



— 150 —
COFFEE
SHOPS
YOU NEED
TO VISIT BEFORE
— YOU DIE —

By Léa Teuscher

Lannoo

*The best Maxim I know in this life is,
to drink your Coffee when you can...*

— Jonathan Swift

Let me start with an apology: very sorry, but your favourite café will probably not be included in this book. Humanity drinks around two billion cups of coffee every day. In the UK alone, there are over 12,000 independent coffee shops, plus about the same number of outlets of big coffee brands... So, far from a definitive list, this book is a snapshot of some of the cafés that stand out from the crowd.

Many follow the new international coffee bar style – tattooed baristas, industrial fittings and colourful merch – but there are also outliers, including historic cafés, high-tech roasteries and bohemian coffee lounges. From Arabic to Vietnamese coffee, and from cascara drinks in Costa Rica to dirty coffee in Beijing, you might even discover your new favourite order.

It's fair to say that the little coffee bean has been on quite a journey. Legend has it that Ethiopian goatherd Kaldi discovered it in Kaffa after seeing his four-legged friends get pretty excited by some strange leaves. It then took off from the Arabic Peninsula, via Turkey, Venice and Austria, to the rest of the world.

Throughout the centuries, great thinkers have been energised by the potent dark brew and the people they met at their favourite café. From London's 'penny universities' to Paris, Vienna and Addis Ababa, coffee houses have been hotspots for new ideas and even revolutions. 'It has been the world's most radical drink in that its function has always been to make people think,' wrote William Ukers in his classic *All About Coffee*. No wonder England's Charles II tried to ban coffee houses, the 'great resort of idle and disaffected persons'.

Since then, the waves have kept rolling in, turning the tide and leading the way in terms of fair trade and sustainability: coffee making is now a precious craft focused on growers and the environment. Baristas have become artists and stars, and as for the cafés, they are not so much countercultural but the culture itself: third spaces found from Shanghai to Seattle, where you can set up your laptop or have a chat with friends in real life.

OVERVIEW

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

	ABIDJAN	
01	CAFÉ CONTINENT	P.10
	ADDIS ABABA	
02	TOMOCA	P.12
	ARUSHA	
03	KAHAWA COFFEE SHOP	P.13
	BEIRUT	
04	KALEI RAS BEIRUT	P.14
	CAIRO	
05	30 NORTH COFFEE	P.15
	CAPE TOWN	
06	ROSETTA ROASTERY	P.16
07	TRUTH COFFEE	P.17
	DUBAI	
08	ARABIAN TEA HOUSE	P.20
	JEDDAH	
09	HISTORIC NIGHTS CAFÉ	P.21
10	MEDD COFFEE AL FAYHA	P.22
	JOHANNESBURG	
11	BEAN THERE	P.25
12	FATHER COFFEE	P.26
	MARRAKECH	
13	BACHA COFFEE	P.29
	NAIROBI	
14	SPRING VALLEY COFFEE	P.32

THE AMERICAS

	ANTIGUA GUATEMALA	
15	ARTISTA DE CAFÉ	P.33
	BOGOTÁ	
16	COLO COFFEE USAQUEN	P.34
17	VARIETALE CHAPINERO	P.37
	BUENOS AIRES	
18	CAFE TORTONI	P.38

	CALGARY	
19	ROSSO	P.39
	CHICAGO	
20	FOUR LETTER WORD	P.41
21	MILLI BY METRIC COFFEE	P.42
22	STARBUCKS RESERVE ROASTERY	P.44
	DENVER	
23	BLUE SPARROW COFFEE	P.45
	HAWAII	
24	KONALANI COFFEE BAR	P.46
	INDIANAPOLIS	
25	AMBERSON COFFEE & GROCER	P.49
	IRISH TOWN	
26	CAFÉ BLUE	P.50
	LOS ANGELES	
27	VERVE COFFEE ROASTERS	P.53
	MEXICO CITY	
28	EXPLORADORES DE CAFÉ	P.54
	MIAMI	
29	SUITE HABANA	P.55
	MONTERREY	
30	KALI COFFEE ROASTERS	P.56
	MONTREAL	
31	CAFFETTIERA	P.58
	NASHVILLE	
32	CREMA COFFEE ROASTERS	P.59
	NEW ORLEANS	
33	CAFÉ DU MONDE	P.60
	NEW YORK	
34	COFFEE PROJECT NEW YORK	P.61
35	SUITED	P.64
	PANAMA CITY	
36	CASA SUCRE	P.65
	PORTLAND	
37	KEEPER COFFEE	P.66
38	TANDEM COFFEE + BAKERY	P.69

