

The Unofficial Poynter Center Guide to Eating Out in Bloomington

For a small town, Bloomington has a wide array of unique and affordable restaurants, ranging from delis to ethnic eateries. We list some of our favorite choices below. Fast food and chain restaurants are not listed; Bloomington has all the usual suspects, and you can find them easily. All bars and restaurants are now non-smoking by county ordinance. Note that Kirkwood Avenue is also 5th; numbering of north-south addresses starts at 5th, not 1st. (Go figure.)

Inside the Union

- **Commons**, mezzanine level. Sub sandwiches, personal Pizza Hut pan pizzas, burgers, pretzels, salads and veggie sandwiches for lunch.
- **Delights**, mezzanine level. A candy, popcorn, and soda shop. Perfect for anyone who has the munchies or a sweet tooth.
- **IMU Gallery**, first floor. A coffeehouse with espresso drinks and a variety of teas. A limited assortment of baked goods. A nice quiet spot to get away from it all.
- **Kiva**, below the Commons. Open for lunch. Good salad bar, healthy sandwiches and quiche. Live piano music.
- **Sugar ‘n’ Spice**, mezzanine level. A good place to grab baked goodies and a quick cup of coffee. If you want espresso drinks, however, you might want to climb up a flight of stairs to the IMU Gallery on the first floor.
- **Tudor Room**, first floor. Full-service restaurant with a hot buffet for lunch.

On 10th Street in the Crosstown Shopping Center (near Eigenmann Hall)

- **Dagwood’s**, 1799 E. 10th, 333-3006 – Deli and sub shop, great for a quick meal on-the-go.
- **Lennie’s**, 1795 E. 10th, 323-2112 – Gourmet pizza and beer brewed on the premises.

West of campus, beyond Indiana Avenue

- **Bloomington Bagel Company**, 113 N. Dunn (north of Kirkwood), 333-4653 – Delicious bagels; good for a quick sandwich. Wide variety of bagel flavors and sandwich combinations. Daily 7a-7p.
- **Casablanca Café**, 402 E. 4th (west of Dunn), 335-9048 – Mediterranean and Moroccan food with great paella and good coffee. The tiramasu’s a pleaser too. Outside dining available. Sun-Thu 11:30a-2:30p and 5-9p.
- **Café Django**, 116 N. Grant, 335-1297 – Eclectic menu. Vegetarian options. Lunch and Dinner. Live jazz on weekends. Outdoor seating. Mon-Thu 11:30a-12a, Fri-Sat 8a-12a, Sun 9a-11p.
- **Laughing Planet Café**, 322 E. Kirkwood Ave. (on Grant), 323-2233 – Vegetarian-friendly and environmentally conscious (this means *no* air conditioning!). Good, but limited, menu includes burritos, quesadillas, salads and veggie burgers. Outside dining available. 11a-9p daily.
- **Nick’s English Hut**, 423 E. Kirkwood (west of Dunn), 332-4040 – Bloomington’s prime spot for beer, burgers and basketball watching – just ask any loyal Hoosier alum. Sun 12p-12a; Mon-Sat 11a-2:00a.
- **Puccini’s La Dolce Vita**, 420 E. 4th (west of Dunn), 333-5522 – Authentic Italian food, featuring daily specials. 5-10p daily.
- **Runcible Spoon**, 412 E. 6th (west of Dunn), 334-3997 – Café with indoor or outdoor dining and arguably the best coffee in Bloomington, plus a wide variety of teas. Daily lunch specials featuring quiche of the day and vegetarian fare. Beware: “Spoonies” are notoriously laid-back, so this is not a good place to try if you’re in a hurry. Sun-Thu 8a-9p, Fri-Sat 8a-11p.

