

Best Restaurants In Scarborough: 30 Of The Tastiest Places To Eat



An east-end suburb of Toronto, Scarborough is home to some of the most diverse, authentic and inexpensive cuisines in the city. And while it may take the average downtowner a solid 35-minute public transit ride to get there, we're here to tell you it's completely worth it.

"Scarborough without question is the most diverse place to eat in town," says [food blogger Ashley Allinson of the Toronto Food Blog](#). "We're talking about a huge diversity of people and all types of different foods."

Allinson has been eating in Scarborough for as long as he could remember, and even though he was born and raised in downtown Toronto, he often makes trips to the east end in search of some of his favourite meals. From tasty Thai takeout to hole-in-the-wall Caribbean joints to family businesses that have been around for decades, he says Scarborough truly is worth the commute for your stomach.

And while it may not be known for its upscale restaurants or trendy dining experiences, Allinson says the price point alone is one of the biggest differences compared to restos downtown.

"It has the variety that Toronto doesn't have and half the price," he says.

Earlier this year, after going on a restaurant tour in Scarborough, [U.S. economist Tyler Cowen](#) said Scarborough was "the best ethnic food suburb I have seen in my life, ever, and by an order of magnitude" on his blog.

Allinson says he agrees, alluding to the fact that Toronto continues to be one of the most diverse cities in the world.

So if you're already an east-end foodie or were waiting for a good excuse to go out there to eat, you'll be happy to know Scarborough has a ton of restaurant choices. Working with Allinson's top choices and ours, we've come up with 30 of the best places to eat, from Victoria Park to north to Steeles Ave E. to Rouge Park.

And since we couldn't fit all of the suburb's hot spots into one convenient list, honourable mentions go out to Ho Ho BBQ takeout at Midland Ave. for roast pork and the presentation and menu options at [0109 Dessert & Chocolate](#), which specializes in homemade sweets and gelato fondue.

Check out 30 of our and Allinson's favourite picks below. Let us know, where do you love to eat in Scarborough?

1. Federick's (Dine In)

Location: 1920 Ellesmere Rd (and another Markham location)

Type of cuisine: [Hakka](#)

Price point: Appetizers start at \$3.50 and entrees start at \$7

What you need to get: Manchurian (chicken and vegetarian versions), as well as the chili chicken, crab and corn soup and green beans (the beans are a must!)

Foodie tip: "I really like when we take our daughter they always make space for us," says [food blogger Ashley Allinson of the Toronto Food Blog](#). For large groups, we suggest going to the Markham location and making reservations. Also, keep in mind their portions are huge and filling, so don't overdo it.

Photo: [Instagram/piqueyeater](#)



2. Samosa King/Embassy Restaurant (Dine In)

Location: 5210 Finch Ave E

Type of cuisine: [North and South Indian](#)

Price point: Snacks start at \$1, vegetarian curries start at \$4.49 and non-veg curries start at \$5.99

What you need to get: Samosas (5 for \$1), of course, and tamarind chutney

Foodie tip: They call this joint the Samosa King for a reason, and if you ever get the chance to hit up their location (you may see line-ups), make sure you take advantage of their inexpensive samosa deal.



3. Armenian Kitchen (Dine In)

Location: 1646 Victoria Park Ave

Type of cuisine: Middle Eastern

Price point: Appetizers start at \$2.75 and shawarmas start at \$12.99

What you need to get: The shawarma and hummus

Foodie tip: "This has to be the best shawarma in the city. They have a combo platter [both veggie and meat] and it is incredibly filling. Also, it's cheap," Allinson says.



4. ACR Hot Doubles (Take-Out)

Location: 2680 Lawrence Ave E

Type of cuisine: Caribbean

Price point: Rotis start at \$5 and rice and curry start at \$7.50

What you need to get: Definitely the doubles

Foodie tip: "It may just look like a small grocery store, but it has the best doubles in the city," Allinson says.

"You should get the doubles spicy."

Photo: [Instagram/vijayaselvaraju](https://www.instagram.com/vijayaselvaraju)



5. Diana's Oyster Bar and Grill (Dine In)

Location: 2105 Lawrence Ave E

Type of cuisine: [Seafood](#)

Price point: Appetizers range from \$12 to \$28 and mains range from \$24 to \$136

What you need to get: Definitely oysters

Foodie tip: "Starting as a seafood retail outlet, now they have a side restaurant with prepared seafood, beer chowders that's a little bit expensive," Allinson adds. "Perfect for oysters and beer."

