

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/Oakland 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.

Nash Café, 2047 University Avenue, just west of Shattuck. A very informal small café featuring noodle dishes, dumplings, soups, and Chinese food. Closed Tuesdays.

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.

Tharapu, 2037 Shattuck Avenue between University and Addison. Vietnamese 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.

Veggie Grill, 48 Shattuck Square, at the corner of University. Plant based vegan bowls, sandwiches, soups, salads.

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.

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.

El Burro Picante, 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

The Butchers Son, 1954 University Avenue, between Milvia and Bonita. A vegan delicatessen, with a large interesting choice of menu items, quite delicious and healthy. It's in a new larger location, across the street, with a beautiful back garden patio.

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 expanded streetside patio.

Barbarian Pizza Bar, 2012 Shattuck, between University and Addison. Inexpensive thin crust pizzas along with Indian food. The samosas are good, cheap, and filling.

Comal Next Door, 2024 Shattuck, between University and Addison. Really good Mexican food, somewhat pricey, open throughout the day. An informal sister restaurant to the very popular Comal.

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.

Chipotle, 2225 Shattuck Avenue, between Allston and Kittredge. It's a chain, but the Mexican food is tasty and not expensive and the service quick.

Famous Bao, 2116 Shattuck Avenue, between Center and Addison. Asian fusion food in an informal setting.

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.

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.

The Halal Guys, 2126 Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford. An informal place serving chicken and gyros, as a wrap or as a platter, generous portions, not expensive. Often a line out the door.

Chick'n Rice 2136 Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford. This 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.

Bongo Burger, 2154 Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford. The best thing here is the Persian Burger, on French bread, a lamb burger with special sauce, big enough for two people to share, and not expensive. Of course you can also have a regular burger, also.

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 Asian 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.

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

Zino, 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.