World Fantasy 2026

Oakland Dining Guide

Swan's Market in Old Oakland

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Welcome to the Best Food City!

At the 52nd World Fantasy Convention, taking place October 22–25, 2026, members will have every opportunity to thrill their taste buds in our host city of Oakland. In 2024, Oakland was named Best Food City by the readers of *Condé Nast*!

Walking and public transit hubs near the convention center provide easy access to so much of the enticing, inventive, and just plain good food that Oakland, a.k.a. “Oaktown,” a.k.a. “The Town,” has to offer. Cultured coffee? Check. Chicken tikka pizza? Check. Handmade fortune cookies? Check. The 2024 *Food & Wine* Best Restaurant of the Year? You bet! It’s all right here in Oakland, and we’re delighted to share it with you.

Oakland’s historic legacy as the western terminus of the Transcontinental Railway and a major hub of World War II shipbuilding and canning, combined with its present-day importance as a thriving major port, has brought communities from many different backgrounds to the Town. Locals delight in the traditional and fusion cuisines that abound here. Oakland’s cuisine is ever-evolving, with menus that reflect influences from around the globe but keep an eye trained on the future.

Old Oakland, Chinatown, Uptown, and City Center are all within easy walking distance of Oakland City Center, with Lake Merritt and Jack London Square situated within a few miles. Your opportunities to feast on amazing food multiply with the AC Transit bus system and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) subway close by. Temescal and Rockridge are quick hops on BART from the City Center station. Lyft, Uber, and taxi services are also plentiful.

Note: Many restaurants will require a reservation, especially for large parties. Most will also add an 18%–20% gratuity to the bill for large parties, and some will require a credit card deposit. If you want to request separate checks, do it before the server takes your order.

For most recent hours, dietary and accessibility concerns, and other questions, **be sure to call the restaurants to confirm details directly or visit their websites**. This is intended as a guide to help you find interesting and delicious places to eat, but it is not a thorough profile of each highlighted business. When gluten-free, vegetarian, or vegan options appear available, they are noted in the listing.

Let’s Dig In!

Old Oakland

The Old Oakland neighborhood began thriving in the 1860s, when the new town of Oakland attracted the attention of wealthy investors as the Gold Rush fever died down. Many of the neighborhood's Victorian properties were restored a century later, making it a vibrant downtown destination. Swan's Market takes up a city block of Old Oakland and houses multiple restaurants and quick snack stations, including dining, cupcakes, freshly made sausages, and smoothies.

NERD ALERT: Check out the Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment (the MADE; 921 Washington Street) on Swan Market's northeast corner, where fully playable video gaming exhibits of the past and present are on display.

Visit the popular **Farmer's Market** in Old Oakland on Friday from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm at the intersection of 9th Street and Broadway. It's is a great way to stock up on fresh foods and homemade treats and goods for your WFC stay. Catch the Starter Bakery stand to try kouign amann, a Breton pastry similar to a croissant that bakes sugar and butter into each of its thin layers. Donut Savant and their creative donut flavors are also usually vending at the market.

Tea Eggs at Saucy

Annapurna
948 Clay Street
(510) 250-9696
https://www.annapurnaoakland.com/

Beware the scents wafting out of this Nepalese restaurant—you'll be hard-pressed to resist them if walking by! Annapurna is known for their extensive vegetarian entrees in addition to meat selections. Don't miss the momo dumplings.

Blue Bottle
480 9th Street
(510) 653-3394
https://bluebottlecoffee.com/us/eng/cafes/old-oakland
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, & Vegetarian

This Bay Area third-wave coffee chain is known for their NOLA iced drinks, featuring coffee cold-brewed with roasted chicory. A variety of coffee beverages are available, including pourovers, mochas, and miso caramel lattés.

Café con Cariño
528 8th Street
https://www.cafeconcarino.com/

This community-oriented café welcomes conversation and coffee lovers. They make their own flavorful syrups and are slowly adding Latin American sweets and savory eats to the menu.

Delage
536 9th Street
(510) 823-2050
https://www.delagesushi.com
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Delage is re-opening with new chefs and owners in September 2026. They will deliver the full omakase experience that Delage is known for, featuring California-influenced Japanese fine dining. À la carte sushi and lunch will now be offered as well!

District Oakland
827 Washington Street
(510) 272-9110
https://districtoak.com/

Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

For drinks, District relies on wine and whiskey to whet palates. But they pull from global inspirations for their small plates menu. Happy Hour offers oysters, bar bites, and beverages for $10 or less.

Graffiti Pizza
719 Washington Street
(510) 250-9303
https://graffitipizza.square.site/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Graffiti Pizza feeds Oakland with giant pizza slices and fun combinations like the Spraycation and Tagger's Delight. If you're dining in, a small bar is available along with compact indoor and outdoor seating.

Huangcheng Noodle House
911 Washington Street
(702) 481-3124
https://www.huangchengnoodleca.com/

Noodles arre handcut daily at this casual spot and served in over 20 types of soupy and saucy meals. The chongking street noodles get special accolades, and spice lovers are especially welcome.

Lana's
517 8th Street
(510 250-9240
https://www.lanasoakland.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Lana's is a lowkey joint that makes high-flavor smashburgers and ice cream. The Okie Onion Smash is a favorite, featuring patties griddled in mustard and served with pickles. Don't miss the ZAZA ice cream, with chunks of brownie and chocolate pretzel.

“Man Must Wak” African Caribbean Food Market
547 8th Street

(510) 444-2841
https://manmustwak.net/

This markets sells African and Caribbean food and spices, and Nigerian dishes are prepared on the premises for takeout. An all-around awesome experience awaits you inside their doors.

Nosso
532 8th Street
(510 207-1008
https://nossooakland.com/

Nosso serves up velvety cocktails in its modern dining room flowing with flowers. There are velvety sliders to go with them, too. A variety of wings with rich sauces and a killer steak sandwich round out the menu.

Popoca Oakland
906 Washington St
(510) 457-1724
https://www.popocaoakland.com/
Reservations Recommended

One of *Bon Appetit's* Best New Restaurants of 2024, Popoca offers upscale takes on Salvadorean cuisine. Its cocktail program is heavily praised along with the menu's heavy reliance on cooking by flame.

NERD ALERT: Chapter 510: the Department of Make Believe (546 9th Street) fosters the writing imaginations of Oakland's youth and offers workshops on bookmaking and publishing. A gift shop benefitting their work is located at the southwest corner of Swan's Market. Chapter 510 is the WFC 2026's charity of choice – so please head over to check it out!

Rio California
1233 Preservation Park
(415) 235-4746
http://www.riocalifornia.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Open for weekday lunches, this Brazilian-influenced restaurant is housed in Preservation Park, an impeccably upkept neighborhood of Victorian homes. Jerk chicken, feijoada, coxinhas, and more are served in this intimate spot.

Sana'a Café
801 Broadway
(510) 817-4399
https://sanaahousecafe.com/

This café specializes in Yemeni coffee and culture, including a range of spice combinations that make their beverages pop. Plentiful noncaffeinated refreshers are available, too, and a bakery case full of American and Yemeni pastries and desserts. Open late.

Saucy Oakland
468 8th Street
(510) 764-3939
https://www.saucyoakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, & Vegetarian

Saucy gives Asian Fusion cuisine a fun spin! Bento boxes, rice bowls, and noodles are available at lunch, but dinner is where Saucy shines with vibrant colors and flavors. The family style tasting menu is an excellent idea for a small group.

Square Pie Guys
499 Dr. Huey P. Newton Way
(510) 626-9960
https://www.squarepieguys.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free & Vegetarian

This Bay Area chain makes the best Detroit-style pizza in the region. Craving that pan-pie texture and a solid wall of melted cheese with fresh, inventive ingredients? Head here. A full pizza is only four slices, but those four slices are generally enough for two people.

NERD ALERT: The Bookmark Bookstore (933 Broadway) is the first sign you'll see when entering the Old Oakland neighborhood. Shop their gently used inventory of

books, CDs, DVDS, LPs, puzzles, and games. Sales benefit the Oakland Public Library system.

Sweetgreen
831 Broadway
(510) 804-0388
https://www.sweetgreen.com/locations/9th-broadway
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

This fast-casual chain sources healthy ingredients from sustainable farms. Choose from salads and protein-focused plates and bowls.

