

# SHA Detroit | Food, Drink & Entertainment Guide



Detroit is a city of many distinct neighborhoods. The Ren Cen (conference venue) is located in **Downtown** Detroit. Nearby the hotel are many restaurants, coffee shops and sports/music venues that typically cater to businesspeople, locals, and out of towners.

For a more local flavor of Detroit, venture into nearby neighborhoods of Midtown, Corktown, Mexicantown, the North End, Eastern Market, Brush Park, and East English Village. All of these neighborhoods are safe and accessible via ride shares or public transit.

Detroit has a reputation for being dangerous, but the areas listed above are not. There is little to be concerned about if you are alert to the risks any city poses. Be aware of your surroundings, don't leave property unattended, and don't walk alone at night. Detroiters are friendly & very proud of their city; they will be happy to assist with directions, etc if you ask for help. **For emergencies, dial 911.**

## Getting Around

Detroit's streets are organized along 5 main roads that extend radially (and confusingly) from Campus Martius & Woodward Ave. Woodward Ave runs N-S through the center of the city and is Detroit's main thoroughfare. Everything to the east of Woodward is referred to as the East Side, and to the west, West Side.

### **Walking**

The Riverfront Esplanade that runs along the Detroit River in front of the Ren Cen is a safe, pedestrian zone and path that connects the East Villages, Corktown, and the Dequindre Cut bike/walking path system. Good for walking & running.

Downtown and Midtown are pedestrian friendly, walkable neighborhoods. But Detroit is a very spread out city, so it's not possible to walk everywhere.

### **Public Transportation**

**People Mover** - The elevated monorail runs in a counter-clockwise direction around downtown. There is a stop inside the Ren Cen. Take the People Mover to the Grand Circus stop to connect to the Q Line. Cost: free

**Q-Line** - The streetcar that runs along Woodward Avenue from downtown to Midtown and the North End every 15 mins. The Congress St. station is a 10 min walk from the Ren Cen, or

## SHA Detroit | Food, Drink & Entertainment Guide

connect via the People Mover (see above). The Q-Line stops in the heart of the city's Midtown museum district. Cost: free

**Bus** - DDOT city buses run throughout the city for \$2 a trip. See the DDOT website for routes and schedules. Some routes are easy to manage, others can be quite unreliable.

**Rideshare** - Uber and Lyft are good options city-wide and offer the fastest and easiest ways of getting from one place to another.

## Where to Eat

Detroit has a thriving food scene, and many options beyond this list. Here we've listed a few favorites. See Eater Detroit for more info. On weekends, fancier sit down restaurants will require a reservation.

### Upscale Restaurants

by neighborhood → Reservations necessary

Downtown	Apparatus Room New American style food & cocktail bar in converted historic fire house
	Marrow James Beard nominated meat-forward restaurant
	London Chop House Glamorous 1930s-era underground steakhouse
Midtown	Bar Pigalle French food & cocktails
	Gray Ghost A foodie favorite, chop house w/ eclectic menu
	Selden Standard New American, shared plates, another foodie favorite
	Leña Spanish-inspired, wood-fired food
	Chartreuse Cozy, seasonal farm-to-table American fare & cocktails
Corktown	Alpino Alps-inspired cuisine

### Mid-Range Restaurants

by neighborhood → Reservations recommended

Downtown	Many options (see <i>Eater Detroit</i> )
	Detroit Vegan Soul
Midtown	La Feria Cosy Spanish tapas restaurant with excellent wine menu
Corktown / Mexicantown	Ottava Via Italian fare, good for larger groups (w/ reservation)

## SHA Detroit | Food, Drink & Entertainment Guide

	Ima Izakaya (also Midtown location) Japanese noodle and rice dishes, good for larger groups
	Mudgie's Deli Elevated deli selections, great for lunch
	Xochimilco A staple of Detroit's Mexicantown neighborhood, good for groups
	Mexican Village The other Mexicantown staple, good for groups
North End	Baobab Fare Award-winning African restaurant featuring cuisine from Burundi
University District	Kuzzo's Chicken & Waffles The city's best! Great for brunch too.

### Casual Restaurants

by neighborhood

Downtown	Bucharest Grill (2684 Jefferson & 436 W. Columbia) Popular local Middle Eastern chain, great for takeout & late night food
	Lafayette Coney Island One of 2 legendary hot dog diners
	American Coney Island The other legendary hot dog diner, next door to Lafayette Coney Island
Midtown	Detroit Shipping Company Indoor food court with many gourmet and ethnic food options, open late night too
Corktown	Green Dot Stables Gourmet, low-priced sliders and cocktails, also open late night
	Mercury Bar Vintage diner vibe meets excellent burgers, comfort food, and adult milkshakes
Hamtramck	Yemen Café The best Yemeni food outside of Yemen. Arrive hungry!
	Polish Village Café No frills basement restaurant with the best authentic Polish food
	Polonia Next door to Polish Village Café, pick your potato!
Dearborn	La Shish & Al-Ameer Two of the best Middle Eastern restaurants in Michigan. Worth the drive!

