

STUDENT GUIDE TO FRESNO

This list was initially prepared by UCSF Fresno Students in '96-04 and has been updated annually. **Your suggestions and corrections are appreciated and will be included in future updates.**

Hey! Welcome to Fresno!! Whether you are here by choice or by chance this list will help you bide your time a little happier!

RESTAURANTS:

\$	= \$5-\$10 per entrée
\$\$	= \$10-\$15
\$\$\$	= \$15 and up; great for drug-rep sponsored dinners!!

- **Acapulco's** (Mexican Restaurant and Cantina) 3966 N. Blackstone Ave. - 221-6739
Diverse lunch buffet with lots of good stuff including fresh fruits and deserts. Great selection and good prices. \$1 Monday Margaritas.
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- **Baja Fresh** 7675 N. Blackstone Avenue, at Nees 431-8811
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- **Bella Pasta** 5789 N. Palm Ave. 438-4452
Benihana-type restaurant that's a lot of fun with a group. The food is good and there's plenty of it. Sake bombs, anyone?
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- **BJ's Kountry Kitchen** Northwest corner of Cedar and Ashlan 222-5206
4944 N. Blackstone 228-8864
6700 N. Cedar 298-5456
Shaw & Villa in Clovis 322-7123
Open for breakfast and lunch only --- hearty breakfasts and the usual diner lunch fare.
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- **Bobby Salazars (Mexican)**
▪ **725 E. Olive 497-4920** **Shaw at Valentine 271-0836**
▪ **2839 N. Blockstone 227-1696** **Downtown Galleria 237-9900**
Large portions of decent (not great) chain Mexican food which you can pick up in a hurry. Supposedly the original Salazar's is much better, but is a bit of drive away in Selma.
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- **Boston Market** 110 E. Bullard 436-4455
1850 Shaw 322-2003,
637 E. Nees Ave 440-0500
Homestyle cooking, buffet style. The food is good and there's plenty of it
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- **Brahma Bull (Indian)** 3050 W. Shaw Ave. 275-1100
Great authentic Indian cuisine in a very nice dining environment. Good place for group dinners or romantics interludes.
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- **Brix** Northpoint Center – Palm & Herndon 435-5441
Tower District, 1153 N. Fulton 237-4226
Upscale and pricey
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- **Chicken Pie Shop** 861 E. Olive Ave. 237-5042
Great looking classic diner with green vinyl interior design. Greasy diner food. A Classic Fresno diner.
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- **Chili's** 7010 N. Fresno Street 432-3711 www.chilis.com
Trendy bar and grill, good food.
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- **Clay Oven (Indian)** Shaw & Feland 225-1254
Yum!
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- **Dai Bai Dang (Chinese)** 7736 N. Blackstone, 448-8894
Good food, conveniently located.
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- **Daily Planet** 1211 N. Wishon 266-4259
The food is good, pleasant atmosphere, good service.
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- **Don Fernando's (Southwest)** 370 W. Shaw Ave. 228-8025
Wonderful tamales, spicy quiches, jalapeno-cheese bread, and Santa Fe chicken
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- **Irene's** Tower District 237-9919
Good lunchtime sandwiches. Great food for Mardi Gras.
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- **El Matador** 2133 Shaw Avenue, Clovis 298-3403
Family owned Mexican restaurant with fresh made-to-order food. In the Fresno tradition, the use of cheese is very generous. Great pictures of bulls being slaughtered on walls.
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- **Javier's** (King's Canyon, just east of Clovis) 252-4511
Great lunch deals. Monstrous plates for under 5 bucks that will potentially cripple you. Don't ask for extra cheese cause there's already enough to back up the most motile of colons.
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- **Jimenez** across the street from UMC parking lot 251-8792
excellent Mexican food, quick.
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- **Johnny Rocket's** 7762 N. Blackstone 261-1414
Burgers, sandwiches, etc. Fries are extra. They have a veggie burger.
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- **Kim's Restaurant** Maroa near Shaw Ave. 225-0406
Good Asian food, moderate prices.
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- **La Boulangerie** (Fig Garden Village, Palm & Shaw)
 Good sandwiches and pastries. You've been to this place before under a bunch of other names. Patio for catching the rays. Lunch only served until 3 p.m.
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- **Livingstone's Restaurant and Pub** 831 E. Fern Ave. – in the tower district 485-5198
 Good food, atmosphere, service.
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- **Luby's Restaurnat** 1075 E. Bullard 439-8357
 Aromatic Shrimp is a must try!
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- **Macaroni Grill** Riverpark Center 7650 N. Blackstone 436-6690
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- **Mimi's** Riverpark Shopping Center 439-2669
 Good salad and wine.
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- **Oaxaca Restaurant (Mexican Food)** 4773 E. Belmont 454-1614
 near UMC – good/cheap/authentic Mexican food. Menus are in Spanish.
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- **The Outback (Pseudo-Australian)** 2765 W. Shaw Avenue 224-1181
 Essentially another Black Angus with Australian art décor on the walls. The service is fair, and the desserts are pretty good. Standard American /Australian fare including steaks, shrimp, deep fried beer battered onion, chicken wings. Good place for a Foster's.
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- **Parma** 7089 N. Marks 432-3389
 Excellent Italian food. A good place to take your parents when they come to visit!
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- **Pho 90 (Vietnamese)** 2256 N. Fresno St. 248-9090
 Four bucks and a quarter gets you a kick butt bowl of rice noodles and crispy golden egg rolls. A great place for lunch when you're at the VA.
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- **Plum House (Chinese Cuisine)** NE corner of Kings Canyon and Clovis 255-3075
 in the shopping center. Good Chinese food.
- **Popsie's** in Fowler, CA
 (In the town of Fowler, a bit of a drive but worth it, just ask someone when you get there.) Great homemade Mexican food served by mom and pop in their pool hall/dance club/living room. Mom tells you the menu cuz there is none and it varies day to day.
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- **Primavera** 2075 W. Bullard 435-2006
 A nice romantic Italian restaurant in the middle of strip mall (but what isn't in this town). Great food (wonderful pasta and desserts) that's very pricey. On weekends a couple of old Paisanos get a guitar and stroll the tables singing old classics. Probably best left for when the P's visit.
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- **Ripe Tomato** 5064 N. Palm Ave. 225-1850