T-Chaka
901 Washington Street
(415) 299-2680
https://www.tchakaoak.online/

This Haitian-Caribbean restaurant offers meals from breakfast through dinner, with an emphasis on seafood. Whole red snapper, griot, langostino, and oxtail are some of the highlights here.

The Cook & Her Farmer
510 9th Street
(510) 285-6140
http://www.thecookandherfarmer.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

One of Oakland's most celebrated restaurants, The Cook & Her Farmer serves up sophisticated coastal cuisine with wine pairings. Fresh oysters, salads, and a rotating menu of sandwiches and entrees are offered. Check out brunch on Saturdays!

City Center

“City Center” is our shorthand for the downtown, Civic Center, and Lakeside neighborhoods of Oakland. It covers the blocks north of Old Oakland and Chinatown but south of the 19th Street BART Station. Souvenir Tip! If you’re feeling that same pride in the Town that we do, don’t miss Oaklandish (1444 Broadway), our hometown vendor of clothing with bold designs, many of which are partnerships with local artists.

The Hot Chicken Sandwich at World Famous HOTBOYS

Aburaya
362 17th Street
(510) 502-7743
https://aburayaoakland.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Aburaya fries Japanese chicken karage-style and serves it up with a rockin' miso-ranch cabbage salad and rice. Sandwiches, vegan, tofu, and nori-wrapped burrito options are also available.

Awaken Café and Roasting
1429 Broadway
(510) 863-1440
https://www.awakencafe.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Awaken brings a relaxed coffee house vibe to downtown Oakland. Wifi is not on the menu, but healthy bagels, toasts, and sandwiches definitely are, as well as pastries.

Bar Shiru
1611 Telegraph Avenue #100
(510) 920-0299
https://www.barshiru.com/

Appreciating hi-fi vinyl albums is Bar Shiru's calling. There's no visible signage for this music-lovers bar, but the security guard is your clue you've reached the right spot. Enjoy the aural oasis inside with one of their Japanese whisky-based cocktails in hand. Small groups only.

Broken Dreams
1312 Broadway
(510) 379-8506
https://www.brokendreamsoakland.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free & Vegetarian

Broken Dreams specializes in cơm tấm, Vietnam's classic comfort food that combines broken rice grains with grilled meats, fresh and pickled vegetables, fish sauce, scallion oil, and a sunny-side up egg. Additional Vietnamese disshes like banh mi, vermicelli bowls, and spring rolls, are also available.

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 763-7711
https://cafevankleef.com/

Despite its name, Café Van Kleef is not a coffee destination but a treasured Oakland dive bar. The walls are loaded with ephemera of questionable origins, and the greyhounds, this bar's specialty cocktail, are loaded with giant grapefruit wedges.

Cairo Station Café
1720 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 410-7666
https://cairostationcafe.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

The shawarma gets high marks at Cairo Station Café, and so does its relaxed vibe that captures the feel of Egyptian street cafes. Its shrimp falafel and late hours are rare finds in this area.

Curry Up Now
1745 San Pablo Avenue
(510) 858-7475
https://www.curryupnow.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This Bay Area chain serves up playful takes on Indian street food, including deconstructed samosa bowls, lamb keema burritos, paratha wraps, and thali platters.

NERD ALERT: Cape & Cowl Comics (1601 Clay Street) won the 2023 Will Eisner Spirit of Comics Retailer Award. In addition to the requisite comics, toys, collectibles, and books, Cape & Cowl also has a collection of comics covers exclusive to the store and features local artists.

Edible Happy Pizzeria
1438 Broadway
(510) 965-7110
https://ediblehappypizzeria.us/
Dietary Options: Vegan & Vegetarian

This late-night eatery has a little bit of everything, including a long list of vegan pizzas. For the non-vegans, creative pizzas, like the chicken tikka or cheese steak pizzas, are available alongside more classic combos and burgers and wings.

Golden Lotus
1301 Franklin Street
(510) 893-0383
https://www.goldenlotusvegan.co/
Dietary Options: Vegan & Vegetarian

A mainstay for vegan customers in Oakland, Golden Lotus offers Vietnamese fusion cuisine. Salads, soups, rice, and noodle dishes are all on the menu along with creative takes on meat substitutes.

Lucuma

1700 Franklin Street
(510) 607-8110
https://www.lucumakitchen.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Lucuma pairs Peruvian inspiration with culinary and design genuis. In 2025, it earned Best New Restaurant from *East Bay Nosh*. The beef hearts and crudo come highly recommended, along with the décor and feeling of warmth from the staff.

Oakland Street Food Co.
430 13th Street
(510) 350-8587
https://oaklandstreetfood.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan & Vegetarian

This popular spot offers a variety of well-loved snack foods and indulgences popular with Oakland palates. They include lumpia, gumbo, garlic noodles, and kimchi fried-rice in addition to quesabirria-style dipped and fried cheesy tacos.

Pintoh Thai
1442 Franklin Street
(510) 823-2370
https://pintohthai.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Pintoh Thai, named after schoolchildren's lunch boxes, serves classic Thai stir-fries, curries, noodles, and salads. Try the Thai Pink Milk if you're thirsty!

Prospect Park Sandwiches
1633 Broadway
(510) 834-1818

Open for breakfast and lunch, Prospect Park Grille is an unpretensious diner ready to serve up classic American breakfasts, burgers, sandwiches, and teriyaki platters.

Real Cutie Pies
341 17th Street

https://realcutiepies.com/

Head to Real Cutie Pies when you need “just a few bites” to satisfy your sweet tooth. This bakery serves single-sized cheesecakes in flavors like peach cobbler, strawberry shortcake, and pecan pie.

The Caffè
1120 Broadway
https://www.thecaffeoak.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, & Vegetarian

This modern space is the first coffee shop opened by longtime Oakland coffee producer, Mr. Espresso. The staff is impeccably trained on multiple techniques to brew your perfect cup of coffee from beans roasted over oakwood in traditional Italian styles. Don’t miss the monthly chef collaborations.

The Hatch Oakland
402 15th Street
(510) 877-8077
Dietary Options: Vegan & Vegetarian

This beer-focused bar serves up late-night pizza slices and wings alongside blaring tunes and live musical acts. Vegan wings and tacos are available.

The Lake Chalet
1520 Lakeside Drive
(510) 208-5253
https://www.thelakechalet.com/

The view of Lake Merritt is what brings most people to The Lake Chalet, as their patio dining is literally over the water. They serve brunch, lunch, and dinner with a focus on seafood and prime rib.

The Lunch Box
1720 Franklin Street
(510) 836-0703
https://www.lunchboxoakland.com
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Sandwiches, soups, wraps, salads, and hot plates with sides of mashed potatos, salad, and bread are all available at The Lunch Box. Some harder-to-find sandwich fillings include corned beef, roasted eggplant, and Polynesian-style pulled pork.

World Famous HOTBOYS Chicken
1601 San Pablo Avenue
(510) 254-5738
https://worldfamoushotboys.com/

Oakland's homegrown take on the hot-chicken craze! They are known for gigantic helpings of hot fried-chicken in every sandwich. Spice levels run Southern to HOT. The chicken is also available in tenders, waffle, and étouffée formats. Bonuts, biscuit-based donuts, are also available.

Chinatown

Oakland's Chinatown is one of the oldest in the country, established around 1850 as the Gold Rush ushered in the Bay Area's first population boom. Unlike San Francisco's tourist-heavy Chinatown, Oakland's is more focused on the local community, fostering cultural ties and providing resources for East Bay families of many Asian backgrounds. Lush murals and glimpses of decorative architecture add interest to strolls through the neighborhood.

Grocery Stores: Head to the markets and produce stalls grouped around 8th Street and Franklin Street for fresh produce and meats to keep you supplied during your World Fantasy visit.

NERD ALERT: The intersection at 8th Street and Franklin Street also boasts the first pedestrian scramble crosswalk in the Bay Area!

Mango Chia Seed Dessert at UC Desserts

Battambang
850 Broadway
(510) 839-8815
https://battambangoakland.weebly.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Named for Cambodia's third-largest city, this cozy restaurant offers lunch and dinner specials that regulars love. The smoked eggplant with ground pork and shrimp in a lime sauce is a favorite.

