

Eclectic Coffee Cafés (Near the Rivers)

Here's what I consider the gems of coffee cafes in Pittsburgh. Independent, sometimes weirdly eclectic, but all comfy and all with delicious stuff.

North Side

I once had high hopes for a blossoming of fun things on Western Ave., which makes the mini-blossoming on E. Ohio St. all the more surprising!

- 1 Amani International Coffeeshop**
507 Foreland St.

A rare thing in the North Side, comfy with great coffee, smoothies, and sandwiches.
(Mon-Fri: 7am-5pm; Sat: 8am-2pm; Sun: Closed)

- 2 Bistro to Go**
415 E Ohio St

Doesn't do espresso, but is so comfy to hang out in (despite the name), including a lovely side terrace, and is such an oasis of fresh good food, that maybe they wouldn't mind if you brought in your latte from Amani a half block away!
(Mon-Fri: 11am-7pm; Sat: 9am-7pm; Sun: 11am-3pm)

South Side

The historic working class neighborhood that retains plenty of real-ness even with the mall-like addition at the eastern edge (SouthSide Works).

- 3 Beehive**
1327 E Carson St.

One of the earliest of the "new" coffee cafes from the 90's, it is the epitome of funky artsy comfy. Coffee is top notch.
(Mon-Thu: 9am-1am; Fri-Sun: 9am-2am)

- 4 Big Dog Coffee**
2717 Sarah St

New to the scene on a back street. In a late 19th century bakery, worth a detour for the decadent desserts and famous soups (and does breakfast too).
(Mon-Fri: 6am-10pm; Sat & Sun: 7:30am-10pm)

Lawrenceville

Butler St has blossomed into our own little East Village (circa late 70's). Has the biggest concentration of comfy eclectic cafes in the City!

- 5 Coca Café**
3811 Butler St

60's Dinetette cool . . . lots of food and famous brunches. Mmmmm . . .
(Tue-Fri: 7am-3pm; Sat: 9am-3pm; Sun: 10am-3pm; Mon: Closed)

- 6 Espresso A Mano**
3623 Butler St

Brand new and uber-cool. Focused on the science of coffee.
(Mon-Fri: 7am-9pm; Sat: 8am-9pm; Sun: 8am-6pm)

- 7 Perk Me Up**
4407 Butler St.

Breakfasts and sandwiches too.
(Mon-Fri: 7am-4pm; Sat: 8am-4pm; Sun: 9am-3pm)

- 8 Dozen Bake Shop**
3511 Butler St

Yes, a scarily irresistible array of goodies to go with your espresso. And yes, you can just "hang out".
(Mon: 8am-3pm; Tue-Thu: 8am-7pm; Sat: 9am-6pm; Sun: 9am-2pm)

Strip District

Our open-air market place district has been home forever to Pittsburgh's original coffee café, La Prima.

- 9 21st Street Café**
Corner of 21st and Smallman

One of only three sources in Pittsburgh for one-at-a-time Clover Machine coffee. Plus, great corner spot to watch the Strip go by. (The new branch in Downtown, located at Three PNZ Plaza, is every bit as good as the one in the Strip.)
(Mon-Wed: 7am-4pm; Thurs-Fri: 7am-6pm, summertime; Sat: 7:30am-5:30pm; Sun: 8am-4pm)

