

nightlife

East Bay



housing



recreation



tips



dining

Ready to enjoy the East Bay?

**In-the-know Stanford young alums
have shared the best tips, tricks and
fabulous destinations to help you get
the most out of this vibrant area.**



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Dining

Young alums love to dine at these delicious destinations.



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According to young alums, these are the best spots to kick up your heels and enjoy an evening with friends.



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These are the places to go to have fun and hang out (you'll probably spot a young alum or two!).



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Be sure to check out the best young alumni 'hoods in all of the East Bay.



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Tips

Young alums give their general advice on things to keep in mind as you explore the East Bay.



Dining



Don't miss these young alumni-approved places for the tastiest meals in town.

American Oak

American Oak (aka AO) is arguably the most legit spot on the island. AO is known as a bourbon joint. Order a Manhattan, and ask the barkeep to walk you through your options of rye... or just let him choose, you won't be disappointed. Sample the skirt steak with grits, the burger or the fried chicken sandwich, then sit back and enjoy Alameda's eclectic thirty-something crowd get hyphy.

- **JACK B., '13**

Berkeley Bowl

If you resign yourself to not eating meat, you can feed yourself for \$20/week by shopping the bargain produce section at Berkeley Bowl.

- **SALLY W., '14**

Boulevard Burger

Did somebody say all natural grass fed Angus beef burgers or was that a Kobe burger? Don't worry plenty of stuff for vegetarians as well.

- **LUKE R., '09**

Buffalo Bill's Brewery

Great local craft beer, delicious pizza, patio seating, and shuffleboard.

- **GRETCHEN H., '14**

Cafe Gratitude

Funky and delicious organic vegan gluten-free food.

- **ANONYMOUS**

Chop Bar

Foodie food at a reasonable price. Burger is legit, and be sure to stay for the desserts. Craft beers on tap and a mean Old Fashioned will keep the hipsters coming back.

- **JOSH M., '11**

Elio's

Brunch! Perhaps best meal of the day. Come for delicious and generous omelets, hash browns and a perfect Bloody Mary. Huge menu selection. Expect a 15–30 minute wait to be seated. Ask to sit in the main dining room. The bar room is a great alternative where you can catch your favorite sports game while you enjoy your meal.

- **ROBYN K., '08**

Dining

Gather Restaurant

Great wine selection and cocktails; food comes from local farms. Featured in SF magazine and NY Times. Be sure to make a reservation. - **NICOLE M., '10**

Hog's Apothecary

Holy Crap, wasn't that a laundromat last year?? Yes, yes it was. But these Oakland natives had a better idea, turn it into a beer-drinking, pig-eating mecca for new and old school hipsters and foodies. The communal tables are key to jam this small restaurant full of happy customers. But call early for a reservation (yes they take them), or you might be waiting until after 10pm to eat. Specializing in its namesake as well as craft beers, the real question is: how many ways can you dig on swine? The answer: a whole helluva lot. - **JOSH M., '11**

Horatio's

Located in the beautiful, understated and never ridiculously crowded San Leandro Marina. Book a reservation for a special dinner, a romantic evening or whatever, and choose from the classic seafood, steak and salad menu. Walk off your meal and take a stroll along the marina, enjoy the sunset, views of the bay and the wide expanse of open land and trails around the marina. - **VICTOR S., '14**

La Note Restaurant

Great brunch. - **OLIVIA A., '06**

Ozuma

I like to call it DJ Sushi. Comprehensive Japanese cuisine. Great rolls, sushi and an endless sake list for those who can tell the difference between them. Great place for a first date, as the energy is contagious, but not distracting. Also good for groups who enjoy doing sake bombs (do the kids even do that anymore—I'm so old). - **BETH M., '14.**



Dining

Pican

Cajun, Creole, Southern, and anything else close to that style. Order the Fried Chicken with Truffle Honey Drizzle and the Crawfish Mac & Cheese as your side. You'll be speaking with a drawl the rest of the night. Wear your nice shoes to this place and keep an eye out for A's veterans and the mayor on weeknights.

- **JACK B., '13**

Rangoon Super Stars

Like Burma Superstar in SF, but without the 3-hour line. - **ANONYMOUS**

Ratto's Deli

To-die-for a la carte sandwiches, plus deli cheeses, meats, olives, and European dry goods. - **ANONYMOUS**

Taqueria Guadalajara

Mouthful of a name. Mouthful of a menu! Aguas frescas, delicious fajitas and burritos. Imported Mexican beers. Be done with your meal and a few storefronts down, visit their Mexican bakery or their Mexican ice cream shop! Oh, they own the Western wear shop as well if you've got a hankering for some mean boots and your traditional cowboy hat! - **SALLY S., '14**

Taqueria Los Pericos

Authentic food, zesty salsas, reasonable prices, excellent shrimp cocktails, weekend pozole and menudo! Worth the drive! Come on weekends and catch international soccer on TV. - **VICTOR S., '12**

The Cheeseboard Collective

A Berkeley classic. - **ANONYMOUS**

The Trappist

Exhaustive international beer selection, satisfying bar grub, and patio seating housed in an old Victorian building. - **GRETCHEN H., '14**

Zachary's Chicago Pizza

Amazing pizza, a must-try for anyone new to the area. - **MARION R., '13**





These are the hot spots young alums love to hit up to have a good time and make great memories.