A nice romantic French-fusion sort of restaurant in Fig Garden. Quite pricey (dinner entrees run \$20-30 per person, lunch \$10-15), but with an exotic and memorable menu.
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- **Robertito's** 4509 N. Blackstone Avenue 226-8205
Quick, cheap yet delicious Mexican fast food.
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- **Rubio's Baja Grill** 7664 N. Blackstone Avenue 438-0260
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- **Salsa's Mexican Grill** 453 Pollasky Avenue, Clovis
Outstanding and creative Mexican food. Family owned restaurant, exemplary service.
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- **Sweet Tomatoes** on Fresno Street north of Herndon (near Kaiser)
This is a great deal for already prepared/diced/sliced fresh assorted veggies and fruits. The take-out box is great; all you can fit into a few large containers including veggies, fruits, muffins, breads, and dessert. You can literally feed yourself a very healthy diet for one week on \$7!!
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- **Tahoe Joe's** 7006 N. Cedar at Herndon 299-9744
2700 W. Shaw Ave. 277-4582
Steak house, busy, fun atmosphere. Good steaks and good service.
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- **Taste of India** southwest corner of Ashlan and Marks 244-0868
not low fat but very tasty Indian cuisine.
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- **Teriyaki Hut** Across from UMC
Nice place to pick up a quick lunch or dinner. Decent chicken bowls.
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- **TGI Friday's** 1077 E. Herndon 435-8443
Good food, a lot of fun with a group.
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- **Thai House** SE corner First & Shaw, 221-7245
awesome Thai cuisine.
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- **Toom Thai** 66 E. Herndon Avenue, at Blackstone 446-0607
got several recommendations from prior students!
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- **Veni Vidi Vici** 1116 N. Fulton 266-5510
Wonderful, eclectic California cuisine that could easily survive (and thrive?) in the Big City. Some great fish and vegetarian selections but be forewarned; no pasta. Also noted for weekend entertainment, including live bands in the back.
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- **Yoshino's (Japanese)** 6226 N. Blackstone 431-2205
7776 N. Blackstone (in Riverpark) 432-4244
Benihana-type restaurant that's a lot of fun with a group. The food is good and there's plenty of it.
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WATERING HOLES (BARS)

