



Insider's Guide to INDIANAPOLIS

Welcome to Indianapolis, Indiana—home of the greatest spectacle in racing, the Indianapolis 500. Known as “the Crossroads of America,” Indianapolis is where you’ll find the best of the Midwest. There’s something for everyone here!

The Sonnhalter Insider’s Guide to Indianapolis will get you on the right track. It’s our way of helping you cut through the clutter to find the city’s best restaurants, nightlife and sights.

We asked our Indy insiders for their recommendations on where to sample Hoosier cuisine and entertainment. You know, those secret locales only the locals know about. From comfort food to fine dining, it’s all here. After all, at Sonnhalter, we not only like to get our hands dirty, we like to get them greasy too!

When you’re not convening at the convention center, make sure you check out the city’s many sights—from downtown out to the Speedway—and see why Indy runs circles around other cities!

Downtown/State Capitol/Convention Center

Bluebeard

New American
317-686-1580

<http://www.bluebeardindy.com/>

This trendy foodie hot spot serves sharing plates & craft cocktails in a renovated warehouse.

Dusk Lounge

Mediterranean
(317) 660-4439

<https://www.dusk-lounge.com/>

Dusk Lounge is an elevated Mediterranean culinary experience with a vibrant atmosphere and a live DJ in the dining room that seamlessly transitions into a sophisticated downstairs speakeasy lounge.

Iozzo’s Garden of Italy

Italian
317-974-1100

<http://iozzos.com/>

This storied eatery serves Italian classics and wine in a sophisticated dining room and quaint garden courtyard.

McCormick & Schmick’s Seafood & Steaks

Seafood/Steaks
317-631-9500

www.mccormickandschmicks.com

From fresh seafood and shellfish to aged steaks and garden fresh salads, their goal is to exceed your dining expectations.

Milktooth

Modern Brunch
317-986-5131

<http://www.milktoothindy.com/#>

Inventive breakfast & brunch items in a family atmosphere. The best coffee and espresso in Indianapolis.

Shapiro’s Delicatessen

Delicatessen
317-631-4041

<http://shapiros.com/>

Open for 110 years, this Indianapolis institution is steeped in tradition, with only the freshest ingredients making for the highest quality food.

Spoke & Steele

American Contemporary
317-737-1616

<https://www.spokeandsteele.com/>

Cuisine partnered with the best of what Indiana’s growers, ranchers and craft vendors have to offer.

St. Elmo Steak House

Steak House
317-635-0636

<http://www.stelmos.com/>

Historic and stately dining destination known for their steaks, shrimp cocktails, seafood and the 1933 Lounge.

The Rathskeller

German Beer Hall
317-636-0396

<http://www.rathskeller.com/>

Bavarian flair in downtown Indy. With an indoor/outdoor beer hall, live music and the best German food.

Broad Ripple

Canal Bistro

Mediterranean

(317) 254-8700

<https://www.canal-bistro.com/>

Lavishly decorated restaurant & bar with a varied Mediterranean menu & a canalside patio.

Eating Fresh

Vietnamese

317-746-6989

<https://eatingfresh.co/>

The menu offers a fantastic variety of traditional dishes. The Special pho is rich and aromatic and the spring rolls are fresh and crispy. The staff Highly recommended for anyone craving authentic Vietnamese cuisine!

Flatwater

American

(317) 257-5466

<https://www.flatwaterbroadripple.com/>

Mellow American eatery offers a prominent, waterside patio bar & build-your-own Bloody Mary Sundays.

Gallery Pastry Shop

Breakfast

(317) 820-5526

<https://sobro.gallerypastry.com/>

Gallery Pastry Shop brings brunch, lunch, and European pastries to Indianapolis.

Joella's Hot Chicken

Chicken

(317) 259-7161

<https://joellas.com/>

At Joella's we spice our 100% antibiotic-free, hormone-free, all-natural chicken just the way you like - from just enough heat to bring out the flavors and warm your heart, to Fire-In Da-Hole, bless your heart.

