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TRAVEL

Headed to UM's Big Game in Indy? Here's a list of restaurants, bars, hotels and things to do

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More than 70,000 people are expected to swarm to Indianapolis this weekend for the landmark Big Ten championship game between the Michigan Wolverines and the Iowa Hawkeyes at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Saturday's kick-off doesn't start until 8 p.m., and since many of the remaining hotels in the city require a minimum two-night stay, the game is a great opportunity to spend a weekend and explore Indianapolis.

"We are such a walkable destination, we've hosted a Super Bowl and more Final Fours than every other city in the modern era," said Nate Swick, the communications manager for Visit Indy, Indianapolis's official tourism site. "We're built to host major sporting events."

From trendy neighborhoods to award-winning restaurants to family-friendly activities, here's a list of where to stay, where to grab a bite and what to do in Indianapolis.

Where to stay

Accommodations in downtown Indianapolis are going fast and most require two-night stays:

Sleep Inn & Suites and Conference Center Downtown: Located 2.5 miles away from Lucas Oil Stadium at 1244 W 16th St. Average price is \$219 per night.

Hampton Inn Indianapolis-South: Located about 10 miles away from Lucas Oil Stadium at 7045 McFarland Blvd. Average price is \$224 per night.

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Indianapolis Airport South: Located about 10 miles away from Lucas Oil Stadium at 4325 Southport Crossings Way. Average price is \$229 per night.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Indianapolis East: Located about 10 miles away from Lucas Oil Stadium at 7110 East 21st Street. Average price is \$402 per night.

Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis South/Greenwood: Located about 12 miles away from Lucas Oil Stadium at 5255 Noggle Way. Average price is \$293 per night.

To get the latest rates and availability, visit [here](#). For one-night stays, consider hotels in the northern suburbs of Carmel or Fishers, or Airbnbs.

Where to eat and drink

BRUNCH

Milktooth: The diner prides itself on high-quality, locally-sourced food. It's rotating seasonal menu includes creative takes on waffles, pancakes, sandwiches, pastries and more. Milktooth is at 534 Virginia Ave. in Indianapolis's historic Fletcher Place neighborhood downtown.

Love Handle: Love Handle is known for its Southern Comfort-style specialty sandwiches and small plates. Its rotating menu includes sandwiches with options like smoked brisket, beer mustard, braised cabbage, salmon, pork belly, garlic aioli and sorrel. The restaurant is at 877 Massachusetts Ave. in Indianapolis's Mass Ave Cultural Arts District.

DINNER

St. Elmo Steak House: This award-winning steakhouse is less than a 10-minute walk from Lucas Oil Stadium. Established in 1902, it's Indiana's oldest steakhouse and deemed one of Forbes' "10 great classic restaurants well worth visiting." In addition to its steaks, the restaurant is known for its shrimp cocktail, named the world's spiciest dish by the Travel Channel. Located at 127 S. Illinois St., Indianapolis. Reservations recommended.

The Garage Food Hall: For an indecisive group, the Garage Food Hall has more than 15 international food vendors, with unique options including Asian fusion tacos, Peruvian pizza and Cedar & Whiskey ice cream. The food hall is in the city's trendy Bottleworks District, a recently-developed food, entertainment and shopping hub, named for its former site as a Coca-Cola bottling plant. The Garage is at 906 Carrollton Ave., about two miles from Lucas Oil Stadium.

Bru Burger Bar: Known for its award-winning hamburgers, the all-American restaurant offers 20 "chef burger" options, as well as salads, sandwiches, desserts, cocktails and wine. "You'd be hard pressed to find a better burger in the city," Swick said. Bru is at 410 Massachusetts Ave. in the Mass Ave Cultural Arts District, a little over a mile from Lucas Oil Stadium.

DRINKS

The Slippery Noodle Inn: Founded in 1850, the Slippery Noodle is one of Indiana's oldest bars with a rich history that includes serving as a way station in the Underground Railroad and as a brothel. The bar also serves food and features live blues music nearly every night. It is located adjacent to Lucas Oil Stadium at 372 S. Meridian St..

The District Tap: The sports bar prides itself on "craft beer on tap, and damn good food." It offers a vast variety of IPAs, lagers, ales, porters and more, as well as ciders, wines and cocktails. Its food menu includes burgers, sandwiches and pizza. It's located a half-mile away from Lucas Oil Stadium at 3720 E 82nd St.

The Dugout: This friendly, neighborhood bar has been voted as Indiana's best dive bar, serving food and drinks in a laid-back atmosphere. It's located at 621 Virginia Ave. in Indianapolis's Fletcher Place neighborhood, about a mile away from Lucas Oil Stadium.

Breweries: USA Today has ranked Indianapolis as one of its top five beer cities in the country, with more than 50 breweries downtown, according to Swick. Top picks include Sun King Brewery (1.5 miles from stadium), Ellison Brewing (half mile from stadium) and Guggman Haus (2.5 miles from stadium).

Things to do

Big Ten Fan Fest: Big Ten fans can get ready for the game with more than 200,000 square feet of interactive games, entertainment, team band performances, giveaways and more. The event is from 5-9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday. Championship ticketholders get complimentary admission, prices for those without game tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 3-12. The event is in the Indiana Convention Center at 100 S Capitol Ave.

Giant Christmas "Tree" at Circle of Lights on Monument

Circle: Indianapolis's iconic Soldiers and Sailors Monument transforms into the "world's largest Christmas tree" when the 284.5-foot landmark is decorated with lights and garland. An interactive light show plays every night. Monument Circle is in the heart of downtown Indianapolis at 1 Monument Circle.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum: Indy 500 fans can visit the famous speedway and take a narrated bus tour of the racetrack. The museum also features more than a century's worth of racing cars and artifacts. Tickets are \$15 for adults with discounts for seniors and children. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and located within the Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval at 4750 W. 16th St., Indianapolis.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis: Deemed the world's largest children's museum, the 815,700 square-foot facility features five floors of interactive learning with exhibits on arts, world cultures, science and humanities. Admission ranges from \$19.50 - \$38. The museum is open from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and is at 3000 North Meridian St.

Pacers v. Heat Basketball Game: The Indiana Pacers play the Miami Heat at 7 p.m. Friday at Indianapolis's Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Tickets start at \$11. The arena is located at 125 S. Pennsylvania Street downtown.