- **Old Fresno Hofbrau** 2820 Tulare 264-4014
Fun place to catch an after dinner drink with fellow students, residents, and nurses. Hang out with locale business folk and local Fresno sports stars. Happy hour finger food includes sliced pickles and popcorn, real food can be ordered at adjoining restaurant.
\$
- **Zapp's Park** 1105 N. Blackstone 266-0334
Small local dive of a bar, no beers on tap. Reminiscent of "The Embers." Occasionally local bands cram onto a stage that could be mistaken for a dining room table to entertain the masses.
- **Whiskey Creek** 3621 E. Tulare
Hang out for some local folk who look like they've spent the better part of the last 20 years hanging out at this bar. Small with one very old pool table and one very out of date juke-box, venture here only if there is absolutely no where else to go.

DANCING

- **Express** 3075 N. Maroa 224-1024
A gay club (probably Fresno's only) that is just hippie-hippie-hop on the weekends. A fun crowd with the occasional drag queen. The kind of place where many of the patrons could probably go nowhere else and be so free-spirited and relaxed. Cover is about 5 bucks.

GAMBLING

- **Table Mountain Casino and Bingo** Friant Road (approx. 45 min. away) -Follow signs
Reminiscent of the seediest of Reno's luxury. Great place to see what your patients do outside of the hospital setting. Easy to lose money quickly! Beware. Amazing fluorescent sodas. Bingo starts at 5-6 pm. Get there early because you're gonna have to fight grandma for a seat.

CIGAR SHOP

- **Fig Garden Village** Northwest corner of Palm and Shaw
Small place with double-doored humidior, wonderful aromas. Nice upstairs seating with multiple available table games -chess, Parchessi, backgammon, cards. BYOB or grab a coffee/tea from the Krakatoa next door. Friendly place to chat with locals.

GOOD TACQUERIA'S

- **Taco Rapido** 3077 E. Tulare 442-6088
A Great place for lunch that is well situated if you have to do some traveling in the middle of the day (ie. FCM). Great Mexican food that is dirt-cheap. A bean and rice burrito that can fill up those with smaller appetite for only \$1.25; double that and just about anyone is loaded and ready to face the rest of the day. Also platos that are delicious.
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CAFÉ'S

- **Java Café & Roastery** (with outdoor seating) 803 E. Olive Ave. 237-5282
Kind of expensive coffee drinks and simple eats that's in a great place for people watching. Also they get some pretty good art on the wall with occasional nudey stuff.
- **Starbuck's**

Riverpark Shopping Center near H41/Nees
7658 N. Blackstone Avenue 261-2439
6095 N. Figgarden Drive 276-6878
1845 Herndon Avenue, Clovis 299-5944
4746 W. Jennifer Avenue 271-7445
7010 N. Marks Avenue 439-8567
741 E. Olive Avenue 237-4523
175 W. Shaw Avenue, Clovis 297-8885
Kings Canyon near Clovis Avenue

A nice place to study or just hang out. Standard classical music (Vivaldi's Spring!), but lots to look at as far people go and there's always the books (@ Blackstone/Shaw location) if you get bored.