Bar Three Fifty-Five

Want to order a fancy drink from dudes and chicks with lots of tattoos? Bar 355 is your spot. Great mixologists who keep their game sharp. DJs on the weekend, but no dancing, just a lot of high heels and chain wallets. - **JOSH M., '11**

District

Tasty cocktails, large wine list, and yummy bar bites. Spacious location makes it good for gatherings. - **ANONYMOUS**

Make Westing

Cozy bar with good beer selection and cocktails. The food is pricey for bar food, but it hits the spot. Cozy atmosphere, plus bocce ball. The young crowd goes until late on the weekends. Order \$2 PBR tall boys and play bocce ball on the inside court. - **JOSH M., '11, OLIVIA A., '06, GRETCHEN H., '14**

Terrace Room

Live music and dancing on Thursday and Friday evenings. - **ANONYMOUS**

The Ruby Room

Quality dive bar that's been around forever. Wednesdays and Saturdays are the best night to go and dance your face off on the tiny dance floor to old school soul like Stevie and Earth Wind and Fire. Disclaimer: your clothes may smell of cigarettes when you leave or walk outside. - **HEATHER R., '14**

Recreation



Whether it's hiking, live music or a new adventure, young alums recommend these interesting events and locales.

Off the Grid in Oakland and Hayward. Hiking around Lake Chabot. First Fridays in Oakland. Live music at the Bistro in Hayward. - **GRETCHEN H., '14**

Temescal Lake, Tilden Park, Mt Diablo. - **OLIVIA A., '06**

Hiking in Tilden Park is on point! - **SALLY W., '14, OLIVIA A., '06**

Biking in Tilden/along Skyline. - **JASPER H., '10**

Walking around Lake Merritt. - **ANONYMOUS**

Blues dancing Wednesday nights at Beat the Blues. - **ANONYMOUS**

Walking/hiking Panoramic Hill. - **JASPER H., '10**

Farmers markets (so many—Berkeley, Oakland, Kensington, Fruitvale, etc.). - **ANONYMOUS**

Tilden State Park, walking around Lake Merritt, farmers markets at Grand Lake and Jack London on the weekend, Warriors and A's games, wine tasting in Jack London, drinking beer at Woods, Oakland Museum of California, particularly on Friday nights, Lake Chalet on warm afternoons. - **CHRISTINE W., '11**

Best/most reasonable golf in the East Bay: Chuck Corica golf course in Alameda. 36 holes plus a 9 hole. Recent renovations are making it even better. Walk or ride for under \$40. - **JOSH M., '11**

Amazing hiking with unbelievable views is a 10-minute drive to Redwood Park in Oakland or a 20-minute drive to Tilden in Berkeley. You won't even believe you are in the Bay Area. - **HEATHER R., '14**

Best Gym: Bladium in Alameda. Show your Stanford ID and get your CrossFit on, among others. This gym offers indoor soccer leagues, rock walls, boxing, karate, and then all the normal "Let's get Shredded" pump and cardio classes. Super reasonable for singles or couples. - **VICTOR S., '11**

Jack London and all regal theatres have \$6 specials on Tuesdays. - **RODNEY G., '09**



Moving to the East Bay? These neighborhoods are young alumni favorites.

North Berkeley. Quiet, close to Bart, coffee shops and cute restaurants. - **OLIVIA A., '06**

North Berkeley! Quiet, safe, bikeable, walkable, easy access to SF, better weather than SF (also cleaner and more scenic). - **ANONYMOUS**

Hayward. My spouse and I really like living here. We rent a house close to downtown and the Hayward Bart station; it's quiet and affordable, easy to get to the City, and has plenty of stuff to do in the community. - **GRETCHEN H., '14**

The Uptown, the Grand, the Bond, major units going in everywhere around the Uptown so keep researching when considering moving there. Also, more standard houses can be found farther away both in the flats and the hills—and get much more affordable to the south and north, such as in San Leandro, Hayward, and El Cerrito. - **CHRISTINE W., '11**

Lake Merritt in Oakland, anywhere in Alameda, Berkeley (north side of MLK blvd), lofts in Jack London Square (Oakland), San Pablo Ave area in Albany. - **MARION R., '12**



Tips



Keep these young alumni words of wisdom in mind as you get to know the East Bay.

Meetups to find people/places/things to do. Yelp for restaurants. - **ANONYMOUS**

It takes some time to find friends once you're out of school. Try out a few different resources, attend events, and host your own to meet new people! - **GRETCHEN H., '14**

Do your best to not cross the bridges in a car during normal commute times. Take Bart, it gets crowded too, but at least you'll save yourself the headache of sitting in traffic. - **JOSH M., '11**

For housing lists, look at 1-bedrooms if you're searching for a place for 2. Some have a living room that could be used as a 2nd bedroom. - **MARION R., '14**

If it seems like a scam on craigslist it probably is. Make sure you see a place in person and not just pictures. Visit places in the evening to get a feel for the area at that time. Don't live anywhere east or south of the lake (Merritt). Anywhere over a 35-minute commute may not seem like a big deal but it will be. - **ROD G., '10**

Spend most of your time in the East Bay, not the City, and bring your friends to this side of the Bridge. Live/work/hang out at the Hive because it's cool right now and will be even more exciting in the coming years. Live close to your transportation to work (i.e. if you're working for Google, live close to a Google bus stop), try something new every week or so because there are plenty of new places opening up all the time, make trips to places that are an hour or two away (Livermore, Sonoma, Big Sur, Healdsburg, Anderson Valley) on the weekends. - **CHRISTINE W., '11**



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