

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ANN ARBOR

YOU'RE THE STAR OF THE STORY!
CHOOSE FROM 40 POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENTS

WHEN HISTORIANS DINE

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WARNING!!!!

Do not read this guide straight through from beginning to end! These pages contain many different options for food and drink at the conference. From time to time as you read along, you will be asked to make a choice. There are many paths to deliciousness!

The meals you eat are a result of your choice. You are responsible because you choose! After you make your choice, follow the instructions to see what happens to you next. (When in doubt, consult ChatGPT or Google Bard or a beleaguered conference organizer.)

Think carefully before you make a decision. Dinner lurks at every turn. (Indeed, this list prioritized local or regional ownership. There are many other options!) One move could land you in a delicious noodle shop . . . or it might lead you to famous Detroit-style pizza.

(All of this is also available as a [custom Google Map](#), with clickable “layers” based on meal and location.)

Good luck!

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Welcome to the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, and to Ann Arbor! From time to time during this year’s conference, you’ll get hungry or thirsty. In what follows, you will find short listings that will help you decide where to eat and drink depending on your location, appetites, and companions. Enjoy!

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If you’re looking near the Kensington Hotel, [click here](#).

If you’re looking near the Michigan League, [click here](#).

If you’re willing to go further (in a car), [click here](#).

Near the Hotel

These are all the options right near the hotel (meaning you will not have to cross a major road to get to them). There are other walkable options that would involve crossing roads; Google is your friend here. Each of the spots listed below offers lunch, dinner, and drinks (only Relish offers breakfast). Enjoy!

Relish (\$\$): 0-minute walk. This one's easy! Located inside the Kensington Hotel, you can't beat rel*ish for walkability. Dine on basic American hotel restaurant fare for as little as \$25 or as much as \$50. Open for lunch and dinner. 6:30am-10pm. No outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 369-2810

Los Amigos (\$\$): 2-minute walk. Hop next door for Tex-Mex (read: melted cheese)! Chips and salsa, enchiladas, and margaritas. You can spend anywhere from \$20 to \$40 for a big meal and an adult beverage. Lunch and dinner. 11am-11pm. Plenty of outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 327-0500.

California Pizza Kitchen (\$\$): 5-minute walk. In Briarwood Mall. Midscale chain that invented Buffalo Chicken Pizza (for better or worse). You can spend anywhere from \$15 to \$40 for a meal or else just stop in for drinks. Lunch and dinner. 11am-10pm. Limited outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 222-6320.

PF Chang's (\$\$): 5-minute walk. Like CPK, another sit-down chain with some affordable options. Unlike CPK, you can't sit outside here - but you can have their famous lettuce wraps. Expect to spend from \$20-40. Lunch and dinner. 11am-10pm. No outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 780-3900.

Red Robin (\$) : 5-minute walk. Burgers, burgers, burgers - including some vegan/vegetarian! Probably your cheapest option near the hotel (without having to cross a major road), you can get a burger and a beer for about \$20. Lunch and dinner. 11am-10pm. Some outdoor seating. No reservations.

Near the League

There are many more options near the Michigan League (where most of the conference is being held) than near the hotel, so plan accordingly. This list is broken down by meal, though each listing notes if a spot serves, e.g., lunch *and* dinner, rather than just one. Many “Lunch” or “Dinner” spots serve coffee and booze; some “Coffee” spots serve breakfast of sorts; and you can often find food with your “Drinks.” The only thing you can get at the “Ice Cream” place is ice cream – but what else do you really need?

If you want breakfast, [click here](#).

If you want lunch, [click here](#).

If you want dinner, [click here](#).

If you want coffee, [click here](#).

If you want drinks, [click here](#).

If you want ice cream, [click here](#).