SHOPPING CENTERS

The Riverview Garden Apartments are close to a number of different shopping centers with a wide range of restaurants, banks, coffeehouses, basic supply stores, gas stations, etc. The following is a brief summary of the major businesses. As you learn the area, please feel free to let us know of other listings that should be included here:

CENTRIX SHOPPING CENTER AT THE CORNER OF BLACKSTONE AND NEES

When you leave the apartments and turn left on Nees going toward Blackstone, you will see your first shopping center. It is approximately a five-minute walk from the apartments. Stores include:

China Restaurant	Signature Cleaner
Port of Subs	TCBY Yogurt Shop
Tri Sport Bicycle Shop	Miyako Japanese Restaurant
(you can rent a bicycle here)	Companion Animal Hospitals

WOODWARD PARK AT THE CORNER OF FRIANT AND AUDUBON

If you make a left on Blackstone and go under 41, the road changes to Friant. If you stay on Friant, you will see a Wells Fargo Bank on the right. Go through two lights making a left on Audubon. The entrance to the park is on the right. This is a beautiful park for bicycle riding, jogging, walking, picnics, etc. This past year they opened an outdoor concert area so watch for concerts in the local newspaper.

WASHINGTON SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER ON PERRIN (lots more new stores)

If you continue on Friant after the light on Audubon, make a right at the first light, which is Shepherd. Go to the first stop sign and make a left on Perrin. You will see the shopping center on the right after passing the residential area. I wanted to include this shopping center because it has one of my favorite coffeehouses, Market Street. Joel is the owner and all of the people who work there make great coffee drinks. On the weekend they have music. In this shopping center you will also find:

- Save Mart
- Longs Drugs
- Blockbuster Video

RIVERPARK SHOPPING CENTER ON BLACKSTONE BETWEEN NEES AND HERNDON

From the student apartments, if you make a left on Nees going towards Blackstone, make a right at the light and continue to the next light. You will see the shopping center on the left. This is a relatively new shopping area so additional stores may be open by the time you arrive in Fresno. In this area you will find:

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Target | ▪ Jamba Juice |
| ▪ Carl's Jr. | ▪ Yoshino's |
| ▪ Borders Bookstore | ▪ Office Max |
| ▪ Mimi's Café | ▪ Me-N-Ed's Pizza |
| ▪ Edwards Theaters with IMAX | ▪ Comp USA |
| ▪ Romano's Macaroni Grill | ▪ JC Penney Home Store |
| ▪ Sports Authority | ▪ Linen N Things |
| ▪ Dai Bai Dang | ▪ Marshalls |
| ▪ Best Buy | ▪ Old Navy |
| ▪ World Sports Cafe | ▪ Berean Christian Bookstore |

SHOPPING CENTERS ON THE CORNER OF NEES AND FIRST

If you come out of the apartments and make a left on Nees crossing Blackstone, you will eventually come to probably one of the largest centers to buy food, bagels, rent movies, etc. Stores in this area include:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| ▪ Save Mart | ▪ Blockbusters |
| ▪ Vons | ▪ Union 76 |
| ▪ Fresno Bagels | |
| ▪ Boston Market | |

Note: **WOODWARD PARK POST OFFICE** Is located on Nees just east of the First/Nees Shopping Center

LITTLE PEKING ON THE CORNER OF NEES AND CEDAR

If you continue on Nees, you will pass the Woodward Park Post Office on the right. I think you go through two lights. There is a small shopping center on the right. The Little Peking is one of my favorite Chinese restaurants. It is not fancy but the food is good and you can call ahead if you want to order take-out.

SHOPPING CENTERS AT THE CORNER OF HERNDON AND CEDAR

This is a very busy corner with a wide range of stores including:

- Tahoe Joe's
- Fratelli's Italian Restaurant
- Matador Mexican Restaurant
- Schlotzsky's Deli
- Union 76 Station
- Applebees
- Bull Dogs Pack and Send
- BJ's Kountry Kitchen

TRADER JOES

Is located at the corner of Blackstone and Barstow

FIG GARDEN VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER

Located at the corner of Shaw and Palm. Some establishments they have are:

Whole Foods	Bulldog Brewing Company
Bath & Body Works	William Sonoma
Not just Paper	Elbow Room
Gottschalk's	

