

where is



OUT OF EDEN WALK  COALITION
Slow down. Take time to tell the story.

We're all staying home these days, thanks to the coronavirus. It's the right thing to do, but it can get boring. But here's a fun way to break up the day, connect with other Chicagoans and learn more about our city.

It's called Chicago HomeStories.

It's an interactive map where people from all over Chicago share stories of the place where they feel most at home.

It's easy to post your own story, along with a photo. After you've shared your story, you can use the map to explore the city and discover the stories that others are telling. You can't travel very far right now, but you can use the map to meet people from all over town. [You can find the map here.](#)

The Chicago HomeStories map is part of the historic storytelling journey of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and National Geographic Fellow Paul Salopek, who has embarked on a multiyear walk across the planet along the pathways of our first ancestral journey out of Africa—the first human “Eden.”

When you share your HomeStory, you're joining a global community of people who have contributed to Out of Eden Walk's unprecedented (and growing) archive of storytelling so far.

Some stories are literally about people's dwellings. For example, Joyce wrote about her desk space: “My desk is where I read, I write, I draw, and do homework. It's a productive area that energizes me.”

Others wrote about families, like Miguel: “When I'm with my family that's what's home to me. Home is always filled with love and affection.”

Like many others, Jackie talked about her favorite park: “I like the swings the best. It's really fun to swing high and look at the sky. When I'm swinging, everything else goes out of my mind.”

Some felt at home at restaurants. Cesar said he met Vanessa at McDonald's when he was 10. “Everything is great about her! She feels like home to me, and that is why McDonald's is the place that feels like home.”

Resha said she feels at home in city neighborhoods. “Chicago is a place where the violence is crazy but the teamwork is great. Every neighborhood has a community which connects together as a family.”

Where do you most feel at home? Tell us about it on the HomeStories map!

home?



how to

How do I access the site?

Visit www.homestoryproject.org. When you reach the site, click on the button “Discover HomeStories” to read about the project, or click on “Explore the Map” to read stories and submit your own.

What is a HomeStory?

A HomeStory is your story of any place that feels like home – your house or apartment, a favorite park, a place with important memories, a spot with a view. Home can be a joyful place, but it can be a sad one, too. Inevitably, home is more than a mere location. It’s also a story, one of hope or fear, triumph or tragedy, comfort or stress. There’s no HomeStory formula, so just be yourself.

How do I submit a HomeStory to the online map?

At the top right of the map, click on “Add Your HomeStory.” Fill out the form with your HomeStory, including a story title, a photo or piece of artwork about the place, your name, and a short explanation about why this place feels like home. Just remember: Original art and words only, please.

If you wish, you can also personalize your post by adding a photo of yourself and answer three questions about yourself (“Who are you?” “Where are you from?” “Where are you going?”).

Can I interview someone else about their HomeStory?

Yes, if you’d like to help tell someone else’s HomeStory (with their permission), you can interview them about their HomeStory.

Can I upload a HomeStory anonymously?

Yes, it is possible to upload a completely anonymous HomeStory that does not include the user’s name, location, or photograph. We advise students under 18 and under to use their first name only or an anonymous handle.

It’s easy to explore the HomeStories map and to share your own story and photo about home.

[Here’s a quick video tutorial showing how to upload a HomeStory.](#)

get started





Here's a guide to the walk and how it relates to Chicago.

Who is Paul Salopek, and what is his walk all about?

Paul is a foreign correspondent who worked at the Chicago Tribune, where he won two Pulitzer Prizes. He is currently walking around the world, using “slow journalism” to tell a rich, intimate story about our time through people-to-people journalism.

Paul began his walk in Ethiopia because that's where humanity first emerged. From that spot – some call it Eden – humans migrated around the world. Paul is following that migration route for 21,000 miles, all on foot. You can watch a video about Paul's walk [here](#).

What is slow journalism?

We all know fast journalism, the daily drumbeat of news. It is supposed to keep us informed. But often all that news doesn't say much about the lives of real people. Sometimes it can even confuse and divide us.

Paul's approach is to slow down to really listen to people, to truly know their joys and challenges, to look for the things that unite us all and to tell those stories factually and humanely. That's why he's walking, to discover our world step by step, at a human pace that helps

What is Out of Eden Walk - Chicago?

Paul Salopek visits many countries during his walk. In Chicago, we do something like that on a local scale. We visit Chicago's many different neighborhoods and suburbs to better understand the people who live there.

We've conducted community walks in many areas of the city and suburbs for both adults and students. The idea is to practice slow journalism together – listen carefully, observe closely, understand respectfully.

The HomeStories map gives Chicagoans a chance to tell their own stories, much like Paul does when he interviews people around the world. You can read an article about HomeStories [here](#).