Photo: [Instagram/mandyleimm](#)



6. Fishman Lobster Clubhouse (Dine In)

Location: 680 Silver Star Blvd.

Type of cuisine: [Asian seafood](#)

Price point: Lobster starts at \$17 per pound; other seafood varies from \$12 to \$45

What you need to get: The fried lobster tower, obviously

Foodie tip: Note, they only take cash and debit so make sure you bring in the right type of payment. Besides that, you'll definitely need a large appetite to finish off any tower and make sure you make reservations. As one [Yelp reviewer Casey Y](#), says, "Yummy food, deeply satisfying, definite visit for seafood lovers."



7. Perfect Chinese Restaurant (Dine In)

Location: 4386 Sheppard Avenue E

Type of cuisine: [Chinese](#)

Price point: Dim sum starts under \$3 and BBQ starts at \$8.96

What you need to get: Peking duck

Foodie tip: "This place is open 24-hours and quite possibly has the cheapest Peking duck in the GTA." — Zi Ann Lum, News Editor, Audience at Huffington Post Canada.



8. Johnny's Hamburgers (Take-Out)

Location: 2595 Victoria Park Ave.

Type of cuisine: Charbroiled burgers

Price point: Burgers are under \$4.65 and fries are under \$3

What you need to get: A couple of cheeseburgers, fries and gravy and orange pop

Foodie tip: "It's been around forever and they still serve old school orange pop and homemade charbroiled burgers," Allinson says.



9. Len Duckworth's Fish & Chips (Dine In)

Location: 2282 Kingston Rd. (Another location on the Danforth as well)

Type of cuisine: [Fish and chips](#)

Price point: In-house specials of fish and chips combo start at \$11.50 and seafood dishes range from \$10.50 to \$18.25 for a platter.

What you need to get: The in-house special halibut and chips dish.

Foodie tip: "I ate a lot of fish and chips as a child and this place has been around since the '30s," Allinson says. "The whole place is a little greasy, but when you want fish on a Friday, this is it. The halibut and chips are amazing and you get a piece of buttered white bread with coleslaw."

[Photo: Instagram/mizzmana](#)



10. Ten-Ichi Japanese Cuisine (Dine In)

Location: 4814 Sheppard Ave E.

Type of cuisine: [All-you-can-eat Japanese](#)

Price point: For all-you-can-eat, prices for adults are \$15.99 for lunch, \$24.95 for adults from Mon to Thurs and \$27.95 for the Teppanyaki Table. Note, prices go up on weekends.

What you need to get: Well, everything really, but there's everything from rolls to grilled short ribs to mixed fruit Jell-o!

Foodie tip: You want to make reservations, but there still may be some waiting time. And you really should save room for dessert, the options can seem endless. As one [Yelp reviewer Kristy N.](#) says, "They have a variety of desserts, two of the best ones are the mango yogurt and the hot ginger milk."

[Photo: Instagram/jervoiselee](#)



11. The Roti Hut (Dine In)

Location: 351 Pitfield Road

Type of cuisine: [Caribbean](#)

Price point: Rotis start at \$5.99 and rice dishes are all under \$12

What you need to get: Boneless goat roti and a bottle of Peardrax

Foodie tip: "This place is has real dhal puri roti. As in one made proper with two layers of dhal puri bonded by a seasoned layer of chickpeas, together wrapping roti filling in a delicious embrace." — Zi Ann Lum, News Editor, Audience at Huffington Post Canada.

Photo: [Instagram/international_joe](#)



12. One2 Snacks (Dine In)

Location: 8 Glen Watford Drive

Type of cuisine: Malaysian fast food

Price point: Appetizers under \$5.25 and mains under \$7

What you need to get: The char kway teow (stir fry) and curry laksa

Foodie tip: Yes, you could sit in, but space is very limited and tight. Also, be aware of spice levels, the dishes are often quite spicier than your average "spicy." As one [Yelp reviewer KerYng P.](#) says, calling in advance helps. "I recommend calling ahead to see if they have the food you want to eat before making trip there (especially for the kuih)."



13. Mamajoun Armenian Pizzeria (Take-Out)

Location: 209 Ellesmere Rd

Type of cuisine: [Armenian](#)

Price point: A dozen mamajouns (pizzas) can be bought for \$15

What you need to get: Za'atar pizza

Foodie tip: "These flat breads are delicious," Allinson says. "They are about 10 inches and are topped with everything from ground beef to za'atar."



