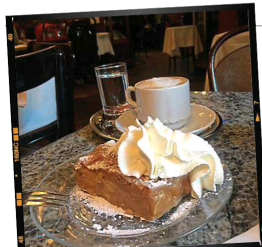


Travel

Travel Editor *Julia Buckley*

THE LATEST LUXURY DIGS IN THE ALPS

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Cake walk: Café Frauenhuber

TAKE 5 VIENNA COFFEEHOUSES

Café Sperl

This laid-back place on Gumpendorfer Strasse hits the sweet spot between traditional and touristy. There are more than 30 varieties of coffee on the menu here, so slip into one of the red-upholstered booths, read the paper or play a game of pool — you can easily lose an afternoon here.

● [cafesperl.at](#)

Café Hawelka

Grab a grosser brauner (the equivalent of an Americano with milk) in this bohemian hangout. Sit and enjoy the people-watching, and on Friday nights try the homemade buchteln: sugar-dusted splits filled with plum jam.

● [hawlka.at](#)

Café Frauenhuber

Vienna's oldest coffeehouse has had cachet ever since Mozart and Beethoven performed here. With its low-hanging, whitewashed ceiling, damask armchairs and a whiff of its 18th-century origins, the café serves coffee with a dose of musical history.

● [cafefrauenhuber.at](#)

Café Hummel

This unpretentious place in Josefstadt does great food — try the backhendl (breaded and fried Styrian chicken with lingonberry jam) and homemade cakes, as well as the full range of Viennese coffee. Try the einspänner: black coffee topped with fresh cream.

● [cafehummel.at](#)

Café Prückel

With its Fifties pink and tan scheme, it's hard to believe this café is more than 100 years old, but the art nouveau gold details on the ceiling hint at its history. Try its excellent apfelstrudel with lashings of cream.

● [prueckel.at](#)

Jennifer Walker



Chicken tonight: Café Hummel

HUNDREDS OF HOTEL STAYS GOING FREE

Here's a birthday you might want to celebrate — to mark its 25th anniversary, Jurys Inn is giving away 300 overnight stays. The catch? You'll have to put it in the diary: the giveaways will take place on the 25th of each month, starting from April. Details are a little sketchy so far, so stay tuned to its social media channels for the lowdown.

● [jursinns.com](#)

EXTREME LUXE COMES TO MEXICO

Aman fans rejoice — there's a new five-star hotel coming to town, specifically to the Baja Peninsula and its eastern cape. Amanvari will have mountains on one side, dunes and a beach on the other. Hold your horses on the booking front, though, as it's not scheduled to open until 2020.

● [amanvari.com](#)



Colour blocking: this edgy Athens neighbourhood packs a visual punch, with popping graffiti and street art, plus a weekly farmers' market

How Greece's grittiest district swapped anarchy for culture

ATHENS

Exarcheia was once the scene of riots and political gangs, but now it's a buzzing cultural hub, says *Anastasia Miari*

Robert Fenwick, who left London to open a studio here. "Exarcheia is in an important European city but it has the feel of a more far-flung guerrilla republic."

Exarcheia has long been a symbol of opposition to the Establishment. It was here that, in 1973, the Athens Polytechnic uprising took place, when students demonstrating against the dictatorship were confronted with a tank that killed 24. More recently, in 2008, violent riots exploded here, with residents setting police cars alight in anger at the police shooting of a 15-year-old boy.

Today, graffiti tours of the area (try Magda's through [guruwalk.com](#)) offer an alternative insight into Athens' political and economic situation, while the lively kafeneion (café) and meze scene is a draw for those wanting to rub shoulders with city creatives in an authentic Greek setting.

Coffee culture is strong in Exarcheia,

with a kafeneion on every street corner. Stroll down Kolletti Street in central Exarcheia on a Tuesday afternoon and you'll find twentysomethings pouring out of trendy café-bars such as Cusco and Karagiozis, whiling away hours in the dappled shade of orange trees, nursing sludgy Greek coffees. Coffee shops here aren't sterile spots to plug in your MacBook; neither are they the preserve of old men smoking Camels as is the case in many a kafeneion.

At Chartés ([facebook.com/hartes.exarhia](#)), old-school jazz floats out of the open doors and into the street where young people smoke, sip coffee and play baggamon as their grandparents might have 70 years ago. Meanwhile, Mavros Gatos ([facebook.com/MavrosGatosBluesBar](#)) on Kolletti serves as the sweet spot between an afternoon coffee slot (that's 7pm-9pm on Athenian time) and cocktails in speakeasy surroundings.

If you can handle the cigarette smoke, the tiny Intriga Bar ([intrigabar.gr](#)) is a local favourite. Inconspicuously tucked off Exarcheia's main square and open till late, it serves cheap drinks, plays classic rock and gives a glimpse of the anarchic side of the neighbourhood.

In the city centre but much more

Continued on Page 52

Coffee shops here aren't sterile spots to plug in your MacBook or the preserve of old men smoking Camels



TRAVEL ONLINE

FANCY AN ADVENTURE? FIND OUT HOW TO SWIM IN BRAZIL'S DESERT LAGOONS

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