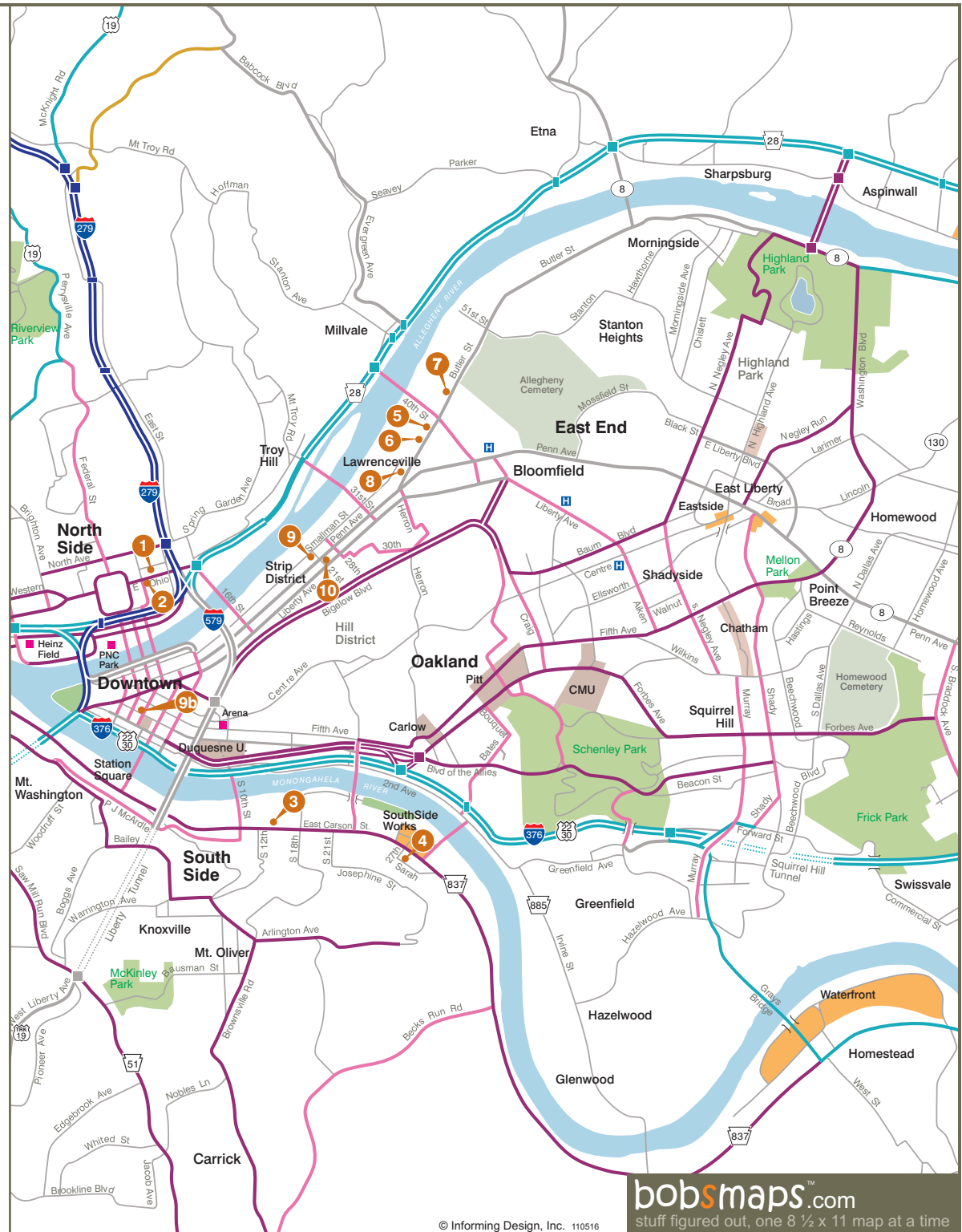
- 10 La Prima**
21st, between Penn and Liberty

This is the closest thing to a real, Italian espresso bar that you're going to find for many hundreds of miles. Note that Enrico's Biscotti bakery is nearby (at 2022 Penn).
(Mon-Sat: 6am-4pm; Sun: 8am-2pm)

Downtown

- 9b 21st Street Café**
Off ped alley in PNC 3, Wood St side

The new branch in Downtown is every bit as good as the one in the Strip, described above.
(Mon-Fri: 6:30am-4:30pm; Sat: 8:30am-12pm; Sun: Closed)



Eclectic Coffee Cafés (On the Oakland/East End Plateau)

Here's what I consider the gems of coffee cafes in Pittsburgh. Independent, sometimes weirdly eclectic, but all comfy and all with delicious stuff.

