**CAMWS 2025 (Champaign-Urbana) Local Guide**

**Getting around & orientation**

Most conference activities will be held at the [Hilton Garden Inn – Champaign-Urbana](https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/cmichgi-hilton-garden-inn-champaign-urbana/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-GI-CMICHGI&y_source=1_MjA4MjQ1My03MTUtbG9jYXRpb24ud2Vic2l0ZQ%3D%3D) and the [Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/champaign/cmitc/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps-_-HI-_-US-_-CMITC), which is across Kirby Avenue (past the Walgreens and McDonalds). The conference hotel(s), as you’ll see when you arrive, are in a relatively car-focused area of Champaign, but there are sidewalks and crosswalks at the lights.

Champaign-Urbana has a fairly robust bus system ([CU Mass Transit](https://mtd.org/)), though service is currently [reduced](https://mtd.org/inside/mtd-pulse/spring-break-service-reductions-begin-saturday-march-15/) due to the university being on spring break. One-way bus trips are $1; if you do not have cash, you can pay using the [Token Transit](https://mtd.org/riding/token-transit/) app.

If you head east on Kirby Avenue (crossing Neil Street), you will reach the athletic portion of the campus almost immediately, but all conference activities on campus are on the Main Quad, which is a mile and a half away on foot. Similarly, if you head north on Neil Street, you will eventually reach downtown Champaign, which is more pedestrian-friendly than the area around the hotels and has “nicer” (i.e., pricier) restaurants – but that, too, is about a mile and a half away, so consider carpooling with friends or using a ride-share if you do not wish to try public transit.

There are several budget breakfast options close to the conference hotel(s) – apart from the Espresso Royale (the closest coffeeshop) and Ye Olde Donut Shoppe on the corner of Neil and Birch Street, Merry Ann’s Diner is unpretentious and right across the street.

As a side note, there is a robust international student population at UIUC, and as a result, there are very many Asian food options around town (many in Campustown near the Illinois Union). Urbana also has an [HMart](https://www.hmart.com/) on 220 N Broadway Avenue, for anyone who is interested in a Korean grocery chain.

**Friday afternoon**

Lunch on Friday will be held on the UIUC campus, on the main floor of the Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics Building. The buses will drop attendees off right in front, on South Mathews Avenue. Friday afternoon sessions will be in Lincoln Hall, which is across the main quad. Those who wish to drive themselves should be aware that, as with many college campuses, parking can be tricky. There are usually metered spots available (some on Mathews Ave or Oregon Street; there are also spots in the Krannert Center parking garage).

There are a plethora of coffeeshops near LCLB, apart from the Starbucks in the Illinois Union: Espresso Royale (1117 Oregon St), Caffe Paradiso (801 Lincoln Ave), and Café Bene (700 Gregory St) are all within a five or ten minute walk.

**Dining options**

**Coffee Shops/Desserts**

BakeLab Patisserie & Cafe

Brew Lab  
Caffe Paradiso

Cafe Bene

Espresso Royale

Jarlings’ Custard Cup

Mad Goat Coffee

Pekara Bakery And Bistro

**Assorted dining recommendations**

Bangkok Thai

Biaggi’s

Big Grove Tavern

Black Dog Smoke & Alehouse

Courier Cafe

First Wok

Golden Harbor

Hamilton Walker

Himalayan Chimney

Ko Fusion

Maize Mexican Grill

Manolo’s

Merry Ann’s Diner

Nando Milano

Rosati’s Pizza

The Original Pancake House

The Ribeye

Sakanaya

Sakura

Seven Saints

Shawarma Joint

Siam Terrace

Silvercreek

Watson’s Shake & Rail

**Green Street Area (Campus) Fast Food**

Cane’s Chicken

Jimmy John’s

Taco Bell

Panda Express

McDonalds

Chipotle

Pot Belly’s Sandwiches

**Bars**

Boomerangs Bar & Grill

Bunny’s Tavern

Esquire

Legends

Neil St. Blues

The Rosebowl

Seven Saints

Gallery Art Bar (includes selection of mocktails)

Rose Bowl Tavern

**Non-conference attractions**

**Art & History**

Spurlock Museum

Krannert Art Museum

**Fitness**

Urbana Boulders

**Theaters & Music**

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

The Canopy Club

Virginia Theater

**Nature, Gardens, & Parks**

University of Illinois Arboretum

University of Illinois Japan House

Crystal Lake Park

Anita Purves Nature Center + woods

Hessel Park

Meadowbrook Park

Art Mart

The CIF