

Let's Do Lunch in Downtown Berkeley

Some suggestions for lunch places in Berkeley near the various classroom sites for OLLI.

A more extensive guide for all of Berkeley can be found at the website restguide.lbl.gov

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Moderate prices, Near University Hall

Going North from University Hall:

Yali's Café, 1920 Oxford Street, between Berkeley Way and Hearst. Popular, good for breakfast as well as lunch, soups, salads, panini, all tasty, moderately priced. A few outdoor tables.

Turkish Kitchen, 1986 Shattuck Ave, just North of University. Really tasty Turkish specialties with many unusual dishes to try.

Bangkok Noodle and Thai BBQ, 1958 Shattuck Avenue, between University and Berkeley Way. Modern clean décor, good food and generous portions. The noodle soups and other noodle dishes shine. A little more expensive than other Thai places but worth it.

Triple Rock Brewery, 1920 Shattuck Ave, between Berkeley Way and Hearst. Good soups, sandwiches, and salads. Newly expanded space, nice atmosphere at lunch.

The Noodle Company, 1936 Shattuck, between Berkeley Way and Hearst. Small and usually crowded, but fast service for good, generously portioned, very tasty and inexpensive international noodle dishes.

Sweetgreen, 1890 Shattuck Avenue at Hearst. Delicious nutritious salads in all varieties, somewhat pricey but very healthy.

Going West from University Hall:

Lucky House Thai Cuisine, 2140 University Ave, between Oxford and Shattuck. Fresh, delicious and inexpensive Thai food. The chicken won ton soup is recommended.

85 C Bakery Café, 21 Shattuck Square, at University. A variety of delicious pastries and drinks, all moderately priced.

Ippudo, 2015 Shattuck Avenue, between University and Addison. The best ramen in the Bay area, very authentic, open throughout the day and late into the night. Often a wait for a table.

Arinell Pizza, 2119 Shattuck Ave, between Addison and Center. The place for a quick slice of thin crust pizza at low cost.

Sandwich Zone, 2117 Shattuck Avenue, between Addison and Center. Good inexpensive sandwiches made to order, as well as breakfast items also.

Tharaphu, 2037 Shattuck Avenue between University and Addison. Burmese street food, inexpensive, good for soups and salads.

Saigon Express, 2045 Shattuck Ave, at Addison. Vietnamese, good vermicelli salad bowls, fresh rolls, sandwiches, and pho. You can also choose from the hot buffet items for a filling lunch, but the made to order stuff is better. The Banh Mi sandwiches are a real bargain. Order at the counter.

People's Cafe, 61 Shattuck Square. A quiet informal atmosphere, and good inexpensive food and drinks.

Bobby G's Pizzeria, 2072 University just below Shattuck, good pizza and salads, informal and welcoming atmosphere.

IMM Thai Street Food, 2068 University Avenue, between Shattuck and Milvia. A place with moderately priced very tasty Thai food, often crowded.

Tender Greens, 2071 University Avenue, between Shattuck and Milvia. A variety of make your own salads, sandwiches or main dishes, with assembly line service, a little confusing at first. Prices a little high for what you get. The best thing about this place is the lovely back patio.

Moderate prices, Nearer Freight and Salvage

Going West from the Freight:

Gecko Gecko, 2101 Milvia Street, at the corner of Addison. Surprisingly tasty Thai food, despite the awful name. Delicious curries, wraps, and noodles.

Au Coquelet Café, 2000 University Ave, at Milvia. A large menu of hearty burgers, sandwiches salads, and soups. Good coffee and pastries also. Order at the counter.

Udupi Palace, 1901 University Ave, at M.L.King. Southern Indian, specializing in Dosas (huge filled crepes), as well as Uthappam (flat, filled pancakes).

Chaat Café, 1902 University Ave, at M. L. King. Indian, lots of small appetizer plates, tandoori wrap sandwiches, salads, curries. Order at the counter.

Secret Scoop Thai Gelato, 1922 Martin Luther King Way, between Berkeley Way and Hearst. A little out of the way but worth searching out when you want something sweet, cold and exotic — flavors that you will find nowhere else.

Jayakarta, 2026 University between Shattuck and Milvia. Inexpensive Indonesian Singaporean food.

Platano Salvadoran Cuisine, 2042 University, between Shattuck and Milvia. Inexpensive Salvadoran food, usually not crowded.

Burro Mexican Restaurant, 2021 University Avenue, near Milvia. Tasty Mexican standards.

Brazil Café, 1960 University Avenue, between Milvia and Bonita. New location same delicious food, lovely Rose Garden in the back patio.

Maker's Common, 1954 University Avenue, between Milvia and Bonita. A terrific new place with a lovely Rose Garden out back. Offerings include a variety of cheeses and charcuterie along with delicious sandwiches and a few main dishes, as well as beer and wine. A good spot for a leisurely meal.

The Butcher's Son, 1941 University Avenue, between Bonita and Martin Luther King Way. A Vegan delicatessen, with a large interesting choice of menu items, quite delicious and healthy.

Going East from the Freight:

Jazz Cafe, 2087 Addison St, between Shattuck and Milvia. Tasty soups, salads, and panini. Quiet atmosphere, nice background music. Order at the counter.

PIQ Berkeley, 91 Shattuck Square, at Addison. Pizzas, panini, and pastries, all delicious and well priced. Good coffee too. Lovely streetside patio.

Pollo, 100 Berkeley Square at Addison. Hamburgers, sandwiches, good Gyros salad. Some nice outdoor tables. Order at the counter.

Gadani, 139 Berkeley Square. If you are looking for just a quick sweet bite, try this small place which offers waffles and ice cream, as well as frozen yogurt, coffee and tea.