Oakland – S. Craig

S. Craig is the connoisseur's Oakland, more grad student than undergrad.

11 Dozen Bake Shop

417 S. Craig St

Yes, a scarily irresistible array of goodies to go with your espresso. And yes, you can just "hang out". (This branch does not serve coffee.)
(Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm; Sat: 10am-6pm; Sun: Closed)

12 Kiva Han

420 S. Craig St.

Kiva Han on the corner at Forbes across from the Carnegie Museum of Art is the ideal perch to watch this part of Oakland go by. Pleasantly non-corporate.
(Mon-Fri: 6:30am-11pm; Sat&Sun: 8am-11pm)

Garfield

Edge-y area worth a detour.

13 Quiet Storm

5430 Penn Ave

This place is a local institution, albeit a nicely radical one. Feels like a transplant from Burlington, Vermont or Berkeley. Vegetarian and vegan café, with a Sunday brunch. Coffee is all fair trade and organic.
(Mon-Sat: 9am-9pm; Sun: 10am-4pm; Tue: Closed)

Highland Park (& CMU)

Leafy Pittsburgh at its best, with unusually broad avenues and glorious old mansions.

14 Enrico's Tazza D'Oro

1125 North Highland Ave (near Bryant St)

Weird sense that I have seen this place somewhere else – on a side street in Santa Monica perhaps. Ambience is old-house Pittsburgh perfect. Setting extraordinary. Popular stop with cyclists. Serves panini, baked-there pastries, and Sunday brunch. Superb coffees and teas, including French press coffee.
(Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm; Sat & Sun: 8am-10pm)

15 Enrico's Tazza D'Oro-CMU

Gates Centre, 3rd Floor

And yes, they have a branch in the new Gates Computer Science Building at CMU.
(Mon-Fri: 7am-7pm; Sat & Sun: Closed)

Shadyside – Walnut St

Supposedly Pittsburgh's mini-Georgetown, it nonetheless has at least one not-overly-corporate coffee spot.

16 The Coffee Tree Roasters

5524 Walnut St

Really enjoy their pastries. And their huge garage-door style opening window wall makes hanging out so much fun.
(Everyday: 6am-12am)

Shadyside – S. Highland/East Side

Up and coming area, just across the busway from the East Side shops.

17 The Coffee Tree Roasters

151 Bakery Square Blvd

(Everyday: 5:30am-11pm)

18 Oh Yeah! Ice Cream & Coffee Co.

232 S. Highland Ave.

What a business plan: mixes coffee, waffles and gourmet organic ice cream. But it works. Nice eclectic ambience inside.
(Mon-Thur: 7am-11pm; Fri: 7am-12am; Sat: 8am-12am; Sun: 8am-9pm)

Squirrel Hill

Pittsburgh's upscale neighborhood that retains a good bit of local "real-ness".

19 61C Café

1839 Murray Ave

Named for the 61C bus that stops out front, the café has smoothies (veggie as well as fruit) and French press coffee in addition to the usual array of espresso drinks and drip coffee. Coffee is excellent, side patio very popular. Pastries baked on-site.
(Mon-Thur: 8am-11pm; Fri: 7am-12am; Sat: 8am-12am; Sun: 8am-11pm)

20 The Coffee Tree Roasters

5840 Forbes Ave

(Everyday: 6am-12am)

21 Té Café

2000 Murray Ave

OK, their specialty is tea (over 100 varieties), but they also serve excellent hand-dripped coffee if your partner of the moment HAS to have a good cup of tea. Wraps and salads in addition to pastries and biscotti. Very comfy inside.
(Mon-Thur: 9am-10pm; Fri: 9am-11pm; Sat: 10am-11pm; Sun: 11am-10pm)

22 Commonplace Coffeehouse

5827 Forbes Ave

Wow, the new hit place in Squirrel Hill. Like the 21st Street Café, they do by the cup pours!!!
(Mon-Thur: 9am-10pm; Fri: 9am-11pm; Sat: 10am-11pm; Sun: 11am-10pm)

