

Mark's Guide to Dining and General Conviviality in the Orono-Old Town Area

Greetings! I figured there would be lots of interest in places to eat, drink, and be merry while people are in town for the conference, and so in an effort to meet some of that demand, I've put together this guide for finding such options in the Orono-Old Town area. I've divided options by types of experience (dining, bars/breweries, coffeeshops, and ice cream [Ed and Claire, this is here specifically for you]) and general price range (less expensive/more expensive – just for the dining options). This is by far not an exhaustive list; for example, I'm not big into Chinese buffets, but there are a few around. There are also lots of other pizza and diner spots, so Google (or whatever it is you use) away, if that's your thing. And FYI, there are lots of other dining and conviviality options in Bangor, and more than happy to field questions, if the need arises.

Dining:

Less Expensive:

- The Family Dog (6 Mill St., Orono) – Hamburger and hotdog restaurant popular with students; has a mean bean burger: <https://www.thefamilydogorono.com>
- Governor's Restaurant and Bakery (963 Stillwater Ave., Old Town) – A diner chain in Maine; popular with folks over the age of 60; solid greasy breakfast: <https://www.governorsrestaurant.com>
- Harvest Moon Deli (18 Mill St., Orono) – Local deli chain that has good sandwiches, all named after classic rock songs: <https://harvestmoondeli.com>
- Margarita's Mexican Restaurant (15 Mill St., Orono) – The Mexican food isn't necessarily the best (at all), but it's a local institution with students due to its solid prices: <https://www.margs.com/orono>
- Orono Brewing Company (61 Margin St., Orono) – Popular local brewery with a large and flashy indoor space and great outdoor space; solid beer and food; they also have Mario Kart: <https://oronobrewing.com>
- Orono House of Pizza (154 Park St., Orono) – Not sure if this should be on the list, but students like how cheap it is, and how close to campus it is: <https://oronohouseofpizza.com/29196>
- Pat's Pizza Orono (11 Mill St., Orono) – Speaking of institutions, a local pizza chain in Maine; the one in Orono was first; the pizza is cheap and greasy (like, really greasy): <http://patspizzaorono.com>
- Tacorita (2 Mill St., Orono) – Place to get a quick Mexican-ish meal; small space, so more take-out than anything else: <https://thetacorita.com>

More Expensive:

- KANU (283 Main St., Old Town) – Easily the fanciest and most expensive place in the Orono-Old Town area; the food has been good when I've had it, but get ready to open up your wallet: <https://www.283kanu.com>
- Pepper's Landing (170 Main St., Old Town) – New England chain; concentrates a lot on different types of seafood; has great views of the Penobscot River: <https://pepperslanding.com/old-town-me>
- Thai Kitchen (14 Park St., Orono) – My favourite spot to get Thai in the area; only take-out, not sit-down: <https://thaikitchenme.com>
- Thai Orchid (28 Mill St., Orono) – Solid spot to get a sit-down Thai meal; Stefano Tijerina loves this place, so chat with him about it: <https://thaiorchidme.com>
- Woodman's Bar & Grill (31 Main St., Orono) – Fancy-ish bar-resto; has solid range of meals; probably the fanciest place in Orono proper to eat: <https://www.woodmansbarandgrill.com>

Bars/Breweries:

- Black Bear Brewing (19 Mill St., Orono) – Popular spot with lots of wood and free pool; also has a limited menu that's reasonably priced; did I mention free pool? <https://www.blackbearmicrobrew.com>
- The Family Dog (6 Mill St., Orono) – Hamburger and hotdog restaurant popular with students; has good selection of local craft beer; has a solid outdoor area right on the main drag: <https://www.thefamilydogorono.com>
- KANU (283 Main St., Old Town) – Easily the fanciest and most expensive place in the Orono-Old Town area; I've included here in this section because they have a great roof-top bar with gas firepits: <https://www.283kanu.com> ‘
- Marsh Island Brewing (2 Main St., Orono) – A cozy spot right on the Stillwater River; considered by some to be the best beer in town: <https://mainebrewersguild.org/visit-breweries/our-breweries/marsh-island-brewing/>
- Orono Brewing Company (61 Margin St., Orono) – Popular local brewery with a large and flashy indoor space and great outdoor space; solid beer and food: <https://oronobrewing.com>
- Woodman's Bar & Grill (31 Main St., Orono) – Fancy-ish bar-resto; good selection of local craft beers: <https://www.woodmansbarandgrill.com>

Coffeeshops:

- Aroma Joe's (99 Park St., Orono) – Regional coffee chain; close to campus and popular with students; they have some wacky energy drinks that students really like: <https://aromajoes.com>
- Dunkin' (look it up; couple in the area) – This is here simply because it's a regional institution; the coffee's not that great: [Imnotevengivingyouthewebsite.com](https://www.imnotevengivingyouthewebsite.com)
- The Local (153 Park St., Orono) – Local grocery store; popular for its homemade bagels, also has some coffee: <https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Local-Orono-100086434903546/>
- Meme G's (296 Main St., Old Town) – More of a bakery/donut shop; rumoured to have the best donuts on Marsh Island: <https://memegs.com>
- Nest (24 Main St., Orono) – Quaint and proper coffeeshop; very popular with students; can be slow: <https://www.nestbpt.com>
- The Store Ampersand (22 Mill St., Orono) – Community-minded specialty foods store; has small coffee area, with baked goods: <https://www.facebook.com/thestoreampersand/>

Ice Cream: (Sorry Ed and Claire, not that many spots in actual Orono/Old Town area, so I've even included a spot in Bangor)

- The Family Dog (6 Mill St., Orono) – Hamburger and hotdog restaurant popular with students; they have a decent selection of ice cream from a cooler that 's just on the right-hand side when you go in the main door: <https://www.thefamilydogorono.com>
- Gifford's Famous Ice Cream (1109 Broadway, Bangor) – Local chain and institution in the area; very popular; this is where I'd go to get ice cream (it's also really close to my house, so that's part of the equation): <https://www.giffordsicecream.com>
- Spencer's Ice Cream (77 Main St., Bradley) – The only actual ice cream stand close to Orono-Old Town; I've never been, so is it good? I mean, it's ice cream: <https://www.facebook.com/spencersicecream/>