



Photograph: Astrid Maria Rasmussen

The 40 coolest neighbourhoods in the world

We polled thousands of city-dwellers and grilled local experts to rank the greatest places for fun, food, culture and community

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ADVERTISING

It's that time again. Every year, we ask thousands of city-dwellers to tell us the coolest spots in their cities. What are the places locals love and visitors flock to? Where are the exciting new openings across food, drink and culture?



Photograph: Daniel Murray

5. Sheung Wan

Hong Kong

Once a neighbourhood known for its coffin shops and funeral-related services, Sheung Wan is now one of Hong Kong's liveliest districts. This is the only place in Hong Kong where you can find a mix of historic temples, [antique stores](#), and dried seafood stalls alongside contemporary art galleries, Melbourne-style cafes, stylish boutiques, and contemporary restaurants. You'll find hipsters and their pets in chic cafes, while older generations explore bustling wet markets and seafood stalls that stretch all the way to Sai Ying Pun. You'll never go hungry in this district, with options to chow down on [affordable dim sum](#) or sit down for an [indulgent omakase](#) or [global cuisine at Michelin-starred restaurants](#). Conveniently just one MTR stop away from Central, you can book accommodations in any CBD hotel or stay nearby at boutique venues like [The Sheung Wan by Ovolo](#) or check into [The Figo](#), where your four-legged friends are also welcome.

The perfect day Start your day at [Tai Ping Shan Street](#) and grab coffee and breakfast at one of the [many pet-friendly cafes](#). [Soul Fresh](#) is a great choice for smoothies and fluffy pandan cake. Visit [Pak Sing Ancestral Hall](#) and pray to be blessed with true love, or head to [Man Mo Temple](#) to wish for success. Explore the area's many contemporary galleries, or if you're into history, visit [Liang Yi Museum](#), which houses a collection of Ming and Qing Dynasty furniture. Capture some Instagram-worthy shots of the area's murals, created for the 2023 [HKwalls](#) street art festival. For dinner, do your best to bag a table at Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant [The Chairman](#), and finish off with well-crafted cocktails at [Mostly Harmless](#).