

Lizette's Guide to Good Eats and Good Times in the Rubber City

Akron is the fifth largest city in Ohio and a quintessential, working class Midwestern city. At one time, the city of Akron was known as the [Rubber Capital of the World](#). It is home to the [All-American Soap Box Derby](#) and the birthplace of [Alcoholics Anonymous](#), [LeBron James](#), and [The Black Keys](#). Sojourner Truth gave her famous "[Ain't I a Woman](#)" speech in Akron in 1851.

Akron has a variety of coffee, dining, and boozing options within walking distance (or a quick car ride) of the conference location. Listed below are some of my favorites and nearly all are within 1 ½ miles (2.4 km) of the conference location. You can also check the [Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) website for additional information.

COFFEE

[Akron Coffee Roasters](#)

Akron Coffee Roasters is my personal favorite. Their coffee is superb. They roast their beans in house and you can get pour over or drip. They also do classic espresso drinks. Food is limited mostly to toasts, but on Fridays they get a delivery from [Summit Croissants](#) and those are delicious.

Hours: Monday-Friday 7am-3pm & Saturday 8am-4pm (Closed Sunday)

Location: 30 N High St., Akron, OH, 44308

[Compass Coffee](#)

Compass coffee is a large space (the lower floor of an old church!) and it's open late so it is a GREAT meeting spot. They're part of the [Well CDC](#), which is a non-profit dedicated to three initiatives –Restoring Housing, Creating Economy, and Supporting Place in the Middlebury Neighborhood. Compass Coffee's profits partially fund the Well CDC's housing initiatives. The coffee is great and it's all for a really good cause.

Hours: Monday-Friday 6am-10pm & Saturday-Sunday 7am-10pm

Location: 647 E Market St, Akron, OH 44304

[Angel Falls Downtown](#)

Angel Falls' main location is in west Akron in the Highland Square neighborhood, but they also have a small shop downtown in the First Energy Building. They serve coffee, espresso, a selection of baked goods, and prepared salads and sandwiches. The main location at 792 W Market St. is larger and more vibrant with plenty of seating and a larger menu.

Hours: Monday-Friday 5:30am-4pm (Closed Saturday and Sunday)

Location: 76 S Main St., Suite 165, Akron, OH 44308

[Sure House Coffee](#)

Sure House Coffee's main location is in Wooster, OH but they have a small shop inside the [Northside Marketplace](#) right next to the Courtyard by Marriot Downtown. You can get coffee and espresso and they bring in pastries from their main location in Wooster.

Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30am-8 pm; Friday-Saturday 7:30am-10 pm (Closed Sunday)

Location: 21 Furnace St, Akron, OH 44308

[Starbucks and Einstein's Bagels](#)

Both are available on campus but we all know they're just mediocre and you can get it anywhere. If you want good coffee and time permits, take a nice walk and get out and support an independent Akron coffee shop. If you're in a rush and you just want something quickly, the closest Starbucks locations are in [Bierce Library](#) and the [UA Student Union](#).

DINING – ON CAMPUS

[Robertson's Dining Hall aka Rob's](#)

You've all experienced a university dining hall. That being said, it's not too bad and it's right next door to the dorms. It's a nice, big space that will allow all of us Cheironians to enjoy college dining hall food together!

[The University of Akron Student Union](#)

The Student Union offers limited options during the summer months and many of the restaurants and shops will be closed entirely. Dining Services tells us that Starbucks, Chik-Fil-A, and Qdoba will be the only restaurants open over the summer and their hours will be limited. Your best bet for lunch is the dining hall with your fellow Cheironians or a short walk to a downtown restaurant.

GOOD EATS – OFF CAMPUS

[BLU Plate](#)

BLU Plate is the southern-style restaurant at [BLU Jazz+](#), a live music venue and photography gallery. They have a great bar and a 5pm-7pm happy hour Monday-Friday. It's also a good spot for live music.

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 5pm-11pm (kitchen closes at 10 but the club and bar are open until 1am)

Location: 45 E. Market St., Akron, OH 44308

[Bricco](#)

Bricco has an eclectic menu and a great bar. It's a large space so it is a good spot for groups.

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11am - 11pm; Sunday 10am-11pm

Location: 1 West Exchange St., Akron, OH 44308

[CHILL Ice Cream](#)

CHILL is one of my favorite places! They have over 30 flavors of homemade ice creams and sorbets including numerous vegan options.

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday noon-9pm; Friday-Saturday noon-10pm; and Sunday 1pm-7pm

Location: 21 Maiden Lane, Akron, OH 44308

[Cilantro](#)

Cilantro offers Thai, sushi, and Japanese cuisine. They have a really large menu so it is a good spot for a large group.

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am - 2:30pm and 5pm - 9:30pm; Friday 11am - 2:30pm and 5pm - 11pm; Saturday 4:30pm - 11pm; and Sunday 4:30pm-9pm

Location: 326 S Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[Crave](#)

Crave is a bit more upscale and markets itself as having American cuisine with global influences. It has a great bar and a good happy hour from 4-7pm Monday-Friday. The menu is pretty varied and would be a good spot for group dining.

Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-10pm; Friday 11am-11pm; Saturday 5pm-11pm (Bar is open until 1am)

Location: 57 E Market St, Akron, OH 44308

[DBA](#)

DBA is a modern Italian restaurant with a really fantastic bar and one of the best patios in Akron. Try their Green Spaghetti – delicious. They also have a great “Late Night” menu available at their bar. This is in the Northside and right next door to the Courtyard by Marriot Downtown so it’s the perfect spot for folks to hang out if they’re staying at the hotel. Their happy hour is 4:30-6:30pm AND 9:30-11:00pm Monday-Friday.

