# Camberwell named one of the world's coolest neighbourhoods in 2025



The UK’s coolest neighbourhood has been unveiled by the respected travel publication Time Out, and it is not where many might expect. While iconic London areas like Camden, Shoreditch, Hackney, Dalston, and Peckham often dominate conversations about trendy urban spots, this year’s accolade goes to Camberwell, a vibrant district in the southeast corner of London. Far from the usual hotspots, Camberwell clinched the fourth spot worldwide on Time Out’s 2025 list of the coolest neighbourhoods, surpassing notable locales in global cities such as Paris, Chicago, Lisbon, and New York.

Time Out’s recognition of Camberwell centers on its distinctive “young-at-heart vibe,” independent spirit, and strong multicultural identity. The neighbourhood is celebrated for its robust community atmosphere and a food scene that has become legendary among Londoners. Camberwell Church Street, in particular, has garnered a reputation as a top destination for diverse culinary delights. The area boasts popular eateries like FM Mangal, known for Turkish cuisine, and the beloved Toad Bakery, which is recommended for coffee and sandwiches. Beyond food, cultural highlights such as the South London Gallery and unique retail experiences like Dash the Henge, a record shop, add to the area’s appeal, alongside welcoming local pubs such as The Clarendon.

The wider cultural and artistic fabric of Camberwell enhances its standing. The neighbourhood’s reputation is bolstered by a strong community spirit and a creative pulse that reflects through its local establishments and street life. This blend of attributes sets it apart not only within London but on the international stage. Notably, the only other UK location on Time Out’s list is Digbeth in Birmingham, which ranked 13th globally. Digbeth is praised for its "rough-edged beauty," marked by a striking fusion of industrial heritage and contemporary street art, and it serves as a creative nucleus for the city’s writers, artists, and filmmakers. Often compared to Shoreditch in terms of cultural vibrancy, Digbeth also hosts the Custard Factory, a former industrial site now thriving with small businesses and cultural venues.

Globally, Tokyo’s Jimbōchō tops the list for 2025, recognised as a bibliophile’s paradise and cultural hotspot, followed by Borgerhout in Antwerp and Barra Funda in São Paulo. Camberwell's inclusion among these international neighbourhoods underlines its emerging status as a prime example of modern urban coolness, blending livability, dynamic street life, and a rich cultural tapestry. Time Out's annual rankings consider various factors, including culture, community, food and drink, street life, and a sense of "nowness," highlighting areas that embody contemporary urban charm and innovation.