Binh Minh Quan
338 12th Street
(510) 893-8136
https://binhminhquan.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

In addition to hot pot, BMQ serves standard Vietnamese dishes like banh mi, pho, vermicelli, and rice plates. They also invite diners to try a special 7 Courses of Beef for two. Meat lovers, check it out!

Earth Grown
702 Webster Street
(510) 817-4982
https://www.instagram.com/earthgrowndrinks
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Earth Grown gets high marks from health-conscious patrons who love their fresh fruit and vegetable juices in smoothie, detox, herbal, and pressed beverages. They sell herbs, teas, and imported snacks by the bag as well.

Guilin Rice Noodles
417 7th Street
(510) 930-8588
https://www.guilinricenoodles.com/

All the dishes here feature the Guilian rice noodles of the restaurant's name with pickled green beans and roasted peanuts, traditional toppings for this Southern Chinese dish. The noodles can be served dry or in soup and typically come with a tangy brown gravy made from beef bones, monk fruit, and herbs.

Gum Kuo
388 9th Street, Suite 182
Pacific Renaissance Plaza, Floor 1
(510) 268-1288

Enjoy quick service and authentic Cantonese cooking at Gum Kao! Char siu BBQ, chang fen, Peking duck, congee, and Chinese donuts are favorites of their regulars.

Jolly Café
1004 Webster Street
(510) 454-9899
https://www.instagram.com/jollycafe.oakland/

Jolly Café is one of the few Oakland beverage shops where you can find sweet mung bean paste to liven up your beverage favorites. They also serve creative sodas, coffee, and fruit, milk, and classic tea beverages with six flavors of cold foam available. For more substantive fare, try their croffles, banh mi, and spring rolls.

Mad Oak Bar 'N' Yard
135 12th St
(510) 843-7416
https://madoakbar.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This bar boasts a rooftop level, interior tables, and a large patio. Happy hour runs 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm daily. Forty beers are on tap, and they also offer a nice list of house cocktails and nonalcoholic beverages. Food is available inside, with a standard menu of burgers, tacos, and wings.

NERD ALERT: Chinatown is home to one of the few remaining handmade fortune cookie factories, the Oakland Fortune Factory (261 12th Street). Ring the doorbell if the shop appears closed or call ahead to place a custom order.

Nana Viet Kitchen
261 10th Street
(510) 519-4999
https://www.nanavietkitchen.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Nana Viet Kitchen's chef began cooking and selling Vietnamese food from her home during the pandemic. Her friends' clamor for more resulted in an unexpected career making many of the dishes she grew up with and loves. Bún Chả Hà Nội, pork patties with peanuts, is a favorite dish of her loyal customers.

Napoleon Super Bakery
810 Franklin Street
(510) 268-8883
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Order your hot, fresh, savory, or sweet Asian pastries from the display cases at Napoleaon Super Bakery. But be fast! Prices are low, and the speed of service is racing! Cash only.

New Gold Medal
389 8th St
(510) 465-1940
https://new-gold-medal-restaurant.foodjoyy.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan & Vegetarian

Night owls unite! New Gold Medal offers their long list of traditional Chinese and Chinese American favorites until 3:00 am every night of the week except Tuesdays, when they close at midnight instead.

Peony Seafood
388 9th Street #288
Pacific Renaissance Plaza, 2nd Floor
(510) 286-8866
https://peonyrestaurant.com/
Reservations Recommended

A traditional dim sum restaurant, Peony bustles during lunchtime and weekend brunches. Pick your favorites from the carts, but don't miss the adorable piggy custard buns!

Saint Anna Coffee Shop
326 8th Street
(510) 893-1238

A Hong Kong-style diner with lots of tasty coffee and tea beverages and comforting home cooking. The lemon tea is highly recommended. Cash/Venmo only.

Sakura Bistro Sushi & Sake Bar

388 9th Street #268
Pacific Renaissance Plaza, 2nd Floor
(510) 891-1781
https://www.sakuraoakland.com/menu
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Sakura Bistro runs an excellent happy hour with discounted drinks, appetizers, classic sushi rolls, and half-off specialty rolls. But even at full price, the fish and fried oysters get high marks. Chuan Yu's Sichuan menu is available right in the same space.

Shan Dong
328 10th Street #101
(510) 839-2299
https://shandongrestaurant.store/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Looking for freshly made noodles and dumplings? Shan Dong is the spot for you! Watch the chefs prepare them as you wait for a table.

Spices! 3
370-372 12th Street
(510) 625-8889
https://order.online/store/46951
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

A small restaurant specializing in big, spicy Sichuan flavor! Local favorites include beef with flaming red oil and fried stinky tofu with explosive peppers. Cash or Venmo only.

NERD ALERT: The Oakland Museum of California (1000 Oak Street) resides at the lakeside boundary of Chinatown. It's a state jewel, with extensive collections on Californian history, art, and natural sciences. Past special exhibits have included "Mothership: Voyage Into Afrofuturism" and "PIXAR: 25 Years of Animation." On Friday nights through October, OMCA hosts live music, family activities, and food trucks in its beautiful garden overlooking Lake Merritt.

Tastee Steam Kitchen
329 11th Street
(510) 628-0888
https://tasteekitchen.com/

Tastee Kitchen offers all-you-can-eat Japanese hot pot shabu shabu, with mini-versions available at lunch time. But the meat and seafood options don't stop there! Southern-style seafood boils are also available, as is the “sauna steam pot,” a newer, healthier method of cooking your dinner at your table. They also have an extensive sushi menu.

UC Dessert
388 9th Street #159
(510) 922-8857
http://www.ucdessert.com/

This casual eatery is open late and full of Hong Kong-style desserts, such as bingsoo, egg puff waffles, and chilled soups and puddings. They also sell mille crepe cakes by the slice.

Jack London Square

The scenic retail, residential, and transit hub neighborhood of Jack London Square was named after the famed adventuring author who grew up in Oakland. Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon serves as its center piece; the 1880s pub was a favorite place for Jack London to study during his high school years. A Klondike cabin, reproduced with logs from the one that London lived in during his Alaskan Gold Rush days, has been permanently relocated next door.

Situated on the waterfront with a large promenade, Jack London Square hosts many festivals throughout the year. It also hosts excellent restaurants and nightlife year-round, often in industrial buildings that have been redeveloped in recent decades.

Ferries to San Francisco and Alameda, and trains to anywhere that Amtrak rides, depart from Jack London Square. The USS Potomac, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidential yacht, offers regular tours of the Bay from its dock here as well.

Volcano Cup at Farmhouse Kitchen

9jaGrills
303 Broadway
(510) 844-4829
https://9jagrills.com/

Nigerian food is on the menu here! Try spicy peanut suya skewers, jollof rice, egusi, asun, and fried whole fish. Hours run late on weekends.

Buttercup Diner
229 Broadway
(510) 444-2976
https://www.buttercupdiner.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This classic diner chain is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, offering hearty plates and overflowing pies any time before 9:00pm.

Café Da Fonk!
465 2nd Street
(408) 547-7190
https://cafedafonkoak.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This new café is scoring raves for their unique coffee drinks, like the Kaffe Citron, a combination of lemonade and cold brew, and the honey gram masala latté. Breakfast bowls and sandwiches are also available.

Cellarmaker Brewing Company
300 Webster Street
(510) 947-9738
https://cellarmakerbrewing.com/oakland/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Cellarmaker has several outposts in the Bay Area, including this one just a few blocks from the heart of Jack London Square. The food menu includes Detroit and “bar style” pizzas and a veggie-heavy list of shared plates, like masa dumplings and marinated gigante beans. New beer flavors drop weekly, from pale ales to barleywines and every beermaking style in between.

Cenaduria Elvira
468 3rd Street
https://www.cenaduriaelvira.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian
Reservations Recommended

You'll find one of the Bay Area's most craveable dishes here: the tostada raspada, which is a large, oblong, and crisp corn tortilla covered in beans, meat, salsas, and garnishes. Owner Elvira Varela sources many of the ingredients for her Jalisco-inspired menu straight from that Mexican region. You can taste her commitment to flavor and quality in each bite.

Farmhouse Kitchen Thai
336 Water Street
(510) 419-0541
https://farmhousethai.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Chef Kasem Saengsawang has started an empire of whimsical Thai restaurants in the Bay Area. Farmhouse Kitchen Thai leans toward classic preparations, but with playfulness, like their famed Volcano Cup of spicy ramen and short rib. A waterfront patio entices but the interior decor is also vibrant.

Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon
48 Webster Street
(510) 839-6761
https://www.heinoldsfirstandlastchance.com/

Watch your step down into this tiny saloon, with its famously slanted floor. Demand is high for an inside table, some of which are crafted from wood recovered from 19th century whaling ships. Luckily, there's also a large patio right outside the bar. Soak up the historic ambience along with your drink.

Kuidaore Handroll Bar
431 Water Street
(510) 392-2288
https://www.kuidaorehandrollbar.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Temaki-style handrolls, sashimi, and crudo are the specialties here, but beer and sake lovers will also find beverages to love.

Nido's Backyard

104 Oak Street
(510) 500-9757
https://www.nidooakland.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Nido's backyard describes itself as a "margarita garden." Its colorful, large outdoor space is great for groups that enjoy Mexican brunch, lunch, or dinner.

NōKA Ramen & Bar
90 Franklin Street
(510) 419-0111
https://nokaramen.com/
Reservations Recommended

This Hakata-style ramen restaurant makes their noodles in-house. They also offer anime- and Pokemon-themed cocktails! Don't miss the black garlic tonkatsu or flaming steak ramen.

Oakland United Beerworks
262 Second Street
(510) 251-8898
https://oaklandunitedbeerworks.com/

In addition to vats of beer, this taproom has a small downstairs bar, an upstairs mezzanine, and patio seating on nice days. They curate a thoughtful selection of wine, ciders, and small bites as well.

Odin Mezcaleria
444 Oak Street
(510) 444-6436
https://www.odinoakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

This second incarnation of Nido, a beloved upscale Mexican restaurant, focuses on pairing food with agave-derived alcoholic beverages.

Rosenblum Cellars

10 Clay Street
(877) 478-9467
https://rosenblumcellars.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Rosenblum Cellars is positioned right at the base of the ferry station, offering excellent views along with their wine tastings, charcuterie boards, and sandwich specials. Zinfandel is a specialty of this producer. So are unusual finds, including a blue sparkling wine!

Seabreeze on the Dock
31 Webster Street
(510) 607-9140
https://www.seabreezeonthedock.com/

This fast-casual seafood restaurant offers crab rolls, po' boys, seafood boils, garlic noodles, and even lobster nachos, all right on the water.

Souley Vegan
101 Broadway
(510) 541-6946
https://souleyvegan.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Souley Vegan is a must for anyone craving Louisianian cooking, whether you're vegan or not. Gator bites, mac & cheese, cayenne lemonade: join the Bayou spirit at this spot! Or stick to the vegan burger that bested Iron Chef Bobby Flay.

The Fat Lady
201 Washington Street
(510) 465-4996
https://thefatladyrestaurant.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

The Fat Lady gets a spooky makeover every fall that is worth checking out. The 55-year-old, art nouveau-inspired restaurant leans Mediterranean in its menu influences, with pasta and Moroccan stew among their dishes. Much of the lush dining room is made from wood and glass reclaimed from other Bay Area establishments.

Yoshi's
510 Embarcardeo West
(510) 238-9200
https://yoshis.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

While Yoshi's is best known as a legendary venue for jazz concerts, it's also an acclaimed Japanese restaurant. Options include sushi and nigiri, grilled entrees, and family-style omakase meals. Dining before the show? You'll get special seating in the event hall.

Uptown

Uptown Oakland may be more of a realtor's trick than it is a neighborhood distinct from downtown, but most of its restaurants and buildings have a more modern feel than their southern neighbors. That's because the auto dealerships and garages the area used to be known for have been reborn as restaurants, cafes, and art galleries.

But not everything old is new in Uptown. Oakland's Paramount Theatre, renowned for its impeccably restored art deco interior, offers tours every other Saturday and hosts the Oakland Symphony and Ballet. The 1928 Fox Oakland Theater, home to many of Oakland's biggest concerts and the Oakland School for the Arts, boasts exquisitely detailed décor that many feel evokes a Brahmin temple.

Generally speaking, Uptown is considered to start just north of 19th Street. If you're walking from City Center and pass the 19th Street BART station, you're walking into Uptown.

Double Chocolate Cookie at Sweet Bar Bakery

Agave Uptown
2135 Franklin Street
(510) 288-3668
https://agaveuptown.com/
Reservations Recommended

Agave Uptown's cuisine blends Californian and Oaxacan flavors, and the mix of modern and traditional décor on their walls complements that pairing. The molcajete shouldn't be missed, but Agave Uptown's Happy Hour offerings are also solid.

alaMar
100 Grand Avenue #111
(510) 907-7555
https://alamaroakland.com/
Reservations Recommended

Dominican flavors abound at this cornerstone of Oakland's restaurant scene. Tostones, oxtail, pernil, salt cod: they are all part of Chef Nelson German's repertoire that also pays tribute to his Washington Heights upbringing and classical training.

Beeryland (Telegraph Beer Garden)
2318 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 292-0352
https://www.beeryland.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This beer garden, hidden from streetview behind a fence, offers adult slushies and fancy burgers in addition to beer. Head through the gate and you'll find bright murals, picnic tables, and the whole neighborhood having a great time. Adventurous eaters will enjoy the mac & cheese or kimchi burgers. Good for groups.

Boba Binge
2212 Broadway
(510) 634-7979
https://www.boba-binge.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan & Vegetarian

Among the plethora of boba milk tea options in the Bay Area, Boba Binge is known for fresh fruit juices and quality teas. They also offer highly praised Vietnamese coffee, banh mi, spring rolls, pandan waffles, and popcorn chicken.

Delah Coffee
420 W Grand Avenue
(510) 228-8229
https://delahcoffee.com/

Delah Coffee is a fast-expanding chain of cafes that cater to people in search of later night third spaces and Yemeni-inspired coffee, tea, and desserts. Their "chiller" drinks are quite refreshing, and the kunafa cheesecake is as vibrant as it looks.

Drake's Dealership
2325 Broadway
(510) 568-2739 x40
https://drinkdrakes.com/places/dealership/
Reservations Recommended

On a weekend, Drake's large, open-air patio is almost always hopping. The vibe is casual, but the inventive wood-fired pizza toppings, small plates, and beer are top-notch. Great for groups.

Gregory's Gourmet Desserts
285 23rd Street
(510) 272-9722
https://gregorysgourmetdesserts.com/

Look for the clapboard sign on the sidewalk to find this hidden-away shop. It's close quarters once you step down, no more than 3-4 customers will fit. But the rotating, homemade selection of cakes, cobblers, pies, cookies, and bars are well worth momentary discomfort. The cinnamon rolls are legendary, but call ahead to see when they'll be available.

Ike's Love & Sandwiches
2204 Broadway
(510) 338-6789
https://locations.ikessandwich.com/ca/oakland/112/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

This Bay Area sandwich chain is known for its copious toppings and sandwiches named for local personalities, teams, and ingredients. If you haven't had Dutch Crunch bread yet, be sure to try it here.

Javi's Empanadas
2300 Broadway

(510) 285-6360
https://javiscooking.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Javi's Argentinian empanadas have been a mainstay at Oakland celebrations for the last decade. Grab one or two for a filling meal, or choose a frozen package for take and bake. Alfajores are also sold here.

Low Bar
2300 Webster Street
https://www.lowbaroakland.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Low Bar offers upscale Mexican food and oysters on the half-shell. The kitchen stays open until last call at this seasonal cocktail bar and also serves up brunch on the weekends. Look for their Chiki Combos of shots and beer!

Miharu
1951 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 922-8385
https://www.miharuicecream.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Miharu features a constantly rotating menu of icre cream and sorbet delights! Customer favorite flavors, like lychee rose and breakfast brownies, appear alongside new experiments such as the nutty yogurt-based shrikhand and banana with dulce de leche. They generally have a line out the door, even in winter. Try the bruléed banana split, but bring someone to share it with!

Petit Café
411 30th Street
(510) 208-9418
https://www.petitcafeoak.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Up Pill Hill, this small café offers signature drinks like the Bee Hive with honey and morita chiles. They also cook up a solid menu of breakfast and lunch specialties.

Sandbar
2418 Broadway
https://www.instagram.com/sandbaroakland

As the name implies, the floor of this bar is indeed covered in sand! It makes for a memorable experience, especially if you're craving beach vibes. Beware: the Gorilla Milk house cocktail packs a delicious punch.