Petite Chou Bistro & Champagne Bar

French

(317) 259-0765

<https://www.petitechoubistro.com/>

Snug French bistro pairs bubbly & crêpes alongside an upscale dinner menu & premium cocktails.

Shalimar

Indian

317-465-1100

<https://shalimarindianrestaurants.com/>

Featuring the finest Northern Indian entrees and specialty tandoori (clay oven) dishes.

Sushi Bar

Sushi

317-257-7289

<http://www.sushibarindy.net/>

Located on Broad Ripple Avenue, this restaurant sits up high overlooking the busy street. Their extensive menu includes noodle dishes, meat, and of course, sushi.

Tony's of Indianapolis

Steakhouse

(317) 638-8669

<https://tonysofindianapolis.com/>

Choice steaks & seafood presented in a roomy, sophisticated setting with an extensive wine list.

Indianapolis

Ale Emporium/Honest Pizza

Pub/Pizza

(317) 842-1333

<https://aleemporium.securetree.com/>

Ale Emporium, home of Honest Pizza and World Famous Hermanaki® Wings since 1982. We offer pizza, wings, paninis, burgers, chicken, salads, beer, wine, cocktails and much more.

Amelia's

Bakery

(317) 686-1583

<https://ameliasbread.com/>

Charming bakery featuring daily-made breads & pastries, plus gourmet grocery items.

Aroma

Indian

(317) 602-7117

<https://aromaindy.com/>

Traditional Indian dishes served in a casual setting with vegan and vegetarian options, plus wine.

Bakersfield

Mexican

317-635-6962

www.bakersfieldtacos.com

Serving up authentic Mexican street food, as well as over 100 tequilas and American whiskeys.

Bazbeaux Pizza

Pizza

Multiple Locations

<http://bazbeaux.com/>

Consistently named Indy's best restaurant & best pizza, this local chain serves fresh-made pizzas with style.

Bodhi

Thai

(317) 941-6595

<https://www.bodhi-indy.com/>

Thai specialties, craft beers & cocktails offered in an industrial-chic destination & takeaway.

Indianapolis (continued)

Borage

New American

(317) 734-3958

<https://www.borageeats.com/>

Casual eatery featuring breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner dishes, plus a market and sourdough bakery (including gluten-free options).

Bru Burger

Hamburgers

(317) 635-4278

<https://www.bruburgerbar.com/>

Gourmet burgers, creative bar snacks & craft beers in a modern yet cozy space with a patio.

Cafe Patachou

American

(317) 632-0765

<https://www.cafepatachou.com/>

Cafe Patachou is an award-winning restaurant offering a world class breakfast.

Commission Row

Steak, Seafood & Raw Bar

(317) 550-2500

<https://www.commissionrow.com/location/commission-row>

Steakhouse dishing up chops, seafood, and cocktails, with a speakeasy vibe.

Dawsons on Main

Steakhouse

(317) 247-7000

<https://www.dawsonsonmain.com/>

Dawson's on Main, not your typical neighborhood restaurant. We offer bold flavors, fresh ingredients and a warm atmosphere. A menu of steaks, seafood, pastas, sandwiches and other specialties make Dawson's perfect for family gatherings.

Delicia

Latin-American

317-925-0677

<http://www.deliciaindy.com/>

Successfully melding traditional and modern approaches to Latin cuisine, while staying true to the style flavors and history of each dish.

Goose the Market

Gourmet Grocery & Prepared Foods

317-924-4944

<http://www.goosethemarket.com/>

Daily selections of sandwiches, small plates, soups, gelato, as well as cut to order butcher, artisanal cheeses, slow cured and smoked meats and craft beer & wine.

Harry & Izzy's

Steak House

Multiple Locations

<http://www.harryandizzys.com/>

Named after the founders of the legendary St. Elmo, this more casual and updated concept offers steaks, seafood and service.

Hollyhock Hill

Family Style

317-251-2294

www.hollyhockhill.com

Since 1928, this revered institution has offered up a quality dining experience in a location that feels like a county homestead, featuring Hoosier pan-fried chicken.