OVERVIEW

PUERTO VIEJO			BEIJING		
39	CAFÉ RICO	P.71	55	METAL HANDS WUDAOYING HUTONG	P.96
QUINDÍO			FUNABASHI		
40	CAFÉ SAN ALBERTO TERRACE	P.72	56	PHILOCOFFEEA	P.97
RIO DE JANEIRO			HO CHI MINH CITY		
41	CONFEITARIA COLOMBO	P.74	57	ANH COFFEE ROASTERY	P.98
ROGERS			HONG KONG		
42	ONYX COFFEE LAB	P.75	58	CHART COFFEE	P.100
SAN FRANCISCO			59	HALFWAY COFFEE	P.101
43	CAFFÈ TRIESTE	P.78	ISTANBUL		
44	RITUAL COFFEE ROASTERS	P.79	60	COFFEE NO 4	P.103
SAN JOSÉ			61	MANDABATMAZ	P.104
45	CAFÉ LA MANCHA	P.80	62	MONTAG MODA	P.105
SÃO PAULO			JAKARTA		
46	UM CAFÉ	P.82	63	COMMON GROUNDS TERRA	P.106
SEATTLE			KHONKAEN		
47	CAFÉ ALLEGRO	P.83	64	ROAST8RY	P.108
TORONTO			KOLKATA		
48	PILOT COFFEE ROASTERS TASTING BAR	P.84	65	COLLEGE STREET COFFEE HOUSE	P.110
VANCOUVER			KUALA LUMPUR		
49	REVOLVER	P.85	66	AFLOAT	P.111
ASIA			KYOTO		
ALMATY			67	INODA COFFEE HOUSE	P.114
50	JULIUS	P.86	68	WEEKENDERS COFFEE TOMINOKOJI	P.115
BALI			MUMBAI		
51	KAWISARI COFFEE FARM SHOP & EATERY	P.88	69	MARY LODGE BY SUBKO COFFEE	P.116
52	MUNDUK MODING PLANTATION	P.91	NANJING		
BANGKOK			70	CAFÉ CHEZ W	P.119
53	BALLAD	P.92	OSAKA		
54	CRAFTSMAN ROASTERY & BREW BAR	P.93	71	LILO COFFEE KISSA	P.120
			SAN JUAN		
			72	EL UNION COFFEE	P.121

OVERVIEW

	SEOUL	
73	COFFEE NAP ROASTERS YEONMAN	P.124
74	FRITZ DOHWA	P.126
	SHANGHAI	
75	MANNER NORTH BUND	P.128
	SINGAPORE	
76	NYLON	P.129
77	YA KUN FAR EAST SQUARE	P.130
	TAIPEI	
78	SIMPLE KAFFA HUASHAN	P.131
	TOKYO	
79	APOLLON'S GOLD	P.134
80	KOFFEE MAMEYA KAKERU	P.135
81	ONIBUS COFFEE NAKAMEGURO EKIMAE	P.138

EUROPE

	AARHUS	
82	LA CABRA	P.139
83	STILLER'S COFFEE	P.142
	AMSTERDAM	
84	FRIEDHATS FUKU CAFÉ	P.143
	ATHENS	
85	WHITE TURTLE COFFEE HOUSE	P.144
	BARCELONA	
86	MESON DEL CAFÉ 1909	P.147
87	NOMAD FRUTAS SELECTAS	P.148
88	ROAST CLUB	P.149
	BERLIN	
89	19GRAMS ALEX	P.151
90	FIVE ELEPHANT KREUZBERG	P.152
	BRUSSELS	
91	MOK	P.153
	BUCHAREST	
92	BOBxBVB	P.154

