

## 5 'MANVENTURES' EVERY CHICAGO GENT SHOULD TAKE THIS SUMMER

Gather the fellas. Boys weekend cometh.

BY WALKER LOETSCHER

The biggest crisis facing American men isn't smoking or obesity. [It's loneliness.](#)

And according to [a study out of Oxford University](#), there's one very simple way to fix this: spend more time with your friends.

So we compiled five superlative boys weekends near Chicago, engineered to satisfy every budget and preferred method of fraternizing.

Want to hike to a secret campsite with a pack full of brisket? Play four courses in three days? Sample some local whiskey on an overnight canoe trip?

It's all in there. Howling at the moon optional — though certainly encouraged.

### **The Blank Check: Washington, DC**

Think you can round up 5-30 friends who like opulence and live sports? Meet [Big Game Air](#), the same-day jet service that ferries Chicagoans back and forth from the country's premier sporting and cultural events (the Super Bowl, Coachella, The Masters, etc.) ... Why not head to [the MLB All-Star Game](#), which hits D.C. this year? The Home Run Derby is an excellent opportunity to snag that souvenir ball you've been waiting for your entire life — or drop it ... [Stay at the Darcy](#), a newish boutique from Hilton that slings gin drinks in the lobby, carts cocktails to guests' rooms and boasts an on-site haberdasher from menswear company Read Wall ... As for where to nosh? Well, Spanish Chef José Andrés's legendary [Jaleo](#), if you had to foresight to book a table. If not, just stroll the stalls at [The Wharf](#), where you can hop between bars and eat lobster and crawfish straight off the boats that caught them.