### Brunch

by neighborhood

Downtown	Dime Store Hudson Cafe Avalon Bakery
Midtown	Clique Effin Egg Joe Louis' Southern Kitchen

### Honest John's

#### Coffee Shops / Cafes

by neighborhood

Downtown	Roasting Plant Coffee SPKRBOX Café by day, bar by night; techno & house DJs spinning most of the time Cannelle French bakery and café
Midtown	Sous Terre Cozy basement coffee shop / cocktail bar nook Kresge Court, Detroit Institute of Arts Beautiful medieval-style courtyard café for food & drinks
Corktown	Astro Coffee Hip café in the heart of Corktown
North End	The Congregation Bustling coffee shop & café in converted church
Hamtramck	Café 1923 Old house turned coffee shop, never crowded Kitab Café Popular Yemeni coffee shop (other locations in Detroit too)

#### Bars, Breweries & Distilleries

by neighborhood

Downtown	Candy Bar Fancy cocktail bar in renovated hotel Vollmer's High-end cocktails Cliff Bell's The best jazz club & cocktails! 1930s Art Deco lover's paradise; live jazz most nights (usually has cover charge) Detroit City Distillery Craft cocktail bar in Eastern Market Atwater Brew Pub Local beer brewery 1.5 miles east of Ren Cen Jacoby's German Biergarten Reputable dive bar, walking distance from conference hotel Grand Trunk Pub Historic train ticket sales office turned pub, walkable from conference hotel Detroiter Bar Quintessential Detroit dive bar, walking distance from conference hotel DeMongo's Speakeasy Classic Detroit bar, walkable from People Mover stop & conference hotel Tommy's Bar & Grille Once home to the Little Harry speakeasy in its basement, cozy sports bar vibe
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## SHA Detroit | Food, Drink & Entertainment Guide

<b>Midtown</b>	Jolly Pumpkin Brewery Lots of local beer & pizza, good for large groups
	Motor City Beerworks Cozy spot with good pizza & beer
	Temple Bar Dive bar, good for late nights; LGBTQ+ nights
	The Lexington Craft cocktail bar
<b>Corktown</b>	UFO Bar Hole in the wall with great live music
	Corktown Taphouse Pour your own brew pub
	Motor City Wine Cozy wine bar
	Sugar House Craft cocktail bar in vintage lounge setting
	Two James Spirits Whiskey distillery and craft cocktails
<b>East Side</b>	Father Forgive Me Craft cocktails & gourmet food in converted church
	Cadieux Café Dive bar with excellent mussels. One of Anthony Bourdain's favorite stops. Try feather bowling here!
<b>Hamtramck</b>	Black Salt Craft cocktail bar with gothic vibe
	The Painted Lady Quirky local bar with vintage burlesque, speakeasy vibe

### Live Music Venues

by neighborhood

<b>Downtown</b>	Cliff Bells (jazz – cover charge) SPKRBOX (Techno/House DJs) St. Andrew's Hall / The Shelter (live music, all types) Bert's Warehouse (live blues / R&B music & karaoke on Sat) The Old Shillelagh (live pop music & dancing)
<b>Midtown</b>	Magic Stick (rock/bands) Marble Bar (electronic) Temple Bar (mixed)
<b>Corktown</b>	UFO Company (rock / electronic) Lager House (punk/metal/rock) TV Lounge (house/electronic)
<b>North End</b>	Northern Lights Lounge (mixed) Marble Bar (electronic)
<b>University District</b>	Baker's Keyboard Lounge (jazz)

## SHA Detroit | Food, Drink & Entertainment Guide

**Hamtramck** Small's (punk/rock/metal)

### Detroit Pizza

by neighborhood

**Downtown** Buddy's Pizza (Madison Building, 1565 Broadway)  
Supino's Pizzeria (Eastern Market)  
American Coney Island  
Pizza Papalis

**Midtown** Pic Sci Pizza (takeout)  
Elephant & Co. Brewpub

**Corktown** Michigan & Trumbull

**Delivery** Jet's Pizza (313-259-0500)

### Nearby Grocery Stores

by neighborhood – all grocery stores sell alcohol

**Downtown** Plum Maket (500 Woodward)  
Meijer Riverfront Market (1475 E. Jefferson)

**Midtown** Whole Foods;

**Corktown** Honeybee La Colmena

**Delivery** Jet's Pizza (313-259-0500)

## Sightseeing

### Museums & Attractions

by neighborhood

**Downtown** Campus Martius  
Ice skating, covered holiday market, shopping, cafes  
Eastern Market  
Largest open-air market in the US on Saturdays, antiques, restaurants  
Pewabic Pottery  
Historic pottery museum, manufacturer & shop  
Dossin Great Lakes Museum (Belle Isle)  
Belle Isle Conservatory & Aquarium  
John K. King Used & Rare Bookshop  
Book lover's paradise - 7 stories of books!  
Submerge Records  
Techno music museum & record shop

## SHA Detroit | Food, Drink & Entertainment Guide

<b>Midtown</b>	Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit Historical Museum Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History Michigan Science Museum G.L. Grosscup Museum of Anthropology, Wayne State Univ. Third Man Records Motown Museum* (currently closed for renovation)
<b>Corktown</b>	Michigan Central Station (tours available)
<b>Dearborn</b>	The Henry Ford & Greenfield Village Museum Arab American National Museum
<b>Hamtramck</b>	Hamtramck Historical Museum & Polish Art Center (open weekends) Hamtramck Threads (Vintage goods & record shop)