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—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.

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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
speciality 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 Modena 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

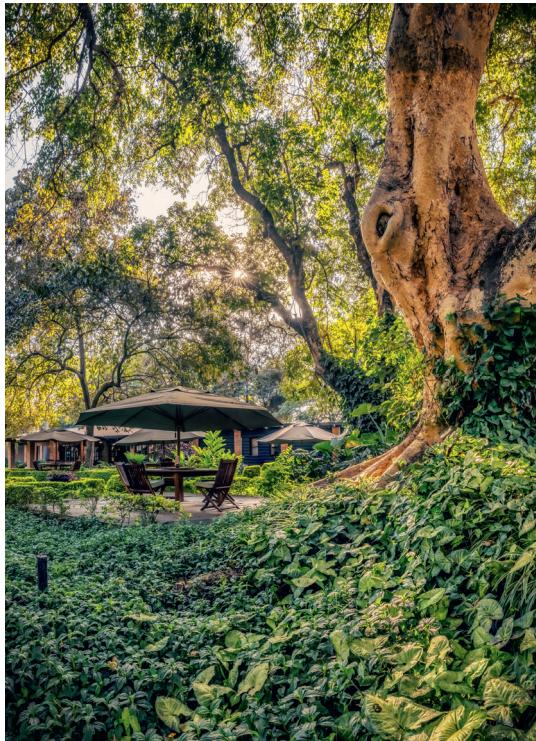
KAHAWA COFFEE SHOP

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.'



Texts
Léa Teuscher

Copy-editing
Heather Sills

Book Design
ASB (Atelier Sven Beirnaert)

Typesetting
Keppie & Keppie

Back cover image
Anson Smart for Genovese Coffee House

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art@lannoo.com

© Lannoo Publishers, Belgium, 2026
www.lannoo.com
BISAC: TRV036000, CKB019000
D/2026/45/12
ISBN 978-90-599-6147-0

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