Shawarmaji
2100 Franklin Street Suite 2190
(510) 397-9817
https://www.theshawarmaji.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This Jordanian halal eatery offers a variety of fresh chicken, lamb, falafel, and beef wraps and plates. The pickled sides and toum are especially delicious, and many are available by the jar.

Stay Gold BBQ
2635 San Pablo Avenue
(510) 350-8729
https://www.staygoldbbq.com/

Right on the edge of Uptown and West Oakland, Stay Gold barbecues daily over oak wood. Their brisket and pastrami are celebrated, the latter coming highly recommended in their deli sandwiches. Stay Gold has an extensive beer list and a backyard patio.

Sweet Bar Bakery
2355 Broadway
(510) 788-4997
https://sweetbar.squarespace.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Sweet Bar recently celebrated 15 years in Uptown! Their lunch and breakfast sandwiches are served on freshly baked bread and bagels and are almost as good as their pastries. Almost.

Tarts de Feybesse
324 24th Street
(415) 350-8918
https://www.tartsdefeybesse.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

One of Oakland's newest bakeries, Tartes de Feybesse was honored as a James Beard semifinalist in pastry in 2025. French technique meets Filipino flavor with precise technique and delectable imagination.

Terra Mia Coffee
2001 Broadway
(510) 986-0511
http://www.tierramiacoffee.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This beloved coffee shop and roaster is the only Bay Area location of a Southern Californian chain. Great spot for working or studying, with beans roasted by the company.

The Double Standard
2424 Telegraph Aveue
(510_ 879-7601
https://www.doublestandardbar.com/

The Double Standard bills itself as a “bar and patio.” That patio is wrapped around redwoods, providing an outdoors oasis in the middle of the Town. You're welcome to bring your own food to go with their cocktails, beer, and wine.

The New Parkway
474 24th Street
(510) 338-3228
https://www.thenewparkway.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Although the New Parkway is primarily a movie theater, its café is open to anyone when films are rolling. Your meal can be delivered to your seat in their eclectic theaters, or

simply dine at a table in the lobby or mezzanine if not staying for a show. Pizza, salads, burgers, and of course, popcorn, are available.

True Burger
146 Grand Aveue
(510) 208-5678
https://trueburgeroakland.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

With Angus beef ground onsite and garlic mayo, True Burger always delivers on flavor. The milkshakes with multiple mix-in possibilities and garlic fries are a bonus.

Two Pitchers Brewing (Lovely's)
2344 Webster Street
(510) 999-4939
https://www.twopitchers.com/oakland

This brewery specializes in radlers, which are fruit-heavy lagers. Food is available from Lovely's, a restaurant located on the brewery's patio. Lovely's serves up fancy burgers and dogs, hot chicken sandwiches, and fishwiches. The line to order gets long on the weekends, especially on a nice day when the patio beckons.

Viridian
2216 Broadway
https://www.viridianbar.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This highly praised craft cocktail bar and restaurant offers an inventive menu of Asian American fusion dishes, such as pork floss risotto and tomato tofu. The cocktail presentations are often as original as the drinks themselves. Be sure to sign up for seating on the virtual waitlist early—this favorite fills up fast.

Xolo Taqueria
1916 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 986-0151
https://xolotaqueria.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Xolo's is a late-night favorite on the weekends for fans of tacos and nightlife. The vampiro tacos and surf and turf burritos always hit the spot, no matter the time of day.

Lake Merritt

Lake Merritt is bordered by two avenues absolutely swimming in great dining options: Grand Avenue on the north side and Lakeshore Avenue to the southeast. They form the main arteries of the Grand Lake, Lakeshore, and Adam's Point neighborhoods that spill over just beyond the lake's boundary to the east. AC Transit busses running from City Center (22 for Lakeshore) and Uptown (12 for Grand) will save you the 3.5 miles it takes to loop the lake, but it sure makes for a beautiful walk if you're up for it.

Lake Merritt is home to a seven-acre collection of gardens (The Gardens at Lake Merritt), the 1926 Grand Lake Theater renowned for its owners' political messages on the signboard, the notable contemporary architecture of the Cathedral of Christ the Light, one of the country's oldest bird sanctuaries, and gondola cruises (Dolce Vita Gondola).

NERD ALERT: Fairyland is a treasured, small amusement park dedicated to storytelling on the northwestern edge of Lake Merritt. One of Walt Disney's inspirations for Disneyland, the park opened in 1950, and its train, fairytale sets, pony rides, and carousel have been enchanting young readers ever since. You can't miss the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe—her giant footwear marks Fairyland's entrance.

Mama's Meatballs at Mama Oakland

Abba's Hummus Bar
3419 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 839-0177
https://www.oaklandkosherfoods.com/abbas-hummus

Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

The newly remodeled Abbas Hummas Bar offers a variety of hummus bowls with vegan or meat-based proteins and New York deli-style sandwiches. Kosher meats, goods, and many sides are also available to go.

Arizmendi
3265 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 268-8849
https://www.myarizmendiorder.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Follow your nose, and it'll lead you to the fast-moving line full of patrons ordering Arizmendi's signature sourdough pizza by the slice or pie. A worker-owned cooperative, Arizmendi is also known for tasty baked goods like corn cherry scones, morning buns, and several varieties of bread that locals can't live without.

Bake Sum
3249 Grand Avenue
(415) 506-9298
https://www.bakesum.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Recently voted Best East Bay Bakery, Bake Sum makes delicious baked goods celebrating Asian flavors in pastry form. The Bake Sum Box is a smart way to taste a collection of their best goods, from red bean milk buns to black sesame kumquat croissants and okonomiyaki danishes.

Bardo Lounge & Supper Club
3343 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 836-8737
https://www.bardooakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Inspired by mid-century dinner parties, Bardo offers a modern lounge feel with a full-sized menu. This Michelin-recommended spot specializes in fancy cocktails and bright, seasonal fare.

Café Romanat
462 Santa Clara Avenue
(510) 444-1800
https://www.cafe-romanat.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Tucked away in a nook right across from the Grand Lake Theater, Café Romanat is easy to overlook. But their Ethiopian food and coffee ceremony will leave an impression you can't forget.

Clio's Books
353 Grand Avenue
https://www.cliosbooks.com/

Have you ever thought, "I would love to browse a bookstore with a Boulevardier in hand?" Clio's Books is here for you! This combo bar and bookstore is full of cozy nooks for reading or conversations. They run a literary event in their secret chamber nearly evening.

Colonial Donuts
3318 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 893-2503
https://www.facebook.com/colonialdonuts/

When one thinks "donuts" in Oakland, the 24-hour Colonial Donuts is the first shop to pop in mind. They specialize in classic cake and yeast donuts, glazes, and sprinkles, but the adventurous eater can usually find ube crumb, maple bacon, or their newest offering: mochi donuts.

Crazy Block Cheesecakes
3355 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 610-2093
https://www.crazyblockcheesecakes.com/

Don't be misled by their name, Crazy Block Cheesecake offers some of the best barbecue in Oakland! Curveball: They also serve latkes! Of course, you won't make it

out the door without a Henny praline cheesecake slice, unless you'd prefer the strawberry or original NYC style.

Dumpling Hours
3331 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 891-9888
https://www.facebook.com/p/Dumpling-hours-Oakland-61553500775977/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Dumpling Hours' hand-rolled dumplings are available steamed, boiled, or pan-fried. Get your xiao long bao fix full of beef, crab, pork, chicken, luffa gourd, or more along with stir-fried noodles and other dim sum favorites.

Grand Lake Kitchen
576 Grand Avenue
(510) 922-9582
https://www.grandlakekitchen.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Grand Lake Kitchen is a full-service restaurant and Jewish deli counter combo. They are most known for their brunches, but ordering sandwiches and sides to go for a picnic at the lake is an excellent idea.

Mama Oakland
388 Grand Avenue
(510) 974-6372
https://mama-oakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

In its lively space, Mama Oakland offers an amazing, 3-course Italian prix fixe menu for $45 per person. The menu changes regularly, but Mama's Beef & Pork Meatballs are always available as an add-on to the meal.

Noori Chicken
366 Grand Avenue, Suite A
(510) 350-8085

https://noorichicken.com/

This fast casual Korean fried chicken chain began in Virginia and has expanded to the Midwest and Oakland in recent years. Seven different sauces and coatings are available—report back, if you try the magic sprinkle! Korean BBQ, bibimbap, kimbop, and corn cheese are also on the menu.