The Flying Falafel, 2114 Shattuck Avenue, between Addison and Center. This is a new very friendly small place, basically a counter with a few tables, but they offer delicious falafel and a few other Mediterranean choices, nothing very expensive.

Paris Baguette, 2150 Shattuck Avenue, between Center and Allston. A huge variety of terrific pastries, as well as sandwiches and salads, very popular.

Sushi Secrets, 2110 Shattuck Avenue, between Addison and Center. Sushi “burritos” and bubble tea for something completely different.

Seasons of Japan, 2122 Shattuck Avenue, between Addison and Center. Moderately priced rice bowls, as well as sushi rolls and bento boxes.

Ike’s Place, 2172 Shattuck Avenue, between Center and Allston. Huge choice of large sandwiches with interesting names, a little pricey, often a long line at lunchtime.

Eureka, 2068 Center Street, between Shattuck and Milvia. Terrific burgers, pretty good salads and other items, nice atmosphere. Happy Hour begins at 2 PM!

Tamon Tea: 2055 A Center Street, between Shattuck and Milvia. A very small storefront featuring delicious Japanese food and especially creative rice bowls. Very little seating.

Cu, Japanese Fusion Sushi and Roll, 2152 Center Street, between Oxford and Shattuck. Good, inexpensive Japanese food. Lots of outdoor tables.

Sliver Pizzeria, 2132 Center Street, delicious pizza by the slice, one choice only each day, plus some salads. Very very popular.

Oasis Mediterranean Grill, 2114 Center Street between Shattuck and Oxford. Tasty low priced Mediterranean food, good falafel sandwiches, a few outdoor tables. Order at the counter, fairly quick service if not crowded.

Guacamole 61, 2142 Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford. A new place featuring a huge bar with an enormous beer list, as well as a number of TVs to keep you company. And there's pretty good Mexican food in generous portions, moderately priced, also. But don't come here for a quiet conversation.

Chick'n Rice 2136 Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford. This new very informal small place features tasty Thai street food and inexpensive prices. The menu has a few other specialties too as well as ice cream and mango sticky rice. Everything is served in compostable paper trays.

Crunch, 2144 Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford. Korean American fusion food, decent prices, good size portions.

Razan's Organic Kitchen, 2119 Kittredge Street, between Oxford and Shattuck. Delicious organic food with a Middle Eastern touch.

Saturn Café, 2175 Allston Way at Oxford. Large menu of vegetarian and vegan food, moderately priced and tasty.

Sumo Roll, 2173 Allston Way, just below Oxford. Small storefront offering large Japanese rolls, moderately priced.

Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck, between Allston and Center in Trumpetvine Court. Pretty good sandwiches, salads, and pizzas. Table service and nice outdoor patio. Also under the same management is **Caffe Panini**, where you order at the counter and the food is brought to you in the patio.

EZ Stop Deli, 2233 Shattuck Ave, between Allston and Kittredge. The best and cheapest hot turkey sandwich in town. Other choices are also really good and cheap, including Bud's ice cream cones. Take out only. Really friendly owners.

Burgermeister, 2237 Shattuck Avenue, at Kittredge. Big juicy hamburgers with all the fixings. Slightly sports bar atmosphere, complete with TVs.

Gather, 2200 Oxford Street, at Allston Way. A little pricey, but locally sourced good food, with lots of vegan and vegetarian options. Beautiful and tasty salads and pizzas too. Lovely outdoor patio for warm days.

Suya, 2130 Oxford Street, between Center and Allston. African Caribbean skewers and wraps, moderately priced.

Babette, at the Berkeley Art Museum, corner of Oxford and Shattuck. Open during Museum hours, a cozy quiet respite with good salads and coffee.

A Little Further Away from OLLI sites

Venus, 2327 Shattuck, between Bancroft and Durant. Healthy delicious offerings, usually organic. Good vegetarian choices.

Toss Noodle Bar, 2272 Shattuck, between Kittredge and Allston, delicious array of South East noodle dishes, either in soup or tossed. Order at the counter.

Lox, Stock, and Bagels, 2043 Allston, between Shattuck and Milvia. Good build it yourself sandwiches, generous salad bar, good soups and toasted bagels. Very informal.

Maison Bleue, 2020 Kittredge Street, next to the Berkeley Public Library. A little bit of France in downtown Berkeley. Wonderful crepes, salads, sandwiches and wines, with a terrific outdoor patio.

Great China, 2190 Bancroft Way, at Oxford. Always crowded and noisy, but terrific generously portioned moderately priced Chinese food.

Barclay's Restaurant and Pub, 2430 Shattuck Avenue, between Channing and Haste. This is a very pleasant tavern offering a variety of beers as well as pretty good pub food. During the day it is fairly quiet with friendly informal service.

Mezzo, 2442 Telegraph Avenue, between Channing and Haste. This campus favorite has finally returned, offering the same enormous sandwiches and salads in a cleaner atmosphere, with very moderate prices. The space is shared with Raleigh's Pub, so you can order something alcoholic and then take everything to the great outdoor patio space, complete with a bocce ball court.

Pricier downtown Berkeley choices

Five, 2086 Allston Way, in the Shattuck Hotel. A “fancy” restaurant downtown. Good food, good wine, off the wall décor, great bar.

La Note, 2377 Shattuck Ave, between Durant and Channing Way. Well-portioned French sandwiches, salads, soups. Lively atmosphere with a beautiful back patio for warm days.

Angeline’s Louisiana Kitchen, 2261 Shattuck Ave, between Kittredge and Bancroft. Good New Orleans cooking. Nice friendly atmosphere.

The Musical Offering Café, 2340 Bancroft, near Dana. Good salads, soups and sandwiches, nice classical music in the background. One of the pleasanter places for lunch.