Restaurant guide (interactive map): https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=13o6taYuN1Nt32Jm4qT3CuwwumXFJPUky&usp=sharing

Breakfast and Brunch

Denver Biscuit Company
141 S Broadway, Denver, CO 80209 (several locations including a food truck)
http://www.denbisco.com
Cuisine: Biscuits/brunch (pizza during later hours)
Attire: Casual
Made famous by Diners, Drive-In and Dives, not to mention their oh-so-popular Biscuit Bus, DBC has become the place to be on Sunday mornings. If you’re into chicken-biscuit sandwiches, a delicious strawberry shortcake, giant cinnamon rolls, and hand-tossed pizza (the eatery turns into Fat Sully’s, a bar and pizza joint, in the afternoon/evening), this is your spot. Reservations not accepted, and generally busy.

Jelly U Café
1700 E Evans Ave; 600 E 13th Ave
www.eatmorejelly.com
Cuisine: American breakfast/lunch
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: the Evans location is around the corner!
With items like lavender blueberry pancakes, bananas foster French toast, chilaquiles, and a salmon BLT - not to mention fresh and delicious donut holes in various flavors - you’ll find something for every palate at this quaint eatery.

Lucile’s Creole Café
999 E Evans Ave; 275 S Logan St
www.luciles.com
Cuisine: Cajun/Creole brunch
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: the Evans location is very close!
Lucile’s has been a Colorado favorite since 1980, serving Cajun/Creole-inspired brunch dishes. They do not take reservations, so expect a wait.

Root Down
1600 W 33rd Ave
https://www.ediblebeats.com/root-down
Cuisine: American (new)
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 7.8 miles
One of Denver’s hidden Gems. Root Down follows a “field to fork” philosophy, and the globally influenced seasonal cuisine focuses on organic, natural, and local ingredients. Their brunch dishes are as stunning as their dinner dishes. Reservations recommended (it may be “hidden”, but it is still very popular).
Snooze
Several locations in the Denver metro area
www.snoozeatery.com
Cuisine: Breakfast and brunch
Attire: Casual
Founded by DU alums, Snooze is inarguably the most popular brunch spot in Denver. Everything here is phenomenal, but make absolutely sure you order the pancake of the day… y’know, ‘for the table.’ It has such a large following that 90-minute waits are not uncommon. They do not take reservations, so we recommend you arrive early (as in, as soon as they open!) to avoid the crowd.

Zaidy’s Deli & Bakery
121 Adams St
https://zaidysdeli.com
Cuisine: NYC-style Deli
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 3.4 miles
Traditional New York City style deli with generous portions (leftovers are common). An excellent choice for a casual sit-down breakfast or lunch. No reservations necessary.

Lunch

Biker Jim’s
2148 Larimer St; inside Coors Field
https://bikerjimsdogs.com
Cuisine: Hot Dogs
Attire: Casual (street clothes)
Proximity to DU: 7.5 miles
Jim’s offers a very unique spin on hot dogs. Options include Alaskan Reindeer, Elk Jalapeno Cheddar, Duck Cilantro, Rattlesnake and Pheasant. Biker Jim’s has been featured on Travel Channel’s “No Reservations” and Sundance Channel’s “Ludo Bites” and was voted Westword’s “Best Dinner Under $10.” Originally a street cart (which is still in operation), Jim’s is a Denver culinary landmark.

Cherry Cricket
2641 E 2nd Ave; 2220 Blake St
https://cherrycricket.com
Cuisine: Hamburgers
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: closest location is 3 miles
A Denver landmark since 1950. The Cricket serves hamburgers with a variety of unique toppings. It has appeared on Food Network’s “The Best Thing I Ever Ate” and “Man V Food.” Expect a wait.
Park Burger
1890 S Pearl St (multiple locations)
https://www.parkburger.com
Cuisine: Burgers and shakes
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 1.4 miles (nearby!)
The best burger in Denver… period. Get the popular truffle or sweet potato fries along with one of their many specialty shakes, and you’ll leave stuffed and happy. Optional but recommended: upload your burger photos to social media to inspire envy.

Steuben’s
523 E 17th Ave
https://www.steubens.com
Cuisine: American (regional classics)
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 6 miles
Chicken pot pie, fish & chips, a classic French dip, boozy milkshakes... this is Americana recreated for the 21st century. You’ll want to bring your appetite (no small portions here), and definitely indulge in one of their signature craft cocktails from their extensive and impressive list. Reservations not required, wait times can vary.