Breakfast

Each of these breakfast spots should work whether you're alone or with a group. If you want to be sure there's space, pick one with reservations (aMa or Avalon); otherwise, try a chain like Panera!

aMa Bistro (\$): 5-minute walk. Classic diner setting and cuisine with some added Albanian (!) items, including stews. Good place for quiet conversations in cozy booths. Have an omelet and a coffee for around \$15. Breakfast and Lunch. 8am-3pm. No outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 780-7202.

Frank's (\$): 5-minute walk. An even MORE classic diner and an Ann Arbor institution, a bit further away and a bit cheaper. Easy to dine alone at the counter. Have eggs and coffee for around \$15. Breakfast and lunch. 8am-3pm. VERY limited outdoor seating. No reservations.

Avalon (\$\$): 10-minute walk. Big bakery/restaurant, a good spot for larger groups to meet for a meal. A kind of classic 90s, Central-Perk-ish vibe. Sandwich or salad for \$20. Somewhat strangely, they've got a full bar. Breakfast and lunch. 8am-3pm. Some outdoor options. Call to reserve: (734) 263-2996.

Stray Hen (\$\$): 10-minute walk. Airy cafe setting for breakfast staples and avocado toast beneath a fancy for-profit dorm, with that classic gentrifying "third-wave" *je ne sais quoi*. Can get busy at lunch. Have a toast and a coffee for \$20. Breakfast and lunch, 8am-3pm. No outdoor seating. No reservations.

Fleetwood (\$): 15-minute walk. THE Ann Arbor breakfast institution. Easy to dine alone (at the counter or otherwise). Have a classic egg breakfast for around \$15. Geared toward breakfast and lunch, but you can also have dinner. Outdoor seating is reliable (some protected from elements). 24 hours. No reservations.

Lunch

Lunch spots can get busy, if you're in a hurry or find yourself in a large group, consider ordering ahead for takeout (e.g., from Zingermans) and finding a spot (outside if it's nice) to eat together.

Totoro (\$\$): 5-minute walk. Garden-level (but not garden variety!) sushi place, perfect for meeting one or two other people for lunch. Can get busy. Have a lunch special like the Rainbow Roll for around \$15. Lunch and dinner. 11:30am-10pm. No outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 302-3511.

Jerusalem Garden (\$\$). 10-minute walk. Expansive lunch spot serving Mediterranean staples like falafel, with plenty of vegetarian options. Tastes "healthy." Good for groups. Wraps and the like for around \$10. Lunch and dinner. 11am-8:30pm. Plentiful outdoor season (weather dependent). No reservations.

Zingerman's (\$\$): 15-minute walk. The most famous spot in Ann Arbor. Huge sandwiches, many of them worth the HUGE price tag. Order in advance to avoid a long wait. Can get busy, especially on weekends. Lunch and (early) dinner. 11am-7pm. Plentiful outdoor seating. Online ordering available.

Jamaican Jerk (\$): 2-minute walk. The closest non-chain to the conference. Delicious marinated dishes served (mostly) on rice. Some vegetarian options. Mostly does takeout. If the weather is nice, order and eat on campus. Lunch and dinner. 11:30am-9pm. No outdoor seating. No reservations.

Frita Batidos (\$\$): 15-minute walk. Perhaps the best lunch in Ann Arbor. Cuban-inspired "burgers" include vegetarian options and delicious milkshakes. Good for groups. Expect to spend \$15-20 for a sandwich and a shake. Lunch and dinner. 11am-11pm. Some outdoor seating. No reservations.

Dinner

If you know you'll have a big group, consider calling to reserve as soon as you can (most places, but not all, take reservations). You can also consult Google for other, less popular options; or use a rideshare!

Sava's (\$\$): 5-minute walk. A local institution with a New American menu and sugary cocktails. Slightly uncanny vibe. You can reserve a table or booth. Plan to spend \$20-40 for dinner and drinks. Lunch and dinner. 11am-10pm (earlier on weekends). Limited outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 623-2233.

