How the sharing economy is changing travel and the 10 coolest neighbourhoods to visit right now

The sharing economy – from homeshares to rideshares to co-working – has made it easier to live like a local when we travel. The landscape of cities and neighbourhoods are less defined and constantly transforming and reinventing themselves. Visitors are going beyond public transportation routes and downtown hotel blocks, and discovering burgeoning industries and creative communities outside major tourist attractions and city centers.

While mainstays like New York, Paris and Rome have rightly earned their place in the public consciousness, today’s traveller can experience cities in ways their parents couldn’t – whether it’s shopping at the local farmers’ market and cooking up dinner, or taking a conference call at a shared work space. The next hip new neighbourhood might be the once gritty industrial area, like LA’s now-trendy Arts District, or the streetblock with a booming new restaurant scene.

For ambitious travellers hungry to experience the world’s up-and-coming neighbourhoods before they get too big, travel media company Lonely Planet asked its Lonely Planet Local experts in 10 major cities to pick the top coolest neighbourhoods in their city to visit right now:

- **Borgo San Frediano, Florence** – “The San Frediano neighbourhood is breathing new life into the Oltrarno area, known for its artisans. First stop is Gesto, where the salvaged and upcycled vintage interior blends nicely with their tasty, tapas-style bites. At nearby Mad Souls & Spirits locals flock to try the craft-cocktail concoctions dreamed up by cult alchemists Neri Fantechi and Julian Biondi in a tiny space with brick walls and exposed copper piping.”

  --**Georgette Jupe** is an American writer based in Florence. Follow her tweets [@girlinflorence](https://twitter.com/girlinflorence)

- **Seongsu-dong, Seoul** – “Labelled the Williamsburg of Seoul, this industrial hub owes its new reputation to its salvaged industrial spaces that have been transformed into cafes, restaurants, galleries and independent shops. Sip on a cup of single-origin coffee and watch as the old and new combine to create something beautiful.”

  --**Hahna Yoon** is a bilingual editor and writer based in Seoul. Follow her on Instagram [@seouleny](https://www.instagram.com/seouleny)

- **The Triangle, Lisbon** – “This up-and-coming neighbourhood boasts originality and a near-absence of tourist crowds. Spend an afternoon browsing speciality stores like travel...
bookshop Palavra de Viajante, custom-blend tea vendor Companhia Portugueza do Chá, and boutique grocery store Mercearia Poço dos Negros.”

–Sandra Henriques Gajjar is a Lisbon-based travel blogger. Follow her tweets @TriprrBlog

• **Vesterbro, Copenhagen** – “Vibrant Vesterbro is packed with cool independent shops, street markets, restaurants and bars. Come hungry: the old Kødbyen Meatpacking District (a distinctly hip pocket within the Vesterbro area) and the newly opened WestMarket (westmarket.dk) are crammed with foodie options, while craft-beer lovers can sample the goods at local brewers Mikkeller and Fermentoren.”

–Caroline Hadamitzky is a travel writer and tour guide based in Copenhagen. Follow her tweets @lovelivetravel

• **Business Bay, Dubai** – “Once a soulless expanse of half-built office towers, Business Bay is reinventing itself as a waterfront leisure destination. Stroll the 12km-long promenade, watching ferries cruise south to Dubai Marina and north to the Al Fahidi Historic District. Away from the water, Bay Avenue is the community’s buzzing heart, with casual restaurants, a pleasant park and weekly farmers’ market during the cooler winter months.”

–Lara Brunt is an Australian travel and lifestyle journalist based in Dubai. Follow her tweets @larabrunt

• **Damansara Heights, Kuala Lumpur** – “One of the richest addresses in Kuala Lumpur, this neighbourhood has retained its personality while reaping the best of gentrification. Swing by Plaza Damansara, a beat-up area seeing an uptick of shiny shops and restaurants such as café-bakery Huckleberry (huckleberry.my), Skullduggery speakeasy (facebook.com/skullduggerykl) and Flour (facebook.com/FLOURRESTAURANT), a North Indian restaurant that peddles a knockout biryani.”

–Kong Wai Yeng is a Kuala Lumpur-based writer. Follow her tweets @wyeng

• **Sunset Park, New York** – “One of Brooklyn’s most exciting under-the-radar neighbourhoods, Sunset Park hosts a heady mix of cultures and traditions. At the centre of it all is Sunset Park itself. Set on one of the highest hills in Brooklyn, it offers spectacular views of lower Manhattan for the locals and visitors who flock here on summer evenings.”

–Robert Balkovich is a writer and gin-based cocktail enthusiast. Follow his tweets @robertbalkovich.
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- **Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro** – “Talented young chefs, entrepreneurs and creatives are the driving force behind an increasingly exciting nightlife. The focus is on originality and collaboration, with established spots like Bukowski and Comuna being joined by funky new concept bars and multipurpose spaces.”

  – *Travel and food writer Tom Le Mesurier is the founder of Eat Rio Food Tours. Follow his tweets [@eatrio_net](https://twitter.com/eatrio_net)*

- **Frelard, Seattle** – “In the space between two of Seattle’s most popular neighbourhoods, a new community has slowly been taking shape. Stop by to explore a thriving habitat for the area’s best restaurants, bars and breweries beyond Seattle’s main tourist sights.”

  – *Valerie Stimac is a Seattle-based travel writer and editor. Follow tweets [@Valerie_Valise](https://twitter.com/Valerie_Valise)*

- **Tooting, London** – “A captivating affair, revelling in multiculturalism and originality. Its high street is one of the best ‘curry corridors’ in the country, and contains some superb South Asian restaurants. Shop inside the eclectic [Tooting Market](https://www.tootingmarket.co.uk), and check out quirky bars and pubs like [The Castle](https://www.castlestooneverything.co.uk), [The Antelope](https://www.theadventuresofanantelope.co.uk) and [The Little Bar](https://www.tohotlittlebar.com).”

  – *Will Jones is a London-based writer. Follow his tweets [@willjackjones](https://twitter.com/willjackjones)*

**Notes to Editors:**
- Images for each neighbourhood [available here](#)
- Lonely Planet Locals and editors available for interview

**About Lonely Planet:**
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