Tocabe
3536 W 44th Ave
http://www.tocabe.com/
Cuisine: Native American
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 9.8 miles
Founded by two DU alumni, Tocabe is the only American Indian owned and operated restaurant in Metro Denver which serves primarily Native American cuisine. Serving food using traditional Native American recipes and sourcing from local farmers, Tocabe is a delicious option where you are also “helping represent American Indian culture in the 21st Century.”

Uno Mas
1585 South Pearl St. (multiple locations)
https://unomastaqueria.com/
Cuisine: Mexican
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 1.7 miles (nearby!)
A family-owned restaurant with locally sourced food and generally fast service, Uno Mas is the place to go for street tacos and margaritas (made with their homemade mix). There is an outdoor patio at the Pearl Street location perfect for a nice day.

Dinner

Avanti Food & Beverage
3200 N Pecos St
https://avantifandb.com
Cuisine: “Food hall” - 7 different concepts
Attire: Casual, with ‘snappy’ Friday and Saturday nights
Proximity to DU: 8 miles
Mirroring the very popular food halls of Europe, Avanti houses and eclectic mix of chef-inspired cuisine in a refurbished, modern and airy two-story space. Pizza and arepas, sushi and Mediterranean, classic cocktails and craft beer... there is something for everyone in this “perfect for indecisive groups” locale. You won’t find a better view of downtown Denver (ideal for pre-gaming if you’re heading to see the Rockies or Broncos). No reservations necessary.

Bistro Vendome
1424 Larimer St
http://www.bistrovendome.com
Cuisine: French
Attire: Snappy (casual, but respectable)
Nestled in an alley off Larimer Square, this Zagat-rated French bistro boasts one of the best patios in town, and it is the second collaboration between owners Beth Gruitch and Jennifer Jasinski. Indeed, the food matches the atmosphere in quality. Voted Westword’s “Best French Restaurant” in Denver. Reservations recommended.

Buckhorn Exchange
1000 Osage St
https://www.buckhorn.com
Cuisine: Steakhouse
Attire: Snappy
Proximity to DU: 6.7 miles
The oldest restaurant and liquor license in Denver, this steakhouse serves beef, ribs, buffalo, lamb, duck, quail, Cornish game hen, elk, yak, alligator, rattlesnake, and the renowned Rocky Mountain Oysters. The taxidermy motif is prevalent. Reservations recommended.

City, O’ City
206 E 16th Ave
http://cityocitydenver.com
Attire: Casual
Cuisine: Vegetarian
A fully vegetarian restaurant which serves everything from morning coffee to evening cocktails. They also have monthly in-house gallery shows.

Elway’s
2500 E 1st Ave (three additional locations, including an outpost in Denver Airport)
www.elways.com
Cuisine: Steakhouse
Attire: Dressy (more formal than not)
Proximity to DU: 2.9 miles (nearby!)
The traditional steakhouse is a staple of Colorado, much like the Legend himself. Voted Westword’s “Best French Fries” in Denver (but the onion rings are where it’s at) with a lively bar scene. Reservations recommended.

Frasca Food and Wine
1738 Pearl St in Boulder
https://www.frascafoodandwine.com
Cuisine: Italian (Northern)
Attire: Dressy  
Address: 1738 Pearl St in Boulder  
Proximity to DU: 34.3 miles  
Rated No. 1 by 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area” and No. 2 by Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants,” Frasca is not only one of the two best restaurants in the area, but arguably one of the best in the region overall. The wine menu is outstanding, and the dishes are inspired by the cuisine from the northern Italian region of Friuli. Reservations recommended.

Fruition  
1313 E 6th Ave  
www.fruitionrestaurant.com  
Cuisine: American (new)  
Attire: Dressy  
Proximity to DU: 3.9 miles (nearby!)  
Fruition rivals Frasca as one of the two best restaurants in the state. It was rated No. 1 in Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants,” No. 2 in 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area,” and was voted Westword’s “Best New American Restaurant” in Denver. Chef Alex Seidel’s sophisticated comfort food is truly exquisite. Reservations recommended.

Linger  
2030 W 30th Ave  
www.lingerdenver.com  
Cuisine: Upscale street food  
Attire: Casual  
Proximity to DU: 7.5 miles  
Linger opened in June 2011 and made the list of 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area.” The diverse menu takes its inspiration from global “street food.” Voted both Westword’s “Best Restaurant Patio with a View” and “Best Martini” in Denver. Reservations recommended.

