

Iowa City Info

Iowa City is a wonderful college town and a pleasant surprise to most first-time visitors. The site of the conference (The Graduate Hotel) is located very close to campus, in the heart of downtown, on the pedestrian mall. The hotel has an indoor pool and guests have access to a fully equipped fitness center.

For participants bringing children, a playground is located just outside of the main doors of the hotel. The public library is adjacent to the playground and has a good children's section. Walking distance from the hotel is the University of Iowa Campus Recreation & Wellness Center, which includes a recreation pool, area with a current channel, vortex, zero depth entry section, and a climbing wall above a pool – all great for kids (fee for non-members).

There are a lot of places to eat and drink near the hotel. The following list narrows down the options to places that my colleagues and I prefer. The University of Iowa has a party school reputation and you'll see why if you venture out of the hotel at night. Many of the bars and clubs right around the hotel are primarily frequented by undergraduate students. The following list includes bars, pubs, and restaurants that are within easy walking distance from the hotel, but are not part of the undergraduate party scene.

Places to get coffee within a city block

Java House - <https://www.thejavahouse.com/downtown>

Starbucks

Poindexter – in hotel

Cortado - <https://www.cortadoic.com/>

Bread Garden Market - (on the pedestrian mall next door to the hotel) – <http://breadgardenmarket.com/>

Places to eat within walking distance

Breakfast (diners)

Bluebird Diner – excellent options - http://www.thebluebirddiner.com/Bluebird_fullmenuFEB3.pdf

Pullman Bar & Diner – good breakfast tacos and more - <http://pullmandiner.com/>

Hamburg Inn – many options and inexpensive - <http://www.hamburginn2.com/>

Bread Garden Market (on the pedestrian mall) - <http://breadgardenmarket.com/>

Lunch (many of these places are also open for dinner)

Bread Garden Market – next door to hotel, good salad and hot bar.

Oasis – good falafel, vegan options - <http://oasisfalafel.com/>

Nodo – good sandwiches and wraps - <http://nodoiowacity.com/>

Baroncini Ristorante – good pasta - <http://baroncinirestaurant.com/>

One Twenty Six – good sandwiches and salads - <http://onetwentysix.net/>

Saint Burch Tavern – good sandwiches and salads - <https://www.saintburchtavern.com/>

Pullman Bar & Diner – good sandwiches, burgers, fried chicken - <http://pullmandiner.com/>

Basta – good pizza, sandwiches, salads - <http://www.bastaiowacity.com/>

Masala – Indian; good vegetarian and vegan options - <http://www.masalaiowacity.com/>

Bluebird Diner – good salads and sandwiches -

http://www.thebluebirddiner.com/Bluebird_fullmenuFEB3.pdf

Shorts – good burgers - <http://shortsburger.com/>

Heirloom Salad Co. – salads and sandwiches - <https://www.thejavahouse.com/heirloom-menu/>

Dinner

Baroncini Ristorante - homemade pasta, good wine list. Make a reservation.

<http://baroncinirestaurant.com/>

Devotay - excellent tapas and paella. <http://www.devotay.net/>

Orchard Green – excellent food with a couple vegan options, good wine list.

<https://orchardgreenrestaurant.com/>

Trumpet Blossom Café - excellent vegan cuisine. <http://www.trumpetblossom.com/>

Clinton Street Social Club – good for small plates and pub food. **Stair access only.**

<https://clintonstreetsocial.com/>

Joseph's Steakhouse – surprisingly okay for vegetarians, good wine list. <http://www.josephs-steak.com/>

St. Burch - <https://www.saintburchtavern.com/>

Basta – Italian - <http://www.bastaiowacity.com/>

Pullman Bar & Diner – several excellent options - <http://pullmandiner.com/>

Formosa – sushi and other Asian food - <http://www.formosadowntown.com/home>

Pub food

Donnelly's Pub (on the pedestrian mall) – good place to get your fry on. <http://donnellyspub-ic.com/>

The Airliner - good pizza. <http://theairlinerbar.com/>

The Mill – good sandwiches and fried stuff. <http://icmill.com/>

Bars/Pubs

Joe's Place – the main grad student/postdoc bar. Pool tables. Check out the rooftop bar.

<https://joesplace-ic.com/>

The Mill – my go-to for fried pickles and beer. <http://icmill.com/>

Dublin Underground – good place for whiskey (big pours). Pool table. **Stair access only.** Cash Only. 5 S

Dubuque St.

The Sanctuary – best tap list in town. <http://sanctuarypub.com/>

Clinton Street Social Club - good for cocktails. **Stair access only.** <https://clintonstreetsocial.com/>

Fox Head Tavern – Cash only - 402 E Market St – unique atmosphere, pool table, best jukebox.

Big Grove Brewery – good selection of beers on tap, lots of outdoor seating. Long walk or short Uber ride. <http://biggrovebrewery.com/>