

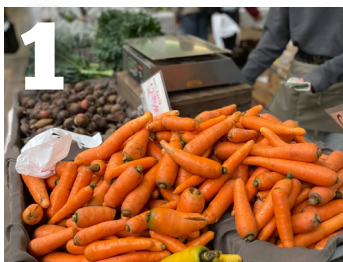
# YOUR WINTER CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign-Urbana area

January–March 2025



## MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



### 1 CU WINTER FARMERS MARKET

[thelandconnection.org/markets](http://thelandconnection.org/markets)

Rise and shine! Head over to Lincoln Square Mall every Saturday morning. Vendors offer meat, poultry, eggs, veggies, fruit, microgreens, baked goods, flowers, herbal products, dog treats, and handcrafted artisan goods like soaps, candles, jewelry, woodworking, and so much more.

### THE FARMS: HOT CHOCOLATE HIKES

Jan 15, Feb 5, Mar 4 | [allerton.illinois.edu](http://allerton.illinois.edu)

Get the family outside and experience the joys of Allerton in winter! Each hike features a different part of the park, a stop for hot chocolate, and a story around the campfire. Kids are encouraged to run, play, and ask questions about their discoveries.



2

### ILLINI HOCKEY

[illinihockey.com](http://illinihockey.com) | [illiniwomenshockey.com](http://illiniwomenshockey.com)

Nonstop action, thrilling plays, and don't forget the Zamboni! If you've never experienced a game in person, cheering on the Illini Men's and Women's Hockey Teams is a must. Matches are held at the University of Illinois Ice Arena, a blast to watch, and fun for all ages.



3



### 4 CHAMPAIGN-URBANA RESTAURANT WEEK

Jan 24–Feb 1 | [curestaurantweek.org](http://curestaurantweek.org)

Discover flavors that span the world from 50+ local restaurants. From global cuisine to farm-to-table favorites, Restaurant Week is an annual celebration of the Champaign-Urbana area's award-winning culinary scene. Check out the menus and start planning!

### KRANNERT UNCORKED WITH ILLINOIS SOUL

Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 | [krannertcenter.org](http://krannertcenter.org)

Celebrate Black History Month every Thursday in February with free live music from top local and regional artists on Stage 5 in Krannert Center's lobby. Connect with friends, enjoy a drink, and dance, dance, dance! Presented in partnership with Illinois Soul, a public radio station amplifying Black culture in Central Illinois.



5



6

### AIKMAN'S MARCH MADNESS

Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | [aikmanwildlife.com](http://aikmanwildlife.com)

Wrap up the winter at Aikman Wildlife Adventure in Arcola, featuring 70+ species from six continents! The walk-thru, drive-thru, and prehistoric museum will be open every Saturday in March for donation-only admission.



## Did you know?

- For the second year in a row, the City of Champaign earned the highest possible score on the Human Rights Campaign's 2024 Municipal Equality Index (MEI) for inclusive LGBTQ+ laws, policies, and services. The MEI, a nationwide evaluation, rates cities on nondiscrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality.
- Champaign-Urbana is the global epicenter for AgTech, where technology and agriculture intersect to drive innovation. Each spring, Champaign-Urbana AgTech Week highlights this vibrant ecosystem, including the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Parkland College, corporate innovation partners, startups, state-of-the-art facilities, student organizations, local ag companies, the iFAB Tech Hub, and more. In 2025, AgTech Week will be held March 3-7, spotlighting the breakthroughs and partnerships shaping the future of farming—right here in Champaign-Urbana.
- The Institute of Aviation at Parkland College was recently recognized by *Forbes* for its associate degree programs, which offer students a pathway to high-paying aviation careers. Founded at the University of Illinois in 1946 and transitioning to Parkland in 2014, the Institute provides a strong foundation for aspiring aviators. Alumni fly for all major airlines, as well as military, corporate, cargo, and charter organizations worldwide.
- Thanks to a grant from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Flyover Film Studios in Rantoul is transforming Chanute Air Force Base's hangar space into a cutting-edge soundstage. The facility, at 290,000+ square feet, will feature soundproof stages, mill space for set creation, secure equipment lockup, and pre-built staging sets. As the largest soundstage in Illinois outside Chicago, it will mark a major step in establishing the Champaign-Urbana area as a premier destination for commercial and independent filmmakers alike.