The recognition of such neighbourhoods reflects broader urban trends, where communities fostering arts, independent businesses, and multicultural lifestyles increasingly define what it means to be "cool" today. For London, Camberwell’s ascent signifies a shift away from traditionally hyped areas, spotlighting a vibrant community that embraces diversity and creativity in a more understated yet impactful way.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2113928/coolest-neighbourhood-uk-named-not-London), [[2]](https://www.timeout.com/london/news/the-vibrant-south-london-area-that-is-officially-one-of-the-coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-092425), [[4]](https://www.timeout.com/travel/coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-2025)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2113928/coolest-neighbourhood-uk-named-not-London), [[2]](https://www.timeout.com/london/news/the-vibrant-south-london-area-that-is-officially-one-of-the-coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-092425), [[4]](https://www.timeout.com/travel/coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-2025), [[5]](https://www.timeout.com/about/latest-news/time-out-reveals-the-worlds-coolest-neighbourhood-right-now-is-in-tokyo-092425)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2113928/coolest-neighbourhood-uk-named-not-London), [[3]](https://www.timeout.com/uk/news/the-birmingham-neighbourhood-that-is-officially-one-of-the-coolest-places-in-the-world-ranking-higher-than-new-york-sydney-and-berlin-092425), [[4]](https://www.timeout.com/travel/coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-2025)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.timeout.com/travel/coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-2025), [[5]](https://www.timeout.com/about/latest-news/time-out-reveals-the-worlds-coolest-neighbourhood-right-now-is-in-tokyo-092425), [[6]](https://kyma.com/news/2025/09/24/worlds-coolest-neighborhood-for-2025-named-by-time-out/), [[7]](https://www.financialexpress.com/life/lifestyle-worlds-coolest-neighbourhood-2025-this-bibliophiles-paradise-in-tokyo-leads-timeouts-global-list-3990005//)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2113928/coolest-neighbourhood-uk-named-not-London> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.timeout.com/london/news/the-vibrant-south-london-area-that-is-officially-one-of-the-coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-092425> - Time Out has named Camberwell, a south London area, as one of the coolest neighbourhoods in the world for 2025. The publication highlights Camberwell's 'young-at-heart vibe, independent spirit, and multiculturalism.' The area is praised for its vibrant food scene, including establishments like Silk Road, The Camberwell Arms, Nandine, and Toad Bakery. The South London Gallery and Dash the Henge are also recommended spots. Camberwell ranked fourth globally, ahead of cities like Paris, Chicago, Lisbon, and New York. Digbeth in Birmingham also made the list at number 13, noted for its 'rough-edged beauty' and as a hub for the city's community of writers, artists, and filmmakers.
3. <https://www.timeout.com/uk/news/the-birmingham-neighbourhood-that-is-officially-one-of-the-coolest-places-in-the-world-ranking-higher-than-new-york-sydney-and-berlin-092425> - Time Out has recognized Digbeth, a Birmingham neighbourhood, as one of the coolest places in the world for 2025. The area is celebrated for its 'rough-edged beauty' and serves as the 'home turf for the city’s community of writers, artists, and filmmakers.' Digbeth's unique aesthetic combines industrial remnants with vibrant street art. The Custard Factory, a redeveloped former industrial site, now hosts numerous small businesses, bars, and cultural venues. The area has been compared to London's Shoreditch and was rated as the 'Coolest Neighbourhood in Britain' by The Sunday Times in 2018.
4. <https://www.timeout.com/travel/coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world-2025> - Time Out's 2025 list of the Coolest Neighbourhoods in the World features 39 areas globally. The top five are: 1) Jimbōchō, Tokyo; 2) Borgerhout, Antwerp; 3) Barra Funda, São Paulo; 4) Camberwell, London; and 5) Avondale, Chicago. Camberwell is highlighted for its 'young-at-heart vibe, independent spirit, and multiculturalism,' with a vibrant food scene and cultural venues like the South London Gallery. Digbeth in Birmingham is also featured at number 13, noted for its 'rough-edged beauty' and as a hub for the city's creative community.
5. <https://www.timeout.com/about/latest-news/time-out-reveals-the-worlds-coolest-neighbourhood-right-now-is-in-tokyo-092425> - Time Out has announced its eighth annual list of the World’s Coolest Neighbourhoods, with Tokyo's Jimbōchō taking the top spot. The list includes 39 neighbourhoods globally, with Camberwell in London ranking fourth. The top five are: 1) Jimbōchō, Tokyo; 2) Borgerhout, Antwerp; 3) Barra Funda, São Paulo; 4) Camberwell, London; and 5) Avondale, Chicago. The rankings are based on factors like culture, community, livability, food and drink, street life, and a sense of 'nowness.'
6. <https://kyma.com/news/2025/09/24/worlds-coolest-neighborhood-for-2025-named-by-time-out/> - Time Out has named Jimbōchō in Tokyo as the world's coolest neighbourhood for 2025. The top five neighbourhoods are: 1) Jimbōchō, Tokyo; 2) Borgerhout, Antwerp; 3) Barra Funda, São Paulo; 4) Camberwell, London; and 5) Avondale, Chicago. Camberwell is praised for its 'young-at-heart vibe, independent spirit, and multiculturalism.' Digbeth in Birmingham also made the list at number 13, noted for its 'rough-edged beauty' and as a hub for the city's creative community.
7. <https://www.financialexpress.com/life/lifestyle-worlds-coolest-neighbourhood-2025-this-bibliophiles-paradise-in-tokyo-leads-timeouts-global-list-3990005//> - Time Out's 2025 list of the world's coolest neighbourhoods includes 39 areas globally. The top five are: 1) Jimbōchō, Tokyo; 2) Borgerhout, Antwerp; 3) Barra Funda, São Paulo; 4) Camberwell, London; and 5) Avondale, Chicago. Camberwell is highlighted for its 'young-at-heart vibe, independent spirit, and multiculturalism,' with a vibrant food scene and cultural venues like the South London Gallery. Digbeth in Birmingham is also featured at number 13, noted for its 'rough-edged beauty' and as a hub for the city's creative community.