Native Foods  
680 S Colorado Blvd, Glendale, CO  
https://nativefoods.com/locations/colorado/glendale/  
Cuisine: Vegetarian  
Attire: Casual  
A 100% vegetarian restaurant dining option. Enjoy their flavorful burgers and sandwiches without meat!

Osteria Marco  
1453 Larimer St  
www.osteriamarco.com  
Cuisine: Italian  
Attire: Casual/’snappy-lite’  
Proximity to DU: 7.3 miles  
One of “Denver’s most popular and critically acclaimed restaurants” argues time.com. It was also featured in Westword’s “Best Gourmet Pizza” (don’t miss the chile-spiced Marcona almonds as well as their happy hour specials).
Pho 95
1401 S Federal Blvd
http://www.pho95noodlehouse.com
Cuisine: Vietnamese
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 4.9 miles
Pho 95 has one of the most ardent followings of pho-natics in Denver. Though there are many alternatives, don’t be misled - 95 is the best pho in town.

Rioja
1431 Larimer St
http://www.riojadenver.com
Cuisine: Mediterranean
Attire: Dressy
Proximity to DU: 7.3 miles
The first collaboration between Beth Gruitch and Jennifer Jasinski, Rioja is one of the most acclaimed restaurants in Colorado. The menu is inspired by Mediterranean ingredients, and the restaurant was one of 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area,” as well as rated No. 8 on Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants.” Reservations recommended.

The Source
3350 Brighton Blvd
https://thesourcehotel.com/hotel
Cuisine: Artisan food market/several restaurants
Attire: Casual to snappy (depends on why you’re visiting!)
Proximity to DU: 7.5 miles
Whether you’re in the mood for a freshly baked chocolate croissant from Babettes, or a chef-prepared meal straight from an oak-fired oven, The Source is considered one of the hippest places in town. At the heart of this renovated warehouse is Acorn, Steve Redzikowski’s New American restaurant which has won accolades too numerous to name. Have a cocktail at the Yacht Club, the central, open-air bar before your reservation time (and yes, reservations are recommended).

Sushi Den
1487 S Pearl St
https://www.sushiden.net
Cuisine: Japanese, sushi bar
Attire: Casual
Proximity to DU: 2 miles (nearby!)
We’ll say “arguably” to be nice, but it’s more face than opinion… this is where you’ll find the best sushi in the Denver metro area. It was rated No. 4 in 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area” and No. 7 in Zagat’s “10 Best Colorado Restaurants.” Their reservation policy varies, so you may experience a wait.

Table 6
609 Corona St
https://www.table6denver.com
Cuisine: American Bistro
Attire: Snappy
Proximity to DU: 4.1 miles
A “classic American Bistro” with one of the best wine menus in Denver, Table 6 was named one of Esquire Magazine’s “Best New Restaurants in the Nation”, 5280 Magazine’s “25 Best Restaurants in the Denver Area,” and Westword’s “Best American Restaurant” in Denver, and was featured on Food Network’s “The Best Thing I Ever Ate.”

Tamayo
1400 Larimer St
https://www.eattamayo.com
Cuisine: Mexican
Attire: Snappy
Proximity to DU: 7.3 miles
A modern take on Mexican cuisine, Tamayo is a self-proclaimed “benchmark against which fine Mexican food is measured.” Their non-traditional, delicious guacamoles and upstairs outdoor patiomake for an excellent night in downtown Denver. Reservations recommended, but not required.

True Food Kitchen
2800 E 2nd Ave
https://www.eattamayo.com
Cuisine: Mexican
Attire: Snappy
True Food Kitchen is a health-focused restaurant with lots of allergen friendly options including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free offerings. Their paninis and burgers are so full of flavor and make you feel healthy!

Union Station
1701 Wynkoop St
https://unionstationindenver.com
Cuisine: Refurbished train station with many different eatery options
Attire: Casual to snappy
Proximity to DU: 7 miles
You don’t often get to visit a historic landmark, much less an exquisitely beautiful and *fun* historic landmark. If you’re going to be in downtown, do yourself a favor and at least walk around this gorgeous space. Plenty of options for eating and drinking (Mercantile is a favorite dining spot), and if you have time, see if you can get a spot at the bar at the well-hidden Cooper Lounge on the top floor.