	BUDAPEST	
93	NEW YORK CAFÉ	P.155
	CHANIA	
94	KROSS	P.158
	COPENHAGEN	
95	LOKAL	P.159
96	NOMA PROJECTS FLAVOR SHOP	P.161
97	PROLOG	P.162
	DUBLIN	
98	VICE COFFEE	P.163
	FLORENCE	
99	DITTA ARTIGIANALE	P.166
	HELSINKI	
100	KAFFA ROASTERY	P.169
	KYIV	
101	FRANK	P.171
	LEUVEN	
102	MADMUM	P.172
	LISBON	
103	CAFÉ A BRASILEIRA	P.173
	LJUBLJANA	
104	STOW	P.177
	LONDON	
105	BAR ITALIA	P.178
106	MONMOUTH COFFEE ROASTERS	P.179
107	QIMA	P.182
108	REDEMPTION COFFEE ROASTERS	P.183
	MADRID	
109	HOLA COFFEE	P.184
	MILAN	
110	CAFEZAL COFFEE HUB	P.185
	NAPLES	
111	GRAN CAFFÈ GAMBRINUS	P.188

OVERVIEW

OSLO		
112	FUGLEN	P.189
113	TIM WENDELBOE ESPRESSO BAR	P.190
PARIS		
114	CAFÉ NUANCES	P.192
115	LE PROCOPE	P.193
116	SUBSTANCE CAFÉ	P.194
PORTO		
117	MAJESTIC CAFÉ	P.195
PRAGUE		
118	GRAND CAFE ORIENT	P.196
119	MŮJ SÁLEK KÁVY	P.197
ROME		
120	CAFFÈ GRECO	P.198
121	FARO	P.199
ROTTERDAM		
122	SCHOT COFFEE ROASTERS	P.203
SALZBURG		
123	CAFÉ TOMASELLI	P.204
SKOPJE		
124	THE DUDE SPECIALTY COFFEE	P.205
SPLIT		
125	KAVA2	P.206
STOCKHOLM		
126	DROP COFFEE	P.208
127	KOMET CAFÉ	P.209
TALLINN		
128	KOKOMO COFFEE ROASTERS	P.212
TRIESTE		
129	ANTICO CAFFÈ SAN MARCO	P.215
TURIN		
130	CAFFÈ AL BICERIN	P.216
VALENCIA		
131	TALLAT COFFEE ROASTERS	P.219

VENICE		
132	CAFFÈ FLORIAN	P.220
VIENNA		
133	CAFÉ CENTRAL	P.223
134	JONAS REINDL COFFEE ROASTERS	P.225
VÍK		
135	SKOOL BEANS CAFÉ	P.226
VILNIUS		
136	CROOKED NOSE & COFFEE STORIES	P.228
ZAGREB		
137	LUTA	P.229
ZURICH		
138	MIRÓ	P.231

OCEANIA

AUCKLAND		
139	D.O.S.E ON HIGH	P.232
CHRISTCHURCH		
140	ESPRESSO STUDIO BY FUSHOKEN	P.234
MAREEBA		
141	SKYBURY CAFE & ROASTERY	P.235
MELBOURNE		
142	AUNTY PEG'S	P.236
143	MANTA RAY	P.237
144	PATRICIA COFFEE BREWERS	P.239
PERTH		
145	COMMUNITY COFFEE SUBIACO	P.240
SYDNEY		
146	GENOVESE COFFEE HOUSE	P.241
147	ONA COFFEE	P.244
148	SINGLE O SURRY HILLS	P.246
TORQUAY		
149	THIRD WAVE KIOSK	P.249
WELLINGTON		
150	COFFEE SUPREME CUSTOMS	P.251

01 CAFÉ CONTINENT

Galerie Square Centre, rue Clément Ader, Zone 03,
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

Discover some
of Côte d'Ivoire's
lesser-known beans
at this beautiful
contemporary café,
a cultural hub for
specialty coffee
in Africa.

