# Checked shorts surge in London as versatile summer staple with high fashion and streetwear appeal



Checked shorts have become an unmistakable hallmark of summer fashion this year, particularly across London’s parks, pub gardens, and festival grounds. The trend, especially in gingham hot pants, has been highly visible since early summer heatwaves coaxed out legions of stylishly clad Londoners. This surge in popularity traces back to post-lockdown trends led notably by the London-based label Peachy Den. Their Cindy set—playful hot pants paired with matching tops—has been embraced widely by a youthful crowd, including performers such as Olivia Dean at Glastonbury 2023, and has since expanded into various colourways and styles including dresses and skorts.

The recent manifestation of checked shorts is part of a longer-standing affection for gingham and plaid patterns, which have pervaded fashion narratives for several seasons. This is not a purely grassroots phenomenon; high fashion houses have drawn upon checked patterns for years. For example, Burberry’s iconic Nova check pattern, which originated as a lining for their raincoats in the 1920s, has become synonymous with British style and festival culture, often spotted on hot pants, bikinis, and trunks at events like Glastonbury. Similarly, Miuccia Prada’s Miu Miu collections have integrated gingham in innovative ways, such as sporty Bermuda shorts with technical mesh linings introduced this season, effectively blending classic prints with contemporary, functional design.

The popularity extends beyond high fashion to accessible, comfortable options that appeal to a broader audience. Retailers such as Uniqlo have contributed to the trend with classic gingham shorts made from breathable seersucker fabric, available in multiple colourways, which are praised for their comfort and versatility. These can be styled effortlessly with simple white T-shirts and trainers for a casual look or elevated with blazers and loafers to achieve a sophisticated, model-off-duty aesthetic. Similarly, Ganni offers seersucker gingham shorts with elasticated waistbands, capitalising on the ongoing appeal of underwear-as-outerwear styling that blends comfort with a relaxed, stylish ease.

Beyond the mini and boxer shorts that dominate festival and casual summer scenes, tailored shorts are also making a refined comeback. Styles crafted from wool-blend, linen, or suit fabrics are being championed by brands like COS and Reiss, with luxury labels such as Max Mara and The Row presenting polished options fit for smart casual events, city wear, or even work settings during warmer months. These tailored shorts, which flatter specific body shapes like rectangles and hourglasses, can be styled with tucked-in shirts, sleeveless turtlenecks, mules, and mixed-metal jewellery for elegance, or dressed down with simple tees and slides.

Denim shorts, commonly referred to as ‘jorts,’ have surged in popularity, particularly in menswear, where they are favoured for their longer, looser fit that ends above the knee. High-profile figures like Harry Styles and Paul Mescal have embraced this trend, contributing to its prominence on the streets of Soho and beyond. Jorts are often paired with classic sneakers such as Sambas and Gazelles, blending a retro influence with contemporary street style.

The enduring and versatile appeal of checked shorts, spanning from playful mini hot pants to sophisticated tailored Bermudas and relaxed denim cuts, illustrates a broader resurgence of nostalgic patterns and relaxed silhouettes in summer wardrobes. With festival culture and outdoor socialising continuing to thrive, this trend is set to remain firmly embedded in the collective summer style for the foreseeable future.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts), [[2]](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts), [[2]](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/fashion/shopping/gingham-shorts), [[4]](https://www.whowhatwear.com/fashion/pants-trousers/gingham-shorts-trend)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/fashion/how-to-style-bermuda-shorts-fashion-b2762759.html), [[6]](https://tellar.co.uk/what-style-of-shorts-are-in-fashion-now/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/article/jorts-2023)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts), [[2]](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts), [[4]](https://www.whowhatwear.com/fashion/pants-trousers/gingham-shorts-trend)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/best-checked-shorts> - This article discusses the resurgence of checked shorts in London during the summer, highlighting their popularity in parks and festivals. It notes that gingham hot pants, a trend that emerged post-lockdown and was led by Peachy Den in the UK, have become widespread. The piece also mentions Burberry's historic use of its Nova check pattern across accessories and ready-to-wear offerings, and Prada's incorporation of gingham in Miu Miu collections, including sporty Bermudas with elasticated waistbands and technical mesh linings.
3. <https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/fashion/shopping/gingham-shorts> - Marie Claire UK highlights the popularity of gingham shorts, particularly boxer-style designs, which have been trending on platforms like TikTok. The article features Uniqlo's classic gingham shorts made from seersucker fabric, available in four colours. Styling suggestions include pairing them with simple white T-shirts and chic trainers, or with blazers and loafers for a model-off-duty look. The piece also showcases other gingham shorts options from various brands, emphasizing their comfort and versatility.
4. <https://www.whowhatwear.com/fashion/pants-trousers/gingham-shorts-trend> - Who What Wear discusses the enduring appeal of gingham shorts, noting their resurgence in popularity. The article features various styles, including Uniqlo's seersucker gingham shorts and Ganni's seersucker check elasticated shorts. It suggests styling these shorts with matching tops or simple tees, and highlights the versatility of gingham patterns in summer wardrobes. The piece also mentions the trend's alignment with the broader underwear-as-outerwear aesthetic.
5. <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/fashion/how-to-style-bermuda-shorts-fashion-b2762759.html> - The Independent provides styling tips for Bermuda shorts, focusing on tailored and denim 'jorts' styles. For tailored Bermudas, the article recommends pairing them with tucked-in shirts or sleeveless turtlenecks, mules, and mixed metal jewellery for a chic look. For denim 'jorts', it suggests teaming them with ribbed tanks or plain tees and slides for a casual weekend outfit, or with waistcoats and square-toed sandals for a more polished appearance.
6. <https://tellar.co.uk/what-style-of-shorts-are-in-fashion-now/> - Tellar explores the latest trends in shorts for 2025, highlighting the comeback of tailored shorts made from wool-blend, linen, or suit fabrics. Brands like COS, Reiss, and The Frankie Shop are leading this trend, with luxury designers such as Max Mara and The Row offering refined versions. The article notes that tailored shorts are ideal for smart casual events, city styling, or workwear in warmer months, and are particularly flattering on rectangle and hourglass body shapes.
7. <https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/article/jorts-2023> - British GQ discusses the rise of 'jorts'—denim shorts that are longer and looser, often cut above the knee. The article notes that these 'jorts' are becoming a key trend in menswear, with celebrities like Harry Styles and Paul Mescal embracing the style. The piece highlights that 'jorts' are swiftly becoming a dominant trend, with many under-35s in Soho wearing denim shorts cut off below the knee, often paired with classic sneakers like Sambas and Gazelles.