Work & Class
2500 Larimer St
https://workandclassdenver.com
Cuisine: American/Latin fusion
Attire: Casual/fun
Proximity to DU: 6.6 miles
There is an actual list of rules for eating here, but don’t be scared off... this place is as light and lovely in spirit as it is serious about its food. No fuss, no frills, just really quality dishes which come in several sizes for individual tasting or sharing with a group, The roasted goat and coriander lamb are two favorites, but don’t leave without ordering the butterscotch pudding... ooh, the butterscotch pudding. Reservations aren’t taken here, so head over on the early side.

Dessert
D Bar Denver  
1475 E 17th Ave  
https://www.dbardenver.com  
Cuisine: American with an emphasis on desserts  
Attire: Casual  
Proximity to DU: 6 miles  
Focusing on the sweeter things in life, D Bar was created by Keegan Gerhard, who is “One of the Nation’s Top 10 Pastry Chefs,” according to both Chocolatier and Pastry Art & Design magazines. He has also often appeared on Food Network’s “Food Network Challenge.” The treats here are simply divine. Reservations recommended; sit at the dessert bar if possible.

Little Man Ice Cream  
2620 16th St  
https://www.littlemanicecream.com  
Cuisine: Ice cream  
Attire: Casual  
Proximity to DU: 8 miles  
Known for its iconic milk-jug exterior and long (but fast-moving) lines, Little Man is now a Denver staple. There are always interesting as well as classic flavors to choose from (salted caramel peanut butter cup, vegan horchata, or earl grey tea & cookies, anyone?), and they even offer a wide variety of sorbets and ice cream sammies.

Sweet Cow Ice Cream  
1822 S. Pearl St  
https://www.sweetcowicecream.com/platt/  
Cuisine: Ice cream  
Attire: Casual  
Made fresh daily and using recyclable and compostable products, Sweet Cow’s ice cream is a DU student local favorite.

University of Denver Neighborhood Locations

Anthony’s Pizza and Pasta  
Cuisine: Pizza  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 1628 E Evans Ave  
Website: https://www.anthonyspizzaandpasta.com

Asbury Provisions  
Cuisine: Small plates/sandwiches/cocktails  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 2043 S University Blvd

Ben and Jerry’s  
Cuisine: Ice cream  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 2339 E Evans Ave  
Website: http://www.benjerry.com/uofdenver

Birdcall  
Cuisine: All things chicken
Attire: Casual
Address: 1535 E Evans Ave
Website: www.eatbirdcall.com

Bruegger's Bagels
Cuisine: Bagels
Attire: Casual
Address: 2000 S University Blvd
Website: www.brueggers.com

Chipotle (the original!)
Cuisine: Mexican
Attire: Casual
Address: 1644 E Evans Ave
Website: www.chipotle.com

Crimson and Gold Tavern
Cuisine: American sports bar
Attire: Casual
Address: 2017 S University Blvd
Website: http://www.candgdenver.com/

Devour the 303
Cuisine: American
Attire: Casual
Address: 1135 E Evans Ave
Website: www.devourthe303.com

Donut House
Cuisine: Donuts
Attire: Casual
Address: 2075 S University Blvd
Website: www.thedonuthouse.com

Einstein Bros. Bagels
Cuisine: Bagels
Attire: Casual
Address: 1213 E Evans Ave
Website: www.einsteinbros.com

Ginza Sushi & Grill
Cuisine: Japanese
Attire: Casual
Address: 2104 S University Blvd
Website: https://www.ginzasushi888.com

Illegal Pete's
Cuisine: Mexican
Attire: Casual
Address: 1744 E Evans Ave
Website: https://www.illegalpetes.com

Jelly Cafe
Cuisine: American breakfast & brunch
Attire: Casual
Address: 1700 E Evans Ave
Website: www.eatmorejelly.com

Jerusalem
Cuisine: Middle Eastern
Attire: Casual
Address: 1890 E Evans Ave
Jimmy John’s
Cuisine: Sandwiches
Attire: Casual
Address: 2075 S University Blvd
Website: [www.jimmyjohns.com](http://www.jimmyjohns.com)

Kaladi Coffee Roasters
Cuisine: Coffee
Attire: Casual
Address: 1730 E Evans Ave
Website: [www.kaladicoffee.com](http://www.kaladicoffee.com)

Mustard’s Last Stand
Cuisine: Chicago-style hot dogs
Attire: Casual
Address: 2081 S University Blvd
Website: [www.mustardslaststandcolorado.com](http://www.mustardslaststandcolorado.com)