The Inferno Room

Caribbean/Filipino/Asian

317-426-2343

<https://theinfernorum.com>

The menu is a fantasia of classic Tiki cuisine — everything from sliders made with Filipino pork meatloaf to that old Chinese carryout standby, crab rangoon. The cocktails are on point, with classic renditions of the Mai Tai and Zombie.

Julieta Taco Shop

Tacos

https://www.instagram.com/julieta_tacoshop

Casual taco restaurant using handmade tortillas, with vegetarian options.

Livery

Latin

317-383-0330

<https://www.livery-restaurant.com/Indianapolis/>

A neighborhood gathering place with a Latin influenced menu. Explore the flavors of Latin America in each and every taste.

Long's Bakery

Bakery

Multiple Locations

<https://www.facebook.com/longsbakery>

A long-running institution, this cash-only pastry shop serves up a variety of tasty treats, including donuts, danishes & cakes.

Macizo

Mexican/Peruvian

(463) 202-2853

<https://macizorestaurant.com/>

Casual eatery dishing up creative takes on Mexican and Peruvian standards, along with beers and sangria.

Magdalena

Cocktail Bar & Restaurant

(317) 691-8021

<https://www.magdalena.bar/>

A new concept from Nick Detrich, co-founder of several of New Orleans' finest cocktail destinations. Magdalena is a cocktail bar and restaurant that has a bit of New Orleans flair.

Mama Carolla's

Italian

317-259-9412

<http://mamacarollas.com/>

The best of Italy in a one-of-a-kind Mediterranean style villa, complete with garden seating.



Indianapolis (continued)

Nada

Mexican

(317) 638-6232

<https://www.eatdrinknada.com/>

Live in the moment at a taco and cocktail joint dishing up a traditional and inspired taco menu, margaritas and bold energy.

Napolese

Pizza

Multiple Locations

<http://napolesepizzeria.com/>

Artfully made pizzas and stone hearth baking, using the freshest ingredients available, including produce especially grown for the restaurant. Also featuring an excellent wine and cocktail list.

Okonori

Japanese

(317) 671-8888

<https://www.okonori.com/>

A high-end Japanese kitchen offering elevated sushi, creative rolls, and modern interpretations of Japanese cuisine.

Punch Burger

Burgers

317-426-5280

<http://www.punchburger.com/>

Made with local, grass fed, pure Angus beef from a single farm in Jasper, Indiana. One of the best burgers you'll ever have, plus fries, shakes, local brews and more.

Rick's Cafe Boatyard

Seafood

(317) 290-9300

<https://ricksboatyard.com/>

Bright, breezy eatery & jazz club on Eagle Creek Reservoir with a diverse menu emphasizing seafood.

Siam Square

Thai

317-636-8424

<http://www.siamsquareindy.com/>

Familiar & some lesser-known, but amazingly executed, Thai specialties.

Slapfish

Seafood

(317) 686-9713

<https://www.slapfishrestaurant.com/>

Slapfish is a modern seafood shack that serves the quality of fine dining at the cost and convenience of fast "er" food.

Steer-In

Classic Diner

317-356-0996

<http://www.steerin.net/>

An American classic, open since 1960, with dine in and car hop service available.

Strange Bird

Cocktails, Oysters, Ramen

(317) 550-4115

<https://strangebirdindy.com/>

Located in Indianapolis' historic Irvington neighborhood since 2019, Strange Bird is a rum & oyster bar and home to Shoyu Shop.

Union 50

American

(317) 610-0234

<https://www.union-50.com/>

Buzzy bar providing an innovative American menu & local beers in industrial-chic atmosphere. Our dinner menu features innovative dishes that change seasonally. Union 50 also hosts live music multiple nights a week.

Vida

Contemporary

317-420-2323

www.vida-restaurant.com

The menu is an innovative theme, with immaculately presented modern creations such as their homemade whitefish kielbasa, skinned shrimp dumplings in pork consomme and short rib tartare with fried sweetbread.

The Workingman's Friend

Diner

317-636-2067

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100045842066302>

One of Indy's best burgers, from a bustling diner that's been a fixture in west Indy for almost as long as the 500.