14. Smith Brothers Steakhouse Tavern (Dine In)

Location: 880 Warden Ave.

Type of cuisine: [Steakhouse/tavern](#)

Price point: Appetizers start at \$9 and steaks at \$22

What you need to get: Steak

Foodie tip: This place is great for large groups and the quality is comparable to steakhouses downtown.

As [Yelp user Neans B.](#) says, "Great bang for your buck. I find the seasoning of the steaks to be better than The Keg and the quality of meat about the same. For the price you can't go wrong, the service is professional and food is consistent."



15. Congee Queen (Dine In)

Location: 3850 Sheppard Ave. E (and several other locations)

Type of cuisine: [Chinese](#)

Price point: Congee under \$8

What you need to get: Congee, naturally. The rice porridge is a comfort food staple.

Foodie tip: Go on off-hours if you want to be seated quickly, Congee Queen is always busy! Luckily for you, however, there are several locations in the GTA.



16. Chris Jerk Caribbean Bistro (Dine In)

Location: 2570 Birchmount Road

Type of cuisine: [Caribbean](#)

Price point: Jerk chicken shawarma under \$10; most curries under \$10 as well

What you need to get: The jerk shawarma poutine, because this picture is everything

Foodie tip: [As one Yelp reviewer Bianca A.](#) points out, "The jerk chicken sauce is different from the other places I've visited, here it's not as heavily 'jerked' with spices so someone new to the 'jerk' experience might find this a great introduction to the Caribbean taste." We say, if anything, go for that poutine!



17. Babu (Take-Out)

Location: 4800 Sheppard Ave. E. (the Markham location has dine in)

Type of cuisine: [Indian and Sri Lankan](#)

Price point: Appetizers start at \$0.50 and famous kothu roti starts at \$5.45

What you need to get: Lamprais

Foodie tip: "It's take-out only, with one huge buffet on one side and sweets on the other. Everything is hot and the lamprais are like Sri Lankan tamales," Allinson says. "Get some sweets!"



18. The Wexford (Dine In)

Location: 2072 Lawrence Ave E

Type of cuisine: [Breakfast diner](#)

Price point: Pancakes combo starts at \$9.15 and egg dishes start at \$9

What you need to get: Peameal bacon, eggs and orange juice

Foodie tip: "It's a little bit on the expensive side compared to the rest but all of their orange juice is homemade," Allinson says. "The staff is accommodating and everyone is friendly."



19. Remezzo Italian Bistro (Dine In)

Location: 3335 Sheppard Ave E.

Type of cuisine: [Italian](#)

Price point: Appetizers start at \$4.50; pastas and pizza at \$11

What you need to get: Seafood appetizers and the fettuccine

Foodie tip: There aren't many Italian restaurants in Scarborough (well, compared to downtown), but Remezzo is a gem. The food is classic and the portions are decently size, we would say it's great for date night. As [Yelp reviewer Mel C.](#) says, "The pasta was incredibly delicious. There were generous amounts of shrimp and crab meat, the pasta was not overdone like most restaurants and the sauce was very creamy."

[Photo: Instagram/miss_p_d](#)



20. The Royal Chinese Restaurant (Dine In)

Location: 3587 Sheppard Ave E

Type of cuisine: Chinese

Price point: Under \$10 for entrees

What you need to get: Black bean clams, deep fried shrimp with Maggi sauce, and any vegetable

Foodie tip: "This place is so freaking affordable and clean. If it were downtown it would be plagued with students, but since it's not, Scarborough families are its regular clientele. A relatively new arrival on the food scene, the restaurant has already solidified its reputation among locals partly, no, mainly because its dishes come fast and it's priced low." — Zi Ann Lum, News Editor, Audience at Huffington Post Canada.

[Photo: Instagram/anhtuanhtuanhtu](#)



21. Fahmee Bakery (Take-Out)

Location: 119 Montezuma Trail

Type of cuisine: Jamaican

Price point: \$3 for coco bread, \$13 for a dozen patties and most other dishes are under \$5

What you need to get: Coco bread and jerk chicken

Foodie tip: "There's always a line up out the door and the jerk sandwiches are outrageous," Allinson says.