MeloMelo Kava Bar
3264 Grand Avenue
(510) 560-5511
https://melomelokavabar.com/

MeloMelo is a small chain that celebrates the kava-drinking culture native to the South Pacific. They make their own kava tinctures and combine them with fruit juices, spices, teas, and sipping chocolates served in coconut shells. Ready to relax? Head here.

Obelisco Restaurant
3407 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 817-4640
https://www.obeliscorestaurant.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

A longtime favorite for their Mexican home cooking, Obelisco has found new life in their Lakeshore location. Brunch, including machaca guisada, is a specialty here.

Portal
1611 2nd Avenue
(510) 663-7678
https://portaloakland.com/#
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

It's easy to walk by Portal's front entrace without realizing they have a lake view from their inviting patio. Enjoy their casual, all-day relaxed vibes and their celebrated garbage bread: a stuffed, stromboli-like shareable for the whole table.

Rico Rico
3205 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 922-8262

https://www.ricoricotaco.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Tacos are the speciality at Rico Rico, with nine fillings available. Maybe opt for the juicy, fruity al pastor or the tangy nopales with onion and cheese. Burritos and classic Mexican plates are available, but do yourself a favor: Order a trio of tacos and learn what your favorite is.

Sirene
3308 Grand Avenue
(510) 200-8750
https://sirene-oak.com/
Reservations Recommended

Seafood and fried chicken are the winning combination at Sirene, the second restaurant from its James Beard Award-nominated owners. Oysters and veggie-centric sides are especially well-reviewed, along with the plethora of fried chicken sauces.

The Alley
3325 Grand Avenue
(510) 444-8505
https://www.thealleyoakland.com/

This longrunning piano bar and restaurant has been serving up live tunes and an affordable menu of classic steak, sandwiches, and salads since 1934. The interior is papered with business cards and lingering last notes from the Great American Songbook.

The Cat House
3255 Lakeshore Avenue
(510) 879-6512
https://thecathousebar.com/

The Cat House bar offers a lovely retreat from Lakeshore's main drag with art nouveau-inspired interiors, a small hidden nook out back, and of course, feline tributes sprinkled throughout its décor. Their excellent house cocktail list is worth a round.

Vegan Donut Gelato

411 E 18th Street
(510) 839-8748
https://vegan-bistro-oakland.square.site/?location=LHM8Q81YNDJ60
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

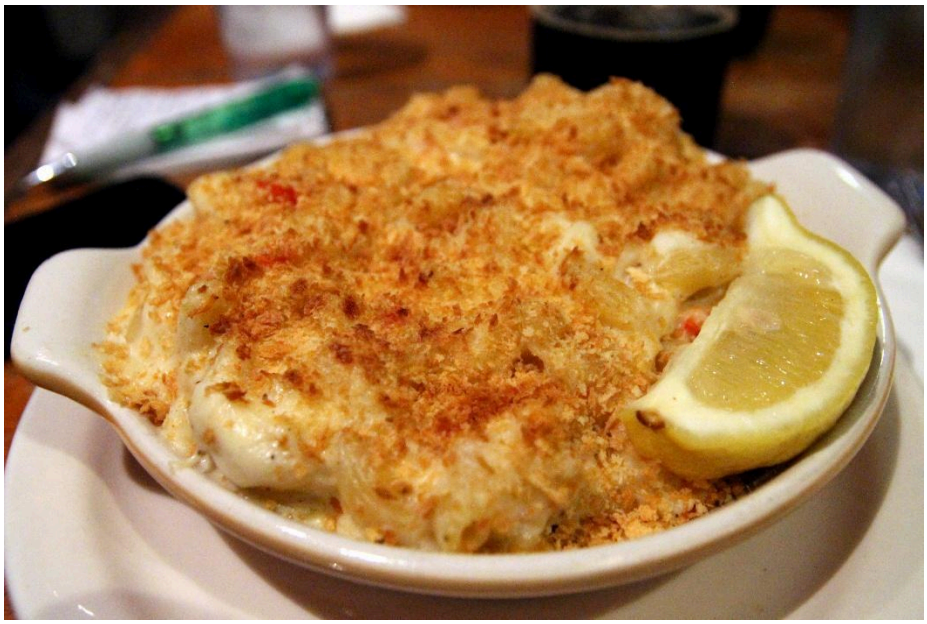
This café is located a few blocks from the lake, but it's worth the diversion, especially for vegan diners. In addition to cake and specialty donuts, they offer vegan banh mi and spring rolls.

Temescal

In the early 2000s, the Temescal neighborhood was one of Oakland's first to draw national attention. The many restaurants that its Ethiopian, Eritrean, Korean, and Hispanic communities have founded form the backbone of Temescal's culinary offerings today. Renowned chef-driven restaurants, breweries, wine bars, and legendary dive bars line the main drag of Telegraph Avenue.

Temescal's farmer's market dates back to 2006, and Temescal Alley took shape in the early 2010s. It's a small pedestrian mall that retains its hipster vibe from when its shops first opened in remodeled horse stables and carriage houses.

Temescal is easily accessible by hopping BART up two stops from the City Centre to the MacArthur Station. Several notable restaurants have popped up within a few blocks of the station, but Temescal's treasures can mostly be found along the 1.5 mile stretch of Telegraph Avenue that eventually runs into Berkeley on its northern end.



Crab Mac & Cheese at Homeroom

Alem's Coffee
5353 Claremont Avenue
(510) 655-6003
https://alemscoffee.wixsite.com/site
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

East African breakfast and lunch options are the focus at Alem's, along with coffee and conversation. Meat, egg, and vegetarian stews, scrambles, and sandwiches are often flavored with their berbere spice blend and served with injera bread.

Arthur Mac's Tap and Snack
4006 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
(510) 823-2509
https://www.arthurmacs.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

With a restaurant housed in a former shipping container and a large enclosed patio, Arthur Mac's is a great place to hang with friends just around the corner from the MacArthur BART station. They specialize in beer, crispy pizza, and wings. Arthur Mac's is moving locations soon, but should still be open during World Fantasy.

NERD ALERT: Also just around the corner from the MacArthur BART station is the oldest bookstore in the United States that specializes in African American fiction, culture, and historical works. **Marcus Books's** Oakland shop is well worth a visit at 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Asmara Restaurant
5020 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 547-5100
https://asmararestaurantoakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

One of Temescal's oldest Ethiopian and Eritrean restaurants, Asmara offers lunch and dinner. The vegetarian and meat-combo options are popular, and don't forget the honey wine! Gluten-free injera is available.

Bakesale Betty
5098 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 985-1213
https://www.bakesalebetty.us/

Get in line early for Bakesale Betty's fried chicken sandwiches, a trailblazer of the current chicken sandwich craze. The uniquely spicy coleslaw compliments the

sandwiches, and so does the strawberry shortcake. Once they're gone for the day, they are GONE!

Bird & Buffalo
4659 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 338-3536
https://birdandbuffalo.net/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

This cozy restaurant with picnic tables and a relaxed vibe recently received a mention in the Michelin Guide for their Thai comfort food. Share the grilled pork cheeks, catfish larb, and a cooling Somtum salad with friends, and pick your spice level with caution.

Burdell
4640 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 239-9287
https://www.burdelloakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Food & Wine Magazine's 2024 Best Restaurant in the nation, Burdell celebrates soul food through sourcing the finest ingredients and using refined techniques to highlight what makes us all love fried chicken, potato salad, and cornbread so much. Their sublime take on boiled peanuts has surprised many a suspicious diner.

Burma Superstar
4721 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 652-2900
https://www.burmasuperstar.co/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Burma Superstar popularized the crunch of tea leaf salads, buttery glide of partha bread, and a whole menu of Burmese recipes in the Bay Area. The lines have gone down only a little over their 20 years in business.

Café Eritrea D'Afrique

4069 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 547-4520
https://cafeeritreadafrique.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Since 1986, Café Eritrea D'Afrique has been celebrating its "Queen of Sheba" cuisine by using spices and herbs that date back thousands of years in Eritrean history. The raw or rare kitfo steak sandwich on their appetizer menu is, indeed, a rare find.