Yats

Cajun

Multiple Locations

<http://www.yatscajuncreole.com/>

A laid back, counter-service Cajun restaurant with hearty plates and a Louisiana vibe.

Yazsh

Mediterranean

(317) 955-9702

<https://www.yazshindy.com/>

Yazsh offers elevated Mediterranean food specifically from the Balkan regions along with delicious coffees. Full wine and beer bar.

Nightlife and Bars

1933 Lounge - <https://www.1933lounge.com/>
Alley Cat Lounge - <https://alleycatlounge.com/>
Aristocrat Pub - <http://aristocratpub.com/>
Astrea Rooftop - <https://www.astrearooftop.com/>
The Ball & Biscuit - <http://www.ballandbiscuit.com/>
Bar Cardinale - www.omnihotels.com/hotels/indianapolis-severin/dining/bar-cardinale
Broad Ripple Brewpub - <http://broadripplebrewpub.com/>
The Cannon Ball Lounge - <https://www.cannonballindy.com/>
Chatterbox Jazz Club - <https://chatterboxjazz.com>
Forty Five Degrees - <http://fortyfiveindy.com/>
HI-FI - <http://www.hifiindy.com/>
Hotel Tango Distillery - <https://hoteltangodistillery.com/>
The Jazz Kitchen - <http://www.thejazzkitchen.com/>

Nicky Blaine's - <http://nickyblaines.com/>
Plat 99 Mixology Lounge - <https://www.thealexander.com/dining/plat-99-mixology-lounge>
Red Key Tavern - <http://www.redkeytavern.com/>
Sam's Silver Circle - <https://samssilvercircle.com/>
Shallos - <http://www.shallos.com/>
Slippery Noodle Inn - <http://www.slipperynoodle.com/>
Tini - <http://tiniontheave.com/>
Turner's Bar - <https://www.turnersindy.com/>
Union 50 - <http://www.union-50.com/>
The Vault - <https://vaultindy.com/>
White Rabbit Cabaret - <http://www.whiterabbitcabaret.com/>
WiseGuy Lounge - <https://www.goodfellaspizzeria.com/mass-ave-wiseguylounge-seasonal-cocktails>

Indianapolis Area Sightseeing

Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site - <http://www.presidentbenjaminharrison.org/>
Children's Museum of Indianapolis - <https://www.childrensmuseum.org/>
Conner Prairie - <http://www.connerprairie.org/>
Eagle Creek Park & Nature Preserve - <http://eaglecreekpark.org/>
Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians & Western Art - <http://www.eiteljorg.org/>
Gainbridge Fieldhouse - <https://www.gainbridgefieldhouse.com/>
Hook's Drugstore Museum - <http://hooksmuseum.org/>
Indiana State Capitol - <https://www.in.gov/idoa/statehouse/>
Indiana War Memorial - <http://www.in.gov/iwm/>
Indianapolis Indians Baseball - www.indyindians.com
Indianapolis Motor Speedway - <http://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com/>
Indianapolis Museum of Art - <https://discovernewfields.org/do-and-see/places-to-go/indianapolis-museum-art>
Indianapolis Zoo - <http://www.indianapoliszoo.com/SitePages/Home.aspx>
Lucas Oil Stadium - <http://www.lucasoilstadium.com/>
Monument Circle/Soldiers & Sailors War Memorial - <http://www.downtownindy.org/venue/1363/monument-circle/>
The Stutz Car Museum - <https://www.thestutz.com/>
White River State Park - <https://whiteriverstatepark.org/>

Transportation

AAA Hoosier Cab - 317-683-3333
Blue Line Taxi - 317-444-1444
Go Express Travel - 800-589-6004
Indianapolis International Airport - 317-487-7243
Indy Airport Taxi - 317-381-1111
Katherine's Transportation - 317-444-1092
OnCabs Indianapolis - 317-666-4411
Pacers Bikeshare - 317-653-1948
Tim's Limosine - 317-431-6257
Yellow Cab - 317-487-7777

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