Want more ideas for events & activities?  
[experiencecu.org](http://experiencecu.org)

Learn more about the community + search for jobs:  
[makeitcu.com](http://makeitcu.com)



CHAMPAIGN-URBANA AREA RESTAURANT WEEK

# TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Featuring Champaign-Urbana Area Restaurant Week Participants

- 83 Vietnamese Cuisine** | Champaign | 83viet.com
- BakeLab** | Champaign & Urbana | bakelab.coffee
- Baldarotta's** | Urbana | baldarottas.com
- Big Grove Tavern** | Champaign | biggrovetavern.com
- Billy Barooz** | Champaign | billybarooz.com
- BrewLab** | Champaign | brewlab.coffee
- The Burrito Lab** | Champaign | getburritolab.com
- Caprae** | Champaign | prairiefruits.com
- Chophouse on Main** | Mahomet | chophouseonmain.com
- Esquire Lounge** | Champaign | esquirelounge.com
- ET's Downtown** | Rantoul | etsdowntownrantoul.com
- Forage Kitchen** | Champaign | eatforage.com
- Good Judys' Bagels** | Urbana | goodjudyscu.com
- Guido's** | Champaign | guidosbar.com
- Hamilton Walker's** | Champaign | hamiltonwalkers.com
- Hopscotch Market** | Champaign | hopscotchmarket.com
- Houlihan's** | Champaign | houlihans.com
- Industrial Donut** | Savoy | industrialdonut.com

- Joe's Pizza** | Tuscola | facebook.com/joespizzatuscola
- Jupiter's Pizza** | Champaign | jupiterpizza.com
- Kohinoor Indian** | Champaign | kohinoorchampaign.com
- La Bahía Grill** | Champaign | labahiagrill.com
- La Paloma Food Truck** | facebook.com/LaPalomaMexicanDelicacies/
- The Literary** | Champaign | literarybookbar.com
- The Main Scoop** | Mahomet, Monticello, Rantoul, and Urbana | themainscoopicecream.com
- Maize at the Station** | Champaign | maizemexicangrill.com
- Market Street Grill** | Paxton | marketstreetgrillpaxton.com
- Martinelli's Market** | Champaign | martinellismarket.com
- Nando Milano** | Champaign | nandomilanochampaign.com
- Naya Indian Cuisine** | Champaign | nayaindiancuisineil.com
- Neil St. Blues** | Champaign | neilstblues.com
- Oskee's** | Urbana | atkinsgolfclub.com

- Pekara Bakery & Bistro** | Champaign | pekarabistro.com
- Po'Boys** | Urbana | poboyurbana.com
- Project 47 Smokehouse** | Mahomet | project47smokehouse.com
- The Ribeye** | Champaign | theribeyerestaurant.com
- Sepalas** | Urbana | sepelas.com
- Seven Saints** | Champaign | sevensaintsbar.com
- Silvercreek** | Urbana | silvercreekrestaurant.com
- Smith Burger Co.** | Champaign | smithburgerco.com
- Sooie Bros.** | Champaign | sooiebrosbbq.com
- The Space** | Champaign | thespacecu.com
- Stango Cuisine** | Champaign | stangocu.com
- Sticky Rice** | Champaign | stickyricechampaign.com
- Sun Singer** | Champaign | sunsingerwines.com
- Watson's Shack & Rail** | Champaign | watsonschicken.com
- The Wheelhouse** | St. Joseph | atthewheelhouse.com
- Wood N' Hog Barbecue** | Urbana | woodnhogbarbecue.com
- Ye Olde Donut Shoppe** | Champaign | yeoldeonutshoppe.com

## Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our winter checklist, and share on Instagram with #experiencecu!



Clockwise from top left

- Ten Thousand Villages mural, downtown Champaign (**artist: José Vazquez**)
- Winter hike at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve
- Eternal Flame for Valentine's Day, University of Illinois Quad
- African American Musicians sculpture, Skelton Park, Champaign (**artist: Preston Jackson**)

## Stay Active & Involved

Embrace winter and enjoy the many ways to stay active, from hiking to helping out.

### Recreational Activities

- Frozen 5K | January 11**  
Carle at the Fields Trail, Champaign | [champaignparks.org](http://champaignparks.org)
- Public Skating | Ice Arena**  
406 E Armory Ave, Champaign | [campusrec.illinois.edu](http://campusrec.illinois.edu)
- Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center**  
102 E Michigan Ave, Urbana | [urbanaparks.org](http://urbanaparks.org)

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Forest Preserves Winter Volunteer Event | February 17**  
Lake of the Woods, Mahomet | [champaignforests.org](http://champaignforests.org)
- ISHA Boys Basketball Tournament | March 13-15**  
KidZone activities and community ambassadors  
Email [markb@experiencecu.org](mailto:markb@experiencecu.org)

### PLUG INTO

Job Board + Community Job Application + Chambana Welcome Crew + New to CU Mixers + Chambana Proud Podcast + Chambana Proud Shop  
[makeitcu.com](http://makeitcu.com)