Chicago's tallest buildings, rising 14 stories above State Street.

After nearly a century of housing offices, doctors and retailers, the Reliance Building fell into disrepair. In 1999, a unique public-private partnership between the City of Chicago, developers and Kimpton Hotels saved the landmarked building and gave it new life. The \$27.5 million renovation restored the building's original grandeur, repairing elements such as the gleaming Gothic-inspired ornamented exterior. Portions of the interior were completely rebuilt to match the original, while other elements were meticulously refurbished to resemble those that once existed.

In October 1999, Kimpton's Hotel Burnham officially opened its doors, creating a new way for travelers to immerse themselves in Chicago architecture. Nearly every year since its rebirth, the Burnham has received accolades from respected organizations: Conde Nast, Travel + Leisure, National Geographic and Architectural Digest have all named Burnham among the world's best places to stay.

### *A historic hotel experience*

Stepping inside the Hotel Burnham, guests are greeted by a dramatic melding of old world charm and modern comfort, with a design that reveres the building's historic and architectural significance. Sumptuous woods, earthy stone detailing, a marble-framed hearth, and majestic tones of burgundy and gold envelope guests as they enter the living room-style lobby. A grand mural featuring Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition reaches skyward, bordered by lofty columns wrapped in warm mahogany, paying homage to the era in which the Reliance was built.

Guests of the Hotel Burnham receive a historic welcome right from check-in. Instead of electronic keycards, travelers receive genuine metal keys that unlock original Reliance-branded mahogany doors. A stunning recreation of the Reliance's original elevator lobby, complete with filigreed elevator grills, elaborate mosaic tile floor and red marble walls, sweeps them up to their rooms. On floors 7 – 15, guests can delight in historic elements such as original marble staircases, terrazzo floors, plaster ceilings, door windows made of Florentine plate glass, interior storefronts and other treasures.

All of the Burnham's 122 guestrooms offer expansive picture windows with views of Chicago's bustling Loop neighborhood. For architecture buffs, the windows offer a place to peer up-close at the building's restored terra cotta exterior. Inside the rooms, a rich color scheme of golds and blues plays off lavish fabrics like plush pillows, a blue velvet headboard and a canopy of sheer gold damask, all mixing together to create energizing yet soothing accommodations.

The historical experience is complemented by thoughtful, modern comforts such as the hotel's exclusive Pillow Library, offering eight different pillow choices to help travelers sleep sounder. In-room amenities abound, including 42-inch flat panel televisions, wireless high-speed Internet access, gourmet honor bars with organic and healthy options, Aveda bath and spa products, plush animal print robes, in-room spa services, 24 hour in-room dining, sumptuous Italian linens, in-room laptop safes and more.

Hotel Burnham's staff members are as unique as the building itself. From the front desk to the bell hop, staff members are dedicated to providing world-class service with a Midwestern sensibility, offering each guest an

unforgettable, uniquely Chicago experience. Services include concierge, complimentary morning coffee and tea, hosted evening wine hour, valet parking, valet laundry and onsite fitness center.

Hotel Burnham is also a pet-friendly hotel and can be counted on to make pets as comfortable as their human companions. The Burnham even boasts a dedicated, on-staff Director of Pet Relations – an English bulldog named Dillon, who often can be spotted greeting guests in the hotel’s living room.

For meetings and private functions, the Hotel Burnham offers the Reliance Room, a 450-square-foot flexible space for groups of up to 40 attendees. The room features floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Atwood Café and Washington Street. Catering, audiovisual and business services are available.

Adjacent to Hotel Burnham is Atwood Café, a Chicago favorite offering a contemporary take on American comfort food. Atwood’s colorful design mimics the Parisian cafes of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, while soaring bay windows provide lively views of State and Washington Streets.

The Hotel Burnham earned another landmark distinction in October 2008, when it became one of the first five hotels in Illinois to receive Green Seal™ Silver certification, a stringent environmental standard for lodging. As part of Kimpton’s EarthCare program, Hotel Burnham is dedicated to eco-friendly hospitality, with non-intrusive practices such as providing in-room recycling bins, cleaning with only non-toxic products, using low-energy light bulbs and low-flow water systems, and offering organic snack and beverage selections in honor bars.

For more information, call 312.782.1111 or visit [www.burnhamhotel.com](http://www.burnhamhotel.com).

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#### **About Hotel Burnham**

The Hotel Burnham, 1 W. Washington St., is one of Chicago’s great architectural jewels. Originally designed by Daniel Burnham and built as the Reliance Building in 1895, this living landmark is the first direct predecessor to Chicago’s modern skyscrapers. The beautifully appointed Burnham combines a passionate architectural style with a flair for contemporary luxury. Call 312.782.1111 or visit [www.burnhamhotel.com](http://www.burnhamhotel.com). Hotel Burnham is proud to be Green Seal™ Silver certified for its sustainable, earth-friendly practices.

#### **ABOUT KIMPTON**

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, a collection of boutique hotels and chef-driven restaurants in the US, is an acknowledged industry pioneer and was the first to bring the boutique hotel concept to America. Founded in 1981 by Bill Kimpton, the company is well-known for making travelers feel welcomed and comfortable while away from home through intuitive and unscripted customer care, stylish ambience and having a certain playfulness in its approach to programs and amenities. Each hotel provides a range of exciting culinary experiences through locally-loved, top-rated, destination, chef-driven restaurants. Kimpton leads the hospitality industry in ecological practices through its innovative EarthCare program that spans all hotels and restaurants. Privately held Kimpton has consistently earned high customer

satisfaction scores by the Market Metrix Hospitality Index, exceeding other hotel companies including those in luxury and upscale segments. Among the company's newest properties are the LEED registered Hotel Palomar and LEED registered Square 1682 restaurant by Chef Guillermo Tellez in Philadelphia, PA, which opened in October 2009. Currently, projects are underway in New York City and Chicago. For more information, please visit [www.KimptonHotels.com](http://www.KimptonHotels.com) or call 1-800-KIMPTON.