Nixon’s Coffee House
Cuisine: Coffee
Attire: Casual
Address: 695 East Louisiana Ave
Website: [http://www.nixonscoffeehouse.com/](http://www.nixonscoffeehouse.com/)

Pete’s University Park Café
Cuisine: American (diner)
Attire: Casual
Address: 2345 E Evans Ave
Website: [https://www.petesrestaurants.com/university-park-cafe](https://www.petesrestaurants.com/university-park-cafe)

Pho Saigon Star
Cuisine: Vietnamese & Thai
Attire: Casual
Address: 2045 S University Blvd
Website: [https://www.yelp.com/biz/pho-saigon-star-denver](https://www.yelp.com/biz/pho-saigon-star-denver)
The Pioneer
Cuisine: American Sports Bar  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 2401 S University Blvd  
Website: [www.thepioneerbar.com](http://www.thepioneerbar.com)

Serene Cuisine of India
Cuisine: Indian  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 2070 S University Blvd  
Website: [www.serenecuisineofindia.com](http://www.serenecuisineofindia.com)

Snarf’s
Cuisine: Sandwiches  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 1729 E Evans Ave  
Website: [www.eatsnarfs.com](http://www.eatsnarfs.com)

Spanky’s Urban Roadhouse
Cuisine: American (Traditional)  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 1800 E Evans Ave  
Website: [www.spankysur.com](http://www.spankysur.com)

Starbucks (also a weekday location in the Community Commons)
Cuisine: Coffee  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 2000 S University Blvd  
Website: [www.starbucks.com](http://www.starbucks.com)

Stella’s Gourmet Coffee and Such
Cuisine: Coffee  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 1476 S Pearl St  
Website: [www.stellascoffee.com](http://www.stellascoffee.com)

Tatsu Sushi Ramen
Cuisine: Sushi and ramen  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 2022 S University Blvd  
Website: [www.tatsusushiramen.com](http://www.tatsusushiramen.com)

Tokyo Bowl
Cuisine: Japanese  
Attire: Casual  
Address: 2337 E Evans Ave  
Website: [https://www.tokyobowldenver.com](https://www.tokyobowldenver.com)
Chicago, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Kyoto, London, Lyon, Marrakech, New York City, Paris, Rome, San Francisco, Tokyo... known as traditional foodie hotspots, these cities host some of the most internationally acclaimed eating establishments in the world. While Denver does not (yet) boast a Michelin star, its ever-expanding dining scene and always-insatiable appetite for new and unique is finally bringing it prominence in the restaurant world.

To be sure, the Denver metro area’s culinary scene is newer to the map, as many of its most exciting restaurants have opened in more recent years. However, exciting they truly are. Frasca and Fruition are two of the most highly acclaimed restaurants in the entire region. Osteria Marco continues to entice customers because of award-winning Chef Frank Bonnano’s talents. Chef Keegan Gerhard has brought both celebrity and baking genius to 19th Avenue with the dessert-themed D Bar (not-to-miss: the famous “Cake & Shake” combo). And old-world cuisine never tasted so fresh with both Bistro Vendome and Rioja.

Root Down, Sushi Den, and Table 6 are part of a growing hub of restaurants combining warm, neighborhood atmospheres with elegant and succulent dishes. Places like Biker Jim’s and Steuben’s are changing people’s perspectives on stereotypical cuisines.

Brunch is a major part of any Denverite’s weekend, and both Snooze and Denver Biscuit Company lead the pack in Sunday morning wait times.

Classic Denver staples such as The Buckhorn Exchange, Cherry Cricket, Elway’s, Barolo Grill, and Zaidy’s remain beloved, but new places to frequent have emerged as well, with multiple eateries available in food hall-like settings within Union Station, Avanti Food & Beverage, and The Source. Many ethnic cuisines have also become local favorites, with El Taco De Mexico leading the way with their popular street tacos.

Even the fast food industry has been strongly influenced by Denver, as Chipotle, Qdoba, Noodles & Co., Quiznos, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Garbanzo, Boston Market, and Smashburger were all founded in the Denver metro area.

Truly special, truly innovative restaurants continue to open their doors every week (the number of new ice cream establishments alone is mind-blowing!). There are plenty of wonderful options to appease any hardcore foodie’s palate. Personally... we doubt that Michelin star remains elusive for much longer. We hope you enjoy Denver’s culinary offerings as much as we do.

*Prepared by Christopher Trengove and updated by Stephanie Tengelsen*