Cholita Linda
4923 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 369-1851
https://www.cholitalinda.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Cholita Linda is a local chain that makes everything from scratch, including the aqua frescas and tortillas. Their Peruvian tacos, sandwiches, and plates always make for a filling and vibrant meal.

Co Nam
3936 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 891-1232
https://www.conamrestaurants.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Vietnamese fine dining is the focus at Co Nam. The menu is inventive, from the drinks to the dinner plates, with artistic flourish and fine flavors. Want to try a dry gin cocktail with citrus and cucumber-infused air? It's on their drink list! Chef's bar and table experiences are available.

Curbside Creamery
482 49th Street
(510) 250-9804
https://www.curbsideoakland.com/
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Curbside Creamery marks the entrance to Temescal Alley, and its one of this artisan alley's oldest tenants. Dairy, coconut, and cashew-based ice creams are available along with soft serve and ice cream sandwiches.

Daytrip Counter
4316 Telegraph Avenue
https://www.daytripcounter.com/menu
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Daytrip Counter specializes in wallet- and appetite-friendly rotisserie chicken. It's available by the half or whole with a salad or sides like ceasar fries and sesame cauliflower. Eat at their friendly counter or take home.

Homeroom
400 40th Street
(510) 597-0400
https://www.homeroom510.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Homeroom is Oakland's purveror of gourmet macaroni and cheese. You read that right; the whole restaurant is dedicated to serving up 10+ varieties of everyone's favorite dish. Crushed potato chips, beef short rib, and Gilroy gartlic are just a few of the plentiful topping options. A dedicated to-go kitchen is located down the block.

Mariposa Baking Company
5427 Telegraph Avenue, Unit D3
(510) 595-0955
https://www.mariposabaking.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Mariposa specializes in gluten-free baked goods and sandwiches, including fully vegan offerings. Cakes, cookies, scones, croutons, bread loaves—treats so tasty, you'll never miss the wheat.

North Light
4915 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 891-1113

https://northlight.bar/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

North Light is a wine bar with books and records. Or is it a record store with books and wine? Oh wait, they have a full cocktail list and menu too! And plenty of sunshine on their back patio, if you can make it past all the books and records.

OK's Deli
3932 Telegraph Avenue
https://oksdeli.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Ok's Deli offers a classic deli menu with combinations like hot coppa and mozzerella or salami and provolone. But their Asian-inspired sandwiches, like the curry and kabocha falafel or the sisig bolillo, will take your deli-sandwich thinking to a new continent.

Pizzaiolo
5008 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 652-4888
https://www.pizzaiolooakland.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

The wood-fired pizzas, sumptious pastas, and veg-forward appetizers have made Pizzaiolo worth the long wait for over two decades. Rustic décor lines the restaurant inside and out. For a hearty breakfast, try the amaranth porridges and farro bowls.

Pyeongchang Tofu House
4701 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 658-9040
https://pctofu.com/en-US
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Tofu soups are the specialty at Pyeongchang Tofu House, but don't let that dissuade you from trying their bibimbap or Korean BBQ. The kimchi pancake has also been celebrated in the *New York Times*.

Tallboy

4210 Telegraph Avenue
(919) 627-8464
https://www.tallboy.bar/
Dietary Options: Vegan, Vegetarian

Tallboy is the evolution of 90s cocktail culture into the hip martini bar of today. Pair their martini shots and adult slushies with inventive vegan hot dogs for a whimsical evening at their horseshoe bar.

Temescal Brewing
4115 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 306-2727
https://www.temescalbrewing.com/

Temescal Brewing offers a cozy beer garden and plenty of taps to keep the party going. Food trucks rotate every evening, and large tables can be reserved.

Wise Sons Jewish Deli
3838 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 692-4492
https://www.wisesonsdeli.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

From the matzo ball soup to pastrami and mustard on rye, Wise Sons delivers Jewish comfort food and the bagels and lox to go with them. Some argue that it isn't the same as a deli shop in NYC, but their variety of cream cheese options and fun takes on classic breakfast foods like the "latke smash hash" make Wise Sons a destination all its own.

Rockridge

Rockridge sprang up on Oakland's outer limits in the early 1900s, part of the rebuilding efforts after the 1906 earthquake. The garden-filled neighborhood spans several walkable blocks of shopping, food, and drink along College Avenue. The Rockridge BART station sits in the middle of this stretch, which runs to Berkeley's Elmwood district to the north and Broadway Avenue to the south.

Dreyer's Ice Cream was founded in Rockridge in 1928, and their headquarters remain there today. Dreyer's is rumored to have invented Rocky Road ice cream, though another Oakland institution, Fenton's Ice Creamery, also claims this credit. Though Dreyer's no longer has a retail shop, plenty of other ice cream shops line the avenue, and chocolate shops, too! It's a sweet neighborhood to visit.

Tornado Galbi Omurice at Kitchen Story

A16
5356 College Avenue
(510) 768-8003
https://www.a16pizza.com/oakland
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

A16 cooks wood-fired pizzas in the Vera Pizza Napoletana tradition. Order a few savory appetizers, pastas, and side dishes to go with them.

Ain't Normal Café
5701 College Avenue
https://www.aintnormalcafe.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Geeking out over coffee is the baseline at Ain't Normal Café, and they serve wine, too! Seating is limited inside, but the outdoor patio is close by. Their pre-made sandwiches also have devoted fans.

Bad Walter's Bootleg Ice Cream
5800 College Avenue
https://www.badwalters.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Bad Walter's built a cult following during the pandemic for their extravagant ice cream concoctions. The cult and the concoctions have only grown wilder since they opened their storefront. Bad Walter's uses lactose-free dairy for all the base custards, and also makes sorbets.

Belly
5634 College Avenue
(510) 350-8799
https://www.bellyrestaurants.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Most of Belly's menu is a mix of Korean and Mexican cooking styles and ingredients. Their formidable burritos are filled with toppings such as Korean fried chicken, sambal aioli, fries, and pickled cucumbers.

Belotti Ristorante e Bottega
5402 College Avenue
(510) 788-7890
https://belottirb.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Always packed, Belotti takes pasta-making seriously. Its Michelin-trained chef, Michele Belotti, brings his homeland's signature simplicity and quality to Oakland. The secondi meat preparations are also great, but be sure to share a pasta course with your companions.

Ben & Nick's
5612 College Avenue
(510) 923-0327
https://benandnicks.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Next year will be the 40th anniversary for this longtime locals pub! Their nachos, chicken wings, and sandwiches are the stuff hangover dreams are made of.

Boichik Bagels
3170 College Avenue
(510) 858-5189
https://boichikbagels.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

Boichik Bagels was born of one woman's dream to re-create her favorite bagels from back home in NYC. Most transplanted New Yorkers agree that she achieved it, while smearing fresh lox, cream cheese, or whitefish salad on their favorite.

Cole Coffee
6255 College Avenue
(510) 653-5453
https://www.colecoffee.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

A Rockridge institution, Cole's Coffee overflows onto the sidewalk with happy neighbors socializing, weekday or weekend. In addition to all your coffee favorites, they offer affordably priced single origin and fair trade beans, breakfast toasts, and a killer egg salad sandwich.

Enssaro
5897 College Avenue

https://www.enssarooakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

After many years in the Adams Point neighborhood, this celebrated Ethiopian restaurant has reopened in a new location in Rockridge! The restaurant now has a patio, is beautifully decorated, and most importantly, still serves the same amazing combos and soft, fresh injera.

Kitchen Story
5422 College Avenue
(510) 922-9443
https://www.kitchenstoryca.com/east-bay-location
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Kitchen Story specializes in brunch every day of the week! Delicious cocktails complement their fusion of Californian and Asian breakfast extravagances, like their sweet and spicy Millionaire's Bacon Candy and Korean fried chicken and waffles.

La Farine Boulangerie Patisserie
6323 College Avenue
(510) 654-0338
http://www.lafarine.com/about.html
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

For those in the know, La Farine is one of the best kept bakery secrets in the Bay Area. They've consistently rolled out soft, fluffy bread and satisfying tarts, cakes, cookies, and pastries since 1974.

Leonidas Love + Chocolate
6309 College Avenue
(510) 380-3396
https://loveandchocolateshop.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

2025's Best East Bay Chocolate Shop specializes in European sweets, and particularly in the Belgian Leonidas chocolate brand. But patrons looking for fruit jellies, marzipan,

shortbreads, petit fours, and chocolate-covered almonds will also be pleased with their selections.