- **Shanti**, 221 E. Kirkwood (on Lincoln, opposite the Monroe County Public Library), 333-0303 – An Indian restaurant with offerings to satisfy any craving for curry. Tue-Sat 11:30a-2p and 5-9p.
- **Siam House**, 430 E. 4th (on Dunn), 331-1233 – Traditional Thai cuisine prepared to the customer's specified degree of heat. Mon-Fri 11a-2p, 5p-10p; Sat-Sun 12p-10p.
- **Snow Lion**, 113 S. Grant (south of Kirkwood), 336-0835 – One of a handful of Tibetan restaurants in the United States. Mon-Thu 11a-3p and 5-10p; Fri-Sun 11a-10p.
- **Soma Coffee House**, 322 E. Kirkwood Ave. (on Grant), 331-2770 – Excellent local coffee, delicious homemade shortbread, and a beautiful aquarium in a television set. M-F 7a-12a, Sat 8a-12a, Sun 9a-12a.
- **Village Deli**, 409 E. Kirkwood (west of Dunn), 336-2303 – Deli fare, a good vegetarian chili and a good breakfast menu, including mammoth pancakes. Weekdays 7a-10p, weekends 8a-10p.
- **White Mountain Ice Creamery**, 107 N. Dunn (north of Kirkwood), 333-8975 – All right, so it's not a restaurant. But on one of Bloomington's hot and steamy afternoons, this treat could help you through the day. A mix-in in a homemade cone is a very good thing. 12-12 Mon-Thu, 12-1p Fri-Sun.

On and around the courthouse square

- **The Bakehouse**, 125 N. College (northwest corner of square), 331-6029 – Sophisticated sandwiches and deli items, along with specialty coffees and exquisite pastries and desserts. Mon-Sat 6:30a-9p, Sun 8a-5p.
- **Encore Café**, 316 W. 6th (on Madison, west of the square), 333-7312 – Gourmet food, cafeteria style. Cappuccino bar features daily happy hours from 2 to 5. Excellent dessert assortment. Mon-Thu 11a-9p, Fri-Sat 11a-11p.
- **Grazie**, 106 W. 6th (northeast corner of the square), 323-0303 – Casual Italian dining with free salad and breadsticks, entrees include pasta dishes, seafood, and steak. Reasonably priced. daily 11am-11pm.
- **Irish Lion**, 212 W. Kirkwood (2 blocks west of Walnut), 336-9076 – “Pub grub” and a variety of beers on draught. 11a-3a daily.
- **Janko's Little Zagreb**, 223 W. 6th (1 block west from NW corner of square), 332-0694 – Meat, meat, and more meat. The best steaks in town. Will satisfy even the most voracious carnivore. Mon-Thu 5-9:30p, Fri 4:30-10p, Sat 3-10p.
- **Ladyman's Café**, 122 E. Kirkwood (1 block east of the square), 336-5557 – Home-style Hoosier cooking including homemade muffins and pies, and breakfast all day. Mon-Sat 7a-3p, Sun 7:30a-3p.
- **Malibu Grill**, 106 N. Walnut (on the east side of the square), 332-4334 – California-style cooking, including pasta, grilled fish, and wood oven pizza. Mon-Fri 11:30a-2p, 5:30-9:30p, Sat 12-10:30p, Sun 12-9:30p.
- **Samira**, 100 W. 6th, 331-3761 – Afghan with good lamb and chicken; excellent rice; fine vegetarian options and good wine list; reasonable prices. Wed-Fri 11a-2p and 5-9p, Fri-Sun 5-10p.
- **Scotty's Brewhouse**, 302 N. Walnut, 333-5151 – Half-pound burgers, thick-cut seasoned fries, homemade carrot cake, root beer floats, chocolate malts, and a wide variety of draught and bottled beers, all in a clean and comfortable atmosphere. TVs for sports fans. Mon-Thurs 11a-10p, Fri 11a-11p, Sat 12-11p, Sun 12-10p.
- **Trojan Horse**, 100 E. Kirkwood (on the southeast corner of the square), 332-1101 – Gyros and other Greek dishes. Mon-Thu 11a-11p, Fri-Sat 11a-12 midnight, Sun 12p-10p.
- **Uptown Café**, 102 E. Kirkwood (just east of the square), 339-0900 – Popular for breakfast and for its lunch and dinner items “with a Cajun-Creole accent.” The persimmon pudding is to die for. Mon-Tues 7a-9p, Wed-Fri 7a-10pm, Sat 8a-10p, Sun 9a-2p.