Knights on Liberty (\$\$): 5-minute walk. The downtown branch of a revered steakhouse (with photos of the regulars on the wall). Sit at the bar or reserve a table for a small group. Plan to spend \$20-40 for dinner and drinks. Lunch and dinner. 11:30am-10pm. Limited outdoor tables. Call to reserve: (734) 887-6899.

Mani/Isalita (\$\$\$): 10-minute walk. Bustling siblings offering Italian (Mani) or Mexican (Isalita), both with huge menus (and shared bathrooms). Expect to pay \$25-50 for dinner and drinks. Lunch and dinner. 12pm-10pm. Limited outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 769-6700 (Mani) or (734) 213-7400 (Isalita).

Lan City (\$\$): 10-minute walk. Delicious counter-service spot for hand-cut (good!) and knife-peeled (great!) noodles. Room for groups, but also easy alone. Takeout available. Expect to pay \$20 for a bowl and a boba. Lunch and dinner. 11am-3pm and 4:30-9pm. No outdoor seating. No reservations.

Red Hawk (\$\$): 5-minute walk. Diner-adjacent bar and restaurant with sandwiches and salads. Grab a booth with a group or sit at the bar. Can get busy at lunch. Expect to spend \$20-25 for a burger and a beer. Lunch and dinner. 11:30am-10pm. No outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 994-4004.

Miss Kim (\$\$\$): 15-minute walk. Part of the Zingerman's family, delicious Korean that can get pricy. Try the fried chicken/tofu and the cocktails. Good for groups with a reservation. Expect to pay at least \$30 for dinner and a drink. 11/11:30am-8/9pm. Some outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 275-0099.

Coffee

Some of the fancier coffee places might take a while, so keep that in mind if you're in a rush. In general, it is a safer bet to get your coffee to go and find a spot to sit outside or at least outside the coffee shop.

Comet (\$\$): 5-minute walk. The most revered (and expensive) coffee in town is also the closest non-chain to the conference (in the historic Nickels Arcade). Take an espresso or a pour-over, and one of the few pastries to go. Coffee and a pastry for \$10. 7:30/8am-6:30pm. No outdoor seating. No reservations.

Lab (\$\$): 5-minute walk. Excellent espresso and pour-over options, as well as a variety of baked goods sourced from various local bakers. Not a ton of seating due to the laptop mafia, so plan to walk with your coffee rather than sit. Coffee and a pastry for \$5-10. 9/10am-6pm. No outdoor seating. No reservations.

Vertex (\$): 10-minute walk. Another local roaster and cafe, this one southeast of the League rather than west. Stop in after lunch at Lan City Noodles before heading back to the conference. Drip, espresso, and baked goods in the neighborhood of \$5. 7:30/8am-6pm. Outdoor seating. No reservations.

Roos (\$): 10-minute walk. An Ann Arbor institution. Local (mostly dark) roaster, with a few outposts that feature breakfast and lunch menus. An affordable place for a quick bite and a coffee alone; can also take along a group. Breakfast, lunch, and coffee. 8am-3pm. Some outdoor seating. No reservations.

Hyperion (\$): 15-minute walk. Outpost of an Ypsilanti (light) roaster. Pastries (including some that can be heated up) while they last. Good alone or with a small group. Be advised: slow line if notoriously chatty barista is working. Coffee and breakfast in a pinch. 7am-6pm. Some outdoor seating. No reservations.

Drinks

Some of these spots serve food—and Grotto/Bill's will let you bring your own, like from Frita Batidos! If you're with a big group, consider Grotto/Bill's, HopCat, or Dominicks first.

Grotto/Bill's (\$): 15-minute walk. The most reliable place(s) to have an outdoor beer in Ann Arbor. Both get busy on beautiful days but you can usually find a spot. Sample Michigan beers alone or with a group, and bring your own takeout. \$6-10. 3pm-12am (Grotto), 5:30-10pm (Bill's). Outdoors. No reservations.