Marica
5301 College Avenue
(510) 985-8388
https://www.maricaoakland.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Gluten Free

Seafood is the focus at Marica, with many global influences evident in their coastal cuisine. If the twice-cooked lobster is on the menu, get it. Dessert features classics, like their signature chocolate souffle.

Market Hall
5655 College Avenue
(510) 250-6000
https://rockridgemarkethall.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

A cornerstone of Rockridge, the Market Hall vends upscale produce, cheese, seafood, meat, wines, flowers, and imported and baked goods. You'll find something you've been craving here.

Pucquio
5337 College Avenue
(510) 658-7378
https://www.pucquio.com/
Reservations Recommended

A warm restaurant panelled in cherry wood welcomes diners to enjoy Pucquio’s contemporary Peruvian cuisine. Cebiches are a specialty, as is their chicha morada, a purple corn punch.

Ramen Shop
5812 College Avenue
(510) 285-7250
https://www.ramenshop.com/

Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Ramen Shop was one of the first Bay Area restaurants to elevate ramen into the gourmet choice that it is today. A rotating selection of small plates offers great companions for the starring soup.

Redfield Cider Bar
5815 College Avenue
(510) 250-9058
https://www.redfieldcider.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Cider and natural wine are what make this little bar and bottle shop shine—the food is just decoration. Fills up fast but feels quite cozy.

Rockridge Improvement Club
5515 College Avenue
(510) 708-5181
https://www.thericoakland.com/

This neighborhood bar offers trivia, drag shows, karaoke, and DJ'd setlists almost every night of the week. Basic cocktails and beer are only $3–$5 until 7:00 pm. Arcade game and air hockey enthusiasts will be happy.

Southie
6311 College Avenue
(510) 654-0100
https://www.southieoakland.com/
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Southie impresses its Rockridge clientale with fast service and daily updates to its craft sandwiches, salads, entrees, and crostini. The Balls, a tender meatball sandwich, is nearly always on the menu, and the dungeness crab roll is a must if in season. Southie is best for two-tops, though a group of three might claim counter space.

Tara's Organic Ice Cream
3173 College Avenue

(510) 655-5014
https://tarasicecream.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

For 20 years, Tara's has set itself apart from other Oakland ice creameries with its commitment to organic ingredients and the blending of fresh herbs, spices, and fruit into many of their inventive flavors. Don't miss the homemade ice cream sandwiches and popsicles, either! Vegan sorbets are also available.

The Chocolate Dragon Bittersweet Café and Bakery
5427 College Avenue
(510) 681-4456
https://www.chocolatedragoncafe.com/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Hot, rich, and velvety—however you like it, drinking chocolate is the star at the Dragon. In addition to their extensive drink and dessert menu, chocolate bars from many purveyors line the shelves.

Trader Joe's
5727 College Avenue
(510) 923-9428
https://locations.traderjoes.com/ca/oakland/231/
Dietary Options: Gluten Free, Vegan, Vegetarian

One of two TJ's in Oakland, this market is just half a block from the BART station, making it easy to stock up on and schlep your groceries back to your hotel room.

Wood Tavern
6317 College Avenue
(510) 654-6607
https://www.woodtavern.net/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

The first in the Woods' family of restaurants, Wood Tavern is a well-loved American brasserie with an Italian bent. Its charcuterie and tavern burger come highly

recommended. Expect reservations to be busy—this Oakland favorite is closing its doors at the end of the year so the owners can focus on new projects.

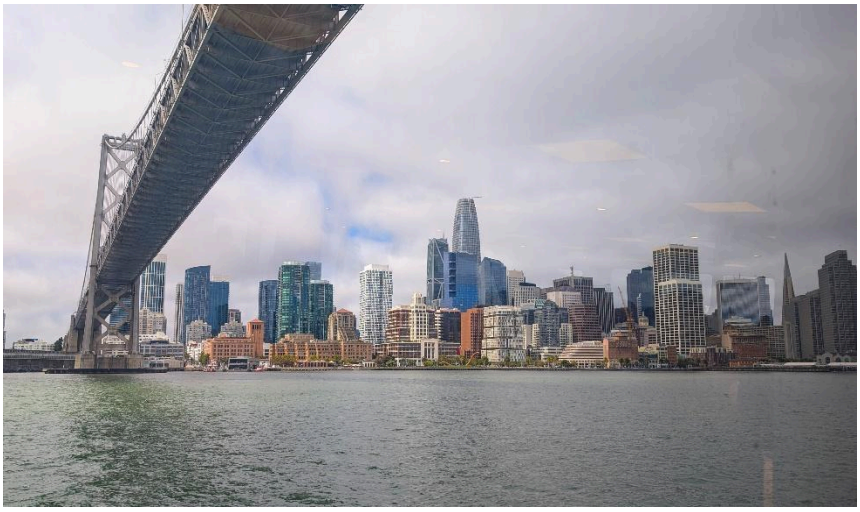
Zachary's Chicago Pizza
5801 College Avenue
(510) 655-6385
https://zacharys.com/
Reservations Recommended
Dietary Options: Vegetarian

Surprisingly few Bay Area pizza joints cook deep dish. That's probably because they know they can't challenge Zachary's pies. This alway-packed neighborhood hangout is full of folks ready to chow down on a messy mass of deliciousness. Over 200 Best Pizza awards and counting...

Farther Afield

We hope you've enjoyed visiting the galaxy of amazing eateries, bars, bakeries, and cafes covered in this food and dining guide! If you'd like to venture out a little farther from the convention center during your stay, we have a few more suggestions for you!

Though the independent city of Piedmont borders **Piedmont Avenue,** this dining-heavy strip is, in fact, part of Oakland. Piedmont Avenue will take you from the hunting cabin vibes of the newly reopened The Lodge all the way up to the tiki bar oasis of the Kona Club. Highlights include Michelin-starred Commis, the vegan bakery and café Timeless Coffee, the legendary Fenton's Ice Creamery (Check out the new Alysa's Gold flavor!), and the endless upstairs patio of Mexican favorite Doña. Also worth noting: the historic and well-loved Mountain View Cemetery provides docent-led tours as least twice a month.



Headed toward the Ferry Building on the commuter ferry.

Just a short block away from the Embarcadero BART station is San Francisco's iconic 1898 **Ferry Building**, designed in the Beaux Art style. A ferry runs straight to it from Jack London Square, which affords amazing views of Fog City on the way. The Ferry Building's first floor is an upscale food hall overflowing with quality. Outposts of several of the Bay Area's most celebrated food purveyors are there: Hog Island Oyster Co., Blue Bottle Coffee, Dandelion Chocolate, Humphry Slocombe, Señor Sisig, and Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, to name a few. Give yourself time to explore and feast at several stands.

Oakland's **Fruitvale** neighborhood is most known for its Mexican American culture and copious eateries full of great tamales, tacos, paletas, and more. Mi Grullense, Taqueria el Farolito, and Nieves Cinco de Mayo are notable options. And Wahpapeh's Kitchen is

a James Beard-nominated eatery in Fruitvale Village that celebrates and draws from the native foods of multiple indigenous American cuisines.

Wild Sausage Plate at Brotzeit Lokal

In the newly developed **Brookyln Basin** neighborhood, Brotzeit Lokal has stood since before the high-rises. This German-style beer garden and restaurant is right at the Oakland marina, and bay-faring patrons can take advantage of a free berth. Watch the boats float by while enjoying your bratwurst and Bockbier. The restaurant and parking are located at the far end of the Homewood Suites parking lot.

One of our newest food halls, Prescott Market, is located in **West Oakland**. Prescott Market houses a brewery, coffee shop, burger joint, pizzeria, fried rice shop, farmers' market, and the newest branch of F.O.B. Kitchen, a trendy Filipino fusion restaurant. Locals have been filling up the outdoor benches and tables every weekend, and the sandbox is a hotspot for our youngest citizens.

Enjoy your time feasting in Oakland!

Dining Guide Volunteer: Rebecca Gomez Farrell has written about and photographed food and drink for over 20 years for her blog, TheGourmez.com. Her *Wings Rising* epic fantasy duology is published by Meerkat Press. Becca's shorter speculative fiction works have appeared over thirty times in outlets such as *Beneath Ceaseless Skies, PULP Literature,* and *A Quiet Afternoon 1 & 2.*