This smart café located in Abidjan's Zone 03 was opened in 2021 by speciality coffee aficionado Hadi Beydoun, the first and – to date – only certified arabica Q Grader in West Africa. Designed by Paul Kaloustian Architect in collaboration with Rym Beydoun, the minimalist space features a Portuguese marble-top bar where treats such as marbled cake, pastries and cookies are neatly displayed; white banquettes where you can relax with a cup of freshly roasted coffee sourced from Kenya to Côte d'Ivoire; and long wooden benches to perch on while thinking about your next move on the chessboard. 'We proudly source and roast coffees grown locally across Africa, celebrating the richness and diversity of its terroirs while working hand in hand with farmers,' says Hadi. Customers call it a 'true coffee library', and enjoy local beans including Biankouma, Danané and Man, grown in the lush mountains of western Côte d'Ivoire. Beyond serving coffee, Café Continent also offers certified training courses, workshops and masterclasses for both professionals and enthusiasts.





02 TOMOCA

Wawel St, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

Taste a bit of history and some of the best beans from Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee, at one of the oldest coffee shops in town.

Ethiopia is known for its exquisite traditional coffee ceremony, involving the roasting of beans on hot coals, the addition of frankincense, and three rounds of coffee served with snacks like popcorn. A symbol of hospitality, community and respect, it can last for hours. But there's a quicker way to get your caffeine fix in Addis Ababa, thanks to the widely used espresso machine – its adoption by locals being the only silver lining of the brutal 1930s Italian occupation. All these stories come together at this historic wood-panelled café, opened in 1953 by Tomoca (short for *Torrefazione Moderna Café*), a family-owned company who pioneered the meticulous roasting of arabica beans from Ethiopia's Kaffa region. Here, surrounded by vintage coffee grinders, conversations among friends and new acquaintances continue over a cup of Ethiopian *macchiato* (a sort of layered latte) and *Tomoca Cravate* (sweetened black coffee). Make sure to try the surprising *Tomoca Sprice*, a mix of sweetened black coffee and tea.



03 KAHAWA COFFEE SHOP

Arusha Coffee Lodge, Old Dodoma Rd, Burka Coffee Estate,
Arusha, Tanzania

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

The journey from bean to cup has never been shorter than at the café of this Tanzanian coffee plantation, set in a lush garden.

Most people visit Tanzania on a safari, but the country is also Africa's fourth biggest coffee producer, known for its mild arabica often grown in high-altitude fields and shaded by banana trees. Located in one of Tanzania's largest coffee plantations, this coffee shop is part of the Arusha Coffee Lodge, a stylish resort by Elewana featuring spacious suites and rooms overlooking the surrounding berry-laden coffee fields. A peaceful retreat surrounded by greenery, the lodge's Kahawa café and bakery is the best place to sample the local produce after joining one of the plantation's bean-to-coffee tours, which are open to both guests and visitors. Here, on a terrace in the garden, you can try the plantation's coffee, available in a variety of roasts and served by a team of friendly baristas, as well as specialities including Kahawa's signature coffee martini and coffee-infused cakes. For a truly reinvigorating coffee experience, pair this with a birdwatching tour, an afternoon spent observing the playful resident monkeys, or a spa session.



04 KALEI RAS BEIRUT

Rue Mansour Jurdak, Beirut, Lebanon

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

Everybody is welcome at this peaceful café, a true community hub opened by the country's first speciality roastery.