HopCat (\$\$): 5-minute walk. Regional beer-focused chain (think "Local B-Dubs") with Michigan taps and lots of space for groups to gather. Can also sit at the bar alone or in a pair. \$6 for beers, ~\$15 for sports bar entrees. Drinks, lunch, and dinner. 11am-12am. Outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 436-2875.

Ashley's (\$): 5-minute walk. Venerable local watering hole with lots of taps and a full bar. Charmingly worn interior, with a layer of professorial grime. Good alone or in small groups. Beers \$5-10, ~\$15 for sports bar food. Drinks, lunch, and dinner. 11:30am-12/1am. Outdoor seating. No reservations.

Casa Dominick's (\$): 10-minute walk. Iconic seasonal, mostly-outdoor establishment with patios front and back. A real gem. Great for groups. Eclectic food menu; beers, sangria, and "Constant Buzz" for \$5-10. Drinks, lunch, and dinner. 10am-10pm. Plentiful outdoor seating (some covered). No reservations.

Braun Court (\$): 15-minute walk. Cozy cocktail bar with bites (including pizza) depending on the night. A good place to meet one or two other people for a chat. Expect to pay \$10 for cocktails and less for beer. TRY THE WHITE RUSSIAN. Drinks and snacks. 4pm-12am. Some outdoor seating. No reservations.

Alley Bar (\$\$): 15-minute walk. The closest thing to a "classic bar" (not a dive) on this list. Open late (*not* open early), gives off the subtle sense of being overserved. Grab a booth or a barstool. Beers for \$5-8, mixed drinks for \$10. JUST drinks. 7pm-2am. No outdoor seating. No reservations.

Last Word (\$\$\$): 15-minute walk. "Prohibition-era" cocktails (for better or worse) in a subterranean space with a waitlist. Tables for 2-8 and a small bar. Small food menu with some hits. Fancy cocktails \$12-15, in the same range for food. 5pm-1/2am. No outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 585-5691.

Ice Cream

Blank Slate (\$\$): 15-minute walk. Seasonal ice cream shop with both inventive and classic flavors. Worth the hike on its own or as dessert if you're already on the west side of town. Expect to pay \$5-10 for ice cream and a waffle cone. Dessert. 2-10pm. Outdoor seating and takeaway. No reservations.

Find a Ride

These spots are a bit further afield but worth the effort if you find the time. For those inclined to public transit, you can get to the first three using Ann Arbor buses (Google the routes).

Original Knights (\$\$): 10-minute drive. A local institution. Wood-paneled, carpeted steakhouse beloved for stiff drinks and classic entrees. Reservations recommended. Plan to spend \$25 for a cocktail and burger, more for steaks. Lunch and dinner. 11am-10pm. Outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 665-8644.

Zingerman's Roadhouse (\$\$\$): 10-minute drive. Another part of the Zingerman's family, this one serving a mix of regional fare with local ingredients. Reservations recommended. Plan to spend \$30 for dinner and a drink. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. 8am-10pm. Outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 663-3663.

HOMES (\$\$): 10-minute drive. Award-winning experimental brewery (with some more familiar styles too). Also a delicious restaurant with a Korean-inspired focus. Plan to spend \$7-10 for a beer and \$15 for an entree. Lunch and dinner. 11am-11pm. Plentiful outdoor (and semi-outdoor) seating. No reservations.

Corner Brewery (\$\$): 20-minute drive. Huge outpost of local Arbor Brewing. Classic brewpub vibe and a huge biergarten for sunny days. Plan to spend \$20 for a beer and a sandwich. Drinks, lunch, and dinner. 12pm-11am (kitchen closes earlier). Plentiful outdoor seating. Call to reserve: (734) 480-2739.

Buddy's (\$\$): 45-minute drive. Iconic destination for Detroit-style pizza (read: pizza on focaccia). Amazing service, irreplaceable vibe, and a full bar. Many locations but this is the original. Plan to spend \$15-20/person for pizza and beer. Lunch and dinner. 11am-8pm. No outdoor seating. No reservations.