Hours: Monday-Thursday 4:30pm-11pm; Friday-Saturday 4:30pm-1am

Location: 21 Furnace St., Akron, OH 44308

[Diamond Deli](#)

The Diamond Deli is a family-run classic deli with big sandwiches and great soup. It’s no frills and awesome.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-8pm & Saturday 11am-7pm

Location: 378 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[El Gato Taqueria](#)

This joint is one of my favorites – simple street tacos and cold beer.

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-11pm

Location: 209 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[The Lockview](#)

Lockview is a casual spot with grilled cheese sandwiches and a great beer list. They also have salads and soups. It’s a great spot for lunch, dinner, or late night eats and they open their rooftop patio in the evenings.

Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-2am and Saturday 12pm-2am

Location: 207 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[Luigi's](#)

Luigi's is an Akron institution. They serve Italian food with what some would consider way too much cheese. They're open late and just about every single UA graduate I know, myself included, has passed out in a booth at Luigi's after a late night at [Thursday's](#).

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-12am; Friday 11am-2am; Saturday 5pm-2am; Sunday 4pm-2am

Location: 105 N. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[Nuevo Modern Mexican & Tequila Bar](#)

Nuevo is an upscale modern Mexican joint. They have a killer tequila selection and a really great bar. Their happy hour is Monday-Friday from 4pm-6pm. They have the best outdoor spot in Akron – a rooftop bar with a great view and a full menu. If it's a warm Akron night, this is the best spot for a drink with a fellow Cheironian. In fact, it's just a few blocks from the CCHP so go have a margarita after Friday night at the museum!

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-10pm; Friday 11am-11pm; Saturday 3pm-1am

Location: 54 East Mill St., Akron 44308

[The Peanut Shoppe](#)

The Peanut Shoppe is one of Akron's oldest businesses. They have a huge variety of candies and nuts and it's the best spot in the city for a sweet or salty snack.

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm; Friday 9am-10pm; and Saturday 9am-5pm

Location: 203 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[Pots & Pans](#)

Pots & Pans is a casual Jamaican restaurant. They're open late and they deliver. Their menu is rather meat-heavy so maybe not the best choice for the vegetarian Cheironian.

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-9pm; Friday 11am-10pm; Saturdays 2pm-10pm; Sunday 2pm-8pm

Location: 325 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[Sweet Mary's Bakery](#)

Cookies, pies, cakes, quiche, cinnamon rolls, and scones all made daily from scratch. And of course there is coffee.

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm; Saturday 8am-2pm

Location: 76 E. Mill St., Akron, OH 44308

BEER, WINE, AND SPIRITS

Akronites love good beer and there are three breweries near downtown: [Akronym Brewing](#) (hopefully open by June), [Aqueduct Brewing](#), and [Thirsty Dog Brewing](#). If you have a car and some time you could also check out the [Summit Brew Path](#) which includes 18 participating craft breweries in and around Akron.

Many of the restaurants above have great bars and happy hour specials. Other good drinking spots downtown include: [Baxter's](#), [High Street Hop House](#), [Jilly's Music Room](#), [Northside Speakeasy](#), and [Uncorked Wine Bar](#).

EXPLORING & SHOPPING

[The Akron Art Museum](#)

Cheiron's opening reception will be at the Art Museum and Thursday nights are free so Cheironians can check out the galleries at no charge. Beer & wine, hors d'oeuvres, and art work with all of your old (and new) Cheiron friends!

[Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#)

The CVNP is a treasure – 32,572 acres of bird watching, trails for hiking, biking, and running, canoeing and kayaking, and more. There is even a [concert series](#). And total bonus – [the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad](#) has a stop downtown, just behind the Courtyard by Marriot Downtown. The train makes multiple stops throughout the park and would be a wonderful day trip. Ride the train into [Peninsula](#), rent a bike from [Century Cycles](#), and do the [Bike & Ride](#) for just \$5.

[Historic Homes](#)

There are several historic homes in Akron that are worth a tour. The [Hower House](#) is on the UA campus and just a few blocks from the conference location. Other historic homes nearby include [Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens](#) (built by F.A. Seiberling, the founder of Goodyear Tire & Rubber), the [Perkins Stone Mansion](#), the [John Brown House](#), and [Dr. Bob's House & Museum](#) (Dr. Bob Smith was the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous).

[Lock3](#)

Lock 3 is a large, outdoor park downtown that hosts concerts, festivals, and other community events all summer long.

Location: 200 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44308

[Nightlight Cinema](#)

The Nightlight is a small, independent, non-profit movie theater with the mission of advancing cinema and community in tandem. They have a full bar, cozy seating, and their schedule typically includes two or three films.

Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30pm-11pm

Location: 30 N High St, Akron, OH 44308

[Northside Marketplace](#)

The Northside Marketplace has a lot going on. There are retail shops, a bar, some eats, and a Thailand inspired rolled street ice cream shop. [Rubber City Clothing](#) has a spot inside Northside that you should definitely check out if you're looking for some Akron-centric gear or souvenirs. And be sure to check out the [Akron Honey Company](#) too.

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-9pm; Friday-Saturday 9am-10pm; Sunday 10am-6pm

Location: 21 Furnace St, Akron, OH 44308