Photo: [TorontoFoodBlog](#)



22. Drupati's (Dine In)

Location: 1085 Bellamy Rd

Type of cuisine: [Caribbean](#)

Price point: Large rotis start at \$7.99 and rice dishes start at \$8.99

What you need to get: Their doubles and roti are arguably among the best in the city

Foodie tip: Go for the Caribbean breakfast buffet on weekends from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



23. Hopper Hut (Dine In)

Location: 880 Ellesmere Rd

Type of cuisine: [Sri Lankan](#)

Price point: Hoppers (dishes made with batter) are under \$2 and curries are under \$6.50

What you need to get: The vegetarian biyani and the lampries

Foodie tip: "Compared to other places where you can get biryani, Hopper Hut has the best," Allinson says.

"The eggplant is so potent and they serve it on a banana leaf."

Photo: [Instagram/realtornavi](#)



24. Gourmet Malaysia (Dine In)

Location: 4466 Sheppard Ave. E.

Type of cuisine: [Malaysian](#)

Price point: Most entrees over \$10 and veggies under \$10

What you need to get: Beef rendang (a spicy meat dish)

Foodie tip: "It's packed all the time and has a massive dining room," Allinson says. "The bowls are massive and the roti is delicious."



25. Karaikudi Chettinad Indian Restaurant (Dine In)

Location: 1225 Kennedy Rd.

Type of cuisine: [Tamil and South Indian](#)

Price point: Most dosas (Indian crepes stuffed with curry) are under \$10; majority of curries under \$12

What you need to get: Dosas and chicken dishes

Foodie tip: This place is great for vegetarians, as well as meat-eaters. There are a lot of side dishes on the menu, so we suggest ordering a couple for the table instead of going with one large meal.

Photo: [Instagram/jaimeicbg](#)



26. Jatujak (Dine In)

Location: 1466 Kingston Rd. (and another Scarborough location)

Type of cuisine: [Thai](#)

Price point: Noodle and rice dishes start at \$9.95 and most curries are under \$10

What you need to get: The pad thai (they don't use ketchup!)

Foodie tip: "This is the most authentic Thai east of Parliament," Allinson says. "They also have a crispy broccoli stir-fry and it is so crunchy ... but it probably won't travel for take-out."



27. Fratelli Village Pizzeria (Dine In)

Location: 384 Old Kingston Rd

Type of cuisine: [Italian](#)

Price point: Risotto and pasta start at \$12 and entrees at \$19

What you need to get: Split a pizza (funghi is our favourite) and go with the antipasto for two

Foodie tip: Fratelli's is a great east-end spot for the summer, but we like the idea of warming ourselves up with delicious carbs. One thing we will say is that if you're ever at the Toronto Zoo, make sure you fit in some time for Italian.

Photo: [Instagram/petez1905](https://www.instagram.com/petez1905)



28. Agincourt Bakery (Both, But We Prefer Take-out)

Location: 3059 Pharmacy Ave.

Type of cuisine: [Italian and European pastries](#)

Price point: Sandwiches start at \$5

What you need to get: Hot veal sandwich

Foodie tip: "There's a hot plate so you can get warm sandwiches," Allinson says. Oh and if you're there, make sure you leave with some cookies.

Photo: [Instagram/xpeelolive](https://www.instagram.com/xpeelolive)



29. Tara Inn (Dine In)

Location: 2365 Kingston Rd.

Type of cuisine: [Irish pub](#)

Price point: Wings start at \$7.95 and homemade burgers at \$12

What you need to get: Wings, wings and wings

Foodie tip: "They've got the best wings in Scarborough," Allinson says. "The wings are bigger and cheaper

compared to other pubs."

Photo: [Instagram/christinedingemans](https://www.instagram.com/christinedingemans)



30. Aoyama & Sushi Restaurant (Dine In)

Location: 2766 Victoria Park Ave

Type of cuisine: Sushi

Price point: House specials range from \$9 to \$13 and classic rolls are \$6 and under

What you need to get: Classic rolls, sashimi, tuna and save room for dessert!

Foodie tip: Make sure you make reservations, it can get busy. Also, this place is a bit pricier compared to the rest on this list, but we say it's worth it. As [Yelp reviewer Tania C.](#) says, "I go to Aoyama when I need to treat myself or on special occasions. I absolutely love this place. They will not serve anything that's not fresh."

Photo: [Instagram/emmie0807](https://www.instagram.com/emmie0807)



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