Originally founded in 2015 as an online shop, Lebanese roastery Kalei now has two beautiful cafés in the capital. Housed in an atmospheric Ottoman-era townhouse, its Ras Beirut roastery is arranged around a central bar and features a peaceful garden with plenty of outdoor seating and visiting stray cats. 'When we opened, we were the first speciality coffee roastery in Lebanon,' explains co-founder Dalia Jaffal, whose time working in East Africa inspired her to open the roastery. 'We source our own green beans, a lot of which we get via direct trade, then roast on two different roasters for use in the two cafés, or to sell as retail and wholesale coffees.' Popular drinks include the batch brew, cappuccino, and the bright and refreshing espresso lemonade – 'an all-time favourite'. Meanwhile the menu includes great breakfast and brunch items, including a freekeh salad and a chicken sandwich with homemade kimchi. It's also worth visiting Kalei's Mark Mikhael outpost, a beautifully restored 1950s house with a stunning garden, where you can sip your coffee among the tree trunks.



05 30 NORTH COFFEE

Grand Egyptian Museum, Kafr Nassar, Al Haram,
Giza Governorate 3513204, Egypt

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

At this 30 NORTH outpost you can try the largest selection of speciality coffee in Egypt, in the country's most magnificent museum.

A truly pharaonic project that has been years in the making, the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo was certainly worth the wait. Not only does it offer views over the Pyramids of Giza and countless ancient treasures inside, but it also boasts a branch of the country's leading speciality coffee purveyors, 30 NORTH (nickname: 'the gem at the GEM'). Founded by Amr El-Khazindar and Noha Khattab in 2017, 30 NORTH offers carefully selected coffees – or *ahwah*, as Egyptians say – from around the world as well as six different brewing methods. It's an ideal spot to take a break away from the crowds between visits to the museum's galleries. Sit by the window to admire the monumental statues of Ramses, Hatshepsut and others towering in the museum's entrance hall and grand staircase, and enjoy a cup of cappuccino with latte art flourish – if you're in luck you might get a foam seahorse. Then head into town to continue your Cairo coffee experience with a stop at one of the many lovely coffee shops in Zamalek or Maadi, or the historic El Fishawy café in the Khan el-Khalili market.



06

ROSETTA ROASTERY

97 Bree St, C/o Bree St and Shortmarket St,
Cape Town 8001, South Africa

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

This highly praised
café takes you on a
journey of discovery
through the world's
best coffee lots.

Both a multi-award-winning roastery and a friendly corner café in the heart of Cape Town's culinary district, Rosetta on Bree Street is a bright and airy space co-founded in 2010 by Jono Le Feuvre. 'Coffee is an organic product. It doesn't stay static, it's a living thing,' he says. Which is why Rosetta's filter brew bar highlights seasonal single origins and a rotating choice of two single-origin espresso coffees. 'At the core of what we do is a hands-on approach: we source and carefully roast all our own coffees, ensuring that each origin's character is expressed with clarity and integrity,' says roastery manager Shannen Mackay. Try some of the world's best speciality-grade coffees, from Colombia to Indonesia; stop for a Taisho- or Kyoto-style iced coffee on a hot day; or come early to grab a seat and catch up with your friends over an espresso, freshly baked pastries or a slice of banana bread.



07 TRUTH COFFEE

36 Buitenkant St, Cape Town 8000, South Africa

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

Put your goggles on and suspend your disbelief at this steampunk-themed café housed in a three-storey historic warehouse.

A huge metal machine with clunky pipes, wheels and burners; steam and hisses coming out of strange valves; the deafening noise of a spinning drum... It's obvious that classic coffee roasters and espresso machines were tailor-made for the steampunk universe. At Truth Coffee, the 'colossus', a vintage coffee roaster, takes centre stage in a retro-futuristic sci-fi interior by Haldane Martin, with wraparound Victorian-style steel shelving, a leather-top bar and cog-shaped stools. Sit at the communal table to enjoy a cup of the house's Resurrection or Deep, Dark & Twister espresso blends, and let your imagination take you to a world of steam-powered flying machines. 'At Truth Coffee, it's not just about sourcing unique and delicious coffees and roasting them for exquisite flavour in the roaster that we have built our café around,' says founder David Donde. 'It is about delighting our guests, creating moments within the steampunk aesthetic. It is also about creating joy – all this in a space that gives a breather and pause to your every day.'



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